

## 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

Meet the Speakers and your SISCO Executive

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

# 2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Improving Our Silviculture Practice

Day One: Tuesday March 4, 2025

8:25 Welcome & Opening Remarks

John Karakatsoulis, Associate Teaching Professor Forest Ecology & Silviculture,  
Natural Resources Sciences Thompson Rivers University  
2025 SISCO Chair

8:30 Day One Keynote Speaker

*Our Evolving Silviculture Practice - What is Innovative Silviculture and Why Now?*

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. *Changes are Required to Un-lock the Potential for Silvicultural Innovation*

Jeff McWilliams RPF, Senior Associate, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.

10:15 Q&A

10:25 Refreshment Break

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

10:50 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)

10:55 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

11:20 2. *Stuwix Resources Silviculture Practices that Respect Indigenous Values and Culture*

Dennis McDonald, Operations Manager, Stuwix Resource Joint Venture

11:45 3. *Logan Lake Community Forest Silviculture Practices that Respond to Community Priorities and Choices*

Randy Spyksma, Senior Planning Forester, Forsite Consultants

12:10 Q&A

12:20 Lunch

# 2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Day One continued

1:20 SISCO AGM  
2025 SISCO Chair

1:25 Moderator: Madison Hughes

1:30 Plenary Presentation (30 mins each including questions)

*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 - Three overview presentations on funding opportunities, integrated investment, wildfire risk reduction and the forest investment program – what can 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 RPBio, Land & Resource Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Cultural & Prescribed Fire Program

*2. Biochar as a Seedling Growing Medium and 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 Lead, Forest Science and 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

6:00 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,  
2025 SISCO Chair

### Plenary Panel 3: The Economics of Silviculture

Silviculture costs in British Columbia have been increasing in recent years due to a combination of environmental, economic and policy related factors. Forest management in BC has shifted towards management of our forest ecosystems to meet ecological and social objectives. More costly intensive and innovative silviculture activities are often required to meet objectives for biodiversity, resilience, wildlife and water. Increased natural disturbance on the landscape has also been a factor for rising costs due to more challenging site conditions post-fire under unpredictable climatic conditions such as drought and heat events. Silviculture costs are not as easily absorbed as they used to be as the economy faces challenges with higher labour costs, timber constraints and volatile lumber prices. Is the current way we fund silviculture sustainable? Is there a better way to fund the short term costs for long term benefits of resilient forest ecosystems?

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

8:25 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)

8:50 1. *Why Are Silviculture Costs Increasing ? – An Historical Perspective*

Jerome Girard, Forestry Superintendant, Silviculture, Tolko Industries

9:15 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

9:40 3. *Balancing Economics, Innovation, and Sustainability for Better Forest Management in BC*

Dominik Roeser, Associate Dean, Research Forests & Community Outreach, UBC

10:05 Q&A

10:15 Refreshment Break

10:40 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. *Silviculture Stories From Two Careers Comprising 64 Years of Managing Silviculture Activities, 95*

*Million Seedlings Planted, 65 Thousand Hectares Declared Free Growing, and many pairs of worn-out boots*

Dennis Farquharson, Silviculturist, GRO TRZ Consulting

Scott King, Silviculture Forester, Forestry and Natural Resources, Pacific Woodtech

9. *Forest Disturbance and Hydrology: Lessons Learned From Long-Term Research*

Sheena Spencer PhD, PAg, 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

12:40 Lunch

# 2025 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Day Two continued

### Plenary Panel 4: Forest Landscape Planning

BC has invested in Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) as a means to achieve a number of forest management goals in partnership with First Nations and in collaboration with forest licensees. The recent Ministry of Forests mandate letter (January 2025) reiterated the need to “Continue to bring together industry, First Nations, and communities through forest landscape planning tables”. In the coming year, forest landscape planning in BC is moving from pilot projects to several new plans set to start out through many parts of the southern interior. However, we can expect that planning today will be much different than in the past; 1) working directly with First Nations partners, 2) limited resourcing to support planning processes, 3) an altered land-base following decades of natural disturbance and accelerated salvage will challenge our ability to meet multiple forest objectives, 4) an industry struggling with wood supply, and 5) a changing climate that brings increased uncertainty, are all factors that make planning in this new era. So, what do we need to be successful? What have we learned from the pilots that will improve our success? And is the process and structure the appropriate way to achieve these objectives.

1:30 Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

### 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)

1:55 *1. From Pilots to Policy, How the Pilots Are Shaping FLP Policy and the New Projects*  
Barry Snowdon, Forest Landscape Planning Team Lead, MOF

2:20 *2. The Quesnel Forest Landscape Plan Pilot - Creative Response For Silviculture*  
Shelley Barlow RPF, Regional Silviculture Specialist, Cariboo Region, MOF

2:45 *3. Updates On Government Lead Innovative Silviculture Initiatives*  
Andrew Snetsinger, Manager, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices Branch, MOF

3:10 Q&A

3:20 Adjourn