



Small still is beautiful

By ROD KRIMMER

The economist, E.F. Schumacher subtitled his groundbreaking book, *Small is Beautiful*, with the words *Economics as if People Mattered*. That was back in 1973 when indeed there was some recognition that small-scale operations made an important contribution to the overall workings of an economy. It was in this light that the Woodlot License tenure was created in BC. It was a unique idea that recognized the role of multi-generational local involvement in forest stewardship.



In subsequent years the Woodlot License tenure has proven itself in economic, social and environmental benefits to our communities. Recently the light has shifted to the economies of scale provided by ever-larger forest companies. Small has become old-fashioned and nearly unworkable in the present situation.

In these times of rapid change we know that our smallholdings have an intrinsic value that will once again be recognized by society and the marketplace. In the meantime we will continue to demonstrate that small can be, and still is, beautiful.

Hope springs eternal

Woodlot shows economic diversification can work on small scale

In the densely-treed mountainous landscape north of Kamloops, B.C., you will find a forest – more specifically, Woodlot License 311 – managed by Dean Bodman of Pemberton Ridge Timber. Picturesque Jay Springs Ranch, the sheep ranch that lies a few kilometres up the road, is managed by Dean's sister Jennifer and her husband Chris Cunningham.

The Bodman family has been raising sheep on this land for forty years. The family bought the homestead from another sheep rancher, so sheep ranching has gone on here for 80 years. They added the woodlot license to the mix in 1985.



Dean, a Registered Professional Forest Technician, spends most of his time managing the woodlot, which is six hundred hectares of Crown land forest, along with the family's 320 acres of private forest. The sheep range free through the forest, which keeps down some



Chris and Jennifer Cunningham and Dean Bodman have shown that, with a little ingenuity and a lot of hard work, woodlots can become examples for how to thrive as a small, community-based business.

of the undergrowth beneath the trees, and are guarded by a vigilant team of dogs. The Crown land also includes the ranch's grazing lease.

Now, Woodlot 311 boasts Green Tag Forestry certification, a third party certification that was developed in the USA by the National Forestry Association. A Green Tag Forest is woodland whose stewardship has been certified as incorporating good forestry practices that assure a balance of natural diversity and sustainable forest productivity.

Meanwhile, Jay Springs Ranch has also become a sup-

plier of prized free-range lamb to restaurants and stores in Vancouver, B.C and is even selling the 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of wool they gather each year.

The Bodman and Cunningham families have left no stone unturned in their quest to make a living on the land. This is a family with a thoroughly modern outlook, living in a timelessly beautiful pastoral setting. Theirs is a lifestyle that's always challenging and filled with hard work.

However, as consumer demand for locally and ethically-raised food grows, Jay Springs Ranch appears to be headed for a bright future.



Forests Minister Pat Bell, third generation woodlot licensee Derek Strimbold and former Forests Minister (and current woodlot licensee) Dave Zirnheld enjoy a moment of fun at the FBCWA annual conference.

Government shows confidence in woodlot sector with more licenses

Woodlot managers who gathered in Kamloops for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations Annual General Meeting reacted positively to news that the provincial government has decided to allow more woodlots.

B.C. Forests Minister Pat Bell described to delegates how the forest industry will need to look at ways to more intensively manage the forest resource. He stated his belief that woodlots are perfectly suited to do this, while announcing that up to 75 new woodlot licenses will be granted over the next few years to bring the total number of licensed woodlots to 900 by the year 2011.

Despite the fact that Minister Bell stated woodlot licensees in 2005 generated an estimated \$183 million in economic activity in B.C. and harvested over three million cubic metres of timber, woodlot licensees have been referred to as “the forgotten foresters.”

Unlike larger timber companies, woodlot licensees are usually families, individuals and First Nation groups who operate woodlots as small businesses. Licensed woodlots, combin-

ing private with Crown land, are often located in interface areas near provincial or regional parks, cities and towns or over areas with sensitive resource management issues.

Many woodlots provide recreational opportunities in all seasons for local hunters, hikers, horse riders and naturalists. Each woodlot also generates jobs in planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, reforestation, silviculture and small-scale timber processing. Jobs are usually filled by members of the woodlot family or by other skilled local workers. Woodlots benefit nearby communities that provide goods, services and equipment needed by licensed managers.

Family foresters tend to manage for the future, often handing down their woodlots to their children with the hope that several more generations may find ways to profit from and care for the forest.

“When it comes to knowing how to get more value out of the forests, no one is better prepared than woodlot owners,” Minister Bell said.

Wood Chips

Diversiforestry

With BC’s forests—and forest industry—changing, diversification into areas such as Agroforestry will be a new way of looking at (diversifying) our forests.

Agroforestry is the integrated management of combinations of trees, shrubs, conventional agriculture crops and/or livestock. It also typically incorporates conservation practices. Agroforestry systems provide opportunities for diversification of agricultural and forestry in every region of the province. Examples are mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal plants. For more information, visit the FBCWA website (woodlot.bc.ca) and follow the Agroforestry link.

Scholarship awarded

The FBCWA awards a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a student related to a woodlot licensee and/or a private forest land owner and is attending post-secondary education in a forestry related area of study.

Congratulations go to Jordan Benner whose father has a woodlot licence on Quadra Island. Jordan will be doing his Master’s degree in resources and environmental management at SFU.

FBCWA Mission Statement

The FBCWA promotes the economic and social interests of woodlot licensees, private forest landowners and others involved in small-scale forest management in British Columbia. The FBCWA’s mission is for all its members to practice exemplary forest and natural resources management in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible manner.



FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

655 North Macleenzie Avenue • Williams Lake, BC, V2G 1N9
Tel (250) 398-7646 • Toll Free: 1-866-345-8733
Fax (250) 398-7642 • Email: gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca
www.woodlot.bc.ca

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THE WOODLOT ALMANAC

Box 10033, Prince George, BC V2K 5Y1
Tel 1-888-925-9995 • Fax (250) 962-9199
E-mail: cjmclary@shaw.ca