

# 2026 SISCO WINTER WORKSHOP SPEAKER LINE UP

To see their full biographical sketches and presentation abstracts  
visit the Speaker tab on the SISCO website

[www.siscobc.com](http://www.siscobc.com)

## Full Conference Program Agenda Follows Speakers



**Adam Wei RPF**

Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UBC Okanagan Post-Doctoral Fellow, Forest Ecology, University of British ColumbiaGIS Land Use Planning & Watershed Assessment, CSIRO, Canberra, AustraliaPhD, Forest Ecology, Northeast



**Aeron Westeinde  
Grad Student  
Research Poster**

Aeron Westeinde is a MSc of Forestry student at UBC Vancouver working with Dr. Lori Daniels in the Centre for Wildfire



**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



**Carson Lopatka Grad  
Student Research  
Paper**

Carson Lopatka is a Master of Science student studying at The University of British



**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



**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



**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



**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 disturbance to



**Eden Hardcastle**

MSFM, FIT, Nk'Mip Forestry LLP Osoyoos Indian Band Eden works as a forester-in-training and technician in the south Okanagan, focusing on sustainable land management, wildfire risk reduction, and responsible development that adheres to



**Eleanor McWilliams  
Msc, RPF**

Analyst, Forest Biometrics, J&E McWilliams and Associates Eleanor graduated from UBC in 1984 and obtained a Master's degree in Forest Biometrics in 1991 from the



**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



**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,





### 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.



### 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



### 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 and forest management. In



### 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



### Kirk Johnson Grad Student Research Poster

Kirk is a PhD candidate at the University of



### Mackenzie Howse Grad Student Research Poster

Mackenzie is a MSc student in Natural



### Manuela Arnold MSFM, RPF

Woodlands Manager, Beaumont Timber Company Beaumont Timber Company Ltd. Manuela (Mani) has been living and working



### 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



### 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



### 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



### 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,



### 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



### Randy 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



### Rosalia Jaffray Grad Student Research Paper

Rosalia (Rosie) Jaffray is a Master of Applied Science student in the FRESH Lab with Dr. Gregory Randall. Her research focuses on



### Sadie Russell Grad Student Research Project

Sadie is a PhD student in the Integrated Remote Sensing Studio (IRSS) in Faculty of Forestry at UBC. Her graduate studies center



### Sonya Zeitler Fletcher

Vice President, International Market Development/Strategic Marketing & Communications, Forestry Innovation Investment Vice President, Market Development, Forestry Innovation Investment Sonya leads domestic and



### 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.



### Tay Powrie Grad Student Research Poster

Tay is a MSc student in Environmental Science at Thompson Rivers University working with Dr. Thomas Pypker. His



SOUTHERN INTERIOR SILVICULTURE COMMITTEE

# 2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

Grand Okanagan Hotel, Kelowna

February 23- 25, 2026

## *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: Market Diversification: BC's Existing and Emerging Market Opportunities*  
Sonya Zeitler Fletcher, Vice President, Market Development, Forestry Innovation Investment  
Panelists' Presentations (25 mins each including questions, plus additional Question Period at end of the panel as well)
- 8:50 *1. Provincial Modular Standardization for More Homes and More Jobs*  
Paul Binotto, Senior Director, Modular BC.
- 9:15 *2. Community Forest Tenures –Market Opportunities*  
Jenifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forests Association  
tba, First Nations Representative
- 9:40 *3. Being in Business for 70 Years Serving Niche Markets for Specialty Wood Products*  
Greg Smith, Gilbert Smith Forest Products, Barriere
- 10:05 Q&A
- 10:15 Refreshment Break
- 10:55 Plenary Panel 2 Finding Pathways Through Common Barriers to Innovative Plans and Practices  
Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLR  
*Keynote Speaker: Provincial Forestry Advisory Council Discussion Paper*  
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)
- 11:25 *1. Stselxm ms r Stselxm m Management Plan*  
Councillor Brad Arnouse, Neskonlith Indian Band  
Jamie Skinner, Forestry Superintendent, Indigenous Relations & Sustainability, Tolko Industries
- 11:50 *2. 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
- 12:15 *3. The Administrator's / Decision Maker's Point of View*  
Jennifer Reid, Regional Executive Director, Thompson Okanagan Region, MOF
- 12:40 Q&A
- 12:50 Lunch

# 2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

## Day One continued

- 1:45 SISCO AGM  
John Karakatsoulis 2026 SISCO Chair
- 1:55 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)
- Evaluating Partial Cutting Systems for Drought Resilience: Species-Specific Responses in BC's Southern Interior  
Sara Leslie
- Analyzing the combined stress of forest disturbance and glacier melt on river discharge in a large-scale watershed  
Tay Powrie
- Fuel treatment effectiveness in interior-wet fire weather zone of British Columbia: 2024 Slocan Lake Fire Complex  
Aeron Westeinde
- In the Wake of Wildfire: New Forest Pollinator Baselines for Central British Columbia  
Mackenzie H.W. Howse
- Modifying Stand-level Growth under a Changing Climate using a Model Fusion Approach  
Kirk Johnson
- Can eco-cultural restoration reduce high-severity wildfire and enhance mule deer habitat  
Carson Lopatka
- Development & Evaluation of Open-Source Generalized Tool for Machine Scheduling in Forest Operational Planning  
Rosie Jaffray
- Assessing treatments of complex surface and crown fuels for fire risk reduction and economic recapture using lidar  
Sadie Russell
- 2:25 Q&A
- 2:35 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
- 3:25 Short Break
- 3:30 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 Presentation and Poster Competition Winner - \$500 Award

# 2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

## BC Forests' Future Pathways

Day Two: Wednesday February 25, 2026

8:20 Announcements,  
2026 SISCO Chair

8:25 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

11:05 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. Commercial Thinning as an Intervention in a Stand Development Pathway*

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

12:00 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