

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Silvopasture In British Columbia Information Series

Unit 1.s. History of Silvopasture in BC





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Silvopasture in BC Information Series Content Guide



Core Units

0. Series Overview

1. Introduction

2. Science Behind SP

3.1. SP BMPs - part 1

3.2. SP BMPs - part 2

4. SP Planning

Case Studies

2.c.1 Production Synergies:
Kootenay Tree Farms

2.c.2 Riparian Silvopasture:
Silver Hills Ranch

3.c.1 Small-lot SP: Just Another
Weed Patch Farm

3.c.2 Mature Forest to SP:
Indian Gardens Ranch

4.c.1 Planning on Crown Land:
SP Pilot Project

4.c.2 Adaptive Management at
Aveley Ranch

Supplemental Units

1.s. History of SP in BC

2.s.1. Light & Microclimate

2.s.2. Hydrology

3.s. Managing Damage

Unit 1.s. History of Silvopasture in BC

Goal

Review the history of silvopasture and understand how interest and practices in integrated production developed.

Prerequisites

None.

Content

1. Indigenous Origins
2. Early Forest Grazing
3. Multiple Use Era
4. Convergence of Interests
5. Silvopasture by Design



History of Silvopasture in BC

Silvopasture is a new word and formal discipline rooted in ancient practices.



Medieval swineherd

Indigenous Origins of Silvopasture

Indigenous people have used fire for thousands of years to remove forest cover.



History of Silvopasture in BC

Early Forest Grazing: Conflicts and Compromise (1850s -1950s)



1860s cattle drive to Barkerville in the Cariboo goldfields.

Early forest grazing was a matter of circumstance, rather than by design.

Use concentrated in mature or selectively logged, low-elevation forests.

Crown and private lands suffered from over use.

History of Silvopasture in BC

Early Recognition of Diversification Needs

“Farm Woodlots” introduced in 1948.

Provides farmers and ranchers access to Crown timber.

Woodlots an important part of many agricultural operations.



1940s Interior logging truck.

History of Silvopasture in BC



Multiple Use Era (1960s to 1990s)

Major land use shifts:

- Extensive clear-cutting and expansion of forest road network.
- Cattle grazing and forage seeding on clear-cuts expanded.
- Fire suppression reduced low-elevation forest openings.
- Silvicultural concerns about forage seeding and livestock impacts intensified.

History of Silvopasture in BC

Multiple Use Era (1960s to 1990s)

- Research to address the compatibility of forage seeding, timber production and livestock.
- Multiple use through planning; Coordinated Resource Management Plans.
- Ministry of Forests Act (1979) directed coordinated and integrated use of Crown timber and range resources.
- Compatible management achieved with the Forest Practices Code and operational Range and Plantation Protection Plans.



History of Silvopasture in BC



Convergence of Interests (1980s-2000)

- Woodlots with overlapping grazing tenures.
- Grazing and forage seeding as silvicultural tools:
 - Clearwater Agroforestry Trials (1985-1988)
 - Prince Rupert Forest Region Agroforestry Trials (1990s)
 - Sheep Vegetation Management Committee.
- Regional economic development initiatives.

History of Silvopasture in BC

Modern Era: Silvopasture by Design



Interest in fully integrated silvopasture systems:

- Positive results using livestock and forage seeding for silviculture.
- Interest in diversifying.
- Recognition of environmental co-benefits.

BC Agroforestry Initiative (2004 to 2013): demos and extension across the province.

Larger-scale silvopasture research and pilot projects.

Questions and Discussion

