

THE

# Silviculture Innovation Program

A program of the

**BULKLEY VALLEY**

**RESEARCH CENTRE**

Smithers, BC



Bulkley Valley  
Research Centre

# Recognition and Respect of Indigenous Rights

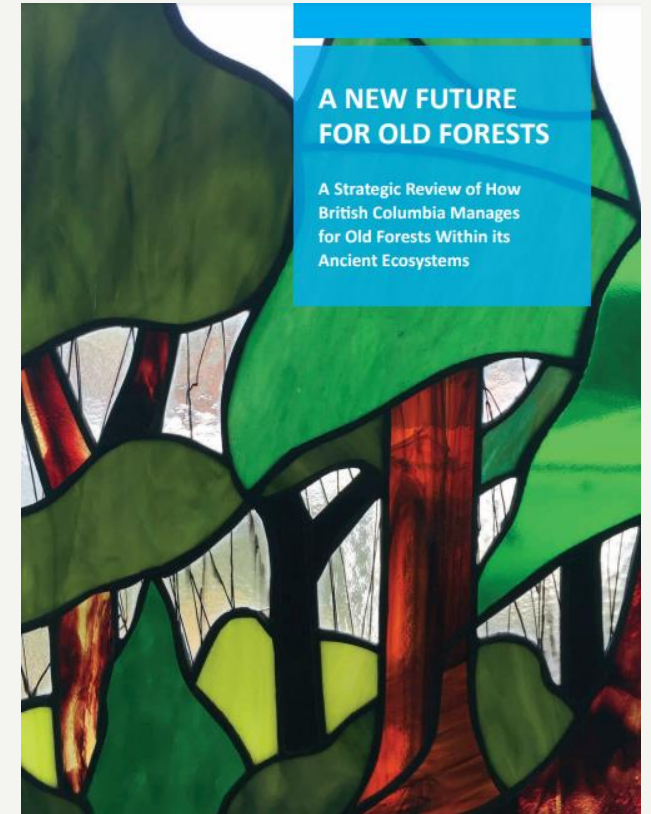
- *The SIP program acknowledges and respects Indigenous rights and title as well as treaty rights in BC – as articulated in legislation, law and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and*
- *Recognizes the self-determined legal and governance systems of Indigenous communities, which play a crucial role in shaping our collaborative approaches and practices.*

*In alignment with these principles, the SIP will uphold respectful, reciprocal, and collaborative relationships with Indigenous peoples, communities, and organizations. We aim to support and advance Indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and self-government, and the rights to land, territories, and resources traditionally owned, used, or occupied by Indigenous peoples.*



# Why does the SLP 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 (Recommendation #12)
- Explore ways to use innovative silviculture to manage diverse range of values and interests
- In March 2023, the province invested \$10 million in establishing and advancing a silvicultural innovation program in BC aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

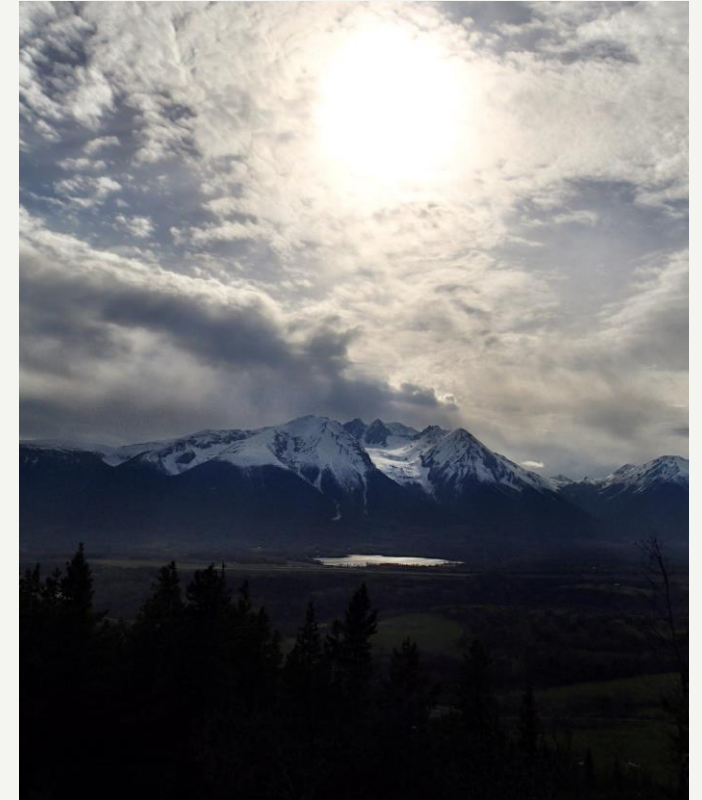


# Who administers the SIP?

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC) was provided with the \$10 million in funding to design and implement the SIP

## About the BVRC:

- A not-for-profit organization in Smithers, BC, located on Gidimt'en Territory of the Witsuwit'en First Nation
- Conducts research throughout the province and works to extend knowledge and build collaborative relationships
- Responsible for program design and implementation



# How is the SIP run?

## Operations Team:

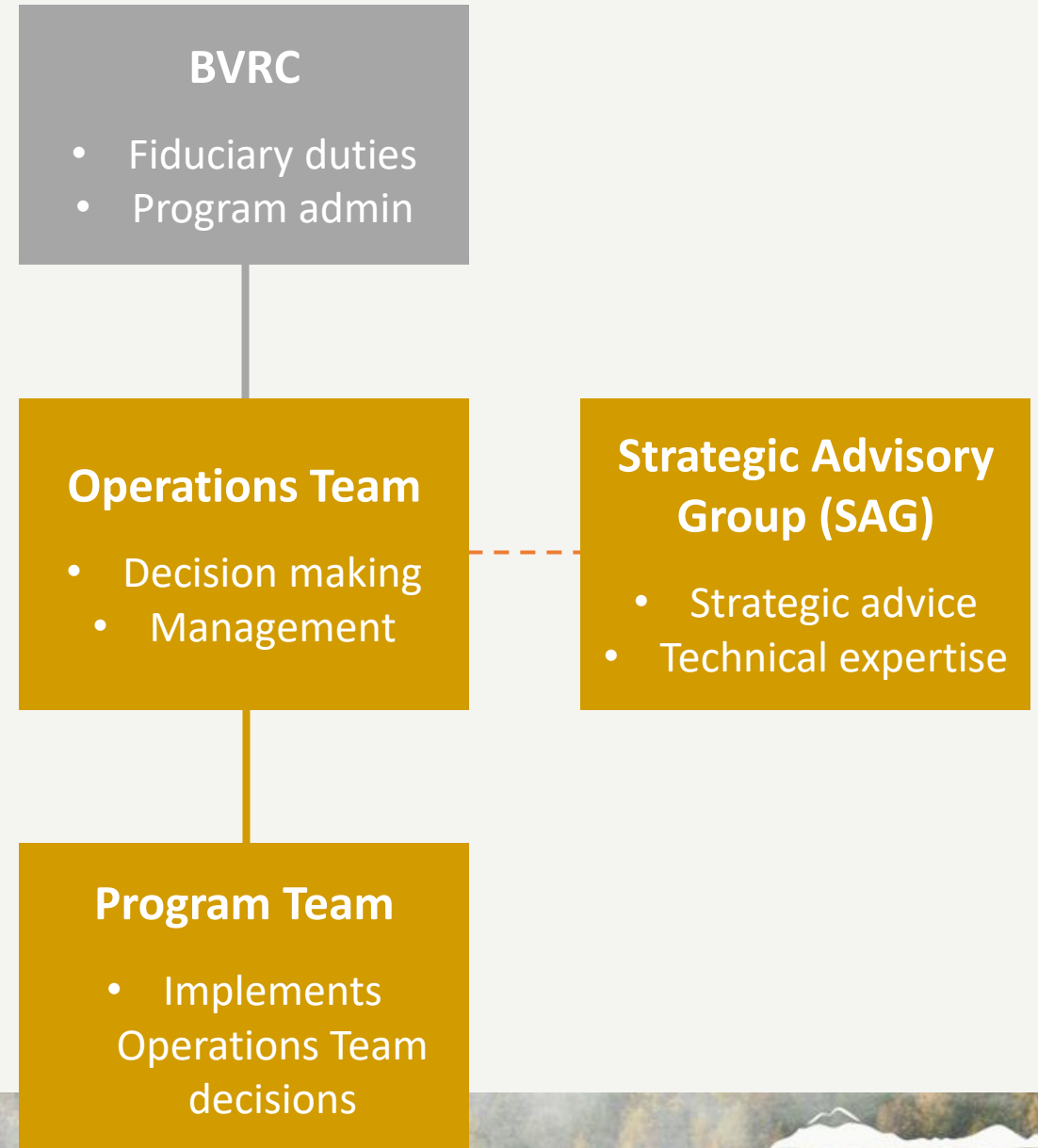
- Two provincial staff and two staff from the BVRC
- Determines the direction and priorities
- Acts as the decision-maker

## Program Team:

- Program and project management
- Program Manager direct communication with BVRC ED
- Research data collection and analysis
- Extension support

## Strategic Advisory Group:

- Strategic advice, guidance, recommendations in response to requests for direction
- Group of diverse representatives with expertise and relationships in forestry space across Indigenous territories and BC





# Purpose and Scope

- **Purpose: Improve knowledge** regarding innovative silviculture systems through **extension, applied and operational research**
- **Provincial scale**
- We recognize the increased adoption of innovative silvicultural systems requires addressing multiple barriers (e.g., legislation and policy), which are *beyond the scope of this program*

# Helpful definitions

**Innovative silviculture system:** includes systems for the harvesting, growing and tending of forests where the primary objective is to achieve holistic stewardship of the land base, including maintaining ecosystem health, water quality and quantity.

- Driven by an appreciation of ecological, social, cultural, and economic values of forests, where stewardship is focused on maintaining the continuity of ecosystem processes and functions.

## **Extension:**

1. A process of working with specific audiences within a field and/or discipline (e.g., forestry) to **share knowledge to improve practices**
2. Engaging with interested parties to **understand their needs and bring information forward to fill gaps**
3. Translation of **research into action**

Extension services are provided by disciplinary expert(s) who translates science-based research into formats — written, verbal, and electronic — appropriate for the targeted audiences

# Vision

Innovative silvicultural systems are applied *widely* across British Columbia's forested ecosystems for the **stewardship of multiple values.**





# Mission

The Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) will **accelerate the growth of innovative silviculture** by *improving knowledge* of these systems in British Columbia.



## ***Mission continued***

### **The SIP will:**





# Knowledge Summit

On March 11-13, 2024, the SIP hosted a Knowledge Summit to collectively **identify knowledge gaps and opportunities** for advancing innovative silviculture practices in BC.

The objective was to:

1. Create a “roadmap” outlining knowledge gaps and opportunities
2. Contextualize why the gaps are important
3. How these gaps can be addressed through SIP research and extension





# Summit Themes



## Partial Harvest

*We heard:*

Innovative silviculture is a continuum, all themes are interconnected



## Intensive Silviculture



## Fire and Silviculture



# ***What We Heard:*** **Priority SIP project areas**

1. Create a knowledge hub
2. Build capacity and grow communities of practice
3. Support new research
4. Synthesize existing knowledge
5. Extend knowledge to practice





# 1. Create a knowledge hub

- Identified by Summit participants as the highest priority product for the SIP
- Create a searchable open-access data repository to store knowledge on innovative silvicultural activities and research
- Connect forest practitioners





## 2. Build capacity & grow communities of practice

- Build capacity by offering opportunities to advance learning, support mentorship, facilitate knowledge transfer across career stages
- Bring together communities of practice across BC and support new ones



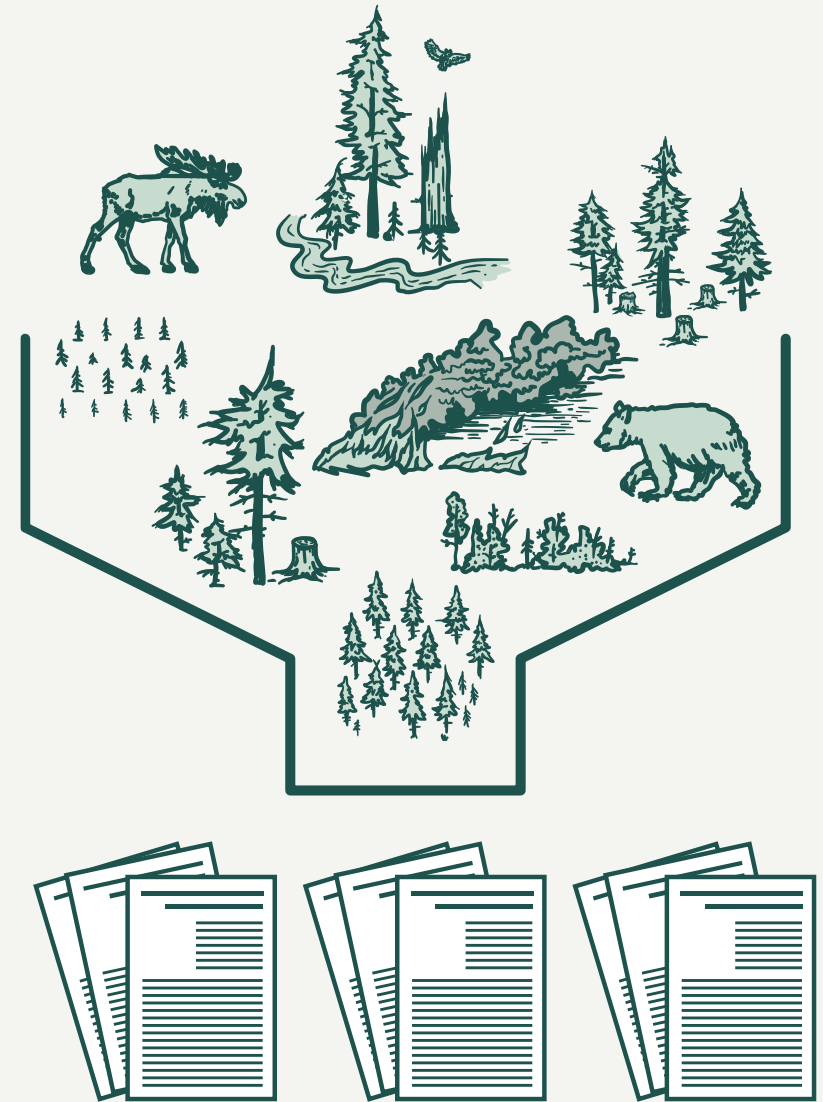
### 3. Support new research

- Support new research projects that address longstanding and novel issues
- Using multiple knowledge systems, new technologies, broad-scale holistic perspectives
- Connect research creators to research users



## 4. Synthesize existing knowledge

- Consolidate, summarize and synthesize existing research
- Collaborate with Indigenous knowledge holders for a holistic understanding of silviculture
- Communicate findings to practitioners and researchers via research publications, extension notes and/or reports





## 5. Extend knowledge to practice

- Help translate knowledge into practical and useful products to support practitioners
- Toolkits, guides, decision keys
- Workshop and field tour support



*Tying it all together - where innovative silviculture projects and practitioners connect:*

## The knowledge hub

Central access point for all SIP projects & products *AND* innovative silviculture across all of BC:

1. Place for communities of practice to connect, share, learn
  2. Information on new research & operational trials
  3. Research syntheses and meta-analyses
  4. Decision tools, extension notes, workshop information, informational videos, and more
- Approachable, easy to use interface
  - Accessible with spatial/mapping search functions



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