



MEDIA RELEASE

September 9, 2014

Woodlotters Converge in Golden for “Rocky Mountain” AGM

Woodlot licensees from around the province will be gathering for their annual general meeting between September 18 and 21 in Golden, BC. The Columbia Woodlot Association is hosting this three-day meeting, where they will showcase “Woodlots – The Rocky Mountain Way” through workshops, meetings and fieldtrips in the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

“We are excited to explore both the lessons of our history and possibilities for our future at the upcoming FBCWA/WPDC conference,” says Brian Amies, President of the Columbia Woodlot Association.

Golden has a long and rich history with the forest industry. Today, there is a diverse group of people working in it, particularly those involved in the management of woodlots. Many of the same pioneering families still live here, working their farms and woodlot licences as they have for generations, combining the experience of the past with today’s technology and innovation. These pioneer families will be recognized during the 2014 Stewardship Awards presentation.

Woodlot licences are BC’s smallest Crown tenure managed for timber, ranging from 400 to 1200 hectares in size, and are often combined with private land. The people managing these forests are the stewards of a Crown resource, and employ foresters and contractors in their local community to ensure sound, sustainable management.

The Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will be speaking Saturday morning at the Golden Civic Centre. “I’m looking forward to connecting with some of the province’s 860 woodlot owners and operators who play a significant role in the province’s forest economy – especially in the communities where they are based,” said Minister Thomson.

Other presenters include:

- Dr. Peter Pearse, Professor Emeritus of Economics & Forestry, UBC
- Matt Wealick, Chief Operations Officer Ts’elxweyeqw Tribe, Mgmt. Ltd.
- Blair Hammond, Manager Ecosystem Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service
- Ken Day, Manager of UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest, touring WL0447
- Colleen Palumbo, Golden Historical Society
- Bill Markvoort, Probyn Log Sort on Log Exports

The FBCWA was founded in 1988 and represents 23 woodlot associations, whose membership includes woodlot licensees and small private woodland owners throughout British Columbia, united in an effort to demonstrate exemplary forest and natural resource management. The Columbia Woodlot Association is a member of the FBCWA and represents 15 woodlot licensees from Invermere to Revelstoke. To find out more about woodlots in British Columbia go to www.woodlot.bc.ca.

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