



Bulkley Valley Research Centre

Silviculture Innovation Program

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2024

What

PHOTO: Gillian Chow-Fraser

is the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP)?

The **purpose** of the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) is to **improve knowledge** regarding innovative silviculture systems that can be used to inform practice and policy through **extension and research**. The vision for the SIP is that innovative silvicultural systems are widely applied across British Columbia's forested ecosystems for the stewardship of multiple values.

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre is responsible for designing and implementing the SIP. It is a not-for-profit organization in Smithers, BC, located on Gidimt'en Territory of the Witsuwit'en First Nation. The BVRC conducts research throughout the province and works to extend knowledge and build collaborative relationships.

EXPLORE

Learn more about the work of the SIP by viewing our website:
<https://sip.bvcentre.ca>



LEARN

Read the SIP's Strategic Plan at:
<https://sip.bvcentre.ca/about/strategicplan/>

PHOTO: Laura Stanton

Why does the SIP exist?

British Columbia's Old Growth Strategic Review identified innovative silvicultural practices as tools to help address forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate change adaptation. The province wants to explore ways to use innovative silvicultural practices as tools to manage a diverse range of values and interests on the landscape.

In March 2023, the province invested \$10 million in establishing and advancing a silvicultural innovation program in BC. The funds were provided to the Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC), which established the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) in April 2023.

CONTEXT

Learn more about BC's Old Growth Strategic Review:
<https://gov.bc.ca/oldgrowthstrategicreview>



Positionality Statement

The BVRC is a neutral, non-partisan, non-governmental organization that actively seeks to collaborate with governments, First Nations, industry, practitioners, academia, consultants and other parties. We strive to create two-way knowledge transfer opportunities between research and practice to support innovative silviculture in forests across British Columbia. We commit to maintaining an impartial and respectful role, acknowledging our own unconscious biases, while listening to other ways of knowing, living and experiencing our forested landscapes. We try to use inclusive and non-jargon language whenever possible.

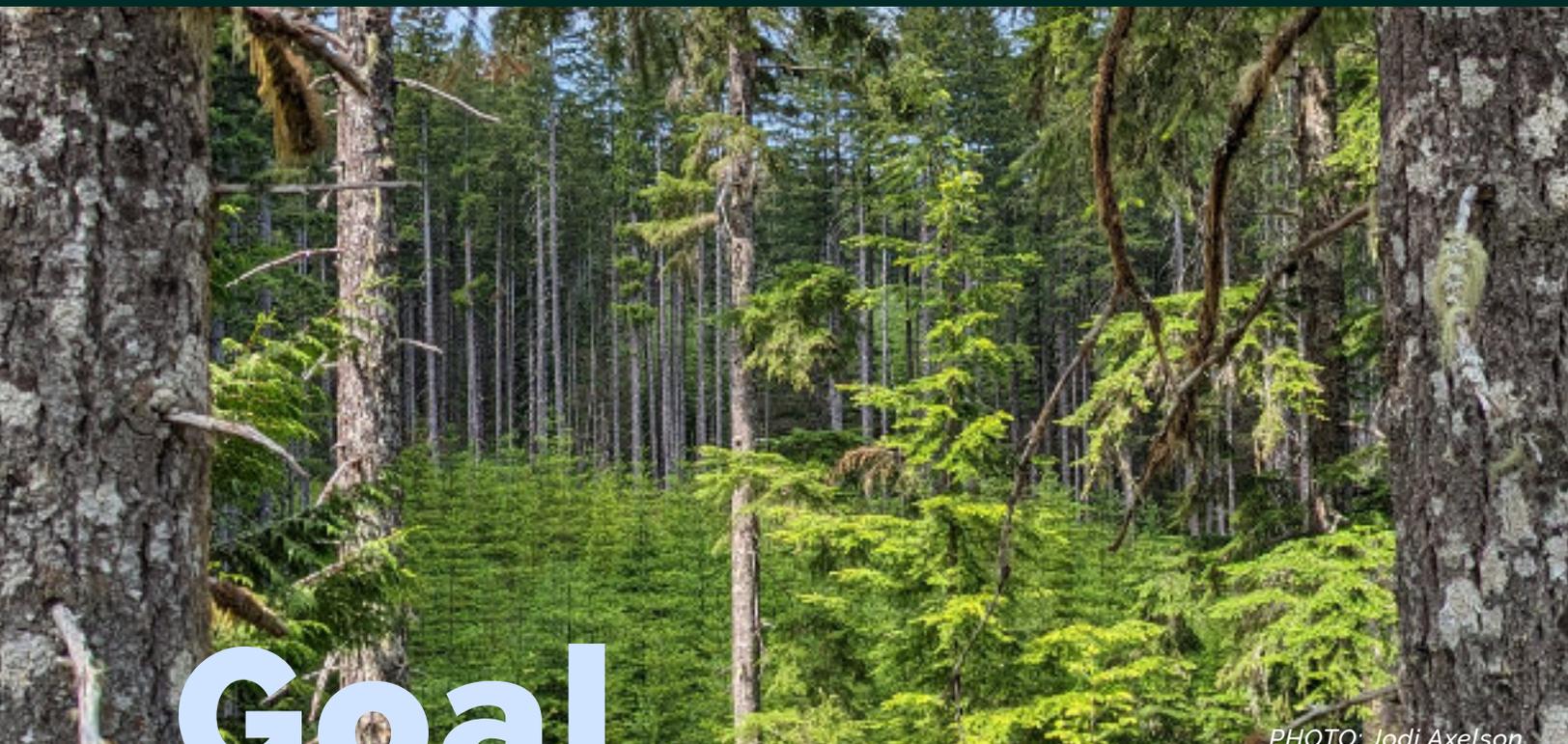


PHOTO: Jodi Axelson

Goal of the SIP

Our goal is to bring together a diverse collective of forestry practitioners and knowledge holders to actively engage and contribute their ideas and experiences to build a better pathway towards increasing the use of innovative silviculture in British Columbia.

Objectives

of the SIP

1

Building new relationships and strengthening existing collaborations. We want to promote relationship building by connecting existing communities of practice and strengthening the capacity of groups to forge new connections.

2

Recognition and respect for Indigenous Rights and Title and Indigenous-led solutions to forestry management. This may mean recognizing that legacy approaches to forest management may be insufficient or at odds with managing forests for multiple values.

3

Addressing novel threats. We will bring focus to the challenges, barriers and opportunities that the forestry sector faces under a rapidly changing climate.

4

Engaging in collective action. Building consensus around themes, research and extension products that will help identify existing barriers that require a community approach to overcome. We will assess what kinds of progress and successes are required to implement innovative approaches to silviculture.

5

Transformative change. Forestry is complex and we recognize that multiple approaches are required to improve understanding and advance solutions that match the scale of the problem.

Silviculture
Innovation
Program

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

STREAMS



We will improve knowledge on innovative silviculture through research and extension streams.

The research stream will help fill technical and place-based knowledge gaps related to issues that are limiting the application of innovative silviculture. The extension stream will mobilize, translate, and transfer knowledge to communities, decision-makers and practitioners. Both the research and extension streams are centered on building relationships and capacity while listening to diverse and underrepresented voices.

PHOTO: Jodi Axelson

PHOTO: Kira Hoffman

Values

To address the scale and complexity of regional forestry futures across BC, we have grounded values developed through strategic planning into our research and extension streams.

PLACE-BASED

Ensuring integration and mobilization of knowledge and practice that apply to the specific ecological, cultural and economic contexts across regions of BC.

INDIGENOUS-LED

Ensuring effective and inclusive collaboration of knowledge, practice and governance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

COLLABORATIVE

Addressing real and perceived barriers to knowledge sharing and connecting practices between regions, groups and jurisdictions.

(A reality check-in)

We recognize overarching paradigms that will influence our work, regarding the current context of forestry in BC. These realities include:

REALITY NUMBER ONE | Forestry policies and practices are complex. Policies interact with, and are impacted by, Indigenous sovereignty and rights, landscape management, and social, environmental, and economic systems. Forestry crosses jurisdictions, regions, sectors, territories and communities.

REALITY NUMBER TWO | Forestry is embedded in broader-scale issues. These include equity, community resilience and livelihoods, climate change impacts, co-governance structures, and future economies.

REALITY NUMBER THREE | A transformational shift is needed, but can be difficult to define and even harder to implement. The existing land, resource and governance structures were not designed to embrace complexity and uncertainty.

Themes

The SIP program has developed high-level thematic areas of work that are grounded in innovative silviculture for the management of multiple values. The thematic areas presented below have emerged through discussions with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and broader conversations with forest policy makers and practitioners. We acknowledge that themes will continue to emerge and narrow throughout the program and that several themes are overlapping and interconnected.

PARTIAL HARVEST



INTENSIVE SILVICULTURE

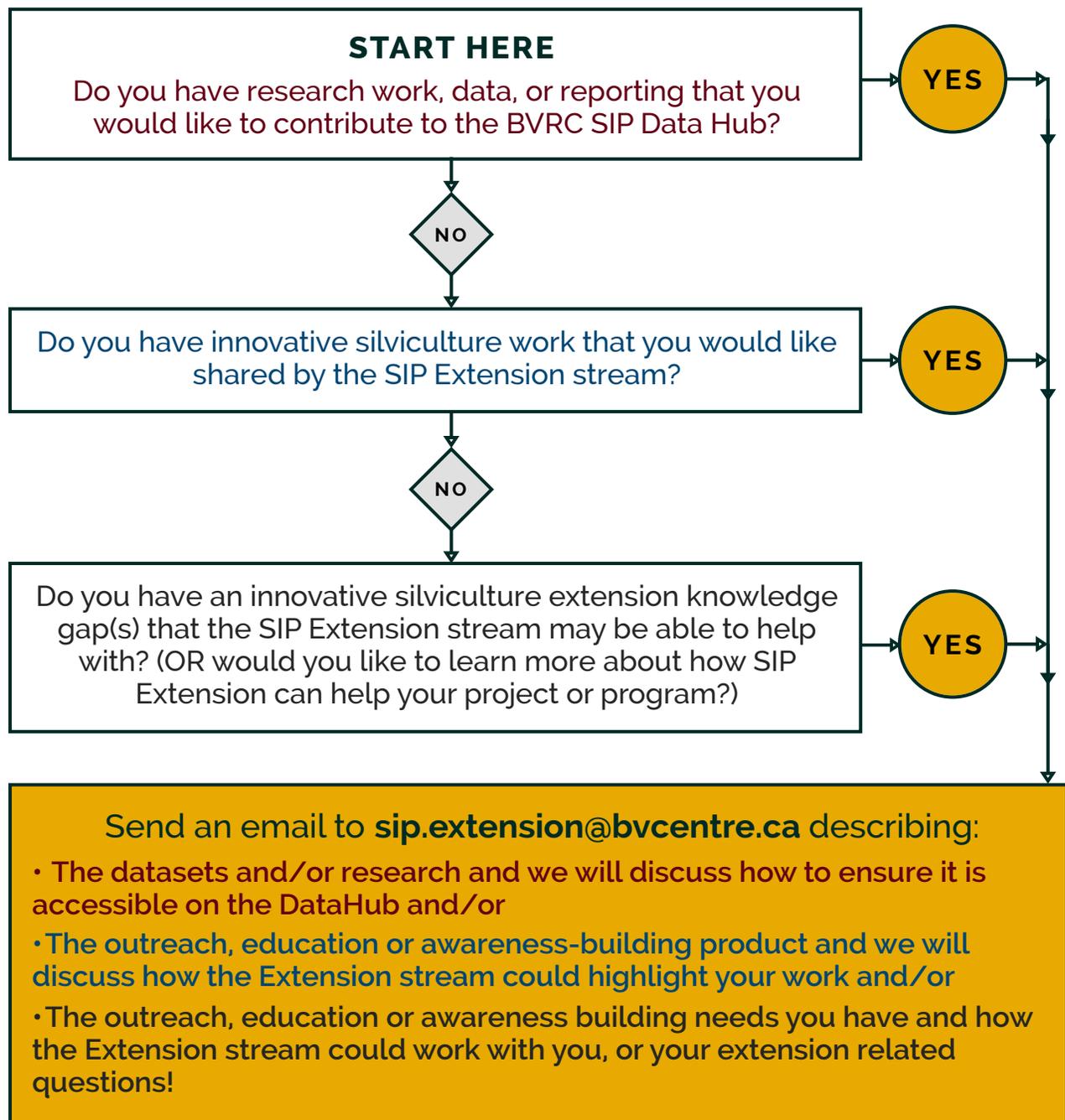


FIRE & SILVICULTURE

Engage with SIP Extension

A DECISION KEY FOR INTERESTED PRACTITIONERS

The SIP Extension stream recognizes the stories and information that many practitioners possess and are potentially interested in sharing with the broader community, as well as the benefit of two-way discussions about extension ideas. If you are interested in sharing information with the SIP Extension stream, use the decision key below to discover some of the things we want to hear about and let's start the conversation!



People behind the SIP

PHOTO: Kira Hoffman

The SIP is managed by an Operations Team, consisting of two provincial staff and two staff from the BVRC. The Operations Team is responsible for determining the direction and priorities of the SIP.

A ten-person Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), with representatives from diverse disciplines across BC, provides strategic oversight and direction to the program. The SAG has expertise, relationships and knowledge that is critical to the success of the Silviculture Innovation Program. The role of the SAG is to provide strategic direction and advice, guidance, and recommendations to the Operations Team.

The SIP Program Team provides program and project management, research data collection and analysis and extension support.

TEAM

Learn more about the people
behind the SIP on our website:
<https://sip.bvcentre.ca/team>



CONTACT

Contact the team directly at:
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WEB & SOCIAL

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Innovation Program (SIP)

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