



Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society

2026 Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan – Overview

INTRODUCTION

The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) was established in 2004 following the devastating wildfires that impacted the communities of the Lower North Thompson Region. These wildfires resulted in the loss of the sawmill at Louis Creek. Since its formation, the LNTCFS has grown and evolved into a financially stable organization that provides numerous community benefits, including annual funding for community projects, student education funding and area employment opportunities.

LNTCFS activities support residents of the Lower North Thompson Region, including the communities and rural areas surrounding Vinsulla, McLure, Louis Creek, Barriere, Chu Chua, Darfield, Squam Bay, Brennan Creek, Barriere Forks, Barriere Lakes and Little Fort.

The LNTCFS recognizes the need to re-evaluate, develop and confirm the values and strategic priorities of its organization, both in the short-term and long-term, through the development and periodic review of this strategic plan.

This strategic planning process will enhance self-determination for the residents of the Lower North Thompson Region and ensure that the LNTCFS continues to embody the values and priorities of its citizens.

FOUNDATION STATEMENTS

Mission

Our mission is to endure and provide to the Lower North Thompson through sustainable forestry.

Purposes

The purposes of the society are:

- a) To create a long term sustainable plan for forest resources that benefits the people of the Lower North Thompson;
- b) Preserve ownership of local natural resources for the people of our area, promoting self-determination for the people of this valley;
- c) To create sustainable employment, new business opportunities and investment;
- d) To provide a new opportunity for community management of local crown land;
- e) To provide long term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives including:
 - i. employment;
 - ii. skills training;
 - iii. forest related education;
 - iv. social, environment and economic benefits.
- f) To meet the objectives of the government in respect of environmental stewardship including the management of timber, cultural and heritage resources.

Vision

Our vision is to manage the forest for the benefit of all citizens of the Lower North Thompson.

Areas of Focus, Goals and Objectives

Focus Areas: These are the priority headings, or areas of emphasis, under which the strategic goals and objectives of the Society are organized.

Goals: Each focus area has a related goal. It is in essence the vision statement for the focus area.

Objectives: These are the desired result of each goal, and are stated as measurable outcomes.

LNTCFS Areas of Focus

The priorities for the LNTCFS are categorized into following four key Areas of Focus:

- 1. Education**
- 2. Communities**
- 3. Forests & Environment**
- 4. Longevity & Continuity**

EDUCATION

Goal: To engage the residents of the Lower North Thompson Valley to improve knowledge regarding LNTCFS, community forestry, and the benefits of forests and natural resources, and their management.

Objective: Provide, support and/or facilitate natural resource-related training and education.

Objective: Act as a public resource for community outreach and awareness.

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society will create opportunities for innovation and research.

Objective: Advocate for and/or facilitate forest research and innovation opportunities within our communities.

COMMUNITIES

Goal: Support the communities and organizations of the Lower North Thompson Valley to enhance social, environmental and economic benefits.

Objective: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society will be a source of sustainable community funding and employment for the benefit of the citizens of the Lower North Thompson Valley.

Objective: Prioritize local employment and contractors.

Objective: Support and execute Wildfire Risk Reduction activities in our communities.

Objective: Develop and promote common interests with area First Nations.

FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT

Goal: The Lower North Thompson Community Forest land base will be sustainably managed for the benefit of the Lower North Thompson Valley. This means the ability to maintain, support, and improve the availability of resources, ecological health and balance, and human well-being over the long term.

Objective: Enhance and restore riparian ecosystems throughout the Community Forest.

Objective: Maintain a sustainable long-term timber supply that reflects the Society's environmental, social, and economic values.

Objective: Implement enhanced silviculture practices to improve long-term forest productivity, resilience, and diversity.

Objective: Improve the long-term resilience of Community Forest ecosystems.

Objective: Monitor and maintain biodiversity.

Objective: Support recreational opportunities that provide benefits to the Lower North Thompson Valley

LONGEVITY & CONTINUITY

Goal: Plan for long term support for the communities of the Lower North Thompson.

Objective: Financial independence and resilience