

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

Spring 2006

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THE FEDERATION OF BC
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

THE WOODLOT PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Communicate, communicate, then communicate some more

by Brian McNaughton

There is an ever-increasing onus being placed on the Federation and Associations to inform members about matters relevant to woodlot businesses.

With all the changes that have been taking place, members are more often asking what the Federation is doing about a particular initiative.

Much of members' increased demand for information has resulted from a communications void created by decision of the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) that posting notices on the Internet constitutes acceptable information transfer to licensees.

MOFR downsizing further complicates the situation as fewer staff are now available to meet the extension and information needs of licensees and landowners.

The reality is that e-mail and websites, i.e., Internet communication, are not surefire ways of communicating with woodlot licensees and landowners.

Many members don't have a computer or access to the Internet, some only have dial-up connections in a world based on high-speed, and some are just not computer-friendly.

A poll done about two years ago indicated that about 8% of wood

licensees didn't even have a telephone while approximately 40% did not have a computer or reasonable access to the Internet.

The *Woodland Almanac*, e-mails, website, teleconferences, meetings, and word of mouth are the Federation's means of communication. The most

commonly used and effective means of disseminating information is via e-mails from the Federation to directors, who then distribute the information to association members.

Each association decides how best to distribute information –

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How to reach us

Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

c/o Brian McNaughton, General Manager

655 North Mackenzie Ave., Williams Lake, BC, V2G 1N9

Phone: (250) 398-7646 Toll-free phone: 1-866-345-8733 Fax: (250) 398-7642 gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca

www.woodlot.bc.ca

FBCWA Executive

President..... Brent Petrick, South Slokan bpetric@telus.net
 Vice President Peter Kokoska, Mission kokdurfor@telus.net
 Treasurer Kathy Mayes, Prince George kmayes@mag-net.com
 Secretary..... Lisa Marak, Kelowna lmarak@telus.net
 Past President Miles Fuller, Burns Lake milesf@telus.net
 Director Nancy Pezel, Qualicum Beach islandswest@shaw.ca
 Director John Massier, Quesnel pgalliaz@cfbc.com
 Director John Rosen, Chetwynd..... drosen@pris.ca

FIA Contract Administrator

Carmen Wheatley, Prince George cawheatley@telus.net

Agroforestry Initiative Administrator

April Anderson, Slokan Park... aaa@netidea.com

FBCWA Directors

Boundary: F. Marshall; *Bulkley:* M. Adamson; *Cariboo:* R. Hood; *Clearwater:* W. MacLennan; *Columbia:* B. Amies; *East Kootenay:* T. Quirk; *Fraser Valley:* P. Kokoska; *Kamloops & District:* B. Bondar; *Kispiox:* B. Larson; *Lakes District:* C. Manning; *Lillooet:* C. Galliazzo; *Mackenzie:* B. Sinclair; *Morice:* S. Wright; *North Island:* J. Benner; *Peace River:* M. Caven; *Prince George:* M. Clark; *Quesnel:* J. Massier; *Robson Canoe:* N. Lorenz; *Sea to Sky:* W. Tewinkel; *Shuswap/Okanagan:* F. Newhouse; *South Cariboo:* D. Brown; *South Island:* S. Flynn; *Stuart/Nechako:* M. Churchill, J. Helweg; *West Kootenay:* S. Deverney.

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FBCWA Projects

Agroforestry: April Anderson, Administrator; Committee: Jennifer Cunningham & Harold Macy; *Carbon sequestration:* Brian McNaughton, Project Manager, assisted by Mark Clark

WPDC Executive

President..... Paul Galliazzo, Quesnel pgalliaz@cfbc.com
 Vice President Harold Reedy, Smithers hreeedy@bulkley.net
 Treasurer Bas Delaney, Clearwater delaneyb@telus.net
 Director Howie Griessel, Courtenay kevcotimber@shaw.ca
 Director Wilf Chelle, Charlie Lake (no e-mail)
 Director Lee Foster, Prince George..... aspenridge@uniserve.com
 Director Donald Kirk, Nakusp dkirk@netidea.com
 Gov't. Advisor..... Dave Haley, Victoria
 Gov't. Advisor..... Greg Tegart, Vernon

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Woodlot Product Development Council/Woodland Almanac

Coordinator, Cathy McClary, Box 10033, Prince George, BC V2K 5Y1

Phone: 1-888-925-9995 Fax: (250) 962-9199 E-mail: cjmccclary@shaw.ca Publication #: 40035578

VIEWPOINTS — *Your letters*

Is “going it alone” a barrier to progress?

The Editor, *Woodland Almanac*:

During the recent federal election campaign, a high-profile provincial MLA came to town to beat the drum for the local NDP candidate. This guy, well-known to many woodlot licensees, is from the Kootenays and is famous for his off-the-cuff meandering rants.

The next day, Corky came out to our rural home for a coffee and conversation. I planned to go up to the WL and get him splitting firewood but we got off on so many topics time expired and his handler phoned to remind him to be in Nanaimo by noon.

One of the threads of conversation had to do with the demise of cooperation in the resource-dependent communities.

He talked about the challenges to the Wheat Board on the prairies where many farmers think they can survive hard times better on their own, seeking private markets for their grain. Singlehandedly taking on the world.

This got me thinking about the woodlot program. Almost every licensee I know is a cussedly independent innovative entrepreneur who accepts the risks of political forest management and a free-market biased against the lone operator.

No one I know got their license by being a shrinking violet and humbly waiting in the rain outside the MOF door.

This self-reliant attitude is as necessary as a chain-saw and stamp

hammer, yet I am beginning to think it is also a real hurdle. When we tried some alternative marketing of logs a few years ago, many local licensees did not choose to participate.

There were no sure answers or guaranteed outcomes—just an honest desire to sell cooperatively. Some guys held their cards close to their chests, knowing they could get a dollar here and there more a cubic meter, but not willing to share that info. Little secret deals and disheartened management scuttled the auction, never to be tried again. Go it alone.

We have a couple of members who have put in many hours of work on a web-based marketing system, but can they get assurances and buy-in? Not much. Why not? Is it the old pioneer ethic of “I’ll do it myself, win, lose, or draw, it’ll be my own doing!”?

Each of us faces similar obstacles and opportunities. We all have waste wood to dispose of, so a firewood processor seems like a good idea.

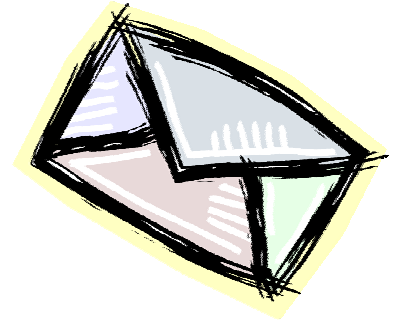
How about a portable peeler to make fence rails out of tops and undersize thinnings? But few licenses are large or profitable enough to make a purchase economical.

Maybe it is time to stop circling the wagons and shooting inwards.

Harold Macy

Headquarters Creek Woodlot Ltd.

W1677 ?



We want to hear from you!

Letters to the editor are an important way for licensees to raise issues or concerns. Licensees are encouraged to express their opinions about Federation or Council business and small-scale forestry issues.

What concerns you may also concern others!

Keep letters to 200 words or fewer, and please include your name and woodlot licence number.

Send letters to **Cathy McClary**:

Box 10033,

Prince George, BC

V2K 5Y1

Phone: 1-888-925-9995

Fax: (250) 962-9199

E-mail: cjmccclary@shaw.ca



by Brent Petrick

Four (4) months on the job as

President and I can assure you that the Federation's agenda is full!

Thankfully, the folks who chair or sit on committees are working very hard on your behalf. I'm looking forward to the directors' meeting on March 3 & 4th, 2006, where we will prioritize the Federation's business.

In case you didn't know, you have a great deal of influence on the Federation's business. Priorities are set based on input received from your directors, the FBCWA/WPDC questionnaire, and resolutions presented at the AGM.

Message from the President of the FBCWA:

WARRT work very important this year

From there we'll make sure the Federation has committees in place to address those priorities and those committees have the correct terms

"The Federation has a lot of work to do—I encourage you to get more involved."

of reference to get the job done!

For as long as I've been involved with the Federation, timber pricing has always come out as a top priority.

I have no doubt it will again this year, which makes the WARRT work relating to tabular rates and one cutting permit very important.

I want you to know that Dean Daly and his committee are

working diligently to assess the pros and cons of this option, as well as considering other possible timber pricing alternatives.

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to express your views, perspectives and opinions.

I expect there will be much more dialogue amongst associations and licensees before the Federation submits its final position to the Ministry of Forests and Range.

The Federation has a lot of work to do—I encourage you to get more involved. Give me a call, get on a committee—contribute to making the woodlot licence program and woodlot management in BC even better! ?

Safety First

In 2005, 43 forestry workers died on the job and 110 were seriously injured. While it's not clear how these figures may relate to woodlot operations, it is important for all woodlot owners and operators take reasonable care and exercise due diligence with respect to all safety-related matters.

This applies to work being done by yourself, by an employee, or by a contractor/consultant you have hired. It also applies if the person or company buying your logs decides to use their own logger or road builder! As a licensee, you have the responsibility to ensure operations on your woodlot licence or private property are being conducted safely.

Some actions you may wish to consider taking, if you don't already, include:

- Confirm all operators and con-

tractors have appropriate WCB coverage and insurance;

- Check to see if they are fully certified and qualified to do the work; i.e., ensure fallers are certified or registered to be certified;
- Check safety records and avoid those with a history of safety incidents or infractions;
- Review all operators' safety logs. Are they current with all first aid and safety requirements, training, meetings, etc.?
- Ask to see the operator's safety policy and procedures;
- Ensure there is a functional emergency response procedure in place;
- If appropriate, ensure qualified first aid coverage is available;
- Conduct regular supervision and/or safety visits, being sure to address any unsafe practices or working conditions;

- Document your safety observations; and
- Encourage all workers to stop working if they feel conditions or circumstances are unsafe, and to report any and all safety concerns.

There is going to be much more information coming out about forest safety in the coming weeks and months. Many of you will have already heard about a new safety certification initiative being developed by industry through the BC Forest Safety Council.

The Federation will be working hard to represent the interests of small tenure holders as this certification package is developed.

For more information on the programs and work of the BC Forest Safety Council, please visit their website at www.bcforestsafe.org ?

*Message from the President of the WPDC***Increase in resources only temporary**

by Paul Galliazzo

Since the last *Almanac*, Council has finalized the transfer of the levy investments to the management of Philips, Hager and North, a well respected manager of institutional, non-profit and private funds.

This transfer is the culmination of an in-depth review conducted by Council over the last year and one half.

The goal of the review was to ensure the safety of our capital and obtain investment services suited to management by a volunteer organization.

Our fund is currently growing in size due to the short-term influence of the much higher than normal AACs required to salvage the Mountain Pine Beetle killed pine.

This increase in resources brings increased pressure to fund new projects. Council Directors are attempting to balance this against the knowledge that our annual levy incomes will drop in the near future

as woodlot cuts are reduced, post-beetle.

For the past few years, Council has been attempting to predict the effects of the beetle on income flows in order to ensure we have stable resources to fund our activities into the future. One of the ways we are doing this by maintaining a substantial reserve.

Levy funds are used to fund the services that woodlot licensees have come to expect, including this publication, the woodlot website, our stumpage portfolio staff (Dean Daly and John Marlow) the positions of General Manager (Brian McNaughton) and Coordinator (Cathy McClary), and the majority of the Federation's operating budget.

Projection of harvest levels and income flow was the subject of a past *Almanac* article prepared by our previous treasurer, Alistair Schroff. Council will be updating these projections with more current information and will be providing a

report in an upcoming edition.

The delivery of woodlot programs in cooperation with the Federation is a guiding principle for Council. We also have a responsibility to those woodlot licensees that contribute their levy payments but do not belong to the Federation.

One of our priorities this year is to clarify these distinct roles and provide some guidance for evaluation of project proposals that come in from independent licensees.

As always, we are looking for woodlot licensees to let their names stand as volunteer Woodlot Product Development Council directors.

If you are interested, or would like to suggest someone else who might be, we would like to hear from you. Just call our council coordinator, Cathy McClary, at the toll free number, 1-888-925-9995, or send an e-mail to cjmclary@shaw.ca ?

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meetings, e-mails, faxes, mail-outs, etc. They also decide whether non-members should be included on the distribution list.

The kind of information that typically gets distributed includes minutes to executive and directors meetings, stumpage forecasts and updates, information on government initiatives such as log grade changes, updates to biogeoclimatic information, etc.

If you feel that you're not receiving key information, please make sure you're a member of your local association and/or ask your association to review their process for communicating with members.

In a similar vein, associations should make it know if they feel there's a need for more information from the Federation, or information in a different format.

The *Woodland Almanac* is probably the most complete and comprehensive means of communicating with members – simply because all licensees and association members get a copy. Committee heads and staff are always including articles intended to inform members about important topics.

The one drawback is that the *Almanac* is a quarterly publication, which means information may not be received in a timely manner, a

point that can be especially problematic in this fast-paced world where change seems immediate.

The Federation and Associations are committed to facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information to the membership.

However, ultimately it is up to licensees and landowners to keep themselves informed and up-to-date.

If there's something you think we can do better, please let us know by calling (1-866-345-8733) or e-mailing Brian (gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca) with your suggestions. ?



General Manager's report

Please bring issues affecting FRPA implementation to General Manager's attention

by Brian McNaughton

At a meeting with Federation representatives on October 3rd, 2005 Minister Coleman re-affirmed government's intention to expand the woodlot licence program.

Judging by the number of inquiries the Federation has been receiving, this is a very popular initiative!

However, the Minister also acknowledged that many woodlot licences are struggling in the current economic and administrative environment, and stated his desire to ensure the program is set for success before embarking on expansion.

This, of course, makes the work on projects like alternative timber pricing, administrative streamlining

(often referred to as WARRT – Woodlot Administration Review & Recommendations Team), and FRPA implementation that much more important and urgent.

Dean Daly and his committee are in the process of assessing alternative timber pricing options. They have been analyzing data received from Revenue Branch and will be meeting in mid-February. Their findings/recommendations will be presented at the Director's meeting in Prince George on March

“FRPA implementation is a big challenge, as many of you who attended the woodlot licence plan training will attest!”

3rd and 4th.

WARRT progress in the past few months has been slow, for two reasons – Christmas holidays and because much of what WARRT is proposing links to timber pricing.

It's expected that WARRT business will progress much more quickly once the timber pricing question is addressed.

On a more positive note, there has been some progress on the Woodlot Licence Regulation which sets out the new award process, contains provisions relating to boundary and area changes, and enacts the provision of the Act which allows a person to hold two (2) woodlot licences.

As reported previously, the award process is still premised on a monetary bid (50%), proximity of an applicant's residence to the woodlot licence area (25%), and

private land contribution (25%).

There are still some policy matters yet to be resolved, such as whether forested private land should be given additional weighting over non-forested land.

FRPA (Forest and Range Practices Act) implementation is a big challenge, as many of you who attended the woodlot licence plan training will attest!

Based on the feedback being received from licensees and associations, government's goals and objectives for FRPA, such as reducing transactional and operational costs to licensees, less complexity, freedom to manage, and promoting creativity and innovation with respect to forest and range practices, are not being achieved.

This sentiment is not limited to woodlots, as other licensees are experiencing similar difficulties. Much of this can be attributed to what is commonly referred to as FRPA PLUS – whereby the information requirements and commitments in plans exceed what is required under the regulation.

To further complicate matters, a host of other changes, including electronic business, professional reliance, log grades, emergency management unit (beetle) designations, etc. are occurring at the same time.

In order to do our part to make FRPA implementation successful, associations and/or licensees are encouraged to let the General Manager know about any problems or issues so they can be brought to the attention of the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) for resolution. ?

Please note:

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



Short term interior stumpage rate trend



by Dean Daly

This is a complicated quarter to forecast due to the scheduled change of interior log grades on April 1, 2006. Currently, the MOF is promoting one sawlog stumpage rate for the new log grades 1 and 2 (which will include approximately 90% of former grade 3 – dry sawlogs).

Grades 4 and 6 will remain and will continue to be billed at \$0.25/m³. In essence, the April 2006 sawlog stumpage rates will drop significantly, but the lower rates will apply to a larger component of the stand volume as the former grade 3 logs will now be billed at the full stumpage rate.

Licensees will need to review their specific cutting authority against the MOF projected stumpage rate changes by Point of Appraisal to determine what the real potential impact will be for their volume (see the FBCWA website).

The Federation continues to seek major changes to the Interior timber pricing policy for woodlots, to address the obvious disconnect between current woodlot stumpage policy and the reality of our log market values.

In the interim, FBCWA advice remains the same: consider the business benefits of locking in all of your required volume under approved CVP cutting permits, if you can construct the permits to adequately manage your stumpage liability. The impact for woodlots from the future timber pricing system in the Interior is still unpredictable, as the methodology is not yet finalized.

The disclaimer: This is my forecast of the stumpage rate trend for the next two quarterly adjustments. Unfortunately, you must

accept my disclaimer that my stumpage trend forecast may not reflect your cutting permit reality.

I publish this forecast in the *Almanac* for your cautious use in making harvest decisions, CP application decisions, or making elections of annual or quarterly adjusting stumpage rates for your permits.

This forecast is based on the current (January 2006) base rate data:

1) **April, 2006:**

Although lumber and chip AMVs suggest a slight increase in the target rate, the April 1 new sawlog stumpage rates will **decrease** in this quarter in relation to the January, 2006 rates, due to the implementation of interior log grades.

Decreases should average between \$6.00/m³ to \$8.00/m³ in the interior. Remember, the new lower rate will apply to a larger portion of the stand volume – therefore, the stand as a whole stumpage may not change significantly unless your CP has a much higher grade 3% than forecast by the MOF for your point of appraisal.

- 2) **July, 2006:** Although there is a lack of StatsCan data, indications are that stumpage **should increase (\$2.00 to \$3.00/m³)** in relation to April, 2006 values, based on strengthening lumber values.

Always request the longest term possible for your new CPs – currently a four-year maximum term is the guideline for woodlots.

Call or e-mail to discuss these potential changes if you are making a critical decision regarding your woodlot cutting permit.

My Conclusion:

The April to June, 2006 quarter will decrease from January, 2006 rates due to the implementation of new interior log grades on April 1, 2006. Review the specific POA adjustments calculated by the MOF for April 1, 2006.

For more information, please contact Dean Daly, Interior Stumpage Appraisal Representative, at

Lynx Forest Management
6180 Raceway Road
Smithers, B.C.
V0J 2N1

Ph: (250) 847-3259; Fax: (250) 847-1884

Email: lynx@bulkley.net ?

Purpose of the Woodlot Product Development Council

The primary purpose of the WPDC is to ensure that levy fees are spent on woodlot licensee priorities that will benefit and promote the woodlot industry throughout BC.

Funds are collected through the powers granted to the Council under the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*. ?

New Interior log grades – April 1, 2006: Issues update for woodlot licensees

by Dean Daly

The Ministry of Forests will implement the new interior log grades on April 1, 2006. This huge scaling policy change affects many other key policies such as timber pricing, waste and residue and cut control. In addition, there are log-sales-related issues that you may also need to review. Woodlot licensees must research and prepare for the anticipated policy impacts to avoid any dramatic, negative consequences to their businesses.

Here is my summary of some of the major issues you need to anticipate as a result of the April 1, 2006 log grade changes:

1. Pricing-related:

- New sawlog grades 1 (>8" top) & 2 (<8" top) will be created April 1, 2006
- Sawlog grades 1 & 2 will have the same stumpage rate
- Grades 3 (dry sawlog) and 5 (dry pulplog) will be eliminated, while grades 4 and 6 will remain and be billed at \$0.25/m³
- Scaling trials suggest that roughly 90%+ of the old grade 3 will now be scaled as either sawlog 1 or 2
- Stumpage rates on CPs with adjustable rates may drop \$3 -- \$5/m³ with the implementation of the new interior log grade changes, in an attempt to have the log grade changes be revenue-neutral at implementation date (in essence, you will pay a lower sawlog stumpage rate on a higher proportion of the stand, because the old grade 3 volume—which was billed at \$0.25/m³—is now reclassified as a sawlog and billed at full sawlog stumpage rates)

2. Waste- and residue-related:

- Current grade 3 volume will largely be scaled as sawlog and will carry full sawlog stumpage rates on April 1, 2006
- Buyers in oversupplied log markets may reject a significant portion of the new dry sawlog 1 and 2 due to its increased delivered cost and lower value for lumber; therefore, licensees may be forced to produce larger waste and residue volumes, and can anticipate that waste billings may increase under the current waste and residue policy
- After March 2007, when waste benchmarks are eliminated, licensees will need to prescribe adequate coarse woody debris targets within their CP Schedule B to avoid excessive waste penalties
- If a cutblock is declared completed on or before March 31,

2006, then the waste survey will use the log grades in effect at the time of harvest

3. Cut-control-related:

- In an attempt to reconcile historical cut control practices with the new log grades, the MOF will implement AAC adjustment factors by management unit and species as of April 1, 2006
- The adjustment factors will reduce billable cut control after April 1, 2006 by a factor which is intended to reflect the percentage of historic harvested volume in endemic grades 3 and 5 which are currently not cut-accountable, but will become cut-accountable on April 1, 2006
- Woodlots will use the adjustment factors for the TSAs in which the licence is located
- The factor will be reviewed for each TSA at the next timber supply review for the TSA

In addition, all relevant tenure documents will need to be updated to reflect the new log grades and cut control rule. There will be more ripples in the pond created by this stone! Stay tuned!

For more information, contact

Dean Daly,
Interior Appraisal Representative
c/o Lynx Forest Management
6180 Raceway Rd.
Smithers, B.C., V0J 2N1

Ph: 250-847-3259
Fax: 250-847-1884

Email: lynx@bulkley.net ?

Coastal timber pricing portfolio



by John Marlow

It seems that we have entered “hurry up and wait season” in the world of coastal timber pricing. Before Christmas we (the Federation executive) participated in several teleconferences where it appeared that a revamped stumpage appraisal system was imminent.

We were asked to decide if we wished to “get on the bus” with possible streamlining proposals and timber pricing proposals or to continue with the status quo. The Federation shortly thereafter offered tentative support of some excellent streamlining proposals and possible timber pricing ideas. We are currently awaiting response from senior MOF staff.

Many coastal licensees participated in an informal coast timber pricing meeting on November 22. Approximately 30 licensees attended and the current status of appraisals was discussed and some brainstorming followed on future direction. At that meeting, we had an informal poll and approximately 2/3 of the licensees were in support of looking into alternative appraisal options (“on the bus”), whereas 1/3 of the licensees would prefer to continue with the status quo.

Some excellent ideas were presented, such as tabular rates, provincial average stumpage rates, stumpage rates based on performance, royalty rates, etc.

Although government seems most focused on some derivation of the District Value Average Table, a provincial woodlot stumpage group has been created to consider all ideas and to present a reasonable option. To see the DVI table, check out the site www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/timberp/coastaverage/index.htm.

Over the Christmas season, the coast appraisal manual was

amended to provide for a tabular system of determining stumpage rates for Community Forest Agreements. This provides for an 85% reduction off the DVI table for Interior licensees and a 70% reduction off the DVI table for the Coast.

This results in the following rates on the coast: Ba\$6.97, Hw \$6.14, Cw \$8.51, Yc \$8.00, Fd \$4.37, Ss \$4.07. There is no differentiation between mature and immature log prices in this system.

Although this system does not apply to the woodlot licence program, a similar concept may be

“. . . two thirds of licensees were in support of looking into alternative appraisal options.”

proposed. It is hoped that our substantial work quantifying and defending our Low Volume Cost Estimate will come into play in our discussion, should we go this direction.

Coast Appraisal Advisory Committee (CAAC)

Our two CAAC issues (LVCE cap at 10,000m³ and revised Road amortization policy) have been delayed, but appear to be planned for implementation on February 1. These issues were part of a large CAM amendment which was stalled due to issues regarding major licensees and appraisal log dumps.

Our issues have since been separated into a standalone CAM amendment which I am told will soon be implemented. I have had a chance to review the proposed amendment, it has been referred to several coast woodlot licensees, and it looks good.

Appraisal Forecasting

As stated in the previous almanac article, a possible move to a tabular system has substantial cost implications and licensees may wish to consider waiting for a tabular rate if new cutting authority would come with a very high stumpage rate, although it is anybody’s guess when and if this revised appraisal system may be enacted.

Conversely, licensees with high development costs in would be wise to apply for appraised permits where the rate should be low (and then lock in that rate).

Remember to consider ‘Take or Pay Legislation’ when making these decisions. The following points should also be considered:

- The second growth allowance of \$3.67 has been extended until December 31, 2006 on all CPs and this allowance drops to \$1.84 on January 1, 2007. This allowance is in place to account for apparent biases in the second growth data set (Fd export values), but will be phased out over time.
- Marginal drops in stumpage rates must always be considered in relation to decreases in log selling prices. Often, savings realized waiting for a stumpage rate to fall are offset by selling price falling a greater amount, with the net result being less profit.
- Log prices are constantly changing and will impact stumpage rates. **Disclaimer:** The following estimates are based on current available Vancouver log market sales ending in December, 2006, as well as

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future predicted log trends:

- As predicted, the three month average Fd log prices were stable over the winter (+/- \$1.50) but show an increase of +/- \$2.50 for permits issued in March. Prices typically rise in the spring, so minor stumpage rate increases can be expected.
- Cw prices seemed have leveled out over the winter and there is now a marginal

increase in demand and selling price. Cw stumpage rates should be stable Feb / March with an increase expected in the 2nd quarter.

- Hemlock pricing trends remain stable and there is no increased demand for Hw. Hw leading permits are expected to remain relatively stable over the next quarter.

As always, ensure you know the stumpage rate prior to applying for CP, and, should the rate be agreeable, consider locking the rate

for the term of the cutting authority. Rates will be adjusted quarterly if you do not lock them in.

If there are stumpage issues that should be discussed at the CAAC meetings or if clarification of issues is required, I can be reached at jmarlow@oberon.ark.com or (250) 285-2544 (Rockview Resources Limited).

In addition, ideas regarding future stumpage direction and information regarding how you may be affected by appraisal system changes would be welcome. ?

Diversity in Unity

by Jill Benner

There is something beautiful that happens on Quadra Island and that is the superb balance of people and land who coexist by understanding differences and how that facilitates the unique and intriguing community in which we live.

Call me biased if you like, but what I know is that before I met my husband I was a full-blown tree hugger and University graduate with a degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies.

Raised in suburban Toronto, Ontario, I could hardly wait to grow old enough and move away from the apparent destruction I saw as a result of too many humans, making too many poor choices, living too close together.

Six years ago my children were shocked when they discovered I was dating a logger.

My love for my logger man has grown to encompass a love of the Island. I have learned we have something precious and unique here on Quadra and it exists nowhere else in this province.

There are seven woodlot licenses on Quadra Island. Do you really understand what that means? These are men/women and their

families who are in the business of trees. They may harvest trees and yet that is such a small part of what they are about.

Woodlots are the pinnacle of a healthy economic community, are integral in protecting our forest as a resource for the future, be it used for recreation, tourism, wildlife values, or future harvests.

When all other logging industries display shrinking activity, woodlots continue on doing what they do best, the business of trees.

What I know is if you clear a piece of land, rip out the stumps, till the soil and plant some grass seed, put up a white painted fence and graze a few cattle on the other side, passersby will go glass-eyed at the beauty of the farm. This is a clear-cut with no intentions of reforestation.

Now I want you to drive by a harvested portion of land and see the new growth, the ferns, the firs and cedars replanted, the small woody debris for wildlife, the standing old growth and wildlife trees. See the activity of life.

I am certain you have seen Benner's idea of a pasture. It has trees throughout, and ahh, our shaded vegetable gardens.

As I whine and complain and

long for more sun, he lectures me on the value of the forest and the importance of planting another tree.

Other important aspects are the value added to timber on woodlots that large corporations may burn. And jobs, lots of jobs, and money that stays in the community.

One woodlot licensee spent personal dollars just to buy deforested land so that he could practice his passion, and plant trees to grow a healthy forest.

And then he put this 115 acres of land under the constraints of the woodlot license to insure future use of this land remains in the business of trees and not subdivisions.

Yes, Quadra is a rich and beautifully wild place to live. People working hand in hand, valuing our differences. Speaking out together in one voice has been the power behind our freedom and unique quality we hold as an Island community.

It is time we educated the tourist to recognize the type of forestry practice the world has been asking for. Sustainable forestry at its best, right here on Quadra Island. We are the example for the future. Let's keep up the good work we do together in all our diversity. ?

Who's who in the woods: Miles Fuller is a role model for diversification

by Anne Scott

For a man whose woodlot has just been wiped out by beetles, Miles Fuller seems remarkably relaxed.

“My sustainable AAC is 2450 m³,” says the FBCWA Past President. “But because of the beetles, my acceleration was just approved to 15,000 m³ per year for five years.”

The woodlot near Burns Lake is on the leading edge of the infestation, and apart from a few small stands of aspen and spruce, the new AAC represents the 600-hectare entire woodlot.

“In three years, it will all be logged,” he says

But after talking to Miles for a few minutes, it's easy to see why the future holds few worries for him.

Apart from the woodlot, he and his wife Denise have a charter boat business in Prince Rupert. As well, they work as forestry consultants doing silviculture surveys, and they have a trapline near Tweedsmuir Park.

Although the trapline is “all grey” due to beetle kill, Miles reports that the early seral stage species, such as lynx, still do well.

Through the trapline, Miles has provided lynx and marten to zoos, fur farms, wildlife farms, and collectors all over the world.

“I sold two live lynx to an outfit in Montana that used them in a movie,” he says. “And I sent another lynx to the President of the University of Oklahoma. He collects



Photo: Charlene Brown
Happy together: Miles and Denise at home in Burns Lake.

cats from all over the world—he even has a Siberian tiger—and the Canadian Lynx was the only one he didn't have.”

What led Miles to get involved in woodlots?

“I applied in 1981 and was turned down,” he says. “Then in 1996 when the government doubled the program, I received a license.



Photo: Denise Fuller
A group of lynx kittens that Miles and Denise bred and raised in captivity. They kept one as a pet and eventually sold it to a breeder in Oregon. The others went to zoos and breeders across Canada.

My wife's name is on it too — Denise is half of everything I do. And the woodlot has allowed us to be very picky in what contracts we take on.”

For example, he and Denise did the field data collection for growth and yield studies for the Ministry of Forests. “We were able to wait for this particular contract rather than just taking whatever came along,” he says.

Miles enjoys the variety of activities needed to operate a woodlot: layout, running a buncher and cutter, planning roads, doing silviculture surveys, and more.

“I've been a forestry consultant for 20 years,” he says, “and I've been involved in all aspects of forestry—I've hand-felled, bucked, run logging machinery, been a forestry supervisor for a major licensee — the woodlot gives you the chance to do them all in one place.”

What else appeals to Miles about woodlots?

“They're a hugely good idea,” says the 2005 Forest Stewardship Award nominee. “They put the management of the forest in the hands of locals. It's a hands-on experience, and it provides much better forest management.”

He describes how he checked every tree on the woodlot for beetle infestation: “That's something a major licensee simply can't afford to do.”

With people like Miles involved, the future of BC's woodlots is in good hands. ?



Where do you think Council should spend your levy dollars in 2006-07?

Summary of responses to Year 2006 Woodlot Licensee Levy Questionnaire

Each year, we send out a Woodlot Licensee Levy Questionnaire. It's a way for you as woodlot licensees to tell us what's important to you and how you'd like to see your levy dollars spent.

The levy is the \$0.25 per cubic metre of allowable annual cut on the Crown portion of each woodlot license.

The levy is collected by the BC Ministry of Forests and Range along with the annual rent and then is transferred to the Council four times a year. Levy funds cannot be used to lobby the government.

What happens to the returned questionnaires?

The questionnaire is the first step in the budget planning process. All answers are compiled along with any additional comments, forming the basis for determining the budget for the upcoming year.

Congratulations to prize-winners!

There was a prize draw as part of the recent woodlot questionnaire.

Winner of the Early Bird draw for a fleece jacket is **Gernot Zemanek**, W1653, of Canim Lake.

Bob Smith of Hazelton (W0136) won the second-prize draw, for a fleece vest.

The vest and jacket will be custom-ordered to fit Bob and Gernot and will be decorated with the FCBWA logo.

Congratulations to Gernot and Bob!

A summary of the responses will be presented to the Federation and Council Directors when they meet on March 3 and 4 to establish the budget and work plan.

A total of 253 licensees responded to this year's questionnaire. This is a 31.5% response rate, a significant increase over last year's 24%, and in fact the highest response rate ever, according to WPDC Coordinator Cathy McClary.

The questionnaire is a vital component of budget planning, so a sincere "thank you" to each of you for taking the time!

This year 75% of those who responded also entered our draw (our way of saying thank you) – see the box at bottom left for the lucky winners!

New this year was the option to submit your questionnaire online.

Where are respondents' woodlots?

The woodlots of those who responded to the questionnaire are located as follows:

- **Coast:** 12% (Campbell River, Chilliwack, North Coast, North Island Central Coast, Queen Charlotte Islands, South Island, Squamish, Sunshine Coast)
- **Northern Interior:** 30 % (Fort Nelson, Fort St. James, Kalum, Mackenzie, Nadina, Peace, Prince George, Skeena Stikine, Vanderhoof)
- **Southern Interior:** 42 % (100 Mile House, Arrow Boundary, Cascades, Central Cariboo, Chilcotin, Columbia, Headwaters,

Kamloops, Kootenay Lake, Okanagan Shuswap, Quesnel, Rocky Mountain)

- **Unknown:** 16% (these respondents did not indicate their location, but their answers are still included in the results)

What we asked you

In this year's questionnaire, we asked for your input on the viability of your woodlot (whether it's a main or supplementary source of income, perceived benefits, etc.). We also asked for your input on the following:

- The Federation (how you use it, what its priorities should be)
- The course "Forestry From the Ground Up" -- should we update it and run it again?
- The Federation website and e-mail – do you use them? If so, why?
- Electronic forest management (EFM) – does it reduce your paperwork? Is entering the data a problem? If so, why?

Finally, we asked you to set funding priorities for a number of possible future initiatives. Your responses to all these questions are summarized below.

For a detailed breakdown of questionnaire responses, please contact Cathy McClary.

Responses, Part A: "You and Your Woodlot Licence"

Woodlot licensees enjoy their woodlots!

Seventy-seven per cent of licensees said they either "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with the state-

ment, “Managing my woodlot is personally rewarding.”

The majority of respondents also use their licences as supplementary income, rather than as their main source of funds, and a small majority feel comfortable doing their own woodlot administration.

Note: For some highlights from this section of the questionnaire, please see the charts below.

Responses, Part B: “Federation of BC Woodlot Associations”

Ninety-one per cent of respondents indicated that they belong to their local woodlot association, and 63% attend at least three quarters of the meetings/events.

Belonging to a woodlot association is great way to get the latest information, so it wasn’t surprising that 85% of respondents felt themselves to be reasonably informed of Federation activities.

In this section, we also asked what respondents’ top five priorities

would be if they were President of the FBCWA. Here are their responses:

1. Timber pricing
2. Legislation/regulation and policy
3. Woodlot Expansion
4. Tenure and private land rights
5. Marketing opportunities

Interestingly, these priorities were very close to respondents’ funding recommendations in the final question of the survey (see “Future Initiatives and Funding Priorities,” below.)

Responses, Part C: “Forest Extension”

This section asked for licensees’ interest level in a basic course in forestry. It appears that this may not be a high priority for licensees, but the data will be examined more closely by the directors at their meeting on March 3rd and 4th.

Responses, Part D: “Federation website and e-mail”

The Federation’s website (www.woodlot.bc.ca) gets between 6000 and 11,000 visits per month.

Seventy-eight per cent of questionnaire respondents were aware of the website, but only 64% used it, perhaps because many licensees are not yet regular computer users.

The top five reasons respondents indicated they might use the website are

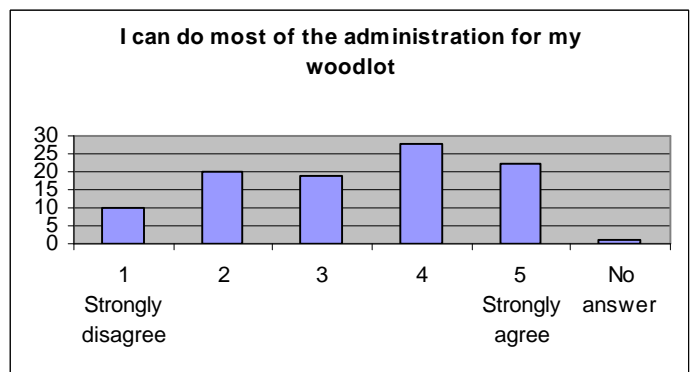
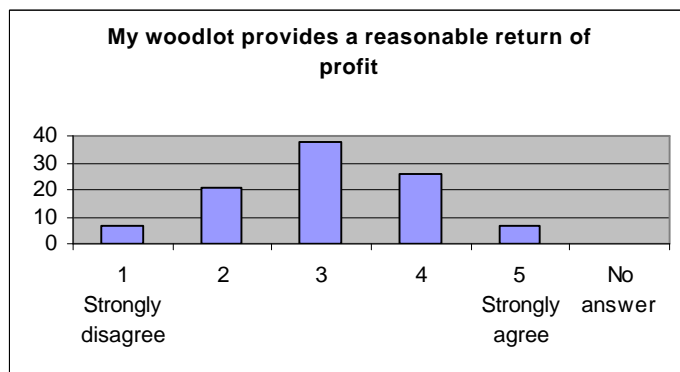
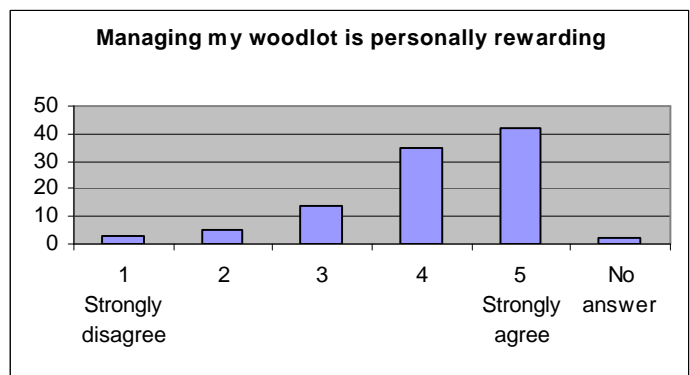
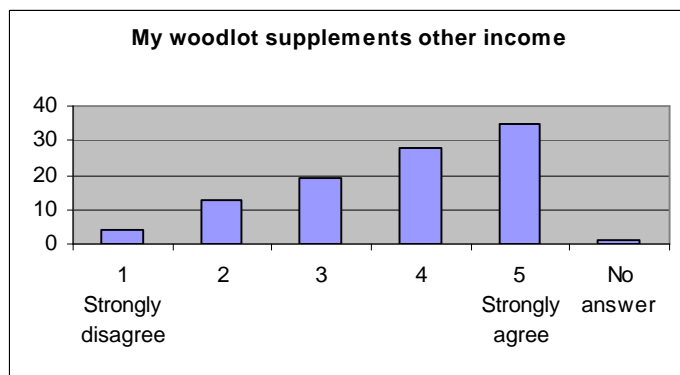
1. General information
2. Stumpage forecasts
3. Contact information
4. MOFR notices
5. AGM information and registration/links to other sites (tie)

Responses, Part E: “Electronic Forest Management (EFM)”

The data clearly showed that licensees still need time to adjust to

(Continued on page 14)

Questionnaire 2006: Selected responses from the section entitled “You and your woodlot licence”
All responses are in percentages



(Continued from page 13)

this new system.

The main difficulties cited by respondents were lack of high-speed internet access (28%), lack of trained consultants (26%), and their own lack of computer skills (20%).

Therefore, asking them to use an electronic system is a big step, and this was reflected in the responses to this question. Some highlights are shown in the charts at right.

Responses, Part F: “Future Initiatives and Funding Priorities”

In this section, respondents were asked to rank a number of possible initiatives that could be funded by council. The final ranking according to a weighted percentage of the responses was as follows:

1. Timber Pricing
2. Regulatory Changes & Streamlining
3. Tenure & Private Land Rights; Woodlot Expansion (tied)
4. Training & Extension
5. Marketing; Communications (tied)
6. Forest Health
7. Electronic Business
8. Recognizing forest stewardship
9. Proposals from local associations/individuals
10. National Woodlot Network; Non-timber Forest Product Marketing Research (tied)
11. Other

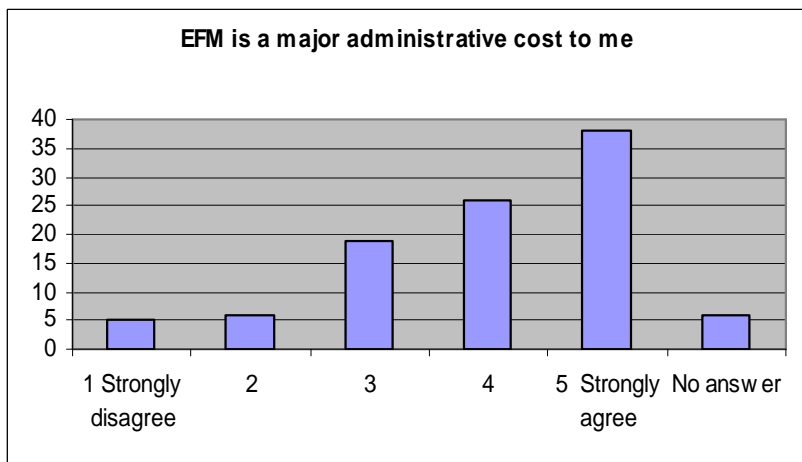
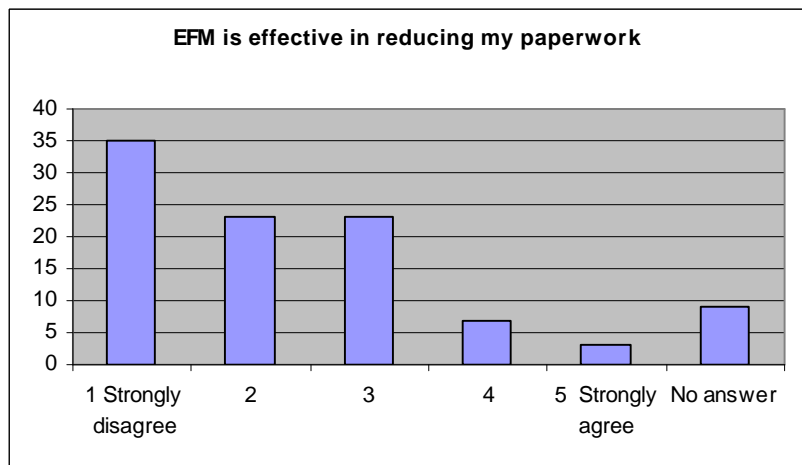
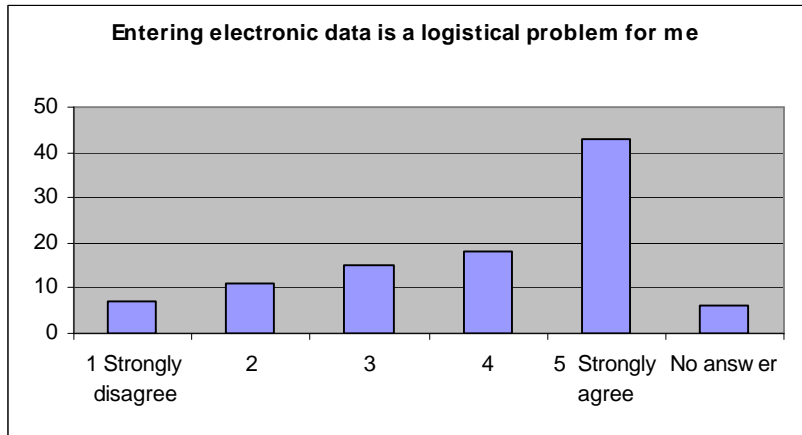
Next steps

A summary of questionnaire responses will be presented to the Federation and Council Directors when they meet on March 3 and 4 to establish the budget and work plan.

Your responses and comments will help form the basis for the budget for the upcoming year. ?

Questionnaire 2006: Selected responses from the section on Electronic Forest Management (EFM)

All responses are in percentages



Thank you to our contributors for this issue:

- Jill Benner
- Charlene Brown
- Dean Daly
- Denise Fuller
- Miles Fuller
- Paul Galliazzo
- Howie Griessel

- Harold Macy
- John Marlow
- Brian McNaughton
- Jim Sinclair
- Brent Petrick
- Anne Scott

Woodlots set to expand

By Jim Sinclair

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Opportunities are about to expand for parties with an interest in woodlot management and exploitation.

According to a recent release by the Boundary Woodlot Association, the provincial Ministry of Forests has hired a consultant for the purpose of identifying areas suitable for use as woodlots and more local people could prosper as a result.

According to the news release from Brian Hislop on behalf of the Boundary Woodlot Association, the benefits of such policies are tangible. What follows are excerpts from Hislop's release:

"The combined Annual Allowable Cut of the 32 woodlot licenses in the Boundary Timber Supply area is 30,237 m³ (cubic metres)/year. The majority of this volume is sold to Pope & Talbot (P & T). At an average price of about \$64/m³ delivered to the mill, this represents an average of \$1,935,168 generated each year by the woodlot sector, most of which stays in the local, rural communities to pay for consulting, logging, trucking, fuel, accounting, etc.

"The 32 woodlots in the Boundary area spread from Anarchist Mountain to Christina Lake. They are adjacent to, and support the communities of Bridesville, Rock Creek, Westbridge, Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks, and Christina Lake." All stakeholders in the process appear to be willing to live with the woodlots' expansion, as mandated by the provincial government's Forest Revitalization legislation of 2003.

"They took volumes (timber supply) away from the licensees," said P & T Vice-President, Woodlands Ken Taylor. "It's something where the government has the volume and they're going to put it out to woodlots, and we support that program." In this area P & T will remain the major customer for the resource. "We hope that we'll be able to purchase those logs and have a safe supply. We'll just have to work with woodlot owners to try to secure that fibre," said Taylor.

Another point in favour of the woodlot plan, as illustrated by Brian Hislop, states:

"You get local people managing local resources. When they manage locally, and it's kind of in their back yard, they take a real pride in it."

"The majority of harvesting on woodlots is done through selective harvesting. In addition to providing scenic, recreation, ecological, hydrological and wildlife benefits, selective harvesting is much more labour-intensive, leaving more from each m³ harvested in the pockets of wage earners in our communities."

Allocation of timber resources to woodlot operators (small tenures) was just part of the government forest strategy.

"There were three parts to the revitalization act," said Castlegar-based Jim Guido, Operations Manager, Arrow Boundary Forest District. "The first was some reallocation of the volume from the major licensees to the first envelope, which was BC Timber

Sales, to support a change to the pricing of the timber. The second component was to facilitate opportunities for First Nations communities and members, and the third was what's called 'small tenures.' It was that small tenures piece that covered community forest agreements and woodlot licences."

Guido made the point that government was interested in ensuring a sufficient supply of timber would continue to be available to customers such as P & T.

The woodlot program, though laid out in some detail, may not actually have gotten off the ground as yet although it is certainly expected to.

"That's what the government keeps telling us," said Fred Marshall, a registered professional forester and spokesman for the Boundary Woodlot Association. "And the local district here has been pretty supportive." Marshall, keenly interested and able to speak at length on the many benefits he sees in the woodlot plan, condensed his pitch to three key points:

- "You get local people managing local resources. When they manage locally, and it's kind of in their back yard, they take a real pride in it."
- "The profits they make stay local – I spend all my money in Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks."
- "The third thing you generally get is better management than you would otherwise because it's smaller scale. It's a win-win for everybody, it really is." ?



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

**Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
Scholarship Award
Information and Application Form**

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received before April 25, 2006. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be direct family members of a woodlot licensee or private land owner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA.
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 entering a forestry-related program. Students entering other areas of study are welcome to apply, knowing there is preference for forestry-related study.
5. The award of \$500.00 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.
6. Essays from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the *Almanac*.
7. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
8. 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.

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 extracurricular activities.
2. A one-page (approximately 500-700 word) typewritten (printed) essay on this topic: *“Imagine you have just been appointed Forest Minister of British Columbia. What are the most important changes you would make to enhance the Woodlot Program in BC? Please provide rationale and justification for your changes”* (We suggest you focus on approximately 2 or 3 suggested changes)
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: Mrs. Kathy Mayes, Treasurer
2772 Ridgeview Drive,
Prince George, British Columbia
V2K 4M9

Applications must be received by April 25, 2006



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Educational Information: _____

Currently enrolled in: _____

Post Secondary School you plan to attend: _____

Program you will be registered in for 2006-2007 _____

Relationship to woodlot licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot #
(i.e., daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345) _____

The woodlot licensee/private land owner to whom you are a direct family member, has been
a member of 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)

Stihl recalls chainsaws

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Stihl Inc. of Virginia Beach, Virginia, have announced a recall of the Stihl MS 192 T chainsaw. More than 23,000 of this model chainsaw were sold between January 2005 and July 2005.

Stihl has found that with this model chainsaw, a fuel line in the purge pump system may pull apart from a connector, allowing fuel to escape; a connection in the ignition grounding system may loosen and create a spark; and/or the springs in the clutch assembly may come out of position, allowing a spring of the clutch to be projected from the saw housing. However, no incidents or injuries have been reported.

The recalled chainsaws are model number MS 192 T, which is labeled on the side of the chainsaw's starter housing. Recalled saws include serial numbers 264371702 through 266087005—the serial number can be located on the decal and is engraved into the housing. If you have one of these saws, take it to an authorized Stihl dealer for a free repair.

For more information, call Stihl at (800)610-6677 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. ?



Provincial BEC map and database have been updated

On February 1, 2006, the MOFR's Research Branch updated the corporate version of the Provincial Digital Biogeoclimatic Subzone/Variant map (known as the BEC map) and the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Codes and Names (the corporate version of BEC database).

This will be of interest to anyone doing, or planning on doing a woodlot licence plan, as biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification to the subzone level is required WLP content unless an exemption is granted.

The pdf map on the original note is available at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HRE/external!/publish/becmaps/> in the papermaps subdirectory.

For more information, please contact Marvin Eng at marvin.eng@gov.bc.ca or (250) 387-2710. ?



Ask the Federation

Got a question about managing your woodlot?

This new feature gives you the answers!

If your question is of interest to small-scale forest managers, we'll publish it in the Almanac with an answer from one of our experts.

Send questions to **Cathy McClary**:

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Prince George, BC
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Phone: 1-888-925-9995 Fax: (250) 962-9199



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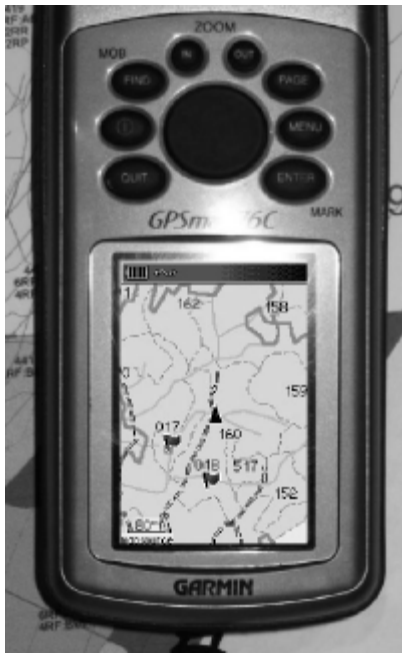
Advertising Rates

As a service to FBCWA members, the Woodland Almanac will make space available for non-commercial ads, free of charge. Commercial advertising space is also offered to enterprises at the following rates:

- .. **Business card:**..... \$50
- .. **¼ page:**\$135
- .. **½ page:**\$175
- ◆ **Full page:**\$250

There is a 10% discount for ads appearing in two or more issues.

A complimentary annual subscription is mailed to all advertisers.



Now THIS Changes Everything!!!

Like a lot of licensees, I bought a recreation grade GPS to help navigate in my woodlot. The GPS worked fine, but when I asked "How do I get my forest cover maps into it?" the answer I got was "You can't". Well, after a lot of R&D, it turns out "Yes, you can!"

Reconnaissance and development planning are a treat when you are armed with a scrolling color map of your woodlot with a real time "You Are Here" arrow. You can walk to the heart of any polygon for inventory work. And you can record data points at will for recce level traverses of road locations, block boundaries, or whatever.

The whole rig has paid for itself in a month by erasing the hours (and legwork!) spent tying in, and then traversing through windfall and up rock faces to get to work areas.

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Woodlot Forestry Services Ltd. Mapping and Development

Box 125 Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0

Tom Bradley (250) 226-7792

tomb@netidea.com www.woodfor.com

Woodlot and Small Tenures Forest Management, and E-Submission Services



- Since 2003, *Integrated Woods Services Ltd.* has been on contract with the Ministry of Forests to complete all Woodlot E-Submissions into RESULTS. This contract is continuing in 2005.
- Our staff has the expertise in all aspects of E-Applications

Background on *Integrated*

- Full-phase forestry and woodlot management consultants
- Offices located in Kamloops, Clearwater, Williams Lake, and Chetwynd
- In business since 1992

Contact: esf@integratedwoods.com

Bill Kals
Phone: (250) 828-7977

Steve Henderson, RPF
Fax: (250) 828-2183