

CHEAKAMUS COMMUNITY FOREST

2010

ANNUAL REPORT



Whistler Interpretive Forest
Cheakamus Valley

4235 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC
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ACRONYMS

BEC – Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification

BEC Unit –

 CWHds1: Coastal Western Hemlock Southern Dry Submaritime

 CWHms1: Coastal Western Hemlock Southern Moist Submaritime

 MHmm2: Mountain Hemlock Leeward Moist Maritime

 MHmmp2: Mountain Hemlock Moist Maritime Parkland

BOD – Board of Directors

CMA – Cultural Management Area

EBM – Ecosystem Based Management Plan

FSC – Forest Stewardship Council

FSR – Forest Service Road

FWAC – Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee (RMOW)

HA – Hectare (ha)

LRMP – Land and Resource Management Plan

NSR – Not Sufficiently Restocked

RPF – Registered Professional Forester

VANOC – Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee

Wildland – LRMP Wildland Zone (commercial forest harvesting not allowed)

INTRODUCTION

This report documents the accomplishments of the Cheakamus Community Forest in 2010.

The picture on the cover shows old growth forest and second growth forest growing in the Cheakamus Valley in the Whistler Interpretive Forest. The picture below shows one of 40 signs in the Whistler Interpretive Forest providing public education information to visitors and residents for many years. Thanks to Don MacLaurin for his dedication and decades of great work in the Whistler Interpretive Forest as well as all of the forests around Whistler.



At bottom of Loggers Lake access trail, Whistler Interpretive Forest

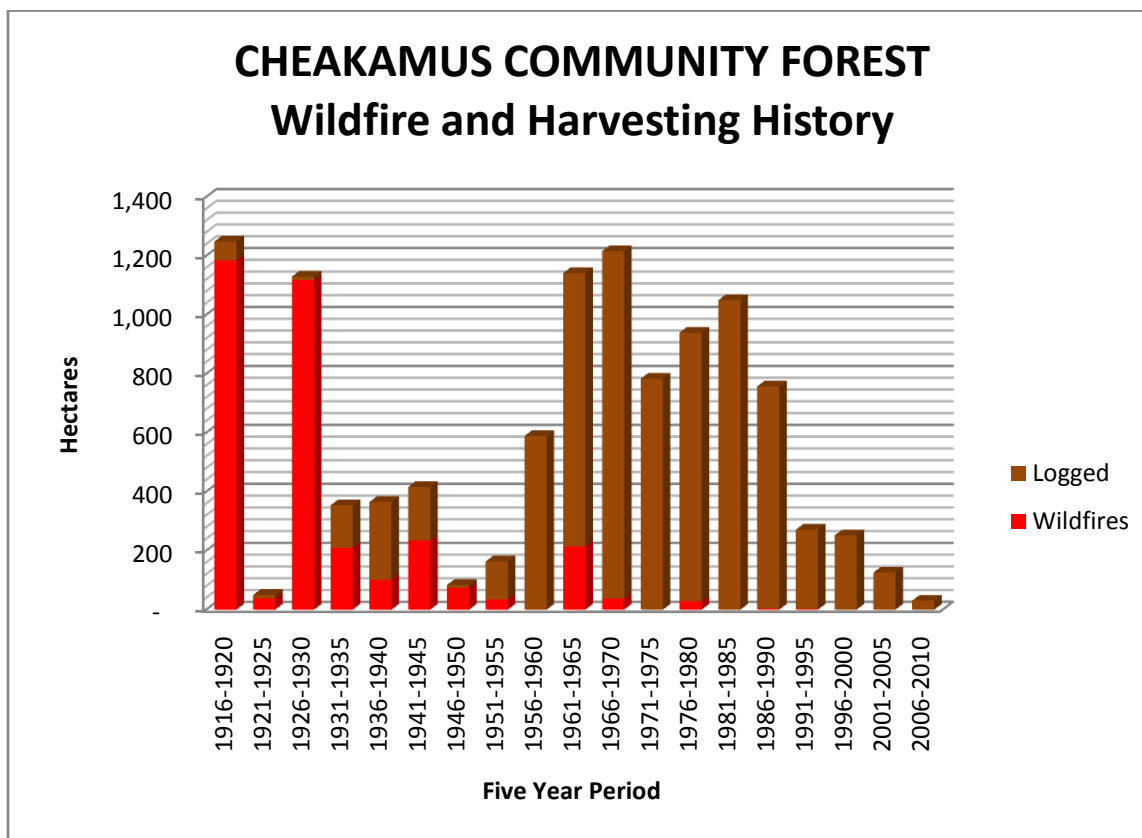
STATE OF THE FOREST

Area of the Forest

The total area of the forest now stands at 31 730 hectares. The number of hectares in the forest increased by approximately 1,500 hectares in 2010 as a result of the transfer of Timber License 830 from Western Forest Products Ltd. to the Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF). The timber license increased the amount of old growth timber in the community forest. There will be several more additions to the forest in 2011 as the boundary is rationalized with the changing land use around Whistler.

Age Class Profile

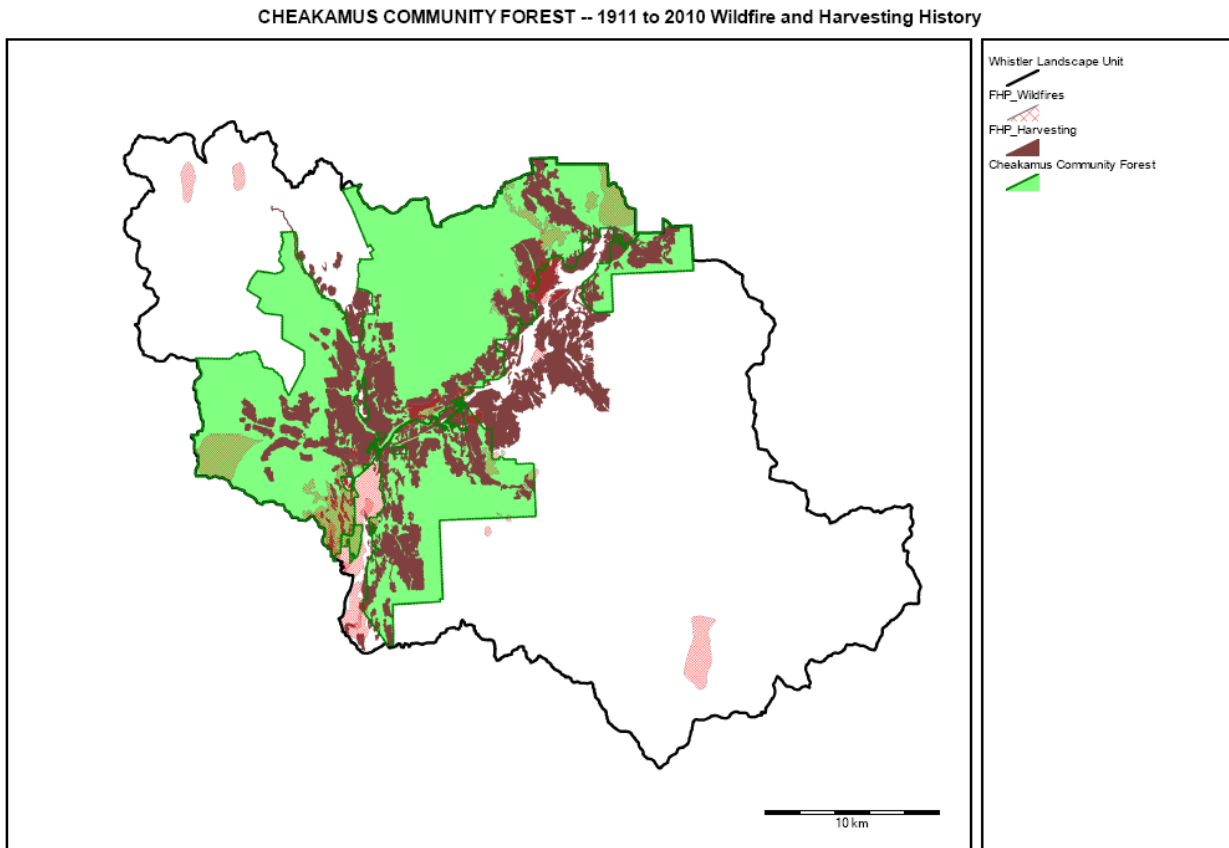
The CCF area was heavily logged between 1960 and 1990s and as a result there is now a large amount of second growth forest between 40 – 60 years old that is not ready for harvesting.



There is also a large component of old growth timber as can be seen for the tables in the appendix. The old growth timber is not evenly distributed among the ecosystems and seral stages. The old and mature forests (over 250 years) account for 16 138 ha out of a total forest cover of 23 783 ha.

Fire and Harvesting History

The Whistler Forest History Project was started in 2002 by John Hammons, RPF, with help from fellow foresters Don MacLaurin and Peter Ackhurst. It has carefully documented all forest disturbances since the PGE railway arrived at Whistler in 1914. A full length video was produced in 2010, and is available at the Whistler Museum. The project documents the areas cleared for the railway, four BC Hydro power lines, urban housing developments, Whistler town center, logging, roads, parks, and ski development. The map shows the outline of the Whistler Landscape Unit and the coloured portion is the community forest.



Forest Ecosystems

There still remains a significant area of old growth timber in the community forest, but it is mainly located at higher elevations and not of economic value for harvest. It is also not distributed across all ecosystems. The ecosystem based management (EBM) plan and the Old Forest Plan will address these issues in 2011. The table below shows area by forest ecosystem.

Sum of HECTARES			
BEC_UNIT		Wildland	Total
CWHds1	184.5		184.5
CWHms1	16,226.1	293.4	16,519.4
MHm2	6,285.4	1,843.6	8,129.1
MHmp2	1,676.4	2,271.2	3,947.6
Alpine	631.5	2,318.1	2,949.6
Grand Total	25,003.8	6,726.3	31,730.1

The sustainable amount of logging is administered by the BC Forest Service and is discussed in the section on monitoring performance.

Not Sufficiently Restocked Lands

There are approximately 20 areas on the forest inventory maps that are designated “Not Sufficiently Restocked” meaning that reforestation does not meet Ministry standards. These areas need to be field checked to confirm whether the area is stocked with trees or needs to be scheduled for reforestation. A review is planned for 2011.

Not Sufficiently Restocked Lands

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
1960-69	14.2
1970 -79	20.9
1980-89	16.9
1990-99	95.4
2000-10	58.4
Blank	<u>21.4</u>
Total	226.4

Roads and Bridges

The roads and bridges in the community forest are in good shape. A review and report was carried out in 2009 and found no serious problems. A large portion of the community forest is roaded. A forest road atlas will be developed in 2011.

Recreation Activities

There is a tremendous amount of outdoor recreation in the community forest. There is very little statistical information on recreation use in the community forest. There was two meetings with the commercial back country recreation operators, who have all agreed to work cooperatively on joint project. A back country public hiking trails committee was also set up in 2010.

Non Timber Forest Products

There is very little information about mushrooms, salal, berries and other non timber forest products that was harvested in 2010. A work shop is planned for 2011 on the management of

non timber forest products. A work shop was held in November to discuss the possibility to provide logs to local people for value added local use. The workshop also talked about providing wood chips to the RMOW composter operation. Discussion continues on providing wood chips to the composter and establishing a log yard at the composter site.

ADMINISTRATION

Finances

The CCF is in its second year of operation and is still in the start up phase. There has been very little revenue, but the start up expenses has been large. There has been a lot of planning expenses while waiting for approval of the plans.

A small amount of revenue was received in 2010 from the 2009 sale of logs in the Olympic parking lots. Payment of overhead and profit amounted to \$1889. VANOC paid the CCF to rehabilitate the Olympic parking lots, which created a revenue and expense in the bank account. Revenue for the 2010 logging will be paid in 2011.

The financial statements are in the Appendix. The largest revenue and expense was the rehabilitation of the VANOC parking lot. The expenses exceeded the revenue by \$47,814. This was the first full year of operation. Very little logging occurred this year due to delays in the government approval of plans. It is planned to recoup these losses in the next few years of operation. The bank balance in the admin account was \$14,796 on December 31, 2010.

The BOD passed a motion setting the amount of the “rainy day” fund as required by the Partnership Agreement to be maintained at \$50,000. This amount will be built up slowly as revenue is available.

A Five Year Business Plan is being developed.

Funding Grants

Several grants were received in 2010. The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation provided \$4,000 for public signs and the Community Foundation of Whistler provided a matching \$10,000 grant for the FSC project. The provincial government also provided \$19,000 from the Forest Investment Account for surveys and a juvenile spacing project.

Tax Return

The tax return for 2009 was submitted as required. The CCF is a “not for profit society”.

Board of Directors Meetings

Three meetings of the Board of Directors were held. The first meeting was in January at the Richmond Plywood office to familiarize ourselves with our new operating partner.

An April meeting was held at our field office in Whistler and a third meeting in September was kindly hosted at the Sea to Sky Retreat Center on Daisy Lake. The AGM was held at the April meeting.

One new member of the Board was welcomed. Frank Dixon replaced Greg Bikadi as a director for the Lil'wat First Nation. Thanks to Greg for his past work with the Board and good luck in his new ventures.

FOREST PLANNING PROJECTS

Ecosystem Based Management Plan

The EBM Plan of 2009 was reviewed and updated in 2010 as part of the FSC project. The work will continue into 2011 when the new EBM plan will be completed and approved. New information has been collected and put into the analysis of the forest ecosystems in the CCF. The new plan will define which ecosystems and seral stages are rare and should be preserved and conserved for future old seral stages.

The updated plan is part of the FSC certification project. It is also linked to the Old Forest Project. All three reports will be available on the CCF website.

Forest Stewardship Plan

The Forest Stewardship Plan was approved by the BC Forest Service in October 2010. The plan must be approved before any logging can commence in the community forest. The plan was written by Tom Cole, RPF, of Richmond Plywood based on the CCF management plan and with the approval of the CCF Board. The draft plan was reviewed by the public, government agencies, and the two First Nations. The approval of the FSP was a major effort for the community forest in 2010. The plan sets out the government regulations and operating procedures under which the tenure operates.

FireSmart Program

The FireSmart program is administered by the RMOW Fire Services department. It is closely coordinated with the CCF because of the forest fire prevention program and the logging operations. This year, 378 m3 of logs, were recovered and utilized. Areas near Kadenwood and Blackcomb Base areas were thinned to reduce wildfire hazard.

Old Forest Project

The Old Forest Project focuses on the mature forests in the community forest. John Hammons, RPF (retired), collected the information and did the analysis in 2010, and will complete the report in the spring of 2011. It will identify the forest areas protected to date and the recommended areas for future protection. This has been a point of discussion and dissent in the community and it is hoped that this report along with the FSC report and EBM report will bring closure to the concern. This all must still be approved by the BC Forest Service.

Forest Stewardship Council Project

The objective of the Forest Stewardship Council project is to obtain certification of the forest management program of the community forest by the Forest Stewardship Council which is a worldwide certification organization. The project was funded by the Environmental Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation of Whistler. The work in 2010 was to identify the gaps and prepare documents for the certification audit in May 2011. Much of the work done in 2010 was

completed in anticipation of the 2011 audit such as Standard Operating Procedures, Old Forest Plan, and the Forest Management Plan.

Harvesting Activities

The 2010 logging plan was prepared in March and circulated to the RMOW Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee (FWAC) and the Board of Directors for review. It was displayed at two open houses that were held in May and September.

The plan proposed to harvest six different areas located in three harvesting compartments. One area was delayed for one year at the request of the First Nations partners as the area is located in a Cultural Management Area. One area was delayed due to a request by Canadian Snowmobiles in order to develop an integrated plan between the community forest and the recreation company. One area was delayed by a request from the Lil'wat Nation for an archeological survey. The other areas were delayed while waiting for the FSP plan to be approved. Logging started in November in the Brew Creek area but was shut down by snowfall.

A new harvesting plan will be developed for 2011 and beyond. The presentation of the 2011 plan information and maps will be improved to make it easier for the public to understand. The CCF Board and the Forest Service continue to work on balancing the legal requirements of the licence, with demand in the current market as well as the desires of the community.

Timber Licence

Timber Licence 830 was purchased from Western Forest Products Ltd in August 2010 for a nominal fee. It was a two year project to complete the purchase. Work was started to incorporate the timber licence areas into the CCF tenure and to bring it under the same management regime. The transfer of the timber license should be approved by the BC Forest Service in 2011. The timber license contains approximately 1570 hectares of old growth timber.

Road Atlas

The project to develop a map atlas of all of the roads, bridges and trails in the CCF was started in 2010. The objective is to provide a record of the condition of the road, when the road or bridge was last inspected and to define who is responsible for road, bridge and trail maintenance. The road, bridge or trail could be the responsibility of the RMOW, the community forest, the back country operators or the provincial government. The goal is to have a system operating in 2011.

Forest Monitoring System

A design for the forest monitoring program was completed in 2010. It is described in the Standard Operating Procedures. The goal is to establish a set of permanent sample plots on a grid network across the CCF. The program will provide information on the species, sizes and grow rates of the forest ecosystems. The first plots should be established in 2011.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Harvesting Activities

Logging activities were delayed until the Forest Stewardship Plan was approved by the BC Forest Service. Only one area was logged in November 2010 before snow stopped work for the year. The area logged was 4.6 hectares and 2366 m³ timber was removed.

Small amounts of timber were processed from the RMOW FireSmart project (378 m³) and the VANOC parking lot project (33 m³).

Reforestation

Several small reforestation projects were completed in 2010. The VANOC parking lots were planted with mixed species. BC Timber Sales planted the 10.8 ha timber sale that was logged in the CCF in 2009.



Public Consultation

Several meetings were held with the commercial backcountry recreation operators to discuss cooperation between the CCF and the operators. A positive working relationship is developing. A Value Added workshop was held in November to determine other local options and needs for the wood removed from the CCF.

A public communication strategy was completed. There is a large amount of concern in the community about how the community forest is operating. There was about 250 inquiries about

logging old growth forests. There is a strong need to provide more information on how and why there is a community forest.

The website has been kept up to date and has been a successful communication tool (Whistler.ca/Toward Sustainability/Cheakamus Community Forest).

Three public open houses were held in Whistler, to provide information to the public on the operations and plans of the community forest. A Lil'wat public information session was held in July, 2010, in Mt Currie, with approximately 45 persons attending. A power point presentation on the community forest was shown.

The 2009 Annual Report was published in March and circulated widely.

A grant from the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation provided funds for a triple panel sign kiosk to be updated at the Whistler Interpretive Forest entrance parking lot.



Tours

There were several tours of the CCF this year. There was a group of foresters from India hosted by UBC. They were particularly interested in community forestry as India is rewriting its forest policy at present. A German group toured the forest and also attended the building material conference at Whistler. And a Swedish forestry group toured the forest also hosted by UBC. Forest and Wildlands Advisory Committee members toured areas of the CCF in spring and fall to view logging sites.

Climate Change Strategy

Worldwide climate change is also affecting the community forest. There is a need to adapt to the changing environment. We are working on adaptation strategies such as the following actions:

- Explore carbon capture and offsets
- Maintain biodiversity
- Maintain variable age class structure
- Control exotic species
- Manage for resilience
- Reduce forest cover fragmentation
- Protect forest land
- Monitor the forest changes

Roads and Bridges

Several roads were upgraded in 2010. The work was paid for by the Olympic funds. The Cheakamus Lake road to Garibaldi Park was graveled and graded in May and the Daisy Lake Main road was upgraded in November. BC Hydro also upgraded the road to the Black Tusk microwave tower in October. The Whistler Development Corporation promised to repair the road through the Cheakamus Crossing town site to Jane Lakes, but never did any work.

The Forest Service did a survey of several bridges that were scheduled for inspection as part of its regular three year cycle.

Olympic Parking Lots

The two parking lots that were created for the winter Olympics were rehabilitated as agreed. The FSR was re established, a large riparian area was restored, several wetlands ponds for red-legged frogs were established, trees were planted, and the final parking lot for the Blackcomb Snowmobile Club was upgraded. All stakeholders are satisfied with the final result. The work was paid for by VANOC funds.

Juvenile Spacing Project

In November 2010, approximately 16.7 hectares of young Douglas fir was spaced in the vicinity of the Cheakamus River. It was funded by the BC Forest Service “Forest Investment Fund.”



Callaghan Valley

Monitoring Report

Monitoring Performance

The monitoring report for 2010 is a simple version of what is planned to be developed. The FSC certification requires a more elaborate report. The Forest Service also has items to monitor.

Area Logged

The area logged in the past two years has been as follows. The first year was the clearing of the Olympic parking lots. Approval of the Forest Stewardship Plan delayed the logging in 2010.

2009 – 10.8 hectares

2010 - 4.6 hectares

Timber Volume Harvested in 2010 was 2366 m³. The cut control period runs from 2009 to 2013 and is set at 20,000 m³ per year. One hundred thousand cubic metres is set as the sustainable harvest level for the first five year period.

2009 – 873 m³

2010 – 2366 m³

Area Reforested in 2010 was 15 hectares. BC Timber sales reforested the two timber sales in the Brew Creek and Brandywine Creek area (10.8 ha) and the Olympic parking lots were reforested.

Roads Maintained – 12 km graveled and graded

Number of public open houses and workshops - 5 public meetings

MONITORING REPORT								
				2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Area logged				10.8 ha	4.6ha			
Volume logged				873 m ³	2366 m ³			
Area reforested				0	15 ha			
Roads maintained				0	12 km			
Public Meetings				4	5			
Public inquires				15	250			

Five Year Forest Management Plan

The Five Year Forest Management Plan was approved by the Forest Service in March 2009 and expires in 2013. A new plan may be written due to changes in the boundaries, the addition of Timber License 830, the EBM Plan, and the FSC audit. An addendum to the plan will be written in 2011 to document the changes to date.

Plan for 2011

The year 2011 is expected to be the first year of operations in the community forest. The following activities are planned. Additional information will be provided on the web site and at the public open houses.

- EBM Plan February
- Old Forest Plan March
- Road Atlas March
- FSC certification audit May
- Road building - 0.5 km Spring
- Logging – 25,000 m³ Spring
- New three Year logging Plan - Open house - March
- Old Growth Workshop - June
- Log Yard at the composter site open July
- Non Timber Forest Products workshop September
- Reforestation - 20 ha Fall

APPENDICES

Income Statement Cheakamus Community Forest Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2010 to 12/31/2010	Budget 01/01/2011 to 12/31/2011	Percent
REVENUE			
Sales Revenue			
Reserve Fund Contributions	15,500.00	15,500.00	0.00
2009 Logging	1,889.21	1,600.00	18.08
VANOC Parking Lot (Funds in)	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00
Net Sales	<u>97,389.21</u>	<u>97,100.00</u>	0.30
Other Revenue			
Interest Revenue	1.95	0.00	0.00
Total Other Revenue	<u>1.95</u>	<u>0.00</u>	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>97,391.16</u>	<u>97,100.00</u>	0.30
EXPENSE			
General & Administrative Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	944.20	2,000.00	-52.79
Timber Licenses	1,863.80	0.00	0.00
FSC Project	500.00	1,000.00	-50.00
Insurance-Directors	635.04	800.00	-20.62
Interest & Bank Charges	154.95	0.00	0.00
Membership Fees - BCCFA	2,887.50	2,900.00	-0.43
VANOC Parking Lot Expenses	61,974.78	80,000.00	-22.53
Community Forest Rent	7,400.00	7,400.00	0.00
Community Information	0.00	500.00	-100.00
Public Signs	3,830.54	2,500.00	53.22
RMOW Admin	65,015.00	36,000.00	80.60
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>145,205.81</u>	<u>133,100.00</u>	9.10
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>145,205.81</u>	<u>133,100.00</u>	9.10
NET INCOME	<u><u>-47,814.65</u></u>	<u><u>-36,000.00</u></u>	32.82

Generated On: 03/08/2011

EQUITY

Share Capital

General Partner	1.00
RESERVE FUND	3,892.70
Total Share Capital	<u>3,893.70</u>
Retained Earnings	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	-1.00
Current Earnings	-47,814.65
Total Retained Earnings	<u>-47,815.65</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>-43,921.95</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>18,341.98</u>

Table 1: AREA BY SERAL STAGE AND SPECIES CLASS

<i>Sum of HECTARES</i>	<i>SPECIES</i>						
<i>SERAL_STAG</i>	<i>Cedar/Spruce</i>	<i>Douglas-fir</i>	<i>Hardwoods</i>	<i>Hemlock/Balsam</i>	<i>Pine</i>	<i>(blank)</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>NON-FOREST</i>						7,764.1	7,764.1
<i>EARLY</i>	621.9	2,120.2	4.8	3,615.7	2.2	183.4	6,548.2
<i>MID</i>	30.7	376.1	39.8	819.6	13.5		1,279.8
<i>MATURE</i>	57.5	1,243.6	28.1	1,815.4	212.4		3,356.9
<i>OLD</i>	86.9	1,000.0		11,694.3			12,781.1
<i>Grand Total</i>	797.0	4,739.9	72.7	17,944.9	228.1	7,947.5	31,730.1

Table 2: AREA BY ECOSYSTEM

Sum of HECTARES			
BEC_UNIT	Not Wildland	Wildland	Grand Total
CWHds1	184.5		184.5
CWHms1	16,226.1	293.4	16,519.4
MHm2	6,285.4	1,843.6	8,129.1
MHmmp2	1,676.4	2,271.2	3,947.6
CMA	631.5	2,318.1	2,949.6

Grand Total	25,003.8	6,726.3	31,730.1
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Table 3: List of Stakeholders

- BC Forest Service
- BC Parks
- Whistler Paintball
- Whistler RV Park
- Canadian Snowmobile Adventures
- Blackcomb Snowmobile Ltd
- Blackcomb Snowmobile Club
- Whistler Heli Skiing
- Whistler Bungie Jump
- Cougar Mountain – Outdoor Adventures
- Tourism Whistler
- Richmond Plywood Ltd
- Western Forest Products Ltd
- Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE)
- Whistler Off Road Cycling Association (WORCA)
- Whistler Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee (FWAC)
- Sea to Sky Retreat Centre
- Pinecrest community
- Black Tusk community
- Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)
- Squamish First Nation
- Lil'Wat First Nation
- BC Hydro
- Telus Communications
- Teresen Gas (Fortis)
- Whistler Blackcomb
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)
- RMOW Transfer Station Composter