

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

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THE FEDERATION OF BC
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS



THE WOODLOT PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mountain pine beetle damage in immature stands

Fourteen woodlot licensees from Prince George, Mackenzie, Quesnel and Kamloops were part of a group of 54 people who toured Woodlot 272 in June 2007.

The purpose was to hear the latest information on mountain pine beetle damage in young pine stands and to discuss with experts possible treatment options.

The tour was sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Forestry (Cariboo section) in conjunction with the Prince George Woodlot Association and the Network of Forest Professionals, along with Dunkley Lumber, the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership.

Woodlot 272 is located about 40 kilometers east of Prince George, straddling the Yellowhead Highway at Willow River Canyon.

It's owned by the Willow River Demonstration Forest Society, which is made up of the members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Cariboo Section.

As well as being an operating woodlot, WL272 is home to a fertilization trial using municipal sludge, various spacing trials, sanitation harvesting, public trails and shelters, and other special harvesting techniques for areas of high visual quality.

Since 2001, the mature pine is essentially gone from the woodlot, due to MPB. But as the beetles run out of suitable older trees, they have started to attack 20-year-old natural pine stands.

A summary of the comments by each of the experts who attended is presented below.

John Pousette, Tenures Officer, PG Forest District, Timber Supply Specialist:

The Annual Allowable Cut in the Prince George TSA has been increased from 9 million m³ to 15

million m³. The Prince George Forest District was allocated 5.5 million of the 15 million.

Before MPB, woodlot licence AACs totaled 170,000 m³. The harvest rates have been significantly increased to address damaged stands, but it is estimated that after MPB the sustainable harvest level on Prince George woodlots will be about 100,000 m³.

And after MPB, woodlots are estimated to have about 3% of the

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*Message from the President of the FBCWA***Convincing people to change their mindsets**

by Brent Petrick

It is with mixed feelings that I look forward to the Port Alberni AGM and the end of my term as Federation President.

The last two years have been filled with a range of emotions and forestry experiences.

Not unexpectedly there have been the “highs and lows” that all presidents go through.

However, I think the thing I will remember most is stepping into the position of President believing that a priority of government and the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) was to promote, enhance, and expand small businesses like woodlot licences. I truly believed private forest sector entrepreneurship was important to this province and that the socio-economic benefits created locally and provincially as well as having forest management in the hands of local residents were an inherent part of this province’s forest culture.

Personally, I still have those beliefs but based on the last two years, I don’t think they are shared with the MFR!

In saying this, I am not pointing a finger at any individual but commenting on the general attitude that exists within the MFR towards small business.

So where has this ‘bad attitude’ come from? From what I can see, it stems from two very serious misconceptions:

- That WLs and other small businesses must be treated the same as major licensees, and
- That all woodlot licensees are wealthy businesspeople with endless resources capable of absorbing MFR downloads and obligations.

Small business is not big business and, as such, it must be treated differently. The MFR mantra that we can’t do something different for WLs because the majors will want it too is old, very old! It’s basically a bureaucratic excuse for not wanting to do something.

What’s worse is that it’s hurting small forestry businesses.

An individual is not a corporation. A small area-based tenure with an AAC of 1400m³ is different than a volume-based

“This is going to be a significant undertaking and it won’t be easy.”

tenure with an AAC in the hundreds of thousands of cubic metres held by a company that owns and operates a primary breakdown facility and needs to be treated as such.

Unless the MFR and government accept these differences and change their approach, I predict small forestry business in BC will continue its current state of decline!

The challenge for woodlot licensees and the Federation over the next couple of months is going to be to look at the situation we find ourselves in as a whole, examine options to strengthen our voice in forest management issues of the day and forest sector development, and decide how best to proceed.

I will be on the executive as Past President and will be advocating a positive, two-step approach:

1. Examine and report out on the status of WLs and small forest businesses to identify what’s going right and what’s going wrong. In the case of the WL Program this will include examining expansion (as per the Forest Revitalization Plan), implementation of the WARRT recommendation, e-business cost effectiveness, and FRPA – cost reductions, freedom to manage, promoting innovation and creativity.
2. Establish better communications with government and the MFR and jointly develop an action plan of priorities and tasks to restore and support small businesses within the forest sector. The action plan must establish timelines and assign accountability if it is to have any chance of working. I see the Federation being very active and having a strong role in implementing the action plan.

This is going to be a significant undertaking and it won’t be easy. The Federation is going to have to convince a lot of people to change their mindsets and act differently!

Fortunately, the Federation is loaded with licensees who have good minds and are great thinkers.

When the call to get involved goes out, I encourage you to step forward.

The situation is serious and needs to be fixed ASAP! After all, it’s your and your children’s future that’s at stake!

Brent Petrick, President ♦



General Manager's report

Exemplary management not rewarded Enforcement's punitive approach may not yield best results

by Brian McNaughton

A not-very-often-talked-about, yet subtle change occurred when the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) replaced the Forest Practices Code (FPC).

FRPA did not carry forward wording to the effect that the MoFR must adequately protect, manage and conserve the forest resource. These words were the cornerstone of the FPC.

Instead, FRPA adopted a different model – one that assigned stewardship responsibilities to licensees and introduced professional reliance and accountability.

So what did this shift do to the BC Forest Service, and how has it affected woodlot licensees?

Arguably, it means the Forest Service's role has changed from being stewards of the forest resource to primarily administration, record-keeping, and enforcement.

I say "arguably" because there are some who would say the MFR still has some stewardship responsibilities because they must approve Forest Stewardship Plans and Woodlot Licence Plans.

However, there does appear to be an emerging emphasis from within the MFR that more administration, more record keeping (e-business, digital maps, etc.) and more enforcement equates to better management and stewardship.

I can buy that good, solid enforcement efforts likely contributes to meeting a stated standard, but don't agree that it

promotes better management for three main reasons.

Firstly, innovation and creativity tend to be stifled when there's a fear of consequences for failure.

Secondly, it takes considerable time, effort and costs to get approval for something outside the norm.

Lastly, enforcement is a punitive model based on 'do wrong and get fined' rather than an incentive model which rewards good performance.

"The biggest fallacy . . . is that e-business makes reporting and record-keeping cheaper and easier."

The latter is a model which most, if not all, woodlot licensees would prefer!

As for administration and record-keeping, there's no question there's a fine line between what's necessary to uphold the public interest and what would be considered too much admin and record-keeping.

Licensees must invest limited time and resources into meeting MFR requirements because a failure to cross a "t", dot an "i," or submit a record will result in enforcement consequences!

On the other hand, no one seems to care anymore if there's no effort to improve a prescription, try something new, or simply improve forest or resource management.

Exemplary management bears

no reward, but failing to meet a minimum requirement results in harsh penalties.

The biggest fallacy though, is the belief that e-business makes reporting and record-keeping cheaper and easier! It simply isn't true.

What may be the most disconcerting is a remark I heard from a MFR official recently, to the effect that MFR staff must be very cautious about what they say or write to licensees for fear that it could contribute to 'officially induced error' should there be a problem.

In my mind, this is indicative that the legislation, or at least the interpretation of the legislation, has gone too far.

To suggest that the MFR has to be guarded over communications with licensees responsible for stewardship and sustainability of the public's resource is absurd. These are exactly the types of conversations that should be taking place. It's the type of outreach, extension and information-sharing that should be occurring to achieve a common goal – that of exemplary forest management.

What's needed is less legislation with more communication!

Brian McNaughton



*Interior tabular rates***August 15 update for woodlot licensees**

by Dean Daly

The research on options for an interior tabular rate model is grinding along – far too slowly.

The Ministry of Forests has been reminded by the FBCWA that pressure is mounting for woodlot licensees due to new mountain pine beetle attacks, and despite assurances from the MOFR that this project is a priority, it appears that there are a number of higher priorities on the MOFR list.

Although some good technical work has been completed to explore several new methods to compile a base stumpage rate table to replace table 6.1, and to test the relationship of those tables to the interior log market, no work has yet begun on the factor that would be applied to the table values.

The MOFR appears reluctant to allocate the time and expense necessary to complete a detailed review of the woodlot and major licensee cutting authorities.

There continues to be a frustrating disconnect between the positive political message of commitment given to the FBCWA and the follow-through at the technical level of analysis.

At the district level, our licensees keep hearing that interior tabular rates are coming, and that

the new system will solve all of the stumpage problems of small independent log sellers.

At the branch level, there seems to be little recognition that the current and proposed base tables are built from stumpage determinations that do not reflect actual log market transactions or small operator operating costs.

Although it is the FBCWA's hope that this work can be completed quickly to allow for implementation by late fall, we will continue to proceed with caution and diligence to ensure that any potential tabular rate system provides a durable and sustainable alternative to the status quo.

At the current pace of analysis, it is hard to remain optimistic.

In the meantime, ensure that your cutting permit planning is based on our current Market Pricing System, and the stumpage rates are manageable within the context of your log market.

As always, use the tools available to forecast your potential cutting permit stumpage rate prior to submission to the MOFR to ensure that the cutting permit is economically viable. ♦

For more information on this article, please contact Dean Daly, Interior Appraisal Representative:

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Links of interest

- *The State of British Columbia's Forests 2006*: The second in a series of reports that objectively measures and assesses the state of British Columbia's forests with a focus on sustainability was released in July. The report provides statistical information about the condition and management of BC's forests, and their support of the province's economy and communities. The report also provides the ministry's assessment of the sustainability of BC's forests. www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/sof/
- One- and three-month Coast & Interior log market reports: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/timberp/amv.htm ♦



by John Marlow

Coastal timber pricing portfolio

New Coast Appraisal Manual soon to be released

The biggest news to report is that the new (revised) Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM) has finally been released, effective June 1, 2007.

There have been very few changes in the wording of the CAM, but the equation used to calculate stumpage rates has changed substantially.

Work is ongoing on a re-write of the CAM to provide more clarity (wording changes) in regards to timber appraisal policy. It is hoped that the updated CAM will be released this fall.

Previously there were two equations used to determine a stumpage rate: the first determined the number of bidders who would typically bid on the logs being appraised, and the second would estimate the rate that would be bid, based on the number of bidders from the first equation.

The new manual has now fixed the number of bidders by district (page 4-5 CAM), and the estimated winning bid is determined by a single equation. Previously, the number of bidders was highly related to the CP volume, which would subsequently have a dramatic impact on stumpage rates. This is no longer the case.

The new equation is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{EWB} = & [18.16 + 0.688(\text{ALP}/\text{CPIF}) \\ & - 15.71(\text{HEMBAL}) - 11.99 \\ & (\text{HEMBALOG}) + 2.65(\text{DFIR2G}) - \\ & 0.245(\text{SLOPE}(1-\text{HELI})) - 40.47 \\ & (\text{HELI}) + 12.83(\text{Ln}(\text{VPH}/1000)) + \\ & 6.08(\text{Ln}(\text{PIECESIZE})) - 0.0715 \\ & (\text{LOCATION}) - 0.00734 \\ & (\text{GAMB DIST}) + 2.23(\text{Ln} \\ & (\text{VOL}/1000)) + 1.17 \\ & (\text{DISTAVGNBID}) - 8.08 \\ & (\text{AUC2006})] \text{CPIF} \end{aligned}$$

Although this appears to be a

relatively complicated equation, it is strongly recommended that licensees develop an understanding of the significant variables which now impact stumpage rates. Definitions of all these variables are found on page 4-3 of the CAM.

It is important to note that **Volume/ha, Piece size, total CP volume, slope, and stand selling price continue to have significant impacts on stumpage rates** and should be considered when developing timber.

The location of your woodlot licence also has a significant impact although that is beyond our control. Haul distance no longer has an impact on stumpage rates.

To help quantify the impacts of the new stumpage equations, Econ Consulting Limited (thanks, Wolfram!) provided a brief summary of 10 Woodlot CPs appraised with the old and the new equations (same selling prices).

The stumpage rate decreased for eight of the ten CPs reviewed, with the range of decrease between \$0.78 and \$23.41. The only two CPs where the rate increased were helicopter logging CPs, where the rate increased substantially.

Although it is difficult (and sometimes dangerous) to make generalizations, the new equations generally appear to be favorable to woodlot licensees.

Woodlot licensees continue to have the option to opt for a fixed stumpage rate for the CP's term.

Stump removal for root disease:

It is great to report that the specified operation allowance for stump removal has finally been returned to the CAM.

The allowance is now a fixed rate of \$1114.00 / ha, which is simply an average cost of many

stump removal contracts completed for the BCTS program.

It is recognized that the real cost is variable subject to the number or stumps / ha, the amount which has blown down, and the complexity of the terrain.

It is recommended that licensees keep accurate cost records for stump removal projects so that we can update this cost allowance in the future where appropriate.

Concerns have been raised about the description of destumping in the CAM. Recommendations have been made to the CAM Rewrite Committee to modify this wording to make it less prescriptive and subject to site requirements as outlined in site plan documents.

Tabular Timber Pricing: This work is ongoing, with the current focus on Interior rates with hopes of arriving at a tabular system before this winter. Coast timber pricing is included in discussions regarding interior tabular rate systems, and once established, we will try to establish a similar system on the Coast, if that is the preferred option of Coastal licensees.

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC): The MPS Technical subcommittee work is now complete with the introduction of the new equations. The Federation continues to participate on the CTPAC with the primary focus being the CAM rewrite as well as ongoing discussion of specified operations allowances.

Appraisal Forecasting

Disclaimer: The following estimates are based on current available Vancouver log market sales ending in June 30, 2007, as well as future predicted log trends.

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Boundary Woodlot Association recognizes licensee

by Brian Hislop

Darryll and Dawsha Hunt were honoured at the 2007 Boundary Woodlot Association AGM as recipients of the Woodlot Product Development Council Woodlot Stewardship Recognition program in 2006.

The video documentary of the Hunts' operation was shown during the AGM and applauded resoundingly. Darryll fielded many compliments on his philosophy of woodlot management, including

some from MoFR staff.

Our 2007 AGM was advertised in our local paper and was probably the best attended to date.

In addition to perhaps 2/3 of our membership, the MoFR was represented by the Regional Woodlot Forester, the District Manager, the District Woodlot Forester and three other District Staff.

Members of the public in attendance ranged from those

interested in becoming new licensees under the expansion program, to the local Woodworkers Guild, to the host of a talk show on the community TV channel.

The video of the Hunts' operation received wide exposure in that it was viewed not only by Boundary Woodlot Association members but by many from the larger community. ♦



(Continued from page 6)

The current Steelworkers (formerly IWA) strike on the Coast, combined with the abnormal weather conditions last winter, has caused substantial downward pressure and uncertainty of second-growth coast log prices, particularly Douglas-fir.

In addition, uncertainty in the US housing market and Canadian dollar trends make stumpage rate forecasting difficult.

Stumpage rates have remained stable over the last quarter but current prices (Fd) are substantially lower and downward pressure will be realized on stumpage rate depending on the amounts of logs being sold at these decreased prices.

- Three-month average Fd log prices have fallen over the last quarter and the current demand is weak with Fd gang prices in the range of \$65.00/m³ and FD sawlog prices in the range of \$85.00/m³. Depending on the amount of Fd sold in this market, a decrease in the average selling price and subsequent stumpage rate is expected. Log trends in

this market are difficult to predict due to external factors such as labour issues, private land logging, and oversupply issues (as well as US housing issues).

- Cw prices are stable and expected to be so until this fall. Uncertainty related to the US housing market makes predictions beyond the next quarter difficult. Current log prices are predicted to remain stable until this fall with a similar trend for stumpage rates.
- Hw prices have remained stable and there is some increased demand for Hw gang and pulp which may be related to current labour disputes. Due to the lower log prices of Hw, stumpage rates at Hw cutting authorities are generally low and the presence of Hw in a CP continues to help keep stumpage rates low. This trend is expected to continue.

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

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*. ♦

Forestry that works: Profile of woodlot licensee Susan Paul

By Deborah Greaves

Susan Paul is a long way from her former executive office in the City of Victoria. As she strides through the sun-dappled forest near the banks of the Koksilah River just outside the town of Duncan, the slim mother of two is both energetic and relaxed.

Despite several intimate encounters over the past few years with some formidable wildlife during the course of her workweeks, Paul says she doesn't miss her desk a bit.

She still has administration

tasks, but instead of land-use planning, resource management and policy development for the provincial government of BC, almost every day of the week Susan Paul literally has both feet planted on the ground.

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, Ms Paul and her husband David manage 850 acres of forest near the Vancouver Island community of Duncan. Her new title is Woodlot Licensee.

Ms Paul and her husband David are the supervisors of a large section of forest that's bisected by the Koksilah River and a section of

the Trans Canada Trail. A decade ago, it took an exemplary 80 page management plan and hours of consulting with other stakeholders to earn enough merit points to raise the Pauls' license application above nine others. Susan Paul is approachable, accountable and dedicated.

Not only does Paul manage this tract of forest as a community resource that hosts a variety of recreational activities- hiking, cycling and horseback riding are just a few- but she also supports Aboriginal harvesting of portions of

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New law in force to prevent ecosystem damage

VICTORIA - Effective immediately, people who cause environmental damage to public forest and range lands through recreational activities such as mudbogging will be subject to financial penalties and prosecution, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"I hope this new legislation will stop people from harming the environment by mudbogging or recklessly driving ATVs through sensitive alpine terrain and range lands," said Coleman. "We want to encourage the public to act responsibly on Crown land when they go out and enjoy the great outdoors."

On May 31, the Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act received royal assent. The act introduced a provision that makes it illegal for individuals to cause environmental damage. Previously, only industrial users of Crown land were subject to these prohibitions. Regulations deposited this week bring the law into effect, and update the definition of environmental

damage to include any change to soil that adversely alters an ecosystem.

Under the new provision, individuals found to have caused environmental damage may face penalties of up to \$100,000. Criminal convictions carry maximum fines of \$100,000, up to one year in jail, or both.

"As a long-time proponent of off-road vehicle management, I strongly support any steps toward increased protection of B.C.'s grasslands, alpine and riparian areas," said East Kootenay MLA and BC Outdoor Caucus Chair Bill Bennett. "Our public land in B.C. is an incredible resource, and although I support motorized recreation and enjoy it myself, we must balance motorized recreation with other values. There is room for everyone out there if we use common sense."

Irresponsible use of off-road vehicles in ecosystems can easily damage soil, the ecological foundation of natural areas. For example, repeatedly driving or driving at certain times of the year

in wetlands can change the structure of the soil, making it difficult for plants to take root and grow because of a lack of air or nutrients. In addition, off-roading in wetlands kills birds and amphibians. Generations of wildlife can be impacted due to a lack of plant life and clean water.

In fragile alpine areas and dry grasslands, off-roading can quickly erode the thin soil layer so that plant life can no longer be sustained.

An information brochure, titled "Is your mud worth \$100,000 and a year in jail?" is available online at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/reports/index.htm. For photos illustrating damage to ecosystems caused by off-road vehicles, please see www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/media.

The public is encouraged to use public forest and range lands responsibly. Report any suspected forestry contraventions or crimes to a local Ministry of Forests and Range office, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. ♦

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the trees in her care.

Members of the Cowichan First Nation carefully remove strips of cedar from living trees for traditional uses.

Other trees that will be sold are harvested selectively, usually in small “patch cuts” or even a few trees at a time.

Some might say it’s the gentler, friendlier side of BC’s forest industry, as the licensees are usually local families like the Pauls whose homes and private property are physically close to the woodlot.

As woodlot licensees, the Pauls are responsible for management of the forest and careful, sustainable harvesting of a set percentage of its trees. Their annual allowable cut is small- 1000 cubic meters per year. That’s not a huge number of logs, so Susan Paul is fussy about where the trees from Woodlot # 1557 end up.

Not only does Paul care for the woodlot as though it was another member of her family, she’s gone to the trouble to jump through the formidable hurdles to earn Eco Certification.

This involves an entirely new level of commitment. Testimonials from neighbouring stakeholders were required and an intensive two-day examination had to be completed. Susan passed, and obtained the Eco Certification to join a small and exclusive group of forest stewards who are exceedingly accountable to their communities and the government, and continuously look to the future.

Managed woodlots often look healthier and more esthetically pleasing than natural forests.

One of the reasons for this is the absence of fire- a natural forest “pruner.” Since fire is a threat to human settlements and enterprise, it has been largely repressed for decades. Without the weeding and pest-destroying effects of fire to



Photo: Dawn Boyce

Susan Paul in her woodlot near Duncan on Vancouver Island.

reduce the number of trees and create open areas, some forests become crowded and more susceptible to disease.

Woodlot 1557 isn’t crowded. It looks like a forest in a story-book illustration. Trees in the Pauls’ woodlot are selectively logged when they become afflicted by root rot, are blown down or broken by the wind, or when they display the width and structural perfection to become logs destined for a special purpose.

Woodlot 1557 trees often go to custom mills to be made into value-added products. Some become ‘house logs’ to be used for log homes. Some of the Douglas Fir trees become telephone poles.

When this writer met Paul at Whippetree Junction’s Black Coffee for an interview, Paul pointed out the balustrades on the expansive deck our table was on. Every one originated from a tree on Woodlot 1557.

With the future in mind, Susan Paul also goes the extra distance when she replants sections of the woodlot she’s harvested. David Paul’s professional background is silviculture and forestry; the Pauls take the same care when they’re replanting as they do while harvesting.

“We like to do winter planting of three-year-old trees so they’ll take hold right away,” Susan Paul said in July. “The investment in expensive three-year-old trees is compensated by the way they thrive.”

Planting three-year-old trees helps larger cutblocks to “green up” faster, Paul says, which “always makes foresters happy.”

Woodlots managed by people like the future-oriented Susan Paul represent something more than so-called Working Forest.

More accurately, it’s forestry that works. ♦

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annual supply, which will be up from the pre-MPB days.

The above projections considered some mortality in younger age class stands: 50% in age class 3, 35% in age class 2, 0% in age class 1.

But we are starting to see more mortality than that so the available volume may be less.

Note that 25% of the current total growing stock remaining in the Prince George Forest District is dead pine. This is down from 35%.

Scott Schofield, Planning Forester, BC Timber Sales and Master’s candidate at UNBC:

The PG Forest District Stewardship Forester asked for a quick review of 112 VRI pine polygons, to determine the attack levels on less-than-40-year-old pine leading stands.

A random sample over the entire district found that 94% of the stands had some attack, and 46 % of the

stems in those stands had been killed. The MPB Attack stages were 54% Red, 46% Green, and 8% Grey attack.

Interestingly, unspaced stands had a higher incidence of attack. There was no trend seen by BEC zone or stand age. The minimum diameter attacked was 9.9 cm.

The chart below summarizes the results for CIF Woodlot 272 only. Note that Sample #1 had no understory, and Sample #2 did.

Gord Dow, Regional Silviculturist, MOFR, Northern Interior Region:

The tour stopped at a naturally regenerated pine stand that was approximately 20 years old and currently being attacked by MPB. The site was sandy and very dry, and there was little understory.

After some discussion, the group’s proposed prescription was to leave the dead pine standing, and to fill-plant a mix of species,



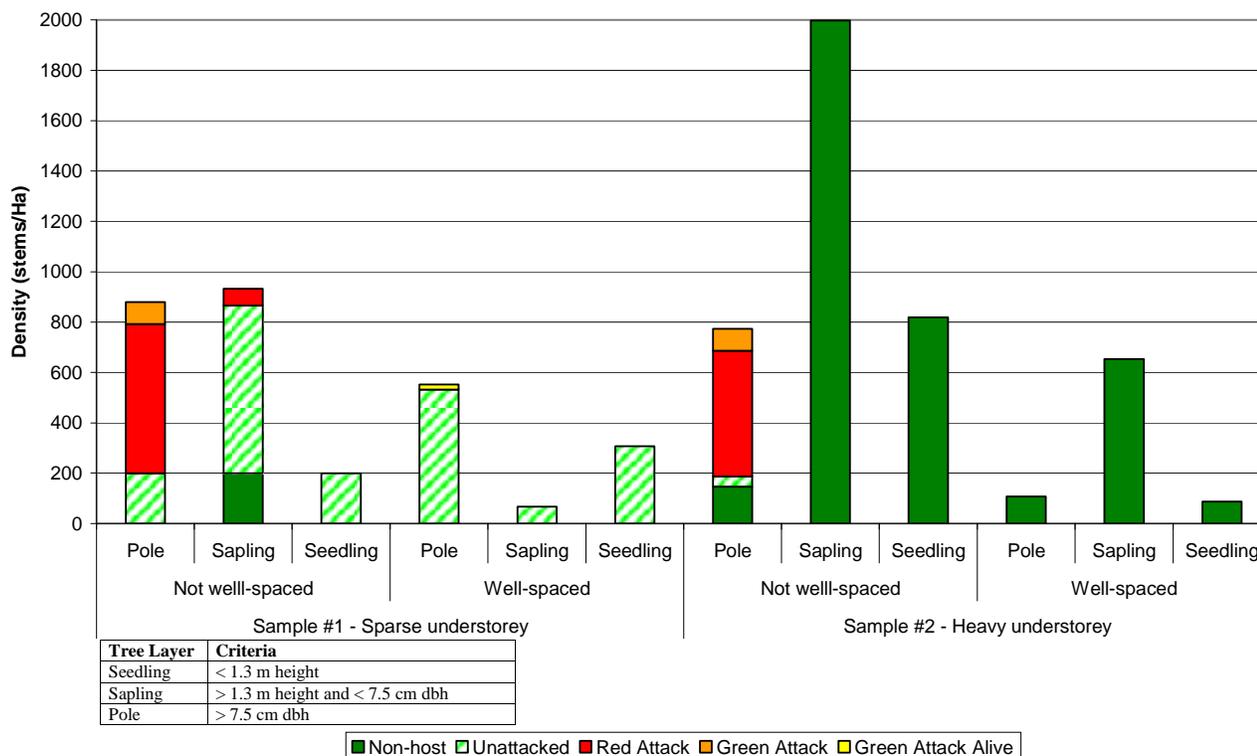
Photo: Mark Clark

including Douglas-fir, spruce and pine. It is important to watch light levels – especially for Douglas-fir and pine.

Recent planting trials indicate that trees planted under unspaced dead pine overstory were hit hard by snowshoe hare. They like to feed

(Continued on page 11)

**Woodlot 272 MPB-attacked Pine Stands
Stage of Attack by Stand Structure Category**



(Continued from page 10)

under cover, and may eat planted trees.

There are two levels of cover possible – overstory trees only and overstory trees with shrubs. Hare prefer the latter, if available. Pine seedlings were the preferred rabbit food, then spruce, then Douglas-fir.

Siberian larch is also a possibility for under-planting, but will require special discussion with MOF.

Bob Hodgkinson, Regional Entomologist, MOFR, Northern Interior Region:

While studying infestation in young pine stands the only factor that appears to consistently predict attack is the diameter of the young pine stems.

Site class, biogeoclimatic zone, and aspect did not determine if a stand was attacked or not, whereas diameter did.

In Prince George the lower limit for MPB attack appears to be around 10 cm DBH. Stems up to 12 cm can expect mortality but no MPB brood.

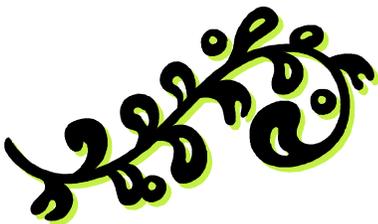
Once DBH reaches about 17 cm, expect successful breeding and emerging. In Kamloops, the lower limit appears to be around 8 cm.

Bob suggests that there will likely be two more years of MPB attacking young stands. After that, the population will be low enough that they won't be going into these stands any more. ♦



Photos: Mark Clark

The mountain pine beetle tour of Woodlot 272, about 40 kilometers east of Prince George, raised many interesting points.



Update on the Forest Investment Account

Do you have a project idea?

by Carmen Wheatley

As of April 2007, the Small Tenures Program has been amalgamated into the Land Base Investment Program. Most of you are aware that PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd. (PWC) has taken over the administration of the Program and the ten Lead Woodlot Associations now operate under the recipient agreement between the Federation and PWC.

We are currently in the learning curve working with Land Base Investment Program guidelines, and using PWC's data input/reporting

system.

As before, all woodlot licensees are eligible to participate in the FIA woodlot program (licensees do not have to be a member of a Woodlot Association to be involved).

Early this spring, all licensees were contacted and encouraged to put forward potential projects to their FIA Administrator for consideration.

Generally only a portion of the high-priority projects can be FIA-funded every year. Many of the lead associations are presently implementing these projects on the

ground.

All woodlot projects that are funded by the Forest Investment Account must be submitted by a lead association, and approved by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

If you have a potential project idea, please contact your local FIA Administrator.

An updated list of all the FIA lead associations, their administrators, and the woodlot associations within their jurisdictions can be found in the table on the facing page. ♦

Footprints in the forest:

Why woodlots should be part of the forest landscape

by Fred Newhouse

Author's Note: *The following ideas came out of a meeting with Professor Weetman in May 2007 in response to a comment he made at the Professional Foresters' AGM in February, that woodlots were not good social policy.*

The primary reason given was their place in the landscape. There is a concern that they are not compatible with the broader landscape as modelled by the experts and possibly not in line with approaches needed for modelling climate warming.

While I lack a landscape planning background, I do have a gut feeling that there are some deeper issues here, and that a case can be made for a human footprint on the landscape: patterns on the landscape from 200 years ago reflect who was here then, and may not be appropriate for who is here now.

Forest management

While achieving all the legislated requirements, there are addi-

tional features provided by woodlot licenses. Each licensee is distinct and applies the knowledge acquired in a lifetime differently.

This distinct approach leads to a diversity of forests and stands as well as some of the highest levels of stand complexity.

These approaches, while valued currently and in the past, will play an increasingly important role in the future as we move into the uncertainty of climate warming.

The scientific community is calling for more of the management style woodlots pride themselves on. (Suzanne Simmard in UBC's Branchlines, Spring 2006). The more diverse and complex the stands, the better the resilience of the forest caught in the warming trend.

Communities and families in the landscape

The current levels of diversity on the forest landscape of BC are a legacy of past traditional use.

First Nations up to 200 years ago regularly burned off the hill-

sides to reduce fire hazards and improve wildlife browse and berry production. These practices were passed on generation to generation, creating a cultural disturbance pattern used to model forest practices in BC and to base landscape plans on.

The big change from 200 years ago is the value our forests have for timber as well as the wildlife, plants and berries.

Harvest patterns today will shape tomorrow's forest and a pattern of harvest passed on from generation to generation becomes a tradition.

This transfer of knowledge and understanding in its own way becomes a disturbance pattern and in the interface zone, a pattern that maximizes diversity and stand complexity is probably of great value during climate warming.

Traditional use of the woodlot both past, present and into the future will provide a basis for the next evolution in cultural disturbance patterns.

(Continued on page 14)

Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations FIA Lead Association Contacts

(July 2007)

| FIA Lead Associations | Associations within the Lead's Jurisdiction | FIA Administrators |
|--|---|---|
| North Island Woodlot Association Box 3608 Stn. Main Courtenay, B.C. V9N 6Z8 | North Island Woodlot Assn. South Island Woodlot Assn. Headwaters Woodlot Assn. Sea to Sky Woodlot Assn. | Peter Jungwirth Tel: (250) 334-4559 Fax: (250) 334-4559 peter.ju@telus.net |
| Bulkley Woodlot Association c/o Box 3849 Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0 | Bulkley Woodlot Assn. Nadina Woodlot Assn. Kispiox Woodlot Assn. Kalum Forest District | Mike Bandstra Tel: (250) 847-4822 fax: (250) 847-4211 mbandstra@forsite.ca |
| Cariboo Woodlot Association 655 N. Mackenzie Ave. Williams Lake, BC V2G 1N9 | Cariboo Woodlot Assn. South Cariboo Woodlot Assn. Chilcotin Woodlot Assn. | John Gooding Tel: (250) 305-1275 JandMGooding@telus.net |
| Prince George Woodlot Association 2891 St. Anne Avenue Prince George, BC V2N 4Y4 | Prince George Woodlot Assn. Mackenzie Woodlot Assn. | Mark Clark Tel: (250) 964-1381 MarkClarkrpf@shaw.ca |
| Columbia Woodlot Association 2476 Golden Donald Upper Road Golden, B.C. V0A 1H1 | Columbia Woodlot Association East Kootenay Woodlot Assn. West Kootenay Woodlot Assn. Boundary Woodlot Assn. | Denise English (250) 344-2698 (250) 344-2798 englishd@redshift.bc.ca |
| Peace River Woodlot Association Box 21030 Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4X8 | Peace River Woodlot Assn. | Dale Benke Tel: (250) 788-1806 nfri@xplornet.com |
| Kamloops & District Woodlot Association 4336 Spuraway Rd. Kamloops, BC V2H 1L2 | Kamloops and District Woodlot Assn. Clearwater Woodlot Assn. Lillooet Woodlot Assn. Robson Canoe Woodlot Assn. | Ken Devick Tel: (250) 578-7447 fax: (250) 578-7441 kendevick@yahoo.ca |
| Shuswap-Okanagan Woodlot Association Box 189 Lumby, B.C. V0E 2G0 | Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Assn. | Terry Hammond Tel: (250) 804-0628 tjhammond@telus.net |
| Stuart/Nechako Woodlot Association Box 2126 Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0 | Stuart Nechako Woodlot Assn. | Anne Davidson Tel: (250) 567-4101 fax: (250) 567-4101 adavidso@hwy16.com |
| Quesnel Woodlot Association 4173 Barkerville Hwy Quesnel, BC V2J 6T8 | Quesnel Woodlot Assn. | Chris Elden Tel: (250) 992-9769 porcupin@quesnelbc.com |
| Federation of BC Woodlot Associations PO Box 1588, 3155 Stones Bay Rd. Fort St. James, BC V0J 1P0 | | Carmen Wheatley Tel: (250) 996-8776 cawheatley@telus.net |

Reporting woodlots activities to RESULTS – an update

by Dave Haley

In early April 2007 a letter from the Chief Forester stated that, for the 2006 and subsequent reporting years, woodlot license holders will submit their annual reporting information to the Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land Status Tracking System (RESULTS) either themselves (e.g., with specialized software) or through a service provider.

All other timber tenures were required to submit information to RESULTS one year earlier.

The ministry recognizes that a further period of transition will be required for woodlot licence holders. Below is an update of how the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) supports electronic submissions of woodlot reporting to RESULTS during this transition period.

1. Woodlot-friendly modifications to RESULTS

In autumn 2007, the MFR will release RESULTS version 3.1, which will provide a new tool *specifically designed for woodlot holders*.

This will reduce the need for service providers and specialized software. This tool assists with preparing spatial data, which must be submitted to RESULTS in conjunction with forest cover (and some other) submissions.

Previously, specialized software or service providers were used to prepare spatial submissions; however, RESULTS 3.1 will allow Woodlot holders to copy the spatial information from cutting permit applications into the appropriate

location in RESULTS.

This tool will not meet the requirements of every submission; however, it is expected to address common scenarios.

It has been previewed by selected woodlot licensees and has received positive feedback. Details will be posted as they become available.

2. Clarification of reporting requirements

Earlier this year MFR reduced the woodlot reporting requirements for RESULTS and produced a document to help support woodlot licensees with their submissions. The intent of the guide is to clarify which data elements are required.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 12)

Nature and biodiversity

Evolution involves pathways. If you don't have the complex stands and diverse approaches, you end up with a limited number of pathways.

Scientific studies (Dr. John Bliss) have found that small-scale forest land management tends to maximize levels of complexity and diversity.

In his study of three watersheds managed by three distinct ownership types he found that the small-scale, family-sized forest had the higher diversity and stand complexity when compared with an adjacent national forest managed by a scientific committee, and a far higher level of diversity than the large private forest ownerships.

The reasons are multiple, but generally the more people you have managing the forest, the more approaches you generate.

Footprints in the forest

What we are really about is the human footprint. Cultures evolve, and as we move from post-industrial to informational so to does our approach to the forest.

Another way to look at woodlots is to look at public involvement.

Why are so few people involved with management of the public forest in BC? One of the biggest hurdles is the high level of knowledge needed just to examine forest plans and documents.

Woodlot licenses are at the forefront of public involvement.

As licensees and members of the public we have to understand and work with the legislation and knowledge base as well as living in the community.

With the number of woodlots spread throughout BC, we are unique in the size of forest we manage and in the level of legislation

and obligations we face.

Although it is getting increasingly difficult to keep abreast of everything, as woodlot licensees, we try.

Our footprints are truly human and we help put a face on the forest for the public, our communities and ourselves.

My gut feeling is that woodlots may be one of the most valuable assets we have in the public forest. The future will be very much different than the past. This will play havoc with those models that ignore global warming.

I think the best lesson we can take from the past is that traditional use patterns that created the forests of BC were in large part based on the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation. The key to the future may lie in this transfer from generation to generation. ♦

(Continued from page 14)

Two versions of this guide are available: a detailed guide (approx. 45 pages) and a shorter version (approx. 15 pages).

These guides describe submission requirements in relation to the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practice Regulation*, s.76 and the *Woodlot License Forest Management Regulation*, s.89.

Submission of annual reporting in accordance with these guides is deemed to satisfy the Chief Forester's specifications per these regulations. The guides are available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/business.htm under the heading Woodlot Submission.

3. RESULTS data cleanup

MFR recognizes some deficiencies in the data currently stored in RESULTS, and starting in summer 2007, has launched a two-year project to correct some of those deficiencies.

MFR has secured the services of five service providers (FORSITE, IPac, Chartwell, TimberLine, and TM Pearson) who have each been assigned 4-8 districts.

The project scope is to capture

missing attribute data that directly impacts the Ministry's ability to fulfil its mandate for reporting on service plan goals, key performance indicators or compliance and enforcement activities.

“MFR staff and representatives of the FBCWA will meet in the fall to identify other modifications to simplify annual reporting . . .”

The service providers will work closely with districts' RESULTS coordinators and licensees to update missing or questionable data identified by MFR.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of the allocated funding is to improve the completeness and accuracy of woodlot annual report data previously submitted to the MFR.

Table 1, below, provides information on how the workload and funding are allocated. The cutblock status is as follows:

- LC - Logging Complete
- S - Silviculture

- HX - Cancelled
- DD - Disallowed by District
- EE - Entered in Error

4. Training

MFR is preparing to deliver training sessions to help woodlot licensees learn how to use RESULTS to complete their annual reporting and to plan for future silvicultural activities.

MFR is in the process of securing a contractor to plan and deliver this training. When a training schedule is confirmed, licensees will be notified with details and invited to register.

5. Further modifications to RESULTS for woodlots

MFR staff and representatives of the FBCWA will meet in the fall to identify other modifications to simplify annual reporting and to reduce duplication among the various systems of the MFR.

MFR will continually re-evaluate these initiatives to determine what kinds of improvements are required in these areas, or other areas. Questions about these initiatives may be directed to Dave Haley (250) 387-8317. ♦

| Category | Woodlot | Total | Proportion |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| | no of openings/blks | | |
| LC or S - not in RESULTS | 1213 | 6067 | 20% |
| RESULTS Missing Data | 2905 | 7872 | 37% |
| HX DD EE | 141 | 2131 | 7% |
| Planned | 29 | 439 | 7% |
| Total | 4288 | 16509 | 26% |

Table 1: How workload and funding are allocated

Are you set for harvesting in 2008?

by Dave Haley

Do you have the necessary plans and permits in place to enable you to operate in early 2008?

As Brian McNaughton mentioned in the Spring 2007 issue of the *Woodland Almanac*, many hundreds of Woodlot Licence Forest Development Plans (FDPs) approved under the Forest Practices Code (FPC) will expire on December 31, 2007.

There is no legal mechanism to further extend these FDPs under the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*.

While your issued cutting permits are not affected by the

expiry of the FDP, the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) cannot issue you a new cutting permit once your FDP has expired.

If your FDP expires on December 31, 2007, you will need an approved Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP) under *FRPA* in order to apply for a new cutting permit.

It is still possible to apply for a new cutting permit under your FDP as long as your FDP remains approved. NOTE: This does not impact FDPs with expiry dates beyond December 31, 2007.

This article and enclosed diagram and checklist will help you determine the plans and permits you need in order to continue harvesting

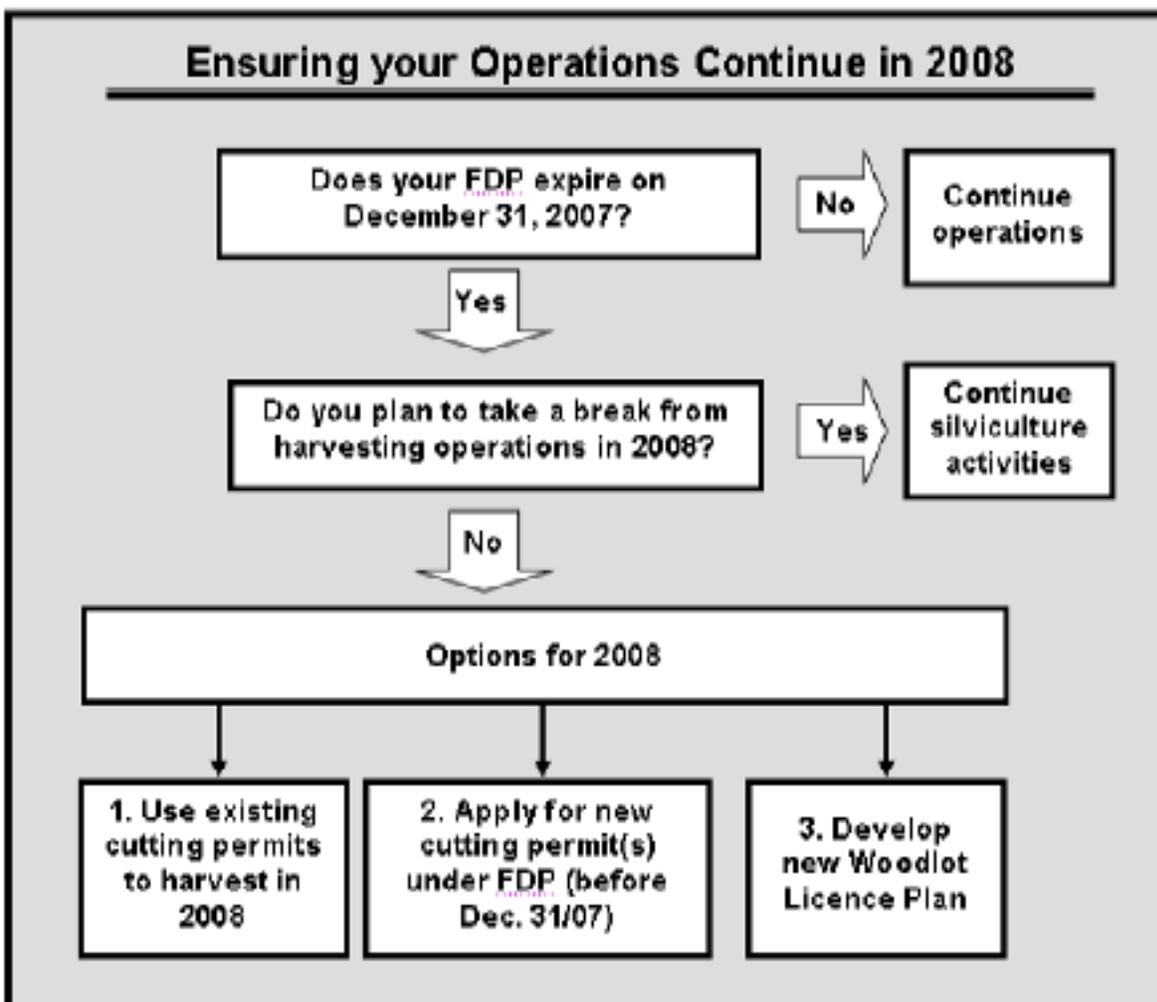
in 2008. In turn, this information will help the MFR allocate the necessary resources to ensure your plans are reviewed and permits issued so you can continue operations in 2008.

The diagram below, "Ensuring your Operations Continue in 2008," illustrates the options available to you for continuing operations through 2008.

Does your FDP expire on December 31, 2007?

Woodlot holders should check their current FDP to determine if it expires on December 31, 2007. If the District Manager's approval

(Continued on page 17)



letter for the FDP indicates the FDP would expire before December 31, 2007, but the FDP was approved or in effect on or after December 17, 2002, then the FDP would have been automatically extended by section 199 of *FRPA*, until December 31, 2007.

If your FDP expires on December 31, 2007, you have three options, described below, that you can follow to continue operations in early 2008. If your plan does not expire on December 31, 2007, you can continue operating as usual—for example by applying for cutting permits under your current FDP for as long as it remains in effect. Contact your local MFR woodlot representative if you are unsure about the expiry date of your FDP or the ability to apply for cutting permits under the plan.

Do you plan to take a break from harvesting operations in 2008?

If you plan to take a break from harvesting in 2008, you do not need to apply for cutting permits before your FDP expires. You can continue with your silviculture activities as per your FDP. When you decide to resume harvesting, you will need an approved WLP in place before you can apply for any cutting permits.

Options for 2008

If your FDP expires on December 31, 2007, you have the following options available for **continuing operations in 2008:**

1. Use existing cutting permits to harvest in 2008

Since a cutting permit may have up to a four (4) year term, you can continue to harvest in 2008 if you hold one or more cutting permits that have not expired—even if your FDP has expired.

You should review all the cutting permits you have been issued (if any) to

- Determine their expiry date, and

- Assess the feasibility of harvesting under these permits. For example, do the permits cover enough timber, with adequate markets and stumpage rates to carry you through 2008 or until a WLP is approved?

It is worth noting that your cutting permits cannot be amended

“The MFR’s goal . . . is to ensure all woodlot holders who wish to harvest in 2008 are in a position to do so.”

if your FDP has expired—in other words, you can not amend these cutting permits after December 31, 2007 if your FDP expires at the end of 2007.

There is some risk in relying solely on this option for any length of time due to this amendment issue. However, this option could keep you operating while you prepare your WLP and subsequent cutting permits under the WLP.

2. Apply for new cutting permits under your FDP (before December 31, 2007)

You can harvest in 2008 if you have new cutting permits issued under your FDP BUT you must apply and have the new cutting permits issued before your FDP expires on December 31, 2007.

CAUTION: If the new cutting permit is issued after December 31, 2007, then you cannot begin harvesting until a WLP is in place.

Your objective should be to have sufficient cutting permits in place to ensure you can continue harvesting while your new Woodlot Licence Plan is prepared, reviewed and approved.

If you wish to pursue this

option, you should ensure your application(s) for new cutting permits are submitted in enough time for the MFR to **issue the new permit before** your FDP expires on December 31, 2007. The MFR will have a significant workload this Fall with other woodlot holders submitting WLPs and cutting permits.

Ensure you submit your applications early to ensure the new permits can be issued before the end of 2007.

3. Develop and submit a new Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP)

You can develop a new WLP and submit to the MFR for review and approval.

The review and approval process takes time so you should contact your local MFR woodlot representative to work out a date when the WLP should be submitted to the MFR.

You will want to ensure your plan can be reviewed and approved in sufficient time so that you can apply for and obtain the necessary cutting permits to continue harvesting.

Discuss with your local MFR woodlot representative

The MFR is anticipating a significant workload this fall with reviewing new WLPs and issuing cutting permits under existing FDPs.

To address this workload, the MFR is asking woodlot holders to review the options listed above and communicate their choice(s) to their local MFR woodlot representative.

This will assist the MFR to assign the necessary resources, priorities and operations to enable plans to be reviewed and permits issued to ensure you can harvest in 2008.

The checklist on the next page (Table 1) will assist in this activity.

(Continued on page 18)

| | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Does your FDP expire on December 31, 2007 yet you plan to harvest timber in 2008 on areas where you don't have a cutting permit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you plan to apply for cutting permits before the end of December 31, 2007? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you are aware of any factors that may limit your ability to harvest in 2008 under your current cutting permits? For example, do the cutting permits cover enough timber with adequate markets and stumpage rates? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you plan to submit a Woodlot Licence Plan before the end of December 31, 2007? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Table 1: Review Checklist

| Region | # of WL | # of WLPs Submitted | # of WLPs Approved | WL's with FDP's still approved past 2007 |
|--|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| RCO | 92 | 31 | 23 | 21 |
| RNI | 333 | 96 | 31 | 87 |
| RSI | 409 | 129 | 87 | 89 |
| Total | 834 | 256 | 141 | 197 |
| % of Total | | 31% | 17% | 24% |
| % of WL's with an approved FDP or WLP | | | 41% | |

Table 2: Woodlot Licence Plan Submissions and Approvals to June 30, 2007

(Continued from page 17)

Review Checklist (complete by September 15/07)

The Review Checklist above (Table 1) is designed to assist woodlot holders assess their position in terms of having the plans and permits in place to continue operations in 2008.

The MFR's goal for 2007 is to ensure all woodlot holders who wish to harvest in 2008 are in a position to do so.

If you have not already

discussed your plans with the MFR, particularly if you answered "yes" to any of the questions in the "Review Checklist" above, you should consider contacting your local MFR woodlot representative as soon as possible to ensure your operational needs can be met. Woodlot holders should also contact their local MFR woodlot representative if they have any issues or impediments that will prevent them from having the necessary plans and permits in place to continue operations in

2008.

Status of WLP Submissions and Approvals

Table 2, above, lists the number of WLP submissions and approvals, by region, of June 30, 2007.♦

Woodlot for Windows – new contact info

Forsite Consultants Ltd. has finalized an agreement with Mountain View Silviculture Ltd. in Smithers, B.C. to take over their forest consulting operations. New contact information for Woodlot for Windows enquiries is

Mike Bandstra, R.P. F.
 Forsite Consultants Ltd.
 1235 Main St. Box 3670
 Smithers BC V0J 2N0
 Phone: (250) 847-4822 Fax: (250) 847-4211
 Email: mbandstra@forsite.ca ♦



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Please note:

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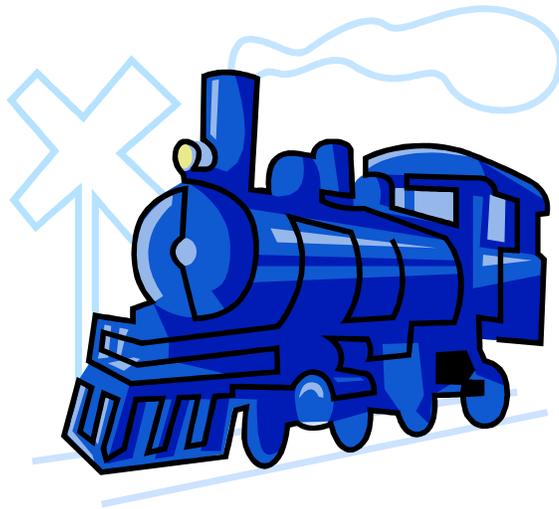
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