



Spel'kúmtn
COMMUNITY FOREST

Pipántsek-Summer
2023 Newsletter



Spel'kúmtn (shpill-KOOM-tin)

is a word in the Líl'wat language that translates to "nuts stashed away by squirrel." It is a place name for the small hill near One Mile lake, also known as Signal Hill. It is an ancient Líl'wat village site. Archaeologists have identified the remains of mat lodges and pithouses (s7ístken) at the site, along with other items indicating Líl'wat participation in extensive contact-era trade networks. Líl'wat oral histories tell us that this site is associated with the Wolf Clan. For more, go to maps.fpcc.ca

The Spelkúmtn Community Forest (SCF) is a partnership between the Líl'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton. The vision of the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest is to further reconciliation and strengthen relationships between the partnering communities of Líl'wat Nation and the Village of Pemberton through connection to the land, good stewardship and economic opportunity.

www.spelkumtncf.com



Ti tmícwa - the land

The Spelkúmtn Community Forest is located entirely within the Unceded and Traditional Territory of the Líl'wat Nation. It is an area-based tenure of 17,727 hectares, of which 2,520 hectares are the Timber Harvesting Land Base. Across the tenure, through excellent stewardship and management, the SCF seeks to balance a diversity of values: cultural and spiritual, recreation, wildlife habitat and ungulate winter range, old growth, and the larger Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan.



SCF Governance

The SCF said goodbye to its first Board members: Dean Nelson, Ted Craddock, Sheena Fraser (who replaced Nikki Gilmore), Mike Richman, and Kerry Mehaffey. Along with Maxine Bruce – who has remained on the Board – this group was instrumental to the decades-long visioning process for the SCF, from idea to official Forest Tenure Agreement.

The new Board arrives with a tremendous breadth and depth of experience in land stewardship, community participation, entrepreneurship and education. The SCF warmly welcomes these new Directors to the Board: Vanessa Dan, Hayden Leo, Allen McEwan, Ulla Clark and Katrina Nightingale. Bios to come soon!

SCF Operations



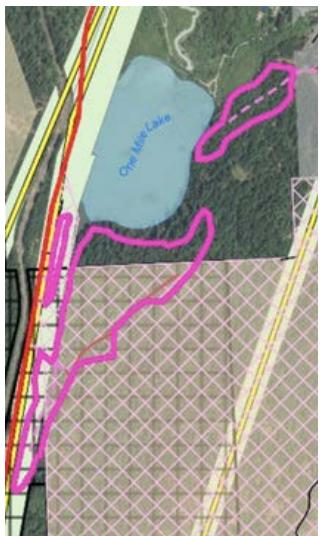
Spel'kumtn Community Forest's operations are led by an amazing team and Forest Managers from Líl'wat Forestry Ventures (LFV). Planning and engineering are handled by the talented team at Chartwell Resource Group. Kukwstum'ckál'ap to all the dedicated pros overseeing management and operations within our tenure!

Stam'ku skúlmin' nacw Ihkúnsa?

Klay Tindall, Jordan Gabriel and Justin Green shared their knowledge and passion for the land with youth from Xet'ólacw Community School, Pemberton Secondary School and Whistler Waldorf School in a series of spring visits throughout the tenure area.

What did you learn at school today?





OneMile Fuel Management Project

The SCF is planning fuel reduction work in the OneMile lake area. Representatives from VoP, Líl'wat Nation and stakeholder organizations walked the treatment area to envision strategies for project operations and protection of cultural, ecological and recreational values.

Project objectives are to enhance public safety and reduce wildfire threat to residences and infrastructure; enhance BCWS/fire department ability to effectively action fires in or near the area; reduce potential fire spread/intensity within the area; increase protection to Hwy 99 egress route; reduce spread of fire from potential ignitions by humans, the railway, highway or BC Hydro lines; minimize negative impacts to the forest stand, and where possible, enhance ecological and cultural values of the treated stand.

Spring silviculture work

Crews were busy in the early spring replanting areas harvested in summer or fall 2022. Regeneration of forests is a critical element of sustainable forestry and healthy ecosystems. Key considerations in the replanting process include tree species and genetic diversity, forest health and climate change.

This particular site, near Owl Ridge, was a great training area for new planters working with LFV to learn about 'microsite' selection. These are strategies to allow seedlings the best chance for survival and growth, for instance choosing to plant on mounds, in depressions, beside stumps, under bushes, in mineral soil, or in rotten logs.





Congratulations to the 2023 SCF Scholarship recipients:

Talon Pascal and Jake Nicholas



Through the initiative and a generous contribution by a local forester, the Spel'kúmtn Community Forest was able to establish a Scholarship Fund dedicated to students aspiring to study and work in forestry and natural resources. The selection committee very much enjoyed getting to know more about all the applicants and was impressed with the initiative and passion each of the students has demonstrated throughout their high school years. This year's recipients are Talon Pascal and Jake Nicholas.

Talon has been deeply involved in his community through learning about Líl'wat culture and history, teaching hide tanning, bow making and flint knapping, as well as leading a traditional pithouse building project. Jake has a deep love for fishing, and shares this passion with local kids. He hopes to study forestry, fisheries or wildlife management to learn more about sustainable practices and strategies for enhancing wildlife habitat.

The SCF wishes all the students the best in their future studies and goals!

BC Community Forest Association Conference, June 7-10



Jordan Gabriel and Klay Tindall of Líl'wat Forestry Ventures gave a great presentation on cultural burning, the traditional practice of using fire as a tool for maintaining ecosystem health.



SCF has been growing its community presence by hosting and participating in various events:



Keep your eyes open for us on Friday, July 7 at:

