



# THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2011

## International Success Stories

### United Nations: Year of the Forest

By Sara Grady

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The United Nations "Year of Forests" will come to a close this month, marking the end of a worldwide celebration. It was a year to acknowledge the profound impact the planet's forests have on our communities,

to learn from the experience of others and share successes with peers. Woodlotter's at September's Annual General Meeting - "International Success Stories" - had an opportunity to hear about the differences, and similarities, in forest practices from representatives of Germany, Finland, Scotland, Canada and Zambia. In many respects, Canada - and British Columbia in particular - is considered a leader in forest management, and the woodlot model contributes to that reputation; however, there are still lessons to be learned.

As Peter de Marsh, who spoke on behalf of the International Forest Alliance,



*Peter de Marsh, Cliff Manning and Dave Haley solving all the woodlot issues while out on the AGM field tour to W0084*

pointed out, the overriding questions about daily life are the same the world over: how can our kids have a better life, how can we sustain what we have and how can we improve upon it? With over 1 billion of the world's population directly related

to forest life, it's no surprise that much time and energy is spent exploring ways to improve the relationship. What is surprising, though, is the fundamental difference in how individual countries perceive the value of their forest resource.

While in British Columbia we see forests primarily through the lens of lumber and leisure, shade is the prized commodity of a forest in countries like China, Ethiopia and Zambia, where trees protect coffee plants, mushrooms and medicinal herbs. In fact, honey is the second most important forest product

con't on page 9 ...



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# Private Matters

by Mark Clark

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health and enjoying the holiday season. We all live in a beautiful part of the world, so please take advantage of everything that BC has to offer. 2011 has been a year of very substantial change for woodlot licensees in BC. A crushingly poor log market continues in many parts of the Province, meaning that many economic opportunities are reduced or simply not available. Government has continued to expect woodlot owners to shoulder more of the administrative burden, at our cost, and suppliers are all trying to remain in business as well. It's been a tough year, but one that has seen some faint glimmers of hope starting to peek through.

On the administrative side, most licensees now have the option of a single Woodlot Licence Plan that sets expected standards of performance across their operations. Approved once, this document has a long life and is intended to reduce or at least clarify what the expectations of Government and the Licensee should be. This can now lead to a single Cutting Permit for the entire woodlot area, with a four year term. In combination with relatively stable tabular stumpage rates, and no requirement for timber cruising, woodlots have a much better chance to quickly take advantage of spot changes in



Mark Clark,  
President

markets. Another significant impact of these changes will be the increased emphasis on Annual Allowable Cut calculations. AAC and market opportunity will

become the driver to set short term harvest plans. The Federation will be encouraging a review of the Woodlots for Windows software in the New Year, to make sure that the calculation of AAC is in fact accurate and sustainable.

A tireless group of volunteers from the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations has worked successfully with government to amend legislation such that woodlot licensees will, under certain conditions, be able to withdraw their private land from their licences. The legislative debate sparked significant amounts of misinformation about woodlots, and this will be a topic your Federation will address in 2012. While the legislative base now appears to be sound, we will be giving this topic a very high priority as the regulatory details continue to evolve. This issue affects many of our aging licensees, as their personal and business circumstances change. And new entrants to the program can expect increased opportunities. Private holdings are extremely important to many licensees, providing not only AAC

contribution, but also a place with significant family history, and a place to call home.

The priorities identified on page 5 will continue to focus the efforts of our volunteers and contractors as we start 2012. In addition to those, we will be seeking input and guidance on how our funds should be treated in the future. With the administrative tools described above, changes to our private landbase, and continued difficult economics for many of our products, we will be headed in new directions in 2012.

As I enter my second term as President, I would like to thank my loving wife Norma for her support and our large group of volunteers across the Province for their enthusiasm and dedication to our common good. Happy and prosperous New Year to you all! ♦

## ***Please note:***

*The opinions expressed in the Almanac do not necessarily reflect those of the Federation, the Council, or their members.*



# A Look at the Priorities

By Brian McNaughton

The Federation's priorities, as determined by the directors at their Sept. 25, 2011 meeting, are posted on page 5 in this edition of the Almanac. As you can see, while a lot has been accomplished with 1 CP and tab rates, there is still a lot of work to be done! The following is a status update on a few of the highest priorities.



Brian McNaughton,  
General Manager

## Private Land Withdrawal

Private land withdrawals from WLs ended up being an amendment to the Forest Act. It passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading a few weeks ago and the Joint Working Group (FBCWA & MFLNRO)

is working on the policies and guidelines; i.e. the rules and process to be followed. This work is confidential since it is subject to Cabinet approval. What I can tell you is that there will likely be some criteria that will have to be met before Schedule A land will be considered for removal from a woodlot licence such as obligations are current, there are no monies owing to the Province, the woodlot licence with private land has been in existence for at least 10 years, etc. Approval to remove the land will be a discretionary decision. While I can't give a hard timeline, I can advise that Joint Working Group is addressing this as a top priority.

## Free Growing Declarations

Attention is being given to making sure woodlot licensees are meeting their reforestation and free growing obligations, including making appropriate declarations via the RESULTS electronic reporting system. The sense is that on the ground obligations are being achieved but this is not being captured in

RESULTS. Look for some more information about this in the near future, likely a bulletin from the Federation describing the issue in detail, explaining to licensees how to obtain and understand a free growing report, and what action they need to take if there is a problem. My best advice at this point is to

sit down with your district woodlot forester and review a free growing report for your WL. Check to see if you have any overdue free growing obligations. If you do, develop a plan to correct any deficiency and present it to the District Manager along with a request to extend the late free growing date for the opening in question.

## Natural Resource Road Act

Currently resource roads in BC are administered under 11 different Acts, so the Province has initiated a project to essentially consolidate all of this legislation into one Natural Resource Road Act (NRRA). It is an ambitious project with tight timelines and has potentially significant implications to woodlot licensees. At this point it appears all encompassing meaning that it will cover construction and maintenance, right through to deactivation and rehabilitation.

The Federation is in the process of responding to the discussion paper and encourages all associations to do the same. It can be found at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra/> Also, the Federation has been invited to be involved in the various stakeholder sessions that are being planned.

## BRIDGES or WoodSourceBC.ca

The marketing website that was developed specifically for small operators such as woodlot licensees and community forests is now operational. You can buy or sell logs,

lumber, non-timber forest products, consulting services, equipment hire, etc. Go have a look and sign up at [www.woodsource.ca](http://www.woodsource.ca). It's FREE. The website has already been instrumental in dozens of new deals being struck. You can post photos of your products, limit your search to your own geographical area... heck the website will even send you an email when someone posts an ad which matches yours. So for example, if you are selling peeler fir logs and someone posts an ad wanting to buy peeler fir in your area, out goes the email! This website was designed because woodlot licensees asked for it, and based on input from woodlot licensees. It is your website, please use it and recommend it to others.

## Association Building

What does declining attendance at a Federation and Association meeting really mean? Is it a sign of satisfaction and no real compelling need to attend, licensees having consultants do their work, or outright dissatisfaction? This was a topic at the Directors meeting in Harrison, BC in September. The Federation will be examining the issue more closely with a mind to figuring out what's needed to ensure woodlot licensees feel connected to their associations, the Federation and the woodlot program. If you or your association have any thoughts on this topic then please pass them along to me.

Please call or email me if your WL Association is having a meeting and you want me to attend either in person or perhaps by speaker phone.

Last but not least, best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family! ♦

# Woodlot Federation Priorities

<u>HIGH</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LOW</u>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>e-FM (systems issues)</b>	<b>Include incr. silv. in WLPPR</b>
<b>Economic Recovery</b> Marketing, Bridges, FSC RONA, Blanket certification for WLs, & bio-energy	<b>Revise Vision &amp; Strategy to reflect FBCWA &amp; WPDC working together</b>	<b>Group Health/Affinity - CILA</b>
<b>Natural Resource Road Act</b>	<b>Tax reforms</b>	<b>Provincial Trails Strategy</b>
<b>Association Building</b>	<b>BRIDGES (WoodSourceBC)</b>	<b>WL Surrender</b>
<b>Private Land Withdrawal</b>	<b>Woodworkers Lien Act</b>	<b>Stumpage</b> Tab Rates, Annual Rent, ERAA settlement & Land rent
<b>One Cutting Permit</b>	<b>Undercut carry forward</b>	<b>Migratory Birds Convention Act</b>
<b>Free Growing Declarations</b>	<b>Catastrophic Events</b>	<b>Commercial Forest Reserves</b>
<b>WL Program</b> Expansion, WLs 4 young people, WL surrender – Sch B into ComFor, WL canceled or surrender – re-advertise, WL subdividing, AAC purchase, WLs selling BCTS AAC (Whistler Comfor model)	<b>MFR Communications with WL licensees</b>	<b>Aboriginal Recognition &amp; Reconciliation Act</b>
<b>Training Course</b> Freedom to manage - WL risks & responsibilities (e.g. 1 CP)	<b>Agro-forestry Initiative</b>	<b>Receiving Licences</b>
<b>Professional Reliance</b>	<b>Rewarding volunteer efforts</b>	<b>Silviculture Discussion Paper</b>
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>PL (non Sch. A) fire protection</b>	<b>Carbon Credits/Protocols</b>
<b>Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation</b>	<b>Repl. WL document</b>	
<b>AAC support - TIPSYP &amp; VDYP</b>	<b>Waste &amp; Residue</b>	
<b>Seek FFT &amp; other program funding</b>	<b>Fire Prevention/protection</b>	
<b>Resolutions</b>	<b>Capital gains wrt WL sales &amp; transfers – Almanac notice</b>	
	<b>Land Based Investment Program</b> & other program funding	

# Winter 2011

by Blain Arnett

Winter has arrived early on the woodlot. It was a great fall for getting lots of work done, the past month or so is my favourite time of the year for bush work, there are no bugs, the leaves fall off the shrubs and deciduous trees so you can see better, the bears are not around much, and the temperatures are very pleasant. The one incident I had this fall was running into a pair of cougars when I was doing some brushing work. (I now carry a big hunting knife and the largest can of pepper spray I could find!). I noticed fresh cat tracks in the snow recently, too bad these animals don't hibernate.

We were able to get some aerial spraying done to control aspen and alder. Most of you will notice your silviculture work requirements can surprise you, it is best to keep checking the regenerating blocks and staying on top of the surveys and reporting. My one priority for this winter is to catch up on my 'Results' reporting, it is something quite few of us are behind on, it needs to be done whether we agree with the system or not.

The Tab Rates in Table 6-2 have now changed from the August rates (November and May are rate adjustment months). Effective November 1, 2011 some of the new rates from are (\$/m3):

North Central: 0.81 Balsam, 1.60 Fir, 0.84 Pine, 0.96 Spruce  
North East : 0.26 Balsam, 0.46 Pine, 0.73 Spruce  
North West : 0.30 Balsam, 0.25 Cedar, 0.25 Hw, 0.77 Pine, 0.58 Spruce  
South East : 0.86 Bal, 1.40 Cw, 1.15 Fd, 1.00 Hw, 1.25 Lw, 0.92 Pl, 1.02 Sw  
South West : 0.86 Bal, 1.87 Cw, 1.09 Fd, 0.82 Hw, 1.29 Lw, 0.86 Pl, 0.79 Sw

Generally there is not much change in stumpage from August; fir went up the most, spruce, pine, balsam and cedar are about the same. The stumpage rates are quite favorable, but market prices remain a challenge. Lumber prices are gaining (they generally move up in the winter), just for fun watch what happens to lumber company share prices from October to March every year. US housing starts



Blain Arnett,  
Interior Timber Pricing  
Coordinator

have not moved up too much but are stable, it will likely be a couple years yet before any significant change happens in the US housing market.

The rates in Table 6-2 do change during the year when the table is updated to allow for new appraisal data; expect the next update in May 2012. The rate applied to a *new* cutting permit will use the rates from the table at the time of permit approval. Once your permit has a rate it is fixed until July 31, 2012. All *existing* Tab Rate permits, including any new ones recently approved before November 1 do not change with this Table update, these existing permits will have the stumpage rate redetermined on August 1, 2012 using the latest rates in Table 6-2; the stumpage is then fixed until July 31, 2013.

Please feel free to forward any comments, phone calls and emails of your concerns or issues, I do have the IFS appraisal program available to those using MPS stumpage permits. I can be reached at 250-964-4105 or at [greggcreek@shaw.ca](mailto:greggcreek@shaw.ca) and remember to comment on the \$2,000,000 dollar question; it's your money and you can have a say as to how it's spent or saved, try doing that with your federal and provincial tax dollars! ♦

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## Links of Interest



- 1 & 3 Month Coast & Interior Log Market Reports: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm>
- BC Forest Exports by market and product (Ref #4725): <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/analysis-forest-exports.htm>
- New woodlot licence available near Gold River: [http://www2.new.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011FOR0212-001480.pdf](http://www2.new.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011FOR0212-001480.pdf) ♦

# Winter 2011 - Spring 2012 Coastal Stumpage Rates

by Ed Hughes

The Coastal Stumpage portfolio position provides an opportunity to keep up to date with the stumpage issues that might impact the rates that Woodlot Licensee's pay now and in the future. Since the last report, the Coastal Appraisal Manual has been updated and the Tabular rate predicted last quarter has not changed. Coastal Woodlots should continue to have low rates for 2012.

Some of the Coastal stumpage highlights are noted as follows:

## Tabular Stumpage 2012/2013

The Tabular Stumpage (TAB) for Coastal Woodlot Licensee's for 2011/2012 should still stay in the range of \$.25/m<sup>3</sup> to \$.75/m<sup>3</sup>. The final table for 2012/2013 TAB rates is not expected to change substantially from what has been predicted and similar to the 2011/2012 rates. The final rates by species will be provided in early 2012.

## Market Pricing Equation – No change since the last report

MPS Technical Subcommittee meetings have not been held nor are planned to discuss the potential for a new MPS stumpage equation formula. The FBCWA continues to hold a seat



Ed Hughes,  
Coastal Timber Pricing  
Coordinator

on the committee, but no changes are expected for 2012 TAB or MPS full appraisal rates. I will keep up to date with any changes to the MPS formula, but for now, no increases in stumpage rates due to changes in the MPS formula will occur this year.

## Tab vs. MPS Rates – The option

The option for Coastal Woodlot Licensee's to elect either TAB or MPS rates, when they have an Extended Road Amortization Agreement, continues and is not expected to change.

## Coastal Timber Pricing Advisory Committee – Keeping up to date

The Coastal Timber Pricing Advisory Committee had two meetings over the last three months to provide input into changes to the Coastal Appraisal Manual. The meetings covered major industry issues, with no items discussed for change related to Coastal Woodlots.

## Communications Regarding Coastal/Interior Timber Pricing Issues

Blain Arnett and I are communicating on a few issues that overlap between the Coast and Interior portfolios. Contact with Timber Pricing Branch will continue so that any new issues

can be reviewed before they are implemented and a relationship is maintained with Government staff.

## New Appraisal Issues – Continuous communication

The Coastal Timber Pricing portfolio provides assistance to Woodlot Licensees upon request. If you have any concerns or issues I can be reached at 778-424-6129 or by email at [ehughes2@shaw.ca](mailto:ehughes2@shaw.ca). ♦



Woodlot Licensees are invited to apply for the Minister's Awards of Excellence for Woodlot Management

associated with site productivity gains, improved utilization and administrative streamlining.

A woodlot licensee may be nominated by a woodlot association, another licensee, an individual, Ministry staff or the Federation. Annually one woodlot licensee from the Coast, Southern and Northern Interior Regions will be recognized and awarded \$2500.00. The application deadline is December 31. For more information: [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca) (Min Award). ♦

## FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licenses and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products.

The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy.

BC's woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦

# Christmas Tree Tradition Has Ancient Origins

*Written by: David Robson,  
Extension Educator,  
Horticulture; Springfield  
Extension Center*

King Tut never saw a Christmas tree, but he would have understood the tradition which traces back long before the first Christmas, says David Robson, Extension Educator, Horticulture with the Springfield Extension Center.

The Egyptians were part of a long line of cultures that treasured and worshipped evergreens. When the winter solstice arrive, they brought green date palm leaves into their homes to symbolize life's triumph over death.

The Romans celebrated the winter solstice with a fest called Saturnalia in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture. They decorated their houses with greens and lights and exchanged gifts. They gave coins for prosperity, pastries for happiness, and lamps to light one's journey through life.

Centuries ago in Great Britain, woods priests called Druids used evergreens during mysterious winter solstice rituals. The Druids used holly and mistletoe as symbols of eternal life, and placed evergreen branches over doors to keep away



evil spirits.

Late in the Middle Ages, Germans and Scandinavians placed evergreen trees inside their homes or just outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. Our modern Christmas tree evolved from these early traditions.

Legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. One crisp Christmas Eve, about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ's birth.

The Christmas tree tradition

most likely came to the United States with Hessian troops during the American Revolution, or with German immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio, adds Robson.

But the custom spread slowly. The Puritans banned Christmas in New England. Even as late as 1851, a Cleveland minister nearly lost his job because he allowed a tree in his church. Schools in Boston stayed open on Christmas Day through 1870, and sometimes expelled students who stayed home.

The Christmas tree market was born in 1851 when Catskill farmer Mark Carr hauled two ox sleds of evergreens into New York City and sold them all. By 1900, one in five American families had a Christmas tree, and 20 years later, the custom was nearly universal.

Christmas tree farms sprang up during the depression. Nurserymen couldn't sell their evergreens for landscaping, so they cut them for

Christmas trees. Cultivated trees were preferred because they have a more symmetrical shape than wild ones.

Six species account for about 90 percent of the nation's Christmas tree trade. Scotch pine ranks first, comprising about 40 percent of the market, followed by Douglas fir which accounts for about 35 percent. The other big sellers are noble fir, white pine, balsam fir and white spruce. ♦



*Grade 1s from Gill Elementary in Port Alberni pick a tree from the Greenmax tree farm.*



The FBCWA has a number of items that would make great gifts for Friends, Family, Contractors and others on your list. Items in stock include Screen-printed logo on T-shirts and Coffee Mugs, Embroidered FBCWA logo on golf shirts, oilskin ball caps and knitted toques. Order through the WPDC coordinator, Cathy McClary. ♦



in Ethiopia, before lumber! By contrast, the forestry sector is the largest employer and the second largest contributor to the economy in Germany; the lumber, and its by-products, are the valued commodity in this scenario. It's obvious that, as we try to develop unified global policies to promote long term forest health, it's important that we stay mindful of the values embedded in different cultures.

This is particularly relevant for areas such as Zambia, where food security is so fragile. As Garry Brooks of the African Community Project demonstrated so passionately, efforts to reforest vast areas of land that were completely deforested and left barren have given shape to a type of "social forestry" that creates benefits well beyond ecology. Using their communities as the borders, villagers are managing community forests and, with the aid of the ACP and its local facilitators, are exploring means to secure safe, clean water, improve health, increase opportunities for education and create sustainable, stable lifestyles.

To that end, tree nurseries have been established in community schools; in addition to indigenous species, fast-growing trees like

Moringa, Leucaena and Jatropha are planted to later produce medicine, firewood and bio fuels. These seedlings are forming the forests from which locals can derive a sustainable livelihood in charcoal production, beekeeping, basket and mat making, medicine, food gathering (mushrooms and caterpillars), as well as fish farms and tourism. In the Zambian model the health of the forest is more closely intertwined with the stability, health and prosperity of the entire community. While every country acknowledges the ecological significance of a healthy forest, its significance is magnified in barren, arid regions like Africa.

If a lack of water is the largest stumbling block to cultivating healthy trees on one continent, on another it's the excess that creates challenges for those seeking a livelihood in the forest. As Tom Bradley explained, the bog-ridden terrain in Scotland presents challenges on several levels. Scotland's forests emerged from a post-WWI policy set by a government facing a depleted resource, and acknowledging the inevitability of another large scale conflict. Securing a timber supply that didn't have to be shipped across the Channel from Europe was a

priority for Whitehall and, thus, vast tracts of land were planted. Unfortunately, little planning went into the eventual harvest of these forests; accessing the significant stands has given rise to some labour intensive and ingenious transportation solutions. 'Floating roads' are built over the peat using, among other things, tree stumps driven head-first into the bog to create a net of stability. Even at that, as heavy equipment passes over the road, a 'tide' of peat can occasionally be seen rising in front, like the beginnings of a wake in front of an ocean liner.

The bog also makes a very unstable base for long-term growth, and blow-downs are an issue. As a result, their tree stands are managed more like farms than forests: if a tree has reached a minimally viable height and diameter, it is harvested immediately; any trees showing signs of beginning to lean are also taken out before they can fall; the resulting rotation is shorter than what we experience here in British Columbia.

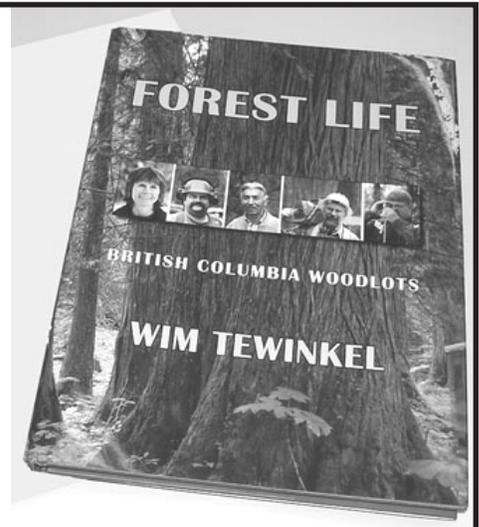
Most of Scotland's forests are in the hands of large private landowners and the government, whose holdings are overseen by Forestry Commission Scotland, a

## “Forest Life” makes a great gift

Are you looking for a great gift idea? Look no further! Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots by Wim Tewinkel showcases and celebrates BC's woodlots, woodlot licensees, and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

You can order it from [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca) for only \$39.95, or woodlot licensees can buy it from their woodlot associations for only \$20.00 ♦



# B.C. Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative

## Phase II Funding Now Available

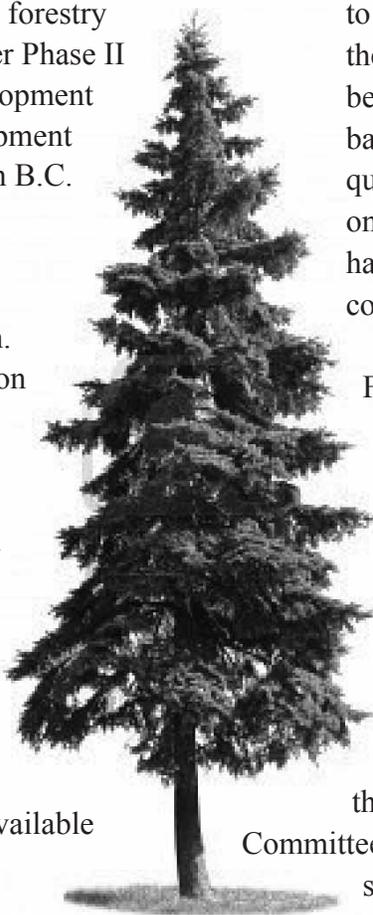
Woodlot licensees and other small-scale forestry operations can now access funding under Phase II of the B.C. Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative (AIDI) to facilitate the development and adoption of agroforestry practices in B.C.

Agroforestry involves the intentional combination of trees with crops and/or livestock in order to enhance production. Agroforestry can be defined as production systems which synergistically integrate both agricultural and forestry practices and products resulting in optimal management of land, animal and human resources.

The AIDI is working to support the development and adoption of agroforestry practices for the benefit of all British Columbians. A new provincial agroforestry strategic plan (available at <http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/PDF/BCAgroforestryStrategicPlan.pdf>) was published in 2009 to guide development priorities and expand industry participation.

The AIDI seeks proposals for innovative projects from individuals and/or groups that address one or more of the Initiative's strategic goals:

1. Develop the business case for agroforestry practices in B.C.;
2. Improve market connections for agroforestry products and services;
3. Demonstrate agroforestry practices to showcase operational examples of agroforestry systems;
4. Improve agroforestry awareness, extension and education; and,
5. Expand and strengthen partnerships among agroforestry practitioners and stakeholder organizations.
6. Up to \$421,000 dollars of funding is available



to match industry contributions to implement the AIDI's goals through 2013. Proposals may be submitted immediately and on an ongoing basis, with cost-share funding allocated to qualified proponents for approved projects on first-come, first serve basis until all funds have been committed. All projects must be completed by December 31, 2013.

Funding for the AIDI is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In British Columbia, the CAAP program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF). The Province of British Columbia provides in-kind support to the AIDI. The Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations administers the AIDI with the guidance of the Agroforestry Management Committee, a group representing B.C.'s agroforestry sector including agricultural, forestry, conservation and provincial government representatives.

George Powell, the Project Development and Communication Services Manager is your link to the BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative. If you have an idea for an agroforestry development project, but don't know where to start, George can help you with information on eligibility and other program criteria. He can also provide you with comments on your draft letter of intent or application for cost-share funding, or can assist you to build partnerships and find resources to make your project succeed. Contact the Project Development and Communication Services Manager by email at [support@agroforestry.info](mailto:support@agroforestry.info) or phone 250.983.5114

For further information on the AIDI, and links to the application guide and forms, please visit [www.agroforestry.info](http://www.agroforestry.info) ♦

branch of Great Britain's Forestry Commission. Recently, inspired by the model here in BC, a Scottish Woodlot Association has taken root and hopes to form a network of "renters" who will manage small parcels of the government-owned land and manage it for commercial purposes. This kind of small tenure forestry is lauded by experts; when individuals are responsible for the well-being of woodlands – both socially and economically – the resource is managed more effectively and generates greater revenue and stability.

Small tenure forestry is usually an excellent practice, except when "small" means "patchwork". As mentioned earlier, the forestry sector (lumber and by-products) is a dominant contributor to Germany's economy, but maintaining growth in the future is hampered by laws that were set in the distant past, and by future trends. Nearly half of the country's forests are owned privately, and these holdings have been divided into smaller and smaller parcels because of inheritance laws: every family member gets a piece of the pie, as it were, so that the average property is 2.5ha, what we would consider a patch cut in a BC woodlot. Since the properties are family estates, the forests are divided into parts but roads aren't necessarily built to access the separate parcels; in the event that one family member sells their piece, it may become inaccessible unless an arrangement is made to harvest cooperatively.

Ironically, while demand for timber is rapidly increasing in Germany, interest in forestry is waning. Small tenure holders who have inherited their plot don't necessarily have the knowledge or equipment they need to make a living off their trees and the general demographic trend is towards

greater urbanisation. According to Philip Weiner of ForstBW, the state provides support in the form of free consulting, assistance with logging and marketing, and financial support with initial afforestation, but much more needs to be done in order for supply to keep up with demand. Efforts are being made to develop more locally-based associations that can share equipment and form regional logging pools to aid in harvest, transport and marketing, not unlike BC's federation. If the downward trend isn't reversed, the effects will trickle down to a significant portion of Germany's secondary lumber sector, and their economy by extension.

As the backbone of their economy, forestry shares a similar place of importance in Finland; however, the industry is firmly entrenched and has no risk of becoming socially obsolete. Taking into account the number of "family forests", a startling one in five Finns has ownership of a productive forest; in fact, 70% of Finland's woodlands are under private ownership, with holdings under 30ha each, according to Registered Professional Forester Ian Lanki. Intensely and efficiently managed using industry-leading machinery, timber stands are treated as more than lumber; in the face of UN and European discussions regarding sustainability in the early 90s, Finland shifted its own policies to reflect the changing ecological, social and economic demands of the forest resources. Where the focus had been solely on sustainability of yield, it expanded to capture biodiversity and other uses of the forest beyond pure lumber production, i.e. recreation, mushroom harvests, and wildlife habitat, similar to the mandate of BC's Woodlot program.

Legislation is in place that requires private landowners to replant; further, an 'intermediate cut' representing 20% of a given harvest is required by law; this forced thinning aids timber growth but also stimulates national energy production, as the entire cut is handled as bio fuel. The Forest Management Association, an organization financed by all forest owners in the form of dues, exists to "promote profitability of forestry practised by forest owners and ... to advance the economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable management and utilisation of forests." (Forest Management Association Act Part 1). Not unlike a combination of the Federation and BC's Professional Forest Association, these associations exist across Scandinavia, linking amongst one another and also with fledgling operations in developing countries, aiding in the stability and sustainability of the forestry sector locally and abroad.

Forestry practitioners in regions around the globe are taking great strides to preserve and enhance forest growth for social, environmental and economic benefit. While the political and social values and geographic constraints may vary from region to region, the universal imperative is, as de Marsh stated, to balance rights and obligations with regards to forest use. As we arrive globally at a point where we no longer see trees as an expendable commodity and, instead, as a deciding factor in our long-term quality of life, it's encouraging to know that the trend towards small-scale, community-based forestry is gradually reasserting itself in the industry, with British Columbia's Woodlot Program leading by example. ♦



## Bill Batten

July 5, 1922 to October 20, 2011

Mr. William Richard (Bill) Batten passed away at Durand Manor, Golden on Thursday, October 20th, 2011 at the age of 89 years. Bill was born in Vancouver on July 5, 1922 and had been a resident of Golden since the early 1960s. Bill served his country overseas during World War II and was awarded the Military Cross by King George for distinguished and gallant service. Bill worked as a professional forester for the majority of his life. He was the manager/vice president of Kicking Horse Forest Products Golden, Woodlands manager for Evans Forest Products and worked in several countries in Latin America, Africa and several Canadian provinces as an Independent Forestry Consultant. Bill loved spending time outdoors and enjoyed walking in the forest usually with his dog at his side. He also enjoyed gardening, many sports; including tennis, swimming, cross country skiing and trail riding in the Blaeberry and was an avid reader. He was a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #122, Golden. Bill, in partnership with his wife Fanita and son Tom operated W0456 from 1989 to 2003 when Tom assumed the responsibilities of the woodlot. ♦

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*The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions for "Member Reflections" related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block. "Member Reflections" can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us. If you'd like to submit an article or photo, contact Cathy McClary at [cjmclary@shaw.ca](mailto:cjmclary@shaw.ca).*



*After living in Prince George for 30 years, the WPDC Coordinator, Cathy McClary and her husband John, are reaching new heights. They have purchased a condo at the top of Big White ski resort, near Kelowna and will be making the move just before Christmas. Work*

*will still bring them back to Prince George. Cathy looks forward to meeting many Woodlot Licensees in the Southern Interior. After December 16 you can contact Cathy at 250-961-0271 or email: [cjmclary@shaw.ca](mailto:cjmclary@shaw.ca)*



*Eric Long standing amongst some reverted agricultural clearing that he spaced in 1988 and applied glyphosate in 1995 near Fort St. John. The 2012 AGM will be held in Fort St. John next fall.*

# Forest & Range Evaluation Program (FREP)

By Lisa Marak

British Columbia's Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) is led by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNR) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MOE). The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and *Regulations* provide for a Results-Based, forest and range management framework in British Columbia that includes professional reliance as a foundational principal. Under the results-based model, government evaluates compliance with the law (C&E) and evaluates the effectiveness of forest and range practices in achieving management objectives, including sustainable resource management (FREP). For the purposes of FREP, sustainable resource management means:

- Managing forest resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.
- Providing stewardship of forest and rangelands based on an ethic of respect for the land.
- Conserving the resource values identified under FRPA and its regulations, namely: biodiversity, cultural heritage, soil, water, fish, forage and associated plant communities, timber, recreation, resource features, visual quality, and wildlife.

The kinds of questions FREP seeks answers for are:

 What is the forest productivity & health of 15 – 40 year old regenerated stands?  
Timber

 Are cultural heritage resources being conserved for First Nations cultural and traditional activities?  
Cultural Heritage

 Are riparian forestry & range practices effective in maintaining the proper functioning of riparian areas?  
Fish/Riparian

 How are we managing views in scenic areas & achieving Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs)?  
Visual Quality

 Are forest practices effective in protecting water quality?  
Water Quality



Forage/  
Range

What impact are range practices having on the desired plant succession & water function?



Soils

Are forest practices preventing site disturbance that is detrimental to soil productivity and hydrologic function?



Biodiversity

Is stand-level retention providing the habitat necessary for maintaining the species dependent on wildlife trees and coarse woody debris?

FREP's main objective is for continuous improvement of BC's forest and range practices, policies and legislation. Data evaluating performance throughout the province, including woodlot licences has been collected for 2011.

Based on the overall findings, the following actions either resulted in the best outcomes or were seen as key opportunities for improvement.

*Timber* – Planting species densities and mixes that account for insect, disease and abiotic factors.

*Cultural Heritage* – Engaging First Nations as early as possible through proactive face to face communications.

*Fish/Riparian* – Leaving full retention within the first 10m of all perennial S4, S5 and S6 streams that deliver water, nutrients and invertebrates downstream to fish bearing streams and/or drinking water.

*Visual Quality* – Leaving visually effective levels of in-block retention (>24%) and using visual design concepts.

*Water Quality* – Getting water off roads and out of ditch lines as quickly as possible and minimizing soil exposure.

*Forage/Range* – Retaining natural range barriers along streams and wetlands and following well-established best management practices.

*Soils* – Avoiding thick layers of slash and compaction, especially on very wet soils.

*Biodiversity* – Leaving large live and dead trees, long and large diameter coarse woody debris and a mix of dispersed and patch retention in harvest areas.

Overall woodlot licences have been performing quite well. The Federation will be working with the FREP group over the coming months to more closely examine woodlot licence data to determine strengths and weaknesses. ♦

# Buyers and sellers of wild harvested non timber and specialty wood products

By Evelyn Hamilton  
Royal Roads University  
[evelyn.1hamilton@royalroads.ca](mailto:evelyn.1hamilton@royalroads.ca)

Websites that list medium to large scale buyers and sellers of wild harvested non timber forest products and specialty wood products are described below.

## *Non timber forest products*

### **British Columbia**

**Buy BCwild** is an on-line searchable directory that lists over 200 BC producers of non-timber forest products and services.

Includes producers of wild foods, native plants, natural body care products, First Nations art, specialty wood & crafts, education & workshops, and eco-tourism opportunities. See <http://buybcwild.com>

**Hills Health Ranch** produce rose hip oil that they sell to spa locations around the world and other wild harvested plant products. See <http://www.thehillshealthranch.com/index.html>

**Pacific Rim Mushrooms** sell dried and fresh mushrooms and as wild exotic greens such as fiddleheads and wild onions. See <http://www.pacrimmushrooms.com>

### **Outside of BC**

**Lonewolf Herbal Products Inc.** sell a wide range of high quality botanicals (e.g. oils, herbs, teas) that they supply to herbalists, naturopaths and manufacturers. They buy from over 300 growers and wildcrafters across Canada. See <http://www.lonewolfherbdir.com>

**Forbes Wild Foods** sell a large selection of high quality wild foods, harvested across Canada, including BC. Products include wild fruits, syrups, vegetables, mushrooms, and exotic dry goods. See [www.wildfoods.ca](http://www.wildfoods.ca)



*Finding the perfect tree at Greenmax*

**From our Atlantic Woods** is a catalogue of wild harvested products and producers from the Atlantic Provinces. See <http://www.fromouratlanticwoods.com>

### **Oregon Forest Directory**

is a directory of buyers and sellers of wild harvested non timber forest products in the Oregon area. See <http://www.orforestdirectory.com>.

### **Specialty wood products**

**BC Wood** is a not-for-profit association dedicated to growing BC's value-added wood-products industry. They

provide marketing programs to registered value-added manufacturers, which includes cost-shared participation in international tradeshows and events, out-going and incoming trade missions, lead generation through the Wood Supply Network [www.businessforwood.com](http://www.businessforwood.com) (WSN) and networking opportunities. Their listings include specialty woods. See <http://www.bcwood.com>

**Wood Source BC** is an interactive website for small tenure owners that will connect buyers and sellers of BC forest products. In addition to standard wood products it also lists retail products (e.g. artisan, furniture, and non timber forest products). See <http://www.woodsourcebc.com>

**Canadian Forests Website** is a private BC initiative that lists companies that produce traditional and specialty wood products (e.g. furniture, art). See <http://www.canadian-forests.com>.

**BC Lumber Sales.com** is a specialty lumber dealer based in the Okanagan Valley, that supplies premium rough cut lumber to Okanagan tradesmen, contractors, lumber yards, backyard builders and hobbyists. See <http://www.bclumbersales.com/index.php> ♦



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

## MFR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE BOARD

- Natural Resource Road Act project: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra> Do you use BCs resource roads for work, recreation or because you live in or visit rural communities off the public road system? If so, help us serve you better by contributing to the Natural Resource Road Act Project to improve resource road laws and regulation for the benefit of all users. Ref # 4726

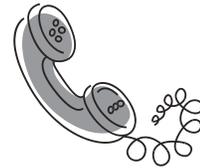
### Infrastructure - Announcement Retirement of the APPHELP email adress, Jan 1, 2012

As part of the amalgamation of help desks into a single NRS Business Service Desk, the staff supporting the FLNR line of business applications (formerly APPHELP) will be moving to a unified incident tracking system effective Jan 1, 2012. This system, called Incident Monitor, will change the way our clients communicate with us.

- As of Jan 1, 2012, the email address FORHISP.APPHELP@gov.bc.ca (a.k.a. APPHELP) will be retired.
- External clients will send all their requests to NRS.ServiceDesk@gov.bc.ca. This will automatically create a ticket Id for the external client.
- Government clients will enter their requests directly into Incident Monitor thru the web site <http://nrsservicesdesk.gov.bc.ca>. This will automatically create a ticket Id for the government client.
- For questions about a ticket or assistance with Incident Monitor, contact us at NRS.Notifications@gov.bc.ca or call the NRS Business Service Desk at (250) 952-6801 or 1-866-952-6801.
- Training materials will be available at a later date to assist government clients with Incident Monitor.

Further details will be forthcoming between now and Dec 31.

NRS Business Service Desk  
Ph: 250-952-6801  
email: FORHISP.APPHELP@gov.bc.ca



Telephone Support for using the Woodlot for Windows AAC program is available to all woodlot licensees or their representatives.

Contact Mike Bandstra  
ph: 250-847-4822;  
fax: 888-273-0209;  
email: [mbandstra@forsite.ca](mailto:mbandstra@forsite.ca) ♦

## NOTICES:

- [www.WoodSourceBC.com](http://www.WoodSourceBC.com): Where wood buyers find sellers – online. BC's free online wood marketplace, offers you the opportunity to buy and sell more wood products and services than ever before. [www.WoodSourceBC.com](http://www.WoodSourceBC.com) provides buyers and sellers the opportunity to market themselves to a wider network of BC's wood users. It's easy to use, simply create your profile and start listing items for sale and items you want to buy. Sign up today at [www.WoodSourceBC.com](http://www.WoodSourceBC.com)
- There is new information and guidance available regarding migratory birds. Of particular importance is the information on the website addressing measures to avoid the incidental take of migratory birds, nests and eggs. Incidental take is considered an offense under Federal Law. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb> ♦



**Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations Scholarship Award**

**Information and Application Form**

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received on or before April 27, 2012. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be a direct family member of a woodlot licensee or private land owner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA. In cases where the woodlot is not owned by an individual, one applicant per woodlot is eligible to apply in any given year.
3. Applicants must be planning to attend a post secondary institution within 24 months of the application deadline.
4. Preference will be given to students in grade 12 and recent high school graduates.
5. Preference will be given to students entering a forestry-related program. Students entering other areas of study are welcome to apply, knowing there is preference for forestry related study.
6. The award of \$1,000.00 will be payable, on receipt by the FBCWA of documentation confirming registration into the institution for post secondary education. This generally occurs in mid September.
7. Essays and photos from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the Almanac.
8. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
9. The Award Committee of the Federation of B. C. Woodlot Associations will be empowered to:
  - a) grant this award at its discretion;
  - b) withhold this award in any year if there are no eligible applicants, or for any reason deemed good or advisable.

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IMPORTANT

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Please complete the application form and attach:

1. a letter describing the reasons which you feel qualify you for this award. Your letter should also include a detailed description of your experience in forestry, particularly on woodlots. Your letter may include information about your various interests and extra curricular activities.
2. a one page (approximately 500- 700 word) type-written essay titled "Apart from selling logs, what other economic/business opportunities do you see coming from a woodlot?". This is an open ended topic so you can decide how to approach it.
3. two letters of reference from previous or current teachers or employers,
4. a copy of your **most recent** report card, and
5. a recent photo of yourself.

Return to: Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations  
Attention: Nancy Pezel, Treasurer  
173 W. Hoylake Road,  
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia V9K 1K3

Or send it digitally to [islandswest@shaw.ca](mailto:islandswest@shaw.ca) with a subject heading of FBCWA Scholarship Application

***Applications must be received by April 27, 2012***



**Scholarship Award Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

Currently enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Secondary School you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Program you will be registered in for 2011-12: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Woodlot Licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot # (ie; daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345)

\_\_\_\_\_

Woodlot Licensee/Private Land Owner to whom you are a direct family member, has been a member of the which woodlot association and for how many years?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please include information on volunteer work, extra curricular activities, membership in school and community organizations, sports, interests, hobbies etc as well as employment information. (You may use another sheet if you need more room or if it's more convenient for you.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# FBCWA Business Resolutions

*The resolutions were presented to the delegates and voted on at the AGM in Harrison Hot Springs on September 24, 2011 and further discussed by the FBCWA Directors on September 25, 2011.*

## 1.0 Whereas:

- Travel costs are a continuously increasing problem
- Time to travel is at a premium
- The FBCWA is streamlining in our processes to make meetings more accessible to our membership;

The Executive gives consideration to:

Hold some director meetings/AGMs via video conferencing.

*Moved/Seconded: Cliff Manning / Steven Wright*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Deliberation pending additional information.*

## 2.0 Whereas:

- As a forest industry we harvest wood on a sustainable basis
- Wood is a natural part of our environment and is a large part of all of our livelihoods
- Plastics are an un-natural product of a non-renewable resource and does not break down in our life time and continue to fill our landfill sites;

The Executive gives consideration to:

When we as a Federation and Associations meet, that we give consideration to using wooden utensils instead of plastic utensils.

*Moved/Seconded: Cliff Manning / Steven Wright*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Passed*

## 3.0 Whereas:

- FPInnovations has a wealth of publications that are likely of a great interest to woodlot licensees, but a paid membership is required to access the documents

The Executive gives consideration to:

Provide a venue for Federation members to have free access to the FPInnovation publications.

*Moved/Seconded: Wolfram Wollenheit / David Zirnhelt*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Passed*

## 4.0 Whereas:

- Numerous benefits exist for operations with farm status such as accounting on each basis, capital gains exemptions and income stabilization programs;

The Executive gives consideration to:

- Lobbying the government and its tax authority for having trees and logs from woodlots declared agricultural products,
- for making woodlots eligible for farm status
- And for allowing logging income be reported as farm income.

*Moved/Seconded: Wolfram Wollenheit / Nigel Ross*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Passed*

## 5.0 Whereas:

- Alder is a valuable species with a limited shelf life once it is logged
- And export rules require an advertising period during which alder is a risk to lose its value;

The Executive gives consideration to:

Lobbying government to remove the export restrictions for alder.

*Moved/Seconded: Wolfram Wollenheit / Jerry Benner*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Passed*

## 6.0 Whereas:

- An ever increasing number of woodlot licensees and AAC is being allocated to First Nations and yet our First Nations are under-represented at past and present AGMs
- Many of the benefits of the AGM are networking, sharing ideas and solutions and building new relationships
- The future will continue to see more FN participation in our sector
- Our Federation will become stronger with First Nations as active partners;

The Executive gives consideration to:

- Identifying and removing any barriers to participation
- and the annual funding of 3 First Nations licensees to cover their costs to allow and encourage them to participate in this valuable event.

*Moved/Seconded: Dave McBride / Wolfram Wollenheit*

*Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Deliberation pending investigation of barriers to*

participation

### 7.0 Whereas:

- The demand for the forest land base is greater than ever,
- And the value of human diversity on the land base is critical over the next several decades

The Executive gives consideration to:

Approaching the Minister requesting he provide guidance to Districts to proceed with identifying and reserving areas for new woodlots with the volumes set aside.

*Moved/Seconded: Fred Newhouse/ Lisa Marak  
Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Reaffirmed that the executive continue working on woodlot expansion as a high priority.*

### 8.0 Whereas:

- Woodlots must not only achieve forest management excellence – we must be SEEN to do so
- As shown by Dave Haley yesterday the numbers in RESULTS do not show good performance
- Many licensees are not adept at inputting & retrieving RESULTS info

The Executive gives consideration to:

Hire a consultant to supply a simple report card to each licensee for their woodlot each year based on the info in RESULTS to facilitate achieving complete and accurate records for every licence.

*Moved/Seconded: Russ Clinton /Dave McBride  
Membership: Passed*

*Directors: Tom Bradley, Coleen Marlow and Brian to examine due diligence in the reported deficiencies and identify core issues.*

### 9.0 Whereas:

- There were no applicants for the \$1000 2011 FBCWA Scholarship

The Executive gives consideration to:

Donating the \$1000 to the AFRICAN COMMUNITY PROJECT for environmental education of Zambian school children

*Moved/Seconded: Nancy Pezel / Lisa Marak  
Members: Defeated ♦*

# Logging on Woodlot 1479



## Awarding Excellence

*(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the NIWA newsletter and is reprinted with permission. Neil Vokey is a University student working for Huock Resources Ltd. Reminder that the deadline for applying for the Minister's Award is December 31, 2011.)*

By Neil Vokey

Quadra Island woodlot licensee Grant Hayden has recently won the Minister's Award of Excellence for Woodlot Management for his innovation, conservation and service to his community. To understand Grant's approach to forest stewardship is to understand the potential that the Woodlot Program has to change the way people view forestry.

"I'd like to think we have one of the best Woodlots," said Grant, as we drove through the eastern parcel of his Woodlot Licence near Village Bay. Even so, he was surprised and honoured to learn that he had won the award, and didn't even know that he'd been nominated.

Grant grew up on a farm in central Alberta where, occasionally, trees from a small patch of woodland on the property would be harvested and milled for building. Grant always found himself interested in the idea working with wood, and eventually he moved out West, where he began working for Rolf Kellerhals. In the late 1990's, the opportunity arose to apply for a Woodlot Licence, so Grant, Rolf and Markus Kellerhals formed their company, Discovery Forests Ltd., and won the woodlot bid.

Since then there has been a big learning curve for Grant, who had telecommunications and mechanics in his background. When I asked him about the challenges of running a Woodlot, Grant didn't quite know where to start.



Grant Hayden

"There are challenges to every aspect," he said. But the variety is also what he loves, concluding later that the greater the challenges, then the greater the rewards.

One of those challenges is Quadra Island's large and hungry deer population. In his shop, Grant shows me a custom piece on his lathe (manufactured locally), which sharpens Cedar stakes. "It's sort of like a big pencil sharpener," he explains as he demonstrates.

The Cedar stakes act as a backbone when wrapping stucco wire fences around new trees - a method that has proven to be an effective alternative to using plastic cones. The only potential downside, Grant warns, is the requirement to routinely check the stucco wire to make sure the tree stem does not start growing outside the protective structure.

This methodical approach to forestry has allowed Grant to innovate and make sure the job is done right.

"Maybe I don't value my time enough," he said, shrugging. Of course, we both knew this wasn't true. Grant's record of community involvement with the Fish Hatchery, the Quadra Island Trail Committee, and the Free Firewood Program (just to name a few), demonstrates the multiple of values the woodlot forest provides - values that Grant naturally embodies.

As he looks to the future, Grant tells me he wonders how Woodlot Licences will be passed on to the next generation. Although that time hasn't come yet, it is certain that the next generation of woodlot licensee on this part of Quadra Island will have big boots to fill. ♦

*Neil Vokey is a graduate from Capilano University's Film Centre working with Huock Forests Ltd.*

### Purpose of the WPDC

The primary purpose of the WPDC is to ensure that levy fees are spent on woodlot licensee priorities to benefit and promote the woodlot industry throughout BC. Funds are collected through powers granted to Council under the Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act. ♦

# The next level of success in woodlot product development

By Mike Larock, President, Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC)

At the point that I write this note to you as a woodlot licensee, I have just walked our woodlot harvest plans for next year, and reviewed the progress of our stewardship obligations from previous years. Standing in our woodlot forest I realize that management is all about a smooth transition and maintaining rigor in our planning. It is easy to lose track of the hours when there is so much to do.

As a result, as I now hustle to get this article to Cathy, I am contemplating my last duty as the President of your Woodlot Product Development Council. As a part of my duties I am pleased to have presided over an experienced and dedicated council. Through it all I have ensured that the business of the WPDC has been conducted in an orderly fashion and protected the assets of the woodlot members. I have called many meetings to order, moderated debates, signed many letters, documents and most importantly signed cheques. In keeping with council obligations we have committed to a responsible transition of leadership. For the last two years Chris Elden has been a valuable contributor to the council in the position of vice president. I am pleased to pass the gavel to Vice President Chris Elden. And I look forward to helping Chris as a past president for one more year.

Since the AGM in late September we've been busy working on the business planning project we told you about in the last Almanac. To recap, the WPDC is developing clear options on how we could invest to support woodlot licensees to diversify and enhance woodlot revenues. The plan will analyze and compare options—

including sticking to the status quo. A final draft of the plan will be sent to all licensees in next summer's Almanac, in advance of the 2012 AGM, and we'll make decisions after the 2012 AGM in consultation with the FBCWA.

### **WANTED: BC-wide advisory group for WPDC business planning**

*The WPDC board is setting up an informal advisory group of woodlot licensee holders for the business planning project. If you'd like to see early drafts of the work and provide feedback and ideas, we want you on the team. Think of it as a province-wide "focus group." If you want in, get in touch with Cathy McClary, WPDC coordinator.*

We've done the following in the last month or so:

- We've decided not to survey members this year partly because the business planning project will be taking input on how to invest funds. Also, we're creating an advisory group of WPDC members who want to act as a focus group for early draft work on the plan (see more info on this page).
- The planning project outline (The Next Level of Success: Developing a plan that will assist BC woodlots to diversify and enhance revenues, Oct. 2011) was mailed to every woodlot licensee in BC (almost 900 woodlot licensee holders!) with your Fall 2011 Almanac, and we asked for feedback. (If you missed that, and you have web

access, please go to [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca) to download it. Or please contact Cathy McClary (see page 2 for contact info.)

- We hired Jim Savage of Savage & Associates to help us research and write the options plan. Jim lives in Quesnel and has an extensive background in research and business planning. We've worked out a detailed workplan with Jim and he'll be working with several subcontractors in order to get the work done as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

- To reduce our business plan costs, we applied for and received support funding from the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative (AIDI).

- We are seeking opportunities with the FBCWA, the WPDC and the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) to discuss collaboration on items of common interest. This follows up on links already being built between the FBCWA and the BCCFA on the Bridges Project (linking buyers and sellers of wood products).

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS STILL NEEDED! We want your ideas on how to productively invest our assets to help licensees. There are many ways for you to communicate your ideas. And remember that we're drawing prizes for the first round of feedback! We'll give a fabulous fleece vest to each of ten licensees who give us feedback by December 31, 2011. We'll be taking feedback into the spring, but the earlier you give us ideas, the better chance that they'll be incorporated into the plan. ♦**



satisfactorily restocked and free growing, please **ensure your declaration has been submitted into RESULTS**. Submitting this information is part of a woodlot licensee's obligation to submit an Annual Report as per Section 76 of the *Woodlot Licence Planning & Practices Regulation* (WLPPR).

There are some situations with reporting to be aware of. First, if you've made a Free Growing declaration but it isn't showing up in RESULTS or on your report it could be because a free growing declaration requires a Forest Cover Submission that includes 'inventory and silviculture layer information per the FG survey and a spatial submission.' The spatial may not have changed since your post harvest forest cover was entered, but you **MUST RE-SUBMIT THE FOREST COVER INFORMATION WITH EVERY FREE GROWING UPDATE**. If no forest cover update is submitted then the declaration is essentially sitting idle in RESULTS! You likely won't know this is the case because RESULTS doesn't send out a warning or notice advising the user that they require a map. So a well meaning and legally responsible licensee could be caught in a compliance situation simply as a result of not knowing about the map or a data entry oversight. This situation and how to remedy it is explained in an article by Tom Bradley; see Appendix I.

Lastly, you may find glitches in your report. If you do, report them to the district woodlot forester. For example, look at the sample report on the previous page and note the EFG and LFG circled in purple highlighter. When reviewing information for this bulletin, we noted on Tom's report that the early and late free growing dates are exactly the same. Upon further investigation it was determined that these field were left blank in the original stocking standards information provided for this opening so RESULTS automatically defaults to the Dist/Comm Date – which is usually the harvest date. So while the system shows Tom had an overdue free growing obligation, in fact, he had a data issue! These are types of things that need to be cleaned up.

Your district woodlot forester as well as Coleen Marlow ([cmarlow@gicable.com](mailto:cmarlow@gicable.com)) and Tom Bradley ([tom@sifco.ca](mailto:tom@sifco.ca)) are available to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for giving this important issue your immediate attention.

## **APPENDIX I – Reporting & Making Free Growing Declarations**

A hot topic of discussion at the AGM in September was "What's Up with Woodlots and Free to Grow reporting?"

Reviews of RESULTS data suggest a less than excellent level of compliance by Woodlots in achieving Free to Grow obligations, but at this moment no one knows if we have found a reporting compliance issue or a reforestation

compliance issue.

We have identified one well known (to geeks) process issue that may be a key factor. The issue is that legally a Free to Grow declaration requires a map. Section 76 of WLPPR requires that we report in the form specified by the Chief Forester. The Chief Forester has specified that the form of reporting is RESULTS. WLPPR s 76 further specifies that the report shall contain "a map describing the location of any area that has been the subject of a declaration under Section 107 of FRPA that an obligation has been completed." Section 107 of FRPA encompasses free to grow. Ergo, to report a Free to Grow area, meet your legal obligations, and get the liability for the area off your shoulders, you have to include a map.

The seductive trap is that the on-line RESULTS Milestones declaration screen makes no mention of "a map". There is in fact no way to attach a map in Milestones. It is happy to let you Update your free growing status and Declare that you have met the obligation. *Easy! It looks just fine!*

But it's no good. The correct interpretation of the WLPPR s 76 "map", as verified by the Forest Practices Board, is "a forest cover data submission to RESULTS". No forest cover = no map = no reporting compliance.

Forest cover submissions require spatial data. This can be accomplished with the well known "Copy Exhibit A from FTA" button (if you have one SU and your harvest area matches the block you reported to FTA). Or, if you have a more complex situation or just prefer not to work online, you can use the WLGML tool from <http://www.woodfor.com/WLGML> to create a forest cover submission. Or you can hire a service provider to look after it for you.

It is worth noting that in earlier times, you could even bash in forest cover attribute data on-line with no spatial data, but that loophole is plugged now. RESULTS would let you do it but the submission would not affect the Free Growing declaration. We are starting to suspect that these two "It lets you do it" situations have accidentally confused a lot of licensees.

So here is the upshot: if you entered forest cover with no spatial or a Free to Grow declaration with no forest cover into RESULTS, you have to go back and do it again, the right way, to achieve reporting compliance. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, and no it isn't fair, but that's how it is.

And finally, if you are now saying "Thanks for worrying the heck out of me, how am I supposed to remember what I did with that crazy computer thing 2 years ago?", please visit <http://www.woodfor.com/RESULTS>. There is an illustrated step-by-step guide there on how to access the RESULTS report that will show you what Milestones you have successfully declared. ♦

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Mark Clark	Lisa Marak
Shawn Flynn	Brian McNaughton
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The FBCWA and the  
WPDC wish you a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year!



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