

FOREST SUMMIT & CONVERGENCE REPORT

REPORT ON THE FOREST SUMMIT & CONVERGENCE OCTOBER 26 & 27, 2019, NELSON, BC Report published December 31, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Hello,

My name is Jennifer Houghton and I was the lead organizer for the Forest Summit & Convergence that took place October 26 & 27, 2019 in Nelson, BC.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, the event generated incredible content and fantastic energy.

A great big thanks to all the volunteers! Without your behind-the-scenes help, this event wouldn't have happened.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Theresa Hart donated the venue, Hart Hall.

Real Estate Foundation BC | Oso Negro Coffee | The Hume Hotel | BW Plus Baker Street Inn
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Wildwood Ecoforest | Homestead Organic Farm, Peachland

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ORIGINS OF THE EVENT

My home in Grand Forks was flooded in 2017 and 2018 due to a combination of climate change and clear cutting in the Boundary watershed. As a result, since 2018 I've spent a great deal of my time learning about forestry in BC and co-founded the Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society. I saw that not only are our ecosystems being destroyed by forestry practices but communities are suffering as well. Despite the enormous efforts of numerous community advocates to enact changes to forestry practices in their regions, the BC government continues to reinforce the damaging industrial forestry model which is written into BC forestry legislation.

The Convergence was intended to provide a forum to bring together those who want to create a unified voice to tell the government to change forestry legislation so that it protects and restores forest ecosystems.

We advertised the Convergence as a grassroots call to action to:

- a) To identify the basic principles and values that should underpin forestry activity, to identify and summarize solutions, and to outline next steps.
- b) Motivate fellow citizens and communities to mitigate the climate crisis, protect forests and water, and preserve species biodiversity.
- c) Influence and steer government legislation, policy, and action.

Pre-Summit Agenda & description can be found here: <https://www.boundaryforest.org/forest-summit-convergence/>

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1. Summarize the Forest Summit & Convergence for citizens, organizers, and government.
2. Provide a basis for catalyzing unified action amongst people who want to see BC legislation and regulations protect and restore BC forest ecosystems.
3. Make it clear that the people of BC want action to protect forests NOW.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE EVENT

On Day One, seven speakers presented information and solutions (notes start on p. 8). On Day Two, attendees came together in group sessions to discuss ideas and solutions (notes start on p. 16).

Watch the recorded presentations here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6OZCdhyzmK>

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People wrote thoughts and feelings on a big sheet of paper at the front entrance

Comments from the Interior Forest Summit
Front Entrance Sharing sheet
Oct 2019, Nelson, BC

Your thoughts:
Wondering what will happen today.
*So happy to see a solutions
and action oriented forum.*

Your feelings:
Eager to work together.
*Hopeful that we will
find common action.*

Your hopes:

That I'll leave with something practical that I can do. And that we all find a compelling message.

That I can communicate what happened here to a broad base.

Full employment doing earth work!

Community hired professionals - unbiased judgement.

*To find a place in this movement and community that will
enable us to move forward and be effective change-makers.*

The themes that emerged from the Convergence:

1. People want action now.
2. A new vision for forestry is needed.
3. Leadership, organization, and resources are required at a grassroots level.

Here are some of the quotes from participants during the group sessions:



The 80-or-so attendees included students, environmental activists, representatives from environmental organizations from across BC, residents being impacted by forestry activities, Indigenous people, representatives from community watershed groups, union members, local government, and others concerned about our ecosystem health (mainly from around the Kootenays, Okanagan, and the Boundary regions).

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Some attendees expressed a sense of powerlessness about climate change and what's happening to our forests. Frustration about government inaction was palpable. While there is still some uncertainty about exactly what each of us can do, it is my hope that what will ensue from the Convergence includes collaboration, the emergence of strong leaders, and organized action.

One of the moments that sticks in my mind occurred when we were discussing why this is important to us and one of the students from Okanagan College said, "I don't want to discuss the *why* because it's obvious. I just want to talk about what we're going to do now."

While the opinions expressed in the report summary and conclusions are my own, in deciding how to create a report about the event, I read through all the notes and decided to not only summarize my take but also to include the actual notes from the group sessions (p.16-30). This way, attendees can speak for themselves without an interpretation being imposed on their views. The people at the Convergence are caring, concerned citizens who want to make a difference in British Columbia. Their views matter.

It makes for a lengthy document. However, the raw notes are worth reviewing if you are looking for ideas to make change. Readers can choose to use this data any way they like. For example, to launch an initiative, this data can be used as a resource, a springboard for ideas, or a solid place to start.

Small groups of attendees, led by facilitators, first discussed what issues are important to us and then we discussed our 'whys'. From those results, 7 main themes were chosen:

1. Political Action, Engagement, Legal Action, Legislative Change
2. Connection with People and Ecosystems
3. Self-Organization of this group, Vision, Common Goal
4. Meaningful Collaboration with First Nations
5. Education, Self-Development, Story Telling
6. Youth Movement
7. Data, Environment Protection, Conservation

The groups then tackled the issue of 'Next Steps' around each of the 7 themes (group notes start on page 16).

NEXT STEPS

A VISION

It is time to create and enact a Big Audacious Goal: a New Vision for BC forests. This must be generated by citizens, government, workers, and industry all working together.

The word *vision* came up 13 times in the notes from the group sessions. Once a vision is spelled out, the next step is to create a strategic plan that unites everyone in order to make the vision a reality.

The current BC government has no vision for forests. Rather than defining a new vision that takes ecosystem health and climate change into account, it is letting the vision (industrial forestry supportive of corporate profits) of the previous government perpetuate. The status quo will rule until a New Vision is defined. Since government continues to consult with status-quo-protecting industry about forestry decisions, it is up to the PEOPLE of BC to demand the government enact a New Vision.

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What is this New Vision?

Although many ideas about it emerged at the Convergence, it has yet to be articulated precisely. Clarifying that vision is one of the steps in citizen organizing and will require citizen leaders to make it happen. In the least, the New Vision must:

- A. Include citizens having a say about forests (public oversight)
- B. Put the health of ecosystems first (and in turn create jobs and community security)

It became clear during the group sessions that one of our struggles as grassroots folk is *how* to take unified action. We *want* to take effective unified action but how we get there without enormous financial backing is the challenge. We have the desire, the ideas, and the will, but not the money.

So how do we, as citizens, even begin to materialize a New Vision?

By three means:

- 1) Leaders
- 2) Strategy
- 3) Organizing

LEADERS

A leader or leaders from within communities are required first. Communities, citizens, and grassroots doers cannot take concerted, unified action until we have leaders. These are the individuals who take up the baton and run with it. Leaders attract teams. Teams create strategy. Strategy produces organized effective action.

Once a leader steps up, an organized group can seek out funding as part of the overall strategy.

There's the rub though – we are grassroots. We are community members. We are volunteers. Who is the person who can be the leader without financial support? Chicken and egg.

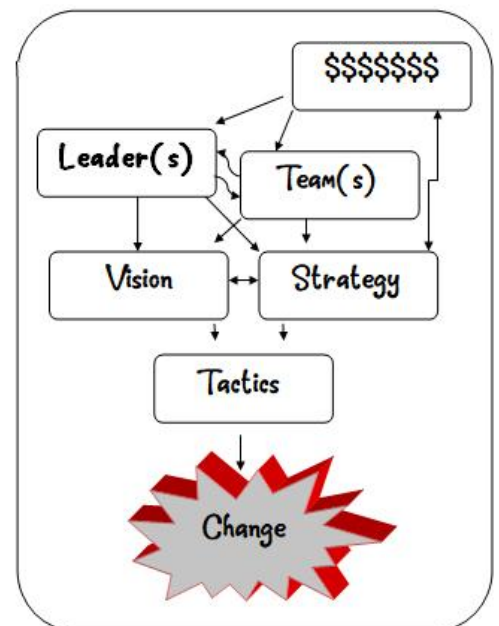
For those who would suggest BC Coalition for Forestry Reform (BCCFR) take on that role, it may be possible at some point, but once again, there has to be a leader. Right now, BCCFR does not have a leader. It is being run by a few volunteers who are not able to take on the leadership position due to work commitments.

STRATEGY AND ORGANIZING

Rather than struggling through the moment, rather than being reactionary and resorting to disconnected tactics, we, as citizens, need to put in place a sustaining strategy that's going to keep sending the same message to the government and thus be more likely to get implemented.....a strategy is what makes the difference.

Tactics are only powerful when aggregated to drive a big strategy.

But until leaders emerge to pull together a cohesive strategy, we can all take action via the tactics listed below and in the notes (p.16-30).



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SOME IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- 1) Meetings and working groups that come together to draft:
 - a. a New Vision
 - b. a new set of Forestry Principles
- 2) A central hub of information for grassroots and environmental groups
- 3) A follow-up event.
- 4) Formation of a steering committee.
- 5) Traveling team project (see Appendix C, p. 30)

TACTICS TO PRESS FOR A NEW VISION

How to make each tactic count for more: focus each tactic around the fact that a New Vision is needed. Press all levels of government to understand that systemic changes are needed immediately and this requires a New Vision which includes public oversight of public lands and ecosystem protection.

- ✓ Write letters about the New Vision. Write to FLNRORD, MOE, your MLA, your MP, your local government. Get others in your circle to write the same letters. The other key people to contact in government are deputy ministers because the Ministers take information from them (see p. 32 for current deputy minister contact info).
- ✓ When proposing solutions (written & verbal), articulate how proposed solutions fit into a New Vision.
- ✓ Make calls to government about what you want the New Vision to include.
- ✓ Bring together a team of people to create a delegation to your local government or City Council and propose a New Vision for your local region.
- ✓ Join up with existing groups (both local and larger) who are already working on this.
- ✓ Have kitchen table discussions that focus on action, solutions, and movement towards a New Vision.
- ✓ Protest and march – increases awareness and builds solidarity. Create signage that speaks about a New Vision.
- ✓ Join the Facebook group. This is a forum to share information and connect with each other. This is where you can get people to join initiatives you are undertaking:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1019165341760551/>
- ✓ If you start an online forum, please share it with the Convergence group. (The shareable list of emails has been sent out to attendees a few times).
- ✓ Launch a project for your watershed, your neighborhood, your town that embodies the New Vision.
- ✓ Seek out collaborations with unions, workers, and others to build mutual understanding of how a New Vision will impact us all.
- ✓ Create a working group that drafts a New Vision or New Forestry Principles and share it far and wide.
- ✓ Create something out-of-of-the-box. Business as usual isn't working. A New Vision requires new thinking.

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CONCLUSIONS

With the diversity of perspectives that were voiced at the Convergence, it is critical to keep the focus clear: a New Vision for BC forests must be enacted and NOW. When we write, when we protest, when we discuss, when we meet we must stay focused on the concept of a New Vision and not allow other issues to distract us. Vision first – then the other pieces fall into place.

This New Vision must include, but is not limited to:

1. Meaningful public participation in decisions about public land
2. Protection of ecosystems

And it must be written into and reflected by our laws, legislation, regulations, and policies at all levels.

The Forest Summit & Convergence was a profound event but attending the event was not the commitment. It was the preparation. The event itself was a catalyst for transformative action - so that each of us can go back to our communities and kick ass at a higher, more prominent level.

Volunteers, protestors, and workers are needed in this cause. But in order for their efforts to effect meaningful change, there have to be *leaders*. Leaders can manage a BC-wide cause, assemble and communicate a vision, and direct the tactics so that they combine into an effective strategy.

Protests are good. Letter writing is good. Petitions are good. But meaningful, deep change requires leaders who create a strategy.

We are, each of us, leaders in our own way. Let's change the game, my friends. Launch an initiative. Make it happen.

Let us all strive to be agents of change and to be leaders and influencers. Let us perfect a strategy that drives behavior in government, in communities, in individuals, and in companies to get the results we want. Let us lead the way to a New Vision for forestry in BC.

We want stellar results. We want thriving ecosystems that are immune to climate change and that are in fact, so healthy, they have a positive impact on the global climate. And we want to get on that road now – not after more surveys, not after more engagements, not after we've lost anything more, not while we watch Australia burn. We want it NOW.

Does that feel like something that we CAN do? It does to me. We just need to have a strategy, formulated by leaders, and undertaken by citizens.

However, time is not on our side. Something formidable and revolutionary may be required to light a fire under the asses of government persons. Unfortunately, it may come in the form of actual flames as our trees, livelihoods, and homes burn as a result of government inaction and corporate greed.

Let us move quickly in the direction of this New Vision by repeating and affirming the same message across BC: we need a New Vision for forestry - one that prioritizes thriving ecosystems, public oversight, and future jobs all at the same time.

Let us also encourage and support the emergence of new leaders.

Think big. Think non-violent revolution. Think colossal change.

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APPENDIX A: NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATIONS

The speakers presented a wealth of information and a number of solutions to the forest crisis in BC.

Important: these raw notes were created by attendees at the Summit and are not to be used as direct quotes and are not necessarily the opinions or words of the speakers. These notes are paraphrasing and interpretations created by attendees. It is important that the context of the information is considered before any of the following is used in written materials, articles, or reports. ***There may be errors.***

The purpose of sharing these notes is to impart ideas and prompt readers to go back to the actual presentations to discover details and context. To do so, the Summit video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6OZCdhyzmk>

Notes from the talk by Jennifer Houghton (Convergence Organizer)

Title: Building People Power & the Big Picture

- Many BC communities are suffering.
- healthy forests equal a healthy economy
- dependence on corporations that leads to a “never ending cycle of job insecurity.”
- BC gov’t has no long term **vision** for forests or forestry
- many people want change BUT legislation is “like a brick wall stopping changes from happening.
- Appears shift is beginning to take place in BC gov’t -> not enough, not fast enough
- Government is consulting with industry instead of scientists and communities

Its time to shift senior gov’t to see that we need a new **vision**, ‘laws aligned with stewardship of ecosystems’

We need to stop phrasing it as ‘jobs vs nature’

- we need to get people to vote, get involved in the system, join parties, run, etc... “work must be done from all angles” “networking with local people in positions of power”.
- If you think ppl who want to increase rate of logging in your watershed are not meeting with local gov’t behind closed doors you’re wrong
- must not merely influence gov’t, must BE gov’t
- create local economies independent of global economic forces
- gov’t system free from influence of corporate elite
-

“Let’s build a new BC where caribou have room to roam and bears have an abundance of salmon”

Notes from the talk by Jeff Brown, BC Coalition for Forestry Reform

Title: Opportunity: Leveraging Changes to Provincial Legislation – What Regulations and Policy Would Allow _____ to Happen?

Trying to “prevent my local community from being completely surrounded by contiguous clearcuts”
-Apex property owners founding members of BC Coalition for Forestry Reform (33 communities are members) “people who woke up seeing impact of poor forestry practices”
- Apex is specially zoned as Intensive Recreation Area (IRA). Why didn’t this matter? Answer: “We can’t not chop trees down in an IRA because it would unduly reduce timber supply.”

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-2019 Union of BC Municipalities -> 9 separate resolutions about forestry.
Apex significantly creates local economic value.

-1st conclusion: community and local gov't agree -> we need new regulations.

Disaster response phase 1: 2001-2017 Pine Beetle 'Disaster Response'.

- Focused on extracting \$
- non-timber values = collateral damage.
- 15 yrs of unsustainable levels of forestry in BC
- suggestion of "logging in parks" to keep up Annual Allowable Cut. Like saying "let's start fires to keep firefighting jobs"
- now laying off "beetle disaster responders"

Phase 2

Bill 49: professional governance. Changed primary objective of association of professional (foresters?).
Now main orientation is to protect public interest. Means we can start to use professional associations.
-will probably take decade to have impact

Bill 21: Forest and Range Practices Act 2019. Clause 16 (1.01) removed. This clause said that a Forest Stewardship Plan conforms to legislation if a professional says it does. Gov't authority had no legal authority to say no. Now removed, district managers can say no.

Consultation Now, have to consult in standardized way.

- New Section 15.1 = accurate road and cutblock map every 2 years
- Public review mandatory

Phase 3

Updating regulation: Forest Planning and Practices Regulation

- "Regulatory Capture" is main concern
- Legislation vs Regulation: need to be sure new regulations reflect intent of new legislation.
- recognizes that 1st nations are at different level, "gov't to gov't"

Bill 41: United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- Complex gov't to gov't relations
- Impact to be determined
- Local community role to be determined
- Main conclusion: change is coming/happening

Define what matters. Make it possible (legally, practically) to protect what matters.

- "The politics that got us into this mess aren't going to get us out".

Question: What made changes?

- > Negative impact of unsustainable Annual Allowable Cut became obvious
- > industry: "We're getting more pushback as we move into valley bottoms, watersheds"
- > groups in basically every community. Negative impacts of forestry, along with mining and real estate, has generated community groups everywhere.
- > Election: Greens made their support of an NDP gov't conditional on changing forestry

Question: Community input – why is it having no effect?

- > make oversight part of local gov't, pay scientists to look at non timber values
- > not volunteers (burnt out)

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Notes from the talk by Herb Hammond

Title: From Intact Forests to Degraded Fibre Farms: A Story of Privatized Public Forests

Not just tinkering. Need for a new reality. We need to frame it in big picture, otherwise we're normalizing progressive ecosystem degradation.

-precautionary principal "do no harm" is an important foundation

The Climate Emergency

200ppm -> 415ppm. Most ppm of last 800,000 yrs.

Forests defined by presence of other species, symbiotic relationships. Forest = one organism.

WATER -> -water is the connector, earth's veins and arteries. Forests are living fabric woven together by water.

INTACT FORESTS

-provide ecosystem services

- aren't optional, aren't a value to balance, they are a necessity.

Provide: water conservation, carbon collection and storage, high level of biological diversity.

->pine beetle -> old growth forests are home to carnivorous beetles that eat pine beetles

Water -> need to think about it in terms of watershed. No such thing as small damage to a watershed.

You can destroy a watershed with your foot.

-water quality, quantity, and timing of flow need to be #1 concerns

Clearcuts = LOST OPPORTUNITIES

Climate change -> Forestry = #1 emissions source in BC

Turning little Slokan River from carbon sink to carbon source. Story of province.

Dogwood Alliance and Centre for Sustainable Economy:

As compared with Nature's baseline, the industrial forest landscape stores less carbon, sequesters less carbon, emits more carbon.

-Planting trees -> 150/200 yrs to get back to baseline.

PUBLIC INTEREST IN FORESTS

- public interest is about truth, things we have to have: high quality H2O in moderate flows, air quality, biodiversity

-These things are needs, not wants

- Well-being -> a need of our species = meaningful work, not the same as getting rich.

-Gov't defines public interest in a way that reflects strongest special interest groups.

- Changes that have happened are maybe 5% of what's needed

- Corporate lobbies -> major influence. COFI (Council of Forest Industries) and ILMA (Interior Lumber Manufacturer's Association)

2018 profits:

Interfor: 111.7 million

Canfor: 221.8 million

Canfor Pulp: 89.5 million

West Fraser: 378 million

4 corporations = 801 million, while laying people off.

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Forestry today in BC -> logs old growth and primary forests, single largest emitter

US Northwest Forest Plans after 20 yrs (shut down logging)

- more CO2 sequestering and storage
- improved water quality, quantity, time of flows
- ESA

US-> public control of public forests.

->There is a way for ppl to hold public managers accountable

Now: Cooperative problem solving.

Important legislation that helped this happen = Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Protection Act

- Canada-wide lobbying to prevent similar laws here

Result: ecosystem collapse due to industrial control of forest tenure system, of educational institutions, control employment options.

Root -> colonial mindset, about domination

Result: resource management ->manage/manipulate and CONTROL

Economic result: Least Cost Resource Exploitation.

TENURE

Where did tenure come from? Sheldon, Washington 1945. Private monopoly on public land. Rejected in US, embraced in BC. Tree Farm License 1 circa 1948.

Tenure has been an ecological disaster

-Approx. 45,000 forestry jobs lost since 2000 and number keeps growing

Why does it continue?

- Corporate profit taking at expense of public
- Avoidance of investing in value-added products keeps corporate profits high
- Ability to sell rights to public forests that were initially received free

Corporate spin – *re-structuring* which really means replacing ppl w/ machines, increases profit taking

Sustainable Forestry: if we're the world leader we're in trouble

A way of propping up corporate control -> senior gov't managers = corporate timber bias.

-Scanty information compared to 20 yrs ago.

-Machine scaling instead of hand scaling = companies get somewhere between 10 and 15% of logs free.

No local, regional, or provincial log markets.

We need A **VISION**, if we don't have a **vision** we're going to end up where we don't want to go. Need to protect over 50% for ecosystems services; well-distributed spatially, and by ecosystem type across entire forest landscape.

Forests are identities to be respected, not objects to be dominated. Focusing solely on forests as resources to exploit for short-term profit taking ignores our needs and the needs of the other sentient beings that comprise the forest. Learned from Indigenous elders.

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Notes from the talk by Erik Piikkila

Title: Alternatives to the Current Forestry Model: Learning from the past to understand the present and to plan for the future.

SOLUTIONS

1. Wholly implement the Water Sustainability Act and thus create 60 – 70% improvement in forestry management.
2. Legislation can take up to 3 years to change; work on changes in administrative, regulatory and policy-based areas.
3. Long rotations (between re-logging/re-harvesting forested areas).
4. Plant up 3 million ha of NSR.
5. Plant millions of red alders, aspen and maple trees. Seed is available.
6. Provincial programs are needed to get the seeds growing as seedlings.
7. Implement ecosystem-based forest management rather than starting with timber supply.
8. Deal with climate change -- new ideas and innovation!
9. Province-wide course for debris improvement to make sure there is a continual water supply.
10. Logging high up on the hillsides needs to be curtailed – Under the H60 line!
11. Digitize our forest base system in order to be able to address climate change with as much accurate data as we can.
12. Get our research back!
13. Employment creation – Collecting baseline data! Where are our ecosystems right now?
14. Need to rebuild manufacturing sector.
15. Need to get Value Added programs in place and get 500% value, not the quick 25% currently happening.
16. We need to super value-add the wood sector and connect the woods with the wood products, crafters, guitar makers, & on and on, rather than sending it all to a big mill that ships out the raw material.
17. Create conservation covenants and eco-forestry covenants. Help locals get the expertise so that clear cutting is not the default.
18. Provincial incentives needed to help these forests get older and help land owners keep the forest on their property, and cut in a sustainable and eco-forestry manner so that they take some wood off but the forest remains standing.
19. Create local forest landowner associations, give advice and share knowledge, pool equipment, ie: local forestry cooperatives and provide them with skilled people.

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20. Tax credits to protect their forests on private land.
21. Changes in by-law zonings for OCPs and zoning by-laws to protect forests. Ecosystem development and NO clear cutting.
22. Enforce no clear-cut logging.
23. Permits required to cut on private land.
24. Create a Coastal Douglas Fir and Land Reserve to stipulate what can and can't happen on those properties.
25. Minimize size and number of development areas for housing. Where is the water going to come from?
26. Ecosystems are getting cut up every day for new real estate and housing and roads.
27. What are the forest impacts?
28. Wildland-Urban Interface issues need to be dealt with, when there are more and more houses being put up in the forested areas that we have to protect and fire proof the areas.
29. Eco-systems are continually being cut and we need innovative and revolutionary ways to maintain them.

Notes from the talk by Douglas Gook

Title: Natural Selection Forestry (NSF) - Stewardship systems Where wild forests set the Standard

- Was able to employ 40 people on one worksite - an example of how many jobs are available through horse logging
- Horses are able to log on steep slopes that logging companies otherwise thought we're not possible with horses (This was done on a selective logging job between Quesnel and Barkerville). Taking out 10-15% of the trees (essentially the worst trees). Was quickly shut down by the logging industry.
- Employed 65-70 loggers in Quesnel area
- Now specializes in non-timber forest products such as Chaga mushroom
- We need to be talking full scale tenure redistribution
- Critical to remember that all of this work is for the seventh generation after us. Remember our ancestors and work for the future.
- In the 20 years the horse logging initiative was active, they worked cooperatively for forest practice change. They promoted sensitive silviculture systems first as nothing can quite match the low impact of horse logging and system-sensitive loggers.
- It was important to make it easy so that loggers can easily grasp it. Natural selection Forestry: Let forests select what trees are candidates for removal. Low-grading NOT high-grading.

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- Sign of success: Forestry industry puts money into phony counter-group.
 - Doug's Suggestions:
 - Reenact the Forest Caucus for the BC Environmental Network which was a way for different forest environmental groups to discuss and freely share ideas.
 - Community consensus democracy is important. Ranchers, First Nations, community members, loggers band together to boot out industry.
 - Look at the Balinese model of community consensus.
 - Tenure redistribution.
 - Strive to keep it cooperative. Like the Scandanavian model.
-

Notes from the talk by Brian Horejsi

Title: Bridging the gap between the science, land use, and democratic processes to reform of public land management

- Political indifference and resistance are rife within ministries and agencies - no reversal as yet of disastrous policies instituted in the last 15 yrs.
- Need to think long term
- Public land has immense value to citizens.
- We need to make revolutionary changes
- We have a right to speak, not be pigeonholed as stakeholders.
- In Canada, 84% of citizens are aware they should be involved and fully participating in forest mgmt. however categorized stakeholders, qualified professionals, and some indigenous groups do not consider public should be involved in decision making.
- We are knowledgeable enough to know what has to be done,
- 85% of public land is being utilized for private gain and private management but the timber industry share provides only 3% of the BC economy
- The US have Environment Impact Assessments - there has never been an EIA done in our forests in this province to date.

Four Fundamentals of What We Have to Achieve

1. Establish a Public Trust Doctrine

- The public, both present and future generations, stand as beneficiaries of this Trust holding an endearing common property and endearing interest in the natural resources comprising that Trust.

2. Equal Rights to and Transparent Public Participation in Public Processes

- Enshrine in legislation on a constitutional level that all have the ability and right to transparent public participation.
- If we do not have the right to participate, the public's interest is being undermined.

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- No more stakeholder or closed door meetings
3. Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Putting limits on what elected politicians can do to us when they come with their own agendas
4. Public Right to Legal Oversight
- We have limited control of govt, particularly the civil service. Civil Service is acting as a rogue body that protects political superstructures, leading to catastrophic consequences. Barriers need to be placed around unregulated activity and special interests confining their behavior
 - Participation not only makes for better informed citizens but helps develop citizenship.

Citizenship presupposes that one is able to participate in the decisions that affect oneself and one's community.

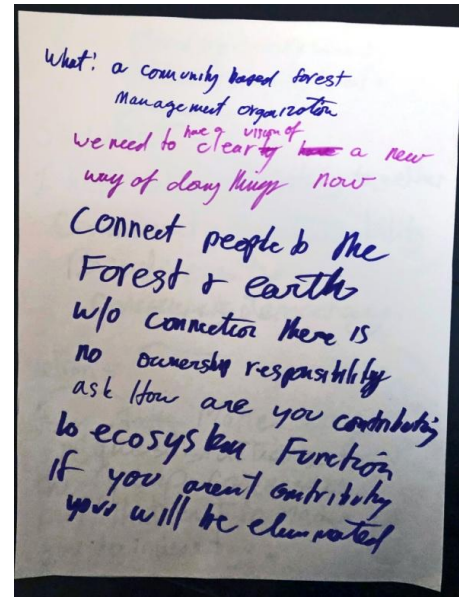
These 4 principles plus cohesive solidarity can change govts and bring about revolutionary changes.

APPENDIX B: RAW NOTES FROM THE GROUP SESSIONS

WHAT MATTERS

Climate change is real

- What can we do today to shift our paradigm
- What patterns are emerging
- Community democracy
 - Bio-diversity
 - True sustainability
- Siwllkw (water) - human right to water and eco-diversity-timixw right to water = not separate
- Enowkinwixw - Syilx - decision making process
- We have to take action immediately
- Remove corporate control



4 pillars

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Environmental

-
- We have a shared connection with the forest.
 - To work/move forward with the idea that we think, feel, and act like a forest is a strategy.
 - How do we collaborate as a network of local knowledge provincially, create a database, central library of local knowledge.
 - Organizing/coordinating tactics around shared **vision**, with long term goals and timeline (strategic plan with a work plan).
 - Directly confront divide and conquer tactics.

-
- Community-based forest management, Take back 'our' power
 - Create a clear **vision**
 - Prepare with data, history, ecological knowledge
 - Urgency
 - Legislative change (WSA)
 - Bridge that gap and get the message out to everybody and find the common ground!
 - Mobilize through story telling as opposed to facts/data
 - Climate crisis is here now.

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.....
We need a clear **vision** of a new way of doing things **NOW!**

- **WATER** is the most important.
- Protect the water source.
- Do something before knowledge keepers die and we die.
- A holistic approach is important.
- Take action now.
- We have the power to do this.
- Adaptation and prevention, mitigation.

.....
Jennifer's idea: create core group to grind it out and...

- ❖ Concentrate all these ideas into a clear unifying, cohesive message that we stick to. How are Greta/big corporations effective? They maintain **vision** and focus!
- ❖ Create a strategic workplan.
- ❖ Secure financing.
- ❖ Identify key roles we can agree on within our movement; data collection; event organizing; outreach; collecting stories, etc.

.....
Actions:

Public inquiry	}	Legal themes
Judicial inquiry		
Class action suit		

Bring forward resolutions to UBCM

Advocate/educate

- Public
- Group members
- Local governments
- Provincial governments
- Licensees, etc

Forestry reforms needed

- Change in legislation

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- As ALR protected farms, farmland and food, food sources, food security, food supply and food based jobs, economics and communities ---- we need to change ZONINGS and make protected ZONES, if a community or a district prime usage of a watershed is community

Need legal direct action

.....

- Connect with youth
- Increase social media presence
- Share our stories/knowledge/passion with others
- Reach out to schools (of all levels, mainly secondaries and post-secondary)
- Connect with opportunities: research, involvement, etc
 - >Incentivize
- Conserve 50% spatially distributed forest in BC right away
- Form political lobby group to integrate environmental rights into the constitution, ie. Rights and freedoms
- Create a draft **vision** that builds/incorps

.....

- ✚ Think and write and share
- ✚ Reframe thought
- ✚ Commonsense > data and analysis > BRAIN
- ✚ Discourage polarity
- ✚ Common **vision**
- ✚ Small and achievable goals – keep people moving forward
- ✚ Reassume responsibility
- ✚ Take back control of public lands

.....

Form connections

Have hope

Document bush happenings

- Hold companies responsible
- Eyes to look
- Guardians

Witnessing and collecting data – public , govt, licensee
--

Integration – hiking and naturalist groups

Clear cut pics alert us – bring reality

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Define **vision** – supporting principles

Implement process to achieve **vision**

Create stories – important

If it looks bad, it is bad.

.....

- *Collaboration with First Nations*
- *Implement the Sylix Forest Standard*
- *Social Ecological movement*
- *Local government support*
- *Stand together*
- *Take inspiration from climate strikes*
- *Educate*
- *Find consensus.*
- *Change legislation to encompass values we identified.*
- *Finding a balance between current actions and radical actions to change legislation.*

.....

Utilize legal expertise

- To challenge corporations and government, e.g. does the Queen have the power to give our trees away. First Nations leverage.

Consolidate our resources, ie. Expertise, experience, knowledge, data, stories, and work like this is a war – form battalions (use environmental groups already in communities); disseminate information; letters to editor in community papers (free).

Form a Social Ecological Movement

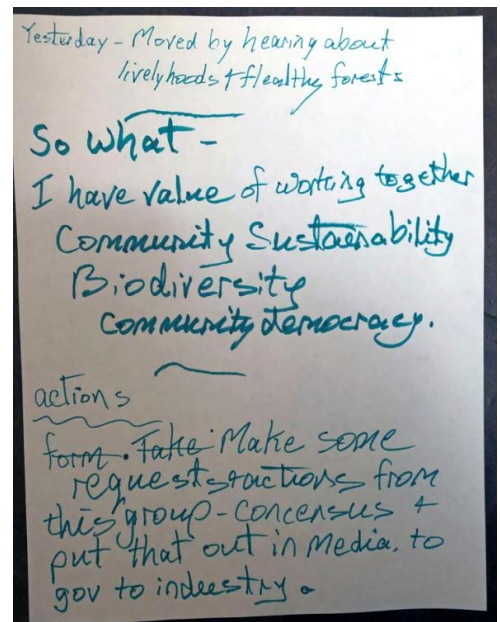
Zoning changes.

.....

Actions

TODAY

- prioritize actions



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- Establish future meeting organizer

SOON

- Group stays connected – regular meeting and invite big wigs!
- Report back and share information
- Identify leaders
- Engage in respectful dialogue
- Elevate message from youth and engage
- Reach people in power
- Build/strengthen relationships with forests
- Find new creative ways to educate

THIS YEAR

- Talk to MLAs and political reps and support respectfully
- Go to all meetings and present and command respect
- Link flooding and climate change to deforestation
- Moratorium on old growth logging

FUTURE

- Change policy and legislation
- Demand Premier to establish a moratorium on 5 watershed logging plans and have an inquiry –who wants to spearhead this initiative?
- Call bluff of corporations and hold accountable – public inquiry on deforestation.

.....

Awareness: engage youth through Greta, celebrities to obtain a broader movement

- ✓ Protests/Blockades – is this an interim opportunity?
- ✓ Feeling helpless – what else can we do?
- ✓ Blockade to ‘checkpoint’ – for resource activity
- ✓ Empowering what already works
- ✓ First Nations to wants to work with the people
- ✓ Take what we learned here and inform/work with government – work together.
- ✓ Forming a network of different groups to strengthen environmental positions.

3 OTHER POINTS:

- 1) Moratorium of logging on intact ecosystems
- 2) Questioning the professional reliance of foresters as well as wildlife experts

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- 3) Work with schools to educate high school students on environmental needs, issues, and the political system.

.....

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Many communities and curriculum of schools
- Where does water come from?
- Urban people think it comes from taps? Educate about concept of watersheds.
- Can't live without water
- Common need, no trees (oxygen, water, fish) – 'WATER IS LIFE'
- Polarity (jobs) – protecting water in order to have jobs
- Common values, **vision** statement

Strategic plan

- Citizen's assembly
- Immediate actions/future plans
- Individual stewards of the land, ie. No plastic, reduce, reassess (life, habits), readjust, reframe – what is success? Abundance, consumerism?
- How to move forward?
- Connect to forest/earth
- Contribute to ecosystem function
- Boycott corporations
- 100 corporations 71% of fossil fuel emissions

.....

Implement ecosystem based management

- ◆ Full implement Water Sustainability Act
- ◆ Change Legislation
- ◆ Grow forests older.
- ◆ Think like an ecosystem
- ◆ Think with heart
- ◆ Trust doctrine public
- ◆ Cooperation
- ◆ What have we forgotten about forestry in BC

.....

How do we work together in a way that's strategic and effective?

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Government has to get land and forestry in the books > not profits

- Need to get BC government on board

Inspired by local resistance movements

- Can take government by surprise
- Use every possible angle, tactics

All the info together, we need our people to bring it forward

- We can ensure the narrative matches

Availability of data

- Opportunity to make meaningful relationships with nations that are already moving forward
- We need multiple data points

Action plan needed

Complexity of working with many Nations

Only as complicated as you make it

Opportunity for relationship building

- Not every Nation will want the same things for their territory

People from all over the province who can take this back

What has worked before?

.....

- 75 people coming together in a common cause for protecting ecosystems and survival!
- Alternative methodologies for forest harvest, e.g. horse logging
- We can address the issue with our hearts and not just our brains
- The willingness for people to come together\Information suppression from Industry (Forestry)
- Remove/replace the tenure allocation process
- Simplification of our own lives in order to achieve healthy ecosystems

.....

We have shared love, determination, and knowledge for the forest

Mobilize local power and circumvent politicians

Learnings to bring back to our communities

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Recognizing emotions, anger

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- ✓ Burst of information
 - ✓ Connect to climate strikes
 - ✓ Renewal of energy
 - ✓ Tension – conflict of diverse tactics within system vs outside (to overthrow): tension
 - ✓ Climate change contribution of business as usual forest management
 - ✓ Pent up frustration – trauma impacts to get to change
 - ✓ Glad to hear individuals hearing need to come together – caring to come together
-

- The earth is in trouble
 - Need to think on a larger scale and longer landscapes
 - Ecosystem based thinking and energy
 - Think with our heart
 - Working together, collectively, and inclusivity
 - Need a clear **vision**
 - There is a lack of a public voice in government structure
 - Diversity is our strength and our challenge and how to distill that into action: talking points = BIG PICTURE
 - Lack of knowledge (goodwill) for the public
 - Help define what public interest is – proactively
 - Public trust doctrine vs corporate control
 - Forestry for \$ is harming life and water
 - Better ways exist – Practices that respect the environment exist and create more jobs
-

OUR WHYS

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

- Corporate power, greed, profit\
- I've never felt so powerless.
- Pissed off at status quo.
- Need to take back control.
- Logging permits are given illegally.
- SURVIVAL – what will that look like?

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- Quality of life.
- Water is life
- Important because of our grandchildren, our future
- If we don't make major changes to how we treat our forests and the earth we are doomed.
- We have a global responsibility.
- Justice, fairness (economic as well).
- Human rights, clean water.
- We need to get organized and build alliances supporting this necessary transformation opportunity.
- Wrong E (economy) up front > needs to be Ecology.

.....

- Self –evident – importance is critical for survival
- To be in harmony with all
- Build solutions
- Message for forward motion.
- Make traction.
- Youth curriculum.
- Put more back in – pay it forward – the planet that supports life
- Justice, reconciliation and redress for First Nations and communities dominated by corporations.
- Existential
- Global warming threat
- Forest fire impacts
- Altruism – work to protect life for all beings
- Not just why but why not?!
- The burnout/emotion of experiencing the assault
- The heart knows the solution
- Overwhelming grip of capitalism
- Expose the power/faceless ones
- Stand up to power brokers

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-
- ✓ Because forests are so essential it is imperative that we become protectors
 - ✓ Preserve what we have, instead of reacting to disaster
 - ✓ Because future generations need to have a connection to the earth, because without the earth we have nothing = SACRED
 - ✓ Just because it is a way of being
 - ✓ Responsibility to learn how to have a new way of being
 - ✓ Teach young people
 - ✓ Identities need to be respected, not dominated
 - ✓ Be part of heart space
 - ✓ Fight global warming, improve health of communities, eventually save \$\$ and grow the economy

Healthy forests = clear water

- Regulate temps, carbon
- Regulate water systems

Ecotourism is huge – try and reach out and communicate with rural and urban people/kids

Forest system already works – the nature already works – these are more important (essentials, earth system) than our ‘power over’

Essential to purposeful, meaningful life

Better way of living

“Brilliant Green” book by Mancuso

-
- To protect ecosystems, forests, water, salmon, habitat, clean air, water
 - Store more carbon and fight global warming
 - More old growth
 - More jobs
 - Improve health of communities
 - Create economics
 - Grow economy
 - Reconnect to land

-
- ✓ We have a shared love of the forest, land, being, and a shared determination/knowledge of how to take care of them.
 - ✓ Kindness is key.
 - ✓ Lot of excitement > way to circumvent the politicians and get things done – way to organize the province.

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- ✓ All of the speakers brought knowledge, data, etc for us > going to be able to learn to take back to our neighbors, communities
- ✓ Need the platform to educate our peers and grow the movement.
- ✓ We don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- ✓ Distinction between knowledge and information > we look at data differently

There's a lot of emotion involved.

- Lots of people are happy with the status quo
- Angry for different reasons

Having lots of frustration about procedure, policy

- Lots of things that are broken
- Local power

-
- Urban/rural disconnect
 - Various schools of thought on how to get changes; within, outside system (tension?)
 - Need to change legislation
 - Change administration
 - Concerned citizens environmental protection
 - Sense of urgency
 - Community based energy and power
 - Extent of knowledge
 - Unity of purpose
 - Need to implement
 - Very little to show for many years of effort – frustration, 30 years of work
 - Consensus: ‘system is broken’ – designed with bad objectives
 - We need a shared **vision**
 - Figure out a way to move forward together
 - Importance of decolonization, importance of working with Syilx nation who have a Forestry Standard
 - We have a voice but aren't yet being heard.
-

Notes from the Next Steps Sessions

DATA

Who owns the data?

ecosystem Services reconstruction

annual reporting

Baseline (now) data - citizen scientists

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Wildfire data - sightings
access to and data-sharing from forest companies and government's
model the US Forest and environmental Acts
air quality
historic data
FOI
Noting Wildlife migration routes and location of berries
increase use of cell phones to collect data
Fuel Management app WVT GPS
I Naturalist GPS
biodiversity levels data warehouse
stumpage loopholes and log sales
Reach Out National Data custodian in end Nation data-sharing agreement
information sharing protocol

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION / CONSERVATION

Moratorium on old-growth logging and Community Watershed logging.
Implement Ecological Forest Management
Fully Implement Water Sustainability Act
Let forests grow older
Oversight and governance locally and First Nations and Bio Geo Climatic Zone
Ecosystem-based
Direct boots on the ground - shared learning

YOUTH MOVEMENT

What resources do teachers need to implement the new more Progressive curriculum? How do we connect teachers to these resources?

How do we engage with youth movement in a way that lifts them up instead of brings them down?

CBEEN: how do we extended beyond the east Kootenays?

How do we facilitate youth to feel empowered instead of telling them how to vote excetra, empowering them to make their own decisions?

What are the common threads of engaged youth? Why do youth get involved?

Connect with current active youth groups:

- Friday's for the future
- Selkirk College
- Grand Forks Global Citizens
- indigenous youth groups

Identify actions we can do together.

Influence curriculum- access the information on what is taught. Challenge traditional/ conventional curriculum.

learning versus education

Give teachers skills and capacity needed; organized ways to ensure teachers get support.

Help youth to feel that they have something valuable to contribute.

Youth panels: Community/Citizens Forest Boards. Feeling of justice and fairness hasn't been educated out of them. Or invite all generations to the table.

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EDUCATION SELF DEVELOPMENT

- Storytelling

Critical to educate:

- Local decision-makers
- captains of industry
- Bankers
- Educators

on the ecological Services of forests, the value of intact forests, the reality and seriousness of climate change.

Detailed Notes:

Field-based education starting young - grade 3. *What is happening at the post-secondary level?*

- Watersheds / harvested areas / drinking water and sewage plants
- slash piles / flash burning / Wildfire sites
- taking measurements (data collection)
- sit for 10 minutes and watch
- Nature / ecological / rural education for City dwellers
- Sawmill - Forest Products - other value-added products
- non-timber Forest values
- educate decision-makers (regional and local government)
- concise story messages: “ you can't have a healthy economy without a healthy environment” , “renewable energy cost less than fossil fuels”, “it pays to be green”
- learn that logging to reduce risk of forest fires can be an excuse
- learn economics of logging = why is clear-cutting more profitable than selective harvest
- Learn the jobs versus environmental destruction argument
- learn what individuals can do
- review the forest policy in BC
- learn how to effect change
- learn about the role of fire in forest ecology: fire suppression: climate change situation
- access information since 2000 and post NDP
- M of F outreach educational plans
- learn that BC 4th Street is the largest carbon emitter in BC
- make knowledge personally relevant
- we need better media
- we need to protect domestic water, bring this issue to Regional districts and municipalities

Create:

Wildlife impact stories

species biodiversity stories

life under an in the soil stories

Forest ecological service stories, for example the role of intact Forest

MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION WITH FIRST NATIONS | CONSENSUS

Work with the FN people of the area you are on. The suggestion for the Nelson area was

_____.

Will it be difficult to continue to have meaningful collaboration because of territory overlap?

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What do all nations with territoriality in area want?
Sylx Forestry Standard - look at it, bring it into application
Opportunity to connect with Doukhobor elders - lots of knowledge shared by Sylx elders
Changing tenure
Discussing forestry model and corporations
What are we trying to achieve? Process to get there?
Enabling information sharing
What does meaningful collaboration mean to nation?
Relationship building
Importance of traditional learning
Affects of assimilation on value system
If there are different jurisdictions will there have to be multiple structures?

POLITICAL ACTION | ENGAGEMENT | LEGAL ACTION

Legislative Change, Administrative Rule changes

Need organizational structure before this can be figured out. (from my memory)

Public Trust Doctrine
Changing Tenure

Story Telling:

1. Tension/Conflict
Within System
Outside System
2. Community based energy and power
3. Need to change laws!!
4. Feeling of we have been here before

CONNECTION WITH PEOPLE & ECOSYSTEM

Education - Environmental Education in schools, educating the masses, doing it in the forest, and educating politicians and bureaucrats, and ourselves and Outreach coordinating with First Nations.

Practice permaculture to planting trees Building B Homes releasing salmon and other proactive natural enhancement projects; bird houses, bat houses, plant flowers for bees excetera wildcrafting Etc.

Storytelling and knowledge sharing including indigenous people's stories and historical knowledge.

Giving people tools to appreciate nature; holding events, Forest bathing, walking barefoot. giving thanks often and daily, open your heart and experience the world.

SELF ORGANIZATION OF THIS GROUP | VISION / COMMON GOAL

Who is going to be at the next meeting?

- steering committee?
- focussed working groups

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When is the meeting going to be?
How are we going to have it? Skype? Zoom? In person?

Who is making the agenda?

Who is going to be part of a **vision** goal-setting crafting, using what's been captured this weekend?

Survey out to interested group?
How do we make decisions together?

Appendix C: The Traveling Team project idea proposal by Jennifer Houghton

This proposal is intended to inspire action – anyone wishing to launch such a project is invited to use the ideas here. This project needs a leader.

THE SUMMIT MESSAGE/THE PROJECT MESSAGE

The purpose of the summit was to establish a method for getting communities and people to create a unified voice to tell the government to change forestry legislation so that it protects and restores forest ecosystems. That is what this project is.

That is also *the message*: let's unify actions of people across the province to change forestry legislation so that it protects and restores ecosystems.

One of the things that I read from the Summit is that people want both an organized platform and leadership to make this happen.

Time is of the essence. The people at the Summit and others across the province have spoken loud and clear on this. Also, Summit attendees, advisors, and others have told me they direct connection with people is essential.

THE PROJECT

The project ideas require further development but here is the general approach:

- 1) Create a package that includes a Summit report, a New Guiding Principles for forestry document that includes the New Vision (*guiding principles* is the working title. Make use of appropriate pieces from models already in existence rather than starting from scratch), and action kit for communities. A home team will create this.
- 2) Create a traveling team to take this whole package out to BC communities and get people across BC taking unified action, including pushing the government to put the New Guiding Principles and New Vision into the regulations/legislation.

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- 3) Before the team sets out across the province, a pilot community is chosen (perhaps the Kootenays), to test and refine the package and methodology.

Funds would be raised mainly through crowdfunding and sponsorships rather than waiting on (and being restricted by) grant funding.

THE NEW GUIDING PRINCIPLES & NEW VISION FOR FORESTRY (working titles)

There is no forestry standard that we could create that every community will agree to 100%. So we create a standard/guiding principle manifesto/credo that is not too specific but also not too general – it will have to find a happy medium so that it appeals to enough people to get support and is aimed at creating forestry legislation and regulations that protect and restore ecosystems. It won't be perfect but it will put forth a clear New Vision. It will also offer the option for each community to support the pieces they choose but can reject a few specific points while showing support for the overall Vision. For example, if the new standard has 12 main points, each community could choose the 9-10 it supports and then send that message to the government along with the stance that it supports the New Vision. That way there are common threads in the message being sent from communities to the government (even though some of the specific details may vary slightly).

LEADERSHIP

This project will require a dedicated, committed leader. The project will require some paid positions (contractors), specifically, people with expertise and a proven track record for helping with strategy and marketing and launching the crowdfunding, as well as members of the travelling team.

It will also require some volunteers. Its important that this project maintain its grassroots flavor and origins in order to get uptake in communities and amongst workers.

SUMMIT MEDIA

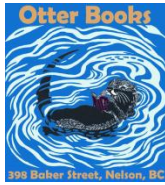
Valley Voice online: Forest Summit and Convergence fosters sense of working together toward a common goal, By Moe Lyons [http://www.valleyvoice.ca/ PDF_2016/ValleyVoice191107web.pdf](http://www.valleyvoice.ca/PDF_2016/ValleyVoice191107web.pdf)

The Ecocentric Enviro-News Radio with Keith Wiley
<https://theecocentricblog.wordpress.com/2019/11/06/nov-5-19-ecocide-campaign-forest-organizing-and-deep-ecology/>

WEBSITE: <https://www.boundaryforest.org/forest-summit-convergence/>

SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1019165341760551/>

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Thank you to the Summit sponsors:

Theresa Hart donated the venue, Hart Hall.

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 - John Allen, Deputy of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. FLNR.minister@gov.bc.ca .
 - Address the letters to the deputy.
-

FOREST SUMMIT & CONVERGENCE REPORT

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