

Municipality of North Cowichan

Committee of the Whole

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically

This meeting will be conducted by video conference using the Cisco Webex platform. This meeting, though electronic, is open to the public and will be streamed live and archived for viewing on demand at www.northcowichan.ca.

Members of the public may attend the Municipal Hall [7030 Trans-Canada Highway] in person, or join the meeting electronically to participate during the 'Public Input' and 'Question Period' portions of the agenda. Please visit northcowichan.ca/virtualmeeting for instructions on how you can connect online or you may dial 1.844.426.4405, enter 1# for English, enter the meeting ID 2770 873 8821, and then enter the meeting password 1111.

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

As soon as there is a quorum present after the time specified for the Council meeting, the Mayor shall call the meeting to order. If there is no quorum of Council present within 30 minutes of the scheduled time for the meeting, the meeting is adjourned until the next scheduled meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

To consider any items of business not included in the Agenda that are of an urgent nature they must be introduced and approved at the time the agenda is adopted. Matters must be taken up in the order that they are listed unless changed at this time.

Recommendation:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated [or as amended].

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Purpose: To consider if there were any errors or omissions prior to adopting the minutes of previous meetings of Council.

3.1 Minutes from the February 7, 2023 meeting for adoption

3 - 5

Recommendation:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2023 be adopted, as circulated.

4. DELEGATIONS

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Public Input is an opportunity for the public to provide their feedback on matters included on the agenda. The maximum number of speakers to be heard during the public input period is limited to five, with a maximum of three minutes allotted to each speaker. Members of the public attending the meeting in person must register at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting by signing the sheet posted outside of Council Chambers. Members of the public attending electronically must raise their hand once the meeting has been called to order. Please visit northcowichan.ca/virtualmeeting for instructions on how to raise your hand. Speakers are asked to state their name and residential address when commencing their address to Council.

6. STAFF REPORTS

This section includes reports from staff requiring a decision of Council and/or staff presentations.

6.1 Municipal Forest Reserve Review – Round 2 public engagement

6 - 96

Purpose: To update Council on what the Municipality heard from the public during Round 2 of the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) Review. Lees+Associates to present the survey results at the meeting.

6.2 Environment, Climate Action and Social Justice and Investments

97 - 102

Purpose: To provide options for an investment policy/strategy that prioritizes safety, liquidity, return on investment, environmental and climate action goals and social justice.

Recommendation:

THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to amend the draft Investment Policy by inserting "Socially Responsible Investing: the investment portfolio will prioritize investments that make positive contributions to environmental, social and governance factors" as the third bullet under section 3.1 [Objectives], AND THAT the policy be placed within the Consent Agenda at the March 15, 2023 regular Council meeting for adoption.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period is an opportunity for the public to ask brief questions regarding the business discussed during the meeting. When invited by the Mayor, members of the public who are attending the meeting in person may step up to the podium to ask their question(s) and members of the public who are attending electronically may raise their hand at this time. Please visit northcowichan.ca/virtualmeeting for instructions on how to raise your hand.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Once all the business is done and over with, the Mayor may declare the meeting adjourned without requiring a resolution of Council.

Municipality of North Cowichan Committee of the Whole MINUTES

February 7, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically

Members Present	Mayor Rob Douglas Councillor Mike Caljouw Councillor Bruce Findlay (arrived at 5:37 p.m.) Councillor Chris Istace Councillor Christopher Justice Councillor Tek Manhas Councillor Debra Toporowski
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services Talitha Soldera, General Manager, Corporate Services Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering David Conway, Director, Engineering Projects Dave Preikshot, Senior Change Specialist Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator Jeff Miller, Senior Manager, Engineer Manuela Herzig, Director, Information Technology and Business Solutions Marla Laycock, Director, Human Resources and Health & Safety Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation Rob Conway, Director, Planning and Building Shaun Mason, Municipal Forester Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held January 10, 2023 be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Nicholas Schwetz - Kingsview Comprehensive Development Plan

Nicholas Schwetz provided a presentation to Council outlining the concerns he has with the Kingsview Comprehensive Development Plan, including the lack of invasive species management, designated parklands that are not developed, and the destruction of a natural water course that wasn't approved by the province.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council received public input from 1 member of the public regarding agenda item 6.1.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Committee Structure Review

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve the Council Advisory Body Policy with the following amendments:

- Change "will" to "may" in section 4.5;
- Change "of up to two (2) calendar years" to "to coincide with the term of Council" in section 5.8;
- Delete sections 5.14 and 5.15

(Opposed: Caljouw)

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee with the following amendment and direct staff to advertise for volunteers:

- Add the word "mitigation" to the first bullet under the Duties heading, after the words "climate adaptation".

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct Staff to consult with Cowichan Nation to determine whether continued representation from first nations on the Forestry Advisory Committee is necessary, given the recently established MOU between the Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Nation.

CARRIED

Councillor Findlay joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Forestry Advisory Committee with the following amendment and direct staff to advertise for volunteers:

- (a) Remove membership representatives from Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, and Stz'uminus First Nation.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to bring forward, during budget deliberations, a report describing the financial resources that will need to be allocated towards each committee to ensure that all initiatives described in the terms of references can be implemented. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare an amendment to Delegation of Authority Bylaw No. 3814, 2021, to remove the delegation of Council's authority to the Audit Committee. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to work with the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the City of Duncan, the Towns of Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan to determine what the financial and staff resource implications would be if a joint Cowichan Valley Accessibility Advisory Committee were formed. CARRIED

7. QUESTION PERIOD

Council received 1 question from the public regarding agenda items.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor

Report

Date March 7, 2023
Subject Municipal Forest Reserve Review – Round 2 public engagement

File:

PURPOSE

To update Council on what the Municipality heard from the public during Round 2 of the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) Review. Lees+Associates to present the survey results at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

In early 2019, Council directed staff to carry out meaningful public engagement, both deep and broad, on the future management of our forests to determine the highest and best use of our MFR. A collaboration consisting of the University of British Columbia (UBC) and 3GreenTree Consulting were contracted to perform a technical review of our forest management practices and provide potential forest management scenarios for Council's consideration that will be informed from the public engagement process and First Nations consultation. In November 2019, Lees & Associates were contracted to conduct public engagement in support of the UBC Partnership Group technical review.

The review was paused in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also paused to accommodate government-to-government consultation with local First Nations to better understand their interests in the MFR.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Quw'utsun Nation was signed in August 2021. The MOU outlines the roles and activities related to a First Nations Working Group whose role is to exchange information related to the stewardship and use of the MFR for the benefit of the community.

Public engagement resumed, and Round 1, which explored people's values associated with the MFR, took place in November and December 2021. The UBC Group used this feedback to develop four potential forest management scenarios. Round 2 of public engagement sought people's preferred scenario.

DISCUSSION

Round 2 of public engagement took place from late November 2022 to January 31, 2023.

Three information workshops were held (in person on November 30 and virtually on December 6 and 12). A statistically valid phone survey was conducted (open to North Cowichan residents only), and an open link survey (available to anyone) was open until January 31. A project page on Connect North Cowichan provided a place for all project information and links to documents and reports, and 92 questions were answered publicly through the platform.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is provided for Council's information

Report prepared by:



Barb Floden
Manager, Communications and Public Engagement

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- 1 Municipal Forest Reserve Review Round 2 Public Engagement What We Heard report
- 2 Municipal Forest Reserve Review Round 2 Engagement Summary Presentation

Municipal Forest Reserve Review

Round 2 Engagement Summary

February 2023



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- Appendix A: Engagement Working Group Meeting Notes
- Appendix B: Full Survey Results
- Appendix C: Full Workshop Results

Overview

Introduction

The Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC) is exploring options for the management of the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) through a technical review and two rounds of broad and deep public engagement. Round 1 (Fall 2021) of engagement focused on the community's vision and values associated with the Municipal Forest Reserve. Round 2 (Fall 2022) asked people to consider four potential forest management scenarios and help determine a preferred option. These scenarios were developed by the UBC Partnership Group (UBC, 3GreenTree Consulting) and were informed by Round 1 of engagement. These scenarios reflect ecological, economic, and social criteria and indicators, and represent a spectrum of timber harvesting and carbon credit revenue options.

This report is a summary of what was heard during Round 2 of engagement and will be presented to Council in March 2023 to help inform decisions on next steps. Full detailed engagement results are provided in the [appendices](#).

First Nations Consultation

Separate from the public engagement process and starting in 2020, the Municipality of North Cowichan and the Quw'utsun Nation undertook Government-to-Government discussions. In August 2021, these discussions resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the establishment of a Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) Working Group to share information in relation to the stewardship and use of the MFR for the benefit of the community. First Nations interests within the project are also included in discussions through their representation on the Forest Advisory Committee.

Engagement Timeline



Phase 1: Jan 2020 – Sept 2021

Project and engagement start up
Stakeholder interviews
First Nation Memorandum of Understanding



Phase 2: Oct 2021 – Feb 2022

Round 1 public engagement on community values (workshops, survey)
Engagement summary report to Council (Feb 8 Committee of the Whole)



Phase 3: Feb – Summer 2022

Scenario options technical analysis (UBC Partnership Group)
(no public engagement)



Phase 4: Oct 2022 – Mar 2023

Round 2 public engagement on forest management scenario options (workshops, survey, phone survey)

Engagement report to Council

NOTE: Once a Council decision is made regarding preferred scenario, a management plan to support that scenario will be developed

Engagement Working Group

Early in the process, an Engagement Working Group (EWG) made up of North Cowichan residents was assembled to help provide input into the engagement process. The members of the EWG participated in seven meetings with the consulting team to discuss the engagement process, the information going to the public (discussion guides and surveys), how to get the word out about opportunities, and how to best include everyone. The Municipality of North Cowichan would like to thank the EWG for all of their ongoing contributions to the community engagement materials and process.



7 Engagement Working Group Meetings

Engagement Working Group members included:

Andrew Sawden
Bruce Coates
Dan Williams
Deb Savory Wright
Larry McIntosh
Michael Petereit
Paul Tataryn

Rhonda Hittinger
Rick Martinson
Robert Fullerton
Roger Wiles
Sally Leigh-Spencer
Sharon Horsburgh

Outreach

This project included significant community outreach during Round 2 of engagement including:



4 print ads in Cowichan Valley Citizen and Chemainus Valley Courier and 1 ad in the Valley Voice

7 updates to project email list

9 social media posts and ads on Facebook and Instagram

9 posts on North Cowichan's Twitter account

Information posters at trail-heads and community bulletin boards

92 questions answered through Connect North Cowichan

Participation

There were a total of **2,357 public interactions** during Round 2 of engagement on the future management of the Municipal Forest Reserve including:



196 participants in
2 online workshops
1 in-person workshop

Workshops were held on:
Wed. Nov. 30 3:00-7:00pm
Tues. Dec. 6 6:00-8:00pm
Mon. Dec. 12 6:00-8:00pm



215 statistically valid survey responses

Recruiting was conducted by Mustel Group interviewers weekday evenings and during the day on weekends from November 28 to December 12, 2023. The target number of responses was 200.



1,922 online survey responses

The open link survey was available from November 28, 2022 January 31, 2023.

Workshops Summary

Overview

A total of **110 participants** attended the in-person workshop on November 30, 2022 to share their input on the Draft Forest Management Scenario Options. The four hour in-person workshop included a presentation about the draft forest management scenario options and an opportunity to discuss the options with staff and provide feedback. Two online workshops took place on December 6 and 12, 2022 with a total of **96 participants** across both sessions. The in-person workshops included two presentations about the draft forest management scenario options, small group discussions with a facilitator and note taker, opportunities to share ideas and ask questions on display boards, and a report back to everyone from the facilitators. The workshops were facilitated by LEES+Associates and members of the UBC Partnership Group also attended.

Key take-aways from the workshop:

During the workshops, participants shared their perspectives on the draft forest management scenario options. The key take-ways for each scenario are summarized below.

Scenario 1 – Status Quo

- Many comments conveyed concern that continued harvesting within the Municipal Forest Reserve will worsen the impacts of climate change such as erosion, increased flooding, reduced carbon sequestration and increased fire risk.
- Many participants expressed the importance of protecting watersheds and habitats, as well as the hope to regenerate the forest, enhance biodiversity, and foster old growth forests for future generations.
- Some participants requested more information about the financial and employment implications of harvesting.

Scenario 2 – Reduced Harvesting

- There were not many who spoke in favor of Scenario 2, but some participants expressed appreciation for the current forest management practices and a desire to distribute timber harvested within the MFR locally.

Scenario 3 – Active Conservation

- Many participants expressed support for active conservation over other scenarios.
- Many comments conveyed the importance of improving the ecological health of the forest through active management.
- Some participants expressed concern that the municipality or logging interests may revert to past management practices or will not implement this scenario effectively.
- Some comments suggested that invasive species management is an important consideration in implementing this scenario.

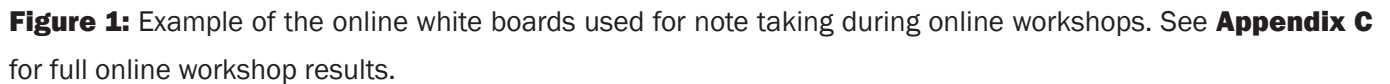
Scenario 4 – Passive Conservation

- Some participants expressed support for selling carbon credits, ecotourism, and revenue related to recreation over timber harvesting.
- Some comments indicated the importance of the ‘rights of nature’ and support for minimal human intervention.

Other comments:

Some participants expressed desire for Indigenous inclusion in the management process and more transparency regarding how the Municipality is engaging with First Nations.

Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?



4

Survey Summary

Open link survey

As a part of the Round 2 engagement process, a survey asked the public share their preference on a draft forest management scenario from four options. A link to the online survey was available through the Municipality's website and was open from November 28, 2022 until January 31, 2023. Thank you to the **1,922 respondents** who took the online survey.

Note that in data cleaning, 100 responses were removed. The benefit of the doubt was given to duplicate entries from the same IP address to allow for multiple members of the same household to complete the survey. Only the most obvious duplications were removed.

Statistically valid survey

A randomized sample of North Cowichan residents, 18 years of age and over, was recruited by telephone by the Mustel Group. Recruitment of the sample aimed to match the demographic profile (age and gender) of the community. Those who agreed to participate were given a unique link to the online survey. A total of **215 residents** that were recruited using this method completed the survey. The margin of error on the sample is +/-6.7% at the 95% confidence level in the most conservative case. The results of this random sample group were analyzed separately from the open public online survey.

This section is a summary and comparison of the responses from both the open link and statistically valid surveys. To generate the summary of survey results, responses to the open ended questions were grouped into common themes. Complete survey details can be reviewed in **Appendix D**.

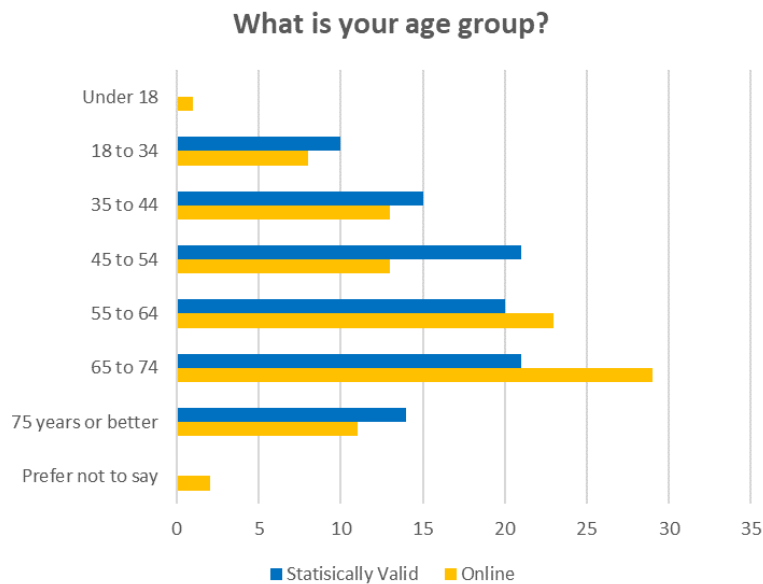
What we heard:

Respondents were asked to express their reasons for choosing their preferred option in their own words. The key take-ways are summarized below.

- Scenario 3: Active Conservation was the highest ranking option of the four options in both the statistically valid survey and the open link survey.
- Scenario 4: Passive Conservation ranked a close second.
- Scenario 1: Status Quo is the least preferred option.
- The environmental benefits of Scenario 3: Active Conservation, and specifically the key reason is that this option allows for some targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits.
- When asked what improvements or adjustments they would suggest for their preferred scenario, the most common suggestions for the top two scenarios were related to conservation management issues (such as invasive species and wildfire management).
- Only about one in ten respondents felt they needed more information to answer the questions in the survey. The most common requests were for information about economic projections (calculation details), explanations of carbon credits, and various additional details about each scenario.

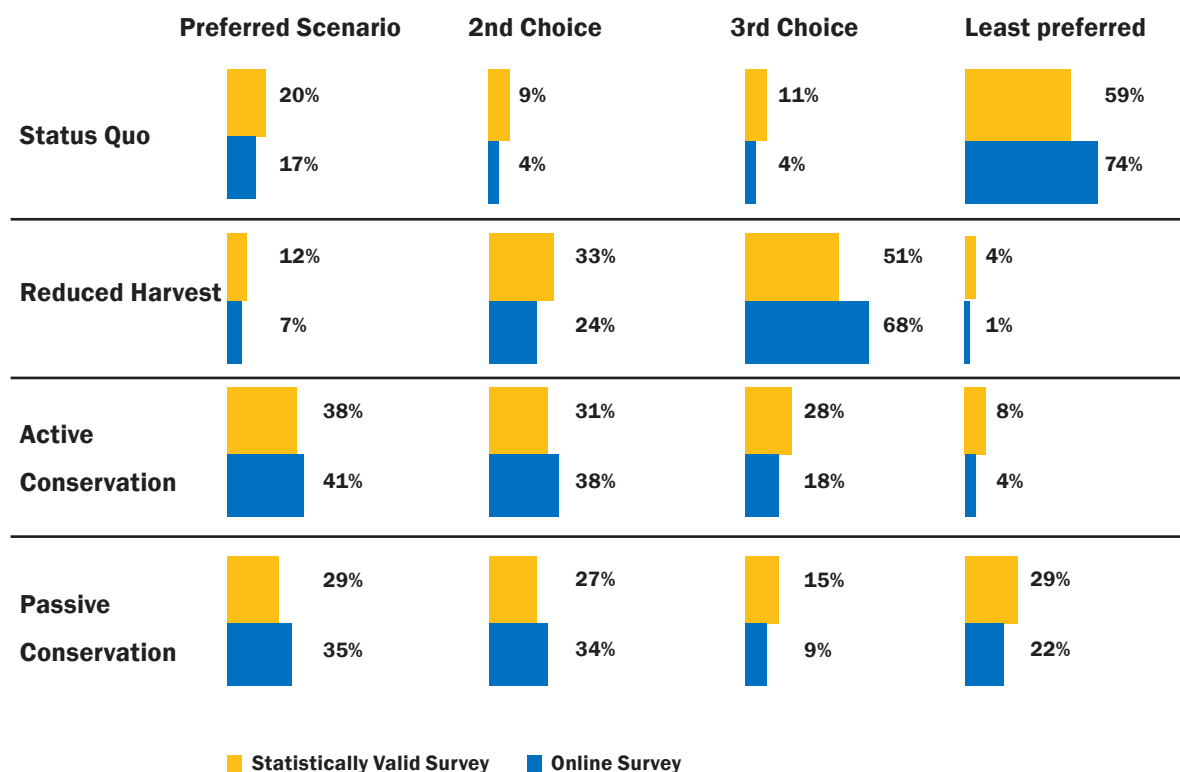
Who answered the survey?

Of respondents, **100%** of the statistically valid survey and **63%** of open link survey respondents are North Cowichan residents (note that the open link survey respondents self-identified where they are from).



A total of **15%** of statistically valid survey and **48%** of open link survey respondents had been involved in **Round 1 of the public engagement**.

Question 2: Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.



Question 3: Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?

The following summarizes the top reasons why respondents chose their preferred scenario. Full coded results are included on pages 8 and 9.

1 Status Quo

1. The current management of the Municipal Forest Reserve is fine as it is.
2. This scenario allows for sustainable harvesting.
3. This scenario creates jobs/ security.
4. I disliked the other scenario descriptions.
5. The community economy is dependent on the forestry industry.

2 Reduced Harvesting

1. This scenario allows for sustainable harvesting.
2. This scenario is a balanced approach.
3. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
4. This scenario reduces wildfire risk.
5. This scenario reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests.

3 Active Conservation

1. This scenario allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits.
2. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
3. The environmental benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
4. This scenario reduces the ecological damage to the forest.
5. This scenario is a balanced approach.

4 Passive Conservation

1. Is it important to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations.
2. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
3. The environmental benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
4. The economic benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
5. This scenario moves away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting.

Question 3: Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?
STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY RESULTS

Statistically Valid Survey (* percentage of open ended comments) (Bolded numbers: scenario with most comments)	Scenario			
	Scenario 1: Status Quo 45%*	Scenario 2: Reduced Harvest 29%*	Scenario 3: Active Conservation 82%*	Scenario 4: Passive Conservation 59%*
Environmental Benefits				
Miscellaneous environmental benefits/ climate change (biodiversity, less erosion, etc.)	1	10	25	28
Need to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations	2	11	5	48
Allows targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits	24	34	40	1
Reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests	3	17	12	-
Move away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting	-	2	11	6
Reduces wild fire risk	13	19	6	-
Economic impact				
Economic benefits misc.	4	10	7	24
Community economy is dependent on the forestry industry	17	2	3	-
Forestry job creation/ security (work in the industry)	23	2	6	-
Will diversify economy (i.e. tourism, job sectors)	-	-	5	1
Carbon credit revenue will offset forest industry loss	1	-	3	1
Helps to keep municipal property tax rate low	12	3	-	-
Recreation				
Recreation/ other activities can be accommodated	3	-	7	8
Will increase recreational opportunities	-	8	2	6
Other Reasons				
Aligns with my beliefs	12	20	38	39
It is fine as it is/ well managed	40	2	-	-
Matches social/ cultural values of community/ First Nations	-	-	10	10
Balanced approach (economic, social, recreational and ecological)	-	24	13	12
Highest score/ rank	-	2	6	6
Dislike other scenario descriptions (i.e. 'loaded language', carbon credit revenue, etc.)	21	7	-	-
No comment	4	5	3	1

Question 3: Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?

OPEN LINK SURVEY RESULTS

Open Link Survey (* percentage of open ended comments) (Bolded numbers: scenario with most comments)	Scenario			
	Scenario 1: Status Quo 17%*	Scenario 2: Reduced Harvest 7%*	Scenario 3: Active Conservation 41%*	Scenario 4: Passive Conservation 35%*
Environmental Benefits				
Miscellaneous environmental benefits/ climate change (biodiversity, less erosion, etc.)	-	9	42	43
Need to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations	-	-	9	49
Allows targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits	6	39	29	1
Reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests	3	5	20	2
Move away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting	1	6	9	14
Reduces wild fire risk	7	9	7	2
Economic impact				
Economic benefits misc.	3	13	14	13
Community economy is dependent on the forestry industry	35	16	1	<1
Forestry job creation/ security (work in the industry)	23	7	2	-
Will diversify economy (i.e. tourism, job sectors)	-	2	7	7
Carbon credit revenue will offset forest industry loss	-	1	5	4
Helps to keep municipal property tax rate low	13	6	<1	-
Recreation				
Recreation/ other activities can be accommodated	13	10	11	10
Will increase recreational opportunities	1	2	4	10
Other Reasons				
Aligns with my beliefs	16	19	33	47
It is fine as it is/ well managed	54	3	-	-
Matches social/ cultural values of community/ First Nations	<1	2	12	12
Balanced approach (economic, social, recreational and ecological)	<1	23	15	2
Highest score/ rank	-	-	5	18
Dislike other scenario descriptions (i.e. 'loaded language', carbon credit revenue, etc.)		15	1	<1
No comment	2	3	1	1

Question 4: Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario? STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY RESULTS

When asked what improvements or adjustments they would suggest for their preferred scenario, **16%** of those choosing Scenario 3: Active Conservation and **24%** of those choosing Scenario 4: Passive Conservation **had suggestions**. The most **common suggestions** for these two scenarios related to the details of **how conservation management would take place** (such as management of invasive species, reducing wildfire risk, or managing deadfall).

Statistically Valid Survey (* percentage of open ended comments) (Bolded numbers: scenario with most comments)	Scenario			
	Scenario 1: Status Quo 45%*	Scenario 2: Reduced Harvest 29%*	Scenario 3: Active Conservation 82%*	Scenario 4: Passive Conservation 59%*
Conservation management (i.e., invasive species, wildfires, use of deadfall trees)	9	17	6	14
Recreation (i.e. more options, usage limits, maintenance)	2	6	2	9
Municipal consultation issues (i.e. scenario ratings, missing information)	8	9	2	2
Economic projection (i.e., recreation/ tourism value, carbon credits)	4	4	2	3
Scenarios should be flexible/ adjust to changing conditions	4	-	1	-
First Nations involvement (i.e., cultural practices, harvesting)	-	-	3	4
Forestry industry suggestions/ support	21	6	-	1
Education (i.e., ecotourism, importance of forests)	-	2	2	-
Ensure oversight/ reporting	2	-	2	-
More consultation with experts	1	2	4	-
Encourage local processing/ use of harvested wood	-	-	3	1
No improvements/ adjustments	65	73	84	76

Question 4: Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

Those completing the survey through the open link tended to have more suggestions than the respondents in the statistically valid survey, but suggestions related to **conservation management** were again the most common theme.

Open Link Survey (* percentage of open ended comments) (Bolded numbers: scenario with most comments)	Scenario			
	Scenario 1: Status Quo 45%*	Scenario 2: Reduced Harvest 29%*	Scenario 3: Active Conservation 82%*	Scenario 4: Passive Conservation 59%*
Conservation management (i.e., invasive species, wildfires, use of deadfall trees)	7	11	13	14
Recreation (i.e. more options, usage limits, maintenance)	3	7	6	8
Municipal consultation issues (i.e. scenario ratings, missing information)	8	9	5	5
Economic projection (i.e., recreation/ tourism value, carbon credits)	3	5	5	3
Scenarios should be flexible/ adjust to changing conditions	3	10	4	2
First Nations involvement (i.e., cultural practices, harvesting)	1	1	5	3
Forestry industry suggestions/ support	11	4	1	<1
Education (i.e., ecotourism, importance of forests)	2	2	4	2
Ensure oversight/ reporting	3	1	3	2
More consultation with experts	3	5	2	1
Encourage local processing/ use of harvested wood	3	2	1	<1
No improvements/ adjustments	68	62	67	70

Question 5: Do you feel you had enough information to answer the questions in this survey?

Close to **one in ten respondents** felt they needed more information to answer the questions in the survey. The most common requests were for information about **economic projections** (how they were calculated), explanations of **carbon credits**, and various **details about each scenario**.

Types of Information Requested	Statistically Valid Survey	Online Survey
Provide scenario analysis details (i.e., definitions, prior harvest area yields/ sales, full data)	24	23
Misc. issues with survey/ consultation process (i.e., why were these options chosen, difficult to complete, lack of maps, etc.)	23	22
How were economic projections calculated/ distrust numbers provided	25	21
Carbon credit explanation (i.e. how do they work, value)	22	14
Which groups/ organizations were involved in process/ sources of information	4	6
Active harvesting details (i.e., companies, methods)	5	5
Recreation details	4	5
First Nations involvement details	-	5
Details regarding current forestry operations	3	3
No questions stated	30	19

Key Takeaways

Overview

During the second round of engagement we heard a diverse range of perspectives. Throughout the engagement process, many participants expressed that **ecological values** should be at the core of future management plans for the Municipal Forest Reserve. There was also strong emphasis placed on the importance of the **Municipal Forest Reserve as a community asset** that should be preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Key takeaways:

- Participants in both the workshops and surveys expressed the strongest support for **Scenario 3: Active Conservation**, with **Scenario 4: Passive Conservation** also receiving significant support.
- The importance protecting **biodiversity, watersheds, old growth forest, and habitats** emerged as a key theme during the workshops, and survey respondents cited environmental benefits as the main reason why they prefer the Scenario 3: Active Conservation scenario.
- The importance of **managing invasive species, ecotourism, recreation and the rights of nature** also emerged as key themes during the workshops.
- The **Scenario 1: Status Quo** received the least support, and some participants expressed concern that continued harvesting within the Municipal Forest Reserve will worsen the present and anticipated impacts of **climate change**.
- Those in support of **Scenario 1: Status Quo** and **Scenario 2: Reduced Harvesting** communicated the importance of the **local economy** and **employment**.
- When asked what **improvements or adjustments** they would suggest for their preferred scenario, the most common suggestions were related to **conservation management issues**.
- The desire for **Indigenous inclusion** in the management process and more **transparency** regarding how the Municipality is engaging with First Nations emerged as a key theme in the workshops and online survey.
- The most common questions posed throughout the workshop and in the survey were related to how **economic projections** were calculated for each scenario and explanations of **carbon credits**.

Next Steps

The input shared by the community during Round 1 and 2 of public engagement will help inform the future management of the Municipal Forest Reserve. This summary report will be presented to Council in early 2023. The UBC Partnership Group will then share a presentation to Council on the preferred scenario. Once a Council decision is made regarding a preferred scenario, a management plan to support that scenario will be developed.

Ongoing discussions with the Quw'utsun Nation will continue to be part of the conversation through Government-to-Government discussions.



Photo: Students on Maple Mountain.

A background image of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The top half of the page has a white overlay containing the title and table of contents.

Appendices

Appendix A: Engagement Working Group Meeting Notes

Appendix B: Full Survey Results

Appendix C: Full Workshop Results

APPENDIX A: ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES

ENGAGEMENT ON THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES

Date: February 22, 2023

Time: 5-6:30pm

Location: Zoom

Attending: Roger Wiles, Rob Fullerton, Paul Tataryn, Bruce Coates, Deb Wright, Sharon Horsburgh, Larry McIntosh, Rick Martinson, Andrew Sawden (EWG Members); Barb Floden (MNC); Megan Turnock (LEES)

Regrets: Rebecca Anderson (LEES), Sally Leigh-Spencer (EWG)

Purpose of Meeting: To review the Engagement Summary for Round 2

Issues Discussed:

#	ITEM	ACTION
1	Review of Round 2 Activities and Results	
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting commenced at 5:04pm ▪ LEES presented the findings from Round 2 Engagement process. ▪ Will UBC be presenting to Council along with LEES? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No, they will be presenting the preferred scenario separately ▪ EWG Comment: Happy to see the “rights of nature” terminology used ▪ EWG Comment: Need to clarify that Active Conservation did not include clear cuts ▪ EWG requested that “Sustainable harvesting” terminology be updated to better reflect the comments from those choosing Scenario 3: Active Conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could remove “sustainable” because all the scenarios could be sustainable. ○ LEES: After consulting with Mustel Group, this change is being made to better reflect the focus of comments on harvesting for ecological benefits. ▪ MNC- Have heard a lot about the need for education through tours and information. Maybe that goes into a future management plan. Should have a glossary of terms going forward and shouldn’t use terms that aren’t well defined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EWG – Should make sure that the Municipality defines these terms for themselves, not just a generic definition. ○ EWG – We never really had a good definition of the process involved in the status quo. ○ EWG – Would be good to have drone footage of areas planned for cutting. 	LEES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EWG: Clear cutting on steep hills can end up just sand where no trees could regenerate. ▪ EWG: Ultimately, we need the forest management plan with the details of how the forest will be managed, including defined terms and the processes. ▪ LEES: The survey methodology was reviewed and issues with the survey and the “cleaning” of data was described. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EWG: Should include the information about the minimal issues with the engagement process ○ EWG: Appreciated the adjustments to the Connect North Cowichan that were made to make it easier for people to participate ○ EWG: Highlight the high number that thought they had enough information to answer the questions ○ MNC/LEES: Kudos to the EWG in helping improve the Discussion Guides 	LEES
2	Next Steps	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EWG - When/how will First Nations be involved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MNC – Government-to-government discussions, as outlined in the MOU, are ongoing. ▪ EWG - Based on what we have heard, can we consider recommending changing the FAC to reflect the change in attitude toward forest management toward conservation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MNC - Terms of Reference has been passed as part of the “consent agenda”. See the Final Forest Advisory Committee Terms of Reference https://pub-northcowichan.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=8db17b45-01a2-4de8-84f9-6d4ab14d5df2&lang=English&Agenda=Agenda&Item=22&Tab=attachments ○ EWG - There should be someone with carbon credit experience on FAC. ○ EWG – One member requested to raise a motion “That a renewed Forest Advisory Committee be made up of members schooled in biodiversity, ecosystem dynamics, watershed complexity, and earth sciences. Members should be cognizant of the climate emergency.” It was explained that the EWG is not a committee of Council and cannot raise motions but that the statement would be recorded in the meeting notes. ○ MNC - There should be a decision by Council first on the direction for the forest management plan. Then there may be space for a discussion on that. ○ MNC - FAC term coincides with the term of Council. ○ EWG – Participation needs to include First Nations. ○ EWG – Council chooses the FAC; there is a specific make-up of the committee. 	INFO

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EWG - Will the EWG be disbanded? Will another group be formed in relation to the forest management plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MNC –At this point there is no plan for more engagement, but that will be determined by Council. ▪ LEES to present the Engagement Summary to Council March 7. FYI this report does not include any recommendations. It is for information. ▪ Next Steps to be determined by Council. 	
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Notes by: MT, LEES+Associates.

Distribution: by email

ENGAGEMENT ON THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES

Date: November 09, 2022

Time: 5-7pm

Location: Zoom

Attending: Roger Wiles, Rob Fullerton, Paul Tataryn, Bruce Coates, Deb Wright, Sally Leigh-Spencer, Sharon Horsburgh, Larry McIntosh (EWG Members).

Barb Floden (MNC); Megan Turnock, Rebecca Anderson (LEES)

Regrets: Rick Martinson, Andrew Sawden, Michael Petereit, Rhonda Hittinger (EWG Members).

Erik Lees (LEES)

Purpose of Meeting: To review the Draft Discussion Guide for Round 2 and Draft Survey Questions

Issues Discussed:

#	ITEM	ACTION
1	Welcome and Brief Review of Project Timeline / Round 2 Activities	
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting commenced at 5:05pm. ▪ LEES presented an updated project schedule and provided an overview of upcoming engagement activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The in-person information session is Wednesday November 30th 3-7pm at the Maple Bay Fire Hall ○ The virtual workshops are Tuesday December 6th 6-8pm and Monday December 12th 6-8pm ○ The online survey will be open from November 28th-January 2nd ○ Recruitment for the phone survey will take place between November 28th and December 12th ▪ LEES explained the recruit by phone approach to the statistically valid survey and confirmed that those recruited would be provided an individual code to complete the online survey and directed to the discussion guide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEES confirmed that survey recruits would be given the option to fill out a paper version of the survey. 	<p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEES will aim to add photos to the scenario descriptions, but highlighted that at this stage there is no set approach or plan. Those decisions will be made later through the development of the management plan. ▪ One member suggested adding a map of the areas targeted for logging and LEES agreed to add the maps of the forest and possibly a map from the UBC presentation. ▪ There was a discussion about the revenue estimates associated with the scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One member suggested that the net revenue estimates for status quo scenario are overly optimistic. ○ One member suggested that there should be more information on the assumptions behind the financial analysis. ○ Other member suggested that it is still unclear if the revenue from cell-towers are included in the estimates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MNC confirmed that UBC partnership group did not include revenue from cell-towers in the modelling. ○ One member stated that the estimates were based on pricing assumptions and that the net revenue difference between scenarios does not vary greatly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MNC explained that the UBC has include their pricing assumptions in the documents attached to the Oct. 4th council meeting. ▪ There was a discussion about if the public will have an opportunity to review the management plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no management plan at this stage in the process. However, Council will dictate whether the public can review the plan in the future, and that if this is something that the public desires, there is an opportunity to express this through the upcoming survey. The current purpose is to determine the overall approach moving forward, ▪ There was a discussion about UBC's final report and how close they are to completing their work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MNC confirmed that UBC's final report was presented to forest advisory group on Oct. 4th. Further refinement of the scenarios is not anticipated, but the direction forward on the management plan will take the current round of engagement into account. ▪ There was a suggestion to include a summary of the final scores of each of the scenarios (presented by UBC) in the discussion guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEES and MNC expressed concern that including the scores could be leading and would prefer to allow the public to decide how their values align with the options presented. Currently, all aspects are equally weighted. ○ Most members were in support of including the scores and LEES agreed to add a summary chart to the guide. 	<p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>LEES</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few EWG members expressed that “status quo” is misleading as the forest has not been logged since 2019 and newcomers may associate the current state of the forest as status quo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEES agreed it should be clear that “status quo” means logging in most of the MFR area. 	
3	Review of the survey	
a	<p>Comments and Questions on the discussion guide from the working group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a discussion on the first survey question about the list of indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few EWG members expressed concern about only including bird habitat and suggested changing this to wildlife habitats. LEES agreed to explain that the carbon emissions are in reference to harvesting activities. One EWG member expressed concern about asking about the indicators again since this was asked in round one. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEES/MNC explained that there is an opportunity to reweigh indicators if it found that some indicators are ranked higher (currently all indicators in UBC’s modeling are weighted equally). This round of engagement will also have a representative survey, so it is important to test this again, more specifically. There were suggestions for additional questions to add to the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Do you feel that you have enough information to answer the survey questions?” Include more pointed questions related to whether harvesting is supported. “Have you participated in previous engagement on the MFR?” LEES to consider adding these into the survey. There was a discussion on the introduction to the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member suggested that including information such as the timber harvest allowance does not help the public to understand forestry practices and suggested adding links to more information on the website. Another member expressed that the lack of information on the importance of the forest as an endangered ecosystem was concerning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They went on to suggest that it is important to include a map of the sensitive ecosystem areas. There was also concern that the survey does not communicate the qualitative importance of the forest to the community. One member suggested that the same survey introduction should be used between round 1 and 2 for consistency. LEES/MNC will consider the suggested edits to both the discussion guide and survey and circulate these to the EWG. Among the options was bringing in some of the background information from Round 1 such as the maps, information on the coastal Douglas fir ecosystem, etc. 	<p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>LEES INFO</p> <p>LEES/MNC</p>

APPENDIX B: FULL SURVEY RESULTS

November-January 2022

North Cowichan Municipal Forest Reserve Round 2 Engagement Community Survey



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➤ Foreword

Introduction

The Municipality of North Cowichan is exploring options for the management of the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) and as part of Round 2 of engagement, has asked the public to share their preference on a forest management scenario, from four options. This report presents the findings from a random survey of residents and feedback from an open link survey.

Random Survey Methodology

- A random sample of North Cowichan residents, 18 years of age and over, was recruited by telephone and a unique link to a survey was sent to those who agreed to participate in the research.
- A total of 215 residents recruited by this method completed the survey.
- The margin of error on the sample is +/-6.7% at the 95% confidence level in the most conservative case.
- Specific steps were taken to ensure the sample is representative of the community at large including:
 - sample drawn at random from an up-to-date database of published residential listings and cell phone listings;
 - next birthday method employed to randomize respondent selection within the household;
 - up to 6 calls made to each household/individual to reduce potential bias due to non-response;

Random Survey Methodology, cont.

- final sample weighted by gender within age to match Statistics Canada Census data.
- Recruiting was conducted by Mustel Group interviewers weekday evenings and during the day on weekends from November 28th to December 12th, 2022.
- Up to 3 reminders were sent to boost the response rate.

Open Access Online Survey

- An open access link to the survey was also available through the Municipality's website for interested residents to complete the survey. A total of 1922 residents completed the survey through this method. These results are reported separately from the random sample results.
- The survey was also available in hard copy format for those who requested.
- The open link survey was open until January 31, 2023.
- Note that in data cleaning, any multiple entries that appeared to be completed by the same individual/IP address were removed.
- The questionnaire used is appended.
- Detailed computer tabulations are provided under separate³⁸ cover.

➤ Executive Overview

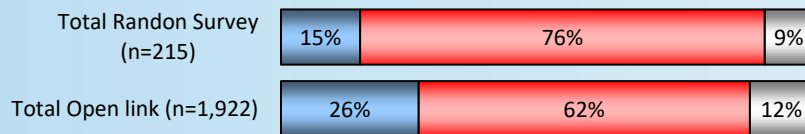
- **‘Active conservation’ is preferred** of the four options being considered in both the random survey and the open link survey.
- **‘Passive conservation’ ranks a close second.** The ‘status quo’ is the least preferred option.
- Respondent were asked to express in their own words reasons for choosing their preferred option. The responses were coded into like themes.
- The **environmental benefits** in general of ‘active conservation’, and specifically that this option **allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits**, is the key reason for choosing this scenario.
- When asked what **improvements or adjustments** they would suggest for their preferred scenario, the most common suggestions for the top two scenarios related to **conservation management issues**.
- Only about **one-in-ten felt they needed more information** to answer the questions in the survey. The most common requests were for information about economic projections (how calculated), explanations of carbon credits, and various details about each scenario.



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Detailed Findings

➤ Participated in Previous MFR Engagement



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

Random Survey

- A total of 15% of North Cowichan residents participating in the random survey report to have been involved in Round 1 of the public engagement. The findings are relatively consistent by gender and age.

Open Link Survey

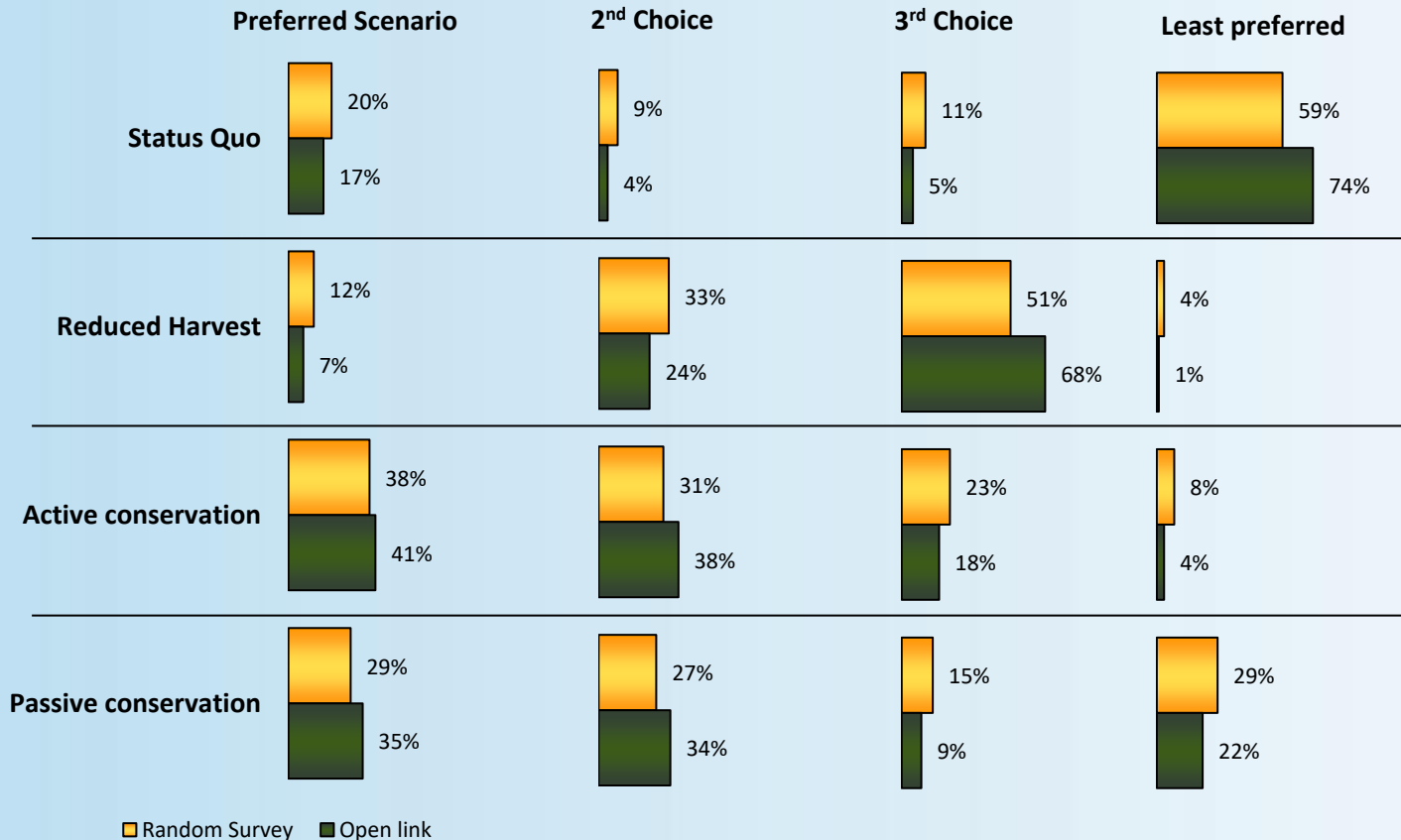
- This level is almost double among the open link respondents. Among North Cowichan residents specifically completing the survey through the open link, 30% had participated previously in comparison to 18% of other (non-North Cowichan) residents.

Base: Total

In Round 1 of public engagement, people were asked about what they valued within the MFR. Feedback gathered identified a number of values that fell under ecological, economic, and social criteria. The technical team used these criteria to develop the four forest management scenarios. These criteria were also given a score for each scenario option.

Q.1) Did you participate in previous engagement on the Municipal Forest Reserve?

➤ Ranking of Scenario Options



- The questionnaire included background information of the engagement process and a summary of the four options being considered (see questionnaire in the Appendix). All participants were also provided with a link to the complete Round 2 Discussion Guide and encourage to review before completing the survey.
- Of the four options being considered, 'active conservation' is preferred in both the random survey and the open link survey.
- 'Passive conservation' ranks a close second.
- The 'status quo' is the least preferred option.

Base: Random Survey (n=215), Open link (n=1,922)

Q.2) Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.

➤ Preferred Scenario Demographics - Random Survey

	Total	Gender		Age	
	Random (215) %	Male (116) %	Female (99) %	18-54 (50) %	55+ (165) %
Status Quo	20	28	14	19	21
Reduced Harvest	12	12	12	10	13
Active Conservation	38	37	39	38	38
Passive Conservation	29	23	35	32	27
Q.2) Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.					

- While both men and women lean toward 'active conservation', male residents tend to show more support than women for the 'status quo' and women more support for 'passive conservation'.
- The findings do not differ significantly by broad age groups.

➤ Preferred Scenario Demographics - Open Link Survey

	Total	Community		Age			
	Open Link (1,922) %	North Cowichan (1,217) %	Other (705) %	<55 (661) %	55-64 (450) %	65-74 (564) %	75+ (202) %
Status Quo	17	21	10	17	18	13	15
Reduced Harvest	7	9	5	6	8	8	7
Active Conservation	41	39	45	40	40	42	47
Passive Conservation	35	32	41	36	34	37	31

Q.2) Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.

- North Cowichan residents completing the survey through the open link are most inclined to support 'active conservation'.
- Opinions are slightly more divided between 'active conservation' and 'passive conservation' among residents of surrounding areas, but they also lean towards 'active conservation'.
- Again, the findings do not differ significantly by broad age groups.
- (Note gender was not asked on the open link survey.)

➤ Reason For Choosing Preferred Scenario **Random Survey**

Random Survey	Total	Scenario			
	<u>Random</u> (215) %	<u>Status Quo</u> (45) %	<u>Reduced Harvest</u> (29*) %	<u>Active conservation</u> (82) %	<u>Passive conservation</u> (59) %
Environmental Benefits	62	30	53	74	73
Miscellaneous environmental benefits/ climate change (biodiversity, less erosion, etc.)	19	1	10	25	28
Need to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations	18	2	11	5	48
Allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits	24	24	34	40	1
Reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests	7	3	17	12	-
Move away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting	6	-	2	11	6
Reduces wild fire risk	7	13	19	6	-
Economic impact	27	42	13	20	33
Economic benefits misc.	12	4	10	7	24
Community economy is dependent on the forestry industry	5	17	2	3	-
Forestry job creation/ security (work in the industry)	7	23	2	6	-
Will diversify economy (i.e. tourism, job sectors)	2	-	-	5	1
Carbon credit revenue will offset forest industry loss	3	1	-	3	7
Helps to keep municipal property tax rate low	3	12	3	-	-
Recreation	9	3	8	9	14
Recreation/ other activities can be accommodated	6	3	-	7	8
Will increase recreational opportunities	4	-	8	2	6
Q.3) Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario? * Caution – small base size cont.					

- Respondent were asked to express in their own words reasons for choosing their preferred option. The responses were coded into like themes.
- The environmental benefits in general of 'active conservation', and specifically that this option allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits, is the key reason for choosing this scenario.

Reason For Choosing Preferred Scenario **Random Survey** cont.

Random Survey	Total	Scenario			
	<u>Random</u> (215) %	<u>Status Quo</u> (45) %	<u>Reduced Harvest</u> (29*) %	<u>Active conservation</u> (82) %	<u>Passive conservation</u> (59) %
Aligns with my beliefs	31	12	20	38	39
It is fine as it is/ well managed	8	40	2	-	-
Matches social/ cultural values of community/ First Nations	7	-	-	10	10
Balanced approach (economic, social, recreational and ecological)	11	-	24	13	12
Highest score/ rank	8	-	2	6	19
Dislike other scenario descriptions (i.e. 'loaded language', carbon credit revenue, etc.)	5	21	7	-	-
No comment	3	4	5	3	1
Q.3) Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario? * Caution: small base size					

➤ Reason For Choosing Preferred Scenario **Open Link**

Open Link Survey	Total	Scenario			
	Open Link (1,922) %	Status Quo (320) %	Reduced Harvest (137) %	Active conservation (790) %	Passive conservation (675) %
Environmental Benefits	67	14	53	79	82
Miscellaneous environmental benefits/ climate change (biodiversity, less erosion, etc.)	33	-	9	42	43
Need to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations	21	-	-	9	49
Allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits	16	6	39	29	1
Reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests	10	3	5	20	2
Move away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting	9	1	6	9	14
Reduces wild fire risk	5	7	9	7	2
Economic impact	30	54	39	27	22
Economic benefits misc.	12	3	13	14	13
Community economy is dependent on the forestry industry	8	35	16	1	<1
Forestry job creation/ security (work in the industry)	5	23	7	2	-
Will diversify economy (i.e. tourism, job sectors)	5	-	2	7	7
Carbon credit revenue will offset forest industry loss	3	-	1	5	4
Helps to keep municipal property tax rate low	3	13	6	<1	-
Recreation	14	13	12	15	14
Recreation/ other activities can be accommodated	11	13	10	11	10
Will increase recreational opportunities	4	1	2	4	4
Q.3) Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario? cont.					

- Similar reasons are provided in the open link survey for choosing 'active conservation'.

➤ Reason For Choosing Preferred Scenario **Open Link cont.**

Open Link Survey	Total	Scenario			
	Open Link (1,922) %	Status Quo (320) %	Reduced Harvest (137) %	Active conservation (790) %	Passive conservation (675) %
Aligns with my beliefs	34	16	19	33	47
It is fine as it is/ well managed	9	54	3	-	-
Matches social/ cultural values of community/ First Nations	9	<1	2	12	12
Balanced approach (economic, social, recreational and ecological)	9	<1	23	15	2
Highest score/ rank	8	-	-	5	18
Dislike other scenario descriptions (i.e. 'loaded language', carbon credit revenue, etc.)	6	26	15	1	<1
No comment	1	2	3	1	1
Q.3) Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?					

➤ Improvements/Adjustments To Preferred Scenario **Random Survey**

Random Survey	Total	Scenario			
	<u>Random</u> (215)	<u>Status Quo</u> (45) %	<u>Reduced Harvest</u> (29*) %	<u>Active conservation</u> (82) %	<u>Passive conservation</u> (59) %
Conservation management (i.e., invasive species, wildfires, use of deadfall trees)	10	9	17	6	14
Recreation (i.e. more options, usage limits, maintenance)	5	2	6	2	9
Municipal consultation issues (i.e. scenario ratings, missing information)	4	8	9	2	2
Economic projection (i.e., recreation/ tourism value, carbon credits)	3	4	4	2	3
Scenarios should be flexible/ adjust to changing conditions	1	4	-	1	-
First Nations involvement (i.e., cultural practices, harvesting)	2	-	-	3	4
Forestry industry suggestions/ support	6	21	6	-	1
Education (i.e., ecotourism, importance of forests)	1	-	2	2	-
Ensure oversight/ reporting	2	2	-	2	1
More consultation with experts	2	1	2	4	-
Encourage local processing/ use of harvested wood	1	-	-	3	1
No improvements/ adjustments	77	65	73	84	76

Q.4) Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

* Caution: small base size

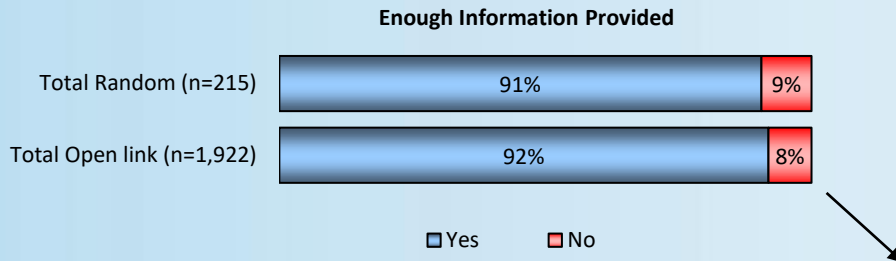
- When asked what improvements or adjustments they would suggest for their preferred scenario, only 16% of those choosing 'active conservation' (24% of those choosing 'passive conservation') had any suggestions.
- The most common suggestions for the top two scenarios related to conservation management issues.

➤ Improvements/Adjustments To Preferred Scenario **Open Link**

Open Link Survey	Total	Scenario			
	Open Link (1,922) %	Status Quo (320) %	Reduced Harvest (137) %	Active conservation (790) %	Passive conservation (675) %
Conservation management (i.e., invasive species, wildfires, use of deadfall trees)	12	7	11	13	14
Recreation (i.e. more options, usage limits, maintenance)	6	3	7	6	8
Municipal consultation issues (i.e. scenario ratings, missing information)	6	8	9	5	5
Economic projection (i.e., recreation/ tourism value, carbon credits)	4	3	5	5	3
Scenarios should be flexible/ adjust to changing conditions	4	3	10	4	2
First Nations involvement (i.e., cultural practices, harvesting)	3	1	1	5	3
Forestry industry suggestions/ support	3	11	4	1	<1
Education (i.e., ecotourism, importance of forests)	3	2	2	4	2
Ensure oversight/ reporting	2	3	1	3	2
More consultation with experts	2	3	5	2	1
Encourage local processing/ use of harvested wood	1	3	2	1	<1
No improvements/ adjustments	68	68	62	67	70
Q.4) Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?					

- Those completing the survey through the open link tended to have more suggestions (perhaps because they have been involved in the engagement more), but suggestions related to conservation management is again the most common theme.

➤ Enough Information Provided



Base: Total

Q.5a) Do you feel you had enough information to answer the questions in this survey?

Base: Total have questions	Total	
	Random (22*) %	Open Link (155) %
Provide scenario analysis details (i.e., definitions, prior harvest area yields/ sales, full data)	24	23
Misc. issues with survey/ consultation process (i.e., why were these options chosen, difficult to complete, lack of maps, etc.)	23	22
How were economic projections calculated/ distrust numbers provided	25	21
Carbon credit explanation (i.e. how do they work, value)	22	14
Which groups/ organizations were involved in process/ sources of information	4	6
Active harvesting details (i.e., companies, methods)	5	5
Recreation details	4	5
First Nations involvement details	-	5
Details regarding current forestry operations	3	3
No questions stated	30	19
Q.5b) If not, what questions do you have?		
* Caution: small base size		

- Only about one-in-ten felt they needed more information to answer the questions in the survey.
- The most common requests were for information about economic projections (how calculated), explanations of carbon credits, and various details about each scenario.



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Demographics

➤ Demographic Profile

	<u>Random</u> (215) %	<u>Open Link</u> (1,922) %
Gender		
Male	48	-
Female	52	-
Age		
<18	-	<1
18 to 34	10	8
35 to 44	15	13
45 to 54	21	13
55 to 64	20	23
65 to 74	21	29
75 years or better	14	11
Prefer not to say	-	2
Area of residence		
North Cowichan	100	63
Duncan	-	7
Elsewhere within the Cowichan Valley Regional District	-	16
Elsewhere on Vancouver Island	-	11
Other	-	3

- The random sample was weighted by gender and age groupings to reflect the population.
- Note that 37% of those completing the survey through the open link are from outside the Municipality of North Cowichan.



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Appendix

Questionnaire

North Cowichan Municipal Forest Reserve Survey

North Cowichan is exploring options for the management of the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) and is asking the public to share their preference on a forest management scenario, from four options. This survey will gather feedback on those options.

A brief introduction to the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR)

The Municipality of North Cowichan is one of the few communities in North America that both owns and manages forest lands for the benefit of residents. Since 1946, the MFR has been managed as a working forest. The Municipal Forest Reserve consists of six major areas and a series of additional parcels. The six major areas are Mount Prevost, Mount Sicker, Mount Tzouhalem, Stoney Hill, Mount Richards, and Maple Mountain. In addition to being a working forest, there are public hiking and mountain biking trails on Maple Mountain and Mount Tzouhalem. There are also unsanctioned trails on Mount Prevost, Mount Sicker and Mount Richards.

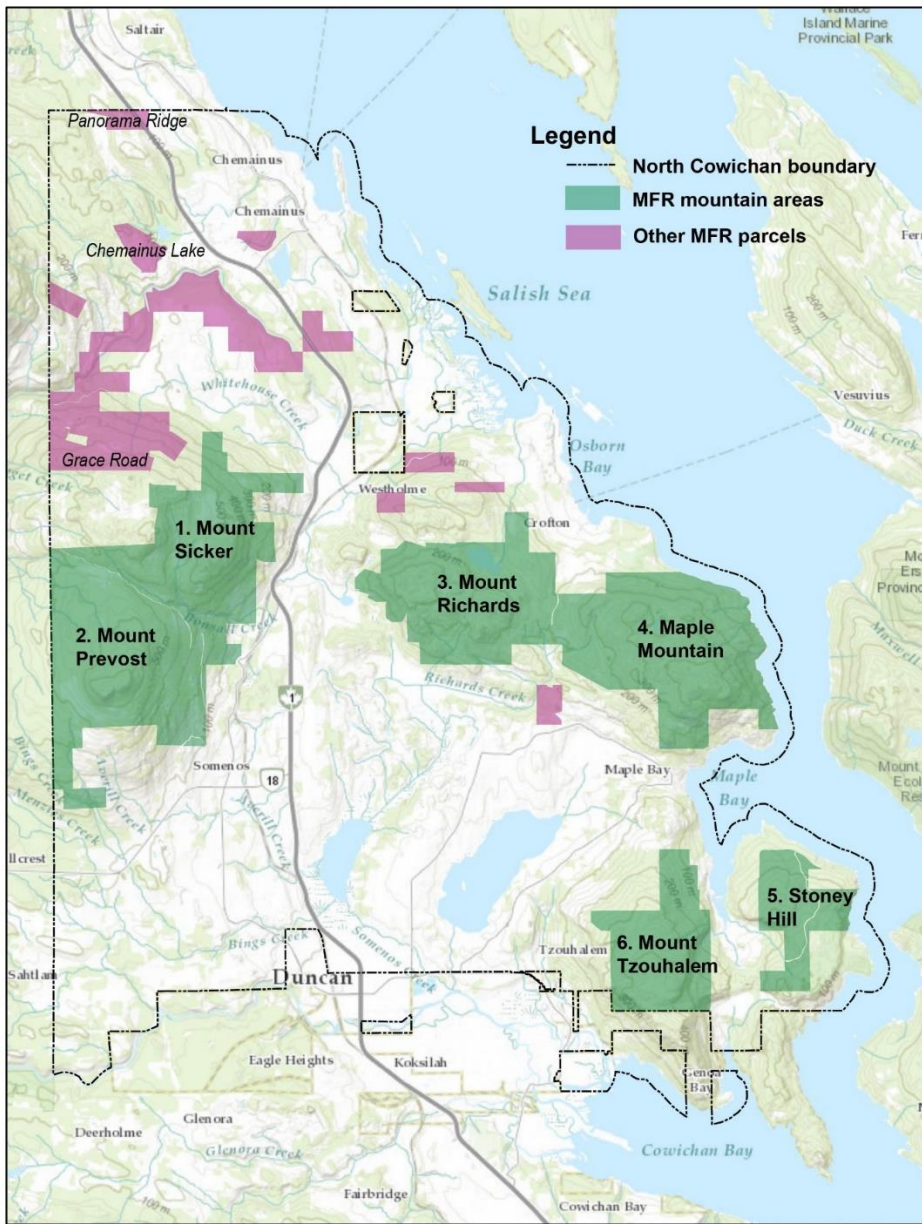
In response to public interest in harvesting activities and requests for a review of forest management, Council paused harvesting within the Municipal Forest Reserve in 2019 and directed two initiatives: 1) undertaking public engagement, both deep and broad, on the future management of the Municipal Forest Reserve and 2) a technical review of forest management options and scenarios. The UBC Partnership Group (a consortium of forestry academics who have expertise in various technical aspects of forestry and forest management) was contracted for the technical review and LEES+Associates was contracted to lead the public engagement process.

So far, there has been one round of public engagement. A summary of what the public said was provided to Council and was considered in the technical review and development of the four forest management scenario options. The technical review and scenario options were completed by the UBC Partnership Group and presented to Council in October 2022. **Now, there is an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the four scenario options.**

Feedback heard during this round of public engagement will be presented to Council in early 2023 as part of a 'what we heard' report. The UBC Group will use the feedback to adjust the potential forest management scenarios (if necessary) and present these to Council for a decision. A detailed forest management plan will then need to be developed to support the preferred scenario.

A discussion guide has been developed to accompany this survey. It's strongly suggested that you read through the discussion guide and use it as a resource while taking the survey. The full discussion guide can be found <https://www.connectnorthcowichan.ca/27946/widgets/113725/documents/93444>

North Cowichan Municipal Forest Reserve Survey



In Round 1 of public engagement, people were asked about what they valued within the MFR. Feedback gathered identified a number of values that fell under ecological, economic, and social criteria. The technical team used these criteria to develop the four forest management scenarios. These criteria were also given a score for each scenario option.

1. Did you participate in previous engagement on the Municipal Forest Reserve?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 98. Not sure

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The four scenario options that have been created range from the “status quo” of a working forest with a focus on harvesting to a conservation focus with minimal management or human intervention. The UBC team, in their technical review and development of the scenarios, has given each scenario a score for “ecological”, “economic”, and “social”. Each of the scenario options is described below with side-by-side comparisons.

Scenario Option Evaluation

The following summarizes the average scores for each criteria category for each scenario option, as well as the average annual timber harvest and total revenue over the next 30 years.

1 Status Quo

This scenario represents a continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.

Average annual harvest: 43.7 ha/year
Total estimated revenue over 30 years: \$31.3million



2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting in this scenario is reduced to ~40% of the historical harvesting rate (Scenario 1).

Average annual harvest: 20.3 ha/year
Total estimated revenue over 30 years: \$30.7million



3 Active Conservation

This scenario focuses on targeted harvesting with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.

Average annual harvest: 3.9 ha/year
Total estimated revenue over 30 years: \$35.1million



4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.

Average annual harvest: 0 ha/year
Total estimated revenue over 30 years: \$39.6million



2. Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.

	#1 (Preferred Scenario)	#2	#3	#4 (Least Preferred)
Status Quo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced Harvest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Passive conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

North Cowichan Municipal Forest Reserve Survey

3. Why did you choose [# 1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?

4. Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

5a. Do you feel you had enough information to answer the questions in this survey?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No

5b. If not, what questions do you have?

About You:

We have just a few more questions to help us get a sense of who we are reaching with this survey.
Please note that any personal data collected will not be shared.

Personal information is collected by North Cowichan and its consultant LEES+Associates under the authority of s. 26 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of administering the municipal forest reserve public engagement plan. Please direct any questions about this to North Cowichan's Privacy Officer, 250-746-3116, 7030 Trans-Canada Highway, Duncan, BC, V9L 6A1.

Where do you live?

- ☐ 1. North Cowichan
- ☐ 2. Duncan
- ☐ 3. Elsewhere within the Cowichan Valley Regional District
- ☐ 4. Elsewhere on Vancouver Island
- ☐ 96. Other _____

What are the first three digits of your postal code? _____

What is your age group?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 0. Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> 5. 55 to 64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 1. 18 to 24 | <input type="radio"/> 6. 65 to 74 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 2. 25 to 34 | <input type="radio"/> 7. 75 years or better |
| <input type="radio"/> 3. 35 to 44 | <input type="radio"/> 99. Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> 4. 45 to 54 | |

APPENDIX C: FULL WORKSHOP RESULTS

In-Person Workshop Comments

November 30th 2022

Scenario 1 – Status Quo

1. Is the Status Quo scenario reasonable?
 - Would areas be harvested if environmentally sensitive areas?
 - Would harvesting realistically occur in visual quality areas?
 - Concern is that the status quo case is not do-able and therefore not really representative as a base case
- East maple mountain and riparian areas
 - Are excluded from status quo case harvesting (protected)
 - Are maple mountain and riparian areas therefore excluded from CO₂ credit calculations?
 - Need to ensure scenarios are properly comparable and that carbon credits are additive.
- What are the past harvesting practices and historical context that have led the 16,500-13,500 harvest quote?
 - Graphically show:
 - Historical (20 year) harvested ha
 - Historical cost/revenue
 - Historic yield m³/ha
 - Plot compared to forecast from model
 - Concern being that the past harvest is not sustainable, therefore not a ...
- How does the age for each special area/ block compare to field observations?
- In the tree age spatial mapping provided in the December 2021 workshop – the current age (year 0) distribution appears much older than year 0 in the current model.
- Many areas appear older which would have a higher timber values and higher CO₂ retention capacity
2. 30 years is a very short period or time in the grand scheme. Revenue, sure, but then what? Think of generations to come.
3. Recreation, especially mtn biking, is a potential source of revenue to offset loss of timber revenue. There are many creative possible revenue sources. We should NOT be cutting our forests for short-term monetary gain
4. Can't we be more creative and think of other ways to generate revenue from our forests?
 - Tourism
 - Non-timber harvests (salal, etc)
5. What is the value of fibre per cubic metre at December 1, 2022? And what is the value per cubic meter upon which this scenario was founded?
6. Current log value is \$150 m³ after costs 110m³
7. In the 5 years before logging was stopped, the average income to the municipal coffers was \$135,000 - \$85,000 of which was cell tower
8. Gross vs. net annual – economic score larger 1+2 but 4.5\$ M difference favouring 3+4
9. Ecological suicide for our MFR!

10. The main arguments for 1 or 2 are revenue and jobs. If we can provide both revenue and jobs using scenarios 3 or 4 why wouldn't we?
11. What about a trial period? Scenario 1 for half the MFR, scenario 3 for half the MFR. Reassess after 3 years. Then we will know if the carbon credit scenarios work or not.
12. Net estimated revenue is \$1,000,000 per year. Net profit/income is only 10% of this. $\$100,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$3,000,000$
13. Options 1 and 2 terrify me and seem ludicrous with the opportunity that option 3+4 provide, which are win-win scenarios
14. Clearcutting, if continued, will come over the mountain ridges and be usual scars all over our beautiful valley
15. The IPCC is predicting an increase in CO₂ in our atmosphere – why shouldn't we choose to adopt the scenarios that we believe most beneficial in mitigating this predicament
16. Inappropriate for a North Cowichan councillor to publicly express doubt and "lack of honesty" about info being presented to public at this stage
17. Status quo embeds the uninformed thinking that has brought the planet to the edge of extinction. This should not even be an option
18. Short-term income at the cost of long-term destruction is not worth it
19. What is the value of a cubic meter of fir in November 2022?
20. This has worked well up to now and suits my use of the MFR. This is my preferred choice, although I would like to see special areas reserved
21. If the working forest began in 1946, what grade would the UBC partnership give how we are doing? Of the working forest was established in 1946 it was with a long-term vision. Can we still think like this now? Will we educate?
22. We need to preserve our forest not cut them down. Logging creates fear jobs and is so harmful.
23. This scenario is neglectful to the extreme considering climate change and potential for extinction
24. There is more to revenue than timber value. Non-timber forest products for example. Preserving the forest maintains options for future alternatives
25. What is the true financial benefit to NC historically from logging these forests?
26. Overall, what values were placed on ecological compared to more of a business-as-usual model? 2 concepts of working forest 1. The saw 2. The beauty etc. of a standing forest (air, water, soil, etc.)
27. What has been the true loss of net revenue since the 2019 moratorium and the cost of this review?
28. There has not been enough info about the impact of fixed forestry costs and the loss revenue on taxes
29. What is the employment impact on the local economy (direct jobs created)?
30. We can't afford to continue to log. Too high of costs across the board. Apparently logging creates 14 jobs
31. Our young people in the community need employment, selling carbon credits does not provide this.
32. Please confirm CVRD people do not have a say in this as they do not pay taxes on land base
33. Why do you model carbon at 5% growth but logs at only 2% offer grossly discounted current log volumes
34. Are the market values being updated to provide realistic scenario economics?

35. Vote for scenario 1 or 2
36. People consider a tree by-law for private property
37. Will this impact employment if NC shuts down harvesting. Why is this not even mentioned?
38. 100% pro logging continue on with world class logging practices again
39. Maybe your logging costs are much lower than the municipality's prices?
40. Need to highlight fact that these will start to have logged areas come into broad view
41. I felt the study was very slanted to green credits
42. I strongly support the excellent work the MNC forestry department has done. I support the status quo scenario
43. We need to think long term revenue not short term. For our children and grandchildren
44. \$90/m³ current average price for logs is ludicrously low. I recently logged mt property (similar stands to NC) and received over double this amount

Scenario 2 – Reduced Harvesting

1. Do the logs from local timber harvesting stay in the local market?
2. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Have courage. Hard is not necessarily bad. Someone will always object that the change will have negative results! (#child labour #leaded gas)
3. Q: How much of the MNC MFR 5000ha is viable for harvesting. (How much is reduced due to non-reproductive, riparian reserves, ecological reserve, recreation reserve, etc)?
4. Q: Will MNC Council make a decision on Scenario 1-4 prior to the Gov-Gov First Nation talks/deals been decided?
5. Why isn't the endangered douglas fir area (CDF) not mentioned?
6. No logging commercially!
7. Scenario 2 I prefer scenario 1 but could comprise on this one. Is a 40% reduction required? Is there room for scenario 1.5 with a 25-30% reduction in harvesting?
8. No commercial logging – zero
9. Who will buy the carbon credits – is the scale guaranteed?
10. This option seems like a lose lose. The loggers don't like it because it's dangerous and it is not much better for the ecosystem than conventional logging.
11. This is my second favourite option behind #3. It involves a modest number of trees harvested and is preferable to not cutting any.
12. Based on the values & best practices for forest management, would the reduced harvest scenario not better reflect a true base case (status quo)?

Scenario 3 – Active Conservation

1. Do not want selective logging to involve heli logging due to noise issues
2. Thank you for the incredible work to prepare this presentation. The display confirmed the decision I had formed. #3 works best in my opinion.
3. When might there be bylaws to protect trees. I.e. Heritage trees
4. I do not believe the market values are realistic.
5. #3 is best
6. Vote for #3
7. Comparing all scenarios over the long term is fair and economic benefit is best with conservation. Why are economic scores biased and in favour of logging when conservation has so many more benefits?
8. Option #3 makes most long-term sense.
9. North Cowichan has declared a climate emergency, summer drought has been worse each year, should we be referring to a natural forest that has been left to rejuvenate, as a working forest?
10. Key issue: long term vision for retaining biodiversity & standing trees for visual impact & reforestation.
11. I am interested in the scenario that best respect water conservation and has the least impact on the forest floor. Perhaps integrate forest logging history into the harvesting of trees.
12. Option #3 = * most sense. Local loggers for thinning! Nurse log
13. What scenario would you as forestry pro's recommend – considering what is best to battle climate change?
14. My preferred scenario! Because it will be the fastest method to revert the forest to old growth, with all the ensuing biodiversity characteristics
15. This is my second choice mainly because it could be a 'slippery slope' – ie. Too easy to make decisions to cut timber, more than needed
16. What is the intended duration of this choice of scenarios? 5 years? 10? 15? 20? 25? 50?
17. I support the option that best serves the ecosystem and the natural world. I think that that is active conservation, but I am confused as to why passive conservation rates higher on a number of points
18. I support #3 active conservation scenarios because it puts the forest first – and averages well also on the social /economic "score" I want to know how the trees would be cut to protect the ecosystem diversity. Thank you for this opportunity!
19. I like a "right to nature" approach where neither FN's nor Municipality of N.C. "owns" the land – both "manage it" (either 3 or 4)
20. I don't trust that North Cowichan will not overlog areas with this scenario as they have logged on Mt Tzouhalem and Maple Mt where supposedly they were just cleaning up blow down from 2019
21. Given the fact that the "active" conservation requires a modest cost (=investment) that will likely diminish over time as nature takes over, and that 30 years is a very short time in the grand scheme of things, make the investment! #our children's, children's, children
22. Option 3 – is a no-brainer for me. This community-owned forest is such a rarity and the chance to pilot/model a future – forward approach to conservation + climate change is a gift!

23. I prefer this option over passive conservation because it gives us a change to be at the forefront of more viable forests. I also like that it preserves recreation options and believe it will be more beneficial to wildlife than option 4
24. Q's What are the plans for the backsides of our mountains, heavily logged now? Replanting mono? What is the rationale to show the better viewscape sites in the reality check of the public advertising of this?
25. COP15 (Nature CIP on biodiversity) is starting in a week in Montreal – lets show the world where North Cowichan stands on biodiversity protection and choose option 4 or 4
26. #3 = best
27. Expand/revise scenario 3 to put more emphasis on fuel reduction treatments & commercial thinning.

Scenario 4 – Passive Conservation

1. Need more details of practical calculations on CO₂ pricing & administration fees to assess
2. All of this was discussed in a paper by Jared Smith in 2010 @UVic entitled “The agricultural carrying capacity of Vancouver Island”
3. No analysis of air quality + importance of trees being kept. No soil preservation analysis. Alistair MacGregor has introduced a bill to address this.
4. ✓
5. Flora + fauna uniqueness + preservation
6. More focus, concern, information on soil preservation. Weak soils = weak forest, more biodiversity = more fungi
7. Need to make available if possible recreational revenue study from Squamish/ Whistler.
8. What would this look like around recreation areas? Conservation on trail areas etc
9. Recent gov. report on CBC, 50,000 species in BC. 20% are on endangered list. How many are in MFR? I believe maybe 41 are
10. I say no to monocultural reforestation in option 4; it’s not an ecosystem.
11. No to forest mono-crop silviculture – “Green-up” = dead zone!
12. Against monocultural reforestation. I don’t see, factored in here, the medical savings that accrue because of the physical + mental health benefits of natural ecosystems
13. Scenario #4 1. In the period Sept 1 to Dec 1 /2022 what carbon credits have been sold & what price per co meter achieved? 2. What price would the MFR achieve as of Dec 1/2022?
14. 1. Had the MFR cut its regular allotment during the pause 2019-2022 that would have been 48,000 cubic meters of fiber. Would a fair estimate of the last revenue be \$5,000,000?
15. I feel 60% for #4 passive conservation and 40% for #3. I feel that #3 could be manipulated to result in more cuts than is necessary
16. I would prefer scenario 4 but with a few parts of 3 including removal of invasive species, thinning of small amounts of planted forest where trees are too close for health and clearing of underbrush + trees that are a fire hazard near houses.
17. 1. Inclusion of the AAC in all of the scenarios. 2. Include additional cost for the passive – carbon credit for increased management of the lands ie. More services, better roads 3. During the last 2 years further development through MFR of new trails! Why no control
18. The MFR 1982 – 2019. What was wrong in its operation under acceptable forest management standards?
19. 1. How many tons of carbon credit would we get from the MFR 5000 ha of forest per year?
20. Net estimated revenue is \$39,600,000 over 30 years. If \$125,000 to set up program of carbon credits, and \$20,000/ year to run it, then this is the best economic scenario $39,600,000 - 125,000 - (30 \times 20,000 = 600,000) = \text{over } 37,000,000$
21. Why is passive conservation rated higher for water services and visual qualities than active conservation? How does active conservation harm water or visual qualities?
22. How is the tonnage of CO₂ sequestered calculated in the model? There is no transparency to describe a very complex calculation. Think of how an auditor would describe and approve those offsets.
23. Has North Cowichan been approached to purchase carbon credits by anyone?
24. Scenario 4. I think this is impractical and turns a vast area into a defacto park. Also I am concerned that recreation access would have to be cultivated to make this scenario work.

25. With this option or #3 both, a “Rights to Nature” approach would be best. Give the forest back to itself. Dissolve ideas of property and ownership. The very concept of owning a tree or a frog or an ant is very strange. N.C. + FN’s should co-manage making every decision through the lens of what is best for the forest itself.
26. I am with no harvesting, the heavy recreational use must be regulated, esp. with tree thefts. Human impact is big. Also fire danger/dangerous trees need management. Parks prove this
27. Values of carbon credits grossly overestimated. What are the costs and length of agreement?
28. Let’s give it to First Nations to manage as they see fit!

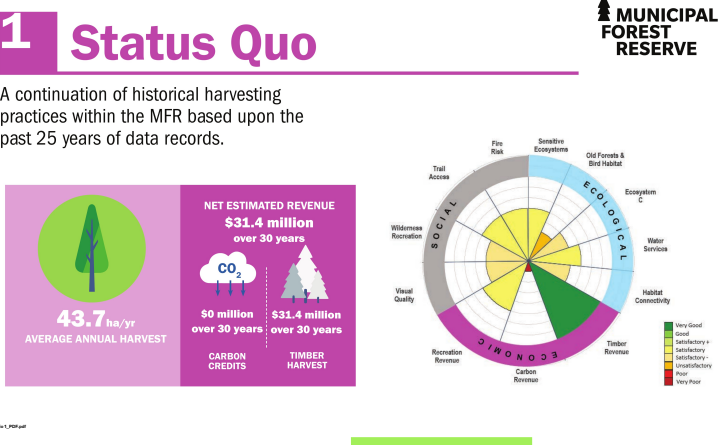
Exploring the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve

Workshop 1 - Group A

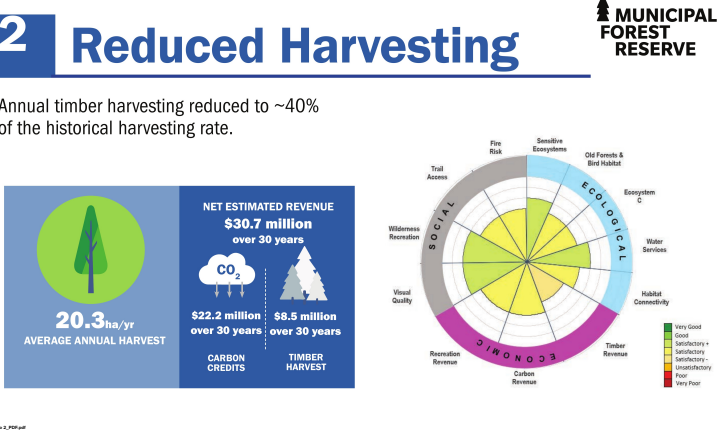
6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 6th

Questions and comments about **Scenario 1 - Status Quo:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

past management hasn't been good, mostly out of sight, more flooding ✓	fragmentation due to logging roads ✓	creating wind tunnels ✓	erosion/ ditches ✓	overall damage from logging roads ✓
loss of habitat, owls to chickadees ✓	might be considered ✓	lost over 60% of wildlife- insect down by 30%+ + birds down by 30%+ ✓	we should not be logging those mountains ✓	5m3 a tree + roughly 3500 trees harvested yearly- about 1/ 2000 per year ✓
rather keep it and sell the carbon credits in other places and ship them to the US/ cancel out the shipping + fuel, instead of using the lumber locally ✓	carbon credits gets to be sold to whoever we want- local companies including the municipal government ✓	12MH jobs for logging 2 outside the North Cowichan ✓	biodiversity issue is one of the main subjects matters ✓	Backsides are all mono culture tree plantations ✓
not only lumber makes homes, 3D printing is being used to build small homes already.	one in 5 species in Canada are on some level of risk	Lots of loss of biodiversity over the past decades	Re jobs - 10 - 12 man hours year. Including forester and staff. These 2 jobs stay. 2 logging companies we hired are from Campbell River. Jobs occurring and will be on going. Once/ about remove invasive species. Jobs to be created through Active thinning, fire safe, restoration/ old logging roads, etc.	

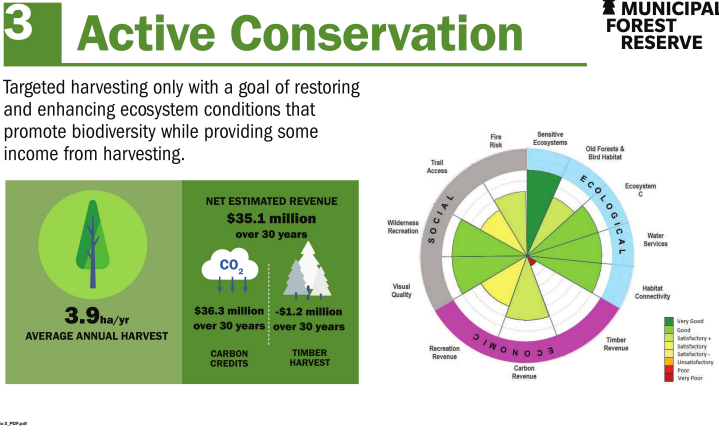


Questions and comments about **Scenario 2 - Reduced Harvesting:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

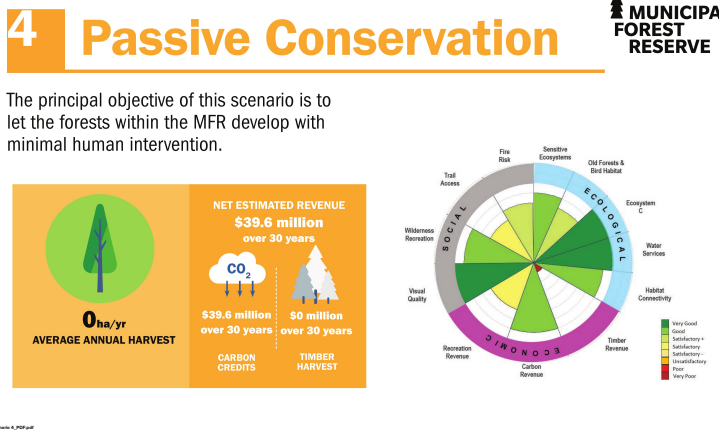


Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

highest ecological score with sc. 4. ✓	rare place- more standing in carbon credits- biodiversity for the habitat ✓	Coastal Douglas fir is important ✓	struggle for infrastructure to bring things in and out ✓	could be a need for ecosystem restoration to take place- minimum amount of logging- ✓
restore / maintain ecosystem	First Nations views should be paramount in this discussion	forest is full of food+ and medicine + is irreplaceable ✓	important for health and wellbeing ✓	most important vitality that comes with the
thinning for ecosystem improvements	as long as it doesn't make money, leave trees in the forest as much as possible	ecotourism should also be added, not just the carbon credits.	how would that affect people employed in the industry	how much of money management will be required?
gives a lot of flexibility moving forward in the future	153 species of risk in our mature Coastal Douglas- fir forests- Valley side	will there be a plan for the back side? or are they going to mono culture that	restoration + what can we do to make the forests heal.	



Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?



Other questions and comments:

how long are these contracts for? how long are we locked in generally?

a lot of people see carbon credit as a way to keep book keeping trick

We do have broom removal events, and inventions like the Broom Puller have been used.

Why would we cut down so many trees each year to net \$135K, when we are able to offset those losses with carbon credits, and all the benefits to ecological, social, economical, systems with them left standing.

Almost every tree in the Cowichan Valley is second growth. The same for MFR. When a tree is harvested all the carbon that tree has taken in is locked into the wood. If that wood is used to build a home or Apartment that carbon is locked into the wood forever. When new growth takes place. That growth actually captures carbon at a higher rate than old or medium growth.

MFR has a reserve that is almost depleted- do we know what will happen, will this release taxes?

thinning- ecological reasons vs. revenue

do we know what do we have to give up in order to say that this land is used for that? A third party that values the carbon credits- has been used a lot in the states

how much oversight will Federal/ provincial will have to our forest

we want to create jobs here

not harvest but not carbon credit? go to tourism or smthn else.

carbon credits + is there concern of how much are we gonna make from carbon credit?

MT: company called New forest specialized in carbon credit

Carbon sinks bring on carbon credits. Compulsory for air quality.

Exploring the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve

Workshop 1 - Group B

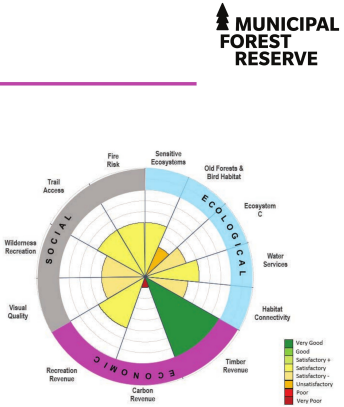
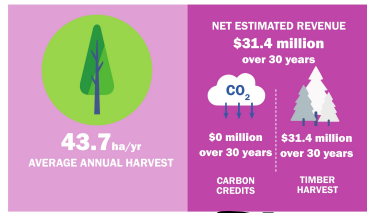
6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 6th

Questions and comments about **Scenario 1 - Status Quo:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

No point harvesting if we can make money in other ways and keep the forest	More strongly against 1 than pro any of the others	Doesn't stand up well against 3 or 4	Would be furious with this scenario due to amount of logging in a unique area	More logging = higher fire hazard
Irresponsible				

1 Status Quo

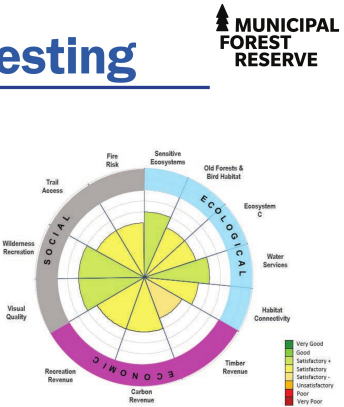
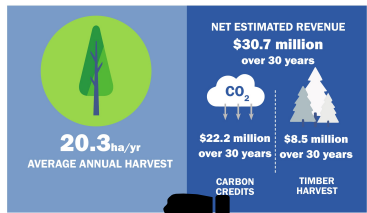
A continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.



Questions and comments about **Scenario 2 - Reduced Harvesting:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting reduced to ~40% of the historical harvesting rate.



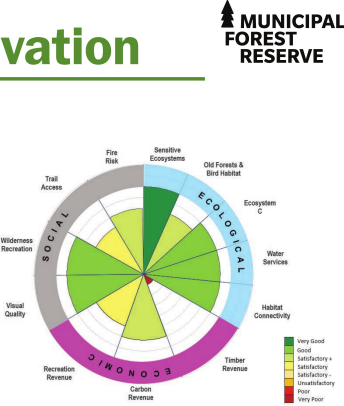
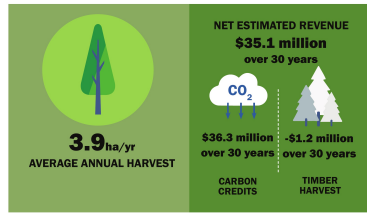
Doesn't stand up well against 3 or 4	More logging = higher fire hazard	Irresponsible		

Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

Value the mountains within the community and the broader global context. Would like active conservation.	Like the concept of helping species which are more endangered.	Would like this scenario, but skeptical that outcome will result in being beneficial.	Concerned that the influence of logging industry may cause the plan to waiver over time.	Would like a long term plan
Combination of Active and Passive Conservation could be best	Would be supportive of this plan if part of forest used as teaching forest for young foresters, such as in Wildwood forest.	Is there a maximum size for cutblocks?		

3 Active Conservation

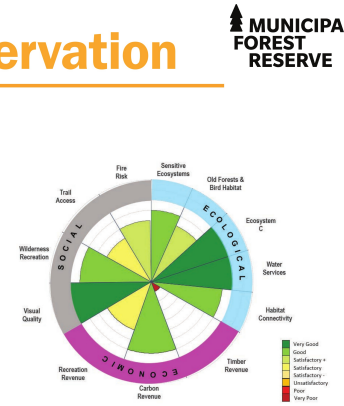
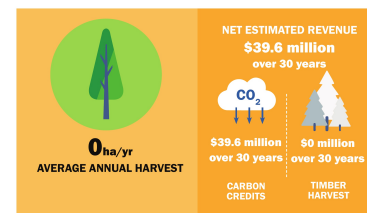
Targeted harvesting only with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.



Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.



Concerns that active conservation will not be protective and will leave corridors. Therefore, passive is preferable.	Hope that this scenario will help address issues with water security.	Seems like a good choice as it is highest scoring but unsure how carbon credits generate income.	Combination of Active and Passive Conservation could be best	Best option if no part of the forest can be used as a teaching forest for young foresters
Logging is bad for the broader watershed and water quality. Impact on water should be part of scoring.	Need more assurance about carbon credits. Are there case studies of successful cc projects?	Less fire hazard with older forest due to water stored in fallen logs		

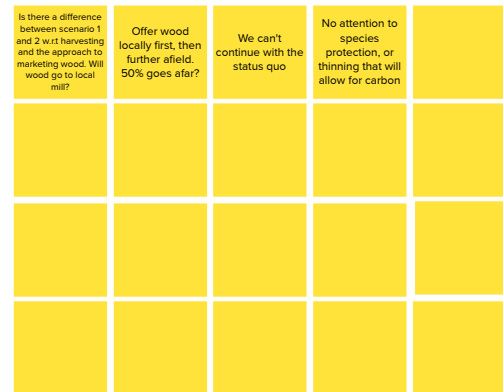
Other Questions and Comments:

Have economic uses aside from forestry been considered?	How will carbon credits generate income for MNC? Is it guaranteed MNC could sell them?	Feel that 4 scenarios is not representative, really there are only 2 options - conservation and logging
What is meant by sensitive ecosystems?	Has there been a long term study on the watershed?	Are the economic considerations only money for MNC or does it include wider employment opportunities for the community?
Will the outcome of conversations with MNC council and Quw'utsun FN be made public?	Broader community would like to know the FN input before making final decision - important to not work completely separately	

Workshop 1 - Group C

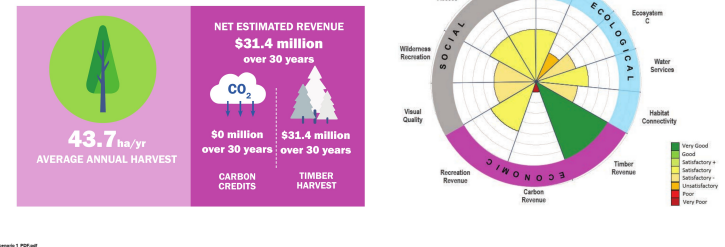
6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 6th

Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?



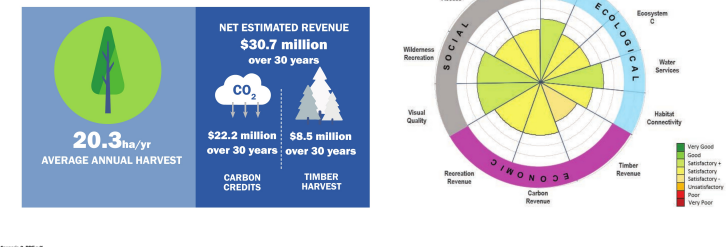
1 Status Quo

A continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.



2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting reduced to ~40% of the historical harvesting rate.



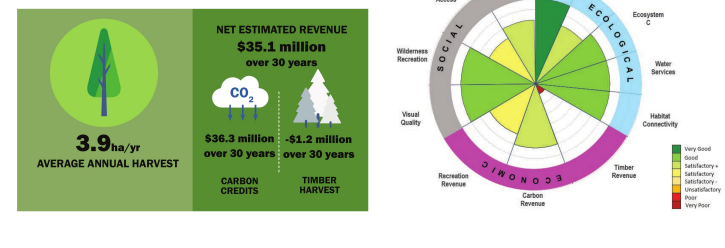
Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**

Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?



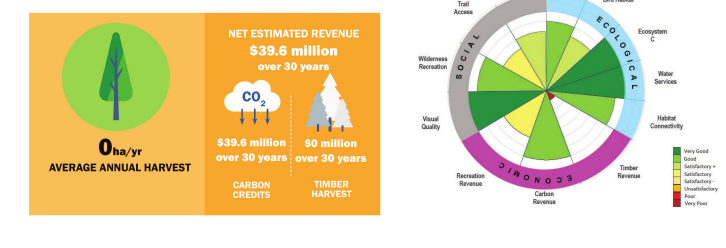
3 Active Conservation

Targeted harvesting only with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.



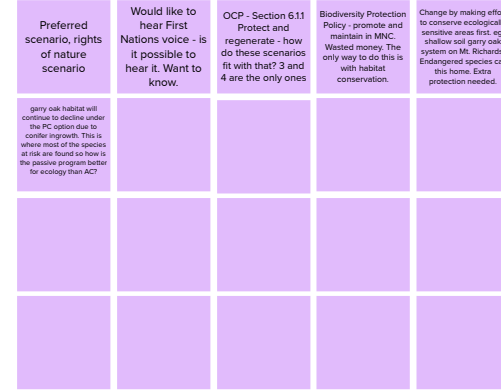
4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.



Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation:**

Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?



Other questions and Comments:

About planning and policy in general, the current process will result in some model being adopted. But since this is a political process, there is no commitment to stick with the adopted model forever. When would it be likely to be reconsidered? How do these 4 scenarios compare with respect to the limitations they place on the scope of options 20-30 years from now?

Is the highest and best use of the MFR a tree plantation? 30 percent of the forest has been converted to plantation since 1987. Why is logging the rarest forest in Canada considered a balanced approach to land management?

Concern:
Secret negotiations with govt to govt (FN)

regarding all scenario's; how is this review engaging the youth in future decisions?

Carbon Credits -
are we using the
system yet and
how does this fit
into circular
economy

Logging actively precludes other options

Mountain biking
will preclude
the industry of
logging in the
future

Concerns about the costs of logging and how much that costs us (Nov 15 even of last year - erosion and species loss,

Rights of Nature approach

Have any maps of existing clearcut areas been published for this process? People should have a clear snapshot of the current conditions in the MNR. Eg how much of the land base forest is currently under 30 years old?

lets look at both costs of course! We have one year of forestry reserve funds left if we did 3 or 4, and we wait for the carbon credits to be worth anything for the muni (20/30 plus years), who pays for the 1 million lost in revenue annually that currently sustains the maintenance of the forest ?

Work needs to involve the OCP

Biodiversity
Protection Policy -
promote and maintain
in MNC. Wasted
money. The only way
to do this is with
habitat conservation.

credits to ourselves i.e. NC buying our own through our CAEP Plan? What about using MFR as an "instance" of the Mozaic Big Coast Carbon Credit Program and in either of the above reducing up front Carbon Credit costs? Recent UBC Future Forests talk was really eye opening.

... and where
we will be
logging next?

Is the highest and best use of the MFR a tree plantation? 30 percent of the forest has been converted to plantation since 1987. Why is logging the rarest forest in Canada considered a balanced approach to land management?

Active Conservation allows us to hunt deer, rabbits and other invasives, since we are now the apex species and not wolves, cougars etc. They will kill our forest diversity if we let them.

OCP - Section 6.1.1
Protect and regenerate - how do these scenarios fit with that? 3 and 4 are the only ones that seem to work

Where are the
FNs are why
are they not
involved in the
process?

30 yr financial?
Will there also be
a 5 yr or 10 yr?
(for evaluating
scenarios)

It seems a great opportunity to work together with Indigenous elders who have a far longer view and we are on their unceded territory. They know forests of this area. I favour at least Active or passive conservation. On the wheel where does spiritual fit in? The six sacred mountains are part of this land. I would be concerned about further colonizer behaviour and make re-naturalising a priority.

Aren't leakage and additionality more about large companies like Mozaic that cover huge land packages?

Exploring the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve

Workshop 2 - Group A

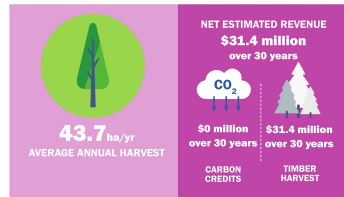
6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 12th

Questions and comments about **Scenario 1 - Status Quo:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

doesn't include all costs, legacy costs; replanting is not working well	I have heard that this might impact on a loss of a way of life (jobs), would like to know more about that loss, maybe there could be a win win, learn new skills and offer different jobs			

1 Status Quo

A continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.



Option 1 Does not take into account some of the legacy costs. Historically the replants of 10 years ago the trees are 2 feet tall in plastic containers. This is all going to have to be fixed

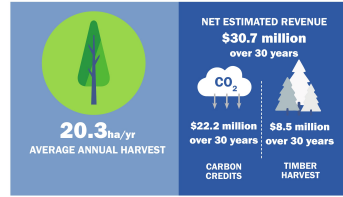
MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

Tourism revenue surpasses harvesting trees. Logging should not be an option when there are better options for revenue. Against 1 & 2 for this reason

Any scenario that doesn't have water conservation as a priority should not be considered such as 1 & 2.

2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting reduced to ~40% the historical harvesting rate.



MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

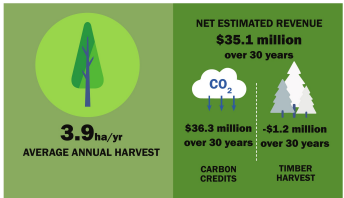
Questions and comments about **Scenario 2 - Reduced Harvesting:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

in favour	Is my preference short term revenue should not be the focus	like taking is focused action to return back to natural, which may need some selective harvesting. It is a bonus that we get some revenue for carbon credits.	lean towards this, needs to be managed properly	want to have a focus on water and forest benefits
This option needs to be monitored. No old growth left and this could help	Hope this would also mean removal of invasive species,	This would be contributing to international goals and Canadas goals	In order for nature to take its course you require fires unlikely in the MFR, so this option works better if course I do not see that happening	First choice, (concern that Carbon credits might be elusive or fictional)
My Choice is 3. Public will need monitoring and tracking of changes over time, date capture, research. There is no old growth left.	Drought flood and fire, needs to be addressed. Over the last season in years, maybe decades. Scary and affects my mental health. This would be my choice to address mental, emotional and physical health of our community	A need to Return the forest in a focused way. A bonus that we get revenue	Remediate some of the damage that has been done. Can't wait it to happen naturally.	My preference BUT concerns about tourism, the carbon impact of more people coming for recreation. Not fully trusting the money would come.
Missing the importance of the forest and outdoor activities for healthier and people's well-being.	hoping this will grow into something that includes some restriction on how much we can trample, balance	My Preference but many animals don't want to be around people, so if forest with a lot of trails isn't going to work for them should also be considered when building new trails.	look for other streams of revenue other than Carbon credits. Caution with a lot of trails isn't going to work for them should also be considered when building new trails.	Worried about the water, landscape. Quimichien lake. I am for the most passive active conservation we can take. Keep the Gary Oaks.
conserve watersheds for food, grow more food	Moved here to be around forests and nature and do not want to lose the logging. Many people use the natural trails often.	Of the 4 options, I support option 3. But I am concerned the carbon offset market may not deliver the projected revenue, because the market we are targeting is a voluntary market. I think there should be a blending of economic diversification ideas so the we not simply switch from logging to carbon offsets. Ideas like eco tourism and ecosystem conservation forestry should be built in at the outset of any new plan so that we have multiple options for revenue.	Saving the MFR because it is BC's largest forest type would also protect wilderness, enhance biodiversity, etc. LBC says more than 153 species at risk in this forest.	This is my preference and I do not think making more money now as in scenario 1 & 2 should be an option and its short term goals.

3 Active Conservation

Targeted harvesting only with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.

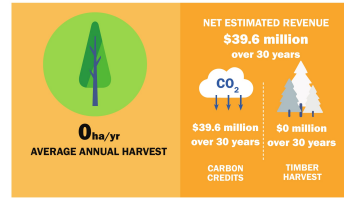


MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

Understand that some mitigation is required. Echo other comments of protecting forests. No replanting has been done in some areas and it is filling up with invasive species. Fire in between 3 & 4 for my choices.

4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.



MUNICIPAL FOREST RESERVE

Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

deadwood is very important, big loss to the ecosystem. Holds water during these Droughts.	making decisions based on conserving forests should be an urgent priority Droughts, note level 3 in December. Focus on protecting water.	Seems to have the highest score and I individual support for various reasons. No hidden costs.		
In order for this scenario to work you would need forest fires so I do not support				
Good for finance, gov's are funding and other revenue sources available				

Other Questions and Comments:

in the spirit of Reconciliation, I think it's going to be important to restrict wild foraging and tourism around cultural plant learning to Quwutsun/Cowichan.	Govt to Govt discussions and MOU has been mentioned. First Nations know how to be successful stewards of the land. They should be the leaders or at least partners in restoring the forests.	Don't fully capture the revenue of recreations activities and healthier populations from outdoor activities.
Number 3 & 4 could give more detail on what minimal human activity means.	would like to see a tree bylaw	Coastal Douglas Fir would like it more detailed and the main reason why we should be preserving this rare ecosystem.
BC gov gave 11 million on Hornby too preserve the park and is another possible revenue source to fund conservation	Opportunity for contributing to international goals and Canadas goals with conservation	I've heard of a First Nation that were able to buy back more of their territory with the carbon credits they earned by protecting the land that was within their control.
concerned about the impact of recreational use too. Would like more information on this		

Is there a scenario where any revenue created from logging is then put toward forest maintenance and invasive removal	What sort of protection for our forests to avoid illegal activities? and costs associated with this, Are those costs included in the scenarios?	Were the costs to startup costs of Carbon Credits and maintenance accounted for?
Were costs of harvesting included in the scenarios? Costs of harvesting were accounted for in all scenarios	is Municipality of North Cowichan working with First Nations and how much are they a part of the bigger picture?	Would like more information on how many people are affected by the loss of the forestry industry?
How does Municipality of North Cowichan think that they have the right to forest?	What is MNC doing to help bring back the historical/cultural practices of First Nations food/rights of passage. How much is this a part of the bigger picture?	Question seems to be only two options, forest or not. Is that how a municipal forests are supposed to be looked at?.
How clear is MNC about it being 6 mountains instead f MFR? Makes it sounds smaller an area.	Explain why the MFR is unique? Why the public has a say in this forest.	What are the new ways of replanting in the scenarios?

Exploring the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve

Workshop 2 - Group B

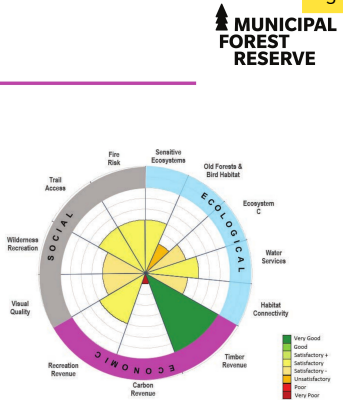
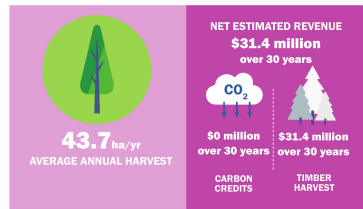
6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 12th

Questions and comments about **Scenario 1 - Status Quo:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

other species are important and under threat (not just trees)	provide value-add jobs, not just logging	cost to log is too high (not just operational cost)	'fallers' should be transformed into 'foresters'	value in forest is by not logging, feels 'wild'
make climate change worse, less biodiversity	water retention is important - clear cuts are a factor			

1 Status Quo

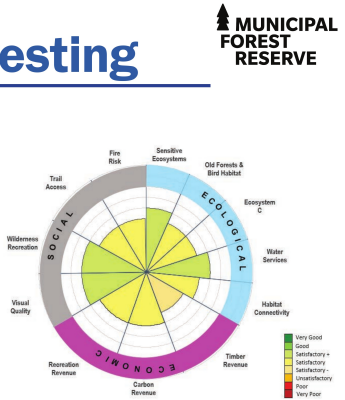
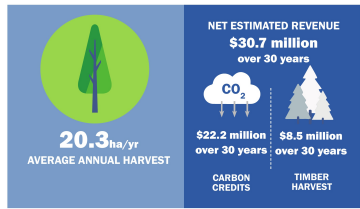
A continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.



Scenario 1 + 2: 'land degradation' per EU - will soon be illegal to cut old growth there

2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting reduced to ~40% of the historical harvesting rate.



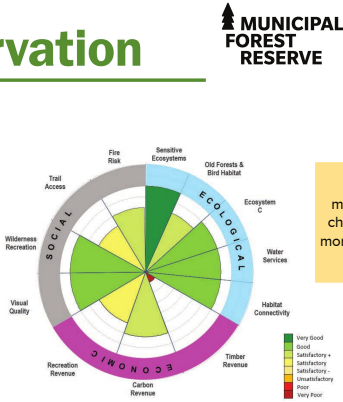
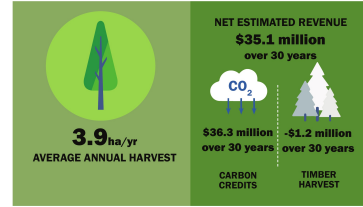
Questions and comments about **Scenario 2 - Reduced Harvesting:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

benefit diverse species	could benefit Quw'utsun Nation	preferred as an 'eco forester'	gives us the opportunity to get back to old growth by thinning mono culture plantings	'can better 'fix' the old clear cuts
Can this be a stewardship model?	Can we reintroduce some species? (to repair the ecosystem)	forest needs to be repaired	prescribed burning should be added back to the forest (benefit Garry Oak)	this is a preference, provided it isn't done 'wrong'
would trust this scenario if it was co-managed with Quw'utsun Ntn.	include local youth/schools as part of this - learn about diverse ecosystems	invasive species removed, replant with climate change in mind	value added supply chain	none of the wood harvested should leave the region: value add (eg local flooring - muni sell to retailer)
would this shift to more passive after a period of time, after active management 'ends'?		led by conservationist/preservationist	how can we get it back to old growth?	value add: need safeguards to ensure that process is transparent

3 Active Conservation

Targeted harvesting only with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.



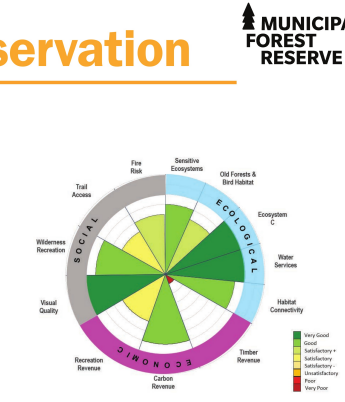
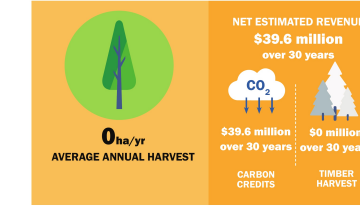
make climate change better, more biodiversity

Can we look at a combo of active vs passive, depending on area?

Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation:**
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.



has a greater financial benefit (per numbers provided)	greater carbon credit revenue over 30 years	passive conserve has highest number of points at 18 or social economical and ecological status quo the least at 13.4		
"nature heals its own"	concern with soil/erosion esp with atmospheric rivers	Cowichan Valley air quality is poor - trees are natural air conditioners		
invasive species need to be managed				

Other Questions and Comments:

don't want to bankrupt the muni

where are the CDF forests located?

limited amount of CDF forest left

invitation to tour Wildwood to see how it can be done

other harvest methods are possible (FAC meeting a few years ago dismissed options)

clear cut was not quantified by UBC group

'net zero forestry' is another term: count biomass within watershed which grows every year. Cut less. Maintain an age and species range.

Menominee FN has a similar sized forest, 9000 specific areas ID'd

Writing a book on active conservation - seeing mistakes, we can learn from those

would prefer to see co-management w Quw'utsun ntn ✓

Do we have blueprints to impliment?

Include youth, FNs ✓

Exploring the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve

Workshop 2 - Group C

6:00-8:00pm, Dec. 12th

Questions and comments about **Scenario 1 - Status Quo**:
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

I am also wondering about the economic value numbers (43.7, 43.7). My understanding is that these economic values are based on 10 year turnover. However, the 10 year turnover is based on 10 year turnover. I think having 10 year 10 year turnover is not a good thing. I think we need to see the economic value with a 10 year turnover.

When numbers about revenue are shown in all four scenarios, it is a good idea to show the revenue value of the costs are paid for the associated with carrying the forestry department and maintenance of roads, culture, invasive species, etc.

Can you explain why net forestry revenues are projected using a starting point based on past averages and not current Log Market Values?

It is my understanding that the PN communities are in negotiations with gov. It would be informative to know what the PN communities are considering as important to them?

In terms of 'wanting to optimize biodiversity' on the land base over time, which scenario does that most completely?

"water services" was climate change taken into account for these scenarios?

There would still be a forest for all 4 scenarios - same management level

Dependent on staffing for all levels, the revenue numbers are net revenue

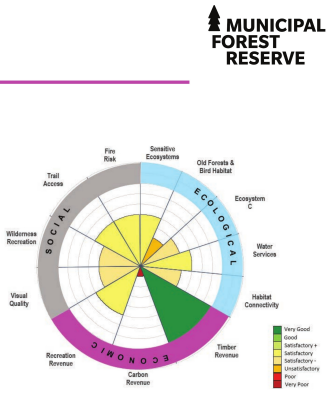
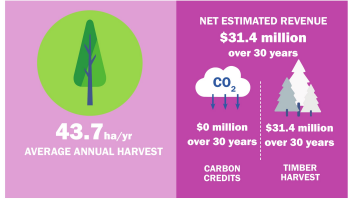
To what depth did the scenarios (all take into account the diversity of "Fire and Fuel" that live in these areas, as well as the impact the Forest and Forests have on the health of the Forest and the economy of that?

MNC has done a good job w/rt to Forestry mgmt but would prefer #2

You can always log. You can't unlog

1 Status Quo

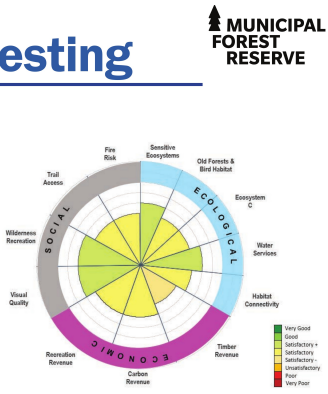
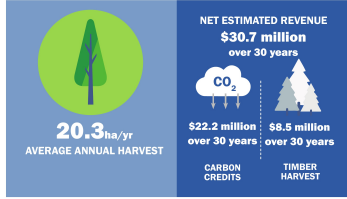
A continuation of historical harvesting practices within the MFR based upon the past 25 years of data records.



Questions and comments about **Scenario 2 - Reduced Harvesting**:
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

2 Reduced Harvesting

Annual timber harvesting reduced to ~40% of the historical harvesting rate.



Is selling carbon credits enabling to others to emit (more) carbon? Or are they proven to lower emissions?

In terms of 'wanting to optimize biodiversity' on the land base over time, which scenario does that most completely?

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"water services" was climate change taken into account for these scenarios?

There would still be a forest for all 4 scenarios - same management level

Questions and comments about **Scenario 3 - Active Conservation**:
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

Is selling carbon credits enabling to others to emit (more) carbon? Or are they proven to lower emissions?

I have some concerns with start up costs with switching management scenario, and starting a carbon credit program.

In terms of 'wanting to optimize biodiversity' on the land base over time, which scenario does that most completely?

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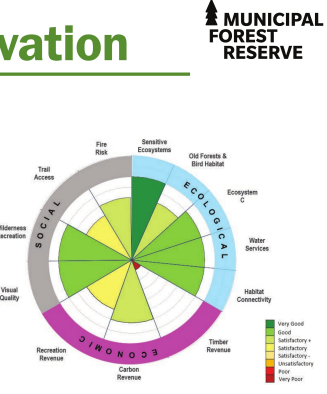
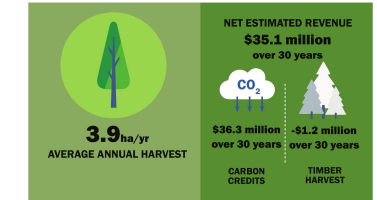
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3 Active Conservation

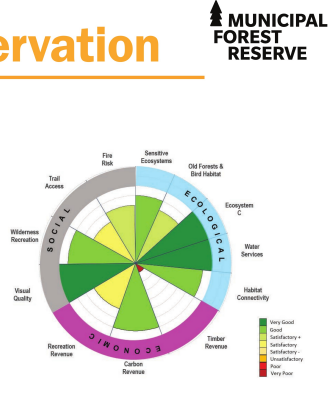
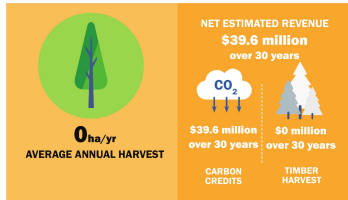
Targeted harvesting only with a goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystem conditions that promote biodiversity while providing some income from harvesting.



Questions and comments about **Scenario 4 - Passive Conservation**:
Are there any improvements or adjustments you would make to this scenario?

4 Passive Conservation

The principal objective of this scenario is to let the forests within the MFR develop with minimal human intervention.



Is selling carbon credits enabling to others to emit (more) carbon? Or are they proven to lower emissions?

I have some concerns with switching management scenario, and starting a carbon credit program.

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In terms of 'wanting to optimize biodiversity' on the land base over time, which scenario does that most completely?

"water services" was climate change taken into account for these scenarios?

There would still be a forest for all 4 scenarios - same management level

Other Questions and Comments:

I am interested if there can be a blending or selecting of multiple scenarios? Or if just one scenario will be chosen. I can see a case where we might want to have say a portion of the Six Mountains might be in Scenario 4 say 25% or even 50%, and the remaining are included in another scenario such as Active Conservation.

re: outstanding question/looking at the UBC presentation and Shaun's FAQ responses, there would still be a forest for all 4 scenarios - same management level. The revenue numbers are net revenue. The carbon revenue is positive even in year 1.

Is there any information that the rock climbing community could provide to support more accurate modeling for the recreation revenue?

Why was eco-forestry and selective logging not a part of the scenarios

Given the carbon revenue as Rob states is positive for year one, once in a sale of carbon credits how long is the land committed to the program 10, 20 40 100 years

Community Forestry

re: Jim's carbon question from North Cowichan Carbon Feasibility FAQ (Clive Welham) The Project crediting period is time span for which the credits generated by the project will be eligible for sale. Under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), this a minimum of 20 years (renewable up to 4 times), to a maximum 100 years. The project could, in principle, end after 20 years but there are financial benefits to having a longer crediting period

You can always log. You can't unlog

why are there no pictures or harvesting maps in the public info?

Small amount of area for Active Conservation is identified for treatment which appears will be thinning. I know that the 4 scenarios show amounts of area to be treated or impacted for comparison purposes. With 5,000 hectares per year, it will take decades at 4.0 hectares per year. With the challenges facing us Potential Fire Hazards, Climate Change, lack of really old forests, habitat for endangered and old growth dependent species, carbon, and water, we will need a much larger and ambitious thinning program to treat a large majority of the 5,000 hectares in the Six Mountains.

Municipal Forest Reserve Review

Round 2 Engagement Summary





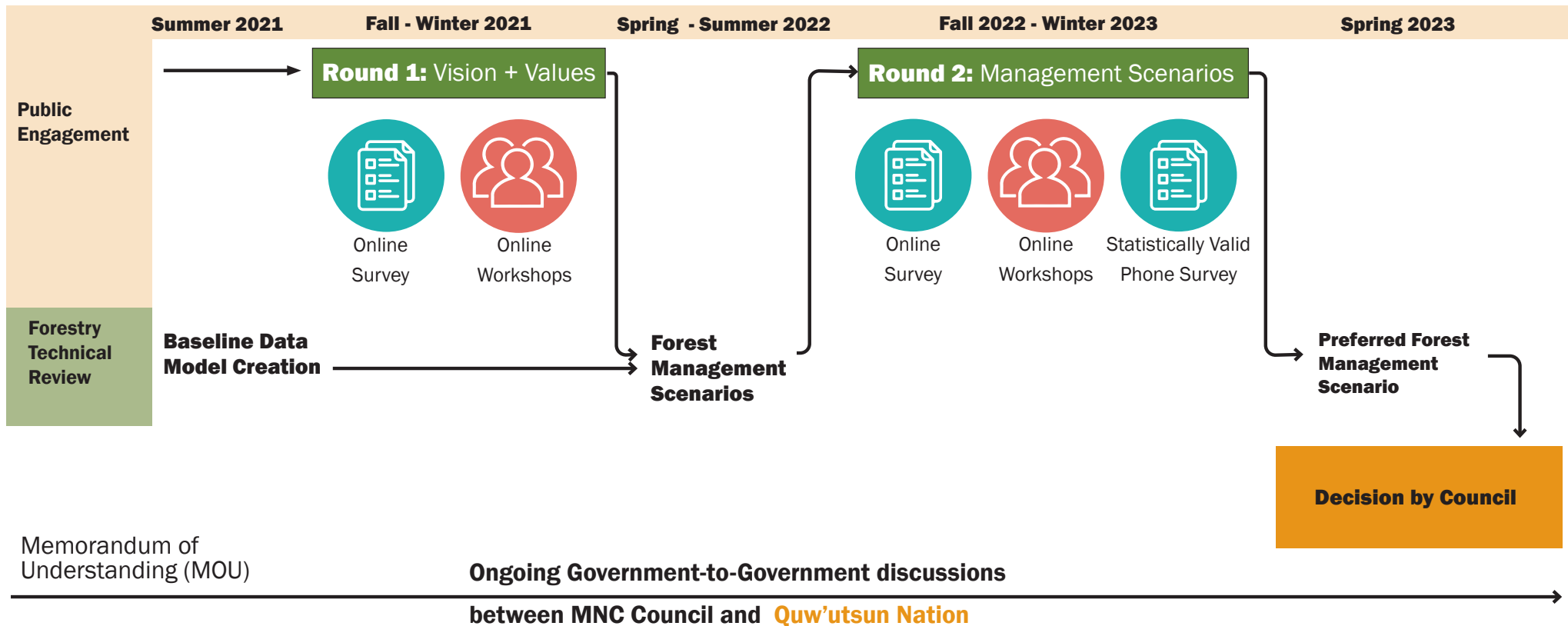
Agenda

- Project and Engagement Overview
- Workshops Summary
- Community Survey Results
- Key Takeaways
- Next Steps





Project + Engagement Overview





Purpose of Round 2 Engagement



The feedback from Round 1 Engagement establish community values to help UBC Partnership Group to develop **four potential forest management scenarios**.

The purpose of Round 2 Engagement was to determine a **preferred scenario**. The summary report will help inform decisions on next steps.





What We Did



Participation

There were a total of **2,357 public interactions** during Round 2 of engagement on the Future Management of the Municipal Forest Reserve.

The forest management scenario options were summarized in a **Discussion Guide** with supporting information on **Connect North Cowichan**.



2 Engagement Working Group Meetings (7 total)



196 participants in **2** online workshops and **1** in-person workshop



1,922 online survey responses



215 statistically valid survey responses



What We Did

Outreach

This project included significant community outreach including:



4 print ads in Cowichan Valley Citizen and Chemainus Valley Courier, and **1** ad in the Valley Voice

7 updates to project email list

9 social media posts and ads on Facebook and Instagram

9 posts on North Cowichan's Twitter account

92 questions answered through Connect North Cowichan

Information posters at trail-heads and community bulletin boards



Workshops Summary

Participation

110 participants attended the in-person workshop on November 30, 2022.

96 participants attended the online workshops on December 6 and 12, 2022.





Workshops Summary

Overview

- Presentation about the four draft forest management scenario options.
- The virtual workshops has small group discussions with a facilitator. Feedback was collected using a digital whiteboard.
- The in-person workshop had a Q&A session after the presentation. Feedback was collected on display boards for each scenario.



Workshops Summary

Key Takeaways - Scenario 1: Status Quo

- Many were concerned that continued harvesting would worsen the impacts of climate change.
- Many participants emphasized importance of protecting watersheds and habitats, as well as fostering old growth forests for future generations.
- Some participants requested more information about financial and employment implications of moving away from Scenario 1.



Workshops Summary

Key Takeaways - Scenario 2: Reduced Harvesting

- Few participants spoke in favour of this scenario, but some participants expressed appreciation for the current forest management practices and a desire for local use of timber.



Workshops Summary



Key Takeaways - Scenario 3: Active Conservation

- Many participants expressed support for this scenario over the others.
- Many comments emphasized importance of improving ecological health of forest through active management.
- Some participants were concerned that the municipality or logging interests may revert to past management practices.
- Some comments suggested the importance of invasive species management.



Workshops Summary



Key Takeaways - Scenario 4: Passive Conservation

- Some participants expressed support for selling carbon credits, promoting ecotourism, and emphasizing recreation over timber harvesting.
- Some comments indicated the importance of the 'rights of nature' and support for minimal human intervention.



Survey Results Summary



Open Link Survey

1,922 respondents took the online survey from Nov 28, 2022 - Jan 31, 2023. **63%** were North Cowichan residents.

Statistically Valid Survey

215 North Cowichan residents were randomly recruited by telephone by the Mustel Group. Efforts were made to match the demographics of the community (age/gender).

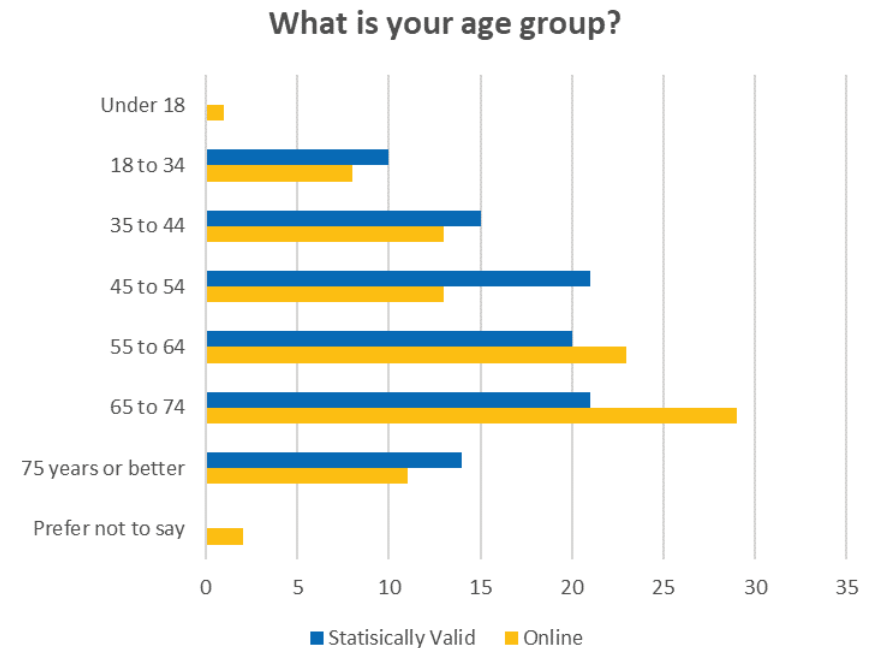


Survey Results Summary

Participation

Those who answered the online survey tended to be older, with most aged 55-74.

15% of statistically valid survey and **48%** of open link survey respondents had been involved in **Round 1 of the public engagement.**





Survey Results Summary



The public was asked to rank the four draft forest management scenario options from most preferred to least preferred.

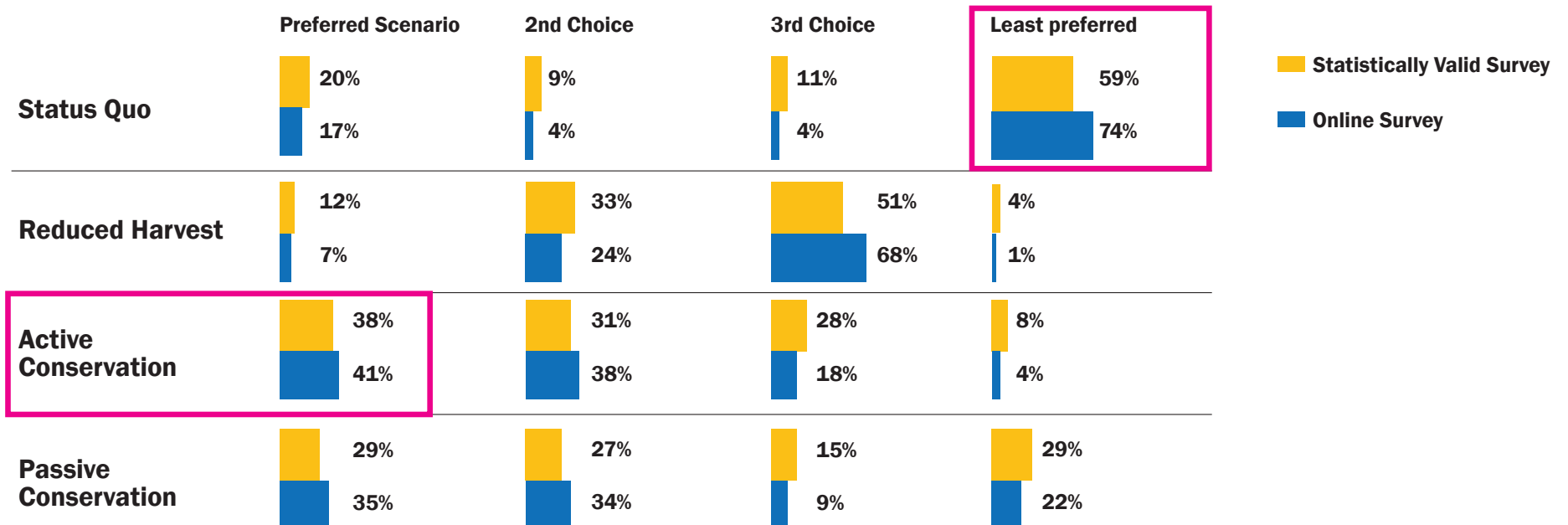
What We Heard:

- Scenario 3: Active Conservation was the highest ranking option in both surveys.
- Scenario 4: Passive Conservation ranked a close second.
- Scenario 1: Status Quo was the least preferred option.
- Environmental benefits (including harvesting for improved forest health, increased biodiversity, and less erosion) were the key reasons for choosing Scenario 3: Active Conservation.



Survey Results Summary

Question 2: Please rank order the four scenario options, starting with the one that is closest to the future forest management you would like to see.





Survey Results Summary



Question 3: Why did you choose [#1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?

1 Status Quo

1. The current management of the Municipal Forest Reserve is fine as it is.
2. This scenario allows for sustainable harvesting.
3. This scenario creates jobs/ security.
4. I disliked the other scenario descriptions.
5. The community economy is dependent on the forestry industry.

2 Reduced Harvesting

1. This scenario allows for sustainable harvesting.
2. This scenario is a balanced approach.
3. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
4. This scenario reduces wildfire risk.
5. This scenario reduces ecological damage/ restoration of forests.



Survey Results Summary

Question 3: Why did you choose [#1 CHOICE] as your preferred scenario?

3 Active Conservation

1. This scenario allows for targeted harvesting for ecosystem and forest health benefits.
2. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
3. The environmental benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
4. This scenario reduces the ecological damage to the forest.
5. This scenario is a balanced approach.

4 Passive Conservation

1. Is it important to leave forests alone/ preserve for future generations.
2. This scenario aligns with my beliefs.
3. The environmental benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
4. The economic benefits associated with this scenario are important to me.
5. This scenario moves away from old forestry practices/ clear cutting.



Survey Results Summary



Question 5: Do you feel you had enough information to answer the questions in this survey?

Over 90% of respondents felt they had enough information to answer the questions in the survey.

The most common information requests were for more details on the scenarios including **harvesting data, economic projections, and carbon credits.**

Types of Information Requested	Statistically Valid Survey	Online Survey
Provide scenario analysis details (i.e., definitions, prior harvest area yields/ sales, full data)	24	23
Misc. issues with survey/ consultation process (i.e., why were these options chosen, difficult to complete, lack of maps, etc.)	23	22
How were economic projections calculated/ distrust numbers provided	25	21
Carbon credit explanation (i.e. how do they work, value)	22	14
Which groups/ organizations were involved in process/ sources of information	4	6
Active harvesting details (i.e., companies, methods)	5	5
Recreation details	4	5
First Nations involvement details	-	5
Details regarding current forestry operations	3	3
No questions stated	30	19



Key Takeaways

- Many participants expressed that **ecological values** should be prioritized in future forest management.
- Strong emphasis was placed on the importance of **MFR as a community asset**.
- The importance of **protecting biodiversity, watersheds, old growth forest, and habitats** was a key theme.
- The importance of **managing invasive species, ecotourism, recreation, and the rights of nature** was also a key theme.
- There was a desire for **Indigenous inclusion** in the management process and more **transparency** regarding how the Municipality is engaging with First Nations.



Key Takeaways

- **Scenario 3: Active Conservation** and **Scenario 4: Passive Conservation** received significant support in both workshops and surveys.
- **Scenario 1: Status Quo** received the least support. Some participants expressed concern that continued harvesting within MFR will **worsen impacts of climate change**.
- The most common suggestions for **improvements** were related to **conservation management issues**.
- The most common questions posed throughout the workshops and surveys were related to **how economic projections were calculated** and **explanations of carbon credits**.



Next Steps

The UBC Partnership Group will share a presentation to Council on the preferred scenario.





Thank you!



**MUNICIPAL
FOREST
RESERVE**

MUNICIPALITY OF
NORTH
Cowichan

Report

Date March 7, 2023
Subject Environment, Climate Action and Social Justice and Investments

File:

PURPOSE

To provide options for an investment policy/strategy that prioritizes safety, liquidity, return on investment, environmental and climate action goals and social justice.

BACKGROUND

At the February 21, 2023 meeting, it was resolved:

THAT the draft investment policy be referred back to staff to prepare a report on options for an investment policy/strategy that in addition to prioritizing safety, liquidity and return on investment, also;

- 1) reflects our OCP's over-arching goals related to environmental and climate action and social justice,
- 2) is consistent with the municipality's acknowledgement of a climate emergency, and
- 3) preferentially selects investments that make positive contributions to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors.

Investment of Municipal funds is restricted legislatively by section 183 of the *Community Charter*, which reads:

183 Money held by a municipality that is not immediately required may only be invested or reinvested in one or more of the following:

- (a) securities of the Municipal Finance Authority;
- (b) pooled investment funds under section 16 of the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*;
- (c) securities of Canada or of a province;
- (d) securities guaranteed for principal and interest by Canada or by a province;
- (e) securities of a municipality, regional district or greater board;
- (f) investments guaranteed by a chartered bank;
- (g) deposits in a savings institution, or non-equity or membership shares of a credit union;
- (h) other investments specifically authorized under this or another Act.

The Official Community Plan (OCP) Principles include:

Climate Action – This OCP ensures all municipal decisions are made through the lens of the climate emergency and ecological overshoot.

Social Justice and Equity – Through this OCP, we acknowledge the challenges and disadvantages facing citizens living on the margins of society and act against chronic inequities in the system.

DISCUSSION

ESG investing focuses on three non-financial factors: Environmental criteria, social criteria and governance criteria. Together, these represent socially responsible investing which seeks to consider both financial return and social/environmental good in investment decisions.

At this time, the municipality primarily invests with the Municipal Finance Authority's (MFA) Government Focused Ultra-short Bond Fund, which does not invest in fossil fuel related companies. The MFA pooled high interest savings account, which most members consider to be fossil fuel free given that they are direct deposits into entities not "directly involved in the extraction, processing and transportation of coal, oil or natural gas."

Most major banks have published commitments to helping create sustainable futures for Canadians. Banks such as Scotiabank, CIBC, National Bank, and RBC have published ESG disclosures, and major Credit Unions have both published disclosures and are known for reinvesting funds to further social objectives.

As MFA and bank/credit union investments represent the majority of permissible investments under the *Community Charter*, most investing would conform to the principles of socially responsible investing; however, the draft Investment Policy does not include any specific wording with respect to this goal.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** Insert the Socially Responsible Investing priority as the **third bullet** in the order of priority [before return on investment].

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to amend the draft Investment Policy by inserting "Socially Responsible Investing: the investment portfolio will prioritize investments that make positive contributions to environmental, social and governance factors" as the third bullet under section 3.1 [Objectives], AND THAT the policy be placed within the Consent Agenda at the March 15, 2023 regular Council meeting for adoption.

- Socially Responsible Investing includes environmental and climate action strategies as well as those that have a positive social impact. The addition of this objective to the policy provides specific direction to staff. When staff are soliciting investment quotations, information on the Socially Responsible Investing strategy of the investment will also be sought.
- As the objectives are in order of priority, adding Socially Responsible Investing before Return on Investment demonstrates a desire of Council to place greater importance on the environmental, social and governance objectives of investments over the return on investment.

2. Insert the Socially Responsible Investing priority as the **last bullet** in the order of priority.

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to amend the draft Investment Policy by inserting "Socially Responsible Investing: the investment portfolio will prioritize investments that make positive contributions to environmental, social and governance factors" as the fourth bullet under section 3.1 [Objectives], AND THAT the policy be placed within the Consent Agenda at the March 15, 2023 regular Council meeting for adoption.

- Adding the Socially Responsible Investing objective as the fourth bullet provides specific direction to staff when soliciting quotations that SRI objectives are important but return on investment is of a higher priority.
3. Council to identify how the Socially Responsible Investing priority should be prioritized and worded within the policy.

THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to amend the draft Investment Policy by inserting *(Council to provide desired wording)* as the *(provide bullet number)* bullet under section 3.1 [Objectives], AND THAT the policy be placed within the Consent Agenda at the March 15, 2023 regular Council meeting for adoption.

IMPLICATIONS

Given that the majority of allowable investments include Socially Responsible Investing strategies and specific fossil fuel free notations, adding this objective to the draft Investment Policy will not significantly impact staff time. Currently, most of North Cowichan's investments are with MFA products that are considered fossil fuel free; thus, staff do not anticipate any reduction in earnings as a result of this amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to amend the draft Investment Policy by inserting "Socially Responsible Investing: the investment portfolio will prioritize investments that make positive contributions to environmental, social and governance factors" as the third bullet under section 3.1 [Objectives], AND THAT the policy be placed within the Consent Agenda at the March 15, 2023 regular Council meeting for adoption.

Report prepared by:



Talitha Soldera, CPA, CGA
Chief Financial Officer

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: Draft Investment Policy

COUNCIL POLICY

INVESTMENT POLICY

1 PURPOSE

To establish and maintain practices and procedures to invest public funds in a manner that will provide the optimal blend of investment security and return while meeting the daily cash flow demands and conforming to all legislation governing the investment of public funds.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all surplus cash and reserve funds of North Cowichan.

3 POLICY

3.1 Objectives:

The primary objectives of investment activities will be based on three fundamental objectives in the order of priority:

- Safety: Investments will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital through placement of funds with creditworthy institutions and through portfolio diversification.
- Liquidity: the investment portfolio will be administered to ensure adequate cash flow is available to meet all reasonably anticipated operating requirements.
- Return on Investment: the investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of maximizing market rate of return subject to the investment risk constraints and liquidity requirements of North Cowichan.

3.2 Prudence:

Investments will be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of capital as well as the probable income to be derived. The Director of Financial Services, acting in accordance with this policy and exercising due diligence, will be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual investment's credit risk or market price changes.

3.3 Ethics and Conflict of Interest:

The Director of Financial Services shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper management of the investment program or which could impair the ability to make unbiased investment decisions. The Director of Financial Services shall disclose any material financial interests in financial institutions and or investment dealers that conduct business with North Cowichan.

3.4 Authorization:

The Delegation of Authority bylaw grants authority to manage North Cowichan's investment program to the Director of Financial Services. This authority is derived from Section 149 of the *Community Charter* as follows:

"One of the municipal officer positions must be assigned the responsibility of financial administration, which includes the following powers, duties and functions:

- (a) Receiving all money paid to the municipality;
- (b) Ensuring the keeping of all funds and securities of the municipality;
- (c) Investing municipal funds, until required, in authorized investments;
- (d) Expending municipal money in the manner authorized by the council;
- (e) Ensuring that accurate records and full accounts of the financial affairs of the municipality are prepared, maintained and kept safe; exercising control and supervision over all other financial affairs of the municipality."

3.5 Permitted Investments:

North Cowichan is empowered under *Community Charter* section 183 to invest in the following types of securities:

- (a) securities of the Municipal Finance Authority;
- (b) pooled investment funds under section 16 of the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*;
- (c) securities of Canada or of a province;
- (d) securities guaranteed for principal and interest by Canada or by a province;
- (e) securities of a municipality, regional district or greater board;
- (f) investments guaranteed by a chartered bank;
- (g) deposits in a savings institution or non-equity or membership shares of a credit union;
- (h) other investments specifically authorized under this or another Act.

3.6 Investment Parameters:

- Diversification: Diversification will be achieved through limiting the amount of investments with a specific maturity, from a specific issuer or a specific sector.
- Maturity: To the extent possible, North Cowichan shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements and shall select assets with varying maturity terms.

3.7 Competitive Bids:

The Director of Financial Services will solicit competitive verbal quotations for the purchase and sale of securities when it is prudent to do so. This policy recognizes that, from time to time, offerings of value may require immediate action. Under such

circumstances, competitive bids may not be sought if value can be substantiated by market data.

3.8 Policy Review:

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains consistent with the overall objectives of North Cowichan, market conditions, technology, evolving regulatory standards and private industry best practices.

3.9 Reporting:

The Director of Financial Services will report to the Committee of the Whole each year, identifying investment holdings and any deviations from policy.

APPROVAL HISTORY

WRITTEN BY: Walter Wiebe	APPROVED BY:	DATE:
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