

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
JUL 14 2022

Referred To CAO

## THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY FOREST REFERRAL

### PURPOSE OF REFERRAL

The purpose of this referral is to inform local tenure-holders and interest groups of a proposed community forest near Quesnel and provide an opportunity to address any comments or questions.

This referral package discusses what a community forest is, the proponents and proposed location of the community forest, who to contact with comments or concerns, as well as opportunities for future involvement.

### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOREST?

A community forest agreement (CFA) is an area-based forest license that is typically managed by a local government group, community groups, First Nations, or a combination of local governments. A community forest is established for the benefit of the entire community and supports opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat enhancement, watershed management, First Nations stewardship, and contributes to a more diversified forest economy. Operations within a community forest provide a source of revenue for local priorities and community initiatives. Community forests give the tenure holder exclusive rights to harvest an offered 69,850 m<sup>3</sup> per year (42,850 m<sup>3</sup> coniferous and 27,000 m<sup>3</sup> deciduous) of Crown timber and potentially rights to botanical forest products on a specific land base.

### THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY FOREST

Through collaborative land management, the Lhatko Dene, Nazko, ?Esdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation Governments along with the City of Quesnel are working towards establishing a community forest so they can employ innovative and sustainable forest management practices that support community values and ecosystem resiliency.

A community forest provides long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values, and priorities. Under a CFA, these communities can perform activities such as integrated fuel management to reduce wildfire risk, ensure ecosystem resiliency through innovative forest management, collaborate on trails and other recreation initiatives, integrate First Nations traditional and ecological knowledge into land management, and uphold economic diversification that supports a thriving local economy. Ultimately, a community forest enables strategic alliances and collaborative land management that will promote greater community resiliency and stability as we aim to realize additional resources and value from the land base.

### PROPOSED AREA

The proposed Three Rivers Community Forest (TRCF) is located within the Quesnel Timber Supply Area (TSA) and the Cariboo Forest Region. It is situated in the North Cariboo and spans a diverse area in and around the City of Quesnel. Geographically, the TRCF extends north of the City of Quesnel to the Fraser River and extends as far south as Dragon Mountain. In the east, the proposed TRCF extends to the Quesnel River and extends beyond Hangman's Trail network in the west. This area is ecologically diverse and provides a multitude of values for a variety of user groups.

The proposed TRCF is on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation. The proposed CFA holds significant historic and present cultural value for the Lhtako Dene Nation. This area also holds significant historic and present



value to the people of the Cariboo and tourists, including uses such as ranching, logging, recreation, fishing, and hunting. Private land holders, woodlots, and First Nations Reserves are excluded from the community forest area.

A map of the proposed TRCF area is included on the final page of this referral. **Note** that this is not the final boundary and changes will be made. The final area is expected to be located within the proposed boundaries.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

The TRCF has future planned opportunities for involvement and will continue to have an “open door” approach to engagement, welcoming new information and/or groups to consult with to ensure transparency with all potentially impacted users.

A **public open house** will be hosted in Quesnel with the opportunity to join remotely via Zoom. The open house will be held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This open house will create a venue for members of the public to learn more about the proposed community forest and have an opportunity to voice concerns or questions in an evening of open dialogue. Details are as follows:

### *Three Rivers Community Forest Open House*

**Date:** Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Open House:** 4:30 – 6:00pm

**Community Meeting:** 6:00pm – 7:30pm (Zoom function for remote attendees)

**Location:** Quesnel Senior Centre (461 Carson Ave, Quesnel, BC V2J 2B6)

*Refreshments provided*

Beyond the open house, the TRCF will strive to identify and consult with all individuals and groups using the community forest area in a meaningful way. The TRCF will strive to remain connected to the communities and various stakeholder groups to ensure meaningful consultation and engagement amongst users. The TRCF will facilitate meaningful consultation and engagement including but not limited to:

- ▶ Providing public notice in newspaper,
- ▶ Providing reasonable opportunities for public review, and
- ▶ Providing a reasonable time frame (i.e., 60 days) for public response.

A list of tenure and agreement holders will be maintained in concert with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) every year to ensure this information is accurate and up to date. The TRCF will reach out to each identified tenure or agreement holder individually to inform them of forestry activities taking place within their area of interest. Notification letters and referral packages will be provided prior to engaging in primary forestry activities with information specific to that proposal, a means to contact the community forest to discuss any concerns, and a requested reply-by date. Consultation efforts will be documented and kept on file. The TRCF will continue to involve other tenure holders over time and will strive to improve the consultation process in response to any feedback received.

## CONTACT INFO

To voice any questions or concerns, please contact us at:

- ▶ **Website:** [threeriverscomfor.ca](http://threeriverscomfor.ca)
- ▶ **Email:** [threeriverscomfor@gmail.com](mailto:threeriverscomfor@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Contact Name/Phone Number:** Erin Robinson, (250)-255-6002
- ▶ **Address:** Three Rivers Community Forest  
410 Kinchant St, Quesnel, BC V2J 7J5

Comments and concerns received within 60-days of this referral will receive individual responses.



