

INNOVATION IN
ACTION
GRANTS

Silviculture
Innovation
Program



Application Guidance
2025





PHOTOS | Credit: Silviculture Innovation Program

Background

About the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP)

BC's forests are symbols of resilience, legacy, and diversity, but their future lies at a crossroads. With reduced timber supply, a changing climate, and mounting concerns from many groups, including the forestry sector, there is a shift happening to manage forests for multiple values and embrace an ecologically-centred approach. By using alternative and innovative approaches in forestry, we can help ensure BC forests continue to provide values and services that will support communities for generations to come.

The purpose of the Silviculture Innovation Program is to improve knowledge regarding innovative silviculture systems through extension, applied and operational research. The Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) is a program of the Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC), a non-profit based in Smithers, BC. Learn more about the SIP at <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/>



Silviculture Innovation Program

KEY DEFINITION | *Innovative Silviculture Systems*

Innovative Silviculture Systems include systems for the harvesting, growing and tending of forests where the primary objective is to support holistic stewardship of the land base, including maintaining ecosystem health, water quality and quantity. Innovative silviculture systems are driven by an appreciation of ecological, social, cultural, and economic values of forests, where stewardship is focused on maintaining the continuity of dynamic ecosystem processes and functions.



About SIP Grants

The SIP grant program supports work that aligns with our vision, mission and values. To read more about these foundations of the SIP, please see our [Strategic Plan](#).

The SIP is grounded in principles that support collaborative partnerships with communities and practitioners, involve interdisciplinary approaches, and support diverse perspectives. By addressing critical knowledge gaps, from key topics to under-researched regions, and expanding or initiating trials, our grants program aims to overcome the challenges related to knowledge and its application that currently limit innovative silviculture across BC. Funding available through the SIP grant program supports practitioners in gaining, accessing and applying their knowledge on innovation, and sharing this knowledge through extension.

Knowledge, tools and innovations, both new and old, are required to inform and accelerate the uptake of innovative silviculture techniques and practices across BC. Solutions must be collaborative, so we encourage projects that leverage existing funds, research trials/installations and relationships. We also encourage projects that create new partnerships, support Indigenous and other forms of knowledge, and transfer knowledge through mentorship and/or knowledge sharing (extension) with the broader natural resource management community and the interested public.

The inaugural SIP Grants intake in Fall 2024 received 69 applications from across BC, awarding 34 projects for a combined value of \$1.05 million for Innovation in Action and Building Capacity grants. All 2024/25 grantee projects are currently underway, and for more details on their projects, please visit: <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/innovation-in-action/>

In 2025, the SIP will undertake its second round of grants, committing \$1.0 million in funding for Innovation in Action projects. This year the SIP will focus on supporting operationally-rooted projects that build capacity and relationships, create opportunities to learn from innovative silviculture implementation and increase the capacity for innovative silviculture in BC.



PHOTOS | 2024 SIP Grantee projects in action, clockwise from top left: Stswecem'c Xget'tem Forest Gathering & Tending (credit: Sonja Seher); Current & Future Forester: Funding for Post-Secondary (credit: Chelsea Southern); Using fire for innovative silviculture solutions in Ulkatcho Territory (credit: Jill Harvey); Northeast BC Wildland Fire Training (credit: Sonja Leverkus)

INNOVATION IN **ACTION** GRANTS

Silviculture Innovation Program



2025 SIP Grants Program

Overview

Innovation in Action Grants support operational research and/or implementation of innovative silviculture projects. These grants will allow the SIP to distribute funding widely across BC to complete smaller projects and partially support operational trials or reduce financial barriers to completing elements of larger projects already underway. These grants will seek to learn from action - implementing initiatives and trials with clear innovative objectives and data- and knowledge-driven learning opportunities. We will raise awareness of and support extension to facilitate knowledge being translated into action.

Quick Highlights

Applications will be accepted through the online grant portal between 8:00AM (PST) October 1, 2025 to 11:59PM on November 30, 2025

Access the application portal here: <https://silvicultureinnovation.grantplatform.com>

- We encourage **collaborative projects**, particularly those that are **led or co-led by First Nations**.
- Projects must **deliver tangible outcomes** that **increase the knowledge and extension of innovative silviculture in BC**.
- Projects must fall within one of the **FOUR eligible themes**.
- Applications will be reviewed by an external panel between December 2025 and early March 2026. **Successful applicants will be notified by March 16, 2026 and are anticipated to receive funding as early as April 2026** (grant period 2026 - 2028).

2025 SIP INNOVATION IN ACTION GRANTS

KEY NUMBERS

\$10,000

Minimum request

\$50,000

Maximum request

20-25

Estimated number of grants funded

\$1.0 million

Total available for Innovation in Action Grants

2 years
2026 to 2028

Project duration
Beginning as early as April 2026 with final deliverables due by December 2028

KEY DEFINITION | *First Nations-led*

Initiatives that include meaningful decision-making and engagement by First Nations, ensuring their voices, perspectives and priorities guide the direction of the project or program. **First Nations-led** means ensuring First Nations peoples are not just passive participants or beneficiaries; rather, they take an active and leading role throughout the entire process of a program or project. This leadership role extends to project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This approach recognizes the principles of self-determination, cultural autonomy and the importance of respecting First Nations' rights. The goal is to create partnerships that are equitable, respectful and contribute to positive outcomes for First Nations peoples.



INNOVATION IN **ACTION** GRANTS

**Silviculture
Innovation
Program**



Bulkley Valley
Research Centre

PHOTOS | 2024 SIP Grantee project in action: Northeast BC Prescribed Fire Planning in an Eco-Cultural Pyric Herbivory Context. Top: Ignition Specialist-in-Training Donovan Bertrand leads Larry Fossum through ground ignition operations at the Bear Mountain Community Pasture learn n' burn supported by the NFWRx crew and Fastfield production team (credit: Sonja Leverkus); Morning briefing (credit: B. Gagne).



These grants are targeted towards operational implementation but open to individual practitioners, organizations, and researchers. Preference will be given to projects that are “shovel ready”, meaning projects where all permissions and permits are in place, and/or support ideas and collaborations that are ongoing or already established. Project support can include planning, data collection, reporting and extension. While preference is for “shovel ready” projects, those that are at a conceptual level are able to apply if the concept aligns with SIP mission and values, priority themes, and demonstrates existing collaborations or partnerships. For example, project support to develop the details of the prescription or implementation plan.

We note that this fund cannot be used to cover basic activities included in the stumpage system (such as layout, roads, logging and reforestation). It is intended to target additional activities applicants may not otherwise have time or resources to complete, but that are critical to knowledge creation and knowledge sharing on innovative silviculture. This could include prescription planning, research and monitoring design, equipment needs, data collection beyond what is required for cutting permit issuance, developing knowledge sharing products, and extension of results. Leveraging existing funds and in-kind support is encouraged.

Knowledge production and transfer is a critical component of each grant and will be measured by outputs including: project reports, published articles, research reports, theses, handbooks, decision support tools, software, methodologies, databases and how project learnings are translated in support of varying forms of knowledge exchange.

Eligible Applicants ✓

The SIP Innovation in Action Grant welcomes all individual practitioners and organizations engaging in innovative silviculture to apply. Collaborative grants are encouraged but not required.

Eligible applicants:

- Individuals
- First Nations (bands, Treaty First Nations, and Indigenous Governments with authority for lands and resources in BC)
- Non-profits whose mandate includes work on forests, forest management or sustainable forestry activities (registered charities, incorporated societies, community foundations)*
- Consultancies whose scope includes work on forests, forest management or sustainable forestry activities*
- Community forest agreement holders
- Woodlot licensees
- Research forests
- Major licensees*
- Researchers from academic institutions or non-profits.

** With your application, please provide a copy of the articles of incorporation or registration to confirm that the organization is validly incorporated or registered. This is not required for universities and colleges.*

Other important details:

- **Lead applicants/organizations must be located in BC to be eligible to apply.**
- **Preference will be given to grant applications that are First Nations-led or co-led.** We encourage collaborative projects. Proposed projects that are not led or co-led by First Nations are still encouraged to apply. These applicants may demonstrate support from First Nations, such as identifying supporting project team members on the grant application, letter(s) of support, etc.
- Please note that Provincial and Federal Government agencies can partner on grants, but are not eligible to receive funding.
- Applicants who have previously received a SIP Grant are eligible to apply again, provided the proposal is for a new and unrelated project. Additional funding for existing SIP Grants is not available
- **Donee Status:** because BVRC is a registered charity, projects funded by the SIP Grants program must further the charitable purposes of the BVRC. While grant applicants can be either qualified or non-qualified donees, the SIP will require all applicants to declare donee status for tax reporting purposes. For more information on determining your organization's donee status, please visit the CRA's website [here](#).



PHOTO | SIP 2024 Knowledge Summit Participants engaging in an interactive activity. Credit: Silviculture Innovation Program.

Eligible Themes

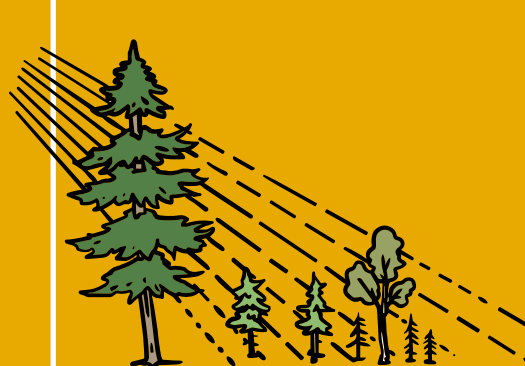
Approach to Grants

All projects are encouraged to consider incorporating the following approaches:

- Collaboration and/or partnerships among organizations, forest practitioners, Indigenous leaders and communities, Universities, governments, local communities, machine operators, etc.
- Indigenous knowledge systems and goals (e.g., food sovereignty, culturally important species) are woven into project design, implementation, and outcomes.
- Tailoring treatments to local conditions (e.g., forest type, climate zone, wildfire history), recognising that appropriate strategies vary by region and ecosystem.
- Robust data collection—such as coarse and fine woody debris, canopy metrics, basal area, and soil disturbance—and using tools like terrestrial LiDAR, cruise plots, permanent sample plots and machine learning plots to monitor treatment effectiveness, track outcomes, inform adaptive management and support decision-making.
- Monitoring and enhancing non-timber forest products, cultural values, and food sovereignty—ensuring that silviculture interventions support broader community, ecological, and cultural goals.
- Considering multiple values at the stand and landscape scale, ranging from the physical to the spiritual. Managing multiple values, such as water, wildfire resilience, wildlife habitat, food sovereignty, and forest health requires a holistic approach.

2025 SIP GRANT THEMES

All applicants must select **one** of the following themes that **best represents** the objectives of their project:



THEME 1 | *Old-like in a new light*



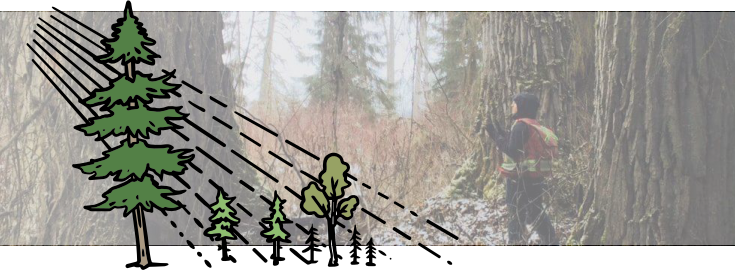
THEME 2 | *A burn a day can help keep wildfire away*



THEME 3 | *Thin it to win it*



THEME 4 | *Accounting for innovation*



THEME 1 | *Old-like in a new light*

Using partial harvesting and/or other innovative silviculture techniques for the recruitment of old growth characteristics.

Projects selecting this priority theme will meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Testing novel thinning, retention and regeneration approaches to emulate or recruit structural and compositional traits found in old growth forests.
- Increasing species, structural and functional diversity—both above and below ground—to restore ecosystem complexity and resilience.
- Supporting or recreate habitat conditions for key species (e.g., moose), especially those associated with old growth forest attributes.
- Transforming low-diversity, plantation-style or degraded forests into more diverse, complex and ecologically functional systems
- Testing strategies for adapting to climate change by promoting forest types and structures more resistant to fire, drought, pests and other stressors.

THEME 2 | *A burn a day can help keep wildfire away*

Supporting cultural and/or prescribed fire as a tool for managing multiple values including eco-cultural restoration, fuels management and/or risk reduction, restoring Indigenous food sovereignty and pyrosilviculture-related economic opportunities.

Projects selecting this priority theme will meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Using prescribed and cultural burning to meet ecological, community and wildfire risk reduction goals, including stand resilience and ecosystem restoration.
- Increasing local and Indigenous community capacity to plan, lead and implement fire-based treatments (e.g., through training in pyrosilviculture and burn planning).
- Integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural fire practices with modern forest and wildfire management to support eco-cultural restoration and food sovereignty.
- Reducing hazardous fuel loads to mitigate wildfire risk while maintaining or restoring ecological health, biodiversity and long-term forest resilience.
- Using field tours, shared learnings and development of tools (e.g., decision aids or checklists) to help expand provincial knowledge and support future practitioners in fire planning and implementation.
- Exploring and demonstrating how the local community values and benefited from implemented wildfire risk reduction treatments (e.g., ecosystem health and biodiversity, local employment and economic opportunities, timber and non-timber resource values, community safety and infrastructure protection, knowledge sharing and capacity building, climate adaptation and carbon management, watershed protection, community building and cohesion, etc.).

In addition: A strong emphasis for this theme is placed on partnerships, especially with the BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forests, Indigenous communities and forest licensees, to collaboratively plan, implement and learn from fire use. These projects will be given preference.



THEME 3 | *Thin it to win it*

Exploring prescription development for partial harvesting and/or thinning to improve forest resilience, reduce wildfire risk and manage multiple forest values.

Projects selecting this priority theme will meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Using thinning and variable retention to restore structural complexity and species diversity in previously simplified, uniform stands (especially young conifer plantations), improving ecosystem function and climate resilience.
- Using thinning (pre-commercial, commercial and understory) to reduce wildfire risk by altering fuel structure, increasing moisture retention and improving fire containment—especially in transitional or high-risk zones.
- Evaluating how silviculture can reduce fuel loads and fire risk, as well as support forest recovery and carbon retention after wildfire.
- Generating field-ready guidance, tools and data to help forest managers and planners integrate thinning into prescriptions and harvesting operations in ways that achieve both timber and non-timber objectives.
- Employing active management to full-rotation: managing the forest stand through all stages of its life cycle (establishment, tending, growth and harvest) rather than just focusing on the initial planting or early treatments.



THEME 4 | *Accounting for innovation*

Providing data-driven support for land managers, planners, decision-makers and community leaders interested in applying innovative silviculture by exploring economic trade-offs and demonstrating potential outcomes of implementing innovative silviculture.

Projects selecting this priority theme will meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Evaluating the impacts of innovative silviculture on fibre flow, including upstream costs (planning, treatments, harvesting, labour) and downstream outcomes (product assortments, production costs, revenues and labour) across diverse product streams.
- Providing data, analysis, decision tools and/or discussion to help understand the economic dimensions of multiple forest values (hydrology, wildlife, recreation, food, etc.) in relation to the costs of innovative treatments.
- Exploring how the costs, revenues and labour needs of innovative silviculture translate into opportunities for local employment and economic growth, particularly in regions facing forestry-related economic challenges.
- Tracking costs and revenues across full-rotation management using innovative silviculture—including planning, treatment implementation, delivered log costs (harvesting, loading, trucking, etc.), product assortments, data acquisition and stand tending—to support cost-benefit analyses for different strategies, regions and forest types in BC.

❌ INELIGIBLE THEMES: Knowledge creation or management focuses on one forest value or multiple values without the inclusion of any of the above eligible silvicultural treatments or themes (e.g., researching wildlife forage quality in an old growth conservation area) and; Projects outside BC.

Eligible Activities

An Innovation in Action Grant can support projects by covering a variety of activities including planning, research design and implementation, prescription development, data collection and extension events.

Eligible activities include:

- Silvicultural treatments that align with provincial and local land managers' regional and/or district priorities on provincial crown land that occur on the timber harvesting land base and provincial parks in BC (including tenure, Crown land and Old Growth Management Areas). Applicants are responsible for ensuring qualified regulated professionals will be used when legally required, such as a Registered Professional Forester.
- Planning of innovative silviculture techniques, such as prescription writing, site visits, mentorship/advice, field measurement protocol development, pre- and post-treatment data collection.
- Design and implementation of research and monitoring plan, including post-harvest evaluation and measurement/data collection.
- Studies, research and data collection assessments.
- Events or activities that support silviculture prescription development, planning and implementation (e.g., travel costs associated with field visits, meeting in person).
- Events or activities associated with extension, including knowledge sharing, mentorship and/or contributing to the collective knowledge of innovative silviculture.
- Development, sharing and/or application of tools, practices and knowledge to support innovative silviculture, including decision support tools, technical guides, best practices, software development and training modules, case studies and summary reports, etc.
- Outreach and training activities or services that enhance capacity, education and outreach materials for stakeholders, rights holders, networks and/or communities.

Ineligible Activities:

- Activities which are considered tenure obligations or for which a proponent has received cost allowance(s) included in the Interior Appraisal Manual or Coast Appraisal Manual. This includes treatment costs and activities associated with the stumpage system, such as layout, roads, logging and reforestation.
- Capital costs greater than \$5,000 for the construction of buildings or the purchase of land or buildings.

Eligible Expenditures ✓

An Innovation in Action Grant can support projects by covering a variety of expenditures, from travel expenses for accessing project locations, to facility rental and catering costs to host a workshop.

Eligible expenditures include:

- Salaries, benefits, stipends.
- Travel expenditures, including meals and accommodation.
- Costs associated with hosting training, working groups and professional development events (including facility rental and time to develop materials).
- Costs associated with attending a training event.
- Conference fees.
- Refitting, repairs, and refurbishment of equipment
- Purchase of materials, supplies and equipment such as laboratory and field supplies and equipment for forestry activities (e.g., forest mensuration equipment, fuels assessments, wildlife assessment, climate stations, communications equipment, personal protective equipment, etc.). Whole or partial costs of materials, equipment and technology are eligible, but considered on a case-by-case basis and must be included as a line item in the proposed budget. The applicant must clearly indicate how the equipment is required to meet project objectives that align with SIP mission and values.
- Informatics and information technology and systems, including software and hardware.
- Data collection services, including processing, analysis and management.
- Additional dependant care costs associated with attendance at a professional event such as workshop, conference or field visit. Dependants include children, elders or family members with disabilities. This would include travel for a caregiver to and from the event and costs of care at the location of the event, or the costs of caregiver travel to your home, or increased expenses at home incurred because the primary caregiver attended the meeting (such as a babysitter). If requesting dependant care costs, applicants are expected to detail estimated costs for each expenditure type and include details on location of event (e.g., cost of flight for family member to conference to provide childcare). Grantees may request up to \$2,000 over the time period for dependant care.

Ineligible Expenditures: ✗

- Purchase of firearms and/or ammunition.
- Expenses or costs paid or committed to by other funding sources.
- Costs for activities that are considered tenure obligations or for which a proponent has received cost allowance(s) included in the Interior Appraisal Manual or Coast Appraisal Manual. This includes treatment costs and activities associated with the stumpage system, such as layout, roads, logging and reforestation.
- Costs that are incurred prior to receiving grant approval.
- Costs for activities/phases outside the intent of this funding.

The 5 Project Elements

The following five project elements will be evaluated for the SIP Innovation in Action grant applications by an external review panel.

- 1 | ALIGNMENT** | Aligns clearly with the SIP Strategic Plan including the vision, mission, values and priority areas.
- 2 | IMPACT** | Aims to fill an important knowledge gap or extension need regarding innovative silviculture.
- 3 | COLLABORATION** | Engages multiple communities, sectors and knowledge holders.
- 4 | PLANNING** | Planning demonstrates competency and capacity to do the work.
- 5 | EXTENSION** | Brings together knowledge systems/holders to inform the application of innovative silviculture.

ELEMENT 1 | ALIGNMENT



PHOTO | Field visit near Quesnel. Credit: Cariboo Adventure Media/Woodlots BC.

The project demonstrates clear alignment with the [SIP Strategic Plan](#) including the vision, mission, values and priority areas.

- VISION: aims to increase the knowledge and/or application of innovative silviculture in British Columbia AND demonstrates stewardship of multiple values.
- MISSION: aims to impact one or more elements of the SIP mission.
- VALUES: the project is in alignment with the SIP value.
- PRIORITIES: impact is clear and measurable and will advance several goals of the SIP on a provincial scale OR is highly impactful towards advancing a specific priority area or region/ forest type.

Guiding question(s): How will my project make progress on improving knowledge and/or application of innovative silviculture in BC to support multiple values?

ELEMENT 2 | IMPACT



PHOTO | Northeast BC Wildland Fire Training. Credit: S. Leverkus

The project aims to fill an important knowledge gap or extension need regarding innovative silviculture. The project may directly support the specific needs of a community or region.

- **COMMUNITY:** provides benefit and/or support for the local/regional community and/or economy.
- **GAP OR NEED:** aims to address a known priority project area or SIP theme with a clear indication of steps taken. Alternatively, the project describes a previously unknown important gap/need and provides a clear description of why it is important, and how the project will address it.
- **REGION:** significantly advances knowledge specific to a region and/or forest type. If possible, the project shares lessons learned and/or demonstrates application of knowledge (including data collection methodology, social lessons, etc.) to other locations or other contexts in BC.

Guiding question(s): What knowledge or extension gap will my project help fill? What knowledge, skills or experience can be shared with other practitioners?

ELEMENT 3 | COLLABORATION



PHOTO | Building relationships, building knowledge workshop. Credit: Andrea Blaikie

The project engages multiple communities, sectors and knowledge holders to ensure its outcomes are practical, widely applicable and responsive. The project upholds respectful, reciprocal and collaborative relationships with First Nations, communities and organizations.

- **FIRST NATION PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP:** acknowledges and demonstrates respect and consideration of First Nations Peoples, communities and organizations and respects their lands, values and ways of life. Preference will be given to First Nations-led or co-led projects.
- **ENGAGEMENT:** Strong projects demonstrate how engagement and partnerships are integrated into the core approach (i.e. project goals, design, and/or implementation), ensuring contributions are meaningful to project design and influence outcomes or outputs .
- **DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT:** Project applicants must demonstrate permissions and/or support from project partners, Rights holders and/or landowners impacted by the project activities through providing letters of support. These can be provided at the time of application or if successful, at the time of funding offer .

Guiding question(s): Is my project First Nations-led, co-led and/or co-created? How does my project involve or support diverse partners and communities?

ELEMENT 4 | PLANNING



PHOTO | Field visit to a Quadra Island plantation. Credit: Woodlots BC.

The project plan demonstrates competency and capacity to do the work. The project clearly articulates key impactful objectives, realistic milestones and relevant deliverables.

- **OUTLINE:** defines objectives, milestones, deliverables.
- **BUDGET:** estimates are credible, accurate and include only eligible expenses.
- **CAPACITY:** project team demonstrates the capacity and qualifications to successfully carry out the work.
- **CONTINGENCY:** shows awareness of foreseeable challenges or obstacles to project completion with possible solutions identified.

Guiding question(s): *Is the project plan realistic and relevant to the objectives? Is my team capable and ready to do the work and report on results?*

ELEMENT 5 | EXTENSION



PHOTO | Community meeting in Anahim to discuss SIP Grant project. Credit: Jill Harvey.

Extension connects users of knowledge with its producers, helping ensure that information is relevant, practical, and impactful. The project bridges theory and practice by bringing together knowledge systems and/or knowledge holders to inform the application of innovative silviculture. *See the following pages for more detailed information on extension requirements.*

- **CONNECTION:** the project clearly understands the needs of knowledge users (i.e., forest practitioners) and connects knowledge systems or different ways of knowing with research to help contribute practical learnings.
- **COMMUNICATION:** the project supports knowledge sharing or knowledge exchange opportunities.
- **IMPACT:** the project describes a plan for extension that clearly articulates how project activities or design elements contribute to short-term, medium-term or long-term outcomes to enhance innovative silviculture in BC.

Guiding question(s): *Does my project create or co-create knowledge to fill the needs of knowledge users? If so, how am I measuring and reporting on these metrics? Does my project undertake extension activities to share knowledge? How does my project contribute to short-term, medium-term or long-term outcomes to support innovative silviculture?*

Extension Outcomes

The SIP is built on the foundation that applied research and extension are a powerful combination to translate knowledge into action. Applicants for the Innovation in Action grant will be given the opportunity to describe how extension processes and products have been considered throughout the project.

How to Undertake Extension

Here are some guiding questions for undertaking extension. We suggest considering these questions at the beginning of a project, though it is never too late to integrate a lens of extension on a project. To help realize your extension potential, answer these questions:

- What knowledge already exists and what are the gaps that need to be filled with knowledge co-production?
- Who needs the knowledge and how can it be shared effectively?
- What format makes the knowledge usable and respectful?
- What knowledge leads to desired short-, medium- and long-term changes?

KEY DEFINITION | *Extension*

Extension is a practice of building trust, relationships and capacity to enable collaboration. Extension supports active engagement with diverse stakeholders and all levels of government (Indigenous and municipal, provincial, federal) to identify opportunities, information needs and synergies. A foundational principle of extension is spanning boundaries and centering reciprocity, with a focus on two-way knowledge mobilization. The SIP goal is to increase the understanding of innovative silviculture systems by connecting the producers of knowledge with the users of knowledge. In this way, extension ensures outcomes are useful, informing the implementation of site plans, landscape planning, community decision-making and even policy transformation. When it comes to knowledge dissemination, extension actively reframes, translates and mobilizes knowledge depending on different audiences and contexts.



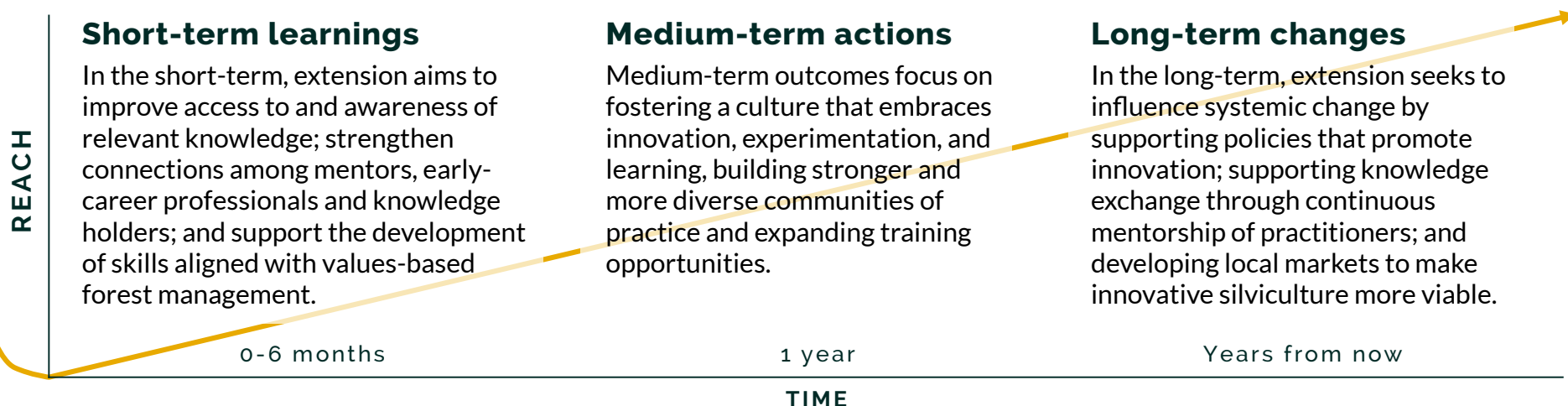
PHOTO | SIP Extension Team presenting at the 2025 FPBC Conference. Credit: Jodi Axelson.



PHOTO | Participants on a woodlot field tour near Quesnel. Credit: Cariboo Adventure Media/BC Woodlots.

EXTENSION REQUIREMENTS

Next, identify and consider the **outcomes** of your extension work, often viewed as **short-term learnings, medium-term actions and long-term changes**. Some examples of extension outcomes include:



Extension Outputs

Finally, consider the **outputs** of your extension work, for example hosting **workshops or training sessions, creating course modules, holding community meetings, delivering presentations, supporting land-based learning**. Other kinds of tangible knowledge sharing outputs include **materials such as extension notes, peer-reviewed papers, decision aids, blogs, infographics, video explainers, social media series, newsletters, contributed magazine articles and interviews on podcasts**.

Including Extension in your Application

You will be expected to describe the extension **outcomes** for your project and select and describe at least two extension **outputs** that you will deliver during the project lifetime.

For the extension **outcomes**, applicants will be asked to reflect upon and describe the outcomes your project will meet in the short-term (within 6-months) and in the medium-term (within 1-year).

For the extension **outputs**, applicants will be asked to describe the outputs (resources or activities), target users for the outputs, and estimate the date of delivery. Extension outputs will be shared and detailed in halfway reports and final reports. Completed extension products may be shared through the SIP communications channels (such as the SIP website, SIPex, newsletters or social media) to help reach a wider audience and increase impact.

Deliverables & Payment

Grant recipients will receive **60 % of requested project funds upfront** with the remaining 40% tied to deliverables.

60%

**PROJECT
START**

% FUNDS RELEASED



30%

**HALFWAY
REPORT**

% FUNDS RELEASED



10%

**FINAL REPORT
& EXTENSION
PRODUCTS**

% FUNDS RELEASED



Deliverable 1: Halfway Report

Applicants will be expected to provide a progress report halfway through the project time period using a template (to be provided). Applicants will be expected to report on milestones outlined in the proposed work plan and deliverables for each milestone.

WHY? Halfway reports will be used by the SIP team to assess how projects are going and report on grant interim progress. This report creates an opportunity for grant recipients to share their knowledge and experiences along the way, leverage the silviculture community to problem solve issues and celebrate interim successes and learnings.

EFFORT/TIME



IMPACT



Deliverable 2: Final Report & Extension Products

FINAL REPORT: Applicants must provide a final report at the end of the project time period using a SIP template (to be provided). The final report will be narrative and financial. Reporting will relate back to milestones and expected deliverables set out in the work plan.

WHY? Final reports will be used by the SIP team to measure and report on the success of the SIP grant program. Information collected across all submitted reports will help the SIP understand how the grant program was impactful and how it can improve.

EFFORT/TIME



IMPACT



EFFORT/TIME



IMPACT



EXTENSION: Applicants will be asked to describe how extension outcomes and outputs have been considered throughout the project, as well as commit to at least two extension products or activities. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate a thoughtful approach to meeting extension outcomes and a commitment to developing extension outputs.

WHY? The SIP is dedicated to improving knowledge of innovative silviculture through extension. Extension aligns the practical needs of forestry practitioners with applied research. Thoughtful consideration for why your project will meet knowledge gaps and how key learnings will be applied by others will help forest practitioners manage for diverse values.

Example Projects by Theme

Example Project #1

THEME 1 | *Old-like in a new light: Using partial harvesting and/or other innovative silviculture techniques for the recruitment of old growth characteristics.*

Project Summary: A research forest seeks to complete a new partial cutting entry in an existing trial. They need to access funds to pay for pre- and post-harvest data collection of the treatment effects. They are working in partnership with a First Nations-owned forestry company and will access Innovation in Action Grant funds to monitor whether the treatment helps recruit old growth characteristics relevant to that ecosystem. They also want to understand the impact of the treatment on wildlife and may want to purchase cameras or acoustic recording devices to look at wildlife and/or bird use.

Extension outcomes:

- **Short-term** extension outcome: improved access to information on the implementation of partial cutting techniques in this region to manage for old growth characteristics.
- **Medium-term** outcome: momentum for using innovative silviculture techniques, like partial cutting, will increase, as knowledge is gained and perceptions of risk decrease.
- **Long-term** outcome: old growth characteristics are maintained and enhanced on the landscape.

Extension outputs:

1. A **field tour** with local First Nations community members and regional silviculturalists to share the treatment prescription, detail how the treatment may or may not recruit old growth characteristics and broadly discuss forest values from the perspectives of the field tour attendees and
2. A **presentation** of this work at the regional silviculture committee meeting.



PHOTO | Deploying ARUs in the field.
Credit: Silviculture Innovation Program.



PHOTO | Credit: Jodi Axelson.

Example Project #2

THEME 2 | *A burn a day can help keep wildfire away: Supporting cultural and prescribed fire planning as a tool for managing multiple values.*

Project Summary: A First Nation would like to return fire to their territory as a tool to manage multiple cultural, ecological and economic values. The First Nation enters into a new relationship with BC Wildfire Service and University researchers to co-develop a modified wildfire response plan that identifies suitable locations for cultural and prescribed fire prescription development and locations that are suitable for wildfire to occur. The landscape-level plan assesses the risks and benefits of fire on forest values, including moose browse, grizzly bear habitat, food and medicinal plants and reduction of fuels.

Extension outcomes:

- **Short-term** outcome: access to existing knowledge on areas that are suitable for fire is increased.
- **Medium-term** outcome: the creation of a diverse and collaborative relationship between the First Nation, BC Wildfire and researchers that grows and develops a cultural and prescribed fire prescription.
- **Long-term** outcome: collaborative prescriptions to support cultural and prescribed fire are embraced as a silvicultural tool to manage forests and multiple values.

Extension outputs:

1. A **meeting** to present the proposed work to the community and discuss community values surrounding fire and forests.
2. An **article** about the project and collaboration featured in a professional association magazine.

Example Project #3

THEME 3 | *Thin it to win it: Exploring prescription development for partial harvesting and/or thinning to improve forest resilience, reduce wildfire risk and manage multiple forest values.*

Project Summary: A not-for-profit would like to work with industry partners to better understand how commercial thinning will impact timber and non-timber values in a forest adjacent to a protected area. The Innovation in Action Grant funds will provide support for a field team to collect data on multiple values in treated and untreated areas. The funds will also support the creation of a guide for commercial thinning in sensitive habitats to support the long-term management of multiple values.

Extension outcomes:

- **Short-term** outcome: identifying non-timber values with project partners to improve understanding of multiple values and raise awareness of existing knowledge.
- **Medium-term** outcome: increased implementation of commercial thinning to manage for multiple values.
- **Long-term** outcome: forests with sensitive habitats are managed using innovative silviculture.

Extension outputs:

1. A **decision aid** for practitioners to support decision-making when developing a prescription for commercial thinning in sensitive habitats with a primary focus on biodiversity and other forest values.
2. A **story map** incorporating field notes and images of research completed.

Example Project #4

THEME 4 | Accounting for innovation: *Providing data-driven support for land managers, planners, decision-makers and community leaders interested in applying innovative silviculture by exploring economic trade-offs and demonstrating potential outcomes of implementing innovative silviculture.*

Project Summary: A woodlot owner would like to implement variable density thinning to reduce wildfire risk and improve conditions for wildlife forage that can be paid for by fibre accessed by the silviculture treatment. They apply for SIP funds to track the costs associated with the treatment (planning, implementation) and benefits (labour, products, etc.) along with funds to support mentoring an early career practitioner looking to gain experience in the practice area.

Extension outcomes:

- **Short-term outcome:** the woodlot owner and early career mentee increase their knowledge of the full cost structure (planning, implementation, labour) and revenue opportunities (fibre recovery, marketable products) associated with variable density thinning.
- **Medium-term outcome:** other small-scale forest managers begin applying the documented and shared cost-benefit information to make informed decisions about whether and how to adopt variable density thinning, adjusting their management plans accordingly.
- **Long-term outcome:** widespread adoption of variable density thinning contributes to resilient rural economies by creating sustained local employment, reducing wildfire-related economic losses and diversifying revenue streams from forests while enhancing ecological values.

Extension outputs:

1. A concise, **practical tool** (2-page factsheet with an Excel-based calculator) that helps land managers easily assess whether variable density thinning could be financially viable in their own area.
2. Participation in a **conference workshop** that details the estimated cost of the treatment and economic offsets from forest products.



PHOTO | Participants at the 2024 SISCO Fall Field tour.
Credit: Gillian Chow-Fraser.

This information has been adapted from the academic article, “How extension enhances the knowledge and practice of innovative silviculture in British Columbia, Canada” authored by Dr. Kira Hoffman, Gillian Chow-Fraser, Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz and Dr. Jodi N. Axelson with the Silviculture Innovation Program. Accessible at: <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2025-0036>. View a plain language summary [here](#).

For further information on extension, explore our resources: <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/resources/>

If you have questions, please contact sip.extension@bvcentre.ca

Additional Details & Requirements

Project Workplan

A draft project overview/workplan is required at the application stage. This overview, at minimum, will need to include an estimated timeline of activities and milestones, including the delivery of reports and extension products. A final workplan will be required before funding is disbursed.

Data Ownership & Sharing

The SIP supports data sovereignty, which is the grantee's right to govern and manage their own data. Primary ownership of data will lie with grantees.

The SIP has an expectation that data, in some form, will be shared with the SIP by the end of project life. Data sharing agreements between grantees and the SIP will be created and include details on data storage, confidentiality, permitted uses, and/or suitable data openness.

The SIP respects and appreciates the need for confidentiality of sensitive data, such as the identification of culturally-sensitive places, species, or stories. The Data Sharing Agreement process, or other appropriate agreement(s), will assess how sensitive information is managed and shared, if appropriate.

Authorizations & Permissions

If authorizations are required to implement the project, it is the responsibility of the project applicant to ensure authorizations are in place from the applicable Land Manager. Workplans should include steps to acquire authorizations, if they have not yet been acquired. Applicants are also responsible for ensuring qualified regulated professionals will be used when legally required, such as a Registered Professional Forester.

Applicants are responsible to ensure all First Nation consultations are completed before the start of the project.

Procurement Process

Applicants should have a process to determine suitable contractors, if the projects include third-party contracting in the work plan and budget. Procurement processes should consider:

- Existence of a comparable contract,
- Existing contractors established through an internal selection process,
- Availability of skilled contractors or professionals,
- Operating areas where it is beneficial to use or build local expertise, or
- Use of First Nation or local contractors.

Review Process

Applications will be evaluated between December 1, 2025 and March 13, 2026. The evaluation process will include a detailed review by an external panel of subject matter experts to assess the nature and scope of the application, the expected results and the applicant's readiness to implement the project. Applications will remain confidential and will not be disclosed outside of the review and evaluation process.

The SIP aims to select a range of projects that address current needs and gaps in innovative forestry in BC. As the SIP is provincial in scale, the SIP aims to distribute grants across all of BC.

Successful applicants will be notified by March 16, 2026.

Contract Signing

Contracts must be signed within 90 days of notification. If a successful applicant is unable to complete this step within the timeframe, the grant will offer will be rescinded and allocated to an alternate project. This ensures that SIP funding can be allocated in full and support as many projects as possible.

Application checklist

(Printer friendly!)

☐ **Determined project eligibility:**

- ☐ Project is eligible to apply (*See Eligible Applicants*)
- ☐ Eligible theme selected (*See Eligible Themes*)
- ☐ Funding will be requested for eligible activities only? (*See Eligible Activities*)

☐ **Reviewed the 5 Project Elements and considered how my project would meet each:**

- ☐ Alignment
- ☐ Impact
- ☐ Planning
- ☐ Collaboration
- ☐ Extension

☐ **Reviewed disbursement schedule and understand required deliverables**

- ☐ Halfway report (30% of funding released on receipt)
- ☐ Final report (10% of funding released on receipt, in combination with Extension)
- ☐ Extension products (minimum two) (10% of funding, in combination with Final Report)

☐ **Reviewed and understand the additional requirements section** (data sharing, authorizations & permissions, procurement process, workplan, review process, contract signing)

☐ **Attended the [SIP Grants information webinar](#) on November 4, 2025 (12-1PM PST) (*optional*)**

☐ **Registered for the SIP grant portal and application form:**

<https://silvicultureinnovation.grantplatform.com>

☐ **Reviewed the online application form to understand information required in application**

☐ **Acquired supporting documents (e.g. proof of incorporation, letters of support) (*as necessary*)**

☐ **Completed the mandatory online application form on the SIP grant portal**

☐ **Reviewed application, ensuring all attachments and information are correct**

☐ **Submit completed application via the SIP grant portal! NOTE: Email or mail-in applications will *not* be accepted.**

SUPPORT

After reading this guide, are you still unsure if your project or program is eligible? If you have questions or are seeking support regarding extension or reporting requirements, please contact the SIP Extension Specialist:

Email: sip.extension@bvcentre.ca.

If you are seeking support regarding the grant application portal or general eligibility requirements, please contact the SIP Program Manager:

Email: sip.manager@bvcentre.ca

Phone: 250-847-2827 *

* (Monday-Thursday between 9AM-11:30AM and 1:30PM-4PM; If your call is not answered please leave a message (requesting grant information, name, date, phone number, email address).

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