

Community Forest Application

Public input roll-up

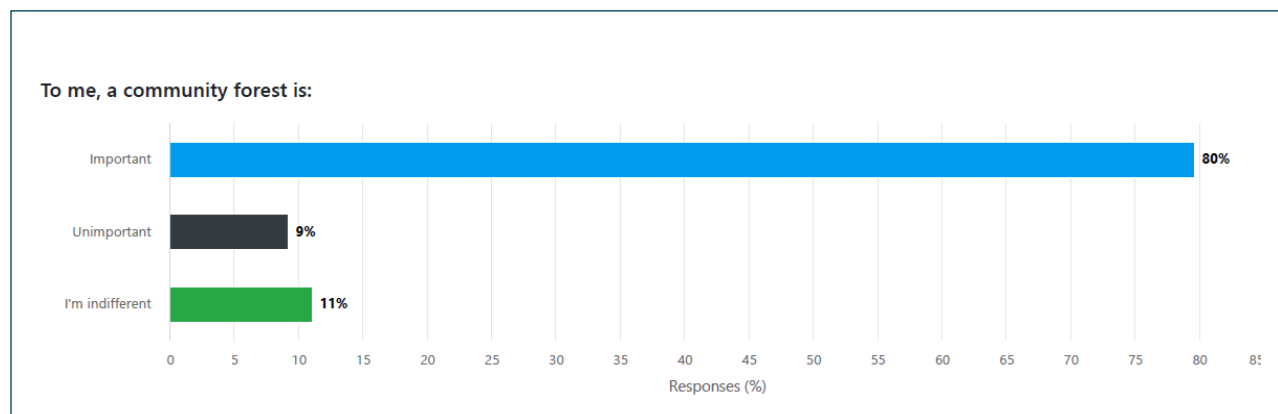
Background

Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ?Esdilagh, Lhoosk'uz Dene First Nations and the City of Quesnel are in the process of applying for a community forest through the provincial Community Forest Agreement (CFA) application process. A working group of elected officials from each of the 5 governments along with natural resource staff and technical experts have been working on the application since June 2020.

The need to manage the surrounding landscape for long-term forest health and community resiliency has never been more critical. Recent mill closures, the dramatic reduction in the annual allowable cut, increased incidences of forest pests, and the unprecedented wildfires and floods have all underscored the need to ensure greater community resiliency through a CFA. A community forest tenure will allow collective fuel management, ensure ecosystem resiliency through innovative forest management, collaboration on trails initiatives, and enable innovative economic diversification that creates meaningful local employment without putting additional pressure on the timber supply.

As part of the CFA application process, a public input strategy was started in March 2022. The purpose of this report is to present the information captured from the 110 survey respondents and the 8 people who responded with additional comments via email.

At its core, community forestry is about local control over and enjoyment of the monetary and non monetary benefits offered by local forest resources. In Quesnel, the community forest will be collectively managed by the 4 local First Nation governments along with the municipality. For question 1, survey respondents were asked what a community forest means to them and the following graph shows the responses.



For question 2, respondents were asked to indicate how each of the following strategies should be prioritized in the management of the proposed Community Forest. The table below summarizes how respondents prioritized the strategies, with the top 6 priorities being: **1) community safety from wildfire, 2) wildlife habitat 3) watershed protection, 4) stewardship for ecosystem health, 5) respect for traditional foods and medicines, and 6) recreation.**

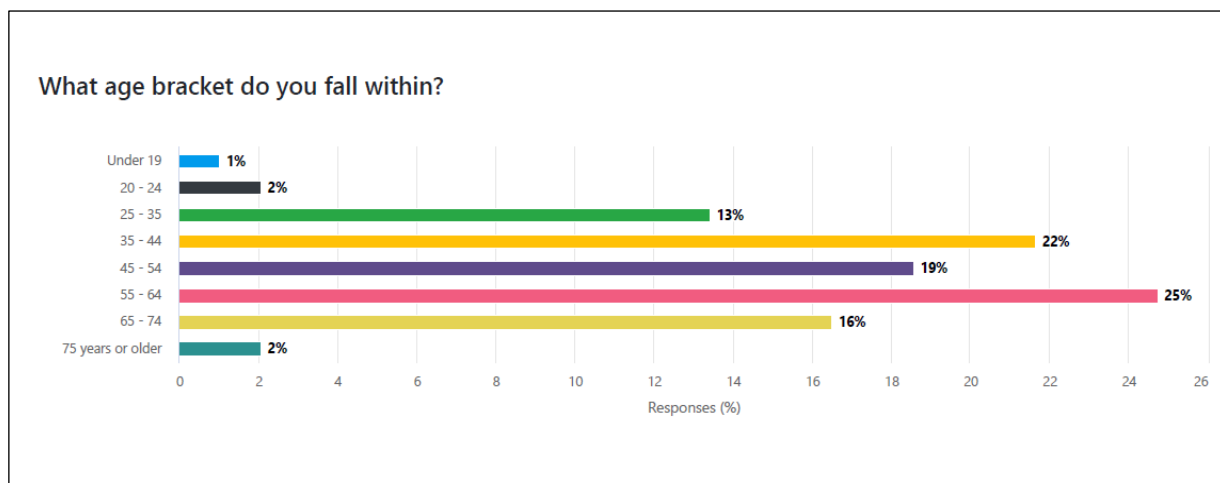
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Please indicate how each of these strategies should be prioritized below.

	High	Medium	Low	Not a priority	Total
Community safety from wildfire	79.05% 83	19.05% 20	0.95% 1	0.95% 1	105
Recreation	48.08% 50	39.42% 41	11.54% 12	0.96% 1	104
Tourism	23.08% 24	44.23% 46	26.92% 28	5.77% 6	104
Stewardship for ecosystem health	65.71% 69	29.52% 31	2.86% 3	1.90% 2	105
Respect for traditional foods and medicines	54.29% 57	26.67% 28	11.43% 12	7.62% 8	105
Small scale logging and manufacturing	34.29% 36	35.24% 37	23.81% 25	6.67% 7	105
Industrial logging and manufacturing	21.90% 23	26.67% 28	31.43% 33	20.00% 21	105
Sequestering carbon	30.10% 31	35.92% 37	17.48% 18	16.50% 17	103
Wildlife habitat	77.14% 81	21.90% 23	0.00% 0	0.95% 1	105
Education and training opportunities	44.23% 46	41.35% 43	9.62% 10	4.81% 5	104
Innovative land management	42.31% 44	40.38% 42	12.50% 13	4.81% 5	104
Innovative uses of forest fibre	42.86% 45	37.14% 39	13.33% 14	6.67% 7	105
Watershed protection	72.12% 75	25.96% 27	0.96% 1	0.96% 1	104
Spirituality	29.13% 30	29.13% 30	21.36% 22	20.39% 21	103
Aesthetics	34.62% 36	34.62% 36	18.27% 19	12.50% 13	104
Meaningful employment	46.67% 49	39.05% 41	11.43% 12	2.86% 3	105

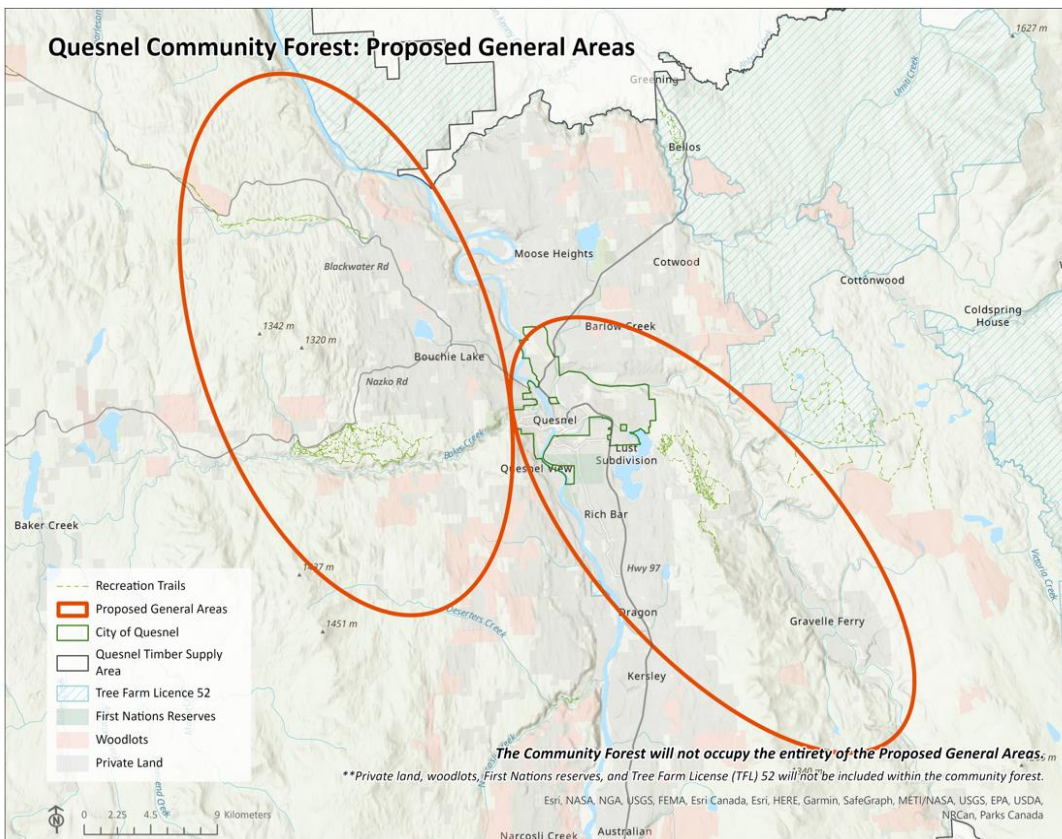
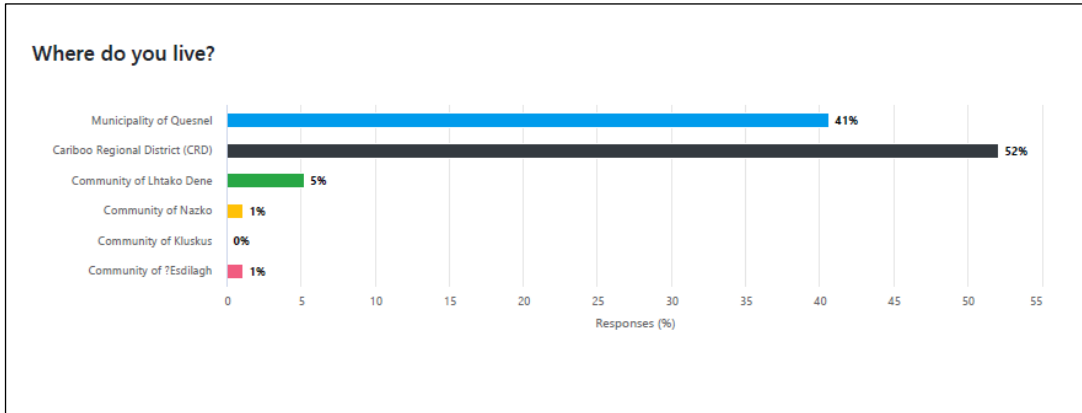
Question 3 and responses to age demographic:



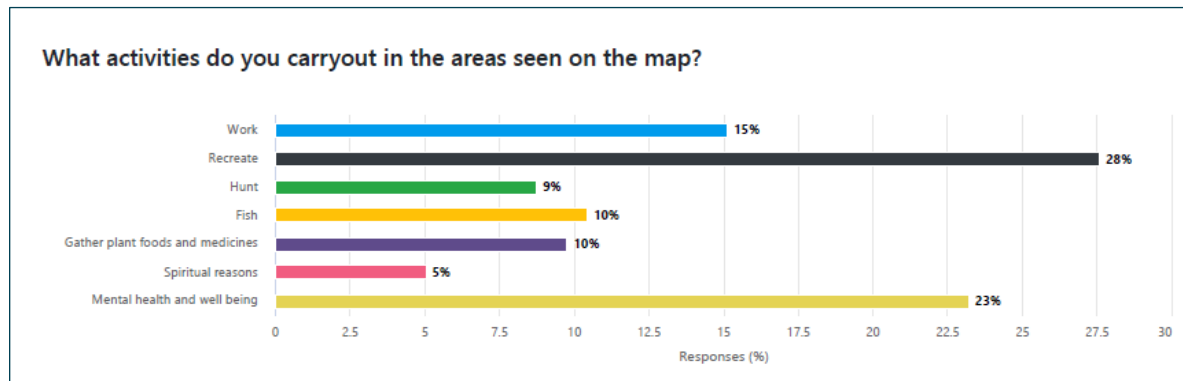
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Question 4 – community of residence



In question 5, respondents were asked to indicate what activities they undertook on the proposed community forest land base; responses are in the graph below.



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The following table is based on the comments, questions and issues raised during the public input period:

Issue identified by public	Response
Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Limited Partnership will be used for the governance and management of the community forest. • The community forest will be managed by a General Partner. • Under this structure all partners (the City and First Nation Governments) will have limited liability. • No citizens (either First Nation or non-First Nation) of the 5 partner governments will be financially liable for costs that result from timber harvesting, road construction activities and/or land base impacts. • The partners of the community forest will be sheltered from liability under the Partnership Act and the Business Corporations Act.
Community Forest Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed community forest will be called “The Three Rivers Community Forest”
Land stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land stability is a concern and we plan to use innovative methods (partial cutting, utilizing smaller scale harvesting technology etc.) that will help to mitigate land stability issues. • At minimum, we will be held to the same regulations as the current industrial harvesting companies currently operating in the Quesnel TSA.
Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No individual project partner will hold permits (road or cutting) • Permits will be held by the General Manager.
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public input phase is only the first step in engagement. • Later in the process, at the direction of the Province, based on the actual

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	<p>foot-print of the area-based tenure stakeholders (range, trappers, miners, other forestry tenure holders etc.) will be consulted in a formal process in the near future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other forest tenure areas (woodlots, TFL) will not be included in the area of the community forest.
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through consultation with stakeholders, we will be gathering information and inputs to inform understanding of the current state of the area based tenure to determine how cumulative effects might be considered in management and operations.
Wildfire mitigation and recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community forest will allow for multiple and overlapping benefits for: harvesting, recreation and fire response. • New trails may provide additional foot traffic to help with fire detection in certain areas and save a large amount of forest damage (i.e. the need to move through the forest during fire response).
Private land adjacent to forestry operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any areas that are considered for harvesting on Crown land are already designated as part of the Timber Harvesting Land Base, therefore nothing changes when the community forest comes into operation. The community forest will consult with adjacent landowners at a permit level, just as is done currently by industrial licensees.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual meeting and an annual report will allow for communications, education, and outreach opportunities.

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What keeps the “community” in community forestry?

- The Community Forest is managed for the *values* set by the community (wildfire protection, training and jobs, recreation, entrepreneurship, diversifying small and medium enterprises, community well-being etc.)
- First Nation and non-First Nation communities are managing land and resources together, which is *reconciliation* in action
- Revenue stays local
- Large industrial partners are provided fibre while smaller enterprises (First Nation and non-First Nation) can also share in the wealth
- Community Forest provides an educational tool for school-aged students and also trades and academic streams for “re-branding” forestry
- Forestry and forest products can – and must – play a role in reducing consumption of fossil fuels, adapting to a changing climate, and meeting Canada’s climate goal of a 40-45% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.