



## Cliff Manning on hot side of really cool job

By DEBORAH GREAVES

Cliff Manning has twin careers: one built around growing trees and the other in protecting them.

Manning is a woodlot licensee and past president of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations who, like many woodlot licencees, supplements his income from Woodlot 1689 located near Burns Lake, by working for the provincial government as a seasonal employee for Wildfire Protection Branch.

“They were looking for someone with fire experience, someone with a good understanding of the forest industry who liked adventure,” said Manning. “The person who leads teams of workers involved with fire suppression

needs to be open minded and ‘situationally aware’ to manage a changing environment. You need a good attitude and the ability to look at the same old stuff differently.”

With fire-fighting experience dating back to work with initial attack crews in Vernon in the mid 1970s while going to college, Manning has also taught basic fire training to people in the forest industry and some First Nations groups for over 15 years. In 2007 and 2008 he had a job function similar to a Forest Protection Assistant for the Northwest Fire Center, Cassiar Fire Zone situated in Dease Lake and in 2009 worked in Castlegar as a Forest Protection Assistant (FPA). Travel is definitely part of the job in Fire Protection.

He began the 2010 fire season in Castlegar in an acting position as a Protection Technician, supervising initial attack crews, fire wardens and timekeepers, but was recently

role in protecting BC’s forests.

“It’s huge,” Manning said. “You can be sued and end up in court for doing the right thing wrong, due to pressure and stress. Chal-

lenges and pressure you learn to cope with through training and experience. Risk is always there. We all must recognize when we are getting over our heads and call for assistance when needed.” One of the most challenging situations Manning has coped with was last summer. “With a lack of available crews on site as some of my Ontario crews members were injured in an overnight wind storm when trees fell on their tents, a passing lightning storm caused many new fires. I had 10 firefighters, two skidders with water



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relocated to the Yukon at Watson Lake.

“The Incident Command System in Canada, USA, Australia and other parts of the world, defines roles and hierarchy, and the system helps to identify training for each position,” said Manning. “Under this system, we fulfill a number of roles.”

While he prefers logistics and finance (which is no different than what is needed to run his woodlot) the training he has received, along with knowledge and experience, helps to set a career path that is both challenging and “mind stretching.”

Being involved in major forest fires has more than physical risk. There is also responsibility and liability that goes along with your

tanks, one helicopter bucketing and fires moving faster than you could deal with the issues. There’s nothing like a little stress and evolving challenges.”

Work in wildfire management provides variety, challenge and opportunities, which for Cliff Manning is a perfect fit. Many of the skills learned managing a woodlot transfer over to working in fire protection. The biggest difference is, in fire fighting, decisions are made in a pressure cooker and you don’t have a season to consider your options.

Manning recommends that anyone seeking information about wildfire management opportunities should visit the website [www.bc.wildfire.ca](http://www.bc.wildfire.ca).

# In it for the long haul

## Paul Galliazzo demonstrates importance of long-term vision

At first glance, the Cariboo Regional District is a recreational paradise. After a newcomer roams around a bit, however, one notices the mills, beetle-killed forest, large cutblocks of harvested trees, ranches with big rolls of hay out in the fields, and signs of mining activity.

In the summer of 2010, plenty of smoke would also have been noticed as the current Forestry Capital of Canada faced yet another challenge, this time from Mother Nature.

“Economic conditions in Quesnel were not that bad when the beetle went through,” said forester, woodlot licensee and Quesnel Woodlot Association President Paul Galliazzo. Nevertheless, Galliazzo’s woodlot, like so many others, was hit hard.

“There are 1.8 million hectares of forest in the Quesnel Forest District that have grown pine for a millennium,” Galliazzo said, “and the pine is past its ‘best before’ date.”

The pine beetle kill forced massive harvests in the area, 30 years’ worth of wood all at once. Life after the beetle meant two-thirds of Galliazzo’s conifers are gone and his allowable cut is about a third of what it used to be, yet he remains cautiously optimistic.

“We’d expected in the beginning to do gradual harvests, but the beetle changed eve-

rything.” Now, Galliazzo has a big silviculture liability to deal with, but at least there is some money from harvesting to cover his planting costs.

It would have been easy after the beetles went through to maintain the status quo and plant pine again, but in an effort to create a

more resistant crop of trees, Galliazzo felt compelled to try a new mix.

Where the trees were once 90% pine, he has now planted 50% pine, 20% fir and 30% spruce.

It will be at least five years before he’ll know if his

experiment is showing positive results.

“We’re talking about a crop that won’t be ready to harvest for at least sixty years,” Galliazzo said. “How can we predict the quality of that harvest in the face of fire, climate change, disease and fickle markets?”

His progressive ideas, perseverance and dedication in the face of great change are one of the reasons Galliazzo is being recognized at this year’s Federation of BC Woodlot Associations’ Annual General Meeting in Quesnel. Another reason is his dedicated work in various volunteer roles during a challenging time in the forest industry with the Woodlot Product Development Council – an organization established by the government to promote a positive image of the woodlot industry and its products.



The leadership shown by Paul Galliazzo will be recognized at this year’s Annual General Meeting. PHOTO DEBORAH GREAVES

# First rate lineup for 2010 AGM

The Quesnel Woodlot Association is proud to host the joint Annual General Meetings of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council in Quesnel, BC from September 16 – 18, 2010.

The theme for this year’s AGM is **Future Directions**. With the impact from the mountain pine beetle and now the fires of the Cariboo, many licensees find themselves adapting to changes in a direction motivated out of necessity. Certification, carbon credits, value-added products, invasive plants, environmental goods and services, digital technology and partnership initiatives are all topics of discussion for an independent group that is primarily log sellers.

For those interested in attending, visit [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca)

## Highlights of the Conference

### Keynote Speaker

Antony Marcil, President and CEO of Forest Stewardship Council of Canada (FSC)

### Dinner Speaker

Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range

### Field Tours

Three local field tours will be offered, including Quesnel and District’s Museum and Archives, Quesnel’s Riverfront Trail System, Custom Cutting sawmill operations, agroforestry operations, field tours to woodlots, Barkerville including a restored sawmill and water wheel demonstration and a Theatre Royal Live Stage show.

The AGM also coincides with the BC Rodeo Association Championships Finals.



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