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**Management Plan Amendment #3
For Sunshine Coast Community Forest**

Community Forest Agreement K3F

**Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District – Sunshine Coast Timber
Supply Area**

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1. Existing Inventories:

A. Timber

The following inventories exist for timber resources within the Community Forest Agreement (CFA) area:

- Coastal Small Tenures Timber Supply Analysis Sechelt Community Forest Agreement Sunshine Coast TSA Timber Supply Analysis Report, June 22, 2005, prepared by Forsite for the Sunshine Coast Forest District (SCFD).
- Existing Forest Cover inventory information of the SCFD.
- Operational level inventories conducted by SCPI and previous tenure holder.
- Ministry of FLNRORD inventory work completed and approved in 2012 for
 - i. Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI)
 - ii. Terrain Ecosystem Mapping (TEM)
 - iii. Site Index (SI)
- LiDAR data obtained in 2009 and 2010
- LiDAR data re-flown in Nov. 2015

B. Other Forest Values

The following inventories exist for other forest values within the CFA:

- Ministry of Environment, Conservation Data Centre Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (data available, report still in progress, November 2005)
- Chapman Landscape Unit Plan, November 25, 2002
- Biodiversity Chapter for Sechelt Landscape Unit, June 2004
- Chapman Gray IWMP, 1998
- Wilson Creek Coastal Watershed Assessment Plan (CWAP), Horel et al, 2012
- Evaluation of Salmonid Populations in Wilson, Bates et al, 2012
- Watershed Assessment Chapman and Gray Creek Community Watersheds (CWAP), Horel et al, 2014

2. Allowable Annual Cut

The AAC for the Sunshine Coast CFA K3F will continue to be 20,000m³/year. An internal review of this AAC was completed by Ecora Engineering and Resource Group in 2017. This level of cut was set by a timber supply analysis conducted for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) in June 2005. The continuation of this AAC considered the following:

- the inventories and other information referred to above;
- timber specifications for the timber resources in the TSA;

- reductions that are considered to be necessary to facilitate the management and conservation of non-timber resource values in the CFA area, including wildlife, water, biological diversity, soils, recreation resources, visual quality, and aquatic habitats;
- silviculture practices and forest health factors that may impact on timber production;
- the anticipated impact of the reductions to the productive portion of the CFA due to permanent roads, landings, pits and trails; and
- local knowledge of the quality and operability of stands within the CFA area.

3. Rational for the Allowable Annual Cut

The AAC for the Sunshine Coast CFA, of 20,000m³/year is based on the results and recommendations of the Forsite Timber Supply Review of June 22, 2005 provided by the Ministry of Forests Sunshine Coast Forest District. It is wholly supported by an internal review completed by Ecora Engineering and Resource Group in 2017. Maintaining the current AAC also takes into account the updated inventory information listed above which is more detailed, accurate and up to date than the original data used.

4. Management Objectives for the Sunshine Coast Community Forest Agreement, K3F Area

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest is to be managed to accomplish the following general goals:

- provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities
- diversify the use of and benefits derived from the Community Forest Agreement (CFA) area
- provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia
- undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values
- promote community involvement and participation
- promote communication and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons
- foster innovation
- advocate forest worker safety
- To manage the forest resources within the CFA area to the highest standards possible and to maximize the economic and social benefits to the community
- To manage the CFA to a high degree of forest management excellence.
- To meet all legislative and regulatory requirements of the tenure through management strategies developed with consultation with the community

- To provide local employment opportunities for all aspects of the administration and management of the tenure
- To make wood available, to a degree that the harvesting profile will allow, to local industry for primary breakdown, value added and specialty uses in volumes appropriate for their needs.

A. Priorities and Methods for Timber Cutting and Removal

The CFA will schedule timber cutting to ensure that the full profile of timber species and grade are cut to ensure that the value of the forest is maintained over time.

B. Methods for Timber Cutting and Removal

Each stand scheduled for harvest will have appropriate harvesting methods listed by the prescribing forester on site. Products to be harvested, market conditions and contractor capabilities may also determine the actual timber cutting and removal methods employed within the range of options made available by the prescribing Forester.

C. The Harvesting, Management of and the Charging of Fees for Non-Timber Forest Products

Non-timber terrestrial forest products have not been actively managed within the CFA areas in the past. These non-timber forest products include:

- Salal, Vaccinium, ferns, moss, lichens and other decorative foliage harvesting
- Foliage for essential oil and medicinal products
- Edible mushrooms and medicinal fungi harvesting
- Wildcrafting supplies: alder and willow whips, cedar bark and carving wood
- Plants, such as ferns and trees removed for sale for landscaping

Harvesting of resources for commercial and personal use has been completely unregulated and will continue to be under the CFA until such time that:

- Undesirable impacts, caused by the unregulated harvest of non-timber products, are recognized,
- Opportunity to effectively and profitably manage these resources is recognized, or
- Other compelling reasons arise.

D. Protection and Conservation of Non-Timber Values and Resources in the CFA Area

i) Water

The Sunshine Coast CFA includes the community's two main Community Watersheds, as well as numerous streams important for fish habitat, aquatic ecosystem biodiversity, community setting as well as recreational/aesthetic/tourism value. The Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) will address the licensee's resource management objectives regarding forestry operations within community watersheds and all forestry activities will be prescribed in the site plan to ensure that effects on the qualities of water, for all its values, are minimized. Aquatic ecosystems are habitat for a wide range of biodiversity including Identified Wildlife, Species at Risk (listed in the Species At Risk Act), coastal tailed frog, resident and anadromous fish populations and their supporting food chains. Management within riparian areas will be prescribed by Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and other Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP) on site to plan for specific values.

For the twenty-five year term of this CFA (as of May 30, 2006), there will be no harvesting in the Chapman Creek Community Watershed to allow the portion of the CFA in the watersheds to further stabilize following past harvesting between 1950 and 1990. Limited harvesting within the Chapman Creek watershed, utilizing appropriately sensitive systems, will be considered by the community in the future.

The SCCF understands the community's demand for maintaining the highest standards of drinking-water quality from the community drinking-water watersheds. Prior to conducting any harvesting operations within these watersheds, the SCCF will establish Best Management Practices (BMP) for SCCF operations within these watersheds based on:

- consultations with acknowledged professional experts in this field;
- research to review similar standards and practices in other jurisdictions;
- peer review of the final BMP's prior to implementation.

The intent of the BMP's will be to prevent and mitigate any potential adverse impacts that Sunshine Coast Community Forests (SCCF) operations might potentially have on water quality in these watersheds and to ensure that water quality objectives and/or targets are met.

ii) Recreation

The Forests within the Sunshine Coast CFA have very high recreation values. There is an extensive network of trails within the areas for hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use and motorized recreation opportunities. Trail networks will be retained throughout the CFA area, however, some temporal/spatial adjustments may be required to accommodate harvesting and road construction. The management of the community forest will work to enhance recreational opportunities in the tenure area by building new infrastructure while maintaining its ability to harvest the current AAC.

Trails and other recreational resources may be maintained as an operational activity of the Licensee. Potential opportunities to commercially manage recreational resources within the CFA area will be explored as these opportunities are recognized.

iii) Biodiversity

Biodiversity will be managed on landscape and stand levels within the CFA tenure area. SCCF will support the old growth management areas delineated and the WTP rates assigned by the Chapman and Sechelt Landscape Unit Plans. Site plans and other prescriptions for stand management will address stand-level biodiversity values within forest activity areas. Forestry activities will be based on natural ecosystem disturbance patterns to best provide natural conditions within harvesting areas.

iv) Wildlife

Where at-risk species are specified for protection in higher level plans, or under a Government Actions Regulation Order, or is a species listed under the Species at Risk Act, SCCF will be actively manage those species within the CFA. Specific wildlife present within the CFA area to be actively managed for includes the following:

a) Roosevelt Elk (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*)

Transplanted from Vancouver Island in 1987 Roosevelt Elk have a thriving population on the Sunshine Coast and within the CFA. Within the CFA, elk utilize the entire range of sites and elevation through the year. Elk are very well suited to the managed forest environment and will likely not require any specific management provisions. Elk do have potential to impede reforestation efforts through browse and rubbing damage to young trees and this must be considered when planning reforestation efforts.

b) North American Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*)

Beaver are present throughout the CFA area and their damming has created numerous ponds and flooded forest area. Beavers create unique aquatic habitats shared by many species and are of great interest and value to the public for wildlife viewing, recreational interest and as centers of high biodiversity. These aquatic ecosystems will be maintained and protected with RMZs. In addition,

road location, drainage structures and riparian management zones must consider the needs of and the likely activities of the beaver population to avoid flooding problems and infrastructure damage.

c) Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

The higher elevation old growth forests of the Chapman, Gray, Angus and Burnett Creeks watersheds contain forest attributes suitable for Marbled Murrelet nesting. This species and its nesting habitat will be managed within the Forest Stewardship Plan

d) Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Tailed frog is present in many of the streams within the Chapman Landscape Unit portions of the CFA areas, but it is not present on the Sechelt Peninsula. Tailed frog will be managed for through site plans which take their ecosystem and habitat needs into consideration on a site-specific basis. This species will also be managed for indirectly by maintaining the integrity of aquatic ecosystems throughout the tenure area.

e) Northern Red Legged Frog (*Rana aurora*)

Northern Red Legged Frog is present in many of the wetland ecosystems within the Sechelt and Chapman Landscape Unit portions of the CFA areas. This species will be managed for through site plans which take their ecosystem and habitat needs into consideration on a site-specific basis. This species will also be managed for indirectly by maintaining the integrity of aquatic ecosystems throughout the tenure area.

f) Fish

Many of the streams within the CFA areas are populated by resident and or anadromous fish species. Fish will not be managed for directly, instead, they will be managed for indirectly by maintaining the integrity of aquatic ecosystems through site-specific management prescriptions.

v) Soils

Soils are the key resource element that provides the productivity for most of the forest resources we value as a community. The protection of soils and their inherent productivity is, therefore, extremely important. Soil disturbance by any forest management and development activities will be kept to a minimum, and will include the following practices:

- Rehabilitation and reforestation of non-permanent roads built for timber harvesting.
- Seeding of exposed soils to prevent loss of soil by erosion and to protect aquatic ecosystems from sedimentation

- Geotechnical expertise will be sought for planning of activities on potentially unstable terrain.
- Harvesting methods will be prescribed on a site-specific basis to ensure that soils are not compacted and degraded by timber harvesting.

vi) Visual Quality

The forests of the Sunshine Coast CFA form a significant portion of the Sunshine Coast scenery. The scenery and the forested community environment are important to local residents and visitors alike. The forested setting of the community is a significant factor for tourism and is increasingly important given the increasing visual effect of urbanization.

Many of the CFA areas are very visible from the local community and from the Strait of Georgia. Visual landscape management techniques will be utilized in highly visible areas to minimize negative effects of harvesting and road building. Visual landscape management techniques may include:

- Partial harvesting retaining canopy to reduce harvesting visibility
- Small openings that are less visible
- Irregular-shaped harvesting area boundaries that match the lines and forms of natural features
- Narrow road right of ways
- Seeding of exposed soils

vii) Cultural and Heritage Resources

There are no specific Cultural and Heritage Resources identified within the CFA area that are to be managed for. The potential certainly does exist to discover First Nations Cultural and Heritage sites and values within the CFA area and these discoveries will be addressed as they arise in consultation with the *shishálh* Nation consistent with the First Nations Protocol signed between the *shishálh* Nation and SCCF.

The SCCF commits to allowing the *shishálh* Nation to conduct traditional use activities within the SCCF tenure area. In addition, the SCCF commits that the *shishálh* Nation will not be subject to fees or other charges related to the collection and use of non-timber forest products when for personal use relating to traditional use activities.

viii) Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression

The CFA will be managed and all operations will be conducted in accordance with the Ministry of Forest and Range Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation.

ix) Forest Health and Pest Management

The CFA will be managed in accordance with all Acts and regulations regarding all aspects of forest health and pest management. Forest health and pest management objectives and prescriptions will be developed on a site and incidence-specific basis by a qualified professional. Forest Health concerns within the CFA areas include:

- Armillaria and Phellinus root rots
- Rhizina root disease
- Hemlock Mistletoe
- Western Hemlock looper
- Cedar Borer
- Douglas-fir bark beetle
- Ambrosia Beetle
- White Pine Weevil (Spruce weevil)
- White Pine blister rust

While each forest health concern will be dealt with on an individual basis, the overall goal of managing forest health is to minimize the potential loss of productivity due to the above factors. A great deal of this management will involve understanding the endemic presence of these factors and taking them into consideration to make appropriate forest management decisions.

x) Silviculture Treatments

Basic silviculture will be practiced to achieve free growing status for all reforested stands.

Intensive silviculture treatments, to improve wood quality and volume yield, will be conducted when funding is available. Silviculture treatments may include the following:

a) Basic Silviculture:

- Site preparation by spot or pile burning, mechanical slash piling and redistribution, soil de-compaction following harvesting, root rot stump pulling.
- Planting of various tree species
- Fertilization at time of planting with “tea bags”
- Brushing to alleviate competition with crop species, to achieve free-to-grow status.

b) Intensive Silviculture:

- Stand fertilization
- Juvenile Spacing
- Pruning to enhance wood quality

- Commercial thinning

xi) Road Construction, Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Deactivation

All aspects of road construction, maintenance rehabilitation and deactivation will be conducted in accordance with applicable legislation regulations and policies.

5. Timber Specifications and Utilization

The Sunshine Coast CFA will comply with the Tenure license specifications regarding timber utilization. The CFA's broad utilization goal is for close utilization, minimizing waste and slash, while harvesting the full species and grade profile of the CFA.

6. Consultation with Other Resource Users, Community Members and Local Governments

A. Other Resource Users

Other resource users, such as trappers and guide outfitters may have rights to use resource within the CFA area. It is expected that any such resource users would contact the Community Forest staff to ensure that CFA activities do not compromise their resource use rights. Community input will continue to be actively solicited for many aspects of the management of the CFA and it is expected that other resource users would use such opportunities to make their specific concerns and interest known.

B. Community Members

Individuals on the Community Forest Board have diversity of skills and experience. Community interest will continue to be represented on the Community Forest Board and provide direction to Management.

The Licensee maintains a Community Forest website to make plans and other documents available to the public.

Also refer to *Management Plan Limitations*, below.

C. Local Government

The licensee will continue to communicate with all local government regarding the management of the community forest.

7. Management Plan Limitations

This management plan for the Sechelt Community Forest Tenure has been written as a requirement for the issuance of the Community Forest Agreement (CFA) license.

This management plan is accurate and complete, but is not intended to convey to the Government or to the public all of the very specific operational procedures that will be adopted by the licensee. The District of Sechelt, as the license applicant, publicly stated that it would develop a management plan with thorough public involvement since the initial stages of developing the application for the Probationary CFA. Because this type of management plan document is not included within the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) planning framework, the licensee has developed a Community Forest Operating Plan (CFOP), independent from Ministry legislation, to include public input and to guide the resource management practices of the licensee. This plan is endorsed by the licensee board of directors and all resource management operations of the CFA are to be conducted in a manner consistent with this plan.

8. Safety

SCCF will comply with all the laws of application required to protect forest workers including but not limited to WorkSafe BC Regulations (Part 26) and the Workers Compensation Act.

SCCF will maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Program consistent with the Regulations.

SCCF subscribes to the BC Forest Safety Council requirements that all contractors performing harvesting activities must be safe certified.

9. Acronyms

Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)	3
Coastal Watershed Assessment Plan (CWAP)	3
Community Forest Agreement (CFA)	3
Community Forest Operating Plan (CFOP).....	12
Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).....	12
Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)	6
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) 4	
Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP)	6
Registered Professional Foresters (RPF)	6
Site Index (SI).....	3
Sunshine Coast Community Forests (SCCF).....	6
Sunshine Coast Forest District (SCFD)	3
Terrain Ecosystem Mapping (TEM).....	3
Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI)	3