

Cortes Community Forest Cooperative President's Report 2020

Building Consensus

A primary purpose of the CCFC is to work with the Klahoose First Nation with equal membership on the Cortes Forestry Genera Partnership board. CCFC is grateful to the Klahoose First Nation for sharing the community forest tenure on equal terms and creating a model of economic reconciliation in action. It's a pleasure to work with the Klahoose directors and we are proud of the work we do together. CCFC's representatives to that board are:

Bruce Ellingsen
Aaron Ellingsen
Carrie Saxifrage

We're grateful to Mark Lombard, the Partnership's Forest Manager. We can't do justice to the extent of his volunteer time spent on the community forest, the depth of his knowledge and his good will in response to various requests. We are so fortunate to have him in this role.

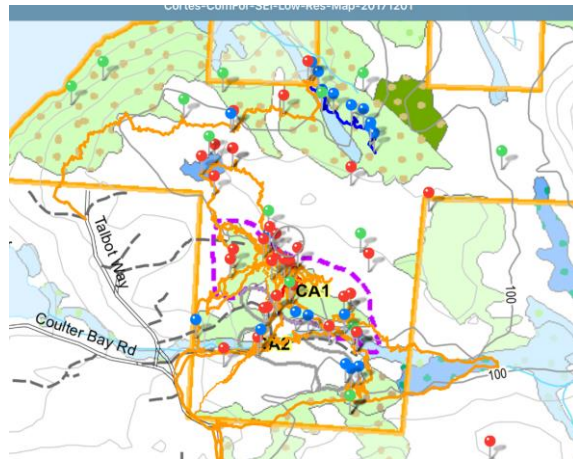
My focus as President of the CCFC is ground-truthing in the community forest. In 2018, CCFC membership passed a strongly supported motion that CFGP include ecological ground-truthing as part of the cost of its operations. The resolution had 3 elements: 1) Ecological mapping; 2) Ecological ground-truthing; and 3) enhanced silviculture.

The Province of BC has compiled forestry data which, as a practical matter, would be prohibitively expensive to reproduce independently. A reasonable course of action therefore seemed to be assessing the reliability of this data.

In 2019, we tested these waters by learning technical skills and trying a variety of ground-truthing methods.



The data we compiled looked like a someone spilled a box of smarties:



The result was a wish list which I will use in this report to assess our 2020 progress.

Goal # 1: A scientist with GIS skills and ecological knowledge to provide an objective, credible and defensible ground-truthing methodology

In August, 2019, the Partnership hired Huok Resource Consultants to provide guidance to a volunteer-based inventory project. Andrea Lang, RPF, provided the Cortes volunteer team with a

credible and defensible ground-truthing methodology. Many thanks to our Klahoose partners for taking this on! CCFC is providing some additional funds.

The methodology:

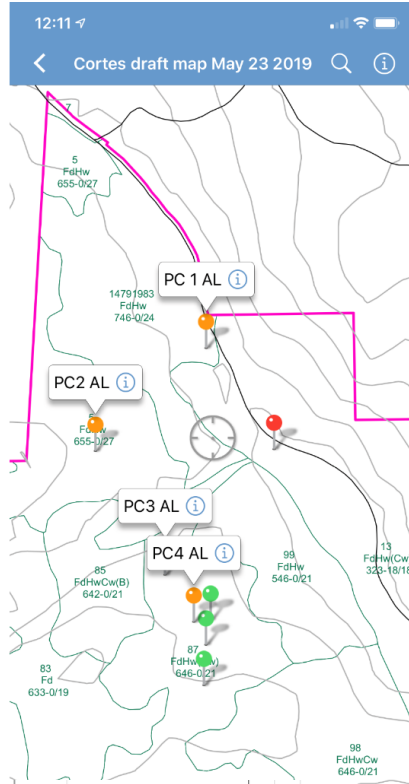
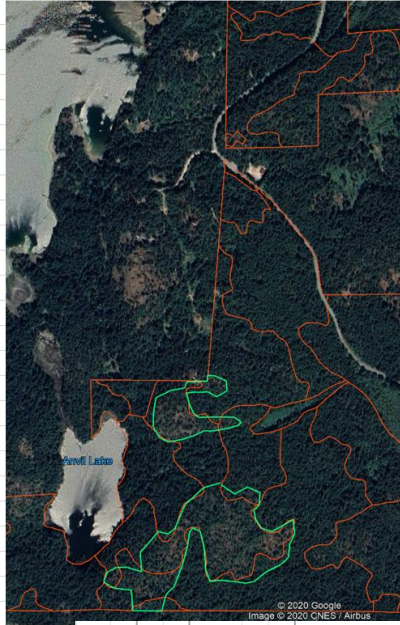
Using prism, clinometer and increment borer, we assessed 40 random points throughout the community forest. Data includes: species and tree diameter within the plot; site characteristics; the age and height of a representative tree; and the number of trees at points 25 meters to the north and south.



Goal #2: A way to curate the information so it is useful for long term planning and, hopefully, operations

Thanks to Andrea, and volunteer participation by the knowledgeable Mr. Lombard, our data can be compiled by spreadsheet for easy – and very rough – comparison with provincial data. Our random plots can be easily relocated with the Avenza app. And Andrea's notes on our spreadsheets provide suggestions for more accurate polygon mapping.

Mapping changes recommended:



Plot #	2	BAF	9	Polygon #	5	Date sampled:	6-15-20	Surveyors:	ML, CS, LF, BE, SF														
Operating Area:						GPS coordinates: 088145 N, 124.97566 W																	
VRI Forest cover data						Age	Height	Site Index	Basal Area	Stems/Ha	Volume												
						109	35	28	63	390	644												
2 sweeps/plot - locate 25m either side of plot - record # trees, also for fixed radius # at plot																							
prism-BAF						8	5	2	BA = # trees/plot * prism size														
fixed 5.64m						5	2	8	Spruce stress in 5.64m radius plot * 100														
Diameter classes at breast height (cm)																							
	<12.5	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	115	135	total	
Tree	12.5	17.5	22.5	27.5	32.5	37.5	42.5	47.5	52.5	57.5	62.5	67.5	72.5	77.5	82.5	87.5	92.5	97.5	102.5	107.5	112.5	>147.5	
Species	17.6	22.4	27.4	32.4	37.4	42.4	47.4	52.4	57.4	62.4	67.4	72.4	77.4	82.4	87.4	92.4	97.4	102.4	107.4	112.4	117.4	>147.5	
Fd						2	1	1			1												5
Cw			1	1			1	1	1														5
Hw																							0
Dr																							0
Pur																							0
total trees	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
major species sample tree - do one age and height (distance should be in meters)																							
Species	DBH	years	total	top	bottom	slope	horiz	height	Site														
	age	to DBH	age	height	height	(m)	(m)	(m)	index														
Fd	70	9	79	116	-10	23.3	23.2	30.5	25.4	Carrie to lookup site index using Site tools program													
Site Characteristics																							
1 Slope %				8%	estimate slope % with clinometer, where variable can add a comment																		
2 Aspect				S-SE	estimate with compass, add comments																		
3 Soil surface				3, 4	1=bedrock visible 2=very stony surface rock 4=organic muck 5=snag 6=surface water																		
4 Understory Vegetation				1	1=moss 2=salal 3=oregon grape 4=saunders fern 5=Hw regen 6=Fd regen																		
6 Forest health				1	Stressed trees 1=1-10% 2=11-20% 3=21-30% 4=31-40% (dead or dying, thin crowns, pests or disease)																		
7 Slope position				2	1=knoll or crest 2=upper slope 3=mid slope 4=lower/slope 5=level 6=depression																		
Comments:																							
sweep to N was in area of dead cedars adjacent to Cw Fd area as well as stressed trees on knoll																							

Goal #3: A person with the numerical and strategic skills to forecast scenarios which combine ecosystem information with operational viability factors

As part of the inventory project, Huock Resources had entered data to the Windows for Woodlots computer program. This can be used to forecast forest volumes and forest age at different assumed rates of cut. Post COVID, we hope to have a presentation on this.

Goal #4: Input from CCFC members to make sure the goals reflect their views

Ground-truthing is a long-term project. It has not been completed to a satisfactory level because it is extremely expensive and/or time intensive. The forest inventory project represents about 500 hours of volunteer time and partially completes only one part of the CCFC membership's resolution.

However, volunteer "boots on the ground" for the forest inventory project has increased familiarity with the community forest's ecologically sensitive areas, ephemeral creeks and wetlands, and potential habitat for listed species. This will inform future ground-truthing projects.

It has also put the community into all parts of the community forest and created a venue for important conversation regarding the community's goals.

Because ground-truthing to meet community expectations could consume much more than the amount of logging revenue which the Partnership wants to produce, ground-truthing is likely to remain a volunteer effort. A best case scenario is for the Partnership and CCFC provide the professional expertise necessary to ensure that data gathered is both credible and useful. For this, the forest inventory project is a good model.

Goal # 5: Community members who enjoy rough walking, have stamina/reliability for multi-year projects and the ability to develop technical skills

Data gathering for the forest inventory project is complete, with thanks to Bruce Ellingsen, Sonya Friesen, Lisa Ferentinos, and Wayne Roberts. There will be a continuing need for volunteers if this project is to serve as a model for other projects, with community members working under professional guidance. Ecological mapping in the future could include: stream courses and wetlands; presence of habitat for blue and red listed species; presence of old trees; areas for old growth recruitment; and unhealthy forest areas in need of rehab (hemlock/mistletoe).

Goal #6: Presentation of ecological data in a manner consistent with reconciliation and continuing awareness of the many factors CFGP must consider to maintain a viable and successful operation

In response to CCFC initiatives, the CFGP sponsored the forest inventory project. Future projects will likewise need to balance the needs and desires of both partner communities.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement as we build consensus around our community forest operations. We are part of a unique and outstanding partnership, one of which we can be proud.