

Cheakamus Community Forest

2009

Annual Report



4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC
V0N 1B4

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Introduction

This is the first annual report of the Cheakamus Community Forest. The community forest was awarded by the provincial government on April 9, 2009 and the opening ceremony was held on October 15, 2009. An annual report will be written every year documenting the year's accomplishments and recording progress toward the long term goals.



Peter Ackhurst, MLA Joan McIntyre, MOFR Executive Director Jim Gowriluk, Lucinda Philips, Squamish Chief Bill Williams, RMOW Mayor Ken Melamed, Heather Beresford

The Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership was registered on January 9, 2009 by the three equal partners (Lil'wat Nation, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Squamish Nation) to acquire the provincial government community forest tenure, and incorporated as a society on the same date. The first annual general meeting of the society is planned for spring 2010.

NOTE: The numbers in this report are as of December 31, 2009 and are subject to change as new information is acquired. For example, the NSR numbers are out of date, the TEM ecosystem mapping project is in progress, the Western Forest Products timber license (approx 1300 ha) will be added, and a new forest inventory update will be available in 2010.

Finances

This was the first year of the community forest and very few transactions took place. The financial statements are in the appendix. The three partners contributed \$10,000 each as start up funds. The main expenses were BC Community Forest Association dues, directors insurance, and the road and bridge survey. There is a positive balance in the reserve fund of \$24806.23.

Richmond Plywood Ltd Agreement

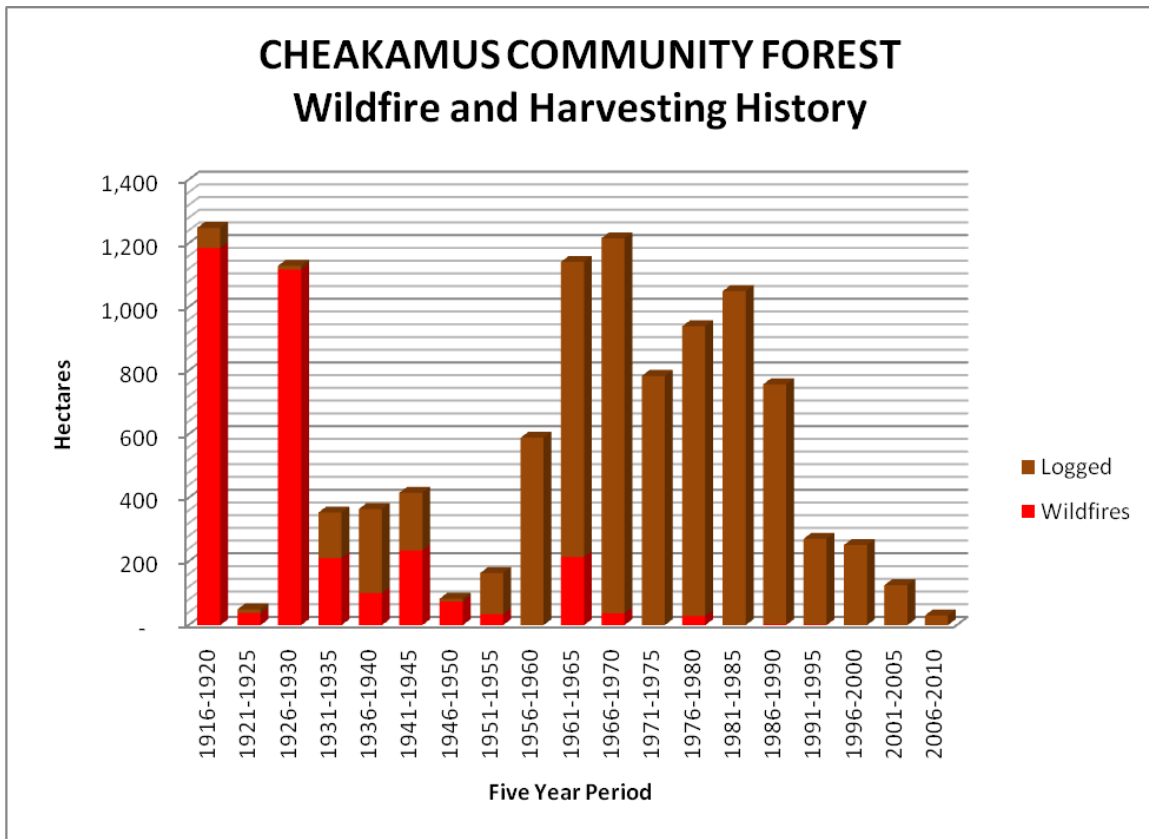
A five year agreement was signed with Richmond Plywood Ltd in November, 2009. Richply is committed to implementing the Ecosystem Based Management Plan and is responsible for all operational forest activities, including road construction, logging, reforestation, fire protection, and liaison with the BC Forest Service.

Road and Bridges

A preliminary survey of roads and bridges was completed in 2009 by Hedberg and Assoc. for the community forest. It found no major problems or concerns. Many roads are in need of maintenance and repair. A plan will be developed to guide upgrades of the roads, bridges and culverts as funds are available. The report is available on the website ([whistler.ca/Toward Sustainability/Cheakamus Community Forest](http://whistler.ca/TowardSustainability/CheakamusCommunityForest)).

Forest Profile

The community forest was heavily logged over the past 40 years and as a result, there is a shortage of timber available for logging. This also resulted in a significant area of second growth forest in the 40 to 60 year age class. The following bar chart shows the area logged and lost to wildfire from 1916 to 2009 in five year increments.



There still remains a significant area of old growth forest (57 %), particularly in the higher elevations, but it is not all merchantable or representative across all ecosystems.

<u>Remaining Old Growth Area (ha) in the Community Forest - 2009 EBM Plan</u>			
<u>Ecosystem</u>	<u>Old Growth</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
CWH - ds1	330	1186	28%
CWH – ms1	8525	16437	52%
MH	3320	3918	85%
ESSF	<u>111</u>	<u>111</u>	100%
Total	12175	21652	57%

Biogeoclimatic Unit Codes (Ecosystem)

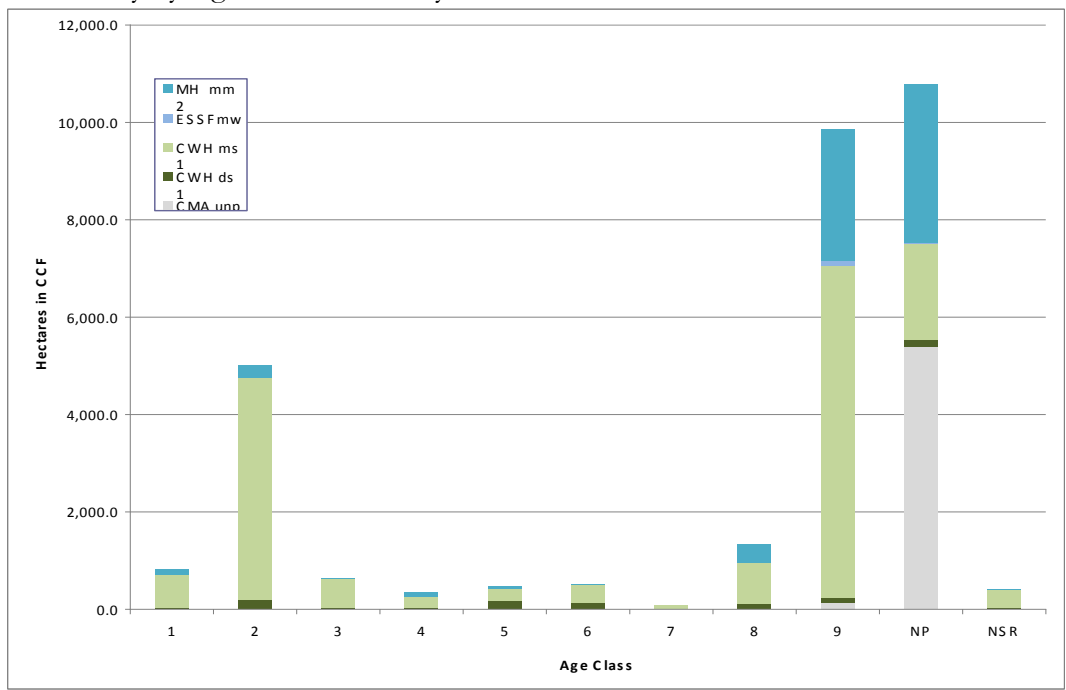
CWH – ds1: Coastal Western Hemlock, Southern Dry Submaritime

CWH – ms1: Coastal Western Hemlock, Southern Moist Submaritime

MH: Mountain Hemlock

ESSF: Englemann Spruce, Subalpine Fir

Area Summary by Age Class and Ecosystem



The Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Plan states that “a recruitment strategy should be prepared for the CWHds1 sub-zone (Coastal Western Hemlock) and no further harvesting carried out within this sub-zone until the strategy is completed”. The strategy is in development.

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Plan

The preliminary EBM Plan was completed by Ecotrust Canada and approved in February, 2009. This is a guiding document for the forest. Additional work is needed to be done to complete the plan, including the identification and location of old forest reserves which is planned for draft release in mid 2010. The EBM Plan is available on the website.

Five Year Forest Management Plan

The Forest Management Plan for the next five years (2009 to 2013) was approved by the Forest Service on March 21, 2009. It is available on the CCF website ([whistler.ca/Toward Sustainability/ Cheakamus Community Forest](http://whistler.ca/TowardSustainability/CheakamusCommunityForest)). It is the plan that the BC Forest Service will use to measure progress.

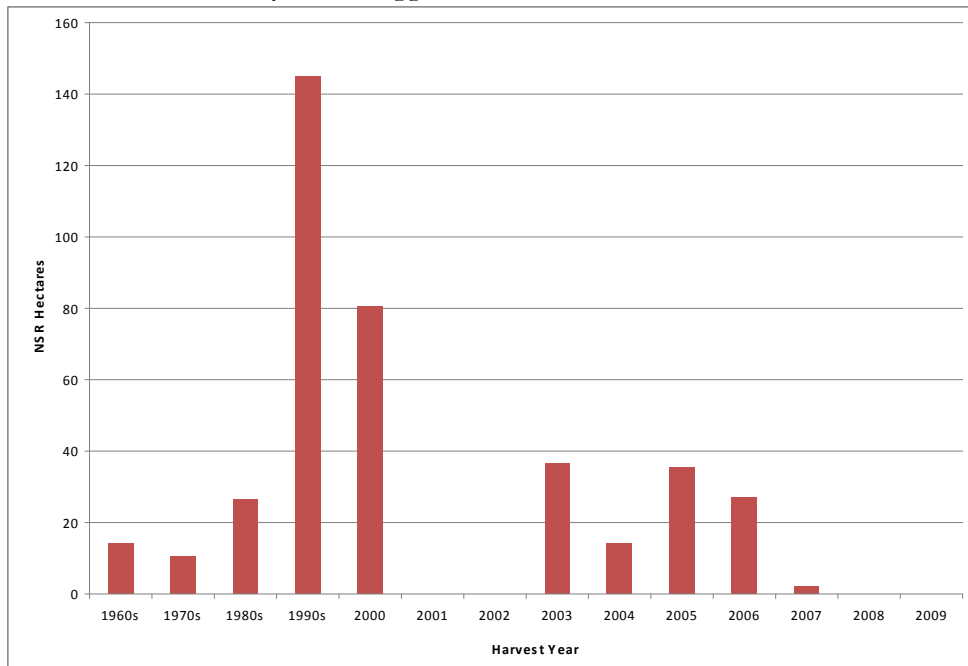
Harvesting Activities

In 2009, two areas were logged in the community forest by BC Timber Sales. This was an agreement that was reached to compensate for their early involvement in the application process. Timber Sale #A79878 was harvested by Richmond Logging Co. Ltd in April, 2009. One area was in the Brew Creek watershed and the second area was in the Brandywine watershed. The area logged was 10.8 hectares and the volume removed was 5319 m³. The harvesting system followed the community forest guidelines. The areas will be reforested in the spring of 2010 by BC Timber Sales.

Reforestation

No silviculture activities (tree planting, surveys or brushing) were undertaken in 2009. There are 400 ha of NSR lands (not satisfactorily restocked) in the community forest. A survey of the NSR lands is planned for 2010.

Area of NSR Lands by Year Logged



Timber License

An agreement was reached with Western Forest Products Ltd to transfer its Timber License 083 to the community forest. It contains approx 1300 hectares of old growth timber. The transfer has not taken place as yet.

Research

A review of past Ministry of Forests research projects was completed in 2009 by forestry consultant, Deborah Delong, RPF. Several research projects were identified and recommendations made. The report is available on the website.

Public Consultation Program

Several consultations with the public were held in 2009. A workshop was held in April to present the EBM plan to the public and discuss the implications. A presentation on the community forest was presented to the AWARE monthly meeting. Several public tours were organized for the public in September to show them the 2009 logging and discuss the community forest. A public opening ceremony was held on October 15, 2009



Opening ceremony – Joan McIntyre, MLA, Lucinda Philips, Chief Bill Williams, and Mayor Ken Melamed

The Forest & Wildlands Advisory Committee of the RMO provides ongoing public input, monitoring and critical review. The two First Nation partners provide input via their formal

consultation process. There is also ongoing consultation with other stakeholders. The Olympics provided additional consultations for forest clearings with the Canadian Army and VANOC parking lots.

The community forest website ([whistler.ca/Toward Sustainability/ Cheakamus Community Forest](http://whistler.ca/TowardSustainability/CheakamusCommunityForest)) is maintained and kept up to date with new information.

A grant from the Community Foundation of Whistler, Whistler Rotary Club and the RMOW provided funding for six public information signs of the forest, four public tours and the opening ceremony. Thanks to these three organizations.



Cheakamus Community Forest Sign in the Cheakamus Valley

Carbon Offsets

There is a lot of interest in climate change and how the community forest could participate in a meaningful way. There is a possible pilot project developing with the Pacific Carbon trust to determine if forestry practices in the community forest can be used for carbon credits.

Plans for 2010

The year 2010 will be the first year of operation of the community forest. The following are the key goals for next year:

1. Develop a three year logging plan
2. Write and receive approval of the required Forest Stewardship Plan
3. Engineer and log 18,500 m³ of timber
4. Consultant review of the not sufficiently restocked situation
5. Integrate harvesting with the new Firesmart Plan and operations

6. Transfer Western Forest Products TL 083 to the community forest
7. Consultant to identify the old growth forest that could be preserved under the EBM Plan
8. Upgrade forest roads where possible

Appendices

Comparative Income Statement as of Dec. 31/09

	Actual Expenditures 01/10/2009 to 2/31/2009	Projected Budget 01/10/2009 to 12/31/2009	Percent
REVENUE			
Sales Revenue			
Signs	800.00	4000.00	-80.00
Contributions	30000.00	30000.00	0.00
Net Sales	30800.00	34000.00	-9.41
TOTAL REVENUE	30800.00	34000.00	-9.41
EXPENSE			
General & Admin Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	394.00	3000.00	-86.87
Public Involvement	0.00	500.00	-100.00
Insurance – Directors	285.08	800.00	-64.37
Interest & Bank Charges	4.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Fees – BCCFA	0.00	2900.00	-100.00
VANOC Signs	999.59	1000.00	-0.04
Community Forest Rent	0.00	7400.00	-100.00
Road Survey Fees	4311.10	5000.00	-13.78
Total General & Admin Expenses	5993.77	20600.00	-70.90
TOTAL EXPENSE	5993.77	20600.00	-70.90
NET INCOME	24806.23	13400.00	85.12

CCF Area Summary by Land & Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Zoning

Group	LRMP Designation					TOTAL (hectares)
	None	Conservancy	Cultural Management Area	Front Country Area	Wildlands	
Forest	1,511		3,708	12,722	1,544	19,485
Alpine	2,419	0	69	1,186	4,916	8,590
Gravel Pit				0		0
Non-Productive	44		195	692	59	991
Rock	54		118	297	146	616
Swamp			19	20	6	45
Urban	0		30	306	0	336
Water	20		45	83	49	197
No Typing Available	1				0	1
TOTAL HECTARES	4,049	0	4,185	15,306	6,720	30,260

CCF Area Summary by Ecosystem

AgeProdClass	CMA unsp	CWH ds 1	CWH ms 1	ESSFmw	MH mm 2	All Zones
1 (0 – 20 years)		30.7	666.3		115.9	812.9
2 (21 – 40 years)	13.0	186.0	4,564.0	0.1	256.6	5,019.7
3 (41 – 60 years)		24.4	591.6		18.7	634.7
4 (61 – 80 years)	4.4	11.5	243.9		98.8	358.6
5 (81 – 100 years)	2.2	179.8	233.7		44.2	459.8
6 (101 – 120 years)		136.3	355.6	0.3	14.2	506.4
7 (121 – 140 years)		10.1	79.4		3.6	93.0
8 (141 – 250 years)	7.4	89.4	855.7		374.8	1,327.3
9 (250 + years)	123.7	106.5	6,827.3	101.3	2,709.8	9,868.6
NP	5,379.3	157.2	1,979.1	2.2	3,257.3	10,775.0
Not Sufficiently Restocked		31.7	366.6		5.7	404.0
SUM 1-9	150.7	774.7	14,417.4	101.7	3,636.4	19,080.9
TOTAL	5,530.0	963.5	16,763.1	103.9	6,899.5	30,260.0
Percent Old (8 or 9) of Productive	87%	24%	52%	100%	85%	57%