

**Port Alberni Community Forest
Community Support, Awareness, and Management Survey Results
Survey Completed August 19 to October 31 2007
Results Compiled November 6, 2007**

1 Do you support the concept of a community forest, managed and operated for the benefit of the community?

% YES 94
% NO 6

If not, why?

There are other viable, long term uses for local forests that surpass the short term benefits of a community forest.

As long as it is sustainably managed, and the benefits accrue to the people directly affected

Parts of this area at Sproat Lake was logged this spring and summer. are you going to clean it up and cut down what the forest companies did not? mostly along the #4hwy to the west coast.

Only if it's contracted out to a competent firm.

BUT..... it should be utilized properly i.e. if your not gonna make money logging it don't! Why not use this as a way to do it differently...better something that will It takes the community's (i.e., the Mayor and Council's) mind off of more important things to consider for Port Alberni's future.

2 Do you think the proposed land base for the community forest is appropriate?

% YES 63.4
% NO 36.6

% No, because the area is too small 17

% No, because of damage to Sproat Lake 7

% No, other reasons 13

If not, why, other reasons:

Too much of our local forests are under private land with no control of the forest practices used.

Uncertain. Have not seen the financial figures to know if an environmentally sustainable harvest rate can also be financially viable.

Because.

I don't know what or where or how much land has been proposed for the community forest.

The crown land should be proportionally distributed to the community and the NTC tribal council.

Not big enough to provide meaningful employment; control of china creek watershed would ensure protection in future

The idea of Port Alberni getting bogged down in the logging industry at a time when that industry is buckling at the knees and Port Alberni is crying out for a new future is pathetic.

The old growth north of Sproat Lake should not be logged.

3 Is there anything in particular that you value about the proposed land base for the community forest (e.g. recreation, viewsapes, wildlife, water quality)? Please be as specific as possible.

Issue	# of mentions	% of mentions
water	32	21
recreation and trails	27	17
wildlife and habitat	25	16
viewsapes	20	13
economy and jobs	6	4
old growth	6	4
environmental protection	5	3
non-timber products	5	3
tourism	4	3
fish	3	2
cultural heritage resources	3	2
road access	3	2
Sproat Lake Community	3	2
forest cover for climate	2	1
Weiner creek	2	1
sustainability	2	1
education	2	1
value added processing	1	1
local control of decision	1	1
slope stability	1	1
firewood cutting	1	1
no harvesting	1	1
TOTAL	155	100

4 The community forest can be managed for a variety of activities and forest values. Below is a list of some potential uses for the land base (including forestry). Please rank the following from 1 to 9 (or 10) from the most to the least important (1 being the most important). Please do not use the same number twice.

	RANK
Water quality and fish habitat protection	1
Protection and/or creation of wildlife habitat	2
Maintenance of old growth forest	3
Creation of economic benefit for the community	4
Maintenance or enhancement of recreation and trails	5
Create small-scale local forestry employment	6
Education opportunities	7
Maintaining scenic viewsapes	8
Tourism activities	9

Other

- Integrate a traditional Nuu-chah-nulth Forestry Interpretive Centre.
- Climate moderation.
- Non-forest timber products.
- Please allow residents of PA to gather firewood after commercial cutting is completed.
- Good utilization, to minimize waste.
- Maintain cultural/archaeological features.
- Maintain access for recreational users.
- Access for minor forest products.
- Non-tree related economic values.
- Until all log exports are banned, this is pointless.
- Seizing the opportunity to salvage valuable wood otherwise lost.
- Wildland fire prevention and fuels management.
- To help protect the amenities for the enjoyment of the present residents!!
- Harvesting of botanical forest products.
- These are all interdependent on one another and area all equally important to support the next.

5 Harvesting in the community forest can generate revenue for the community. What should these revenues be used for? Choose any that are applicable.

	# answers	%
Reinvestment in the community forest	48	46
Community Projects	29	28
Infrastructure Projects	18	17
Other:	9	9

- Other specifics:**
- There are more viable, sustainable ways to generate revenue for the community.
 - Community/social development projects.
 - Purchase land to expand the community forest with secure tenure.
 - There should be a formula for allocating benefits, that is agreed on by the community.
 - All good ideas. But that's what taxes are for. Tax break with this idea?
 - Maintenance of access for recreation.
 - Alternative energy, sustainable development projects.
 - Social housing and creation of economic opportunities.
 - Due to global warming our watershed is becoming more fragile.
 - reduce debt/taxes
 - Opportunity to educate public about non-economic value the forest provides (ie: water quality etc).

It should be invested directly back into forestry related projects-value added.

Until all log exports are banned, this is pointless.

This question assumes that logging ("harvesting") would go ahead. Let's not go there, period.

Fuels management.

Tree planting to replace the trees removed by logging.

McLean Mill subsidy and Heritage Museum.

Harvesting represents short sightedness and will only bring immediate results not long term stability.

6 Independent "third-party" certification assesses forest management by evaluating it against pre-established criteria. The cost of certification may reduce the revenue generated for the community. Is independent certification of the Port Alberni Community Forest important?

Yes, only if the cost does not significantly reduce revenue for the community

Yes, At any cost

No

Total

7 If the City of Port Alberni was given a community forest, would you be interested in helping?

33 YES ANSWERS

8 Would you or your organization be willing to provide the community forest with a letter of support?

43 YES ANSWERS

9 Do you have any comments or concerns relating to the establishment of the Port Alberni Community Forest? If so, what are they?

Costs vs. benefits must be carefully considered - It is imperative that the City NOT be in the logging business but to partner with an experienced, trusted, independent 3rd party to achieve maximum economic and community benefit.

My concerns relating to the establishment of the Port Alberni Community Forest is that the proposed land base for this plan is too close to human and wildlife habitat and it should be left intact. There are more innovative and creative ways of developing revenue for the community that will benefit more people than the very few people this plan will benefit in the short and long term.

I would like to here more information regarding how it will be managed, by whom and who will determine where generated funds are allocated.

This is a wonderful first step toward a locally-controlled, environmentally wise harvesting regime. This may involve rather slight harvesting, depending on how far the plot has advanced on its recovery from clearcutting. 90% of Old Growth in the community forest should be preserved for now, and 10% as a demonstration forest subjected to a harvesting regime that preserves the canopy (and therefore all Old Growth values) while harvesting the annual growth in a way that keeps that annual growth at a maximum. Serious development of sustainable non-timber harvest should take place. Consultation and accommodation of First Nations title and rights is needed.

My biggest concern is that the jobs created by the community forest would not stay in the valley. All jobs created by the community forest must stay in the Port Alberni Valley.

I would like to see a very selective logging operation, with water, fish and wildlife values being most important, as well as viewscapes and tourism/recreation values being put before ANY profits. Sproat Lake is a tourist destination, and very limited logging, especially the type of clear-cutting being practiced on private lands, should be allowed there.

yes, who are you going to employ to work at this forest adventure? union or non-union, loggers, truckers, fallers. where are the logs going to be sold? off shore? to out of town mills?

I don't want to see a typical logging show " cut it once, plant a tree farm and have nothing to work with for decades. I would like to see the Port Alberni Community Forest work along the lines of the Harrop-Proctor CF or like Merv Wilkinson's Wildwood in Cedar. This is a chance for Port to lead the way on a truly sustainable, community-based project.

This is an exciting, forward thinking project, great work!

I think this is a great opportunity for our community.

See justabunchahikers.com, islandhikes.com. ACRD had GPSed trail maps.

Protect watersheds, avoid massive clearcuts.

Hopefully it will not end up in minus and world need tax money to support.

Would like more info.

My biggest concerns are simply that the Forest be a model of what sustainable harvesting can look like, and that the revenues generated are invested in long-term projects that will enhance the sustainability, energy-efficiency, and overall livability of the City of Port Alberni.

Lets do something.

I believe that this community forest must be self sufficient. With good planning including careful budget control this community forest should not need to be subsidized by the city. Selection of cost effective road building and harvesting contractors is key to a good return. Careful selection of fallers that maximize individual log value with good bucking practices is also key. Only safe certified companies should be on the community forest eligibility list.

That the City itself not try to operate it. The expertise is just not there. It must be contracted to competent operators.

I am very concerned about the way this will be used and how that money will benefit if at all the local sproat lake residences too. We already have had many water quality issues from this last years storms as well the issues of visual impacts of logging proposed by Island timberlands don't add to the problem.

If certification is sought, would strongly prefer the community forest to seek FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification.

Full public consultation, feedback to be valued not ignored or relegated to second-rate information. also important to have sufficient area so the community forest isn't just a postage stamp size and not sustainable in and of itself (environmentally, ecologically, economically).

Needs a process to ensure ongoing public consultation.

Thank you and good luck.

Ensure that harvesting is actually sustainable, increase the length of time between harvests. Protect old growth habitat for diversity and wildlife. When possible sell logs to local companies. Work with the wiwag group with the certification.

I would like to suggest that we apply the "Triple Bottom Line" to our Community Forest

In practical terms, triple bottom line accounting means expanding the traditional reporting framework to take into account environmental and social performance in addition to financial performance. The BC Community Forest Assoc. puts it another way: culturally, ecologically, and economically sustainable forestry. The concept of TBL demands that a company's responsibility be to 'stakeholders' rather than shareholders. In this case, 'stakeholders' refers to anyone who is influenced, either directly or indirectly, by the actions of the firm. According to the stakeholder theory, the business entity should be used as a vehicle for coordinating stakeholder interests, instead of maximising shareholder (owner) profit.

Although there is cross-over between the list of interests and the three categories, this is my suggested format. I believe that when decisions about land use are made, all of these interests must be considered and respected.

Environment Maintenance of forest stands for wildlife habitat, biodiversity (old growth)

Recreational uses- trails and roads

Protection of water quality and fish habitat

Community Education

Tourism activities

Maintain scenic viewpoints

Financial Direct jobs in the forestry project

Indirect jobs

Community projects and infrastructure

Re-investment in forest project

The BC Community Forests home page states that a community forest is for the benefit of the entire community.

Therefore a very inclusive process will be necessary for the management of the forest.

Skilled management so that it operates successfully

It is of immense benefit to have the management done locally and to be accountable to the locals.

I would hope that if the area is to be logged, it will be logged in a way that protects watershed and fish habitat and maintains the existing hiking trails.

I HOPE THEY CAN RUN THE COMMUNITY FOREST BETTER THAN THEY RUN THE CITY; WHICH IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PROVINCE IN ALL CATEGORIES.

I am happy that the community of port alberni has the opportunity to manage a forest for the benefits of the community. However I am concerned that those that are managing this forest are not familiar with small scale forestry. I am concerned that out of towners are being hired to work on the forest rather than members of port alberni community. I am concerned that the decisions will be based on economics rather than a socio-ecological outlook.

I am concerned that the forest will be managed like TFL 44 and the wood will be exported out of the community for the highest dollar. Support local mills and investigate the potential for value added opportunities. I would like to see port alberni look at models from Europe that capture the essence of small scale forestry and have the ability to be sustainable both economically and ecologically. Lets think outside of the box. We have so much wealth.

There must be community consultation and involvement in every stage of the community forest including the ongoing management of the forest.

Waste of time and money....until all log exports are banned, this is pointless.

The focus must be on trying to ensure a source of employment for local people, no matter how little it may be.

I think that the work should be done by people who reside in the Alberni Valley and understand the pros and cons of living in the valley.

People who live outside the valley will receive benefits from working on the project but do not have to live with the negative aspects of the logging.

Great idea.

If this Mayor and Council start "harvesting" trees to make money then Port Alberni may never grow up -- culturally and economically speaking. You can only slip so far behind the times before you can never catch up. We are already being passed up by much smaller and more remote communities on the Island in terms of economic development. While the Mayor and Council obsess over logging, other more critical social, health and economic issues go begging. It's time to move ahead.

Good idea, keeps the benefits of forest harvest in the community. Let's try to direct the wood to local remanufacturing and other value added activity.

Must follow Wildfire Act and Regulations for Fire Prevention, Response. Also incorporate fuels management into plan to reduce fire hazards to acceptable levels. Local Government should consider fire response capabilities for community forest.

I would like to see some restriction placed on the end use of the logs. Why allow logs to be exported when there are layoffs and equipment shutdowns at the local sawmills and paper mill.

The City was involved with MB and MOF before on a lands bordering the city to the east, but that passed away. City taxpayer are funding many other projects at are not paying their way, what guarantee is there that the Community Forest isn't another drain on the taxpayers? Timber Harvesting with proper forest and ecological management can be an expensive operation to undertake and must be done wisely and carefully. Overall, a community forest should be an asset and a positive experience, and hopefully that would be the case for the Alberni Valley.