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Sat. Phone: 1-403-997-4970
Email: rick.welke@westfraser.com

**Thank you
to our contributors for this issue**

Deborah Greaves

Fred Newhouse

Coleen MacLean-Marlow and
Tom Bradley

Rod Krimmer

John Marlow

Brian McNaughton



Woodlot 0134 For Sale

600 ha AAC 1800m³
60 acres private land 5 acre mill yard
D165 cat Komatsu SLI30 Samsung excavator
4 BR House & Shop Asking \$240,000
Contact: Don Halvorsen
Box 9, Kitwanga BC V0J 2A0
Ph 250-849-5525 Fax 250-849-5332

Woodlot 0536 For Sale

Phone/Fax
250-992-2294

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www.woodlot.bc.ca

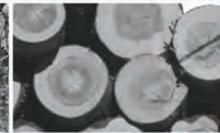
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Box 10033, Prince George, BC, V2K 5Y1
Tel: (250) 962-1928 • Toll-free: 1-888-925-9995
Fax: (250) 962-9199 • E-mail: cjmclary@shaw.ca

A joint publication of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations & the Woodlot Product Development Council



THE WOODLAND
ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Fall 2009

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Woodlot 400:

Talking with Stu Deverney and Barry Janzen about the relevance of an educational forestry woodlot in today's economy

By Deborah Greaves for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

The Selkirk College woodlot in BC's Kootenay region is significant as an area rich with acres of trees, a year-round stream and a wetland. It is also important for the select opportunities it offers to those who care for it. In many ways, Woodlot No. 400 is the pride and joy of Selkirk's School of Renewable Resources Program.

The woodlot managed by Selkirk College provides a wealth of project opportunities that benefit the students in the Renewable Resources program as well as the community nearby.

Contracts are entered into by the school with various community stakeholders that provide the time

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Contact: Brian McNaughton, General Manager • 381 Pheasant Rd., Williams Lake, BC, V2G 5A9
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Director Miles Fuller, Burns Lake milesf@telus.net
Director Mark Clark, Prince George markclarkrfp@shaw.ca
Director Nigel Ross, Campbell River blr@uniserve.com

FIA CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR

Nancy Pezel, Qualicum Beach islandswest@shaw.ca

E-FM CONTRACTORS

Coleen McLean-Marlow, Quadra Island cmarlow@oberon.ark.ca
Tom Bradley, Winlaw tomb@netidea.com

FBCWA PORTFOLIOS

Timber Pricing: Mark Churchill (Chair), Vacant (Interior), John Marlow (Coast); Legislation, Regulations & Policy: Cliff Manning; Marketing: Kathy Larson; National/External Affairs: Cliff Manning; Woodlot AAC Support: Mike Bandstra; FBCWA Business: Nancy Pezel, Cliff Manning; Communications and Public Relations: Lisa Marak; Safety: Shawn Flynn; Strategic Planning: Lisa Marak; AGM 2009 Co-Chairs: Tom Bradley, Dick Brenton, Jeff Mattes

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rently on CIO agendas are the Road System Rationalization Project (RSRP), the North East BC Pilot Project (NEBCPP), the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) and the Forestry Data Access for Industry Project.

The **Road Systems Rationalization Project**, Stage 1, detailed existing business processes and identified duplications and potential improvements. However, it was primarily an “in-house” process of MFR representatives from Branch, Region, and District offices.

The CIO became concerned about the lack of industry input. After discussions with the core RSRP team, the CIO was invited to become a sponsor with oversight responsibilities. RTEB has now opted to end the original project and begin a new project with a new charter incorporating the CIO’s involvement. The new project will take a broad view and assess the impact of business and system changes from the licensee perspective. Various industry representatives, including a woodlot representative, will participate in review teams. Jim Spenser of the CIO office is currently working with Dona Stapely of RTEB to establish a Project Charter.

The CIO continues to monitor the **North East BC Pilot Project** as becomes the North East Mapping Community Steering Committee. The purpose of the NEBCPP is “to strengthen the relationship between government and industry and deliver efficient and cost-effective and innovative solutions for data sharing, access and exchange amongst the organizations represented on the Steering Committee.” The CIO expressed concern that the steering committee was weighted towards government, and with some of the terms of reference. While the NEBCPP is sepa-

rate from the e-FM project, it does mirror the purpose and processes. The NEBCPP, with the support of government, industry, and oil and gas, is examining a “pull” method of supplying data to government systems, and hence has the potential to impact how we deliver data in the future.

The **First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)** is working with the Integrated Land Management Bureau to establish effective data and technol-

... change and system development seem to be our fate.

ogy sharing. The FNTC and the CIO have expressed a willingness to keep each other informed and potentially work collaboratively on projects of mutual concern.

The **Forestry Data Access for Industry Project** is a function of the Integrated Land Management Bureau. It was through this process that woodlot licensees obtained access to TRIM, ortho-photos, and many other data bases. Budgets permitting, planned 2009 – 2010 data updates are:

- Crown land ownership
- Forest administrative boundaries
- Land Act rights, interests (Tantalis), and leases; e.g., agriculture lease, grazing leases, UREPs, recreation reserves
- Strategic land and resource planning data access
- Ecosystem and Terrain Mapping Project boundary index

- Terrain and Ecosystem Information System (TEIS)
- Generalized ownership
- RESULTS: data quality and access improvement
- Range features / improvements
- Range tenures view improvement
- Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI): view improvement

Those of you who have persevered (or skimmed) to this point will have noted something: we have a moving target on our hands. When we started working to improve the relationship between woodlot licensees and the e-FM system in 2007, we imagined we had a reasonably well-defined task ahead of us. We are still working on Plan A, and making progress.

However, we now see that the e-FM system is evolving. We would all prefer a static e-FM system that worked well. But change and system development seem to be our fate.

Our task list now includes representing the interests of small tenures in the rooms where proposed changes are reviewed, and trying to ensure that woodlots do not get inadvertently blindsided with impossible to meet costs or requirements. ♦

Purpose of the WPDC

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

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

By Coleen MacLean-Marlow and Tom Bradley

The new fiscal year has arrived and with it the new reality. The expected financial pressures mentioned in the last e-FM Almanac article have set in. While we have confirmation that the Cross Functional (CF) Team will go forward, there has been little movement since March, as most members have been occupied with seeking funding, whittling budgets, and attempting to salvage programs.

With this fiscal reality in mind, the CF Team has re-prioritized the recommendations contained in the Woodlot e-FM Strategic Plan Project General Report. The resulting listing was based on need, value and cost factors that predict the likelihood of achievement. Emphasis will be placed on working closely with data custodians and accomplishing "pruning and snipping" within maintenance budgets.

WASTE

A recommendation from the Woodlot e-FM team report was to review and adjust the WASTE system for woodlots. Currently, licensees must do a waste survey (usually an ocular survey), have the survey results signed and/or sealed, and then enter the data into the WASTE e-FM system.

Work is underway with Revenue Branch to assess

Alternatives to the current process;

The need for the survey; and

If a survey is needed, how to

E-fix for E-FM

streamline the survey process.

RESULTS

Coleen Maclean-Marlow reports:

"The deadline for **Annual Reporting** has come and gone with remarkably little storm. Having left our own woodlot reporting to the last minute (somewhat like the old adage of the mechanic's car?), I sat down to fill in the blanks, only to discover my authorizations had been removed for ESF submissions and the RESULTS website was temporarily unavailable! Ah, well. The majority of the woodlot community must have done well, however, as there were very few calls for assistance."

The round of **RESULTS training** presented this spring was completed on March 31. Most, if not all, of the sessions were attended by either Dave Haley, Tom Bradley or Coleen Maclean-Marlow. In general, opinions expressed by attendees indicate that the training was greatly improved over initial efforts and was practical and useful. Many licensees were able to update their annual information during the afternoon sessions.

Stats from trainee evaluations:

Number of sessions: 9

Number of participants: 105

Number of woodlots represented (approx): 122

Average evaluation score (out of 10): 8.35

There is no further training planned

at this time.

The lack of comprehensive EFM training for MFR District Staff continues to be an issue for licensees and MFR staff as well.

Data cleanup

Funding for the MoFR data cleanup program officially wrapped up March 31, 2009. The clean-up project was modified and enlarged several times and went on longer than originally anticipated. And despite the extra time and money, not all woodlot cleanup was completed.

Dave Haley has obtained limited funding for the continuation of woodlot cleanup in the short term. He discusses this in an article in this edition of the Almanac.

CIO Forum

The CIO Forum is a clearing-house for information on the e-FM system and government systems in general. Due to economic restraints throughout the industry, the CIO Forum has opted for monthly conference calls rather than quarterly meetings. The new meeting format is short, concise and definitely less expensive. The one drawback is the curtailment of the round table discussions that face-to-face meetings engender.

Within constraints, the CIO is refocusing on being an information filter and advocate for industry. Topics cur-

(Continued on page 11)

Link of Interest

One-month and three-month Coast and Interior log market reports: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm ♦

► From page 1

and budget to carry out beneficial work and to experiment with a variety of water and forest management techniques. The nurturing of the natural assets in the woodlot and protecting the Blueberry Creek watershed are integral to the Renewable Resources program at Selkirk.

"We're unique in that Woodlot #400 is crown land with timber rights, and an educational institution," Barry Janzen, RPF and an instructor at Selkirk College. "We have a great venue in our woodlot to support our programs. We can expose students on the ground to natural resource management. We have professional foresters and biologists on staff and our students get involved."

Janzen, who's been involved with Selkirk's woodlot since 1983, said that the college doesn't receive government funding, so the woodlot must stand on its own and pay for itself. Along with revenue from tree harvesting, Janzen said there have been some fascinating educational payoffs, such as long-term soil productivity research projects.

In the college woodlot there are opportunities to simulate tree harvesting methods of different types to predict the long-term impacts of those methods in a variety of situations, and to measure their effects on the soil and its productivity.

While assisting with the work of various contracts, students at Selkirk College are able to earn a one-year Renewable Energy certificate, or a nationally accredited Two Year Technical Diploma, with specialties in Forest Technology, Integrated Environmental Planning Technology or Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Technology. Selkirk also offers an Advanced Diploma or Bachelor Degree in Geographic Information Systems.

Both the community's needs and Mother Nature provide the students at

Selkirk with project ideas. A significant project currently underway, Barry Janzen said, involves faculty and students of the School of Renewable Resources "getting our hands very dirty", measuring the causes and effects of soil compaction in the forest.

With BC's Ministry of Forests and Range as the lead agency for the project, the soil of special sections of the woodlot that have been subjected to varying degrees of compaction are studied.

"Some areas have been harvested without machines, so there's very little compaction," said Janzen. "Others have been harvested with some light machine use, and others were deliberately compacted. We're trying to measure the effects of compaction over the long term." Every five years, students and professionals like soil scientist Mike Curran of Nelson will measure the physical and chemical properties of the soil in the study areas. This is one project; Selkirk College's website lists a host of others taken on by the School of Renewable Resources that are valuable to both the college and the surrounding community.

Stu Deverney is a Registered Professional Forester associated for many years as the manager of the Selkirk College woodlot. Standing in the woodlot surrounded by forest and close to the banks of fast-running Blueberry Creek, Deverney spoke of a project that was pressed upon the college by a dramatic natural event.

"In August 2003 a large high-value wooded area was damaged by high winds. This was a protected riparian zone, but there was fallen timber in the creek, and this creek supplies water to 500 to 600 people," Deverney said.

"The wood had to come out of the creek. The Ministry of Environment, the Blueberry Creek Watershed Committee,

the Forest Service and the college worked together. We needed a good logging contractor who was very precise. We had to wait until the ground was frozen but little snow had accumulated."

It all came together. The students of Selkirk's School of Renewable Resources were involved in another project with important partners and a measurable effect on the Blueberry Creek watershed.

Another challenge: the school was asked to 'daylight' the highway that runs along one side of Selkirk's woodlot. Deverney said trees must be dropped carefully for a project like this- they must fall clear of the highway, and mustn't be dropped into the wetland.

With funding expected from the Columbia Basin Trust, Deverney said Selkirk was anticipating another special task in the Blueberry Creek area in its woodlot as well as McPhee Creek, stream temperature monitoring. Since the temperature of streams and rivers has a key effect on the health and life cycles of fish, stream temperature monitoring



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

► From page 3

“the need for trained people is as urgent as ever . . . ”

carried out by the school over a long term could yield valuable information.

Another long term project currently in progress is experimentation with various situations in the woodlot that promote optimal growth of young trees.

“The site will tell you what works and what doesn’t,” Deverney said during a tour in the Selkirk woodlot. “Naturally located trees grow on mounds here.”

Thus, students have created additional mounds in wetland areas designated for reforestation to help foster the growth of groundcover and to assist natural tree regeneration. The groundcovers offer protection to young seedlings during the heat of summer, but late fall dictates that foliage be ‘brushed out’ to allow baby trees to receive their share of light. It’s a delicate balance- in winter, tiny trees can be crushed by vegetation squashed on top of them by heavy snow.

Later, as a result of many plantings and natural seeding, there can be so many successful ten and fifteen-year-old trees that the woodlot will require thinning.

Deverney feels that knowledge of the local area and conditions is paramount for both successful forestry and community acceptance.

“The big forestry companies can experience too much public opposition. That’s why it’s a better idea to operate woodlots with people who are from the area, who know the community and local conditions,” Deverney said.

“Fifteen to twenty per cent of the students in the Renewable Resources program here already have university degrees before they enter our program,” Deverney said. “Many of them are in their mid-twenties and know how to apply themselves.”

“Some of our students were tree planters who wanted more involved work in the outdoors that uses more brain than brawn,” said Barry Janzen, “and some come from families involved with natural resources.”

Despite the economic pressures on the forestry and many other industries, Janzen feels the need for trained people in forestry is as urgent as ever.

“The forests haven’t got any smaller, and the management issues haven’t either,” Janzen said. “Mechanization has changed things, but today’s students are well informed about pine beetle, climate change, fire suppression and forest regeneration.”

The forests may be regenerating well, but the forestry business is struggling through a tough environment that won’t improve soon.

“Trees that should be sold for quality products like veneer are getting ground up for pulp,” said Deverney. “There aren’t enough mills left for quality product, and pulp mills pay for low value wood. I don’t see it turning around for a few more years due to the global economy, the softwood issues with the

US and current lumber prices.”

Meanwhile, the School of Renewable Resources continues its valuable work in the beautiful Kootenays, carrying out research and providing quality, hands-on education to the bright and dedicated people it attracts- people who love being outdoors, who care about the future of BC’s renewable resources.

Due to the challenges brought about by the global economic crisis and other uncertainties, the current outlook for the forest industry is uncertain. However, many of BC’s working forestry professionals are retiring, so career opportunities for the School of Renewable Resources graduates may come sooner than expected.

Skilled workers are needed in forest engineering, timber measurements, silviculture, planning, forest protection, computer mapping, interpretation of air photos and satellite images.

“There’s still an awful lot of forest out there,” Barry Janzen says, “and someone has to manage the interaction between forests and human activities.” ♦

FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licenses and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products.

The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy.

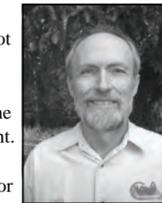
BC’s woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦

Column by licensee Rod Krimmer

My Two Cents: It’s All Good

It’s hard not to be a little discouraged lately. Many woodlot licensees I have spoken to are jaded about the whole program due to diminishing returns and the complexities of their management. It is often difficult to get people out to attend a woodlot meeting or participate in the functioning of an association. We all have other things of more immediate concern. You could call it apathy or you could just recognize that people must prioritize what they give their attention to these days. The thing is, what could be more important to give our attention to than the future of our forests and our livelihoods as woodlot licensees?

We have been sellers of logs and takers of price for almost 25 years now. That puts us firmly in the old economy. No one knows the depth or breadth of the



Rod Krimmer, Almanac columnist



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

changes now upon us but few believe that we will go back to the way it was. We should probably not expect to get a reasonable price for all our logs from a single buyer ever again. So what to do?

We could take some tips from newer players in the game like Community Forest Licenses who are starting out by finding their place in a new economy. In many parts of the province they are actively branding themselves as the local alternative to the old McForestry model. They

are partnering with First Nations, processors and manufacturers all down the line. And they are getting their message out to the people who will ultimately buy their product. We can take a similar direction but we are each too

small to go it alone. It would take a new attitude of working together that many of us are too cursedly independent to adopt. Casual conversations with others in this business might suggest different options for future prosperity as well.

In the scheme of things it doesn’t really matter whether we deal with this challenge individually or collectively. Diversity of approach is one of the great strengths of the Woodlot License Sector and we will each find our own way. Ideally we’ll learn from each other as we go. It’s all part of the process. As Bob Dylan stated in a recent song” I wouldn’t change it, even if I could. Hard to believe, but it’s all good”.

At least that’s my opinion. ♦

Rod Krimmer
W0550
Big Lake Ranch, BC

Coastal Timber Pricing Portfolio



John Marlow, R.P.F.

Licences. We continue to share a tabular rate table with the Community Forest Program and we continue to pay 30% of the average stumpage rate for major forest licensees.

Log prices have remained constant at historic low prices which should result in lower tabular stumpage rates for the 2010. The updated table will be released March 1, 2010.

Through the second quarter of 2009, there has been little change in regards to timber appraisals for Coast Woodlot

There have been 2 minor amendments to the Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM – Amendments 3 and 4). The only revision that affects Woodlots Licensees is that the minimum volume for Road Permit reappraisals has been increased to include Woodlots with AAC’s >7000m³. This is a very minor revision that could only impact a couple of licensees, and only if they haven’t harvested the previous year. I encourage those licensees that have AAC’s >7000m³ to contact me if they would like this minor revision explained in detail.

The issue regarding the difference between rate reductions between coast and interior (30% vs 15%) has been in limbo throughout the summer although this issue has been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Forests by the Community Forest Association (CFA). Ideally the

Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, in conjunction with the Community Forest Association can address his issue this fall. Previous requests by the CFA to immediately update the stumpage rate table as per current log prices were not acted upon, although this table revision will occur in the spring.

We continue to hold a seat at the Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee and the MPS technical subcommittee and we will keep licensees up to date on any changes to appraisal methodology. This will specifically apply to those licensees continuing with MPS appraisals.

I can be reached any time if any licensees have any questions about coast appraisal issues. Best of luck to all. ♦



Kaslo fun facts

(excerpts from the Kaslo Information brochure)

Big mountains, small village, rich heritage: Yours to discover

Kaslo is just a nine-hour drive from Vancouver and a five-hour drive from Kelowna. Highways are scenic and well-maintained. Kaslo has an airstrip for light aircraft and the Castlegar airport is a 1.5-hour drive away. Getting there is well worth the time!

People have been hiking, biking, swimming, climbing, fishing, boating and skiing around Kaslo for over 100 years. It's no wonder, given that the mountains, trails, and waterways begin just outside your doorway, and go on as far as your imagination can take you!

Catch a 30-lb rainbow trout or a land-locked salmon right on Kootenay Lake

See deer, elk, grizzly bear, osprey and eagles

Kayak to one of many pristine and isolated beaches in the area.

Bring your family and play on Kaslo's beaches, parks or playgrounds.

Bike the mountain trails near Kaslo and absorb the spectacular views

Explore the endless mountains in nearby Kokanee Glacier Park, just one of many provincial parks right on Kaslo's doorstep.

See you in Kaslo for the AGM on September 24-26, 2009!

Special rates:

Discount shopping for AGM attendees!

Kaslo merchants are teaming up to offer discounts to all attendees of the September 24-26 AGM.

Watch for details!



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Coffee Table Book

The much anticipated Woodlot Coffee Table Book will be available this fall. According to those who have seen the book in draft, it is AWESOME!

For those of you who are not aware, the production and publishing of a Woodlot Coffee Table Book is a Federation project. It was initiated to showcase and celebrate BC's woodlots and woodlot licences; including the woodlot owners and their families who do such an amazing job managing them. The book features woodlot owners and woodlots from all over BC. Every woodlot association is represented. If your picture isn't in the book, then one of your neighbours, friends or woodlot colleagues is sure to be.

Why publish a coffee table book? The simple answer - a book is timeless and a picture says a thousand words. The woodlot program is intergenerational so this book is a way for future generations to see and remember the current generation of woodlot owners; what they did and what they accomplished. In that sense, it is your book! It is a book about you!

Additionally, this book will be a valuable learning tool and will raise awareness about woodlots as it finds its way into the hands of the influential people, the general public, other organizations, etc. and into libraries, offices and educational institutions.

The plan is for each association to obtain a supply of the books for sale and distribution within their local area. The member price will be \$20 per copy and it will retail for \$39.95. You will also be able to order books off the Federation website.

This project was a significant undertaking which wouldn't have been possible without the contributions from quite a few people; it was truly a group effort! Thanks go to Wim Tewinkel who took all the photographs and authored the book, and to Vici Johnson who guided everyone through the publishing including the layout. Special thanks go to Kathy Mayes, Lisa Marak, Nancy Pezel, Tom Bradley and Cathy McClary who dedicated countless hours to ensure the book would be SPECTACULAR.

Everything to do with the book was done in British Columbia, with the exception of the printing which was done in China. This was strictly a cost consideration which was particularly important given the difficult economic times we're in.

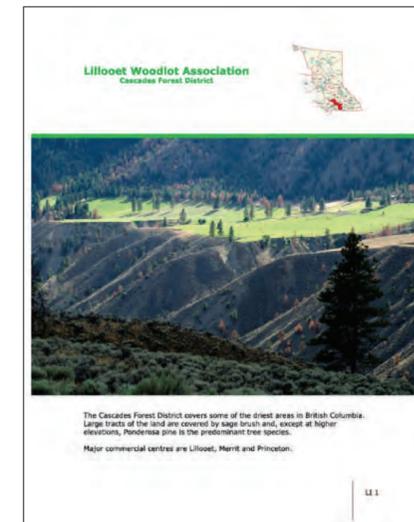
Enjoy the book and be sure to share it with friends and family. It will make a wonderful gift so don't forget to buy extra copies as Christmas or birthday presents! ♦

Reserve your copy of the new coffee table book!

The FBCWA has commissioned Wim Tewinkel to create a coffee table book, *Forest Life: British Columbia's Woodlots*, that showcases BC's woodlots and woodlot licensees and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few well-chosen words, the book attempts to capture the seasonal beauty of Coast and Interior woodlots as well as the spirit and culture of the woodlot owners and their families who so diligently manage their licenses.

The book can be ordered now online at www.woodlot.bc.ca, or by contacting Cathy McClary at 1-888-925-9995. ♦



The Cascades Forest District covers some of the driest areas in British Columbia. Large tracts of the land are covered by sage brush and, except at higher elevations, Ponderosa pine is the predominant tree species. Major commercial centres are Lillooet, Merritt and Princeton.

Member reflections: Creating the Climate for a Forest

The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block.

When I plant a tree I don't dwell on what the climate will be in 40 or 70 years. I look at the present conditions, the herbs, forbs and bushes around me to get a sense of how wet the site is or how nutrient rich. I look at the surrounding forest the planted tree is coming into, what kind of disease, shade and competition the tree is going to encounter in the first few vital years until its crown is established. We have our species selection guide books with a list of species preferred and acceptable. How often do we stray from that table?

Throw onto this the best guess of the scientific community as to the future forest conditions and you get stuck.

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The best guess is a warming of 2-4 degrees Celsius. This is huge when you are at the drier end of a climate zone. You think to yourself, this could all be grassland in a few decades.

As to moisture, the debate is still raging; science does not know precisely where it may become wetter.

In the economic world you hear the expression "creating the climate" to make money. This is mostly for the investment community. It's all about the mental state the investor or consumer is in. When George Bush extolled people to shop, shop, shop after 9/11 he was seeding the clouds, creating the climate. A similar shout is going out to the world. The web site 350.org is all about "creating the climate" that will slow down or reverse carbon emissions. The Copenhagen climate summit in December will be the stage for international agreements that will affect how we do business over the next several decades. Many of these agreements are about creating a climate both temperature wise and investment wise.

The effect of a changing climate has impacted our forests. Some have had the

shock of devastation. Losing a woodlots' volume to fire or beetles is sure hell. The natural response would be to reduce the risk, shorten the rotations and be more vigilant.

We all know the cause but what if the underlying message from the beetle is not about vigilance or short monoculture rotations but about creating a climate for trees to grow.

We all know how to tweak the growth and yield program to maximize the cut. But maybe in a market where it's increasingly hard to just sell wood, maybe more cut can be traded for other worthwhile goods like carbon credits.

Maybe we need to create the climate in our own small way. We can't do anything about the macroclimate but we do have an influence on microclimate. The value may be important over the short term for forest health and resilience but also over the longer term if we consider species shift over large distances. Allowing microclimate to provide cooler and wetter pockets can mitigate some of the harsher climate effects.

Let's look at this from a different perspective.

Most of us see the sun as an orb a long way away. During an eclipse or when the fog is just the right thickness we see this orb as a circle the size of the moon. We connect the boundary of the sun with the edge of the flaming orb. What if we took a perspective that the sun's edge wasn't described by this visible orb? What if the boundary of the sun was described by the distance at which solar radiation warms a surface? From this new perspective we are looking at the sun, we are in the sun.

What does it now mean to be within the sun? Would you do anything differently? What if it got warmer? Would you put up more awnings, maybe a new hat to reflect some of that sun?

Resilience is about increasing one's coping ability. That hat or sunscreen increases our resilience when faced with

an increase in ultra violet rays. I've noticed trees are not too different. Pruning a tree that has a direct line to the sun causes sunscald. Taking away the lower limbs removes the shade. All the value of pruning is lost on that first log. Pruning only trees with a companion shade tree on the south side maintains a healthy first log.

In the adjacent stands I tend to maintain a lot of standing trees for the shade they produce. My observations over time show varying response and surprising regeneration results. Recently my woodlot was reclassified as Interior Douglas fir from Interior Cedar Hemlock. The reason was that hemlock could no longer regenerate in the forest. The decision makers can't be expected to visit every hectare. I had to go into the forest district and region and explain that not only was my hemlock regenerating it was also growing better than ever in the warmer climate. The frost cracking that normally introduces rot wasn't common anymore. In fact last year my hemlock piling made more money than my Douglas fir peelers.

The challenge is not the creation of the climate for our forests future but the creation of the business climate that puts the value to our efforts. ♦

Fred Newhouse

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
- Quarter page
- Half page
- Full page

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

A complementary annual subscription is mailed to all advertisers.

Innovation & Flexibility in Forestry Required



Brian McNaughton

One of the Federation's submissions to the Forestry Regulatory Review in March 2008 addressed the need for FRPA regulations to provide flexibility so woodlot owners could alter management practices in order to adapt to changing environmental conditions caused by climate change. This was followed up by the Federation making a presentation to the Working Roundtable on Forestry in July 2008 calling for a broadening of perspectives; i.e. to look beyond timber and start seeing the value of non-timber forest products (NTFP), environmental goods & services (EG&S), agro-forestry, sequestered carbon, etc. The two submissions are related, speaking to the need to provide management flexibility in order to supply a wide array of revenue generating forest products.

The Ministry of Forests & Range is investing quite a bit of time and effort into FRPA flexibility. The Forest & Range Evaluation Program (FREP) has been examining whether FRPA is promoting or restricting innovation, the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) has this issue on its radar, and it's on the Minister's Forest & Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) agenda; on which I sit as the Federation's representative.

In addition, Jim Snetsinger, BC's Chief Forester, has initiated a couple of important initiatives with respect to innovation and flexibility. There's the Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative which delves into the way ecosystems as a whole are being managed today in light of future climate change. "Growing Opportunities" is a discussion paper looking at setting a new vision for silviculture in BC. In addition, a guidance memo encouraging more flexibility with respect to species selection as a way of promoting biodiversity and improving forest resiliency in the face of climate change is expected to be released soon.

An interesting thing about the silviculture discussion paper is that it sets the stage for

looking at silviculture as an investment opportunity rather than just an expense. This, of course, opens the door to looking at potential revenue streams and business opportunities arising from silviculture practices; i.e. NTFPs, EG&S, agro-forestry, sequestered carbon, etc.; i.e. the very same products required by WLS in order to diversify and expand woodlot business opportunities and revenue streams. Responses to "Growing Opportunities" aren't due until September 30, 2009. A copy of the discussion paper and a web-based response form can be found at

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/Discussion_Paper/ and I would encourage all woodlot owners to make a submission to express your thoughts and ideas!

So where do Woodlot Licences fit into all of this? WLS are ideal for moving innovation and creativity forward ... defined land bases managed by dedicated practitioners. Minister Bell acknowledged this in his address at last year's AGM in Kamloops when he specifically said WLS are the perfect tenure to try new things, to improve site productivity, improve crop quality, etc. He went on to note that WL operations are viewed favorably by the public, the scale of operations are such that if WLS can do it than so can large tenures, and if something goes wrong it's no big deal to fix it.

However, with all new things comes an element of risk! So how do we lessen the risk to the point where licensees will be willing to undertake new projects and District Managers will be willing to support them? How do we get past the apprehensions over trying something new and eliminate the fear associated with failure or the penalties that can result? From my perspective, it involves two simple actions. First, an innovative project should be identified as such so everyone knows that it's something new. That means we all accept that it might fail – but on the understanding that knowledge gained about something failing can be as important as finding out that something works. It should be done at a reasonable scale and not to the extent that the resource or resource feature is put at an unacceptable risk. The bureaucracy

must be minimal. Innovation must be genuine and a sincere attempt to do something better. It should not be used as to circumvent license obligations. Second, some FIA \$ be set aside should they be required to 'repair the damage caused by an innovation failure.' This would get the licensee and District Manager off the hook for trying something new ... because in the event of failure neither the MFR nor licensee would have to pay to get it fixed. Another way to look at it this is ... FIA \$ are government's investment in innovation!

One of FRPA objectives is to promote innovation. The FRPA framework and, in particular, the Woodlot Licence Planning & Practices Regulation can support innovation and creativity IF we choose to let them. Given the current economy and the need to change forest management in light of climate change and other forces, there is no better time than the present to get on with the task at hand. ♦

Brian McNaughton
General Manager, FBCWA

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Federation Represented on Forest Genetics Council of BC

Gernot Zemanek has been appointed to the Forest Genetics Council of BC (FGC). Jim Snetsinger, BC's Chief Forester, invited the Federation to have a representative on the Council and Gernot was kind enough to volunteer. Gernot is a woodlot licensee and owner/operator of Roserim Nursery in Canim Lake.

The FGC is a multi-stakeholder advisory body whose purpose is to champion forest genetic resource conservation and management (GRM) in British Columbia. It oversees the GRM strategic and operational planning, facilitates stakeholder activities, and develops recommendations regarding GRM priorities, \$ allocations, and policies and practices. ♦