



# 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  
John Karakatsoulis,  
2025 SISCO Chair

### *Day One Theme: Our Evolving Silviculture Practice*

8:30 *Day One 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*

8:55 Moderator: Tori Verkaik, RPF, Forest Stewardship Specialist, Thompson Okanagan Region, BCMOF

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

9:00 *1. Combining Thinning & Diverse Plantings to Adapt to Climate Change-Induced Timber Supply Shortage*  
Gregory Paradis Assistant Professor, Forest Resources Management, UBC

9:25 *2. Can Thinning Operations Increase Habitat Quality for Moose? A Review*  
Dr. Roy Rea RPBio, Assoc. Professor Ecosystem Science & Mgmt. Dept, Faculty of Environment, UNBC

9:50 *3. Defining Silviculture and Where It Fits in Forest Landscape Planning*  
Jeff McWilliams, B B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.

10:15 Q&A

10:30 Refreshment Break

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

10:55 Moderator: Madison Hughes, FIT, AAg, Fuel Management Technician, Forsite Consultants

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

11:00 *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

11:25 *2. Stuwix Resources Silviculture Practices that Respect Indigenous Values and Culture*  
Dennis McDonald, Operations Manager, Stuwix Resource Joint Venture

11:50 *3 Logan Lake Community Forest Silviculture Practices that Respond to Community Priorities and Choices*  
Randy Spyksma, Senior Planning Forester, Forsite Consultants

12:15 Q&A

12:30 Lunch

# 2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Day One continued

- 1:30 *Plenary Presentation: The New and Updated BC Silvicultural Systems Handbook: A Guide for Developing Silvicultural Pathways for Diverse Forest Stand and Landscape Goals*  
Mike Jull RPF, Manager, UNBC Aleza Lake Research Forest, Prince George  
Lee-ann Puhallo RPF, Intensive Silviculture Specialist, Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch, MOF
- 2:00 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1 – 5*
- 1. Integrating Investment Funding, Programs and Opportunities for Innovation: funding opportunities, integrated investment, wildfire risk reduction and the forest investment program - what could be done to improve and support innovation, efficiency, and collaboration?*  
Christine Unghy, Integrated Investment Lead, Forest Investment & Reporting Branch, FOR  
Rhona Boyd, Integrated Investment Specialist, Silviculture and Forest Stewardship, FOR  
Leith McKenzie, Director, Forest Investment and Reporting Branch, FOR  
Lisa Tedesco, BC Wildfire Service
- 2. Biochar as a Seedling Growing Medium and For Other Forestry Applications*  
Garrett Whitworth PhD, PChem, Innovatree Carbon Group
- 3. Natural Regeneration in Reforestation – What's Its Role as We Move Forward?*  
Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Branch, MOF
- 4. Fitting the Machine to the Site and the Timber*  
Christian Volk, Volktrans Canada Contracting
- 5. The Case For Thinning Stands To Reduce Fire Hazard In BC's Forests- Does The Evidence Support The Belief?*  
Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- 3:00 Short Break
- 3:15 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1-5 Repeated*
- 4:15 Adjourn for the day
- 5:00 Cash Bar Opens
- 6:15 Banquet
- 7:00 *Dinner Presentation: The Wild Horses of the Chilcotin*  
Wayne McCrory, RPBio  
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*

8:25 Moderator: Kari Doyle, Team Lead Silviculture and Forest Stewardship, BC Ministry of Forests

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 Superintendent, 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. Balancing Economics, Innovation, and Sustainability for Better Forest Management in BC*

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, Climate, and Outbreaks – Some Interesting Insect Stories*

Lorraine Maclauchlan Ph.D., Forest Research Entomologist, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF

*8. Creative, Innovative, Proven Silviculture Solutions – Two Lifetimes' Worth 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 – Focus on Deliverables: Commercial Thinning Working Group, Interior Broadleaf Working Group; Drought Working Group*

Lee-ann Puhallo RPF, Intensive Silviculture Specialist, Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch, MOF

Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Branch, MOF

Todd Schmidt, Silviculture Superintendent, West Fraser

11:35 Short Break

11:45 *Concurrent Discussion Sessions 6-10 repeated*

12:35 Lunch

# 2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Day Two continued

### *Plenary Panel 4: Forest Landscape Planning*

Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

1:20 *Keynote Speaker*

*Landscape Planning for Transformation and Adaptation*

Harry Nelson, Associate Professor | Forest Resources Management, UBC

*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*

Shelley Barlow RPF, 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