

TEN RINGS

The First Decade of the
Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations

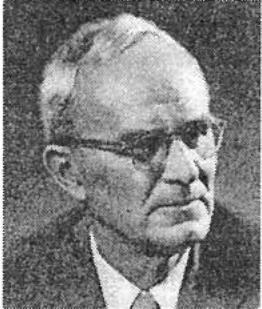
1988 - 1998

S. E. Andersen



The Idea and the Practice: Beginnings of Woodlot Forestry in British Columbia

F.D. MULHOLLAND



F.D. Mulholland (1882-1957), a senior government forester during the 1920s to the mid-1940s and author of the landmark 1937 resource analysis, *The Forest Resources of British Columbia*, was one of the first to undertake a serious examination of the non-industrial private forestry sectors of Northern and Central Europe with a view to assessing the relevance of their example for B.C. In the forest tenure policy debates during and following World War II, Fred Mulholland argued vigorously for a larger role for family tree farm enterprises:

It is reasonable to conclude, from the experience of these countries, that British Columbia would be well-advised to adjust its forest policy so as to encourage private forestry. The nature of forest administration which has been successful in European democracies should be observed. Their principles have been decentralization and co-operation of independent authorities, in definite contradiction to state coercion. Even the enforcement of the basic forest law concerning private owners has been delegated in the best organized states to associations of the owners themselves.
(Speech to the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, December 1939)

"TREE FARM NUMBER ONE"

After the provincial government passed legislation introducing the Taxation Tree Farm assessment classification, the first applicant, in 1952, was Thomas G. Wright, RPF. His Witherby Tree Farm became "Tree Farm Number One".

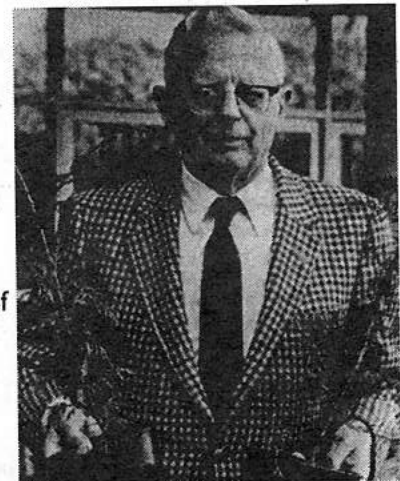
Tom Wright purchased 190 hectares with predominantly second growth timber at Witherby Point on Howe Sound in 1951. "I was obsessed with the idea of owning my own trees."

In 1984, the holding was supplemented with a Crown Woodlot Licence.

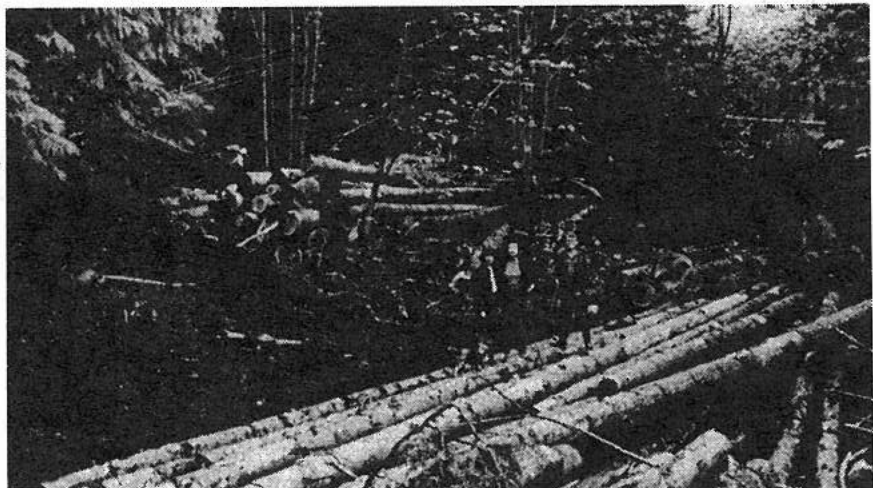
Now managed by son Bill and family, the Witherby Tree Farm has been an outstanding demonstration of innovative small scale forest management. *Demonstration*, as one of Tom Wright's forestry careers has been as an educator. He and Bill have hosted many interested visitors and students over the years and several of their management experiments - commercial thinning, shelterwood, growing "giant seedlings" - have been carefully documented for the benefit of other forest managers.

Innovation is integral to the philosophy of woodlot management: "In this business, you should be trying things that are a little bit crazy."

"It's a nice way of life, but there's plenty of hard work. It's a marvellous objective. Whether it can be done in a practical and profitable way depends on the people themselves. I'm very much in favour of smaller private ownership of the land."



Thomas G. Wright, RPF



The Wrights and logs at the landing, 1962 thinning operation, Witherby Tree Farm.

The 1970s: Origins of the Crown Woodlot Licence Program

"RURAL WOODLOTS"

Recommendation:

We recommend that the government institute a system of "rural woodlots" within the Slocan Public Sustained Yield Unit and available to Canadian citizens with three years' residency in the Slocan Valley. They will range in size from 10 to 1,500 acres, and preference will be given to the Valley walls adjoining inhabited lands.

Rationale:

This recommendation has grown out of a two-fold need: (1) to get access for local residents to public forest lands and raise employment levels, and (2) to get our most productive forest acreages under some kind of sensible and healthy stand management. We also feel that the public at large has been removed and isolated from any awareness or participation in the forests. This is why we have the present rift between the public, largely concerned with aesthetic and environmental concerns, and the professional forest managers who have been largely oriented to harvesting. This can only be resolved by a blend which can happen in a woodlot structure where local residents are encouraged to manage an area of forest for some of their wood and income needs.

Implementation:

...An extension forester from the Forest service would supervise the program. He will help in management plan development, aid in problem-solving, and do on-site inspection of woodlots to be sure no damage is being done and plans are being adhered to. He will also aid in marketing logs and the development of a woodlot holders' association. He must be carefully chosen and approved by the local resource committee.
(Slocan Valley Community Forest Management Project, Final Report, 1974)

THE BRIEF TO THE COMMISSION

Mr. Commissioner, I believe that there is a need in this Province for a concept of forest tenure which I refer to in this submission as "forest farms".

The concept is that the Crown would designate as forest farms, 200 to 1,000 acre areas of vacant Crown forest land which support 40 to 120 year old immature stands on medium to good sites. Priority would be given to land near cities, towns and public roads. These forest farms would be leased to individuals or families. These families would reside on or near the farms, and would earn the bulk of their income from the products of the farms.

...The evolution from competitive timber sales to "quota" allocation and tree farm licences has also had the undesirable effect of precluding the general public from direct participation in forest resource development, except as employees.

...I believe there are many people in this Province who would leap at the chance to earn their living from a forest farm. I also believe that the majority would be successful, and would give a new dimension to the social aspects of forest resource management.

...I hope, Mr. Commissioner, that this concept of forest tenure and management receives consideration.

The need, from both social and forestry aspects, is here now, and will become increasingly urgent over the next decade or two.

Forest farms, under various names and forms of tenure, are successful in all parts of the world where second growth management is needed. I believe they will be successful here.

("Forest Farms - A Complimentary Tenure Concept", submitted by J.R Collins, RPF, October 20, 1975)

THE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION

Today, there appears to be a significant and growing number of people seeking opportunities for small scale forestry throughout the province. This new interest has been generated by several factors, including the recent growth of concern for the natural environment and resource conservation; the resurgent interest in rural living; anxieties over new, large scale forms of industrial logging operations; and a reaction against the centralization and consolidation of control over resource rights and forestry operations.

Something Special for Small Scale Forestry

If you own land with trees on it, or if you are involved in, or want to get involved in silviculture, reforestation, or small scale timber harvesting and manufacturing, then you'll be at the Truck Loggers Convention, January 12 - 15, 1988.

This year, through the kind assistance of the Canadian Forestry Service, the 1988 Truck Loggers Association Convention is expanding its equipment and supplies exhibition to include Small Scale and Intensive Forestry.

You'll see the latest in reforestation and silvicultural equipment; down sized harvesting systems for economical logging of thinnings, firewood and second growth fiber; and processing equipment such as portable sawmills, chippers, processors, and firewood splitters.

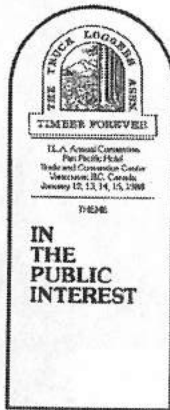
You'll also have an opportunity to meet the forestry contractors, the consultants, and all the technical, educational, government, and financial groups that play such an important role in helping people develop and utilize their private wood resources. Many of these activities are supported by the Canada - B.C. Forest Resource Development Agreement.

The timeliness of these exhibits is underlined by critical needs now facing B.C.'s forest sector. We need better utilization of the resource, more jobs, more diversity and better forest management, and this Convention can help get such activities underway.

If you want to get involved; if you want to increase small business activity through private timber, ranch woodlots, Indian reserve timber, or other private holdings, this year's Truck Loggers Association Convention is for you. See you there!

...Accordingly, I propose that the Farm Wood-lot policy be substantially revised to permit more small scale forestry on Crown land. There are several potential problems that a new Wood-lot system must be designed to circumvent. One is that since the scheme is not intended to serve the needs of typical industrial operations, licences should be structured specifically for small scale enterprises. They should therefore be limited in size, but large enough to support economically viable forest farms. I envisage small enterprises with little capitalization (such as a farm tractor, saws and necessary hand tools) employing one man or a family, or part-time or seasonal help. I see no need to restrict eligibility to farmers or even landowners, although residence in the area is a desirable qualification.

(Report of the Royal Commission on Forest Resources, Peter H. Pearse, Commissioner, 1976)



1980s: Momentum Builds

The January 1988 Truck loggers' Association Convention featured a first-ever exhibit of small scale forestry technology, organized by then TLA Secr.-Mgr. Bill Manson and forestry consultant Allen Hopwood. Debates held at the "In the Public Interest" convention were a significant part of the successful, broad-based campaign against the Government's intended "rollover" of Industry's Forest Licences to Tree Farm Licences.



A September 1988 "Woodlot Technology Conference" organized by UBC Oyster River Research Farm forestry coordinator Harold Macy was part of the momentum toward the founding of the Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations later in the year. The Research Farm's woodlot program and the North Island Woodlot Association were established in 1986, both encouraged by the local Farmers' Institute.

Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Tree Farm has been the site of many excursions, demonstrations and pilgrimages in recent years.

Somewhat overshadowed in the excited encounter by many visitors with the "work with nature" forestry principles implemented over half a century at Wildwood, is the fact that Merve is also very skillful as a woodlot product marketer and businessman.



THE UN-HOLY TRIP
1 CLEAR CUTTING
2 SLASH BURN
3 COMPANY FORESTRY

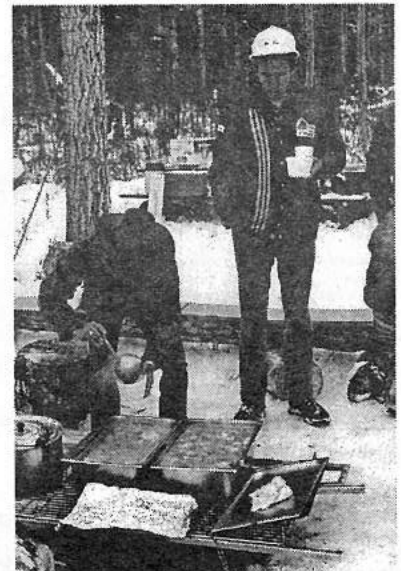
1988: Inaugural Meeting, Fort St. John



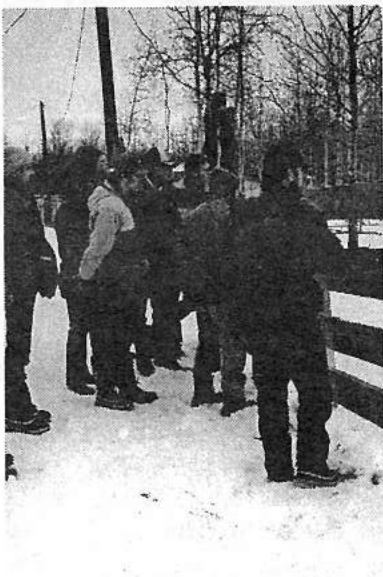
Strip shelterwood and other mixedwood stand management strategies were discussed by forester Dave Landry and colleagues during the 1988 field excursion to the local Rod & Gun Club's Woodlot Licence. Sadly, this woodlot was later returned - a casualty of government stumpage appraisal and log market policies.

Representatives of nine already established woodlot associations and a few newly forming ones gave reports on activities in their districts. President-Elect Peter Sanders led the group through a drafting of a constitution. A committee of Bill Bickford and David Smith proposed the "Purposes of the Society". The name, "FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS" was chosen unanimously.

Sandy Long predicted "100 to 200 woodlots in the Peace before long". Fred Marshall grilled the federal and provincial government speakers over their inconsistent policies, and Tom Redl lamented the clearcutting of the Interior Dry-Belt. Hans Scholz and Joan Barnetson were thanked for their organizing efforts.



Delegates to the inaugural FBCWA meeting were also treated with a visit to Bill Bickford's bison operation northeast of Fort St. John. Lunch in the field was a hearty buffalo stew. A few southerners forgot to bring their felt-packed boots.



The "original nine":

- Fraser Valley (1982-83)
- Boundary (1983)
- North Island (1986)
- Peace River (1987)
- Prince George (1987)
- Kamloops & District (1987)
- Gulf Islands (1987)
- Stuart/Nechako (1988)
- South Island (1988)

Woodlot logging cut will be doubled

By BEN PARFITT
6/7/89
San Forestry Reporter

The amount of wood cut under B.C.'s woodlot program will be doubled, Forests Minister Dave Parker said Wednesday.

Parker made the announcement after disclosing that an independent study of woodlot licences commissioned by the government had concluded there was room for expansion.

"This will allow 450 more woodlot licences for a total of 900," Parker said in a statement.

At present, about 420,000 cubic metres of wood a year is harvested under the program, which allows licences to combine up to 400 hectares of crown land with private land and manage it as a commercial forest.

Parker says the ministry will increase the annual cut to 850,000 cubic metres of wood, enough material to construct about 35,000 average-size North American single-family homes.

The cut will be increased by allocating forest land under the provincial government's small business forestry enterprise program (SBFEPP).

The SBFEPP is also expanding under a ministry program announced last year that transfers five per cent of the cut from major licences to smaller operators.

Last year the SBFEPP accounted for nine per cent of the provincial harvest and about 12 per cent of all stumpage revenue. This year the SBFEPP cut is expected to hit 10.5 million cubic metres and contribute \$150 million in stumpage to the government.

Bill Howard, manager of small business programs for the ministry,

said Wednesday the expansion of woodlot licences will bring added employment to individuals, Indian bands, horse loggers and some small companies.

Many people cutting wood on woodlot licences use selective logging methods rather than clear-cutting, Howard added.

He said the ministry decided to increase the cut under the program because "there was demand from families and individuals across the province."

Most people holding woodlot licences tend to supplement their income with other jobs, Howard said.

This was not to be the last of the broken promises.

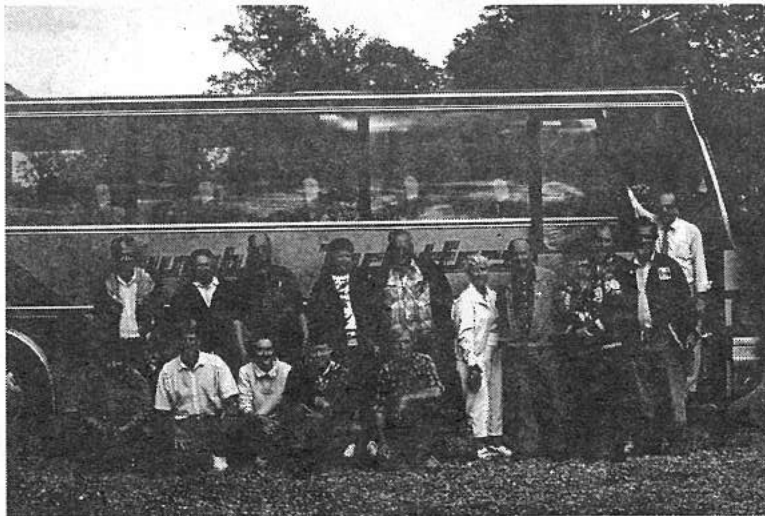
The recent establishment of the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners was one of the reports made at the 2nd Federation AGM, hosted at Williams Lake by the newly formed Cariboo Woodlot Association. The South Cariboo Woodlot Association also joined in the same year.

Disconcerting was the response received from the Ministry of Forests to the recommendations of the Bakewell Report on the Woodlot Licence Program: "Woodlot Licences are not intended to be a major source of income for the licensee. Rather, the intent of the program is to provide small-scale forestry opportunities."

There is consensus on the need to gather cost data for Woodlot Licence stumpage appraisal. Resolutions are passed to lobby for at least 5% of the provincial AAC to be allocated to the woodlot program, and for the FBCWA to be the primary agency to liaise with MoF on behalf of the private land owner. But who should do extension?

The "State of the Islands" conference gives a strong endorsement to increasing the number of Woodlot Licences; but the pattern of real estate development on the Gulf Islands has unfortunate consequences for woodlot forestry, and for the Gulf Islands Woodlot Association.

Minute-taker complains Fred Marshall is too hard to keep up with when he gets going on agricultural land issues.



Then and future Federation representatives Peter Sanders, Bill McIntosh, Harold Macy, Archie & Viola Strimbold and Eric Andersen joined Truck Logger, First Nations and IWA-Canada folks on the June 1989 "Future Forests Study Group" Tour of Scandinavia. Upon return, Bill bought some more land on which to plant trees.



The Small Scale Forestry Trail, ELMIA WOOD '89.



Harold Macy takes notes visiting a Swedish sawmill buying wood from over 60 woodlot owners in a year. "They are our biggest competitive advantage", we heard.

1990



Jay Springs Ranch/Woodlot Licence 311 at Pinantan Lake provided a diverse natural setting for a well-organized circuit of demonstrations, November 1990.

A gathering of over 200 in Kamloops was the largest ever arranged by the woodlot movement in western Canada, drawing woodlot owners and organizations from five provinces across the country.

A new report estimates 1 million hectares in medium or good productivity site classes in non-industrial private ownership, with a long term harvest potential of 3.4 million m³. How to reach the private owners?

Corky Evans was supposed to address environmentally sound logging on steep slopes in the ICH, but instead focused on the problems of capitalism.

Deputy Minister of Forests Wes Cheston predicted that, "Small scale forestry will be dominant in the 90s and beyond".

The Federation was joined by the Lakes District and North Coast Woodlot Associations.

FBCWA "Statement on Forestry Extension":

...The FBCWA is seeking to strengthen its own structure and efficacy by being responsible for the delivery of forestry extension services, and for the distribution of FRDA funds to woodlot owners and woodlot licensees.... Throughout the province there needs to be locally situated, qualified and experienced forestry extension officers... These services could be established within the framework of local woodlot associations, thereby strengthening its existence, or where no association yet exists, the officer could be centered on the local community college. In the latter situations the establishment of a local association would be one of his/her priorities.

(Director David Smith, South Island Woodlot Assoc., June 1990)

1991

Bill McIntosh took over the reigns from Peter Sanders as FBCWA President. "The major accomplishments of the [Prince George] meeting included the development of an aggressive action plan for the Federation for 1992, the main thrust of which was the creation and development of many more Crown and private woodlots in B.C."

Resolution #4: "That Archie Strimbold head a committee to explore with the Ministry of Forests, legal avenues to provide a method to collect dues from Crown Woodlot Licences to be delivered to the Treasurer of the Federation."

"WOODLOT PROGRAM - EXPANSION OR NOT?"

Following two months of extensive meetings and after reading all the written submissions it became clear that there are few issues within the forest industry on which there is any consensus. The closest thing to unanimity is the feeling that the Woodlot Program is a good program and that it should be expanded.... It is my strong opinion that the government cannot afford not to make the investment required to ensure the continuation and growth of this most important program.

(Report to the Minister of Forests, David W. Gillespie, Jan. 1991)



Jack & Avis Cook (WL 238) kept everybody supplied with hot coffee and chocolate as Winter hit the Prince George area for the 1991 field day.



The Hawk power scalper in demonstration.

1992

The largest Federation gathering hitherto and since was hosted by the Vancouver Island woodlot associations at Nanaimo in October.

"THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF WOODLOTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA"

...The writers of this paper have no overall solution...although they note that there are two broad issues: Which factors are under the control of the woodlot owner? Which factors are controlled elsewhere (particularly by government)?

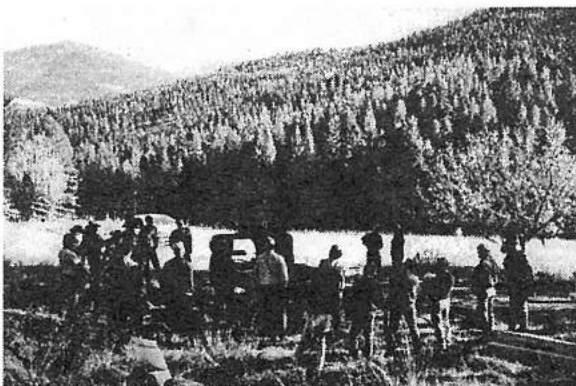
With respect to factors controlled by the owner, there are numerous 'minor' products that can be produced by the woodlot sector. If, however, all woodlot owners produced these 'minor products', local markets could rapidly become saturated, and sophisticated marketing and transportation systems would be required, with all the trappings of 'big business', something many woodlot owners tend to shy away from. This is an area where woodlot or co-operative marketing associations could be highly effective, particularly if organized and administered by the owners themselves. There are opportunities, and, as an example, the Christmas tree market is far from saturated.

The second issue concerns factors outside the control of the owner. It is suggested that all levels of government have a role to play in assisting to right many of the inequities in the present system. The authors do not recommend direct subsidies, as these create a 'reliance economy', further inequities and ever larger government bureaucracies. It would certainly assist to have tax equality with other primary producers such as agriculture, but even this is not a long term solution. The price of the product (whatever the product) must represent a reasonable return on investment. As the woodlot sector has such a small share of timber product delivery (8% as opposed to 92% from government and industry), then pricing and maintaining a competitive market is a government policy requiring attention and resolution. (Peter R.W. Sanders, Past-President, FBCWA, and Hans C. Scholz, President, Peace River Woodlot Association, Paper presented to the IUFRO Meeting in Berlin, Germany, September 1992)



Commercial thinning and small scale technology pioneer Bob Woods, Courtenay, has been of great service to neighbour loggers and the local equipment scene in introducing many new ideas in managing the second growth forests of East Vancouver Island. Together with son Kevin and crew, Bob demonstrated forwarding with a farm tractor and grapple-loader trailer for woodlot delegates on the 1992 field day.

1993



Fred Marshall's woodlot near Midway provided a magnificent setting for a full day of field activities following the 1993 AGM. At the end of the day, Fred got a big pile of sawn lumber out of the deal.

The Boundary Woodlot Association hosted the 6th Annual General Meeting at Greenwood. The theme: "Woodlots and Integrated Resource Management". The government's elaborate Commission on Resources and Environment was trying to address the land use issues of the Kootenays, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Vancouver Island. Who should woodlot representatives sit with at the table? Industry or environmental groups?

The Ministry of Agriculture's producer council check-off system program was under discussion as a possible mechanism to alleviate the "volunteer tea party". Ken Devick would take over the President's chair while Bill McIntosh headed up the initiative to set up a "Woodlot Product Development Council".

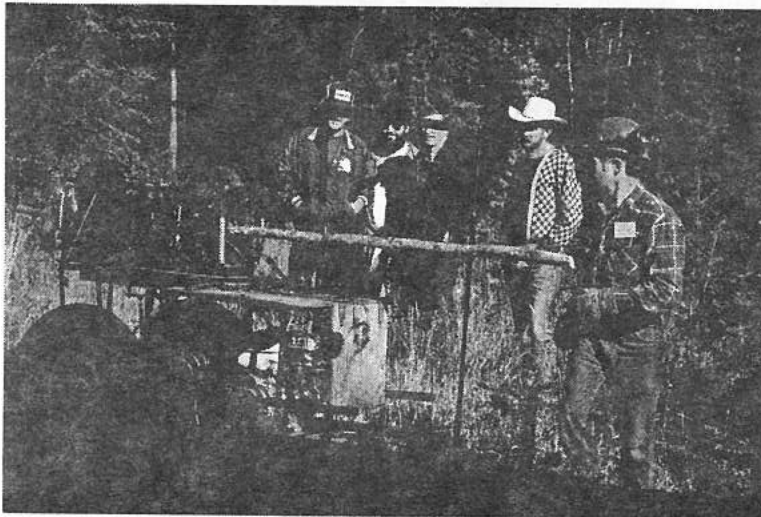
Morice District, West Kootenay and Shuswap/Okanagan Woodlot Associations join the Federation. Ken Renaud produces our first printed brochure, "The Independent Forest Farmer".

Innovation

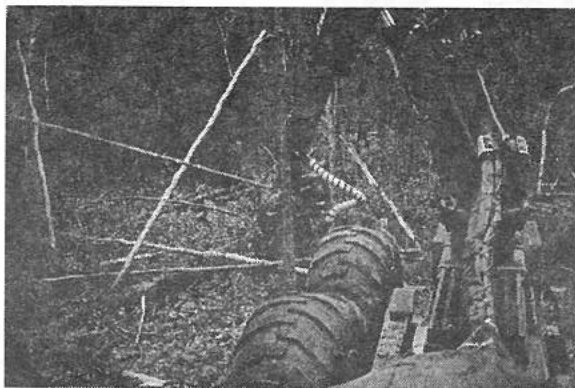
We have seen a number of examples of innovative harvesting technology in the last ten years of woodlot field days:



The BEAVER, designed at B.C.I.T. by Graham Cocksedge and Jim Campbell. Wildwood, 1988.



Orchard pole delimeter. Woodlot Licence 470, Midway, 1993.

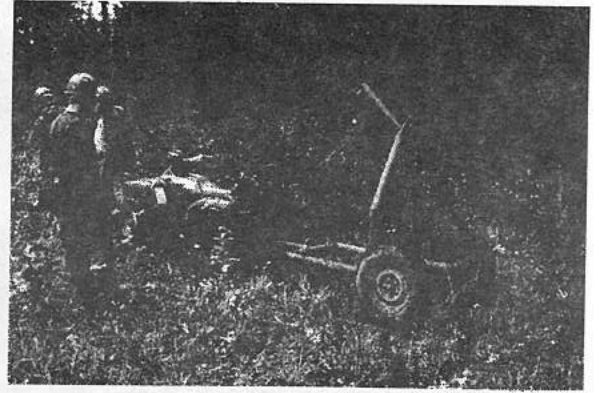


E.A. Stimbold Ltd. feller-processor and forwarder. The first successful implementation of this system in B.C. Paul Lake, Morice Forest District, 1994.

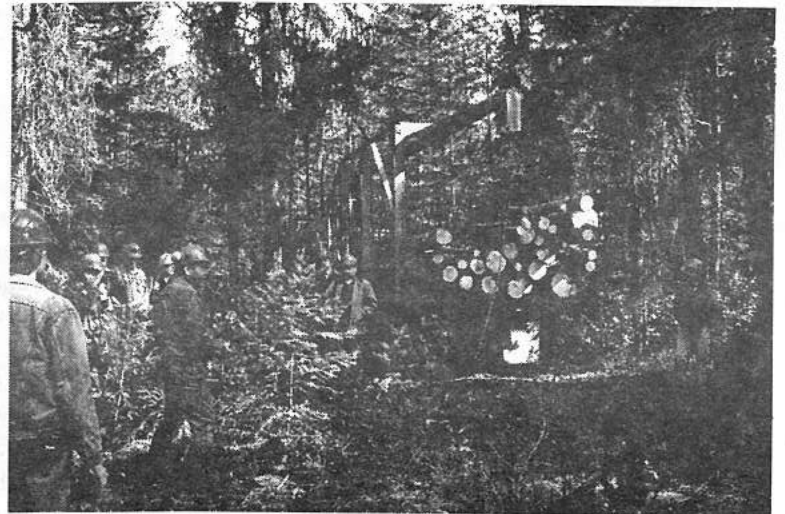
The First Decade of the FBCWA



Vanguard/Woodland Multi-Task Forwarder. Woodlot 588, 1997



ATV with arch. Woodlot 588, Williams Lake, 1997



John Shulte's Hi-Skid system, for skidding, loading, hauling and decking. Woodlot 588, Williams Lake, 1997.



In May/June of 1993, it was a group of Native small scale forestry enthusiasts which made the trip to Scandinavia and ELMIA WOOD '93, as part of the "First Nations Nordic Forestry Study Tour". The group visited a community forest at Skövde, southern Sweden (left). The local hunting club and ski trail society made active uses of this forest. In Denmark (right), forestry consultant Per Christensen of the local Small Forest Owners Association explained how extension services and log marketing were co-operatively organized by landowners, to guests Randall Lewis (Squamish), Joe Lattie and Chief Calvin Hyzims (Gitksan), Lyle Billy (Ehattesaht), Chief John Smith (Alert Bay), and Keith Atkinson (Nanaimo). Other participants included Chief Roger Jimmie (Kluskus), Thomas Pierre, Chief Leonard Thomas (Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council), Les Casimir and Gary Kijowski (Burns Lake Native Development Corp.).

1994

The 1994 meeting in Burns Lake featured the theme, "Forest Tenure: Large vs. Small, and How it Affects Our Environment, Community, Families and Economy". Now a Government Party MLA, Corky Evans was much more restrained on this issue than he had been in 1990 at Kamloops.

With Paul George from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee also among the speakers, everybody's attention got diverted from the tenure theme somewhat, with the result that Doug Routledge representing Industry on the panel got off a little too easily. Doug didn't address the social aspects of tenure policy; forest tenures were "an administrative vehicle".

John Morrison, B.C. Cattlemens' Association President and woodlot licensee, was concerned over the "anti-grazing undertone" in government policy initiatives, and wanted the *Forest Renewal Plan* renamed the *Forest and Range Renewal Plan*.

Where was the timber for the promised (again) doubling of the Woodlot Program to come from? According to Corky, from (1) Timber Licences reverting to the Crown, (2) the 5% takeback from major tenure transfers, (3) SBFEP Cat. I, and (4) lands which are otherwise politically unloggable. *None of this has happened in the years since.*

The then recently organized Quesnel Woodlot Association became a new member of the Federation in 1994.



First prize for best theme decoration over the last ten years must go to the ladies of the Lakes District Woodlot Association. At the end of the evening, their unique table decorations were auctioned off to raise funds for the Federation, by Parliamentary Secretary Corky Evans who said he wanted help down the road in getting his own Woodlot Licence.

Omineca Ski Club
Forest
Awareness
Trails



The Omineca Ski Club woodlot south of Burns Lake was the last stop during the 1994 field day. Its facilities have a couple of times provided the venue for the Canadian cross-country ski championships. As part of a 1993 package of legislative changes affecting the Woodlot Program, societies were no longer eligible for Woodlot Licence applications. The Omineca Ski Club, however, has been around since 1929 and has plenty of forest management expertise available within its membership.

1995



Len Bawtree and the Shuswap/Okanagan Woodlot Association hosts decided we would do something for the annual field excursion which hadn't been done before - take a look at some local nursery operations. We also visited the Kalamalka Research Station, where Ministry of Forests scientist Mike Carlson (above) showed us a wide variety of things going on in tree improvement research.

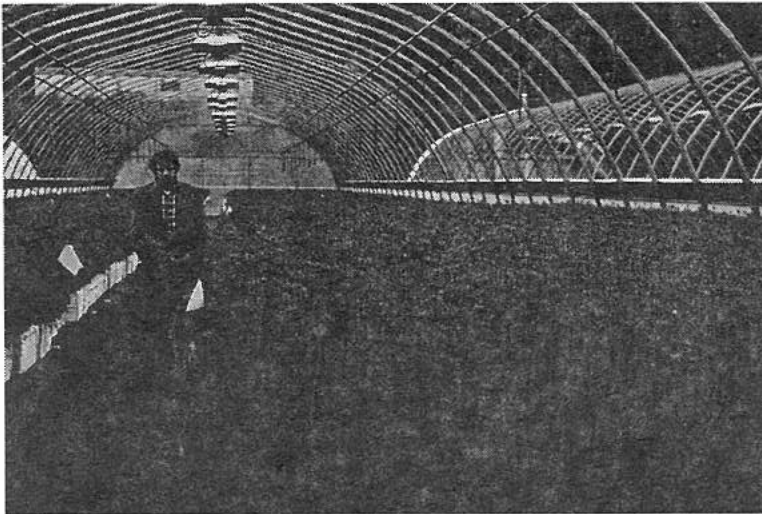
The theme of bureaucracy dominated discussions at the 8th AGM of the Federation, held in Salmon Arm. The Shuswap/Okanagan group invited everyone to come and contribute to the discussion on, "Seeking a Better Way".

A joint MoF-Federation committee had been at work since 1992 in seeking solutions to streamlining administration. Now this effort had to start all over again with the introduction of the *Forest Practices Code* in the meantime. With the various costly requirements to have RPFs sign off planning documents, there seemed to be no way of capitalizing on, or acknowledging the experience and abilities of individual woodlot managers.

First Nation and other agency referrals, and in some districts a scarce availability of available area were frustrating the progress of top-ups to 600 hectares in the Interior. Targeted program expansion was not being achieved, and a "doubling" was already being redefined.

The Federation was pleased to have in attendance at the 1995 AGM Jim Collins, retired forestry consultant and whose 1975 brief was a key inspiration behind the introduction of the current Woodlot Licence Program.

Mr. Collins had pointed out already then in his brief that little had happened in the twenty years since the consensus of the mid-1950s Sloan Commission hearings towards extending the tree-farm principle. Regrettably, another twenty years had now passed with only slow progress in implementing the concept.



Bill McIntosh inspecting the yellow pine at the Riverside tree nursery, Armstrong, 1995. Approximately a little over a year later Bill shaved off the beard, perhaps around the time that he saw that after all the travels and correspondence with licensees and three gov't. agencies, the establishment of the Woodlot Product Development Council was finally in sight.

In May 1995, the North Island Woodlot Association in cooperation with the Vancouver Island Association of Wood Processors hosted the first annual "Working Circle" conference. A Federation resolution in 1996 gave further encouragement to this type of collaboration with the newly forming regional organizations of value-added manufacturers.

In late 1995, Fred Marshall took on the Presidency of the Federation with energy, and by early in the new year a flurry of position papers were delivered to Victoria by Federation Executive committees. The topics were: private forest land taxation and classification provisions; reinstatement of the Low Volume Cost Additive allowance for Interior woodlot stumpage appraisal; exemption of Schedule A lands from the Forest Practices Code; upgrading of the MoF Woodlot Forester position; streamlining of administration; provision of extension services; proposed changes to evaluation, award and transfer procedures for Woodlot Licences; and program expansion and top-ups of existing licenses.

The Federation had now been joined by the Tatlayoko and East Kootenay Woodlot Associations, and received seats on the Coastal and Interior Appraisal Advisory Committees.



SEPT. 2/98

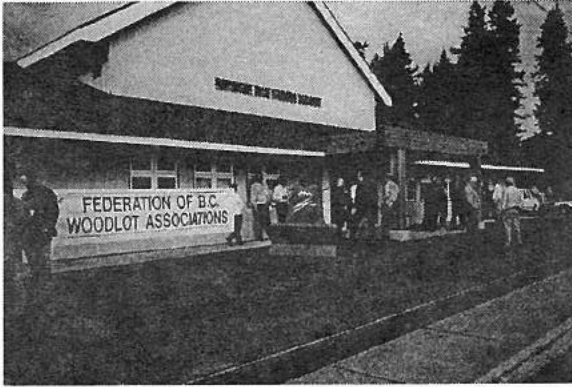
ERIC:

RE YOUR RECENT REQUEST ATT ENCLOSED FIND PICTURE OF INITIAL FIELD MEETING BETWEEN SOME EXECUTIVE OF FEDERATION AND POWERS!! OF FRBC AT FRED MARSHALL'S WOODLOT APRIL 30/1996. YOU MIGHT WANT TO USE FOR YOUR ANNIVERSARY DOCUMENT.

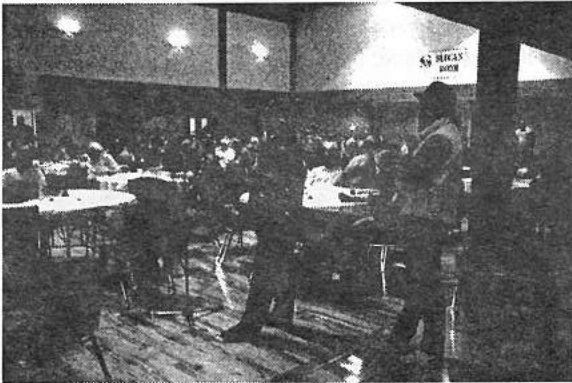
YOU KNOW MY FEELING REGARDING FRBC BUT AT LEAST PICTURE IS PROOF WE DID GET TOGETHER!
HAVE A GOOD TIME IN FORT ST. JOHN!!

GEORGE.

1996



Quesnel, October 1996. We finally got the name of the organization right on the banners. (It's a long one that doesn't exactly roll off the tongue either.)



Anne Davidson (Stuart/Nechako) and Tom Redl (Cariboo Woodlot Assoc.) line up at the mike to let 'em have it!

The organization's growing maturity is evident at a smooth functioning annual meeting at Quesnel where the program addresses a rather large number of complex issues pertaining to woodlot programs in B.C. New roles are identified in stumpage appraisal information-gathering, and there is going to be no more waiting for government to articulate needs and strategies regarding extension services for the woodlot sector. The *Recommendations for Administrative Streamlining* report is tabled. The Ministry responds to broader concerns raised about the status of the program by commissioning a new Woodlot Task Team, although we are not quite a full partner in it.

The still fledgling Forest Renewal BC, which announces new woodlot program initiatives, must somehow be helped through the learning curve of dealing with small scale forestry. Its provincial advisory apparatus doesn't include the Federation. Deciding how or whether to engage with FRBC is not an easy question!

Assistant Deputy Minister of Forests Janna Kumi: "The move is on towards small scale forestry, and woodlots are at the forefront. They have the government's support." Deja vu?

The Federation is joined by the newly organized Bulkley Woodlot Association.

"EDITORIAL COMMENT"

Remember this one: "I am learning less and less about more and more until, eventually, I will know nothing about everything".

Well, that is what is happening to some woodlot licensees that are not RPFs or "ologists" of some kind.

One of the four basic objectives of the Woodlot Program as stated by the Ministry is to "Increase the opportunities for citizens to be directly involved in small-scale forest management activities".

The program started out providing such opportunity. In fact, a level of trust began to develop between the Ministry and woodlot licensees in some cases. All those old fashioned things like reason, discretion, and practicality were frequently employed.

Then, along comes the Forest Practices Code wielding its big stick. We have since been reduced to peons. Why we can't even judge if a snag is dangerous or whether it is suitable for a woodpecker to hammer on. We can't count seedlings, O-K our own plans, build road, decide which silvicultural system to use or fight fire anymore without being certified. I feel like I'm losing control. I can't ever remember all the outfits whose blessing I must receive before a plan I didn't prepare is approved.

And then comes the forest cops. Lord spare me! Being the low guys on the totem pole, and fearing all their multitude of superiors, they completely shut down any reasoning power they may possess and spew out code doctrine verbatim. If you don't like it, you can always appeal, right??

I think we have suffered a deterioration in the freedom to manage our woodlots. Every year we are allowed to do less and less. After spending many years in the woods, some of us don't want to go back to school. Am I a dinosaur? Am I stuck? Maybe so. But I don't think I'm any less able to manage my woodlot than I was 8 years ago. Our government doesn't agree. (FBCWA Director Dick Brenton, West Kootenay Woodlot Association, August 1996)

1997

Forest Renewal BC representatives admit apologetically to delegates at the 10th annual general meeting at Williams Lake that woodlot licensees have contributed far more 'super-stumpage' into the Forest Renewal Fund than woodlot programs are thus far receiving for on-the-ground reinvestments. Initiatives are made to try to better tailor the application procedure.

The provincial government's *Jobs & Timber Accord* is announced. The Federation is not invited to contribute suggestions to the package. (Woodlot livelihoods are not really recognized as 'jobs'.)

Present Woodlot Licence program expansion targets are in jeopardy. One of the implications of the *Accord* may be a further securing of the crumbs of the forest tenure pie by the Majors, thereby limiting future woodlot program expansion.

The good news is that through diligent efforts by Executive members Ross Harris, Allen Hopwood and David Smith and the licensee cost survey initiative, the low volume stumpage appraisal cost allowance will be reinstated in the Interior and also raised on the Coast.

The Lillooet District Woodlot Association joins the Federation.

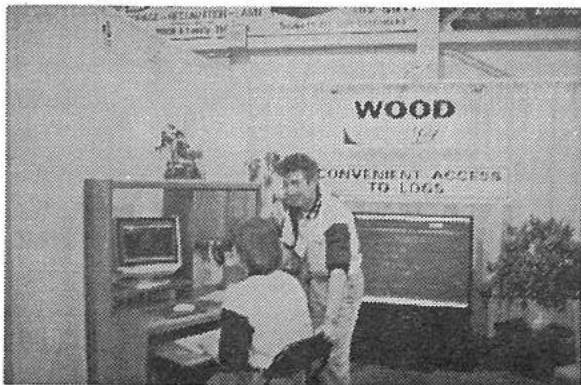
Concerns over the impending application in some form of forest practices regulation to private lands and over the continuing erosion of property rights lead the Federation to prepare and distribute a comprehensive position paper on private forest lands.



The 1997 AGM organizing committee can relax now after a job well done. Most are unaware of the workload, anxieties and frustrations of assembling this now fairly large-scale event. From left: Phil Blake, Alice Les Landes, Rod Blake; and behind: Barb and Rod Krimmer, and Rob Hood.



Cariboo Woodlot Association President Rod Blake welcomes guests to his woodlot, October 1997. "I didn't actually know what 'extension' was until I realized it was the advice in the field I've been fortunate to get all along from local Forest Service staff in managing this place."



After receiving some positive feedback on the concept from woodlot owners at the 1995 AGM in Salmon Arm, and a lot of work and investment, Tom and Heidi Redl were ready to launch their "WOOD BC" electronic log auctioning concept in 1997. Here they demonstrate the system at the Northern Wood Forum in Williams Lake.



Yarding with horses was one of a number of small scale logging systems featured during the 1997 field day. The Horse Loggers Association of B.C. was formed at a May '97 conference in Quesnel with Cariboo logger Rob Borsato as President.

1998

Some associations, notably Stuart/Nechako and Quesnel, take on administration of local woodlot extension.

The Woodlot Product Development Council is now in operation. Its Board of Directors include: Cathy Harris (Chair), Ken Devick (Vice-Chair), George Dore (Secr.-Tres.), Archie Strimbold, Robert Michele, Wilf Chelle, Greg Tegart (MoA&F), and Al Waters (MoF). Jo-Anne Lang is hired as Program Coordinator.

A legislative package is passed including provisions to ease some of the Woodlot Licence administrative burden, to allow licensees to own or lease small processing facilities, and to collect a Woodlot Product Development Fund levy.

The Federation is now represented on the FRBC Lands & Resources Committee by Director Bruce Ernst.

The Coastal Community Small Quota Holders' Association signs up with the Federation. South Okanagan and Merritt District Woodlot Associations are formed.

The first annual *Woodlot Calendar* and quarterly *Woodland Almanac* are produced and distributed.



Forestry consultant Robin Clark teaches the Federation's "Forestry: From the Ground Up" course in Squamish, May 1998. The course was first proposed by the FBCWA in 1994 and developed with the assistance of the Canadian Forest Service. By 1996, *Forestry: From the Ground Up* was operational and has since been offered in most Districts in cooperation with the Forestry Continuing Studies Network. In the near future, this course may be complimented by new types of course offerings for woodlot operators - perhaps eventually as part of a Master Woodland Manager Program.



Squamish licensee Allen Woods discusses a log marketing issue with David Smith, Vancouver Island, April '98. Who needs log brokers? Through information exchange and some cooperation, woodlot managers can put it together for themselves.



Young spruce saplings, Fort St. John 1988.

**In 1998 we
are back in
Fort St. John
to assess the
growth!**

Federation Builders 1988 - 1998

Federation Directors, Alternate Directors and Contributors * 1988 - 1998:

FBCWA Presidents:

Peter Sanders (1988 - 91)
Bill McIntosh (1991 - 93)
Ken Devick (1993 - 95)
Fred Marshall (1995 - 98)

Eric Andersen
Valerie Anderson
Harvey Anderson
Jack Bakewell
Len Bawtree
George L. Benwell
Bill Bickford
Rod Blake
Geoff Bodman
Dick Brenton
David Clarke
Chris Cunningham
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Ken Devick
Glen Deacoff
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TEN RINGS

Design, Writing, Production:
(Photos except page 1 and where noted)
S.E. Andersen

Printing:
Gramma Publications
Vancouver, B.C.

September, 1998

(* With sincere apologies to individuals who were inadvertently missed.)

***FEDERATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS***