

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Silvopasture In British Columbia Information Series

Unit 2.c.2. Case Study: Silver Hills Ranch



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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 Planning 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 2.c.2. Case Study: Silver Hills Ranch

Goal

Gain a deeper understanding of silvopasture planning, implementation and management through British Columbia case studies.

Prerequisites

Units 1: Introduction and 2. Science Behind Silvopasture.

Content

Silvopasture for aquatic and riparian stewardship: Silver Hills Ranch.



Silvopasture For Stewardship

Silver Hills Ranch – A Multifunctional Ranch

- Generational ranch managing forest, grassland and riparian habitats.
- Balancing beef and timber production with conserving biodiversity.
- Lowering costs and improving efficiency by working with natural processes.



Silvopasture For Stewardship

Partnerships and Collaboration



Promoting cooperation and dialogue.

- Address concerns by encouraging sustainable practices in the agricultural sector
- Provide government, industry, First Nations and environmental groups with understanding of the ranching sector and its needs.
- Numerous awards and recognition.

Silvopasture For Stewardship

Ranch Habitats

- Grasslands
- Forests
- Riparian.
- River Frontage



Silvopastures Blend

- Tree cover and timber production;
- Forage production; and
- Environmental co-benefits.

Silvopasture For Stewardship

Riparian Zones

- 'Green zones' transition from aquatic to upland habitats.
- Well documented benefits for preventing erosion, filtering run-off, providing habitat.
- High quality, seasonal grazing opportunities.



Silvopasture For Stewardship

Riparian Zones

- Management is tailored to the unique habitat attributes.
- Summer use:
 - Avoid flooded areas and wet soils
 - Peak forage quality
 - Shade supports animal welfare
- Infrastructure investments benefit forage and biodiversity:
 - Corridor fencing
 - Off-stream stock watering.



Silvopasture For Stewardship

Upland forests



Silvopastures mimic the natural structure of fire-maintained forests.

- Blend timber and forage production.
- Reduced erosion potential.
- Role in good watershed stewardship.
- Lower wildfire risks.



Silvopasture For Stewardship

Enhancing Aquatic Habitat

- Proactive approach to sustaining fisheries
- Avoid direct impacts on the aquatic zone, and use supportive practices in upland and riparian habitats.
- Work closely with government agencies and conservation groups on habitat restoration and enhancement.



Habitat 'complexing' in river side-channel with coarse woody debris.

Silvopasture For Stewardship

Enhancing Aquatic Habitat

- Build good will and mutual understanding.
- Forest resources are raw materials for habitat restoration.



Bio-engineering river bank restoration.

Silvopasture For Stewardship

Improved Economics



- Working with nature is often the low-cost option.
- Avoiding future problems by using sustainable practices avoids future expenses.
- Diverse ranch habitats provide returns in the face of unpredictable climate impacts.

Silvopasture For Stewardship

Some Key Lessons Learned

- Adapt silvopasture practice to the ecosystem and objectives.
- Have the right equipment and operators with proper instructions.
- Water availability for livestock is critical to a functioning silvopasture.
- Ensure grazing is adequate to achieve benefits without overgrazing.



Questions and Discussion

