

BFWSS President's Report

March 18, 2021

The Board members have had a busy year: observing and documenting the watershed, raising funds through a garage sale, writing 2 reports, and manning the market booth.

We received a grant from Patagonia for \$20,000 US to complete a report which is Phase 1 of our 3 phase project. The ultimate goal of the project is to implement Nature-Based Planning in our watershed supported by a Community Forest Board.

The final report is in two parts:

1. A Brighter Future for Boundary Forests: The Case for Nature-Based Forestry Supported by a Community Forest Board. This report describes problems and solutions.
2. BFWSS 2020 Field Report which entails site specific observations, photos, and analysis.

We hired two consultants to help us with the reports.

Most of the field report content can be credited to the work of Stan Swinarchuk and Wayne Tblus. Both have spent countless hours in the watershed and their observations and knowledge are what makes the field report incredibly valuable.

We were lucky to have Ray Travers, a retired Registered Professional Forester from Victoria, as a content advisor for the Brighter Future report. Our Board members, Ray Hanson and Roy Schiesser also made important contributions to our report.

The reports are now available to download on our website at www.boundaryforest.org.

Over the next few months we will share the reports with all levels of government, on social media, and send out press releases. There will be a recorded presentation of the report as well as a presentation to the Kettle River Watershed Advisory Council in April 2021.

Other works included:

- Our Board Member at Large, Tony Kost, manned our booth at the Grand Forks Farmers market a few times throughout the summer.
- BFWSS members held a Forest March in September at Gyro Park.
- BFWSS submitted feedback on Interfor's TFL#8.
- In September, BFWSS President, Jennifer Houghton, co-facilitated an online forest summit which brought together experts on forestry. It is available on Youtube (BC Forests: The People's Convergence).
- BFWSS held a yard sale to raise additional funds for the field trip in July.
- BFWSS submitted a letter to the Province opposing the Powder Renegade cat-ski application.

- BFWSS submitted a letter to the Province opposing the change of the Paulson portion of the Trans Canada Trail to industrial use.
- President, Jennifer Houghton, and Vice President, Roy Schiesser, represent BFWSS on the Kettle River Watershed Advisory Council which has met a few times over the past year.
- The BFWSS facebook page and website continue to be updated.

Our next step is to communicate to the Provincial and local governments about ways to support a pilot project in the Boundary watershed to implement Phases 2 & 3 of our project: (2) to design the Nature-Based Plan and Community Forest Board and (3) then to implement them.

Its been an honor and pleasure to work with the members of this Board. Their continued dedication to the forests and watershed is inspiring.

Jennifer Houghton, Outgoing President

Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society