

planning for the future
the next generation of the silva forest foundation



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Silva Forest Foundation
silvafor.org



*Opposite: Herb and Susan Hammond, Silva Forest Foundation Co-Founders.
Photo by Paul Quigley*

“As young people, we saw what human beings were doing to this world and we worried about how the future would unfold.

We knew then that we wanted to dedicate our lives to working for a world where future generations would not be at war over clean air and water; a world where a bird’s song would not be just a memory; a world that incorporates the knowledge and rights of Indigenous people; a world full of wildness and life.

Mentoring from many wise Indigenous people across Canada taught us to connect our hearts with our brains. This lesson led to the creation of the Silva Forest Foundation. Now our work needs to focus on mentoring and training the next generation in empowering communities to protect nature.”

— *Herb and Susan Hammond,*
Silva Forest Foundation co-founders

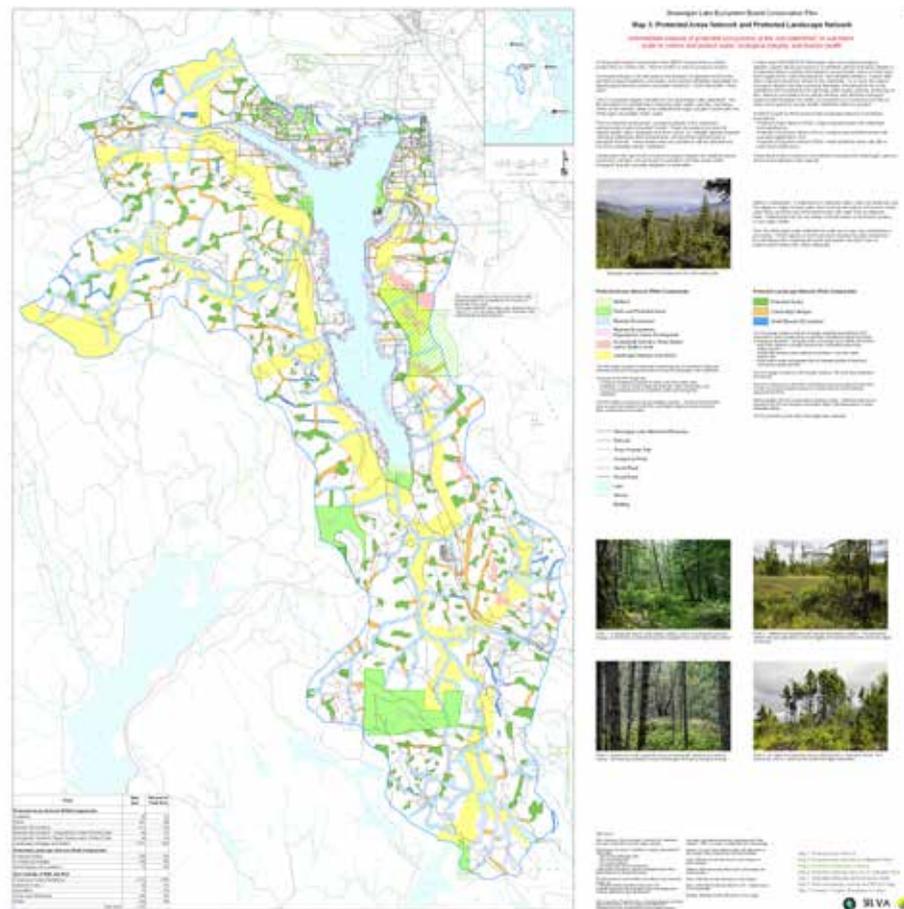


*Opposite: Water is life. Wragge
Creek, Slocan Lake, BC.
Photo by Herb Hammond*

With past support and contributions, we have helped communities to protect what is precious for over 25 years.

We believe that the positive change needed in our world will be realized by building grassroots-level capacity to create and affirm ecosystem-based approaches across the landscape and throughout society. Our roles in this vision for change are to act as innovators, facilitators and catalysts, providing mapping and analysis tools, ecologically sound plans, restoration recommendations, and education and training. We help build bridges between divergent interests and provide workable solutions that are ecologically and culturally responsible.

Our work focuses on the protection and/or restoration of natural ecosystem integrity as the first priority, and is the foundation of the Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning (EBCP) method developed by Silva. EBCP is grounded in leading-edge science and management practices, is practical and inclusive of a wide spectrum of interests, and develops and promotes on-the-ground models.



Opposite: This interpretive map shows the Protected Landscape Network for the Shawnigan Lake watershed — part of the Shawnigan Lake ecosystem-based conservation plan.
 Image by Tom Bradley

The plans we develop are the blueprints for creating healthy communities.

Healthy communities can only exist with healthy ecosystems. First, we identify what needs to be protected or restored to ensure that nature thrives. Then we look at how to meet human needs and provide for sustainable, community-based economies in ways that respect nature and ecological limits.

Our plans have been used by communities to protect drinking water sources; to establish community forests; to protect communities from forest fires, floods and other extreme natural disturbances; to protect rare and endangered habitats and species; to restore wild food sources and medicines; to assert Aboriginal Title and Rights; to re-establish local control over decisions that affect community well-being.

In the last 25 years we have worked with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada to develop and implement more than 15 plans for protecting and restoring ecosystems, and providing for cultural integrity and community wellbeing.



success stories



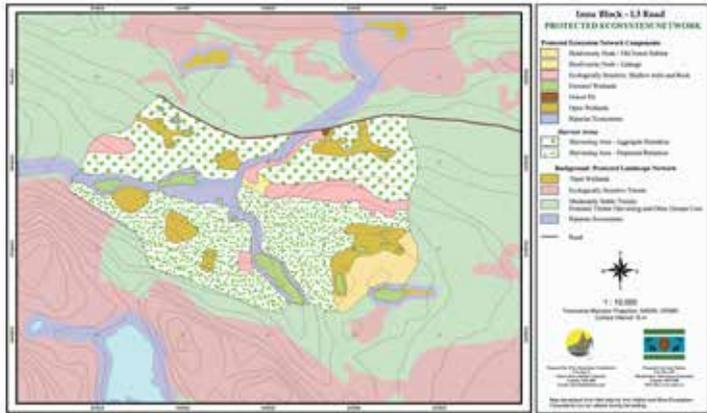
Establishing Large Protected Areas

When the Khutzeymateen Valley, northeast of Prince Rupert, was under threat from logging, we showed that it was more valuable as a protected area.

We performed field work that described the ecological sensitivity and unique nature of the Khutzeymateen forests, from valley bottom to mountain top. Our cost-benefit and ecological economic analyses revealed that logging the Khutzeymateen forests was not financially viable from either conventional or ecological economic points of view.

The Khutzeymateen is now Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary — safe from logging and home to thriving biodiversity, including giant Sitka spruce, wolves, mountain goats, otters, owls and many other species.

Opposite: Biologist Erica Mallam observing a grizzly bear in Khutzeymateen Inlet. *Photo by Wayne McCrory, Valhalla Society*



Opposite left: The map shows a Protected Ecosystem Network for a small forest patch, which is part of a larger ecosystem-based plan for Nitassinan. Opposite right: Elizabeth Penashue, Innu Elder, explains Innu ecological knowledge as part of culturally and ecosystem-based planning in Nitassinan (Labrador); Images by Herb Hammond

Establishing Networks for Ecosystem and Cultural Protection

A shortage of pulpwood supply for their pulp mills led Newfoundland to explore the development of a new pulpwood source in Nitassinan (Labrador). Proposed logging threatened areas relied upon by the Innu people to meet subsistence, cultural, and spiritual needs.

Guided by Innu Elders and other Innu experts, Silva performed aerial photo interpretation and field assessments of the wet, ecologically sensitive, and biologically diverse boreal forests of Nitassinan. This information was analyzed in our Geographic Information System (GIS), and used to design a protected areas network and a protected cultural network for more than 7 million hectares, a protected landscape network for 3,000 hectares, and protected ecosystem networks for small areas deemed ecologically and culturally appropriate for logging.

A portion of the protected areas network is now part of the Mealy Mountains National Park.



Opposite left: Eco-cultural restoration thins forests to provide both structural and species diversity important to ecological and cultural integrity. *Opposite right:* Xusum (soopolalile), an important food and medicine plant for Xaxli'p, benefits from thinning. *Photos by Herb Hammond*

Mitigating Global Warming by Restoring Ecosystems and Culture

For more than 30 years we have worked with the Xaxli'p First Nation to help them regain control over their Survival Territory and protect their lands from industrial logging and mining. Xaxli'p's Community Forest Agreement includes their Survival Territory which is being restored by Xaxli'p's permanent forest crew.

With a focus on eco-cultural restoration, our work with Xaxli'p has helped to restore areas important for water supply, Xaxli'p food and medicinal plants, and wildlife habitat. A key outcome has been to mitigate the impacts of climate change in this already dry and fire-prone area near Lillooet, BC.

"Our community forest gives us the power to reestablish Xaxli'p control over our land and cultural resources. Silva's help has been vital to achieving this goal."

— Herman Alec, Xaxli'p elder and Community Forest Board Chair

"Silva has shown us a different way of looking at the forest. It's all about our culture, and looking after our water, animals, berries — everything our grandparents looked after."

— Xaxli'p Community Forest Crew



Protecting Water and Facilitating Community-Based Economies

Near the sleepy towns of Harrop and Procter, BC, a war in the woods was raging over areas slated for clear cutting that would threaten drinking water sources for many living near the proposed logging. We worked with the community to develop a plan for protecting ecological integrity. The plan was used to obtain one of British Columbia's first Community Forest Agreements, putting forest management under local control.

"I live in Harrop-Procter, a small, rural BC community where protection of surface water supplies is critical. Silva was instrumental in helping us achieve BC's first Ecosystem-Based Community Forest Tenure, which gives protecting water the first priority. The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is now thriving, a testament to the effectiveness and viability of Silva's work."

— Rami Rothkop,
Harrop-Procter Community Forest
Founding Director

Opposite: The Harrop-Procter Community Forest mill provides 5-7 times as many jobs for each tree cut compared to large industrial mills, while ecosystem-based forest management gives priority to water protection.

Photo by Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi

The water is safe and the Harrop-Procter Community Forest is thriving and a co-operatively run mill provides meaningful work for many families in the community.



the future



Opposite: Diverse, riparian forests are rich in biological diversity and provide renewal for all who choose to enter. Middle River Road, Stuart Lake, BC.
Photo by Herb Hammond

Where We're Headed

We are proud to have worked alongside these communities and others to protect what is vital: clean air, pure water and thriving biodiversity—the most important legacies for our future and the foundations for healthy children, families and communities.

For the health and wellbeing of present and future generations, our work will increasingly be focused on ecological restoration—in both forested and urban landscapes. A critical part of restoration will be to heal our relationships with the land, and shift values towards community-based economies.

For the Shawnigan Lake watershed, where a semi-urban community is rapidly growing, this means protecting and restoring ecological integrity to ensure water quality and quantity in adequate flows throughout the year. The Shawnigan Lake ecosystem-based conservation plan outlines a clear path for the Shawnigan community to heal and prevent future damaging effects of housing development, logging and other human activities.



Opposite left: Children play make-believe along a lost and buried portion of Still Creek, unknowingly mimicking scenes from the past when there was a real creek to play in. An old-timer recalls "Still Creek was our evenings and weekends". The Still Creek watershed restoration plan offers hope for recovering this natural treasure. Artwork by Carmen Rosen, Yoko Tomita, Suzo Hickey and neighbours. *Photo by: Yoko Tomita*

Opposite right: Xaxli'p Forest Crew members Robbie Bob and Derek Saul undertaking riparian restoration in Gibbs Creek. This work is part of the larger eco-cultural restoration plan prepared by Silva cooperatively with the Xaxli'p First Nation. *Photo by: Herb Hammond*

For the Still Creek urban watershed, once an old growth temperate rain forest in Metro Vancouver, this means reestablishing as much natural ecosystem composition and structure as possible throughout the watershed. For example, restoring tall, multi-layered forest canopies and permeable soils to moderate the effects of intense rain storms associated with climate change, and provide healthier environments for people.

While our ecosystem-based approach will increasingly find applications in urban and urban/forest ecosystems, we will also continue to assist communities in relatively undeveloped landscapes to develop and implement ecosystem-based conservation plans. All our plans seek to assist people towards becoming a more respectful part of Earth.



The Next Generation of Silva Leadership

Our founders, Herb and Susan Hammond, are now past retirement age and the immense knowledge they hold is at risk of being lost. The next generation of leadership is poised to carry on the torch, but needs to be prepared for this great responsibility of empowering communities to protect nature. Herb and Susan are excited to have found Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi, a talented individual who shares Silva's vision and passion, and collaborate with her in continuing their legacy.

Over the next five years, Herb and Susan will be working with Emily to assume leadership of the Silva Forest Foundation. Training and mentoring will take place through the completion of Ecosystem-Based Conservation and Restoration Plans for a number of communities across BC, building our organization's capacity while continuing to fulfill our vision and mandate.

“Silva’s approach is not just talk and theory; it’s on-the-ground practice. At a time when there are immense changes happening worldwide with our natural ecosystems, it is so important to maintain whole systems. Working, as Silva does, with natural processes and not against them, we will be able, with time, to assist nature to restore itself. This is a responsibility that Silva has taken to heart, and one that all of us need to embrace.”

— Dr. Nancy Turner, Ethnobotanist

Opposite: Transition in action. Susie, Emily, and Herb at work on an ecosystem-based conservation plan. Photo by Paul Quigley



Emily gathering important information about tree age and growth patterns on Galiano Island, BC. Photo by Amelita Kucher

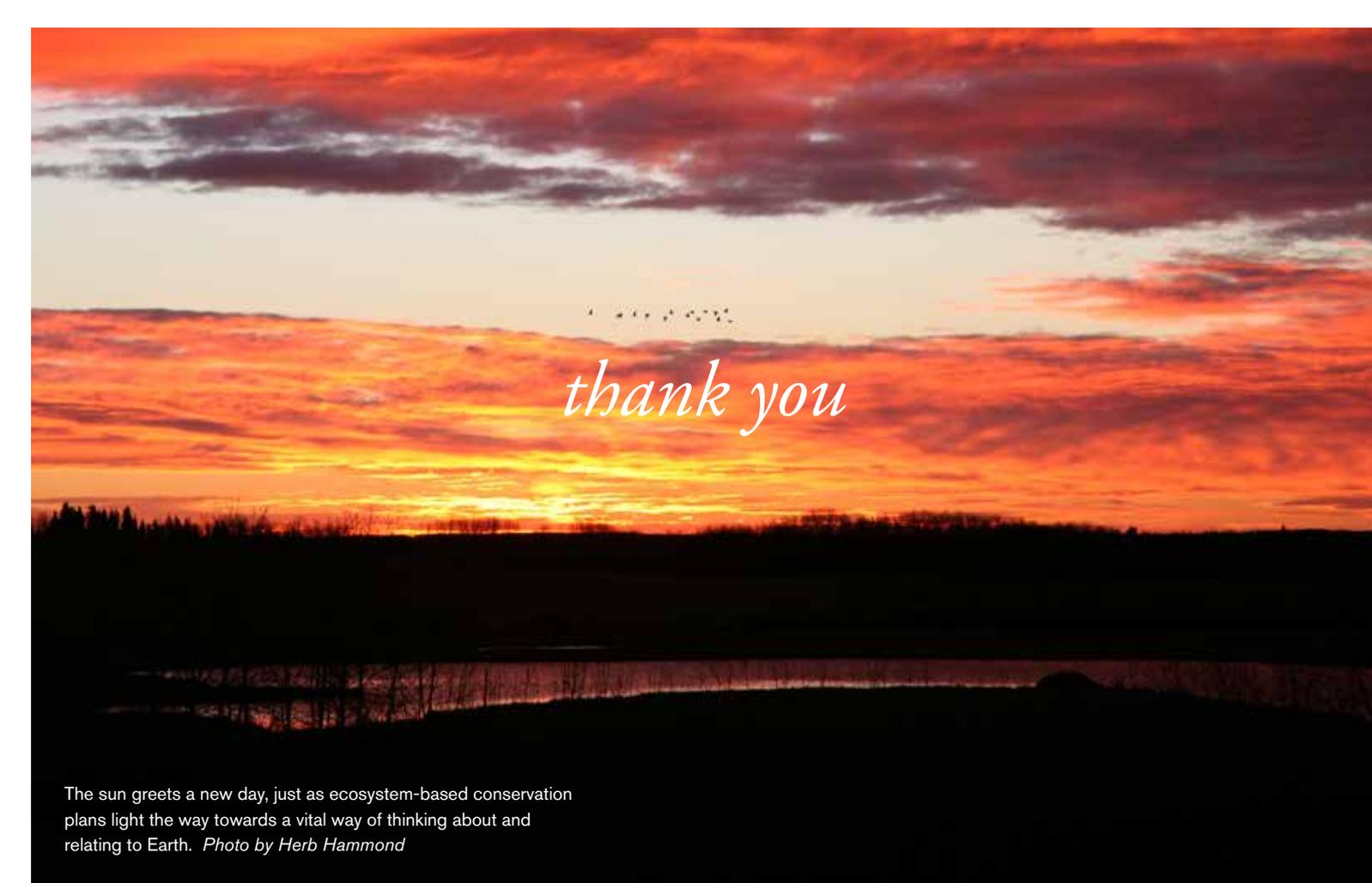
Meet Our Future Executive Director

“The possibility of living in sync with nature first became apparent to me when I was a young teenager, after attending a small environmental conference near my home in Ontario. It was a simple event, but it shifted something in me; opening my mind to ecological ways of living I had never seen or heard of before.

My world until that time consisted of subdivisions and malls, disappearing wildlife and cars driving everywhere. Suddenly I started to realize that it didn't have to be that way; that there is a world of possibility for how we can live good lives and still be respectful of nature. Since that moment I have strived to share this message with everyone I meet and in everything I do: encouraging more eco-friendly living amongst students while studying at UBC; promoting the integration of ecological literacy in curriculum while working in the non-profit sector; and later, encouraging water stewardship as a local government employee.

I am overjoyed to be joining the Silva Forest Foundation: a principled and community-oriented organization that I will be proud to be a part of for the next 30 years.”

— *Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi*



thank you

The sun greets a new day, just as ecosystem-based conservation plans light the way towards a vital way of thinking about and relating to Earth. *Photo by Herb Hammond*

How You Can Help

By contributing to Silva, you would be:

- protecting and, where necessary, restoring biological diversity and ecological processes at every scale
- maintaining essential ecological services
- empowering communities with ecosystem-based conservation plans that maintain or restore fully functioning ecosystems, and enable diverse, community-based economies
- mitigating global warming and species loss by maintaining and/or restoring natural ecosystems
- educating the public, industry, and government about the need for, and economic viability of adopting ecosystem-based approaches.

Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning (EBCP) is planning for the future—a way of ensuring the protection and restoration of the ecosystems that we all depend upon for our survival. A proven approach for achieving ecological and cultural integrity, sustainable, community-based economies and community well-being, EBCP offers a workable solution to address some of the greatest challenges of our time, including mitigating and adapting to climate change.

We are proud to have pioneered an approach that enables communities to provide for their needs while safeguarding the ecosystems that are the foundation for their wellbeing. As we plan for our own future, we invite you to join us in writing more success stories built on the principles of Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning. With your support, we can train and mentor the next leader of the Silva Forest Foundation to continue this important work.

Together, we can keep hope alive for our children, our families, our communities, for the whole of the Earth.

visit us online silvafor.org



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