



2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

SOUTHERN INTERIOR
SILVICULTURE COMMITTEE

The Coast Kamloops Hotel
Kamloops
Mar 3 -5, 2025

Improving Our Silviculture Practice

Improving our silviculture practice requires us to answer some key questions:

How do we define silviculture today, in light of huge natural and social changes?

What new tools are available for our silviculture practice that reflect that change?

What research is underway and what boots-on-the-ground trial and error is being undertaken?

And because ours is a shared public resource, how does government policy support innovative silviculture practices that can respond quickly to ever-changing site conditions?

Our silviculturists must consider the inclusion of so many values and products: water and wildlife, recreation and hunting, timber and visuals, and climate change mitigation that addresses safety from wildfire for our forests and our communities.

We need forestry practices that acknowledge our cultural relationships with the forest, our economic dependency on the forest, and the critical ecosystem services we derive from our forests.

And we need to know the cost of our silviculture practices and how they are accounted for in the economic evaluation of producing timber products, ecosystem services, and all the other values we expect from our forests.

Come join your colleagues at this year's Winter Workshop to explore these questions, argue the issues, exchange ideas, and build your forestry network for the future.

Registration Evening: Monday, March 3rd

The Coast Kamloops Hotel, Kamloops

Registration

4:00 – 7:00 pm

Social Time with Cash Bar and Hosted Snacks

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

Improving Our Silviculture Practice

Day One: Tuesday March 4, 2025

8:20 Welcome & Opening Remarks
2025 SISCO Chair

Day One Theme: Our Evolving Silviculture Practice

8:30 *Keynote Speaker*

Our Silviculture Practice Today - Who is Defining The Way Forward, How are We Enabling Innovative Thinking and Doing, and What Are the Next Steps?

Jodi Axelson PhD, PAg, Silviculture Research Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Research Branch, BCMOF

Plenary Panel 1: Examples of Adapting Silviculture Practices in Creative and Innovative Ways that Address Today's Multi-Faceted Forest Values and Visions

Moderator: tba

Panelists' Presentations (25 mins each including questions, Question Period at end of the panel as well)

9:00 *1. The Innovative Silviculture Group's Call for Proposals: Showcasing the Project Ideas*

Laura Stanton, SIP Program Manager, Bulkley Valley Research Centre

9:25 *2. Combining Thinning & Diverse Plantings to Adapt to Climate Change Induced Timber Supply Shortage*

Gregory Paradis Assistant Professor, Forest Resources Management, UBC

9:50 *3. Can Thinning Operations Increase Habitat Quality for Moose? A Review*

Dr. Roy Rea RPBio, Assoc. Professor Ecosystem Science & Mgmt. Dept, Faculty of Environment, UNBC

10:15 *4. Defining Silviculture and Where It Fits in Forest Landscape Planning*

Jeff McWilliams, B.B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.

10:40 Q&A

10:50 Refreshment Break

Plenary Panel 2: Examples of Innovative Silviculture Treatments – Ground Proving

Moderator: tba

Panelists' Presentations (25 mins each including questions, Question Period at end of the panel as well)

11:20 *1. Seedling Height Response to Fertilizer and Other Treatments in the Sparks Lake Wildfire Area – Silviculture Innovation That Responds to Very Dry Interior Douglas Fir Ecosystem Conditions*

Judy Thomas, Woodlot Forester, Woodlot # 1599

11:45 *2. Stuwix Resources Silviculture Practices that Respect Indigenous Values and Culture*

Dennis McDonald, Operations Manager, Stuwix Resource Joint Venture

12:10 *3 Logan Lake Community Forest Silviculture Practices that Respond to Community Priorities and Choices*

Randy Spysma, Senior Planning Forester, Forsite Consultants

12:35 Q&A

12:45 Lunch

2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

Day One continued

- 1:45 *Plenary Presentation : Updated Silvicultural Systems Handbook*
Mike Jull, UNBC
tba, Harvesting & Silviculture Practice Group, Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch, Office of Chief Forester
- 2:15 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1 – 5*
- 1. Funding Programs & Opportunities for Investment in Carbon Sequestration Projects*
Christine Unghi, Lead, MOF Forest Investment and Reporting Branch
 - 2. Innovative Carbon Projects*
Garett Whitworth, Innovatree Carbon Group
 - 3. Natural Regeneration – Where Is It an Appropriate Treatment in the Southern Interior?*
Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Branch, MOF
 - 4. Creative and Innovative Solutions for Recovering Waste to Put it to Good Use*
tba
 - 5. Fitting the Machine to the Site and the Timber*
Christian Volk, Volktrans Canada Contracting
- 3:05 Refreshment Break
- 3:15 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1-5 Repeated*
- 4:05 Adjourn for the day
- 5:00 Cash Bar Opens
- 6:00 Banquet
- 7:00 *Dinner Presentation: The Wild Horses of the Nemiah Valley,*
Wayne McCrory, RPBio, Winner 2024 Basil Stuart-Stubbs UBC Prize for Masterful Storytelling
George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature

2025 SISCO Winter Workshop Improving Our Silviculture Practice

Day Two: Wednesday March 5, 2025

8:20 Announcements
SISCO AGM
2025 SISCO Chair

Plenary Panel 3: The Economics of Silviculture

Moderator: tba

8:30 *Keynote Speaker*
The Emerging Conservation Economy – Moving Beyond the Status Quo
Rob Kozak, Professor and Dean of Faculty of Forestry, UBC

Panelists' Presentations (25 mins each including questions, Question Period at end of the panel as well)

9:00 *1. Why Are Silviculture Costs Increasing ? – An Historical Perspective*
Jerome Girard, Forestry Superintendant, Silviculture, Tolko Industries

9:25 *2. How Does Timber Pricing Impact Silviculture; Is It the Right Option to Fund and Deliver Silviculture?*
Dana Manhard, Timber Pricing Coordinator, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF

9:50 *3. How Do Economic Factors Impact Silviculture Practice?*
Dominik Roeser, Associate Dean, Research Forests & Community Outreach, UBC

10:15 Q&A

10:25 Refreshment Break

10:45 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 6 - 10*

6. Silviculture Practices for Indigenous Values: Reforestation of Deciduous Spp and Native Plants
Breagh Kobayashi, Ntityix Resources/West Bank Community Forest
Peter Flett, Head of Forest Operations, Nk'Mip Forestry Osoyoos Indian Band/West Boundary Community Forest

7. Forest Health Conditions in the Southern Interior: Another Western Spruce Budworm Outbreak, and Climate Change and Emerging Insect Issues
Lorraine Maclauchlan, Forest Research Entomologist, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF
Marnie Duthie-Holt, Research Entomologist, Kootenay Boundary Region, MOF

8. Creative, Innovative Silviculture That Works – A Lifetime of Experience
Dennis Farquharson, Silviculturist, GRO TRZ
Scott King, Silviculture Forester, Forestry and Natural Resources, Pacific Woodtech

9. Forest Disturbance and Hydrology: Lessons Learned From Long-Term Research
Sheena Spencer, Research Hydrologist, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF

10. Provincial Working Group Profiles: Interior Broadleaf Working Group; Drought Working Group, Silviculture Systems Working Group, Commercial Thinning Working Group
tba

11:35 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 6-10 repeated*

12:25 Lunch

2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

Day Two continued

Plenary Panel 4: Forest Landscape Planning

1:20 *Keynote Speaker*

Landscape Planning for Transformation and Adaptation

Harry Nelson, Associate Professor | Forest Resources Management, UBC

Moderator: tba

Panelists' Presentations (25 mins each including questions, Question Period at end of the panel as well)

1:50 *1. From Pilots to Policy, How the Pilots Are Shaping FLP Policy and the New Projects*

Barry Snowdon, Forest Landscape Planning Team Lead, MOF

2:15 *2. The Quesnel Forest Landscape Plan Pilot Creative Response For Silviculture Issues*

Shelley Barlow, Regional Silviculture Specialist, Cariboo Region, MOF

2:40 *3. Update on the Working Groups in the Office of the Chief Forester*

Andrew Snetsinger, Manager, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Branch, MOF

3:05 Q&A

3:15 Adjourn