

Annual Report

Silviculture Innovation Program

APRIL 1, 2024 to
MARCH 31, 2025

THIN IT TO WIN IT

The SIP distributes over \$1 million
in its inaugural Grants Program

OUT ON A LIMB

Telling innovative stories
through a new media series



HELLO, SIPex

Designing and building the #1
suggestion from the SIP
Knowledge Summit



Bulkley Valley
Research Centre

Silviculture Innovation Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) achieved several key accomplishments this year. Since the announcement of funds to the Bulkley Valley Research Centre in March of 2023 to establish the SIP, the program has been building its foundation and developing its strategic direction, including establishing a Strategic Advisory Group, hiring and supporting a cohesive program team, and designing a Strategic Plan.

In this last year, the SIP has implemented several key aspects of the Strategic Plan across four priority areas: 1) Identify Knowledge and Extension Gaps, 2) Extend Current Information, 3) Co-Create Knowledge, and 4) Build Long-term Commitment Through Community. Our achievements include:

- Establishing the foundations of the “SIP exchange” (SIPex), a user-friendly information portal to enable better access for practitioners to knowledge and knowledge holders on innovative silviculture in BC.
- Launching a grant program and funding over \$1-million in projects across the province to support implementing innovative practices and knowledge sharing.
- Surveying over 500 forest practitioners about their experience and perspectives on how Communities of Practice support the implementation of innovative practices.
- Releasing two comprehensive reports, a “What We Heard” from the SIP Knowledge Summit (released in May 2024) and a

Communities of Practice survey (released in February 2025).

- Establishing a research project evaluating the impacts of innovative silviculture over forty years in the sub-boreal using wildlife cameras, acoustic recorders and completing forest inventories to measure forest structure, habitat and habitat use.
- Creating extension resources to mobilize research and knowledge surrounding innovative silviculture, including:
 - A glossary with definitions for terms used in innovative silviculture, called the “SIPTionary”
 - Mini extension notes on Innovative Silviculture 101, SIP Research Spotlight, and the Chronosequence 101 (available at: <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/category/blog/>)
- Developing extension resources for connecting and growing existing Communities of Practice to support innovative silviculture, including the ongoing development of an

open-access list of Communities of Practice for practitioners.

- Celebrating the practitioners implementing innovative approaches through our media communications series, Out on a Limb (available at: <https://sip.bvcentre.ca/out-on-a-limb/>), with our first episode highlighting the work of Lil’wat Nation and Lil’wat Forestry Ventures.
- A forthcoming publication in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research titled “How extension enhances the knowledge and practice of innovative silviculture in British Columbia, Canada”

From building a dedicated team to creating accessible resources and fostering community connections, the SIP has taken critical steps to build an enduring and impactful program. The SIP is grateful for the collaboration, passion, and hard work of our supporters and the practitioners making innovative change, as well as the visionary organizations and individuals moving innovation in the forestry sector forward.

Annual Report

**Silviculture
Innovation
Program**

APRIL 1, 2024 to
MARCH 31, 2025

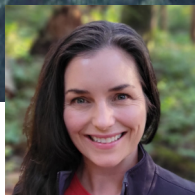


PHOTO | SIP Field Technician Naomi Daburger lays out a research plot near Smithers, BC
(photo credit: Carla Lange).

Annual Report

Silviculture Innovation Program

APRIL 1, 2024 to
MARCH 31, 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

After an amazing year with the Strategic Advisory Group, we are feeling energized by the momentum behind the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) and all the progress made toward advancing innovative silviculture in BC.

The Innovative Silviculture Knowledge Summit was a real highlight—bringing together over 70 passionate professionals to share ideas, challenge assumptions, and identify gaps in practice. It was a powerful reminder of what can happen when collaboration is open, honest, and inclusive. The energy in the room was incredible, filled with moments of inspiration, connection, and optimism. A huge thank you to everyone who participated—your expertise, curiosity, and commitment continue to drive SIP forward!

It has been a pleasure to support the SIP this past year. With significant progress made establishing the SIP exchange (SIPex), an online hub for connecting practitioners with knowledge and knowledge holders, and launching a million-dollar granting opportunity, the SAG is proud of the steps taken to efficiently and thoughtfully address practical knowledge and extension needs for practitioners.

As we look ahead, we are excited to see what practitioners and communities report back on from their funding opportunities. There is a diversity of great ideas being implemented and we will be curious to know what worked and any unexpected outcomes...onwards and upwards!

Sincerely,

Jen Gunter, MRM and
Garnet Mierau, RPF
On behalf of the Strategic Advisory Group

Silviculture Innovation Program



ABOUT THE SIP

The vision for the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) is that innovative silvicultural systems are applied widely across British Columbia's forested ecosystems for the stewardship of multiple values. Our mission is to accelerate the growth of innovative silviculture by improving knowledge of these systems in British Columbia. The SIP focuses on expanding knowledge through applied and operational research and mobilizing knowledge through extension.

The SIP is administered by the Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC), a non-government organization based in Smithers, BC. It was established in April 2023 following the release of the Old Growth Strategic Review, which calls on the exploration of ways to use innovative silvicultural practices as tools to manage a diverse range of

values and interests on the landscape (Recommendation #12).

The SIP aims to support “forest practitioners”. We define forest practitioners as professionals, researchers, Guardians and stewards involved in the management, conservation, and sustainable use of forest ecosystems. Forest practitioners come from diverse backgrounds and knowledge systems, holding expertise in various aspects of forestry. Forest practitioners work to ensure that forests are managed in a way that balances ecological health, economic needs, and cultural and social values, while addressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and disturbances such as wildfire. We hope that SIP products and resources may also be used and/or indirectly inform the work of other broader audiences like policy makers, community members and interested public.

Annual Report

Silviculture Innovation Program

APRIL 1, 2024 to
MARCH 31, 2025

CONTENTS

Team Members	1
Operations Team	1
Program Team	1
Strategic Advisory Group	2
 Strategic Plan Progress	 3
Priority Area 1: Identify Knowledge and Extension Gaps	3
Priority Area 2: Extend Current Information	5
<i>Highlight: About the SIPex</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Highlight: Out on a Limb</i>	<i>8</i>
Priority Area 3: Co-Create Knowledge	10
<i>Highlight: SIP Grants</i>	<i>13</i>
Priority Area 4: Build Long-term Commitment Through Community	16
 Outreach and Knowledge Exchange	 18
 Looking Ahead: Next Steps	 22
Contact Information	22

COVER PHOTO | SIP team members at the SISCO Fall Field Tour in Pemberton, BC (from left: Gillian Chow-Fraser, Kira Hoffman, Jodi Axelson, Andrew Snetsinger). *Photo credit: SIP.*

TEAM MEMBERS

OPERATIONS TEAM

The SIP is led by a four-person Operations team, responsible for determining the direction and priorities of the SIP.



ALANA CLASON, PhD
Research Lead, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



KIRA HOFFMAN, PhD, AFP
Extension Lead, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



JODI AXELSON, PhD, PAg
Silviculture Research Leader, *Ministry of Forests*



ANDREW SNETSINGER, RPF
Manager of Harvesting and Silviculture Practices, *Ministry of Forests*

PROGRAM TEAM

The SIP is supported by a Program team, which saw the addition of two new positions this year: a Data Curation Specialist and an Extension Associate. The research program was supported by a team of SIP field technicians, as well as technicians from the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.



LAURA STANTON, BSc
Program Manager, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



GILLIAN CHOW-FRASER, MSc
Extension Specialist, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



TYREEN KAPOOR, MSc
Data Curation Specialist, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



KELSEY COPES-GERBITZ, PhD
Extension Associate, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre*



CARLA LANGE, RPF
Field Technician, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre Seasonal*



NAOMI DABURGER, FIT
Field Technician, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre Seasonal*



MADISON STENQUIST
Field Assistant, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre Seasonal*



INGRID FARNELL, MSc
Research Technician, *Bulkley Valley Research Centre (Parental leave until May 2025)*

STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

The SIP is also supported by a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG provides high-level strategic advice and recommendations to the Operations Team. We thank the members of our SAG for dedicating their time and energy to supporting our vision. We also thank the four outgoing members of the SAG for their contributions to the successes of our work this year.

CURRENT MEMBERS



JENNIFER GUNTER, MRM
Executive Director, *BC Community Forest Association*



DANIELLE IGNACE, PhD
Associate Professor,
University of Minnesota



FRANCIS JOHNSON, RPF
Forest Manager, *Alkali Resource Management Ltd.*



DENNIS MACDONALD, RFT
Operations Manager, *Stuwix Resources Joint Venture*



GARNET MIERAU, RPF
Director of Practice,
Forest Professionals BC



LISA WOOD, PhD, RPF
Associate Professor,
University of Northern British Columbia

OUTGOING MEMBERS

KEVIN KRIESE, MRM
Senior Wildfire and Landuse Analyst, *Bulkley-Morice Wildfire Resiliency Project*

MARIE-LOU LEFRANCOIS, RPF
Manager, Audits and Investigations, *BC Forest Practices Board*

ERICA LILLES, PAg
Research Generalist, *Ministry of Forests*

JEFF MYCOCK, RPF
Chief Forester, Canada, *West Fraser*

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

OVERVIEW

The Strategic Plan (2023–2028) guides the implementation and direction of program activities. Critically, the plan outlines four priority areas for the program:

1. Identify Knowledge and Extension Gaps
2. Extend Current Information
3. Co-Create Knowledge
4. Build Long-term Commitment through Community

This year, the SIP further refined our four priority areas with the integration of greater insight on the needs of practitioners. In particular, we developed several goals for each priority area to guide our approach to activities within those areas, and we integrated key objectives that were identified at the Knowledge Summit (March 2024). The goals help clarify how the SIP will engage in each of the priority areas. The Knowledge Summit Objectives help clarify what outcomes are most desired from the forest practitioner community within each priority area. These new elements are summarized in the table to the right (Table 1).

PRIORITY AREA 1

IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE & EXTENSION GAPS

DESCRIPTION

This priority area focuses on ensuring the SIP is engaging with forest practitioners and identifying critical gaps in knowledge and extension to help implement innovative silviculture. Gaps are identified through needs assessments across multiple scales, such as through broad and open surveys, targeted surveys, focus groups, discussions at conference exhibitor booths, and one-on-one meetings regarding needs.

KEY ACTIONS


- ▶ The findings of the Knowledge Summit, hosted by the SIP in March of 2024, are viewed as the results of a targeted needs assessment and have helped guide actions across all priority areas for the program. Thirty-five gaps or needs were identified by participants at the Knowledge Summit – this “marketplace of ideas” is available in Appendix 1 of the What We Heard report. Sixty pre-interviews were also completed with the majority of Knowledge Summit participants. Qualitative analysis of the pre-interviews were used to guide program implementation and prioritization of actions.
- ▶ We conducted a survey with over 500 forest practitioners to better understand how their Communities of Practice were supporting their implementation of innovative

Table 1. Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) strategic priority areas, goals and objectives that guide the implementation of program activities.

Priority Area	Goals	Knowledge Summit Objectives:
1. Identify Knowledge and Extension Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify knowledge and extension gaps that exist within the practitioner community. • Prioritize the knowledge gaps the SIP can meaningfully address. 	<i>The Knowledge Summit itself was a needs assessment within this priority area.</i>
2. Extend Current Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure practitioners have the knowledge they need to apply innovative silviculture. • Exchange information with practitioners, grantees and other users of knowledge. • Increase access to existing and emerging knowledge and information. • Create and support technical extension materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Knowledge Hub • Extend knowledge into practice
3. Co-Create Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead, contribute to, and facilitate the creation of collaboratively developed knowledge products, including research and extension resources. • Fund applied research and build knowledge by supporting the testing of innovative practices. • Actively create space for Indigenous-led and diverse knowledge creation and support its development and translation into practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support new research • Synthesize existing knowledge
4. Build Long-term Commitment Through Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower the co-creation and extension of knowledge to peers and communities. • Grow awareness and understanding of communities of practice that support innovative silviculture. • Identify and work to reduce risk perceptions of innovative silviculture and collectively learn from failures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity and grow Communities of Practice

silviculture. Findings from the survey were used to refine program priorities, including considerations for how to enhance connections within and amongst Communities of Practice and how to better support peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and access to knowledge and knowledge holders.

KEY OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

564 

Forest practitioners across BC
completed the SIP Communities of Practice survey between July 15, 2024 and August 30, 2024.



“What We Heard” reports released

A summary report of Knowledge Summit findings was released in May 2024.

Forest practitioner Communities of Practice survey results report was released in February 2025.

Adapting our projects

Other SIP projects, such as the SIPex, have been adapted to include community needs identified in the Communities of Practice survey.

Adapting our goals

The SIP Strategic Plan has been adapted to include findings from needs assessments.



PRIORITY AREA 2

EXTEND CURRENT INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

This priority area focuses on creating extension resources that translate information and knowledge on innovative silviculture approaches. This includes the development of resources such as technical extension materials, as well as considering ways that practitioners search and access information on innovative silviculture or resources that help with the implementation of innovative silviculture.

KEY ACTIONS:

- ▶ Completed the initial stages of work to establish the SIP exchange (or “SIPex”), a user-friendly informational portal to enable better access by practitioners to knowledge and knowledge holders on innovative silviculture in BC.
 - Completed surveys to focus groups of target users to assess preferred functions and content prioritization.
 - Completed in-person demonstrations of the beta version of the SIPex at conferences and workshops and gathered feedback surveys.
 - Website front-end development continues, building out the interface that users will interact with when using the SIPex based on feedback from practitioners.
 - Curated (screened and tagged) over 100 resources to populate the resource repository.



HIGHLIGHT

ABOUT THE SIPex



One of the greatest challenges faced by practitioners is finding the best available knowledge on innovative silviculture given the vast amount of information that exists in various locations and forms across decades of practice. The **SIPex** seeks to reduce the barriers to accessing knowledge by connecting users with resources and information, people and communities, training, and education to improve their understanding and decision-making on innovative practices.

The **SIPex** will have three features:

- 1 | An information repository:** The SIPex will house a variety of documents and resources to enable practitioners to search for existing knowledge from research studies all the way to operational implementation of innovative silviculture.
- 2 | Connection to community:** The SIPex will support connecting forest practitioners with the existing and emerging network of peers by hosting information on a range of communities of practice in BC that support the implementation of innovative silviculture in a variety of ways.
- 3 | Training and education:** The SIPex will increase capacity for innovative silviculture by collating information on existing and emerging training and formal education opportunities with the goal of increasing visibility of options to interested practitioners.

Explore the SIPex at www.sipexchangebc.ca

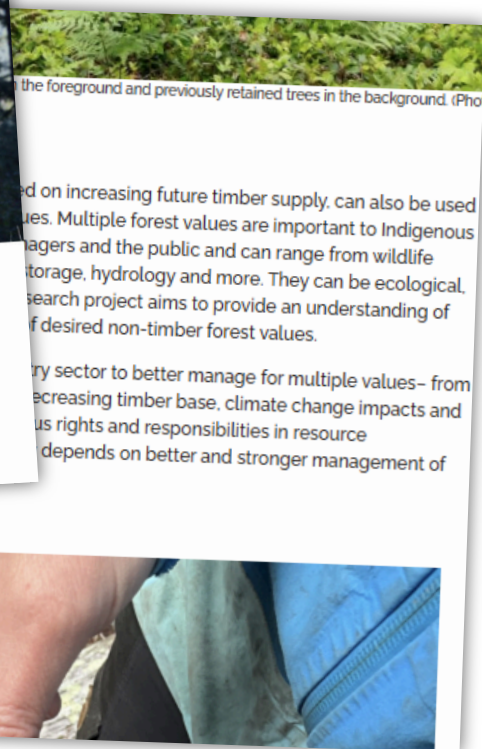
- ▶ Created several extension resources to mobilize research and knowledge of innovative silviculture, including
 - A glossary that puts forward definitions for terms used in innovative silviculture, called the “SIPTionary”.
 - The preparation and submission of a peer-reviewed paper on the critical role of extension in innovative silviculture in BC.
 - Short written pieces including Innovative Silviculture 101, SIP Research Spotlight, and the Chronosequence 101, available online as blogs.
- ▶ Launched a media communications series called “Out on a Limb” that highlights practitioners that are actively implementing innovative approaches. The series interviews practitioners and captures what motivates them to implement initiatives and how they overcome particular challenges and obstacles. The first episode celebrates the work of Lil’wat Nation and Lil’wat Forestry Ventures and their goal to mitigate wildfire risk and manage cultural values, such as pine mushrooms, within their tenure. The episode was filmed and circulated in collaboration with Lil’wat Forestry Ventures and Lil’wat Nation.



Discover the SIP BLOG

Learn more about the SIP's Research Project via "*The Chronosequence 101*" and "*A Return to the Past*" blog posts.

<https://sip.bvcentre.ca/blog/>

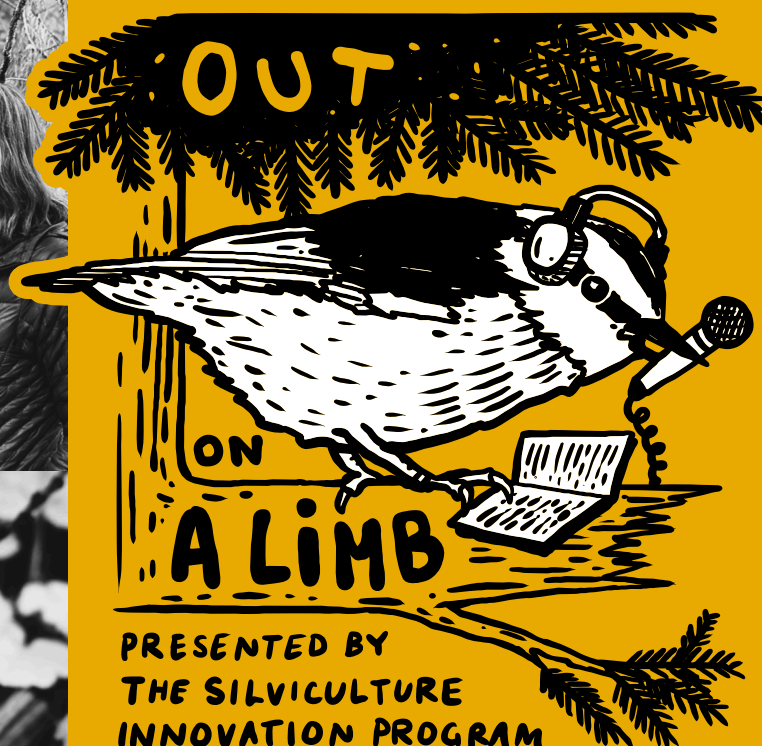




STORIES OF INNOVATION

Out On A Limb is a series that highlights stories of innovation across BC, uplifting voices of trailblazers in our communities that are innovating their management practices for the betterment of the forests of tomorrow.

Join us, as we learn more from the innovators themselves to gain insight on what guides their management objectives, decision-making processes and implementation. Dig into discussions on the values, approaches and practices that make up the world of innovative silviculture.



Watch the
first episode
here!



KEY OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS



The SIPex (beta version) is live including a page for the resource repository, a training and skill development page, and a community-building page.



Tag categories

developed and structured according to community feedback, including silviculture techniques, forest types, species and more.



OVER 100
Resources

were identified, screened and tagged to populate the resource repository.



Video views

The first episode of Out on a Limb: Lil'wat Forestry Ventures was released online on March 31, 2025. The video has garnered over a thousand views in the first three weeks of release.

Technical extension resources

are available online under the "Resources" page.



PHOTO | SISCO Fall Field Tour, Pemberton, BC. Photo credit: Gillian Chow-Fraser.

PRIORITY AREA 3

CO-CREATE KNOWLEDGE

DESCRIPTION

This priority area focuses on supporting the co-creation of knowledge and resources that contribute to a deeper understanding of innovative silviculture. The SIP conducts research to fill knowledge gaps, as well as help fund projects that can address important knowledge gaps through extension of ongoing innovative approaches, collecting data on multiple values, and supporting collaborative initiatives to complex problems.

KEY ACTIONS

- ▶ The SIP research program carried out its first field season of its collaborative project with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW) this year. The project made significant progress developing a monitoring protocol that could evaluate impacts to multiple forest values across decades of retention treatments. Some key actions include:
 - Establishing 64 monitoring plots, with remote cameras and audio recording units. Vegetation, tree and fuels measurements were completed at half of the sites.
 - Developing monitoring protocol to assess multiple values, including wildfire risk, timber values, carbon, moose habitat, and more. The protocol adopts and/or adapts several existing protocols and integrates them into one cohesive and evolving research regime.
 - Training and building capacity for OW technicians to lead field operations.
 - Engaging with multiple tenure holders and foresters to better understand the retention treatment prescriptions and management objectives.
- ▶ The SIP successfully launched its inaugural grants program, providing over \$1 million in funding to support projects across BC. These projects will advance knowledge on implementing innovative silviculture and enhance the capacity of the practitioner community. Successful grantees demonstrated clear contributions to learning in innovative silviculture and adaptive management, as well as a strong commitment to knowledge extension.

Through the SIP Grants program, funding will support:

- Enhancing project implementation and design to ensure data is collected on multiple values beyond the minimum requirements of the appraisals manual.
- Engaging communities, fostering new partnerships, and supporting diverse forms of knowledge.
- Participation in training, courses, workshops, and field tours, as well as the design and delivery of workshops and tours to facilitate knowledge exchange on innovative silviculture.





Collecting data for the SIP RESEARCH PROJECT

PHOTOS | **Left:** SIP Field Technicians collecting data amongst summer fireweed; **Middle:** Summer Field Assistant Madison Stenquist amidst a sea of devil's club; **Right:** Field Technician Carla Lange shows off one of SIP's acoustic recording units (ARU) before install in the field; **Below:** SIP technicians work together to collect plot data. *Photo credit: SIP.*





GRANTS

2024

The 2024 SIP Grants program supported two grant streams:

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

\$200,000 total fund
with up to **\$15,000** per recipient

Capacity Building grants focus on addressing knowledge gaps—such as training, workshops, and schooling—and developing the relationships and capacities needed to identify gaps or needs for larger projects. These projects and initiatives will be carried out over a one-year period, from February 2025 to February 2026. Projects may range from skill development, knowledge transfer, training, mentorship, and relationship-building to support for designing, developing, and delivering workshops or field tours. For the 2024 intake, applicants could request up to \$15,000.

INNOVATION IN **ACTION** GRANTS

\$850,000 total fund
with up to **\$50,000** per recipient

Innovation in Action grants support operational research and the implementation of innovative silviculture projects over a two-year period, from January 2025 to December 2027. These grants are designed to fund shovel-ready projects that require additional resources to enhance learning in innovative silviculture. This may include prescription planning, research and monitoring design, equipment needs, data collection on multiple values beyond those required for cutting permit issuance, the development of knowledge-sharing products, and the extension of results. For the 2024 intake, applicants could request up to \$50,000.

For 2024, Innovation in Action grants focused on projects that could meet one of the following priority themes:



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



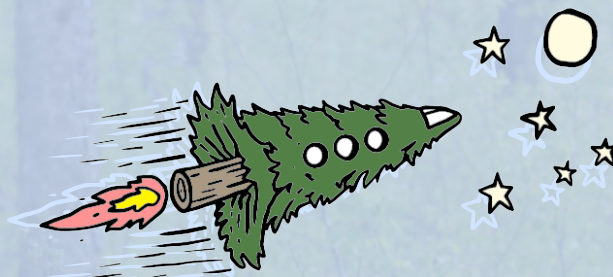
Thin it to win it: Exploring prescription development for partial harvesting and/or thinning to improve forest resilience, reduce wildfire risk and manage multiple forest values.



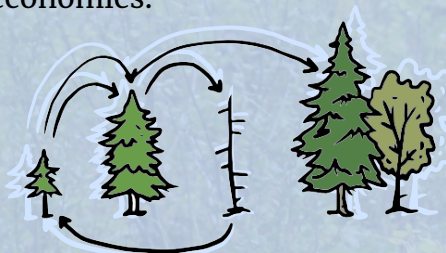
Training tomorrow's forest innovators: Innovative silviculture practitioner and/or operator training, education or practical forestry experience opportunities.



A burn a day can help keep wildfire away: Supporting cultural and prescribed fire planning as a tool for managing multiple values including (but not limited to), eco-cultural restoration, fuels management, Indigenous food sovereignty and pyrosilviculture related economic opportunities.



Beyond the sawlog: Innovative and optimized use of fibre to create higher value products, increase employment and support local economies.



Success, failure, learn and tailor: Share learnings of successes and failures of using innovative silviculture techniques to enhance adaptive management strategies and build on BC's collective knowledge.

KEY OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS



The SIP Research Project experienced significant growth in strengthening relationships with project partners and the **Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW)**. This includes building

64 study plots successfully established

alignment and support

on research project objectives and implementation with OW leadership and Wet'suwet'en community members.

Shared management of field operations

with the OW. The OW are prepared to lead and execute field work for the research project in 2025/26.



CELEBRATING

GRANTS
2024

\$1.05
MILLION

awarded to grantees across the province



69

Grant applications

were received during the 2024 SIP Grants Program intake between September 3 and November 1, 2024.

34

Projects funded
in the 2024 intake, including



18

Innovation in Action
projects, with up to \$50,000 each

16

Capacity Building
projects, with up to \$15,000 each



Applications totalled over
\$2.4 in funding requested,
MILLION

demonstrating need and vastly exceeding available funds for this round.

72%

of funded projects were

First Nations-led or co-led projects

"Thin it to win it"

"A burn a day can help keep wildfire away"

"Old-like in a new light"

were the most popular themes for funded projects



PRIORITY AREA 4

BUILD LONG-TERM COMMITMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION

This priority area focuses on supporting knowledge exchange between peers, as well as within and amongst Communities of Practice. It aims to increase connections between different Communities of Practice and create opportunities for knowledge sharing between experienced and new practitioners. This priority area also seeks to address social dimensions of innovative silviculture implementation, which can be critical to creating lasting change.

KEY ACTIONS

- ▶ Conducted a survey with individuals that self-identified as forest and/or fire practitioners to gather perspectives on their experiences with Communities of Practice and how they have supported the implementation of innovative silviculture. The survey garnered 565 responses from practitioners and researchers across multiple sectors and across the province. The survey findings describe the state of Communities of Practice and the state of Extension resources for respondents, including the identification of key benefits and recommendations for how to enhance them, and a proposed framework for Communities of Practice in BC.
- ▶ The development of a function of the SIPex that focuses on supporting Communities of Practice across the province. This includes creating a platform for practitioners to connect with existing Communities of Practice in BC that support the implementation of innovative silviculture, and facilitate connections amongst practitioners, knowledge holders, experienced practitioners, and/or mentors to support their work.

PHOTO | SISCO Fall Field Tour, Pemberton, BC. Photo credit: Gillian Chow-Fraser.



- ▶ Preparation of a peer-reviewed paper building on the interviews that were conducted for the SIP Knowledge Summit (held in March 2024). The research questions that guide this work aim to deepen our understanding of how practitioners define “innovative silviculture”; the factors that facilitate innovative silviculture, how those factors have changed over time, and how those factors can be enhanced; and the barriers to innovative silviculture.
- ▶ Supported ongoing discussions assessing how the SIP can build on and learn from past extension programs in the province to create a program that can support extension over the long-term.
- ▶ Explored collaborations and partnerships with organizations whose mandate aligns with the SIP mission and values. The SIP supported relationship-building activities such as collaborative communications on social media platforms, amplification of products, and facilitation of plenaries and conference sessions. Further discussions on partnerships and collaborations include identifying areas where SIP can support extension needs.

KEY OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

Survey results were summarized

in a What We Heard report released February 2025. The report is titled “How Communities of Practice Can Support Innovative Silviculture in British Columbia”.



Curated and published a list of existing Communities of Practice

that support innovative silviculture, informed by Communities of Practice survey results and experts.

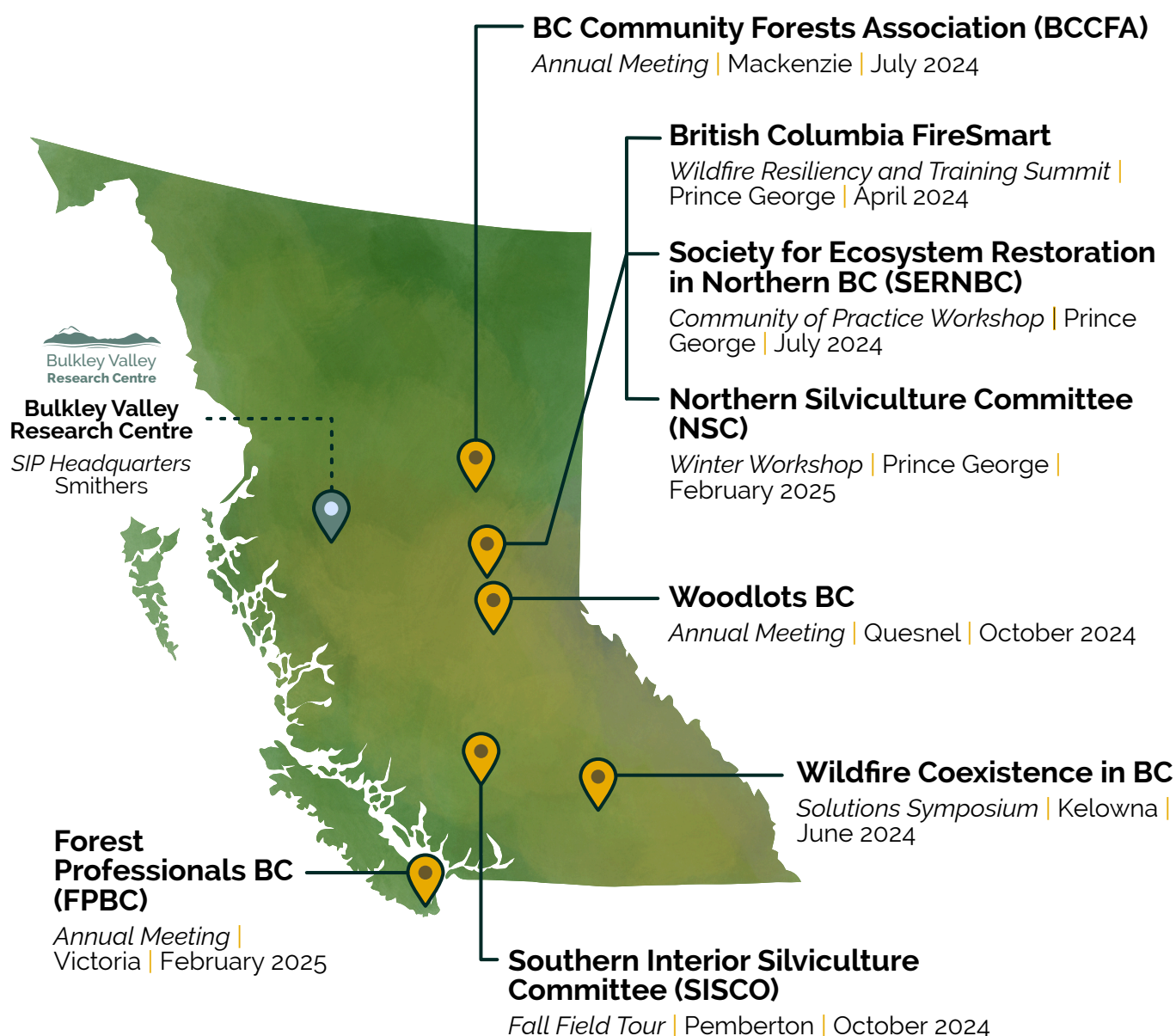
Establishment of a “Community” page on SIPex

PHOTO | SISCO Fall Field Tour, Pemberton, BC. Photo credit: Gillian Chow-Fraser.

OUTREACH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

SUMMARY

The SIP participated and/or presented at nearly a dozen forestry events, workshops or conferences this year. We welcomed the opportunities to extend our work and knowledge, hear from practitioners firsthand about their needs, and gather feedback on our ongoing work. It was a pleasure to connect with colleagues, old and new, and continue to build our networks and communities of practice



We were honoured to host a plenary session at the Forest Professionals British Columbia, the State of Perceptions of Innovative Silviculture, with presentations and discussions by SIP team members, Gillian Chow-Fraser, Dr. Kira Hoffman and Andrew Snetsinger, and moderated by Paul Kutz. The session dove into the role of research, extension and knowledge exchange and why it's important to all sectors of forestry, summarized the findings of the survey on communities of practice, and summarized projects that are addressing these needs from the SIP and the Office of the Chief Forester.



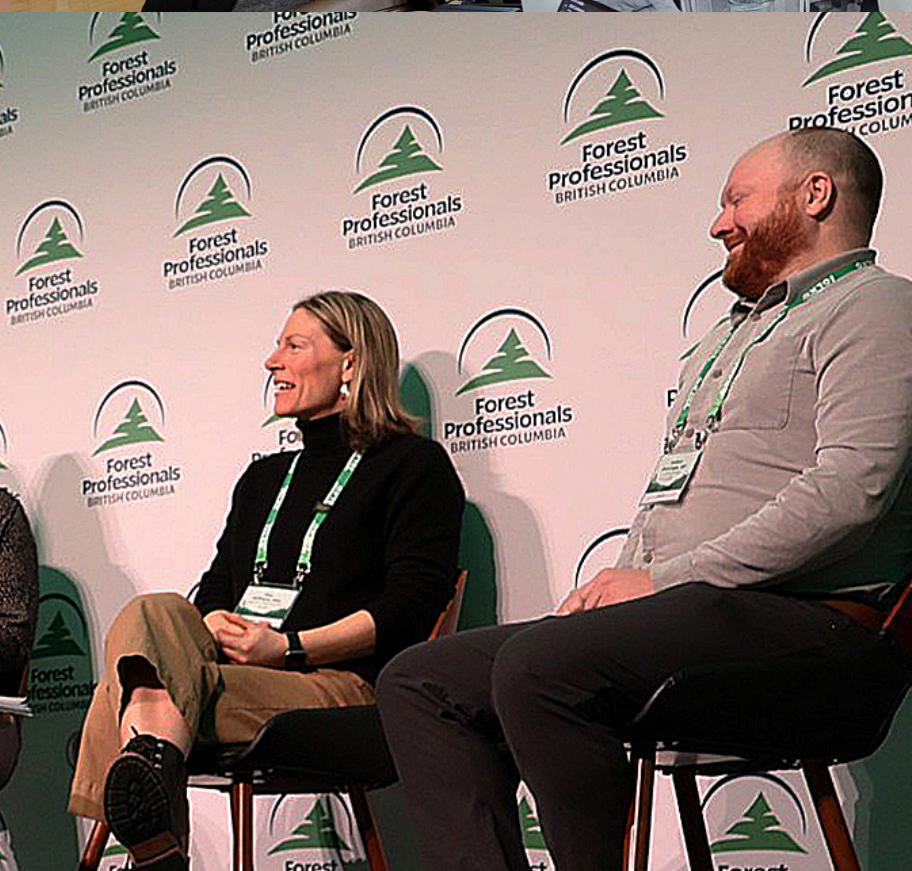
SIP connections ON THE ROAD

LEFT PHOTO | Dr. Alana Clason and Tyreen Kapoor host a booth at the NSC Winter Workshop in Prince George, BC. *Photo credit: NSC.*





ABOVE PHOTO | Dr. Alana Clason delivers a talk at the Woodlots BC Annual Meeting in Quesnel, BC. *Photo credit: Woodlots BC.*



LEFT PHOTO | "State of Perceptions of Innovative Silviculture" plenary session at the FPBC Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC, hosted by SIP team members (from left: Gillian Chow-Fraser, Dr. Kira Hoffman, Andrew Snetsinger). *Photo credit: FPBC*

Early January, the SIP Team met with the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests at the BVRC office in Smithers. The meeting was an opportunity to share the vision and objectives of the SIP, and how the SIP fits into the broader framework of forestry in BC. The SIP team is grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Minister.

PHOTO | BVRC Executive Director Caroline Bastable, Dr. Kira Hoffman, BC Minister of Forests Hon. Ravi Parmar, Dr. Alana Clason, and Laura Stanton at the BVRC Office in Smithers, BC. *Photo credit: SIP.*



LOOKING AHEAD

NEXT STEPS

In the coming year, the SIP will focus on continued implementation of activities that create practical knowledge on innovative silviculture. Some anticipated areas of focus for next year include:

- ▶ Fully launching the SIPex platform.
- ▶ Synthesizing knowledge for key topics, such as partial cutting and pyrosilviculture.
- ▶ Creating further extension resources, such as peer-reviewed papers and plain language summaries, decision aids, templates, and narrative prescriptions.
- ▶ Supporting current grantees through extension.
- ▶ Supporting another round of grants to implement innovative silviculture.
- ▶ Developing extension resources that examine social dimensions of innovative silviculture to understand how to better support the people behind the process.
- ▶ Learning from, and building on, the history of extension programs in the province.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

We would like to thank all of our supporters, collaborators and partners, colleagues and experts, and the forest practitioner community. Our work is influenced and strengthened by the engagement of the broader community and would not be possible without your support. From surveys to needs assessments, focus groups and webinars, to phone calls and one-on-one conversations - we appreciate every opportunity to hear from practitioners and discuss how we can support innovative silviculture.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

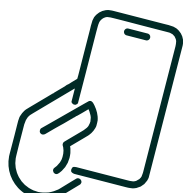


Reach out to us at
sip.info@bvcentre.ca
sip.extension@bvcentre.ca

Subscribe and
check out our
website **here!**



Subscribe to our newsletter for regular updates
<https://sip.bvcentre.ca/subscribe> ----->



Follow us on
LinkedIn: Silviculture Innovation Program
Instagram: @silviculture innovation
Facebook: Silviculture Innovation Program

Annual Report

**Silviculture
Innovation
Program**

APRIL 1, 2024 to
MARCH 31, 2025



**Bulkley Valley
Research Centre**