

2026 SISCO WINTER WORKSHOP SPEAKER LINE UP



Casey Macaulay RPF

Casey is the general manager of the Wells Gray Community Forest in Clearwater. He was the registrar of the Forestry Profession (FPBC / ABCFP) from 2014-2025 where he helped guide the implementation of the Professional Governance Act and evolve FPBC's programs in registration, discipline and unlawful practice. As an outspoken advocate of forest stewardship and...



Dan Turner

Team Lead, Inventory Analysis and Reporting, MOF Dan Turner is a forester based in Kamloops with over 25 years of experience working in BC. He began his career conducting growth and yield ground sampling across the province during the summers and performing GIS analysis and reporting in the winters. For the past decade, Dan has...



Doug Lewis

Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Doug Lewis is a landscape Ecologist with the Cumulative Effects Section of BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. Doug's main role is evaluating the combined effects of land use and natural disturbances on forest ecosystems and...



Dr. Lori Daniels

Inaugural Koerner Chair, Centre for Wildfire Coexistence, UBC Dr. Lori Daniels is the inaugural Koerner Chair of the Centre for Wildfire Coexistence in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC-Vancouver. I study the impacts of natural and human disturbances and climate change on forests. With my diverse research team, our on-going projects investigate wildfires, forest dynamics,...



Eden Hardcastle

MSFM, FIT, Nk'Mip Forestry LLP Osoyoos Indian Band



Eleanor McWilliams Msc, RPF

Analyst, Forest Biometrics, J&E McWilliams and Associates Eleanor graduated from UBC in 1984 and worked for Canfor and the Canadian Forest Service before obtaining an MSc in forest biometrics from the University of Minnesota in 1991. She has worked as a consultant for the last 28 years. She has extensive experience in quantitative silviculture, monitoring...



Ellery Tetz RPF

Silviculture Reporting Specialist, Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch, MOF



Erik Leslie RPF

Forest Manager, Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative Erik is a forestry consultant and manager of the Harrop-Procter Community Forest near Nelson, BC. He has 25 years of experience working with the forest industry, Indigenous peoples, community organizations, and regional and provincial governments on projects from Haida Gwaii to Labrador. Erik has extensive experience in forestry planning and...



Garry Merkel

Garry Merkel, Co-Chair, Provincial Forestry Advisory Council



Greg Smith

President, Gilbert Smith Forest Products, Barriere



Hyeyoung Woo

Inventory Data Scientist, MOF Hyeyoung Woo joined the Inventory Analysis and Reporting team in 2024. As an inventory data scientist, her responsibilities include the management and analysis of provincial forest inventory data. Prior to joining the MoF, Hyeyoung worked as a research fellow at the University of Victoria from 2021 to 2023, after earning her...



Jamie Skinner RPF

Forestry Superintendent, Planning, Tolko Industries Jamie has worked in the forest industry for 28 years since graduating from UBC in 1992 (B.Sc. Resource Management). He spent 4 years as a consultant in Terrace, BC, doing silviculture and timber development work and then in 1996 he and his wife moved to Kamloops where he started working...



Adam Wei RPF

Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UBC Okanagan Post-Doctoral Fellow Forest Ecology, University of British Columbia GIS Land Use Planning & Watershed Assessment, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia PhD, Forest Ecology, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, China MSc, Forest Ecology, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, China I have a broad interest in various aspects of sustainable management of forested watersheds, but particularly interactions...



Ben Hall

Founding Partner, Spearhead Timber Works



Brad Arnouse

Councillor, Neskonlith Indian Band I am currently working for the Neskonlith Indian Band. I have also worked in the Natural resources for several years for other agencies: Canada, the province of British Columbia, as well as the local Bands. My current function: I am in my 4th year at council in many capacities natural resources...



Carson Lopatka

Grad Student Research Paper Carson Lopatka is a Master of Science student studying at The University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Lori Daniels with the Centre for Wildfire Coexistence and Tree Ring Lab. His research plans to assess the efficacy of Indigenous-led, innovative silviculture treatments in substantially reducing high-severity wildfire risk while...

**Jennifer Gunter**

Executive Director, BC Community Forests Association

**Jennifer Reid**

Regional Executive Director, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF

**John Karakatsoulis**

I'm a fulltime faculty member in the Department of Natural Resource Science at Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC). I'm one of the founding members of the Bachelor of Natural Resource Sciences (BNRS) degree program and have been teaching in the program since 1992. I'm a forest ecosystem ecologist (PhD in Forest Ecology from UBC -...)

**Ken Day MF, RPF**

KDay Forestry Ltd. Ken Day RPF is a consulting forester in Williams Lake, B.C. where his practice is largely focused on silviculture in dry Douglas-fir forests. In 2018, he retired from his position of Manager of the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest after 31 years. Prior to his time at UBC, Ken worked for various...

**Paul Binotto**

Paul Binotto – Director Modular BC Adviser to MHABC Board of Directors & Lead of the Provincial Modular Advocacy Program Paul has a history in modular construction and is a strong advocate for the development of the BC Factory modular industry. Paul has worked with various cities and planning professionals across the province to help...

**Peter Flett**

Operations Manager, Nk'Mip Osoyoos Indian Band and West Boundary Community Forest Peter grew up in Westbank in the Central Okanagan and has worked primarily in the southern interior of BC in silviculture, forest operations, and planning, with experience engaging and collaborating with First Nation communities, public stakeholders, and government. He enjoys implementing innovative projects on...

**Rachel Holt**

Principal, Veridian Ecological Consulting Originating from the UK, Rachel's graduate studies and research in British Columbia created her passion for the BC landscape and its incredible biodiversity. Rachel is trained in the science of conservation biology and land management, and accomplished in the art of applying science in the land and resource management context. Areas...

**Rosalia Jaffray**

Grad Student Research Poster Rosalia (Rosie) Jaffray is a Master of Applied Science student in the FRESH Lab with Dr. Gregory Paradis. Her research focuses on using operations research methods to improve forest operational planning. Rosie completed her undergrad in Forest Operations at UBC and worked a few summers in forestry in Alberta and construction...

**Sonya Zeitler Fletcher**

Vice President, International Market Development/Strategic Marketing & Communications, Forestry Innovation Investment Sonya leads domestic and international marketing and communications strategies that encourage wood as a primary choice for construction and daily living while expanding North American and overseas market recognition of BC's and Canada's world-class forest practices and products. Working closely with forest-sector companies, trade...

**Taisa Brown**

Silviculture Performance Assessment Specialist, Harvesting & Silviculture Practices, MOF Taisa is the Silviculture Performance Assessment Specialist with the Forest Science, Planning and Practices Branch in the Office of the Chief Forester. She leads the provincial silviculture surveyor accreditation program and contributes to policy innovation through the Free Growing Working Group and the Interior Broadleaf Working...

**Tay Powrie**

Grad Student Research Paper Tay is a MSc student in Environmental Science at Thompson Rivers University working with Dr. Thomas Pyke. His graduate research is focused on analyzing the influence of glacier recession on the hydrology of a fifth order watershed in interior British Columbia through a cumulative effects lens. Tay's undergraduate thesis analyzed the...

**ZRandy Moody**

President, Whitbark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada Randy is a leading provincial expert in whitebark and limber pine and has worked on related conservation and restoration projects throughout British Columbia. He has developed whitebark pine recovery plans, implemented planting programs, established permanent monitoring plots, designed prescribed burns and treatments for whitebark pine restoration, and conducted...

**Kevin Kriese**

Senior Wildfire Analyst, POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project Kevin is trained as a forester (BSF, UBC) and planner (MRM, SFU), and has a certificate in conflict resolution (JIBC). He worked for over 30 years for the provincial government, designing and delivering land use plans, developing government-to-government agreements with Indigenous Nations, and leading organizational change. Kevin was...

**Manuela Arnold
MSFM, RPF**

Woodlands Manager, Beaumont Timber Company Beaumont Timber Company Ltd. Manuela (Mani) has been living and working as a forester in the Revelstoke area for the last 15 years. She has a degree in geography (Bachelor of Science) from University of Victoria (2011) as well as a Masters in Sustainable Forest Management (2015) from UBC. For...

**Melissa Steidle**

Chair, Resilient Ecosystems Committee, Woodlots BC A graduate of UNBC, Melissa has spent much of her career working north of Quesnel for a small number of consulting companies. Forever the consultant, she currently consults to Woodlots BC as the Northern Woodlot Representative. In that role she chairs a committee of woodlot licensees to role...

**Nicholas Soverel**

Founder and Principal Forester, Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc 'Frontera' is a forestry consulting company based in North Vancouver with thirteen full-time staff focused on finding dynamic solutions to contemporary forestry issues. Nick has 20 years of experience working in land management and 15 years working within the fuels and wildfire management arena.

BC Forests' Future Pathways ...

Exploring Pathways to Expand Our Wood Markets

Looking for Pathways Through the Barriers to Innovation

Exploring Stand Development Pathways for New Objectives

Exploring Concepts of and Ideas About Our Resilient Landscapes

Registration Evening: Monday, February 23rd

Complete Your Registration Check-In

Delta Grand Hotel Kelowna

Reception Desk in Grand Hall Foyer

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Social Time Reception

Meet the Speakers and your SISCO Executive

Location TBA

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

BC Forests' Future Pathways

Day One: Tuesday February 24, 2026

8:20 Welcome & Opening Remarks
John Karakatsoulis, Associate Teaching Professor, Forest Ecology & Silviculture, Thompson Rivers University
2026 SISCO Chair

8:25 *Plenary Panel 1 Exploring New Initiatives to Expand Markets for our Wood*
BC's forest sector is undergoing a significant transformation driven by economic challenges, climate impacts, policy reforms and evolving public expectations. Despite the challenges the sector is shifting from a story of decline to one of innovation and growth. This panel will present some of the recent efforts to expand and develop new markets for our forest products both internationally and locally. New partnerships, noteworthy changes in tenure and the growing role of First Nations in the sector will be explored.
Moderator: Deborah DeLong MSc RPF, Senior Project Forester, BA Blackwell & Associates
Keynote Speaker: Who FII is, Our Mandate, and BC's Existing and Newer Export Markets
Sonya Zeitler Fletcher, Vice President, International Market Development/Strategic Marketing & Communications, Forestry Innovation Investment, BC MOF

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

8:50 1. *Connecting High Value Supply Chains: Spearhead Timberworks and Harrop-Procter Community Forest*
Ben Hall, Partner, Spearhead Timberworks
Erik Leslie, Forest Manager, Harrop-Procter Community Forest

9:15 2. *Provincial Modular Standardization for More Homes and More Jobs*
Paul Binotto, Senior Director, Modular BC.

9:40 3. *Expansion of Community Forests' Tenures – more wood freed up for value added manufacturing*
Jenifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forests Association
tba, First Nations Representative

10:05 4. *Being in Business for 70 Years Serving Niche Markets for Specific Wood Products*
Greg Smith, Gilbert Smith Forest Products, Barriere

10:30 Q&A

10:40 Refreshment Break

11:15 *Plenary Panel 2 Finding Pathways Through Common Barriers to Innovative Plans and Practices*
Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRS
Keynote Speaker: Provincial Forestry Advisory Council Discussion Paper Relevant Material
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair, Provincial Forestry Advisory Council

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

11:40 1. *Stselxm ms r Stselxm m Management Plan*
Councillor Brad Arnouse, Neskonlith Indian Band
Jamie Skinner, Forestry Superintendent, Indigenous Relations & Sustainability, Tolko Industries

12:05 2. *Barriers to Effective Land-based Decision Making in BC – Forest Practices Board Report*
tba

12:30 3. *The Administrator's Point of View – The Decision Maker's Point of View*
Jennifer Reid, Regional Executive Director, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF

12:55 Q&A

1:05 Lunch

2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

Day One continued

1:55 SISCO AGM

John Karakatsoulis 2026 SISCO Chair

Plenary Session: Graduate Students' Research Projects Presented in Three Minutes

This plenary is styled after the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competitions held at universities around the world. The 3MT competition assists current graduate students with fostering effective presentation and communication skills. Participants have just three minutes to explain the breadth and significance of their research project to a non-specialist audience. The popularity of the competition has steadily increased and 3MT competitions are now held in over 350 universities across 59 countries worldwide. This is one of the first times a 3MT competition has been held at a practitioners' conference, as far as we know! Enjoy!

Moderator: Deb Delong

Students' Presentations (3 mins each followed by Question Period for all at end of the panel)

Student 1, Student 2, Student 3, Student 4, Student 5, Student 6, Student 7, Student 8

Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1 – 5

1. *Graduate Students' Research Poster Session – Concurrent Individual Presentations*

2. *Cheakamus Community Forest Climate Change Adaptation Plan Modeled on Harrop-Proctor CF*
Nicholas Soverel, Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc.

3. *RESULTS: Focus on Treed Retention Reporting*

Ellery Tetz, RPF, Silviculture Reporting Specialist, Harvesting & Silviculture Practices, MOF

4. *Whitebark Pine and Silviculture – Forestry's Role in Saving an Endangered Species*
Randy Moody, President, Whitbark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada

5. *Fireside Chat with John and Doug – Do We Need A Major Rethink of Forest Management In BC?*

John Karakatsoulis, Associate Teaching Professor, Thompson Rivers University

Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRS

3:20 Short Break

Concurrent Discussion Sessions 1-5 Repeated

4:20 Adjourn for the day

5:00 Cash Bar Opens

6:30 Banquet

Presentation of Speaker Gifts

Graduate Student Poster and Presentation Award

2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

BC Forests' Future Pathways

Day Two: Wednesday February 25, 2026

8:20 Announcements,
2026 SISCO Chair

Plenary Panel 3 Stand Development Pathways

Moderator: Kari Doyle RPF, Team Lead, Silviculture&Forest Stewardship Thompson Okanagan Region MOF

Keynote Speaker: Vision for a New Approach to Stand Development

Taisa Brown, Silviculture Performance Assessment Specialist, Harvesting & Silviculture Practices, MOF

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

8:50 1. *Mixed Retention Case Study – Managing for Old Forest Attributes*
Melissa Steidle, Chair, Resilient Ecosystems Committee, Woodlots BC

9:15 2. *Exploring Sections of the new Silvicultural Systems Handbook that Address Stand Development*
Ken Day, Consulting Forester, Ken Day Forest Management

9:40 3. *TASS and Stand Development Modeling - Modeling For Other Values and Different Objectives*
Eleanor McWilliams, Analyst, Forest Biometrics, J&E McWilliams and Associates

10:05 4. *Stand Structural Pathways - Maintaining & Recruiting Habitat Structure Over Time for Biodiversity Etc.*
Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRS

10:30 Q&A

10:40 REFRESHMENT BREAK

Concurrent Discussion Sessions 6 - 10

6. *Provincial Monitoring Web Applications: Assessing Forest Inventory and Timber Supply Review Assumptions, and More!*

Dan Turner, Team Lead, Inventory Analysis and Reporting, MOF
Hyeyoung Woo, Inventory Data Scientist, MOF

7. *Silviculture Systems Handbook – Working Through On-The-Ground Industry Examples*

Ken Day, Consulting Forester, Ken Day Forest Management
Manuela Arnold, Beaumont Timber

8. *Are our Forests Degraded? Stand Management Pathways to Recover Our Forests*

Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRS

9. *Facilitating Climate Resilience Through Operational Fuel Reduction And Post-Wildfire Intervention*

Peter Flett, MSFM, RPF, Head of Forestry Operations, Nk'Mip Forestry LLP Osoyoos Indian Band
Eden Hardcastle, MSFM, FIT, Nk'Mip Forestry LLP Osoyoos Indian Band

10. *Upper Penticton Experimental Watershed-Thinning as an Adaptation Tool for a Changing Climate*

Adam Wei, Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UBC Okanagan

11:55 SHORT BREAK

Concurrent Discussion Sessions 6-10 repeated

12:50 Lunch

2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

Day Two continued

1:35 Plenary Panel 4 Exploring Elements of the Resilient Landscape

The term resilience is now widely used in fields ranging from human health to disaster management to forest management. In forest management, the term is often used as a management principle or paradigm, much as “sustainable forest management” was used in the past. That broad approach has much appeal as a unifying framework that brings diverse perspectives together. However, underlying the concept are important distinctions about what resilience means and significant differences in the scale and scope of the system being managed. These all influence how resilience principles are applied to planning and management.

Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRS

Keynote Speaker: Applying Resilience Thinking to Wildfire - How Socio-Ecological Resilience Principles Can Be Applied in British Columbia to Manage Wildfire Resilience at a Landscape Scale.

Kevin Kriese, Senior Wildfire Analyst, POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project

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

2:00 1. *Forest Resiliency to Wildfire in the Landscape*

Dr. Lori Daniels, Inaugural Koerner Chair, Centre for Wildfire Coexistence, Faculty of Forestry UBC

2:25 2. *Resiliency From a Biodiversity Perspective*

Dr. Rachel Holt, Veridian Ecological Consulting

2:50 3. *West Kootenay Climate Adaptation in Action*

Erik Leslie, Forest Manager, Harrop-Procter Community Forest

3:15 Q&A

3:25 Food for Thought on the Drive Home: Reconciling a Flawed Legacy with a Brighter Future

Casey Macaulay, General Manager, Wells Gray Community Forest

3:45 Adjourn