

CRANBROOK COMMUNITY FOREST

MANAGEMENT PLAN

February 2021

Prepared by Cranbrook Community Forest Society

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 History and Background

In November of 1986 the Cranbrook Demonstration Forest Committee, now the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee (CCFPC), was formed. The committee then included representatives from government agencies, the forest industry, and the community. The committee was drawn together by their common interest in managing the forest lands to the east and north of the city of Cranbrook to provide and maintain outdoor recreation infrastructure and an outdoor classroom for the community to learn about the forest and a range of forest management options and activities.

In 1987, a Land Act Reserve and a Forest Service Map Notation were placed over the approximately 2000 hectare parcel of land to secure a tenure to manage it under a Demonstration Forest mandate. During the 1990s, the area became known as the Cranbrook Community Forest to reflect the involvement of local groups and citizens in the management of the area. The adoption of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act in 1995 resulted in the formalization of the land designation as “interpretive forest”, allowing certain regulations to apply which would assist in controlling some of the unwanted activities. The land was established as an interpretive forest recreation site under Section 61(1) of the Forest Practices Code of BC on May 1st, 1997. A management plan was referred to with the establishment of the interpretive forest’s objectives in February 1998, but with the repeal for the Forest Practices Code of BC in 2003 a rework of this management plan is overdue.

The Cranbrook Community Forest’s close proximity to Cranbrook has proved challenging because the Sylvan Lakes Area, the closest and most accessible, has traditionally been used as an outdoor party area, all terrain vehicle recreation area, and old vehicle dumping site. Similarly, the Eager hills area has been popular for all-terrain vehicle and four wheel drive vehicle use with considerable environmental damage directly visible from the highway corridor. Consequently, rehabilitation and access management projects have occupied a significant amount of the committee’s time.

Projects ranging from outhouse construction to trail building, coordinated in the earlier years by the B.C. Forestry Association and more recently by the B.C. Forest Service, have been completed by groups as diverse as fire crews and Mount Baker High School outdoor clubs.

Since 1990, development of a network of trails and a trail guide map by the Kootenay Freewheelers Bicycling Club, are examples of a community user group’s participating in the community forest and committing to its success by working both within the planning committee and on the ground.

1.2 Goals

The goal of this plan is to manage the forest to provide community benefits and recreational opportunities for visitors to enjoy and learn about the forest, forest ecosystems, and forest management activities. The intent will be to manage for a sustainable level of timber, wildlife habitat, range and recreation use. Using ecosystem-based management, examples of old growth and wildlife habitats will be maintained in accordance with the relevant Acts and the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan. A variety of treatments and trials will be encouraged to promote a

better understanding of the implications of forest management practices. Treatment or activity designs should be developed to further the interpretive and recreational values in the forest.

The content of this management plan is to compile existing laws and agreements so as to provide clear direction to the future managers of the forest to allow them to work more independent of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) if they wish. The Terms-of-Reference for the committee are an integral part of this plan, ensuring that community interests continue to guide the development and management of the forest, while recognizing the area as provincial forest within the Cranbrook Timber Supply Area. Note also The constitution of the Cranbrook Community Forest Society states that the society exists to implement the management plan; this 2020 rewrite is an effort to create a new plan that the Society can implement subject to the guidelines outlined in Appendix I.

1.3 Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee (CCFPC)

The terms-of-reference for the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee, approved as part of this plan, are incorporated as appendix II; they describe the functions of the committee. The committee shall consist of the local groups with a current interest in the Cranbrook Community Forest. Originally the CCFPC answered to the District Manager of the Rocky Mountain Resource District of the Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, but The Regional manager who directs both this Manager and the District Manager for Recreation Sites and Trails BC has encouraged the group updating this plan to develop a plan and agreement between users (See Appendix I). Both Ministries shall be kept informed of progress on this plan.

The original CCFPC had not met since the creation of this plan in 1997. In 2021 after new direction from BC Recreation Sites and Trails and MFLNRORD (See appendix I) the CCFPC was re-established with new groups who are, as of 2021, active in the use and management of this area. This new CCFPC reviewed this new 2021 rewrite of the Management Plan, rewritten to reflect better data available and changes in legislation and government direction.

2.0 Area Description

2.1 Location

The Cranbrook Community Forest is located on the western edge of the southern Rocky Mountain Trench west of the Kootenay River. It is located immediately east and north of the City of Cranbrook on the eastern edge of Joseph's prairie. Due to its proximity to the city, it provides a scenic backdrop and recreational escape from developed urban areas.

2.2 Climate

The area has a semi-arid continental climate normally receiving less than 40cm of annual precipitation. Dry maritime westerly winds generally prevail, however in winter, Arctic air flows from the north are not uncommon and in summer local weather is influenced by south winds as a result of high pressure systems over the north central United States. Late spring and early fall frosts are common with annual temperatures normally ranging from -15 degrees Celsius nightly lows in winter, to +20 degrees Celsius daily highs in summer, with -30 degrees Celsius and +30 degrees Celsius temperatures being considered extreme. This creates a short growing season for vegetation types in the area.

Snowfall begins typically in late October and accumulates to about 50cm by mid-winter after which snow falls and melts intermittently until the end of April.

2.3 Landforms

The community forest lies where the eastern fringe of the Purcell Mountains meets the Rocky Mountain trench. The area is characterized by rock outcrops, ridges, and hilly morainal till deposits. Topography within the CCF varies from flat to strongly rolling with prominent knolls, outcroppings and talus slopes. Both the Sylvan Lakes and the Eager Hills areas contain ponds and alkaline lakes.

Underlying bedrock can be limestone, argillite, quartzite, dolomite, andesite, breccia and tuff. Parenting processes are colluvial, morainal, and fluvial. The most common soils are the Brunisol and Luvisol subgroups. Soil textures range from silty loam to gravelly silt loam and can be characterised as moderate to well draining.

2.4 Ecosystem Classification

The community forest is located in the southern portion of the East Kootenay Trench Ecoregion. The forest falls within the Interior Douglas Fir (IDF) biogeoclimatic zone, the dry, mild (dm) subzone, and the Kootenay variant (2); hence its designation as IDFdm2 (Mackillop et al 2019). This indicates that climax forest communities are predominantly Douglas-fir with some variation depending on topography.

2.5 Access Systems

The area of the Cranbrook Community Forest south of highway 93/3 is covered by a motorised vehicle use restriction. There is a recurring problem of vehicle travel through the forest, range and wetland areas which has caused significant environmental damage, particularly to riparian areas, and had detrimental impacts on slope stability and visual quality. While road deactivation strategies have been implemented, deactivation of old roads and trails is not always feasible given funding limitations.

The network of road and trail access for the community forest is depicted on the strategic access and recreation facilities maps (see Appendix VII).

The southern portion of the forest (Sylvan Lake area) is accessed by motor vehicles from 2nd Street South in Cranbrook via the Sylvan Lake Forest Service Road which provides two-wheel drive public access as far as Kettle Lake and through to the secondary access point at the B.C. Forest Service Forest Fire Base. The rest of this southern area is covered by motorised vehicle use restriction.

The Cranbrook Community Forest brochure, covering the Sylvan Lakes Area, describes 66 walking trails of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty totalling a distance of approximately 106 kilometres. These trails can be accessed from the College of the Rockies, the Sylvan Lake Forest Service Road, Kettle Lake parking area, and the B.C. Gas pipeline right-of-way.

The northern portion of the forest (Eager Hills area) is accessed via the Eager Hills Forest Service Road originating just north of the highway 3/93 junction with highway 95. Additional minor access points allow specific features to be accessed from numerous points surrounding the Eager Hills area. See trail plan in Appendix IV and recreation facilities map in Appendix VII.

2.6 Utility Corridors

The southern perimeter of the forest generally follows a network of utility corridors comprised of B.C. Hydro transmission line, Fortis B.C. Gas pipeline and City of Cranbrook water pipeline rights-of-way. These corridors are depicted on the area description map in Appendix VII

The Cranbrook Community Forest falls within Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan (KBLUP) “settlement corridor” component of the Human Settlement Zone. This recognizes that this area may be “important to support adjacent communities for a range of activities” The details of how proposals for any settlement developments would be

addressed are contained in the Operational Settlement Corridor Guidelines in the KBLUP implementation strategy as well as processes for alienating crown land under the Land Act. Note that this settlement corridor and Human Settlement Zone was not contained in the official Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Order (KBLUP 1995) and as such is not truly legal guidance.

2.7 Cultural/Historic Heritage

The community forest and surrounding area contains approximately nine known culturally and historically significant heritage features. Seven known prehistoric sites are recorded within the forest indicating a high cultural/heritage potential. There are also two historic sites located in the Eager Hills and Isadore Canyon areas. Although specific locations cannot be revealed in public documents to protect the integrity of the area, they generally fall into the following categories:

- prehistoric fossil beds,
- archaeological sites from traditional use of land or resources by the Ktunaxa-Kinbasket people,
- early settlement/gold rush era travel routes (Dewdney Trail, Walla Walla Trail), and
- early resource development infrastructure (Logging railways, mineral exploration workings).

Locations are available to resource agencies to ensure that their integrity is protected.

2.8 Fire History

Fire has historically maintained the vegetative species composition and forest stand structure of the interior Douglas-fir ecosystems. This ecosystem generally has light impact surface stand-maintaining fire that historically occurred from 2 to 20 year intervals with few stand initiating fires (Blueprint for Action 2006). A recent fire regime study carried out in the McClure park (adjacent to the CCF) puts the fire return interval in the Sylvan Lakes area at 7.8 years and the long term forest stocking at less than 100 stems per hectare (Gray et al 2009)

Historic fire intervals are considered to have been curtailed in recent times by fire suppression leading to major in-growth of young conifers in some stands with resultant loss of understory forage and parkland habitats.

Forest Service fire records for the Cranbrook area in which the community forest lies, indicate that 1950 to 1998, 591 generally small fires have been recorded with a frequency of about 13/year. Major causes of ignition include general public fires at 51% of the total, recreational fires at 25%, industrial fires at 15% and lightning fires at 9%.

2.9 Pests & Natural Hazards

In addition to fires, abiotic factors such as flooding, windthrow snowpress, and drought occur occasionally on sites throughout the forest, causing pockets of tree and shrub mortality. Pests such as armillaria root rot and bark beetles have caused mortality in groups of trees of certain species. Other minor pests cause individual tree damage or defects of a more minor scale.

3.0 Direction From Provincial Policy, Legislation and Higher Level Plans

3.1 Intent of the Forest and Range Practices Act

This plan is required to be consistent with the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) as the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, (FPC) was repealed in 2003. The FPC included the provisions for interpretive forest site establishment, higher level plan establishment, and provincial forest use. This interpretive forest is grandfathered as per section 180 of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

Note that FRPA requires that specific areas with special resource values are to be classified and mapped under the for operational planning purposes, similar to FPC stipulations. The specific areas of concern to be classified are stream, wetlands, lakes, Cultural Heritage sites and scenic areas.

3.2 Management and Use of Provincial Forest

According to the FRPA, Crown land in a Provincial forest, other than Crown land in a wilderness area, must be managed and used in a way that is consistent with one or more of the following:

- a) timber production, utilization and related purposes.
- b) forage production and grazing by livestock and wildlife.
- c) recreation, scenery and wilderness purposes.
- d) water, fisheries, wildlife, biological diversity and cultural heritage resource purposes.
- e) any purpose permitted by or under the regulations.

3.3 Declared objective for Cranbrook Community Forest Interpretive Forest Site

The goal for the Cranbrook Community Forest is set out in the approved objectives for the Cranbrook Community Forest interpretive Forest as approved on February 20th, 1998 as per Section 6(3) of the Forest Practices Code of BC. The original objectives were:

98/02/20 The objective is to manage the Cranbrook Community Forest interpretive forest for interpretive opportunities within a range of recreation experiences from semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded to rural varying with the proximity to the city. Maintain roads, trails and day use facilities; conserve forested, grassland, riparian and meadow areas. Provide opportunities for nature study, viewing, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, horse riding and snowshoeing. Provide forest education and interpretation opportunities on local ecosystems and forest practices through brochures, self-guided interpretive trails and signs. Provide motor vehicle access on designated roads with low risk of environmental damage. Accommodate public use during daytime without campfires. **Prepare a management plan to guide operations and activities within the forest.**

The management plan, first written in September 1997, was referenced in this objective so it's content would guide operations in the Cranbrook Community Forest. This original management plan was never revised for over 20 years despite the repeal of the Forest Practices Code of BC Act and numerous other changes to the law. On August 14th, 2014, the sentence referring to the management plan (highlighted above) was removed as no amendment process to the management plan was in place. This move made the management plan moot to the bureaucracy. But the constitution of the Cranbrook Community Forest Society states that the society exists to implement the management plan. This 2020 rewrite is an effort to create a new plan to guide the operations of the Cranbrook Community Forest Society, subject to the government imposed guidelines outlined in Appendix I.

3.4 Direction from the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan

The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan (KBLUP) provides objectives for a wide array of land uses on Provincial Crown land. The land use zoning within the plan, as announced by government in March 1995, designates the community forest area as within an "Integrated Resource Management Zone". According to the land use plan the integrated resource management zone is an area where "the full range of resource use and recreation activities can proceed, including forestry and mining exploration and development. Resource development will be managed in a way that respects those sensitive values where sensitive values are higher".

Subsequent to the release of the KBLUP, an implementation strategy was developed which provides resource management guidelines for specific areas within the Kootenay Boundary region (KBLUP 1998). Guidelines which should apply to the Cranbrook Community Forest include:

- General biodiversity
- Front Country Visual
- Fire-Maintained Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines
- Access Management Guidelines
- Human Settlement Management

Note that not all these resource values were contained in the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan order (KBLUP 2002). These guidelines should be referred to by land managers when developing proposals in the Community Forest. However, several, including the Integrated Resource Management Zone, were not included in the legally binding order. The legally binding provisions that apply to the Cranbrook Community Forest and must be included in any operational plan include:

- General biodiversity
- Green up
- Visual
- Enhanced Resource Management (map available in 2005)
- Fire-Maintained Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines (no map with the order)

3.5 Ungulate Winter Range Order

All of the Cranbrook Community Forest is entirely within an Ungulate Winter Range area UWR 4-006 established February 10th, 2005 (Government of BC 2005). The diversity and abundance of ungulates and their habitat will be maintained through application of the General Wildlife Measures Ungulate contained in this order. The order contains directions for appropriate forest cover and access management requirements and sets out stocking levels by Biogeoclimatic zone criteria. It is this order that sets out the process for determining if the site shall be Open Range (0 to 70 trees/hectare), Open Forest (70 to 400 trees/hectare) and Managed Forest (over 400 trees per hectare). This direction complements the Fire Maintained Ecosystem objective contained in the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan. It includes stipulations for forest cover percentages to be retained and that these calculated areas are to be assessed at the Landscape unit level.

Habitat Type	Concept Definition	Intended Field Verified Ecosystem Units
Open Range	Lands ecologically suited to production of bunchgrasses and dryland shrub species. Snow accumulations are typically low. (includes existing open range, meadows, cultivated and similar cover classes with <=10% tree crown closure)	PPdh2, 02a, 02b, 01 IDFdm2, un, 02,03; IDFdm2a, un2, 02; MSdk, 02 ICHdm, 02; (& Rock talus sites)
Open Forest	Lands ecologically suited for production of large-crowned open forest with bunchgrasses and dryland shrub species. Snow accumulations are typically light. (typically </=40% tree crown closure, multi-storied stand structure, and low stocking levels)	PPdh2, 03, 04 IDFdm2, un, 01 warm, & neutral <1000m (except in LUs I32, I35 and I38) IDFdm2a, un2, 03 Fd leading MSdk, 03 Fd leading; ICHdw, 02; ICHdm, 03 Fd leading ICHmk1 except Golden, 02; ESSFdk, 02; ICHwk1, 02; ICHvk1, 02
Managed Forest (Dry)	Lands ecologically suited for Fd and/or Py dominated forest. These provide forage values for 1-3 decades during the forest regeneration phase. Stands may also be partial cut to help promote forage. Snow is typically light to moderate.	IDFdm2, un, 01 cool, and neutral >1000m, 04, 05 (except in LUs I32, I35 and I38) Golden ICHmk1 02; ICHmw1 02
Managed Forest (Transitional)	Lands ecologically suited for Douglas-fir climax stands often having a heavy lodgepole pine and larch component. These provide forage for 1-3 decades during the forest regeneration phase. Snowpack is typically light to moderate.	IDFdm2a, un2, 03 Non-Fd leading, 04, 01, 05 IDFdm2 04, 01, 05 in LUs I32, I35 and I38.
Managed Forest (Mesic)	Lands ecologically suited to pine leading stands which provide forage values for 1-3 decades during the forest regeneration phase. Moderate snow accumulations necessitate the retention of cover.	MSdk, 03 Non-Fd leading, 04, 01, 05 where elk, deer capability mapped.
Managed Forest (Moist)	Moist ecosystems providing forage values for 1-3 decades during the forest regeneration phase. Moderate snow necessitates retention of cover.	MSdk, 03 Non-Fd leading, 04, 01, 05 where moose capability only mapped. ICHdw, 01a, 01b, 03, 04; ICHdm, 03 non-Fd leading, 01, 04, 05

Figure 1 List of Forest Management types as listed in Ungulate Winter Range Order 4-006 Cranbrook TSA

3.6 Strategic Expansion

This management plan has incorporated the recent strategic expansion which includes a permanent addition to the forest immediately east of the Cranbrook Golf Course and College of the Rockies.

Additional expansion proposals have been identified which could contribute features and benefits to this forest as a management unit. These should be reviewed by the Community Forest Planning Committee in the future.

4 Resource Descriptions

4.1 Forest

Forest productivity depends on soil quality, availability of moisture, species present, local climate and length of growing season. Most of the community forest has deep, fine textured soils with somewhat alkaline properties. This gives them good moisture holding capacity, but the low rainfall during the growing season results in a significant summer drought. Species such as interior Douglas-fir and Ponderosa pine are able to tolerate these droughts but growth rates are still impacted. Long cold winters restrict the growing season to approximately mid-May to mid-Sept.

The alkaline soils surrounding the kettle lakes throughout the Cranbrook community forest are not hospitable for tree growth, so remain vegetated with a sedge and grass mixture.

Timber species in the forest are Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, western larch, and lodgepole pine, covering some ¾ of the area land base. Commercial forests stocking is, as of 1998 estimated at about 86,000 m³ over the entire forest area, following a history of several harvest entries over the last few decades. Timber harvesting is carried out under the current forest licensee British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) and under their Forest Stewardship Plan (BCTS 2011).

Forest productivity is estimated to be low, with site index at breast height age 50 of approximately 12-13m and mean annual increment of about 1.0 m³/ha/year.

Immature Douglas-fir trees are valued as Christmas trees and were previously commercially harvested under Christmas Tree Permit C00014 which is now retired. Botanical values found in the forest include mushrooms, herbs, berries, floral and craft products.

4.1.1 Timber and Forestry Objectives

The Cranbrook Community Forest falls within the Cranbrook Timber Supply Area (TSA) and is made up of primarily Provincial Forest land. This land designation lists timber among other management objectives for the area. If managed specifically for timber production the forest has the potential to support local loggers and local mills in the Cranbrook area, with approximately enough harvest volume to support one direct full time job and one and one half indirect jobs. The forest's productive capacity is the cumulative forest productivity of the operable stands within the unit. If every forest area within the Cranbrook Community Forest is managed for intensive forestry, the area would produce approximately 1200 m³ of timber annually. It should be noted that if timber were the only objective, the forest could produce approximately 25% more volume over time.

But given the stated values of ungulate winter range on this area, concerns over wildfire protection in this area and the current mapping (See Appendix VII) showing this area as Open Forest and Range, it is unlikely that intensive forestry can meet these more recent objectives. Intensive silviculture could be detrimental to these goals (FPB 2020). Open Range and actively managed Open Forests (such as the areas in the Cranbrook Community Forest) are expected to be harvested once and then managed for wildlife and fuel management concerns without reforestation (MFLNRO, 2015). There are small areas of managed forests near Kettle Lake and the area north of MM20 hill; these areas can be managed intensively as per the original Management Plan for the forest.

4.1.2 Timber Management

Harvest and management of blocks within the Community Forest should follow the guidelines for Ungulate Winter Range and Fire Maintained Ecosystems. Detailed silviculture plans, retention and roads shall be proposed under the relevant Forest Licensee's Forest Stewardship Plan (BCTS 2011). Note that this Forest Stewardship plan for Cranbrook TSA contains a commitment to follow the guidelines contained in Appendix V, these guidelines are listed in this plan for information purposes.

4.1.3 Pest Management / Forest Health

To minimize risk of pest damage, particularly mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir Bark Beetle, a mosaic of varying ages and species of forest stands is suggested. Harvesting and reforestation strategies should seek to promote this mosaic through individual stand prescriptions. Site specific Armillaria root rot inventories and strategies will also be conducted. Low levels of bark beetles may be tolerated to allow for wildlife tree and snag recruitment.

4.2 Fish and Wildlife

The community forest supports a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Game species include elk, white-tailed and mule deer, and occasional moose.

The forest provides critical winter range for game species as discussed in section 5.1.1. Other species include black bear, bobcat, cougar, marten, weasel, coyotes, squirrels, ground squirrels, raptors, grouse, songbirds, woodpeckers,

waterfowl, spotted frogs, north-western toad, and garter snakes. Occasional sightings include turkey vulture, badger, rubber boa, grizzly bear, wolf and fisher.

The community forest does not contain any fish-bearing streams or lakes.

4.2.1 Wildlife Habitat Management Objectives

The Conservation Data Centre shows the following species as being present in the Cranbrook Community Forest

- Yellow badger (*Taxidea taxus jeffersonii*) blue listed species
- Montane lupine (*Lupinus arbustus*) blue listed, near Sylvan Lakes
- Scarlet gaura (*Gaura coccinea*) red listed near Sylvan Lakes
- Alkaline Winged Nerve moss (*Pterygoneurum kozlovii*) red listed near Standard Hill. Covered by a provincial Recovery Plan (BC Ministry of Environment, 2014)

As well Wild licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*) blue listed, Dainty Moonwort (*Botrychium crenalatum*) Blue listed and Hairstem Groundsmoke (*Gayophytum ramosissimum*) red listed are noted as being located within one kilometre of the Community Forest. These species at risk should be managed for during any operations. Should sensitive species be identified here, considerations must be made to protect and conserve their habitats. Where feasible, an educational interpretive component should be incorporated into such sites.

Recreational wildlife viewing benefits exist within the Cranbrook Community Forest. These opportunities will be managed in a manner that they will not conflict with habitat quality, ecosystem health, and appropriate levels of species abundance and/or public safety.

In addition, to reduce animal stress, poaching, over-harvesting and displacement, road densities and access will be managed consistent with the KBLUP Access Management and Ungulate Winter Range Guidelines.

As recommended by the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan, wildlife tree reserves will be incorporated into logging development plans where necessary (see biodiversity section).

In the event of a problem bear, the Kootenay problem bear policy will be enacted. Bear/human conflicts will be minimized through proper planning of trails, garbage disposal and recreation areas.

4.3 Range

The forest provides spring, fall, and summer forage to three range tenure holders for cattle operations. These tenures consist of six separate fenced pastures, parts of which lie in the Cranbrook Community Forest. One lies in the Sylvan Lakes Area (Alkali lakes pasture, 169 Animal Unit Months, (AUMs) and is currently under active occupation and license under the Alkali Lakes Range Unit. Four pastures are in the Eager Hills Area in the Cranbrook-Fort Steele Range Unit (MM20 pasture, 253 AUMs; Gravel Pit pasture, 80 AUMs; Lake pasture, 253 AUMs; Tule pasture, 45 AUMs and Strip pasture which is barely within the Cranbrook Community Forest). Note that as of 2020 the Eager hills pastures are unoccupied vacant range license tenures.

The alkaline lakes area on the west side of the Sylvan lake portion of the forest is excluded from range pastures and tenures primarily to maintain the area's quality for recreation, wildlife and potential rare ecosystems.

4.3.1 Rangeland Management Objectives

The objective for rangeland in the Cranbrook Community Forest is set by the District Manager for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The objective is to maintain highly diverse and contiguous rangelands which are managed within the limits of their sustainable carrying capacity and which reflect the natural

disturbance patterns of fire maintained ecosystems. The KBLUP implementation strategy, contains objectives to restore the forage potential of the Rocky Mountain Trench by increasing the current amount of open range by 50% and connecting grassland habitats with connective open forest which produces 50% of its potential in forage. Any Range operations shall be proposed by the Range Licensee under their tenure or by the District Manager District Manager for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations.

Range habitats damaged by vehicles and other resource use should be restored through rehabilitation treatments.

Domestic livestock grazing will continue to be regulated under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

The Cranbrook Community Forest has a Range Reference Area in Standard Hill which has an interpretive, research and educational value.

4.3.2 Existing Plant Communities

As described earlier, the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan prescribes a 50% increase in the current level of open range habitat in fire maintained ecosystems like those in the Cranbrook Community Forest. The current open range areas are made up of three key ecosystem types.

The alkaline grassland/sedge community, located around the alkaline lakes, is quite stable as trees and shrubs do not tolerate the alkaline soils.

The south facing slopes along the highway corridor are well drained and directly exposed to sun and wind. These dry conditions cause them to remain grassland communities with slow forest encroachment from the edges where trees provide shade and shelter.

The third area, the Missions Hills portion, consists of younger forage communities requiring fire to maintain their open character. Each of these three open range types has a different management system proposed for maintenance of forage quality.

In addition to the maintenance of these open range communities, a matrix of open forest types is suggested to maintain connectivity between grassland communities as well as between managed or old growth forest patches.

4.3.3 Domestic Livestock Grazing

Two range units overlap the Cranbrook Community Forest, the Cranbrook-Fort Steele and the Alkali Lakes. Range Use Plans prepared in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act provide details of the range infrastructure and pasture use and are approved by the District Manager of MFLNRORD.

4.3.4 Noxious Weed Control

Noxious weeds continue to be a threat to wildlife, domestic livestock and rangeland ecosystems. Ongoing control programs are recommended. An existing public information sign explains the knapweed program at the highway pullout at Eager hills and should be maintained and perhaps integrated into a more significant interpretive kiosk explaining the ecology of grassland communities. The legal requirement under Forest Planning and Practices Regulation is to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. It is recommended that the Cranbrook Community Forest Society put together an invasive plant inventory and management plan for the Cranbrook Community Forest. Further this group and its affiliates should pursue control the invasive plants through funding of chemical treatments and the use of volunteers to carry out weed pulls in the forest area.

4.4 Water

Water bodies within the forest consist of kettle ponds and seasonal alkaline lakes. There are no water flows within the forest other than minor water courses during spring run-off. The permanent lakes have aesthetic, viewing and interpretive values, as well as providing good rest/picnic sites (example Kettle Lake Interpretive Nature Trail).

These lakes and ponds are important for wildlife, especially waterfowl. Some serve as stock watering sites for domestic livestock.

4.4.1 Aquatic Ecosystem Management Objectives

There are several ponds, seasonal alkaline lakes and a seasonal intermittent creek along the old Isadore canyon railway line within the Cranbrook Community Forest. While fish do not naturally occur in the streams and lakes of the Cranbrook Community Forest, there is considerable riparian habitat for birds, mammals and other species of organisms which may be sensitive to the quality of these aquatic environments and need special consideration during forest development and other resource use activities.

The objective for aquatic ecosystems within the Cranbrook Community Forest is to protect and conserve their functions and processes through a number of mechanisms including:

- guidelines for timber harvesting and operational forest development planning established in the FPC Riparian Management Area Guidebook (FPC 1995b);
- restoration of damaged aquatic ecosystems from livestock, timber harvesting or other resource development activities;
- sensitive area designations, and strategic management plans for lakes and wetlands;
- prevention of the unnatural introduction of fish into aquatic ecosystems to maintain ecological integrity;
- roads that cause chronic negative impacts to riparian areas will be assessed and ranked for deactivation and maintenance through co-ordinated access management planning; and
- public education.

Any projects proposed to meet these objectives will be contained in an annual work plan to be referred to BC Recreations Sits and Trails BC for review and authorisation.

4.4.2 Streams

The community forest contains only minor ephemeral streams, shown on the forest cover map base, with no known fish bearing capacity. These are classified as S6 streams under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FPC 1995b) in figure 2 listed below.

Specific strategies for management of the riparian management zone will be contained in a Site Plan approved under tenure or annual work plan. Strategies that are used on an S6 classified stream include falling and yarding away from the stream and removing any slash. Non-merchantable, conifer stems are usually retained; understory deciduous shrubs and herbaceous vegetation are retained within five meters of streams. A five meter machine reserve is typically required.

For demonstration purposes, it is suggested that S4 or S5 guidelines be followed on an available stream. Strategies would similarly include falling and skidding away from the stream and removing any slash if deposited by harvesting. Non-merchantable stems are retained; understory deciduous and herbaceous shrubs are retained within 10 meters of the stream. A machine reserve of five meters is suggested to be maintained. No broadcast burning should be practised within S4 and S5 stream management zones.

4.4.2.1 Wetlands and Lakes

The community forest contains about two dozen small alkaline wetlands and kettle lakes. Although not preferred as a water source by domestic livestock, they are inhabited by waterfowl and other wildlife. Because they are the only water sources for quite some distance, they are important wildlife watering sites. The three southernmost alkalis, the largest in the forest, are fenced out of range pastures.

Due to their alkaline characteristics these water bodies tend to have a very limited vegetation content surrounding them, primarily of alkaline tolerant grasses.

The riparian map below map includes forest practices code classifications of wetlands and lakes (FPC 1995b). The code prescribes reserve zones and management zones according to these classifications.

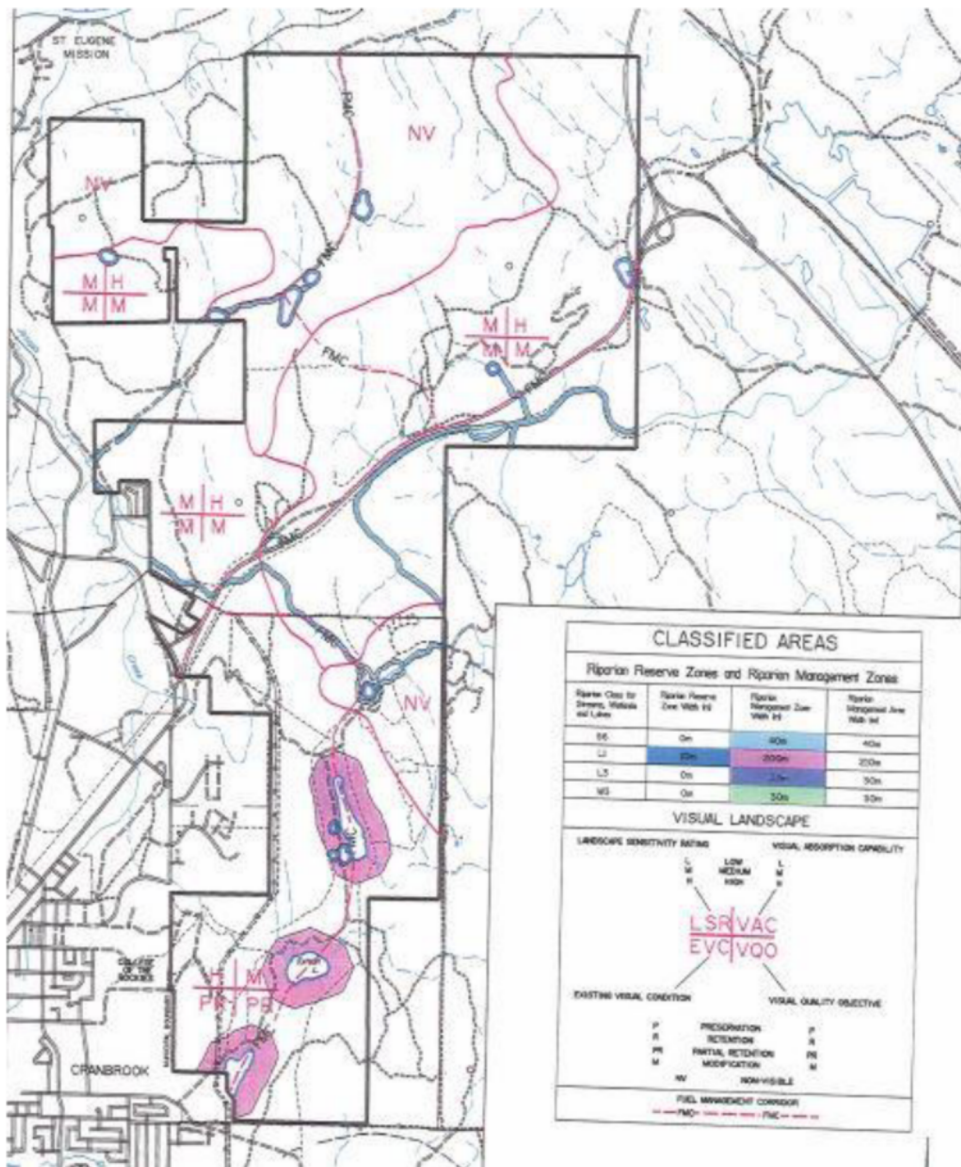


Figure 2 Map showing lakes, streams and wetlands in Cranbrook Community Forest classifications as per Forest Practices Code (FPC 1995b)

4.5 Minerals

The forest is located near mineral rich deposits including the Wild Horse gold rush area and the Sullivan lead zinc ore body (one of the world's largest). As a result, the ground under the forest has been and continues to be of interest to prospectors and exploration companies. There has been recent diamond drilling activity on two properties made up of 27 connected claims with 25 falling within the forest.

The forest will remain available for mineral exploration consistent with normal mineral exploration code provisions as required by law.

4.6 Recreation

The forest's rolling terrain, open range areas and kettle lakes coupled with its wildlife and proximity to Cranbrook, provide a variety of recreation opportunities including:

Summer

- biking
- collecting
- picnicking
- hiking

Fall

- hunting (but not within the developed portion of the interpretive forest as per Forest Recreation Regulation (Government of BC 2020))

Winter

- x-country skiing
- snowshoeing
- Fat tire bicycling

All-Season

- horseback riding
- dog walking
- wildlife viewing/birding
- photography
- identifying/interpreting nature
- orienteering

Recreation facilities include a road and trail network, as described earlier, including two historic trail routes; two prominent viewpoints; four day-use sites, and a self-guided interpretive trail as shown on the recreation features map in Appendix VII.

Recreation planning, development, management and use should be designed to promote or provide:

- a healthy lifestyle and well-being for local residents and visitors;
- opportunities to experience solitude and natural surroundings easily accessible from the community;
- attractions to complement the existing tourism infrastructure;
- basic durable recreation facilities; and
- varied educational and interpretive opportunities.

The existing infrastructure of hiking and mountain biking trails and day use sites will gradually be enhanced and improved to meet the increasing user demand in the community forest and to address some of the safety and ecological concerns arising from multiple and high impact uses of trails. The trail management plan is contained in Appendix IV. Any projects proposed by the Cranbrook Community Forest Society to meet these objectives will be included in an annual work plan to be reviewed and authorised by BC Recreation Sites and Trails.

The goals for outdoor recreation objectives will be partly achieved through:

- a trail and road network linked to the community;
- strategically located facilities; and
- information signs and brochures.

4.7 Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management Objectives

To maintain the diversity, abundance, distribution and life histories of wildlife, vegetation and aquatic resources, a coarse filter approach to biodiversity management is recommended in the Forest Practices Code Biodiversity Guidebook (FPCa 1995). For the community forest area, low emphasis biodiversity has been prescribed in the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan order (KBLUP 2002). This requires that 13% of the forest area is maintained over 250 years old and 17% over 100 years old Mature and Old target, as measured at Landscape Unit level, in this case LU C30. Recommendations for patch size, rangeland ecosystems, connectivity and wildlife tree patches are also included to complement these ecosystem types, ensuring that a diversity of habitat types exist to support a wide array of species habitat needs.

Resource development will, wherever possible, be designed to resemble the natural landscape patterns of the Cranbrook Community Forest. Given the fire history of the predominantly Interior-Douglas-fir stands, grasslands and shrub-lands, the Cranbrook Community Forest is classified as natural Disturbance Type 4 (NDT4) meaning that there are frequent, naturally occurring, low intensity fires at this site. The forest management regimes such as patch size and seral stages will accordingly be designed to resemble these natural disturbance processes to increase the probability that native species and ecological processes will be maintained. These details will be contained in site prescriptions developed for the area and will follow the BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan.

Examples of some of the strategies which will need to be applied during forest development in the Cranbrook Community Forest to attain biodiversity goals include:

- biodiversity emphasis targets for early, mature and old seral forests;
- old growth management areas (currently several mapped within the boundaries of the CCF);
- cut block sizes according to patch sizes recommended to achieve biodiversity targets;
- fire-maintained ecosystem guideline objectives;
- wildlife tree patches Current level of retention should 7.7% for IDFdm2 Biogeoclimatic zone in this Landscape Unit C-30 (BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan 2011).;
- habitat connectivity;
- riparian reserves, and
- appropriate levels of coarse woody debris.

Details of these strategies will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program,

4.8 Visual Quality Objectives

The scenic quality of the Cranbrook Community Forest is important to the community of Cranbrook as well as the tourism infrastructure of the area. The forest falls under the visual quality objectives (VQO's) and provisions

defined by the District Manager on March 14, 2003 for the Rocky Mountain Forest District. These areas and objectives are legally established and follows the grand parented scenic areas described under Forest and Range Practices Act section 180 and 181. Most of the Community forest is not visible but the visible sections are to meet Partial Retention and Retention objectives as per the map in Appendix VII.

The landscapes visible from Cranbrook and the Highway 3 and 95 routes are identified in the Kootenay Boundary land use plan as being significant to the areas' tourism base. A visual quality objective of partial retention, which allows resource use alterations to be visible but requires that they remain subordinate in the landscape, is recommended for areas the community forest visible from residential and commercial areas of Cranbrook. Modification is acceptable for areas seen only from the highway corridors (see map in appendix VII). The north end of the forest contains a high natural variability with open grasslands and oblique views allowing a higher level of alteration to fit into the natural scenery. Details of these strategies will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program,

4.9 Fire Maintained Ecosystems

All of the area of the Cranbrook Community Forest is within areas defined as being part of the Fire Maintained ecosystem. These areas are to be maintained for a mosaic of Open Range, Open Forest and Managed Forest. The guidelines for these forest classifications are set by Ungulate Winter Range 4-006. New ground truthed mapping is available since the 1997 plan (Hall 2002, Harris 2012a) that show much more of the area is open forest and open range and very little managed forest is available to create the intensive silviculture called for in the original plan. The mapping in appendix VII should be updated by prescriptions and later field inspection. Details of these strategies will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program,

4.10 Fuel Management

The Cranbrook Community Forest is rated as high to extreme in the 2015 Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment of Fire Hazards (BCWS 2015) and a High risk for fuel treatment (Price, 2019). A Community Wildfire protection plan completed for the St Mary's Indian Band show areas that require treatment to reduce fuels. St Mary's Band completed treatment on 5 blocks in the Standard Hill area and created prescriptions for 7 more fuel treatments. Three more treatments have been completed in the College of the Rockies area by the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society. See tables in appendix VI. Note this plan contains this content from these other initiatives for information purposes, it does not advocate or propose them as per direction from MFLNRORD. All harvesting and stand tending treatments in the forest will be made in other planning documents but, in the high risk areas of the forest, these prescriptions should address fuel concerns by removing ladder fuels and breaking up the forest canopy to reduce fire hazards.

Fuel management treatments are intended to be a first line of defence to prevent wildfires from impacting residential or other community development areas, especially in the near urban interface zone. The highway and utility corridors serve to complement the trough of alkaline lakes in the Sylvan lake portion.

Using lakes and wetlands as a component of the fuel management corridors allows for them to be reinforced as a fireguard when require. Generally, no contiguous units of over 500 hectares should be maintained without a fuel management corridor being defined. Thus, if fires occur, they may be confinable within a portion of the forest. Under extreme conditions these corridors would not be sufficient to prevent fire spread, and alternative strategies would be required.

Slash and other forest fuel debris should be piled and burned along these corridors to ensure that an effective width of at least 100m is maintained.

Details of these strategies will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program or a local wildfire mitigation strategy.

4.11 Access Objectives

The Cranbrook Community Forest is intended to allow the community to learn and experience forest resource management through easy access to an outdoor classroom environment and a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Access to accommodate resource development and small scale timber harvesting activities is also important in the Cranbrook Community Forest. See Strategic Access Management section for more detail.

The portion of the Cranbrook Community Forest south of Highway 3 was gazetted as non motorised recreation under section 105 of the Forest Practices Code; there is to be no motorised access off Sylvan Lake Road and this access is closed seasonally as per figure 2. This restriction has continued as off road ban under Section 58.1 of the Forest and Range Practices Act with Sylvan Lake access approved. This closure restricts access, closes the site from 10pm to 5am and bans campfires as noted in Figure 2.



Figure 3 Current (2020) posted access restrictions on the south half of Cranbrook Community Forest

The area north of Highway 3 has been posted as a motorised restriction area under Section 20 of the *Forest Recreation Regulation*. It does include two small roads that can be driven.



Figure 4 Posted access restriction for north half of Cranbrook Community Forest

The minimization of detrimental environmental and wildlife effects, and maximization of social benefits of access in the Cranbrook Community Forest, should be addressed through:

- adherence to Forest Practice and Range Practices Act standards for planning, design, construction, maintenance and deactivation of roads and trails,
- appropriate seasonal road closures, signs and location of access control structures, consistent with the strategic access map,
- encouragement of low impact forms of access, and
- zoning of recreation uses for motorized/non-motorized use.

Details of these strategies will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program.

4.12 Cultural Heritage Objectives

Prehistoric sites include fossil beds and archaeological sites. Because of their sensitive nature these locations will not be made known to the public until they have been evaluated and practices implemented to protect sites containing significant values. Therefore, interpretive information will focus on area based history rather than site specific details.

Strategies to communicate the prehistoric values or features will be developed through consultation with:

- Ktunaxa Nation Council representatives (St. Mary's Band)
- Shuswap Band representatives,
- applicable government agencies, and
- other sources.

Historic sites include early settlement/gold rush era travel routes (Dewdney Trail/Walla Walla Trail), and early resource development infrastructure (Logging railways mineral exploration workings). The intent for these features is to incorporate them into the interpretive and trail infrastructure and highlight their historical significance in public information signs and brochures. Strategies will be developed through consultation with interested groups such as:

- East Kootenay Historical Association,
- Cranbrook Archives Museum and Landmark Foundation,
- The Canadian Museum of Rail Travel,
- Walking, Cycling, Pathways Committee (City of Cranbrook), and
- applicable government agencies.

Information on the location of these features will be maintained at the Cranbrook Forest District and for archaeological sites at the Ktunaxa National Council and Shuswap Band. Operational plans will be reviewed by government agencies for potential conflict with objectives for maintaining these features.

5 Strategic Access Management

Access management is intended to design, construct and maintain a forest road and trail system that accommodates the needs of resource industries, utilities, forest management, private access and community use, while minimizing undesirable impacts on slope stability, soil productivity, water quality, visual quality, ecosystems and wildlife. Details of these strategies to be deployed will be contained and authorised under Forest Licensee Forest Stewardship plans or the prescriptions authorised under the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration program.

5.1 Road Network

The community forest road network currently consists of over 31 km of road and another 11 km of utility and highway corridors. In addition, many kilometres of old rail-line, fence-line and other old roads still exist but are somewhat overgrown. Several open grassland areas have had extensive all-terrain or four-wheel drive vehicle use resulting in rutting, erosion, vegetation removal and visual impacts.

The access map in appendix VII identifies those road systems seen to have a long-term purpose and are therefore recommended for upgrading or maintenance. Those that should be deactivated and/or closed to control inappropriate uses will be defined in the BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan. Roads classified as semi-permanent roads within the forest are intended to be the main public access routes. Roads with temporary or permanent deactivation would generally only be open to resource operations and deactivated upon completion of operations.

Operational plans should be encouraged to upgrade and deactivate roads consistent with the FSP.

5.2 Road Maintenance

Road maintenance should be conducted in accordance with Forest and Range Practices Act standards to ensure public safety and prevent environmental degradation. Protection of the road surface by gating or other closures is encouraged during breakup or other wet periods. Generally, two-wheel drive standard roads with good parking, pullouts and dust control are encouraged.

5.3 Road Closures

The forest is intended to be open to public use subject to safety and environmental quality considerations. A core network of roads should be kept open as long as possible, while meeting the conditions above. Closures and deactivation should be carefully considered to address only those vehicle types, activities or problems that need to be controlled, and to maintain legitimate uses for as wide a spectrum of society as possible. Road closures and deactivations are to be undertaken in the forest licensees Forest Stewardship plan

The alkaline grasslands in the Sylvan lake area and the Eager hill south slopes have seen extensive rutting, puddling, dumping and vegetation disturbance due to inappropriate all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicle use. The management approach to control these impacts will be:

- public education and information through signs and brochures, asking that vehicles be confined to designated roads only,

- development and maintenance of areas which are appropriate for all-terrain vehicle or four-wheel drive vehicle use,
- deterrents such as subtle barriers and rehabilitation to ensure that inappropriate uses are not perceived to be the norm,
- barriers such as rocks, gates or logs to prevent entry to sensitive areas, and
- enforcement of the existing access restriction .

5.4 Road Deactivation

Road deactivation is an integral part of achieving the desired level of access management. The access plan contained in the Forest Stewardship plan indicates the level of deactivation proposed for different segments or systems of roads. Generally, the deactivated road beds will serve as trails for mountain bikes, hiking, cross country skiing and horseback riding. The level of deactivation is also designed to accommodate the intended level of public access and resource management activity.

5.5 Gates

Two gates have been established at both ends of the Sylvan Lakes access road. The south end is permanently closed and the north end is closed all winter September 15 to June 15th of each year and open only on weekends in the summer between June and September.



Figure 4 Posted gate closures (as of September 2020) On Sylvan Road in south half of Cranbrook Community Forest

6 Recreation Management

The Community Forest should provide a range of quality recreation opportunities that complement and/or enhance the forest and the recreation/tourism infrastructure of the Cranbrook area.

The recreation objectives for the Community Forest should be:

- To manage semi-primitive non-motorized natural roaded and modified roads for recreation opportunities as defined by the British Columbia Forest Service Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.
- To maintain trails and day use facilities to B.C. Recreation sites and Trails standards.
- To conserve the riparian and grassland areas as described in resource description sections.
- To provide opportunities for a wide variety of activities including nature study, viewing, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- To provide interpretive opportunities on local ecosystems and forest practices through brochures, self guided interpretive trails and interpretive signs as described below.

To maintain physical recreation resource features, and address public safety and user conflicts, a number of measures should be implemented within the community forest:

- The entire forest should be managed for, and restricted to, day use facilities and activities only, with no recreational fires permitted.
- Within interpretive forests, the *Recreation Regulation* restricts the setting of a trap or discharge of a firearm, bow or crossbow on or onto the developed portions of an interpretive forest or trail. Advisories should be posted at forest entrances, and trailheads. Evolving hunting and recreation use patterns should be monitored and measures implemented to prevent conflicts.
- The forest should be managed for recreation access by designating public, motorized access roads and restricting motorized recreation activities from all other areas per the Strategic Access section.

6.1 Facilities

Recreation facilities such as parking lots, toilets, benches or picnic tables should be developed at key points within the forest to concentrate recreation use where it will minimize impacts and accommodate appropriate recreation use. Structures should be basic, low maintenance and durable in design. Staging areas should be developed at key vehicle access points and provide parking areas for users. All structures should be of pre-cast concrete or similar durable materials for vandal resistance at these vehicle accessible sites. A prioritized list of staging areas and required facilities is provided on the Recreation Facilities Map in appendix VII.

Recreation site facilities indicated on the Facilities map should be developed at trailheads or easily accessed areas, (for ease of maintenance). Facilities should be standard B.C. Recreation Sites and Trails log construction, or similar standard design.

6.2 Trails

A variety of recreation trails are indicated for development to accommodate non-motorized recreation activities and provide linkage between features within the community forest and nearby community recreation and education facilities as indicated on the Trail Management Plan in Appendix III.

Trail systems are designed in stacked loops originating from trailheads (see staging areas in Recreation map in Appendix VII) where possible. Trails vary in length and degree of difficulty to address the needs of the widest range of users possible.

Clearing and construction should be to B.C. Recreation Sites and Trails trail standards for multiple uses, non-motorized recreation trails. Trail junctions should be marked with a routed signpost indicating the junction number, trail names and directional arrows.

6.3 Signs

Signs should direct and inform users to meet the general, recreational, educational, interpretive and regulatory objectives of the community forest.

Entrance signs should be located at the seven main vehicle entrances into the forest. These signs are listed in order of priority as follows:

1. Gateway Trailhead at the College of the Rockies
2. Fire Base Road
3. Mt. Baker Road (lower) Rebuilt in 2015
4. Mt. Baker Road (upper) Expanded in 2020
5. Eager Hill Road access has safety issues
6. Old Highway (Ft. Steele Jct.)
7. SPCA Road (Fraggle Rock) Access due for upgrading for safety issues

Design and construction of the entrance signs should indicate to visitors that they are entering a special area.

Information kiosks should be located at the following principal staging areas:

1. Sylvan Lake Road (not a parking area)
2. College of the Rockies
3. Isadore Canyon Trailhead
4. Highway 3 Pullout
5. Eager Hill Trailhead

Other information shelters, away from the entrance signs, should display forest management, historical, recreational, regulatory and interpretive information in addition to the special place message of the entrance signs. The design and construction specifications are located in Appendix III.

6.4 Brochures

Brochures should be updated, published, and distributed to provide information to the public with information on the objectives, facilities, features and opportunities of the community forest. Brochures should be developed on the following levels;

- General – Introductory/informational, recreational, i.e. Cranbrook Community Forest Brochure, Sylvan Lake Area.
- Interpretive – Site/feature specific, educational, i.e. Kettle Lake Interpretive Trail Brochure.
- Leaflet – Site specific, interpretive, recreational, i.e. Kootenay Freewheelers Trail Map.

Brochures should be distributed through outlets such as the Cranbrook Resource District Office, Tourist Information Center, B.C. Access Center and Cranbrook City Hall. Trail maps will generally be available through the Trail Forks application.

Note that The Cranbrook Community Forest Society posts and updates most of its trail maps and brochures asper: via Trailforks (available digitally and linked through website), a signed loops brochure, or the Cranbrook Tourism map which includes the CCF.

7 Education and Interpretation

7.1 Philosophy

The forest was established to provide education opportunities for grade school and college students, the general public from Cranbrook, and visitors to the area. The forest will provide opportunities for both formal school lesson plans and informal self-guided programs to be established.

A number of flexible recreational and formal learning opportunities should be developed. Students can actively learn about all facets of forested lands and participate in the management activities planned for the area; teachers can take part in tours of the area to view alternative and existing forest and wildlife management techniques,

including discussions with resource managers; the general public can utilize education trails for hiking, skiing and biking, as well as reviewing the more formal education sites.

The inclusion of a diverse group of people from the community who support the objectives of the forest will be important to promote the widest possible scope of educational opportunities. Groups should be approached with specific projects to undertake to develop community ownership.

7.2 Inventories and Interpretive Opportunities

Improved inventories would assist to further develop education and interpretation opportunities. Wherever possible, surveys and inventories should be conducted by school, college and/or community groups. Surveys conducted should follow Provincial standards, where applicable. In addition, hands-on activities should be developed for use by school classes.

Interpretive opportunities include:

- fire history
- cultural heritage
- ecosystem identification
- forest management
- recreational uses and management
- biotic communities
- forest succession
- geologic history and landforms
- wildlife habitats
- wildlife species
- wildlife tree identification
- forest and range pests and diseases

7.3 Interpretive Routes

The historic Isadore Canyon Trail has numerous historical features, wetland areas, and geological features that can be incorporated into an informal education system.

The Kettle Lake Interpretive Trail is complete. Some improvement is needed to this trail; parking lot made useable and features prominently identified. A Kettle Lake Brochure has been completed for a self guided interpretive experience. A natural theme for lessons would be aquatic interpretation. The lake could have a small wharf constructed to catch and identify aquatic life.

Windy Bluff Viewpoint Trail: This trail has a number of excellent viewpoint interpretive locations. Signage should be developed to describe and educate about the Rocky Mountain Trench, geology, history, etc. The south side of the trail has excellent opportunities for plot/survey development, biotic surveys, etc. for use by schools. A biodiversity program should be developed in conjunction with this area.

Eager Hills Fire Lookout: Viewpoints and interpretive values for the Steeples Range, etc. can be developed here. The erection of a lookout on this area should be considered. Signage along the pathway can identify tree and plant features, wildlife features, etc. This trail could be looped back around the north and north-west side of the hill to create a pleasant walking and biking loop.

Dewdney/Walla Walla Trail: A trail interpretive facility should be developed following the Dewdney and Walla Walla historic trails.

Trail proposals should incorporate either significant features or educational components.

7.4 Programs

Local schools should receive a notice regarding the forest and the possible uses by their classes. Lesson plans could be developed by schools. All lesson plans should coordinate with the prescribed learning outcomes as set forth in the Integrated Resource Packages developed by the Ministry of Education. Lessons should be developed by the Ministry of Education. Lessons should be developed incorporating a hands-on, experiential philosophy. Specific sites could be developed for the lesson plans as needed.

Operations could be designed to accommodate public, school and youth group tours, i.e.: small business harvesting should include tours with the above and involve a technical person to answer questions. Road upgrades could include career preparation students to complete work within the heavy equipment program.

A research program could be developed in conjunction with the College of the Rockies and high schools. Note that there are three research installations currently on site.

- A Range enclosure on Standard Hill in Unit L4 (see map in appendix VII)
- A Fire Regime research plot located at 11N 592787.5644 5487672.002 near Kettle Lake
- Ten post treatment Plots in Treatment Units 1 and 3 near the College of the Rockies

Wildlife enhancement projects would greatly encourage schools and youth groups to get involved in the forest.

Consultation with B.C. Environment could identify a number of projects youth can complete.

Special events should be organized annually in co-ordination with specific themes i.e.: National Forest Week, Earth Day, Environment Week, etc.

A hands-on youth management area could be developed where groups and classes can be directly involved in prescriptions and plans and perform some of the proposed activities on the ground.

In the long-term it is hoped that the increased knowledge and involvement of students will reduce the destructive activities in the forest.

8 Implementation & Monitoring

8.1 Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee

The planning committee should meet annually to ensure that this plan is implemented consistent with community interests. Where this plan requires update or revision the committee will prepare amendments or updates for approval by the Committee. The details of this committee are found in Appendix II. When the Committee agrees to preferred changes to land management, the requested changes are to be discussed, agreed upon and referred to the relevant land management agency.

8.2 Annual Work plan

All groups involved with the forest should prepare annual work plans for committee review early each year. Note that the Cranbrook Community Forest Society has a Partnership Agreement with BC Recreation Sites and Trails. An annual work plan is required to submit a work plan each year that becomes the annual Schedule H for this agreement. BC Recreation Sites and Trails will then carry out first Nation consultation and other referrals in order to issue approvals (typically under Section 56 of *Forest and Range Practices Act*) for the work to proceed.

8.3 Annual Report

A brief summary of all accomplishments carried out within the Cranbrook Community forest within the year should be prepared each winter and placed on the Cranbrook Community Forest website for future use and developing a historical record of community involvement in the forest. Note again that the Cranbrook Community Forest Society has a Partnership Agreement with BC Recreation Sites and Trails and this agreement requires a summary of these completed projects to be submitted to BC Recreation Sites and Trails each March.

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix I Agency direction on rewriting Management Plan for Cranbrook Community Forest

Appendix II Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee Terms of Reference

List of Issues for discussion by Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee

Appendix III Recreation Design and Construction Specifications

Appendix IV Cranbrook Community Forest Trail Plan

Appendix V Ecosystem Restoration Best Management Practices For Planning, Layout, Harvesting, Silviculture and Reclamation of Open Range and Open Forest Blocks

Appendix VI Listed projects in the Cranbrook Community Forest

Appendix VII Resource Maps

Appendix I

Agency direction on rewriting Management Plan for Cranbrook Community Forest



June 6, 2017

RE: Cranbrook Community Forest Master Plan

Paul Rasmussen
Regional Executive Director
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
1902 Theatre Road
Cranbrook, BC
V1C 7G1

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

On behalf of the Cranbrook Community Forest Society (CCFS), I am writing you in hopes of saving both of our organizations time and effort in the managing of the Cranbrook Community Forest (CCF).

The CCFS has been mandated by the Ministry of Recreation Trails and Sites BC to oversee the management of recreation facilities in the CCF and to implement the Management Plan for the Forest. While this plan covers issues beyond recreation, the community forest is actually a demonstration forest, and the management plan has not been updated since it was written to 1998.

We have drafted an update to this plan to reflect changes in the law over the last 19 years. The plan does not prescribe actions within the forest, but rather collates and outlines the various laws, regulations and acts that would govern the activities that could occur within this demonstration forest to educate and interpret forest management to the public.

Our request of you is to make relevant staff available to review the updated plan, approve it and to meet once a year for a two hour meeting to share what plans all the stakeholders in the forest (BCTS, the forest licensees, the CCFS, the bicycle clubs, the Cranbrook Archery club and the range licensee, Wildfire Management Services, etc.) have for the year. These are groups that the Rocky Mountain Resource District or Recreation Trails and Sites BC would be meeting with individually. This proposed yearly process would reduce the amount of correspondence and telephone calls that both MFLNRO and the CCFS spends in one-off meetings. It also sets the accepted standard by which forest health treatments, harvest and interface fuel treatments must meet in order to operate in a very high use recreation area.

An established planning framework and communication network can reduce the potential friction that active forest management could create amongst an unengaged public. It would be particularly difficult to harvest from this high profile part of the Provincial Forest.

Could you please confirm a day by early October to confer a meeting and address the update of the CCFS Management Plan. Feel free to contact me if you would like any further information.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cross, President
Cranbrook Community Forest Society

cc: Board of Directors
cranbrookcommunityforest@gmail.com



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

CLIFF: 229692

June 20, 2017

Joseph Cross, President
Cranbrook Community Forest Society
Via email to josephcrossart@me.com

Dear Joseph Cross:

Thank you for your letter dated June 6, 2017 regarding the Cranbrook Community Forest Master Plan. I support proponents of treatments on crown forest land being knowledgeable of the legislation applicable to their interests as contained in your plan. I have no objection to the Cranbrook Community Forest Society (CCFS) independently maintaining a Master Plan in the format you describe, however we will not provide formal approval for plans not specifically referenced in legislation.

I understand that the Society is engaged in activities to complement the Interpretative Forest's objective (FRPA s.56(3) variance Aug. 14, 2014, attached) to protect and maintain the trail network to provide public educational and interpretative opportunities in the working forest. Should the society wish to undertake forest management treatments we will endeavour to issue appropriate authorizations in a timely manner. My staff will be happy to contribute to the information sharing meeting that you have described to provide input and guidance.

I want to extend our gratitude to the Society for the many volunteer hours and dedication to maintaining the CCF as a source of pride for the community. Your support and commitment to the upcoming fuels treatment project is valuable to gain public support for such an important project.

Cranbrook Community Forest Society

The ministry supports your efforts to consolidate your intentions in a Forest Master Plan. It would be appreciated if you could forward a copy of your plan to Ray Morello, District Manager, Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District upon completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Rasmussen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul M. Rasmussen
Regional Executive Director

Attachment: FRPA s.56(3) variance

Cc: Cranbrook Community Forest Society Board of Directors
cranbrookcommunityforest@gmail.com



MEMORANDUM

Cranbrook Community Forest Interpretive Forest Site (REC6476)
Legal Objective Variance: *Forest Range Practices Act* section 56(3)

Background

The Cranbrook Community Forest Interpretive Site was legally established under the *Forest Practices Code of BC* section 6(1) on May 1, 1997. The existing legal Objective was applied on February 20, 1998, under FPC 6(3).

Reference to a management plan (Cranbrook Community Forest Management Plan; September 1997) in the Objective required therefore forest management practices within the established area specifically adhere to its guidance and content. The management plan no longer fully includes the contemporary forest management regime, and has not been subject to periodic review by the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee, which effectively no longer exists. This variance removes direct reference to the management plan from the Objective, which is to have the effect of making the management plan an information document for stewardship guidance. The existing Objective remains otherwise unchanged.

Legal Objective

Under the authority of section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the existing Objective is hereby varied to the following for this Interpretive Forest Site:

“The objective is to manage the Cranbrook Community Forest Interpretive Forest Site for interpretive opportunities within a range of recreation experiences from semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded to rural, varying with the proximity to the city. Maintain roads, trails and day use facilities, conserve forested grassland, riparian and meadow areas. Provide opportunities for nature study, viewing, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, horse riding and snowshoeing. Provide forest education and interpretation opportunities on local ecosystems and forest practices through brochures, self-guided interpretive trails and signs. Provide motor vehicle access on designated roads with low risk of environmental damage. Accommodate public use during day time without campfires.”

Kevin Eskelin, Regional Manager
Southern Interior East Recreation Region

Effective Date: August 14, 2014

File: 16660-20/6476

Attachment: Exhibit A map, dated November 28, 2011

Ministry of Forests,
Lands & Natural Resource
Operations

Recreation Sites and Trails Branch
Southern Interior Region East

1902 Theatre Road
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1
Tel: 250.426-1759
Fax: 250.426-1767

Appendix II Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee

The undersigned serve as organization/agency representatives on the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee as of February 2021

Organization/Agency	Printed Name	Email	Date
Cranbrook Community Forest Society	Joseph Cross	josephcrossart@me.com	February 2021
College of the Rockies	Allan Knapp	AKnibbs@cotr.bc.ca	February 2021
?aq'am	John Brace	jbrace@aqam.net	February 2021
City of Cranbrook	Ron Fraser	ron.fraser@cranbrook.ca	February 2021
Regional District of East Kootenay	Rob Gay	director.gay@rdek.bc.ca	February 2021
Wildhorse Bicycle Club	Ryan Hamilton	Ryan.Hamilton@SD5.BC.CA	February 2021
Rocky Mountain Naturalists	Marianne Nahm/ Rob Roulston	rnroulst@telus.net	February 2021
Kootenay Orienteering Society	Chris Bullock	cbullock123@hotmail.com	February 2021
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society	Marc Trudeau	marc@trench-society.com	February 2021
Cranbrook Archery Club	Chris Mummery	lcmummery@shaw.ca	February 2021
Columbia Basin Environmental Network	Jennifer Roberts	Jennifer.Roberts@sd5.bc.ca	February 2021
Tourism Cranbrook	Kristy Jahn-Smith	kristy@cranbrooktourism.com	February 2021
BC Timber Sales	Roger Powell	Roger.Powell@gov.bc.ca	February 2021
BC Backcountry Horsemen	Brian Marriott	bmarriott65@gmail.com	February 2021

Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee Terms of Reference, Sept. 2020

Purpose:

Coordinate, guide and oversee development, management and implementation of strategic and operational plans, activities, and educational and interpretative operations within the Cranbrook Community Forest.

Area:

The Cranbrook Community Forest is presently an 1800 hectare parcel of Crown Provincial Forest, land managed under the authority of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in partnership with other agencies, industry and interested groups and citizens.

Authority:

A CCF management plan, consistent with legislation, will be submitted to the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee. All operational projects in the CCF should consider the CCF management plan. Operations would be implemented by members and member groups in accordance with relevant legislation and policies. The CCFPC may advise on land management activities.

Membership:

Invitations for membership will be made periodically through direct letters and advertisements to local clubs, forest industries, government agencies, and others. Local citizens will also be invited to apply. Applicants must be prepared to serve a minimum of 2 years terms and may be asked to provide information on their interests, knowledge or experience and why they wish to join. Approximately 2-4 local citizen members should be included in the committee. The committee should be targeted at 12 to 20 voting members. Applications should be reviewed for approval periodically by the existing committee.

Chair:

The chair will be elected by the committee. The chair must ensure adherence to the terms-of-reference and other legal requirements.

Function:

The committee is to work towards consensus on all matters. If consensus fails, options and the committees stand on each option are to be presented to the entire committee and decision made by majority vote. Each member or group will have one vote.

Meeting Frequency:

The committee should plan to meet once per year and additional meetings can be held at the call of the chair.

Tasks and Assignments:

- 1) Prepare a CCF Management Plan that follow the approved Recreation site objectives for the designation of the forest as an interpretive forest. The plan should integrate a broad array of forest values and demonstrate a variety of forest management practices, aimed at promoting educational opportunities.
- 2) The Cranbrook Community Forest Society is to prepare an annual work plan for approval by Recreation Sites and Trails BC under a Partnership Agreement with the Cranbrook Community Forest Society.
- 3) Implement projects and programs which are consistent with the relevant legislation and policy. The management of the forest should involve as many groups and citizens from the area as possible to promote a wide appreciation and knowledge of the forest.
- 4) Prepare an annual report covering all operations, for the benefit of all members, to track the accomplishments in the forest in each year.

- 5) The management plan is not to propose forest or range projects for the Community Forest but changes to regulation or policy can be discussed by the Committee. If there is unanimous opinion on the issue and solutions, then a letter can be sent out from the CCFPC to government agency or politician to request changes or action. If consent is not unanimous then member organisations can send their concerns to relevant agencies under their own logo with their own wording.

Appendix II-2 Suggested Motions for Land Management changes to be voted upon by the Cranbrook Community Forest Planning Committee

- 1) Maintain the vacant range tenures in the north unit of the Cranbrook Community Forest as vacant.
- 2) Create a third vehicle accessed trailhead near the Highway overpass on the old Highway.

Appendix III

13.3 Recreation Design and Construction Specifications

13.3.1 Benches The Cranbrook Community Forest Society, in agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC has agreed that benches can be sponsored in memory of local residents. The benches to be installed, at the memorialist’s cost, are to be low maintenance and preferably of concrete. The CCF Society and BC Recreation Sites and Trails does have a list of sites in the Community Forest where benches should be installed.

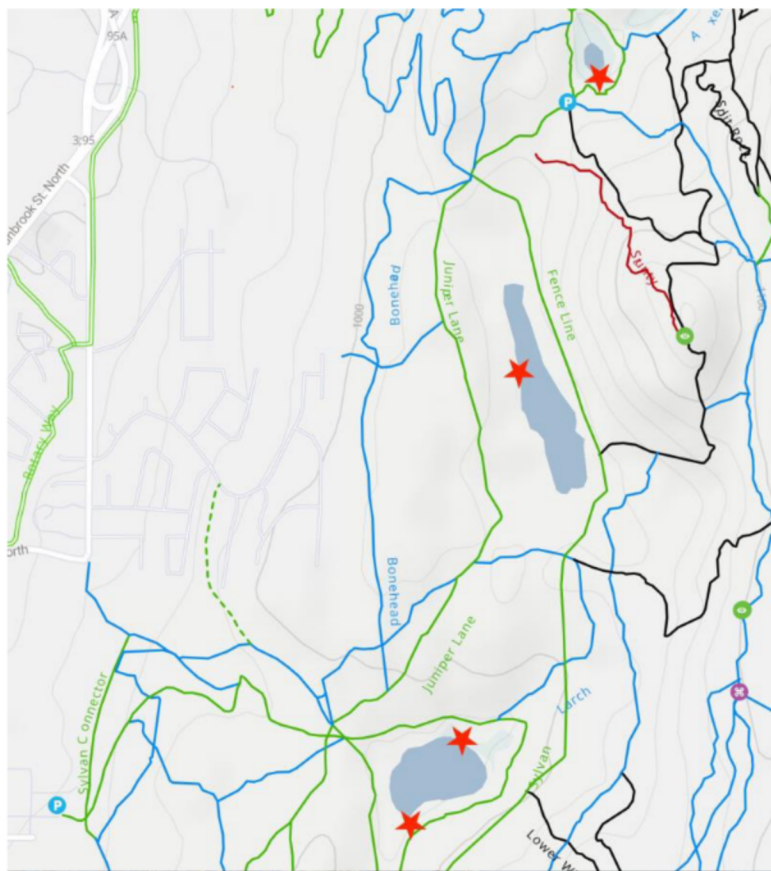


Figure III-1 possible Bench locations in Sylvan Lakes areas



Figure III-2 Example of concrete bench sponsored in memory of local family



Figure III-3 Example of wooden benches, non standard on left near sylvan Lake and BC Recreation Sites and Trails standard bench on Eager Hills

- 13.3.2 Outhouses; As per direction from Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Preference is for low maintenance concrete structures. Maintenance is under contract from Recreation Sits and Trails BC.



Figure III-2 Example of concrete toilet near Sylvan Lake

- 13.3.3 Picnic tables should be low maintenance and are typically installed by BC Recreation sites and Trails



Figure III-3 Examples of BC Recreation Sites and Trails picnic tables; concrete and log construction

- 13.3.4 Trails as per Appendix IV

Cranbrook Community Forest Management Plan 2020

Facility Type	Size	Construction	Location	UTM Zone	Basting	Nothing	Construct date	Messaging	Comments
Trailhead	10' X 8'	Cement Gaze bo, metal roof wood on post	Gateway Project; Parking lot of College of Rockies	11N	598168	5485740	2017 by COTR building program; Chris Bullock	Welcome ccf, Trails	dog bags, garbage at adjacent sign; will have to be washing station, reinstall boot brush
Trailhead Parking Lot	10mX20m	Cement blocks	Lower Baker Road Parking lot	11N	598768	5484486	2018 governed by Cny Cranbrook		dog bags, garbage can, boot brush
Trailhead Parking Lot	25mX35m	Cement blocks	Upper Baker Road Parking lot	11N	598415	5484316	2020 extended by BC TS		dog bags, garbage, boot brush
Sign	8'x4'	Metal on wood posts	Gateway Project; Parking lot of College of Rockies by residences	11N	598244	5483813	2017 relocated	Welcome CCF, Trails	dog bags, garbage
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	ER project; Gateway Roller Coaster	11N	598485	5485111			Ecovision Restoration; tree density, invasive grasses, crown closure, veg growth
Trailhead Kiosk	8'X4'	Metal on wood posts, wood roof	South Sylvan Road 2nd Steer South	11N	598407	5484704		Welcome CCF Trails	Gate,
Gate		Metal	South Sylvan Road 2nd Steer South	11N	598407	5484704			Dog bag, Garbage cans
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Pipeline; gate trail by BC Hydro power line	11N	598790	5484690		Welcome CCF, Trails	
Sign	2' X4'	Metal, metal roof	Mistletoe Sylvan Road Great Trail	11N	598604	5484968	2019 Gate trail network		K'unaxa land and use
Sign	2'X4'	Metal, metal roof	Mistletoe Sylvan Road	11N	598685	5483026	Trails		BC Recreation Sites
Parking Lot	8mX12m	gravel	Sylvan Road alkali Lake	11N	598673	5483047		Access restriction in CCF	
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Sylvan Road alkali Lake	11N	598677	5483043			Deer Winter Range, Wildlife Trees, Welcome CCF wildlife
Trailhead Parking Lot	4mX5m	Cement blocks, Gate	Baker Road Loggers Lane Parking lot	11N	598964	5484999	2020 extended by BC TS, built by BC Hydro		Boot brush
Kiosk Information	2'X4'	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Loggers Lane by BC Hydro power line	11N	598043	5484666		Welcome CCF, Trails	
Parking Lot	8mX12m	gravel	Sylvan Road overlook duck pond Lake	11N	598816	5485193			
Table		Wood	Sylvan Road overlook duck pond Lake	11N	598848	5485196			
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Forest Grove by BC Hydro power line	11N	598437	5484678		Welcome CCF, Trails	
Toilet		Cement	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	598092	5483755			
Bench		Cement	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	592168	5485993	2020 memorial by Bartow family		Memorial Bartow Family
Parking Lot	8mX12m	gravel	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	598129	5483747			
Table		Cement	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	592168	5483744			
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	598079	5483942		Welcome, trails, dense forest fires	
Bench		Wood	Sylvan Road overlook Sylvan Lake	11N	598088	5483951			
Bench		Wood	Sylvan Trail overlook Sylvan Lake from north	11N	592506	5486034			
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Sylvan Road Larch Trail overlook Fourth Lake	11N	598664	5486589		Welcome CCF, Trails	
Parking Lot	4mX10m	gravel	Sylvan Road Larch Trail overlook Fourth Lake	11N	598680	5486595			
Parking Lot	15mX30m	gravel	Kettle Lake Road overlook kettle Lake	11N	598761	5488001			
Toilet		Cement	Kettle Lake Road overlook kettle Lake	11N	598739	5488045			
Kiosk Information	2'X4'	Metal, metal roof	Kettle Lake Road overlook kettle Lake	11N	598770	5488030		Welcome, Trails	
Gate		Metal	Kettle Lake Road overlook kettle Lake	11N	598793	5488013	BC TS?		
Sign	2'X4'	Metal	Junction Kettle Lake Road Sylvan Road	11N	598454	5487605	BC Recreation Sites	Access restriction in CCF	
Table		Wood	Junction Kettle Lake Road Sylvan Road	11N	598462	5487602		non standard construction	
Bench		Wood	Sylvan Road overlook Fourth Lake	11N	598606	5487138			
Sign	2'X2'	Wood	Sylvan Road by Fourth Lake	11N	592599	5487052	MOFR	Access restriction in CCF	
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, wood roof	Fragile Rock Trail head	11N	598979	5489402		Access restriction in CCF	Range, Grassland Flowers, Invasive Plants
Parking Lot	10mX20m	Old Highway	Fragile Rock Trail head	11N	598979	5489394		Access restriction in CCF	Poor Access from Highway
Sign	2'X4'	Metal Metal post	Fragile Rock Trail head	11N	598983	5489607	Trails 2018	Access restriction in CCF	Section 20 Forest Recreation Reg
Tool Stand		Metal post with tools attached by wire	Fragile Rock Trail head	11N	598986	5489406	Will choose cycling		
Boot Brush	1'X2'	wood on posts with plastic sign	Fragile Rock Trail head	11N	598995	5489415	ENR SC 2019		Invasive Plants
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, wood roof	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598351	5488286			Trilobites, Railway history, Fisherville gold rush
Gate		Metal	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598362	5488282	MOFR		
Kiosk Information	2'X4'	Metal, wood roof, wood posts	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598363	5488286		Welcome, Trails	
Kiosk Information	4'X4'	Metal, metal roof	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598362	5488290	2018	Great Trail Committee	K'unaxa territory, creation story
Kiosk Information	4'X4'	Metal, metal roof	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598364	5488291	2018	Great Trail Committee	Trail maps Cranbrook loop; great Trail to Wardner
Parking Lot	15mX30m	Old Railway	Isadore Canyon Trail head	11N	598363	5488286			
Gate		Metal	Sylvan Lake Road North	11N	598468	5488507	MOFR		
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4	Metal on wood posts, metal roof	Sylvan Lake Road North	11N	598478	5488813		Welcome CCF, Trails	
Sign	1'X2'	plastic board on tie e	Sylvan Lake Road North	11N	598476	5488822	Trails 2020	Access restriction in CCF	road open only weekends in summer
Sign	2'X3'	Wood on wood posts	Sylvan Lake Road North	11N	598480	5488822	MOFR 1998	No Through Road Sylvan Lake	
Parking Lot	15mX30m	Old Highway Asphalt	Old Highway 3 near Overpass Highway 3/9B	11N	598363	5488286			
cattle guard		Metal	Old Highway 3 near Overpass Highway 3/9B	11N	598893.8	5491963.2	Trails 2008	BC Recreation Sites	Rock in centre of cattleguard blocks vehicle access
Sign	2'X4'	Metal Metal post	200 metres up Eager Lookout trail from Trailhead	11N	598323	5493081	Trails 2018	Access restriction in CCF	North end Section 20 Forest Recreation Reg
Kiosk Information	1 8'X4; 2 4'X2'	Metal on wood posts, wood roof	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598229	5490881		Access restriction in CCF	Forest Lookout general, Eager hill Lookout
Boot Brush	1'X2'	Wood on wood posts	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598226	5490877			Invasive Plants
Toilet		Cement	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598208	5490895			
Parking Lot	15mX30m	Gravel	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598216	5490866			
Gate		Metal	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598183	5490872	MOFR		
Sign	1'X2'	Metal on tie e	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598179	5490878	CCFS 2017	No riding on mud	
Sign	1'X2'	Fibreboard on tie e	Eager hills Trail head	11N	598174	5490879	Trails 2014	BC Recreation Sites	No vehicle access
Bench		Wood	Eager hills Look out overlook Cranbrook to west	11N	598266	5491288			Needs replacement
Table		Wood	Eager hills Look out overlook Tie ndh to south	11N	598397	5493430		standard construction	
Sign	1'X2'	Metal on metal posts	Eager hills Look out overlook Tie ndh to south	11N	598397	5493425	CCFS 2020		Historical photo from 1949 forest change Station
Bench		Wood	Eager hills Look out overlook Ste optics Range to east	11N	598524	5493526			
Table		Wood	Eager hills Look out overlook Ste optics Range to east	11N	598501	5493546		standard construction	

Table III-1 List of Recreation Assets in Cranbrook Community Forest as of 2021

Appendix IV Cranbrook Community Forest Trail Plan

As per Trail plan on [Cranbrook Community Forest - Over 100KM of Trails to Explore](#)

**Appendix V Ecosystem Restoration Best Management Practices
For Planning, Layout, Harvesting, Silviculture and Reclamation
of Open Range and Open Forest Blocks**

As per [Library Register | Rocky Mountain Trench Society \(trench-er.com\)](#)

Appendix VI Listed projects in the Cranbrook Community Forest- Proposed by Nupqu Development Corporation (2013) or the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program-Information Item; to be addressed by agencies outside the scope of this plan

Range +A1:L44Unit	LOGICAL BURN UNIT	TREATMENT Unit	LBU AREA (ha)	AREA TU (ha)	MAPSHEET	OPENING	FOREST TYPE	BEC_VARIANT	PROPOSED TREATMENT	Complete (Year/No)	PRSCRIPTION YEAR		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	1	466.1	10.5	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	pulp harvest	2018	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	2		0.0	82G052	42	NP	IDFdm2	Clearance	1960	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	3		10.8	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	pulp harvest	2018	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	4		5.3	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Masticate	2013	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	5		18.3	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Commercial harvest	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	6		3.7	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	7		77.0	82G052	42	OR	IDFdm2	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	8		16.2	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Commercial harvest	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	9		52.1	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Masticate	2010	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	10		62.1	82G052	42	OR	IDFdm2	Masticate	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	11		69.4	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Commercial harvest	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	12		25.4	82G052	42	OR	IDFdm2	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	13		28.5	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Masticate	2000	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	14		26.9	82G052	42	OF	IDFdm2	Commercial harvest	N	2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	P1		30.0	82G052	42	OR/ WTP	IDFdm2	reserve		2008		
Community Forest	Sylvan lakes	P2		20.3	82G052	42	OR/WTP	IDFdm2	reserve		2008		
Community Forest	Kettle Lake	A	329.0	329.0	82G052		MF/OF	IDFdm2	Commercial harvest	n			
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Isadore Canyon	A	165.0	165.0	82G052		MF/OF	IDFdm2	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n			
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Eager Hill		1.0	325.7	77.3	82G052	41	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2006	2006	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Eager Hill		2.0		18.2	82G052	41	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2006	2006	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Eager Hill	K1-3			53.9	82G052	41	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	N		
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Eager Hill	OR			30.3	82G052	41	OF	IDFdm2-02	No treatment	n		
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Eager Hill	C4, E, F, 1			146.0	82G052		41	OF	PPdh2-EA1	pulp harvest	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	J1	310.7	12.9	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2010	2010	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	J 2			34.1	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2010	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	J 3			44.2	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2010	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	J 4			4.6	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2010	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L1			34.0	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2011	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L2-1			20.6	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2011	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L2-2			89.7	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	Masticate	n	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L3			18.9	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2011	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L4			16.9	82G052		43	OR	IDFdm2-02	pulp harvest	n	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L5			5.7	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	pulp harvest	n	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L6			11.7	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	No treatment	2011	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L7			3.3	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Standard Hill	L8			4.8	82G052		43	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	2011	2010
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	A1	326.1	27.5	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	pulp harvest	n	2012	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	A2-A4			55.4	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Commercial harvest	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	B1			56.6	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Masticate	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	D1			21.9	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Commercial harvest	n	2012
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	D2			5.6	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	2012
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	OF			59.7	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	TP			40.3	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Commercial harvest	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	MM20	OR			59.1	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	No treatment	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Lake	C1	351.1	23.6	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	2011	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Lake	C2			11.7	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	pulp harvest	n	2012
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Lake	C3-C6			240.3	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Masticate	n	
Cranbrook Fort Steele	Lake	G1			75.5	82G052		44	OF	IDFdm2-02	Hand fell/ Pile Burn	n	
Upper Joseph	Baker Mtn Road	A	189.0	169.0	82G042			OF	Commercial harvest	2020	2019		
		Totals	2273.6	2254.8									
							Totals by class	Area Treated			423		
								Area under prescription/ not treated			505		
								Pulp harvest (Potential)			208		
								Commercial harvest (Potential)			594		
								Handfelling/ pile burning			497		
								Masticate			449		

Appendix VII Resource Maps

Area Description Roads, pipelines, waterline

Resources: Archaeological Overview Assessment polygons

Resources: Visual Quality polygons

Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory Map

Future Forest Condition/ Ecosystem Restoration Classification Map

Proposed Forest Project Ecosystem Restoration polygons maps

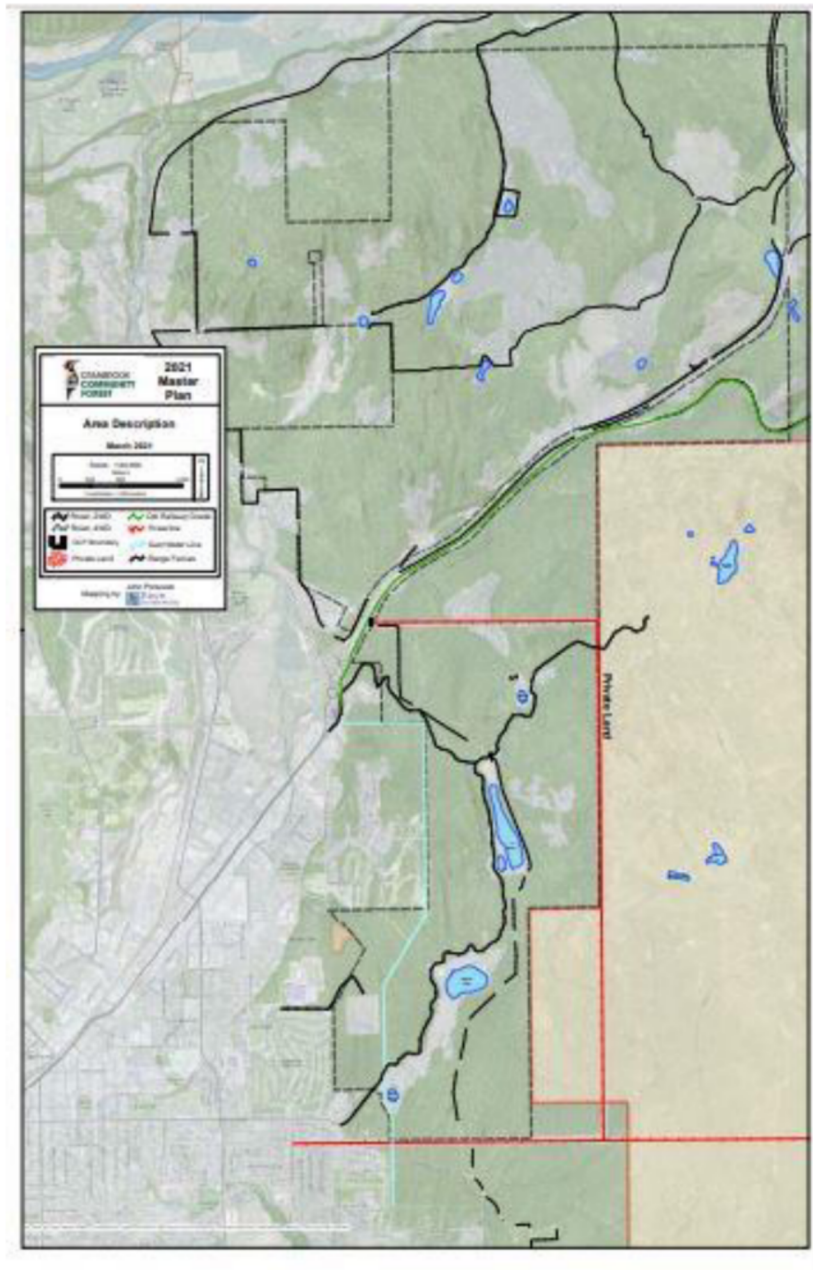


Figure VII-1 Area Description map

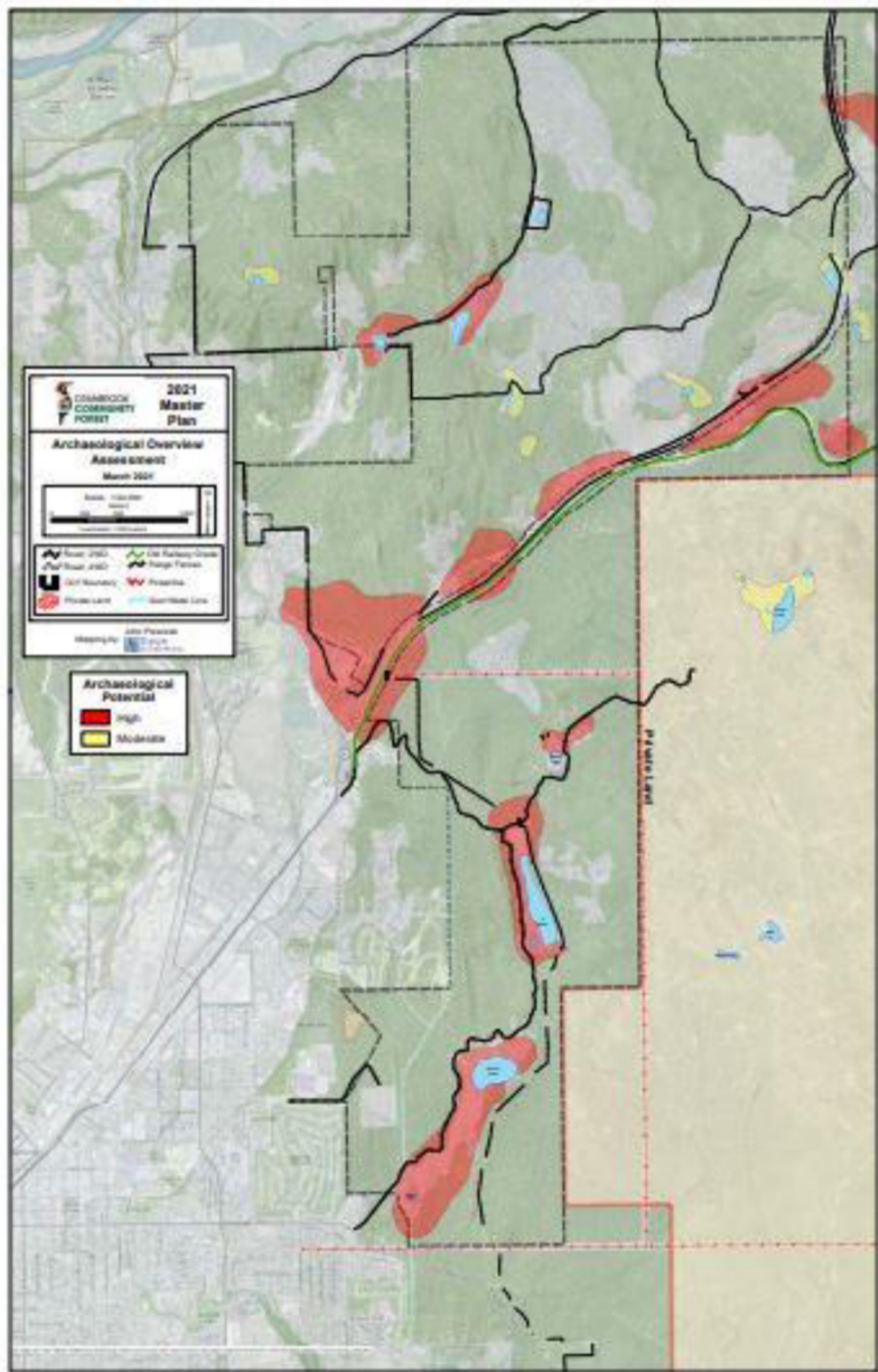


Figure VII -2 Archaeological Polygons

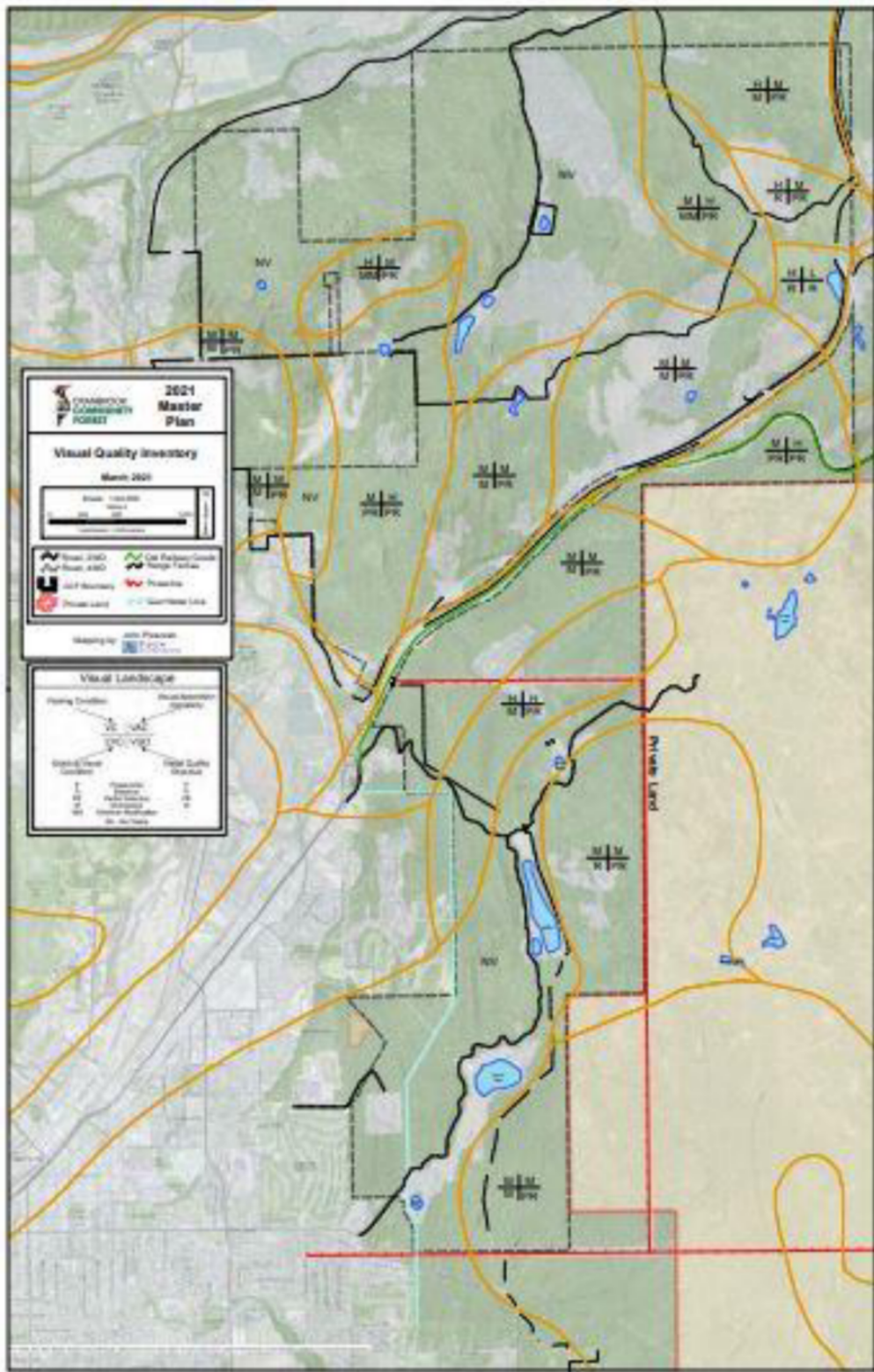


Figure VII-3 Visual Quality Polygons in Cranbrook Community Forest

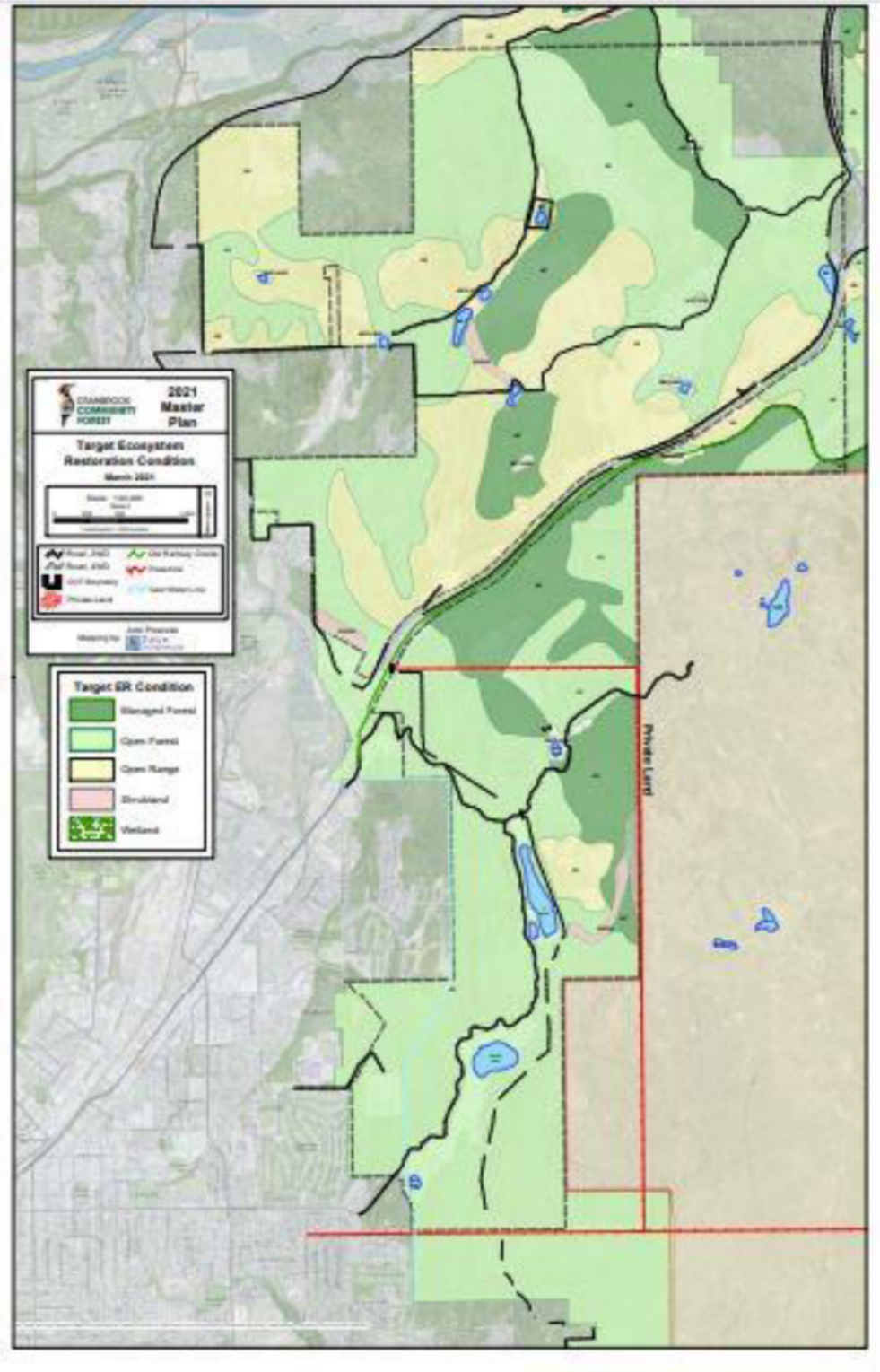


Figure VII-5 Future Forest Condition/ Ecosystem Restoration Classification Map

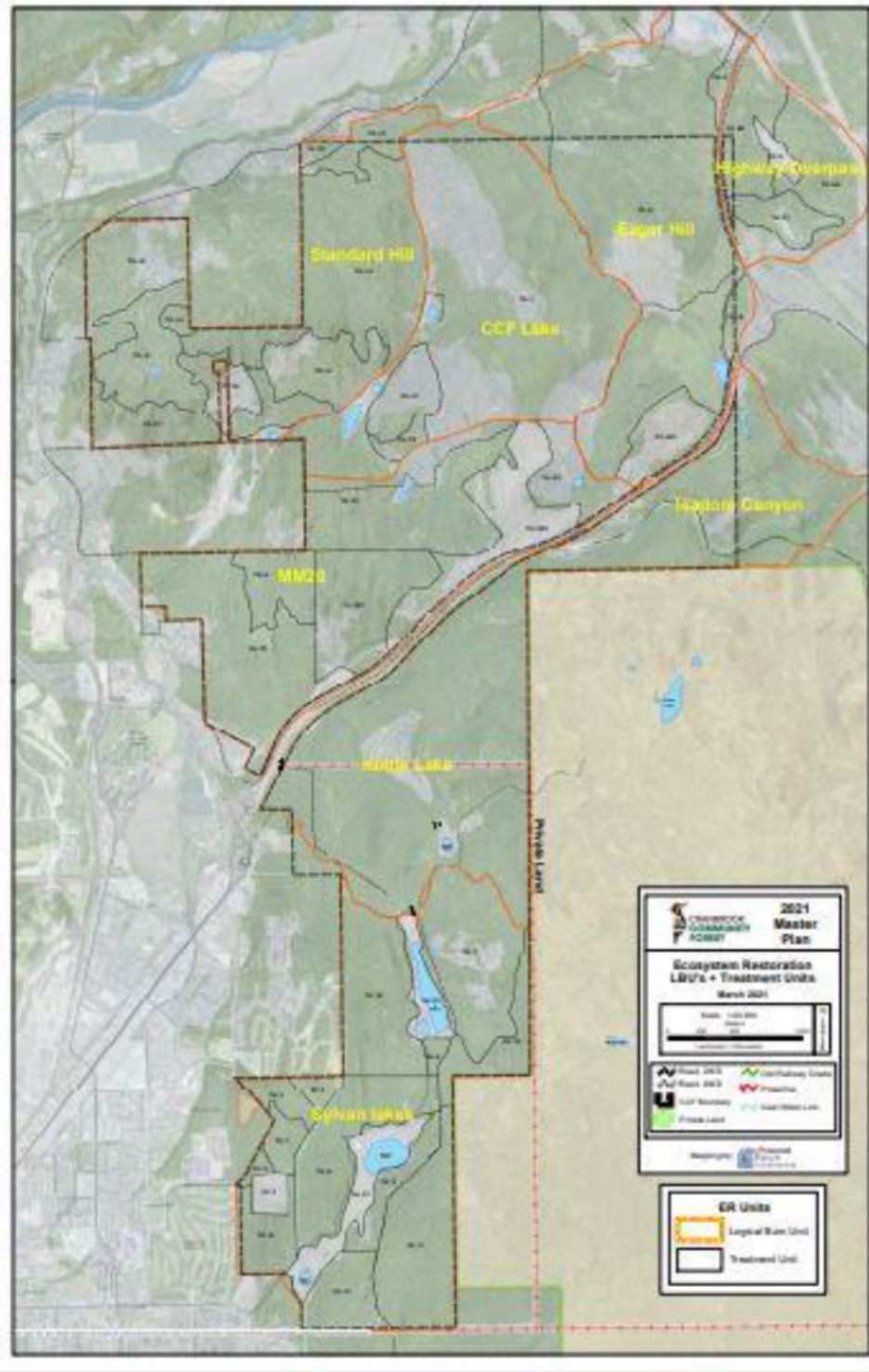


Figure VII-6 Proposed Forest Project Ecosystem Restoration polygons maps

