

BC

Forest PROFESSIONAL

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How **Cumulative Effects** Information
Supports Forest Stewardship

Creating a New **Harvesting** Workforce

The **Women of Wetzin'kwa**
Community Forest

Updated **Fire Hazard Assessment**
and Abatement Guidance

SIPex: A Gateway to
Innovative Silviculture in BC



Sounds of Sustainability

A Story of Endangered Native-grown South American
Mahogany vs Plantation-grown Fijian Mahogany

Meet the SIPex:

Your Gateway to Innovative Silviculture in BC

Seeing the Forests and the Trees

Across British Columbia, there are multiple (and sometimes competing) values that communities rely on and that forest practitioners are increasingly expected to balance. An emerging focus in forestry is on “innovative silviculture,” using diverse silvicultural tools to manage forests as complex adaptive systems through time and space. The complexity of modern forest stewardship creates a need for quick and easy access to knowledge that can help practitioners make nimble and informed management decisions. However, a recent survey found that nearly 65 per cent of forest practitioners could not easily find the information they needed to do innovative silviculture¹.

Given the expansive amount of information that exists in various locations and forms across decades of practice, forest practitioners are challenged to find information and knowledge that is trustworthy, practical, and relevant. It might feel as though forest practitioners sit in a vast ocean of information — without many tools to confidently navigate the waves.

The Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) heard this challenge loud and clear from practitioners: what was needed was an easy-to-use knowledge hub that could support practitioners in their implementation of innovative silviculture².

What is the SIPex?

The SIP is very proud to release the “SIP exchange” or “SIPex,” a user-friendly information portal dedicated to improving access to knowledge and resources for practitioners on innovative silviculture in BC. The SIPex seeks to reduce access barriers to knowledge by connecting users with resources and information, people, and communities, as well as training and education opportunities through our open-access website. We hope to support forest practitioners to grow their knowledge, enabling decision-making and implementation of innovative practices and approaches to manage for multiple values. At its core, we are guided by six principles to ensure the SIPex is 1) driven by forest practitioners; 2) respectful of multiple forms of knowledge; 3) adaptable and open to change; 4) transparent and accountable to forest practitioners; 5) durable; and 6) openly accessible.

What Can the SIPex Do?

The main functions of the SIPex can be split into four pillars: 1) an information repository, 2) a deep dive into featured topics, 3) a community directory, and 4) a catalogue of skill development resources.

The first function, an information repository, collects and collates knowledge, such as best management practices, case studies, syntheses, meta-analyses, management prescriptions, monitoring

methods and tools, risk reduction plans, templates, extension notes, webinars, technical reports, and scientific literature. The database is searchable and designed to make finding and accessing resources easy and applicable.

The second function, the Featured Topics, provides a synthesis of knowledge on particular topics that are most relevant to forest practitioners, designed with the understanding that no two learners engage with information in exactly the same way. It provides an opportunity to quickly dive into in-depth reports, learn through interactive tools, or incrementally narrow your focus to build your knowledge base.

The third function, a community directory, reflects the aspects of forest stewardship that are collaborative, relational, and experiential. Use the directory to search for a Community of Practice that might provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities or avenues for knowledge sharing. Or use the experts directory to search and contact someone with expertise in your area of focus to get the one-on-one feedback and expansive discussion that can help solve your problem.

And, finally, explore the fourth function, a catalogue of skill development resources, to discover educational resources and training opportunities on various aspects of innovative silviculture.

How Can the SIPex Help You?

Our goal is that forest practitioners that use the SIPex will be able to access the knowledge and/or the knowledge holders needed to help make decisions to innovate the ways in which values are managed, practices are implemented, and approaches are created.

The naming of the SIP Exchange reflects its true purpose as a “knowledge exchange,” meaning it allows for people to both receive and contribute valuable knowledge for the betterment of their community. While there are many ways to receive knowledge through the SIPex, there are also many ways to give back: contribute new resources, add yourself as an expert in the expert directory, and request new Featured Topics.

Start Exploring the SIPex Today

The SIPex was built with, and for, forest practitioners, and its success will grow with the knowledge, experience, and curiosity of its users. Whether you are looking for practical tools, connecting with peers, or exploring new approaches to silviculture, the SIPex is here to make that journey easier and more rewarding. For further support, check out the Help Page for video tutorials and how-to’s to enhance your experience of the SIPex.

Explore the SIPex today and discover how forest practitioners can continue to grow together to steward BC’s forests.

Start exploring at www.sipexchangebc.com. ☒

REFERENCES

1. Silviculture Innovation Program. 2025. How communities of practice can support innovative silviculture in British Columbia. Bulkley Valley Research Centre. <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SIP-Survey-WhatWeHeard-Feb2025.pdf>
2. Silviculture Innovation Program. 2024. Knowledge Summit: What we heard report. Bulkley Valley Research Centre. Available from <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/SIP-Summit-WhatWeHeard-Final-HiRes.pdf>

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