



SOUTHERN INTERIOR SILVICULTURE COMMITTEE

2026 SISCO Winter Workshop

The Delta Grand 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

The Royal Kelowna Hotel Room 158

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*
Moderator: Deborah DeLong MSc RPF, Senior Project Forester, BA Blackwell & Associates;
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Forestry UBC

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. Wood Supply Agreement Btwn Harrop-Proctor Community Forest and Spearhead Timberworks*
Erik Leslie, Harrop-Proctor Community Forest
Ben Hall, Founding Partner, Spearhead Timberworks
- 9:15 *2. Pre-fab manufacturing, modular homes, investment by the federal govt, etc*
Paul Binotto Co-founder and President, My Lane Home Inc.
- 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. Industry and First Nations Cooperation for Innovating Forestry Practices*
tba
- 12:05 *3. Barriers to Effective Land-based Decision Making in BC*
tba
- 12:30 *4. 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
- 2:05 Plenary Session:
Graduate Students' Research Projects Presented in Three Minutes with One Slide Each
Moderator: Deb DeLong
Panelists' 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
- 2:30 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, Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch, MOF
- 4. Woodlot Example of Innovation and Cooperation Practices*
tba
- 5. Disturbance Agents – insects and diseases - The Role of Adaptation in Resiliency)*
tba
- 3:20 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 Poster and Presentation 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 and 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. Young and Mature Stand Monitoring Web App*
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. Boundary Community Forest Focus on Innovation and Coordinating with Osoyoos Indian Band*
Peter Flett, Operations Manager, Nk'Mip Osoyoos Indian Band and West Boundary Community Forest
- 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 What Does a Resilient Landscape Look Like; How Do We Recognize It?*
Moderator: Doug Lewis, Landscape Ecologist, Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects, BCMWLRs
- Keynote Speaker: What is a Resilient Landscape; What are the Essential Pieces; What is it's Dynamic ?*
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. Resiliency From A Biodiversity Perspective*
Dr. Rachel Holt, Veridian Ecological Consulting
- 2:25 *2. Forest Resiliency to Wildfire in the Landscape*
Dr. Lori Daniels, Inaugural Koerner Chair, Centre for Wildfire Coexistence, Faculty of Forestry UBC
- 2:50 *3. Climate Change Adaptation Applied in the West Kootenays: How Harrop-Procter Community Forest is Working with BCWS and Others to Foster Wildfire Resilience in the Southern Interior*
Erik Leslie RPF, Forest Manager, Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative
- 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