



Newsletter 1

September 2018



COMMUNITY FOREST APPLICATION UPDATE

In May 2017, the Community of Big Lake and the Likely Xat's'Ull Community Forest Ltd. were offered the opportunity to apply for a Community Forest Agreement.

The Big Lake Community Association (BLCA) and the Likely Xat's'Ull Community Forest Ltd. (LXCF) are moving forward and the application for the tenure will be submitted by November 2018. It has taken over four years of planning and lobbying agencies and getting input from the communities of Big Lake, Likely and Soda Creek.

A volunteer advisory committee has been meeting for over a year and is entirely focused on the submission of an approved application. The advisory has three members appointed from the BLCA: Jack Darney, Bee Hooker and Sam Zirnhelt and three members representing the LXCF Ltd Board: John Stace-Smith, Lisa Kraus and Matt LeBourdais. The group has secured funds from the Rural Dividend program, Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and the Cariboo Regional District, to assist with the application process.

The committee has held community meetings in Likely, Big Lake and Soda Creek and met with West Fraser Timber and Tolko in Williams Lake to discuss the application and area selection. A timber harvesting land base near the community of Big Lake has been selected and the preliminary area selection, which will support the 20,000 m³ AAC, has been submitted to the Ministry of Forests for approval. There is still a great deal of planning for timber supply, writing a Management Plan and forming a management company.

Upon the successful approval of the Community Forest Agreement application, a legal partnership will need to be formed to hold the licence and manage natural resource operations, with a board comprised of equal representation from the two parties. (LXCF Ltd and BLCA)

The application process and the formation of the company will involve public input from the three communities. Meeting dates and times will be advertised in each community.

A community forest can be described as a forestry operation managed by a local government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community. A community forest will:

1. Provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities.
2. Diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area.
3. Provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia.
4. Undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.
5. Promote community involvement and participation.
6. Promote communication and strengthen relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and persons.
7. Foster innovation.
8. Advocate forest worker safety.

For further information contact the LXCF Ltd. office at 250-790-0002 or email lxcf ltd@gmail.com