

MAR 23 2023

Referred To mcs/mpj

March 1, 2023

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY FOREST REFERRAL

PURPOSE OF REFERRAL

The purpose of this referral is to inform local tenure-holders, interest groups, and adjacent property owners of the proposed Three Rivers Community Forest near Quesnel and to 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 is typically managed by a local government group, 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.

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. The Provincial Government has offered the community forest a volume of 69,850 m³ per year (42,850 m³ coniferous and 27,000 m³ deciduous) of Crown timber and potentially rights to botanical forest products on a specific land base.

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

March 1, 2023

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.

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.

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 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:

- ▶ Name: Erin Robinson (on behalf of the TRCF Technical Working Group)
- ▶ Email: erobinson@quesnel.ca
- ▶ Phone number: 250-255-6002

Comments and concerns received within 15-days of this referral will receive individual responses.

March 1, 2023



General Information

What is a community forest?

A community forest agreement is long term tenure issued by the provincial government for a specified geographic area that is established for the benefit of the communities and supports opportunities such as recreation, wildfire resiliency, wildlife enhancement, watershed management, First Nations stewardship, and contributes to a more diversified forest economy.

Where can I find information about other community forests in BC?

The Province of BC has information on community forests here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/timber-harvesting-rights/community-forest-agreements>



The BC Community Forest Association is the voice and advocate for community forestry in BC and has existed for 20 years. You can find links to the other community forests, indicator reports of benefits of community forests, members of the association, and more FAQs here: <https://bccfa.ca/>



Current & Future Engagement

How did the community forest get issued without me being notified? Nobody consulted me.

There is no community forest issued. An application is being prepared.

I have significant concerns about what the community forest may do (forest harvesting, trails, etc.) on my range tenure/adjacent to my private property. How can I express my concerns?

If the community forest agreement is issued, there will be many other requirements for the community forest to engage with you as they develop further operational plans.

I live in the Cariboo Regional District. How will my voice be heard if the CRD is not a shareholder?

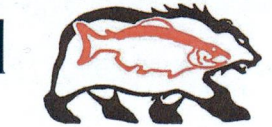
The licence document for a community forest has a legal obligation to engage with the local community.

Additionally, advisory committees can be struck to engage different groups of people that are not the shareholders of the community forest. There is the opportunity for the community forest agreement holders to define the community beyond the shareholders.

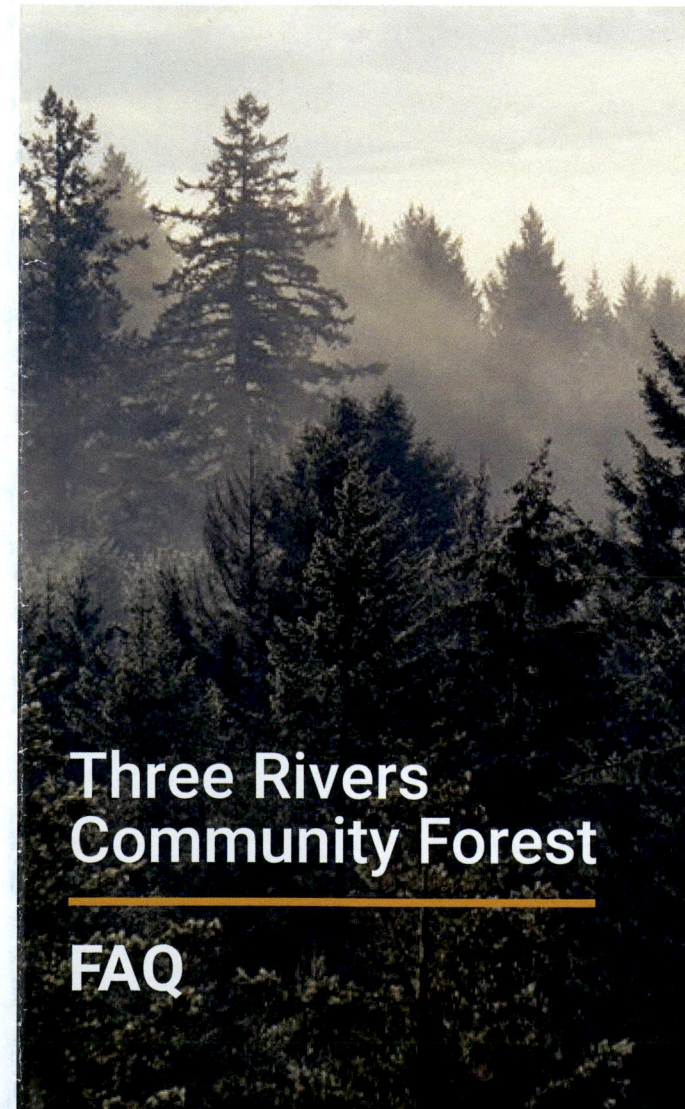
For more information, please visit the Three Rivers Community Forest website:

threeriverscomfor.ca

CITY OF
Quesnel



?ESDILAGH
First Nation Government



Three Rivers Community Forest

FAQ

threeriverscomfor.ca



How will this impact me?

Will my taxes increase because of the City being part of the community forest?

No. The partnership between the City of Quesnel and Indigenous Nations will operate as a separate corporate structure, the City of Quesnel will be a shareholder.

Is my private land going to become part of the community forest?

No, a community forest agreement is issued by the Province of BC on Crown land and does not include private land.

I have a woodlot licence within the proposed boundary of the community forest. Is it going to become part of the community forest?

No, other area-based forest tenures will not be part of the community forest.

Is the community forest going to turn Crown land into private land?

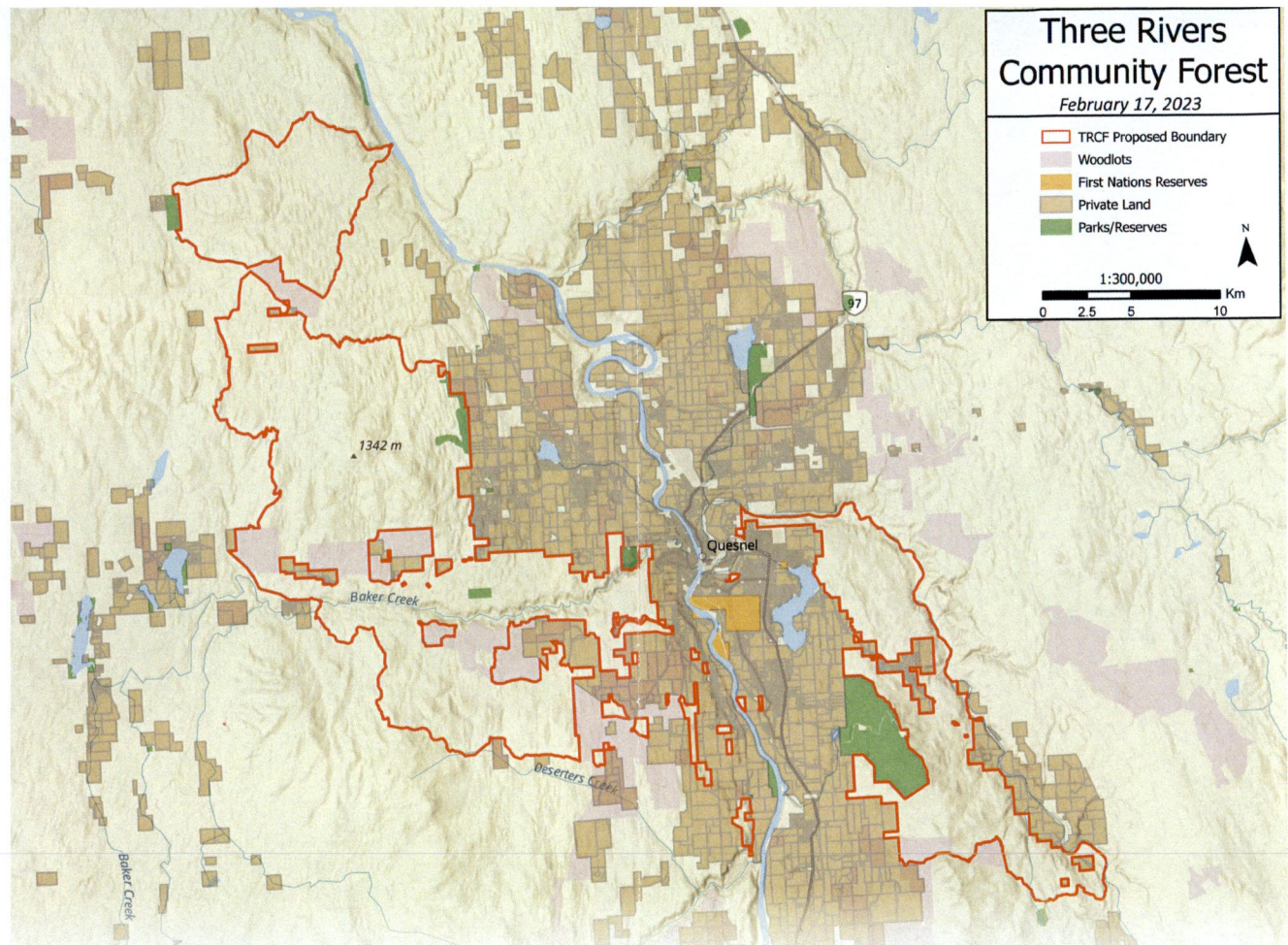
No, a community forest agreement is for Crown land only. It grants forest management responsibilities to the community forest, but the Province of BC retains decision making authority over the plans that will guide operations.

I'm a licensed tenure holder (range, water, etc.), does this mean I have to go to the Community Forest instead of Ministry of Forests to pay my fees?

No, the Province of BC still has jurisdiction over those matters. The community forest will remain Crown land.

I want to gather firewood or conduct small scale salvage. Does this mean I go to the Community Forest instead of Ministry of Forests for a permit?

Gathering of firewood and small scale salvage within the community forest boundaries may be regulated by the community forest, this will be determined in the future and we'll engage with local communities before decisions are made.



What's proposed in Quesnel and the North Cariboo?

Why is a community forest being offered in Quesnel?

The City of Quesnel has advocated for a community forest for several decades. This aligns with BC Ministry of Forests goals of diversifying the variety of forest tenures held, putting more tenure in the hands of the local community and First Nations.

Who are the applicants for the community forest? Who will eventually hold the tenure?

Lhtako Dené, Nazko, ?Esdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dené First Nations along with the City of Quesnel are in the process of applying for a community forest through the provincial Community Forest Application (CFA) process.

The five applicants are creating a corporate structure to hold the community forest agreement tenure that minimizes their liability and enables hiring of a general manager.

Why is the Cariboo Regional District not involved?

The Cariboo Regional District were invited by the Province of BC as one of the potential applicants in 2020. The CRD is a service delivery organisation based on a taxation function and they have no representative function over crown land. Early in the process they decided on advice from legal council not to be involved.