

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC







www.woodlot.bc.ca

Fall/Winter 2017

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by Sara Grady

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council held their joint Annual General Meetings this fall at Sun Peaks Resort, a beautiful all-season destination just outside Kamloops.

The agenda was focussed on achieving "Peak Performance" as stewards of BC's smallest forest tenure - the woodlot licence, a small part of the province's Crown forests, ~2.2 % of the annual provincial timber harvest – and the discussions were framed around the concept of "Social Licence".

An unprecedented wildfire season has changed the landscape for over 30 woodlot licensees, so their task is that much more onerous, but they're up for the challenge.

The conference was opened by Olympian and Senator Nancy Greene Raine, Director of Skiing at Sun Peaks. She talked about the development of the resort and the community consultation that was, at times, challenging but necessary to ensure that all the stakeholders had input and were invested in the process.

This included delicate, at times highlycharged, negotiations with the First Nations bands whose territory overlaps with the expanding ski hill. With compromise and creativity, consensus was reached to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

Panel discussions were held with thought-leaders from, among others, the Forest Practices Board, the Union of BC Municipalities, the BC Cattlemen's Association, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and representatives from Woodlot Associations throughout the province.

The first panel, "What is Social Licence?", laid the groundwork for subsequent conversations, sought to define the term "social licence". While each panelist had a slightly different perspective, the overriding themes were communication, trust and understanding.

Quadra Island woodlotter Coleen Maclean-Marlow's input was an example of the necessity to keep in constant contact with the community. Caring for Crown land on

cont'd on page 8









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WPDC PORTFOLIOS

Almanac & Annual Report: Chris Hawkins, Brent Petrick; AGM: Dean Daly; Contract Management: Dean Daly, Brent Petrick; Extraordinary Project Proposals: Brent Petrick, Chris Hawkins, Jerry Benner; FBCWA Liaison: Dean Daly; Financial Management: Alison Patch; Fund Management Liaison: Blain Arnett; Nominations/Succession: John Massier; R&D Project Proposals: Brent Petrick, Chris Hawkins, Jerry Benner; Questionnaire: Blain Arnett, John Massier, Website: Blain Arnett; Woodlot Stewardship: John Massier

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL • THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

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■ General Manager's report

Operational Reviews follow Catastrophic events

by Brian McNaughton

What a year! Spring flooding, summer wildfires, blowdown in some areas and more recently, reports of widespread growth in Douglas-fir and spruce beetles.

The exact numbers on Woodlot Licences (WL) impacted by wildfires this summer are not yet available, but the best estimates suggest 40 WLs and ~9,700 hectares. About 25 had >50 hectares burned; some 100%.

For those impacted, it's yet another challenge to overcome. In an effort to help, the Federation has released three documents:

- 1. Wildfires & Woodlot Licences

 Important Information for
 Woodlot Licensees. This document
 summarizes BC Wildfire Services'
 responsibilities and a WL's rights
 when it comes to wildfires; including
 mitigating impacts and damage caused
 by fire control efforts.
- 2. A Strategic Approach to Post Wildfire Activities on WLs. This document offers some guidance on how to tackle the daunting task of dealing with the aftermath of a wildfire.
- 3. Woodlot Licence Amendment (Wildfire) Template. The WL Planning & Practices Regulation says if the requirements of a WLP cannot be met because of the occurrence of a natural event, the woodlot licensee must notify the District Manager, amend the plan and not carry out any operations until the amendment is approved. This template guides a licensee through the amendment process, including areas that the WLPPR allows for exemptions or alternative performance requirements.



Brian McNaughton, General Manager

When dealing with a catastrophic event, a key consideration is whether there is enough AAC available in the current cut control period to deal with the salvage volume. If not,

there are two options – a Cut Control Limit Exemption (CCLE) or AAC uplift. For many reasons, the CCLE is recommended. You will want to deal with this well in advance of running out of AAC so you don't have to stop operations.

This year's wildfires destroyed over 1.2 million hectares, caused over 65,000 people to be evacuated, destroyed homes and businesses, displaced or killed countless cows and wildlife and cost over \$560M for fire-fighting alone. Cache Creek, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Clinton, the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Joe Rich (Kelowna), Clearwater, Monte Lake and Little Fort were threatened and impacted to varying extents. But in recent years it's been Oliver, Harrison Lake, Kettle River, Barrier, Canal Flats, and Kelowna. And let's not forget about Fort McMurray, Alberta.

People are concerned, and rightfully so. There were a number of resolutions put forward at this year's Union of BC Municipalities convention covering topics ranging from improved delivery of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) to a call for regulations that require fire management plans that prioritize public safety over other forest management initiatives. The kind of message I heard while attending the Federation's booth on the trade show floor was that scenic

values and winter range requirements should not supersede protecting people and their communities from the risk of wildfires.

It promises to be an interesting winter. Minister Donaldson has announced a review of the floods and wildfires with assurances that communities. First Nations, independent contractors and stakeholders will all be engaged. The Federation will undoubtedly be involved. In fact, during our first meeting, the new minister expressed a strong interest in discussing the Federation's suggestion that perhaps FRPA (Forest & Range Practices Act) should have objectives for fire and forest health. Whether it be fuel loading or the overall health and condition of our forests, a review of current management objectives and practices is needed.

In addition to the provincial review, individual ministries have commenced their own reviews. The Federation was recently contacted by BC Wildfire Services (BCWS) who are canvassing the province talking to various organizations looking for input to answer the question - What operational improvements are required to protect forest and range values from future catastrophic fire events? If you've got some thoughts on this, then let your Association representatives know or forward them to yours truly. We will definitely be having more discussions with BCWS in the weeks and months to come.

I certainly hope this winter is considerably less exciting than the rest of the year.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday season!

Brian •

Perspectives from my stump

by Jeff Beale

Greetings to all woodlot licensees throughout British Columbia from my stump in the northeast near Fort St. John. Taking the top stump (<30cm) to serve the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations will be an engaging opportunity to help the Federation continue to provide a high level of services to all regional woodlot associations. I welcome your direct input however you see fit: through your associations, via the Licensee Annual Survey, Directors' meetings, AGM's or Board monthly conference calls. All woodlotters PAY Levy monies into the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC), which means each of you are contributors to the FBCWA. The Federation is the delivery agent for 75% of the WPDC annual funding.

IF YOU READ THIS Please participate in the upcoming Surveys, OR pitch ideas to FBCWA Directors whose contact information can be found on the website: www.woodlot. bc.ca. To be honest, I have rarely done the Survey, which may seem a surprise, because it hits me in Tax



Jeff Beale President

season. I guess it is time for me to change and practice what I am preaching from my stump!

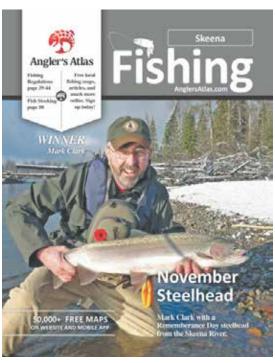
The FBCWA has done great work in promoting government relations, regulatory policy analysis and recommendations, and

tools & training for the good of all woodlots; (Cutting Permit check-list is but one that comes to mind). As our trees put on growth rings each year there is always more to be done. Keep tuned for the new Woodlot Licence Plan template & training, Inventory Handbook, Wildfire & Interface strategies, etc.

At our recent AGM at Sun Peaks Resort we shone the light on woodlots delivering 'social licence' and that's on top of our many unique ways of enhancing families, communities and First Nations engagement in managing small-scale forestry in BC's diversity. My pitch to all is, to see more of this social aspect while doing great forest management on our woodlot licences.

Lastly, a huge pitch to Mark Clark, outgoing FBCWA President who dedicated countless volunteer hours over many years at the helm of the Federation. May the fish he catches next be the BIG one!

Jeff ♦



Mark Clark Past President

Links of Interest

- Our own website: www.woodlot.bc.ca
- The Working Forest newspaper offers an e-newsletter and a newspaper on small-scale forestry across Canada: www. workingforest.com
- Douglas Fir Beetle Fact Sheet http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dqu/ DouglasFirBeetles factsheet FLNRO Web.pdf

Please help us out! If you are transferring or selling your woodlot make sure the new licensees get their own copy of the Almanac by asking them to send their contact information to the WPDC Coordinator. Also if you wish to remain on the Almanac's mailing list let Cathy know.

Extraordinary People and Projects

by Dean Daly

Looking forward to freeze up and reflecting back on the past year.

Sitting in my office, I find myself willing the steady rain to turn to snow. Thinking back, it has been another busy time for the WPDC and I want to start by recognizing the Directors who helped guide the WPDC for the last two years. A big thanks to both John Massier (Past President) and Blain Arnett (previous Vice President) for their efforts to lead the WPDC through several important initiatives during their terms in the executive. Taking on these roles as volunteers is a significant time commitment and we truly appreciate your skills and efforts to ensure the WPDC continues to benefit all woodlot licensees!

The WPDC Directors indeed took on some important strategic work in 2017. We scheduled an extra meeting in Prince George in June to review and



Dean Daly President

finalize amendments to the WPDC financial management policy. These amendments were necessary to reflect member survey input regarding our spending and investment goals (to provide broad benefits to woodlot licensees

while maintaining an investment surplus of between \$2.0 and \$3.5 million).

As a result of that work, the WPDC decided to create a new policy – the "Extraordinary Project Proposal" policy (EPP) as a vehicle to make targeted investments which provide the broadest benefit to woodlot licensees across the province. This policy was formally introduced to members at the AGM in Sun Peaks in early October. The WPDC has agreed that the first fiscal year period (Nov 1, 2017-March 31, 2018) will be a pilot period for this new initiative

and \$100,000 has been budgeted for potential project funding during this pilot period. We will learn from the application review process and project implementation, and anticipate that we will likely make changes to streamline and improve the policy initiative for next fiscal year. The WPDC will decide on an annual budget for the EPP based on a number of factors including high priority projects identified through the annual member survey, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations priorities, as well as the health of the WPDC investment surplus.

On behalf of the WPDC Directors, I would like to thank all woodlot licensees for their continued support. It is a privilege to work on your behalf to steward the WPDC levy funds, and to help deliver programs which benefit and promote woodlots in BC.

Here's hoping for a fast freeze up and favourable skids!

Dean •

Woodlot Product Development Council

Extraordinary Project Proposals:

For the 2017-18 fiscal year, the Board of Directors for the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) is commencing a pilot initiative to allocate funds to Extraordinary Projects that are not included in the joint work plan with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA). Eligible proponents must be one of the following: Woodlot Licensee, Woodlot Association, WPDC Board of Directors or FBCWA Board of Directors. The total amount allotted is \$100,000. After the first intake of November 1, 2017, applications will continue to be received until the end of the fiscal year. In the event of competing proposals, the Board will assign the highest priority to Provincial projects that benefit the most woodlot licensees, a medium priority for regional and a lower priority for association level projects. Application forms can be found on the website: www.woodlot.bc.ca

For more information, please contact WPDC Coordinator: Cathy McClary Email: cjmcclary401@gmail.com • Phone: 250-961-0271 ♦

Responsibilities and Achievements

by Ed Hughes, RPF

Al Bennet (Temporary Director Timber Pricing Branch) and Jason Nunn (Temporary Manager Timber Pricing Branch).

Following the resignation of Steve Kozuki (past director of Timber Pricing branch) in October there are temporary changes to staffing in Timber Pricing branch. The selection process for the new director position should be completed by year end.

A walk though Tabular Stumpage Rates on the Coast

Most of the major coastal licensees are completing full MPS appraisals. For those who haven't pulled out a Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM) lately, there is a great opportunity to take a walk through the CAM and understand how tabular rates work for community forests and woodlots on the Coast, now posted on the FBCWA web site. Alternatively send me an email and I will forward you a copy. The two-page summary article is too technical for an almanac article, but well worth a look if you are a Coastal Woodlot Licensee. Thanks to Kelly Schellenberg from Timber Pricing branch for putting this together.

Market Pricing System Advisory Committee (MPSAC)

Over the past two months there have been weekly MPSAC conference calls. These calls are confidential, technical and provide open dialogue between industry and Timber Pricing branch. The new Coastal Appraisal Manual is planned for approval by December 1, 2017.

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC):

The CTPAC meeting on Oct 19



Ed Hughes, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

provided the broader coastal licensee group an opportunity to be updated on the MPSAC progress. The primary purpose of this meeting was on the Coastal Appraisal Manual.

AGM

During the AGM,

Coastal Woodlot Licensees were updated on coastal stumpage and waste issues, primarily during the breaks. The social license theme provided lots to think about all the benefits that Woodlot management provides to society, communities, the environment and the local economies. The range of speakers all had great insights into our social responsibilities and achievements.

There are timber pricing implications from social achievements as part of the time and expenses that woodlot licensees contribute. Prior to 2007, when full MPS appraisals were required for Woodlots, it was important to keep records of the costs associated with all woodlot efforts. Periodic cost surveys were completed to document the appraisal allowances for low Allowable cuts and cutting permit volumes. Documentation of these costs might be required in the future so, it is still important to document all the social costs for looking after your woodlots.

New Appraisal Issues – Continuous communication

The Coastal Timber Pricing portfolio provides assistance to Woodlot Licensees upon request. If you have any concerns or issues I can be reached at 778-424-6129 or by email at ehughes2@shaw.ca. ◆

FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licences 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 worldrenowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. •

Please note:

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



Fire Damage, Assessing Waste and Harvest Completion

by Debbie Zandbelt, RPF

The Interior Appraisal Manual has had its scheduled fall update to Table 6.2 which includes stumpage rates for all newly issued Cutting Authorities (CPs). For currently issued CP's the annual August 1 update has also occurred. All woodlot licenses can view their updated rates in the Harvest Billing system or review the table at this weblink on page 6-4. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry/timber-pricing/interior-timber-pricing/interior-appraisal-manual.

Within the Federation's Board of Directors there are now two new Directors that head the Timber Pricing Committee. Jon Seinen for the Interior and Coleen Maclean-Marlow for the Coast. These two folks will eventually take the place of Miles Fuller. Miles has graciously agreed to continue with us during a transition period. Jon and Coleen will work with Ed and I to strategically steer us on our timber pricing priorities within the Federation and we are very happy to have them aboard. Their contact information can be found at the front of this Almanac. Miles has been a strong voice for you over the years in support of the importance of stumpage in the woodlot licensee's economic stability. Great Thanks to Miles for his support and appreciated hard work over the years.

One project that has been on the table is the Federations priority of improving the ability of woodlot licensees to have an economically sensible way of assessing waste on woodlots. Over the past two years the Ministry of Forests has embarked on collecting detailed waste information on several types of sites in the Interior.



Debbie Zandbelt, RPF Interior Timber Pricing Coordinator

This field work is now complete. The Ministry of Forests is now in the compilation and analysis stage. I am currently finalizing a draft proposal for waste assessments in

the Interior, give me a call if you have specific concerns in your area.

Fires on woodlots. What would a 2017 Timber Pricing report be without some mention of fires! There obviously were many woodlots impacted by the fires this year. The pricing mechanism for the fire burned wood on woodlots is the same tabular rates that we always use. On the FBCWA website under the Licensees section there is a document entitled "Suggestions for a strategic approach to post wildfire activities on WLs." This document is worth the read if you have fire damaged stands. I would like to also suggest taking detailed pictures of your stand situation (and ground conditions). Make sure the location and time of the photos is well documented. A written detailed log of time of events will be helpful in the future. With the large scale of fires burning in 2017 it will take some significant time to work through all the Ministry of Forests and licensee obligations.

I monitor the volume billed on woodlot licensees annually and it is no surprise that licensees are busy logging this year. Just a reminder that waste assessments are still required at harvest completion and that the volume billed is added to the cut control volume harvested.

Over the past year there was an initiative put forward by the Ministry of Forests to review three Timber Supply Areas in the North West (Kalum TSA, Nass TSA, TFL 1 and TFL 41) to potentially convert these TSA's from the Interior Appraisal Manual to the Coastal Appraisal manual. These were the management units that are transitional areas from the interior to the coastal climate and topography. This initiative has been cancelled with the primary reason that there was not the Industry support needed to make the move.

I can be reached at 250-549-3089 or Debbie@woodlot.bc.ca for any questions, concerns or ideas for future articles! I appreciate the calls, as it keeps me informed on the current issues that you as woodlot managers are incurring. ◆

Notice:

New Cutting Permit Amendment – Ministry of Forests Directional Letter

November 3 2017 a new Cutting Permit amendment guidance letter with respect to amending cutting permit boundaries was issued. It was updated to better align with new amendments to the Interior Appraisal Manual due to the fire activity of 2017 but is relevant to other sudden and severe natural occurring events out of the licensees control. If any questions, please call or email Debbie Zandbelt, Debbie@ woodlot.bc.ca or 250-549-3089.

It can be found on the Federation website at under notices and bulletins. ◆

an island known for its pristine shores and vibrant rainforests requires delicate handling to ensure that ecotourism and thoughtful harvesting of timber can be complimentary rather than contradictory. She described the efforts they make to keep the community informed and engaged, making their harvest plans available online, making phone calls and literally going door-to-door when they have plans to harvest that might impact adjacent homes or popular recreation sites. As Coleen so aptly stated, having conversations with all the stakeholders - a notion echoed by fellow panelists - even when they're uncomfortable, is key to maintaining trust in the social licence.

This sentiment was echoed by UBCM's Brian Frenkel, who spoke about the abundance of forestry-dependent communities in the province. He addressed the pressures placed on communities that rely on a lumber mill as their primary source of employment,

and the need to engage their members when decisions have to be made about the future of timber harvesting, processing and marketing. He contended that communities don't need to be 'consulted' on choices made by woodlotters or lumber mills, they are simply seeking information about the rationale and be given the chance to ask questions. The willingness to share the logic behind business decisions gives those impacted a sense of confidence in the industry, earning social licence.

Dave Clarke, Executive Director, Forest Practices Board, added an important nuance to the definition of social licence, pointing out that simply following the rules is inadequate. When met with public dissent, woodlotters are ill-served if they point to the regulations and the fact that they're fulfilling them without giving the dissenter a hearing. He also reiterated Brian's point: the public don't necessarily expect to be consulted, they simple want information to

achieve understanding.

During the second panel, "Social Licence: How is it achieved?" Ainslie Jackman, Board Chair of the Valemount Community Forest, shared the inspiring story of how her community is rebuilding their forest economy after a vacuum was created when the primary employer, Carrier Lumber Mill, relocated in Prince George, taking skilled labour with them. With their economy struggling and need for a solution they acquired Carrier's timber licence and began rebuilding a forest economy in the Village using the Community Forest model. Patience, planning and sound fiscal management resulted in the acquisition of the abandoned mill and the revitalization, and utilization, of the facility was re-invigorated. They lease the lumber yard to a wide variety of local enterprises, each creating jobs and economic vitality that circulates throughout the community.

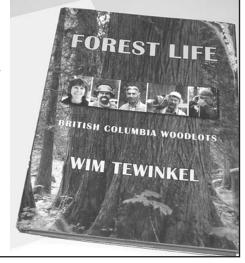
Jenn Davis, Executive Director,

"Forest Life" makes a great gift

Are you looking for a great gift idea? Look no further! Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots by Wim Tewinkel showcases and celebrates BC's woodlots, woodlot licensees, and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

You can order it from www.woodlot.bc.ca for only \$39.95, or woodlot licensees can buy it from their woodlot associations for only \$20.00 ◆



Resource Practices Branch, MFLNRORD, talked about some of the regulations creating a hindrance to more dynamic decisions being made that would be specific to individual operations. She also spoke to the negative public perceptions that can also hinder progress, pointing to the necessary "clear cut" salvage of mountain pine beetle stands and knowing the public points to that as poor stewardship and the norm in BC's forests. She speculated that stewardship is losing its place within the guidelines of the Forest Range Practices Act and wondered if bringing it back to the fore would help win public trust.

Kevin Boon spoke on behalf of the BC Cattlemen's Association and explored the existence of multi-use tenures, and the cooperation and understanding that's required to maximize the benefits for all parties, including the communities. As Kevin pointed out, many Crown tenure users overlap – ecotourism, grazing, fishing, logging – and the various stakeholders can always benefit from communication amongst themselves and with the community. He also suggested

that a challenge in achieving social licence is acknowledging the disconnect between the public's perceptions and the facts, that online sources have turned someone's opinion into "fact", regardless of its efficacy. He posits that this tool can be used by stakeholders in forestry and ranching to offer the facts about ranching and forestry practices and inform the public and reduce resistance to this vital part of BC's economy.

Lisa Marak, woodlotter and secretary for the FBCWA, spoke on the woodlot program saying that woodlot licences are an excellent tenure for achieving social licence as they are small, area-based long term tenures, located close to communities requiring the licensee to take a hands-on approach to forest management. Woodlot licensees often live near the land they are licensed to manage and develop strong bonds with their neighbours and community.

The change in provincial government has signalled some subtle changes in resource management, including the addition of Rural Development to the

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. As Dave Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, explained, the small resource-based communities are vital to the health of the province's economy and the woodlot program is an important part of that equation. He assured the woodlotters that steps were underway to streamline administration for woodlots as it relates to reporting, and that wildfire response and suppression measures were also under review. He repeated the sentiments of prior panelists from his department's perspective, pointing to the overlap in stakeholders and the importance of finding ways to balance their needs.

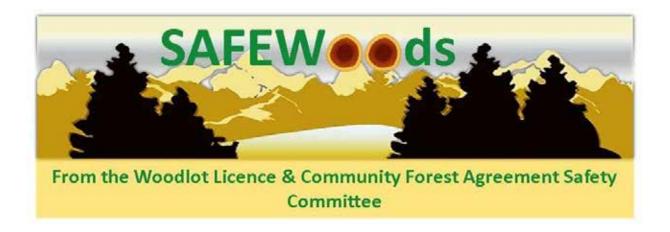
Woodlotters will continue to care for BC's Crown forests and uphold their commitments that are the roots of social licence at a time when balancing the social, environmental and economic imperatives has become that much more of a challenge. •





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. ◆



Post Wildfire Operational Safety Bulletin

As we move into fall/winter, after a summer filled with devastating wildfires, new hazards have risen within the new landscape of many woodlots and community forests in British Columbia. These new hazards affect all phases of forestry from planning to post harvesting. Some of these hazards include; unstable trees, unstable ground, air quality, increased blowdown and hot spots. The Woodlot License & Community Forest Agreement



Safety Committee has developed a resource of additional considerations when working on land that has been affected by wildfires.

Phase	Additional Considerations
Planning Phase	Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards
	 Guide the development of harvest plans (and tree retention
	potential), consider undertaking a field review to assess general tree stability
	 Keep up to date on potential new restrictions, regulatory changes
	 Give extra consideration to slope stability, assess steep slopes that may have been compromised/unstable ground
	 Use extra caution during bid tours and all assessments as hazards are unknown
	 Consider clear cuts vs partial cuts to decrease the chance of reoccurring fires and/or blowdown

	 Determine potential access issues due to damaged roads/bridges/culverts Determine the scale and intensity of the fire and if its fully out Identify a refuge area for field crews to address risk during wind events Consider widening road right of ways to remove trees that will be hazardous during operation
Development Phase	 Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards Conduct a recce to determine if plans are viable & identify hazards Use extra caution during general hazard assessment/ overall site assessment as hazards are unknown i.e. ground stability Determine appropriate natural drainage as organics and infrastructure (i.e. culverts) may have been destroyed/damaged during the fires
Harvesting Phase	 Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards Remove danger trees concurrent with harvesting. Trees planned for retention must meet Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessment Protocol Consider development of an air quality protocol to address ash and debris as well as hot spots still producing smoke, respirators might need to be worn Limit hand falling as unstable trees and ground could affect safety Assess ground stability due to compromised root bed and soils Machine operators should use extra due diligence when navigating around trees, as a slight bump could cause them to fall
Post Harvesting Phase	 Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards Consider development of an air quality protocol to address ash and debris as well as hot spots still producing smoke Subsequent operations such as site prep, planting, brushing and spacing should be preceded by the removal of any dangerous trees. Trees planned for retention must meet Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessment Protocol

Additional resources can be found at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/rsi/fsp/Misc/Misc071.pdf

http://www.forrex.org/sites/default/files/forrex_series/FS19.pdf

My two cents worth: a licensee's opinion

Interface Zone: Where all the action is

by Fred Newhouse

In the New World Webster's Unabridged dictionary, Interface is both a noun and a verb. As a point or means of interaction between two systems, disciplines, groups, etc. and to interact with another system, discipline, group, etc.

Currently in B.C. we have a defined interface zone on the landscape roughly defined as boundary between the extensive forest landscape and the urban/rural zones.

Essentially, we have two systems operating, one defines life by the community planning process and the other operating as a terrestrial ecoregion at the large landscape level. Landscapes at this level are modelled after the natural range of variability based on biogeoclimatic zones defined by the NDP (natural disturbance pattern). For the interior this is usually the return time and average size of a fire, although of late beetles could be thrown in there and the average fire size might be a bit bigger than natural.

The community plan is initiated by the City, Town, Municipality or Regional District and focuses on the urban and rural areas. Through a series of public meetings a plan forms around

the citizens input. This plan instructs the governing structure and does not replicate the Natural Disturbance Pattern. There are reasons for this and a big one is the risk of fire.

A similar dilemma was in place prior to the fur trading days. The solution arrived at by First Nations was to not wait for the large periodic fires but initiate light frequent burns around village sites, hunting areas and travel routes not to mention those pesky hard to burn high elevation east aspects sites like Tweedsmuir Park (I mention this site as it was the birth place of the Mountain Pine Beetle Pandemic). This frequent burnt pattern is area still evident on our present landscape.

Fire proofing in this zone (interface) is proving expensive and that doesn't even count the maintenance fee.

This is where the noun pops out. Currently there are three tenure sizes in the interface zone. Of the three tenures two have a frequent return time due to their smaller scale. The smallest of these is the woodlot license at 600 to 1200 ha, with a frequent return time to this area of 1 to 5 years. Currently there are 870 woodlots throughout the province and many are in the interface zone. Fire proofing comes as a side dish to the harvesting part.

For the most part the edge of the two systems butt up to each other without a point or means of interaction.

The large wide scale fire patterns re-enacted through harvests in the ecoregions and the community plan on the other.

My suggestion, treat the interface zone as the first nations did, a zone where the cultural disturbance pattern prevails, an interaction zone between the two systems, be it shorter rotations, wider spacing or other innovations that spin out of the mind of the woodlot license holder (or the other small tenure, the community forest).

The cry always goes up that biodiversity might not be best served this way. Dr. John Bliss looked at 60 watersheds on the coast of Oregon and found that watersheds with mostly small forest holders had slightly higher biodiversity levels than the watersheds occupied by National Forests (ecoregions) and a far larger amount than the large private forest holdings.

This would seem to be a wise course of action even without climate change. With climate change this may be the prudent choice as well. ◆

R & D Project Funding Available

The annual work plan has an allotment of \$5,000 for R & D Projects that will benefit woodlot licensees. If you have an idea for a project, submit a proposal to the Woodlot Product Development Council by January 31. Once submitted, proposals will trigger a discussion between the Council, Federation and proponent(s). The project proposal form can be found at: http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/wpdc.html#projects ◆

Stocking Standards, Free to Grow & RISS

by Tom Bradley

New Provincial Default Stocking Standards

The latest version of the Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards has been posted to the FLNRORD web site. The updated table contains new standards for the new South-Central Columbia Mountains BEC system and for the IDFxh4 in the Boundary country.

Your first reaction may be "Why would I care about Code era stocking standards?"

Answer: Under FRPA, your stocking standards are set in your Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP). Many WLPs contain a paragraph from the WLP template that says:

"WLPPR s.35(1)(b): Adopt the stocking standards, regeneration dates and free growing dates described in the MFR publication "Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards", as amended from time to time, that are in place on the commencement date for the area."

If that paragraph is in your WLP, you have committed to the provincial default standards, which are contained in the "Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards" spreadsheet. The name is pure Code, but the content is for FRPA.

Before harvesting, you are legally required (WLPPR S 33) to determine which stocking standard(s) apply to your harvest area. You need to determine what set of standards your WLP committed to, and what the applicable standard says.

If you feel the stocking standard you have agreed to has shortcomings, you can propose an amendment to your WLP to add a more suitable standard or standards. For example, to add acceptable species. A rationale will be required. FLNRORD can approve or reject your proposed amendment. Note that a WLP amendment to change a stocking standard must be done before harvesting, not after.

The government web site is being "improved". While the old web links to the Reference Guide still work, FLNRORD stresses that they will stop functioning soon and that we should really go to:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/stocking-standards/stocking-standards-density-espacement

Now that is a link. Sure is great they are improving the gov't web to make it more user friendly!

Late Free to Grow Date

We were surprised to find that the latest Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards still contains the "old" late free to grow dates. The number of years varies between coast, interior and upper elevation stands, but the impact is the same.

The late FTG date sets the number of years after the commencement of harvesting that you are allowed to meet your free to grow stocking objectives.

For most low to mid elevation interior harvests, the late FTG date is 15 years. As soon as you cross your WL boundary into the TSA, the late FTG date is 20 years. The rationale for this is that the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation effectively sets the late FTG date at 20, while the Woodlot Planning and Practices

Regulation (WLPPR) is silent.

When things go well, FTG is often achieved in 5 to 12 years. When things go badly (drought, pests, ungulates, etc), well, 15 years is very short.

If you want 20-year late FTG, you can propose adding amended stocking standards to your WLP. You may wish to discuss the likelihood of approval with FLNRORD before investing time/money in proposed amendments.

Also note that if you are aware that you cannot achieve the free growing date you have committed to because things have gone badly, you are required to propose an amendment (WLPPR S 23).

The Federation plans to propose amending WLPPR to set a 20-year late FTG date.

RISS-wl Signed Off

On October 23, 2017, we received a letter from the Chief Forester noting that she had been delegated by the Minister to specify the form and manner of silviculture reporting under WLPPR S 76.1, and that the reporting specification and requirements are outlined in the RESULTS Information Submission Specifications - Woodlot Submissions. (Better known as RISS-wl.)

This letter formally establishes the status of RISS-wl and the instructions it contains on how and what to report to RESULTS under regulation.

As the Almanac goes to press, we are seeking clarity on what the status of RISS-wl was before the October 23 letter.

RISS-wl can be easily located online by a Google search. ◆

FBCWA Scholarship Awards

by Nancy Pezel, FBCWA Treasurer

We are very pleased to announce that two FBCWA Scholarships are being awarded this year. The two annual awards are given to students who are related to a woodlot licensee &/ or a Private Forest Land Owner or sponsored by a woodlot licensee and are attending or planning to attend either a post secondary institution or a trade school, preferably in a forestry-related area of study.

Duncan MacNaughton, the recipient of the \$2000 scholarship, was sponsored by The Nature Trust of BC, the licensee of W0852. The woodlot has been associated with the East Kootenay Woodlot Association for the past 7 years. Although Duncan lives in Vancouver, he has volunteered the last two summers with The Nature Trust of BC as part of the Okanagan region Youth Crew and this summer has volunteered in land management activities for the Nature Trust of BC at various conservation areas throughout the Cariboo, Omineca and Peace regions of the province.

In spending time in the field with both his grandfather Jim, who was a forester in the Williams Lake area, and his father Carl, a land manager of the Nature Trust of BC, Duncan says he has developed an appreciation for the balance between economic, social and environmental values that can be found in appropriate management of our natural resources. Duncan has just started his first year at UBC, and is enrolled in the BSc Natural Resources Conservation program.

Samantha Ballan, the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship, is the daughter of Lori and Don Ballan (W0558). Her family has been members of the South Cariboo Woodlot Association for 10 years. Samantha says that after taking Biology 11, she developed a greater understanding for the interconnectedness of the biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems and the critical role of each species in maintaining biodiversity and was enthusiastic to participate in planting seven thousand seedlings on the family woodlot.

Samantha is currently enrolled in the Applied Sustainable Ranching diploma program in Thompson Rivers University in Williams Lake, where she is gaining insight into the benefits of improving native plant and animal communities by making ranching operations compatible with nature. She says that "as a student in the Applied Sustainable Ranching program, business plans are built with both environmental and economic sustainability in mind as we learn how to reduce the impact of the resource industry on ecosystems. The importance of social responsibility is also stressed." The education and skills she is acquiring will be very useful in helping manage the family woodlot and ranch.

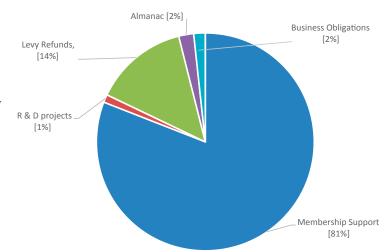
In this issue of the Almanac you can read Duncan and Samantha's essays that answer this year's topic, "When it comes to woodlot licences, what does social licence mean to you?".

The five-member scholarship committee was impressed with the quality of all the applications. Thank you to all who applied.

The funds for the \$2000 and \$1000 awards were generated through the "Silent Auction" at the FBCWA AGM. Please continue to support this worthwhile cause at next year's AGM.

Where your \$0.25 annual levy goes

The Woodlot Product Development Council has a responsibility to ensure funding originating from the woodlot levy is prudently managed and used only for work and activities consistent with the Purpose of the Council which are to: Promote a positive image of the woodlot industry and its products; educate the general public and buyers about the benefits of BC woodlots and small-scale forest management and initiate and support research programs for the development and enhancement of the woodlot industry in the province. The pie chart shows a breakdown of where the levy is used. •



FBCWA Scholarship Winning Essay:

"When it comes to woodlot licences, what does social licence mean to you?"

by Duncan McNaughton

Having grown up in a family of resource and conservation land managers, mostly within a small community in the South Okanagan, social licence is an important concept for me. To me, social licence in regard to woodlots means that the woodlot operator

has earned the ongoing support of the surrounding community for the woodlot's licenced activities. A woodlot operator has the responsibility to manage their licenced forest area in a manner that will sustain this important natural resource in perpetuity, while also caring for all other aspects of their licenced forest area, on behalf of the people of British Columbia. The support of the community, both locally and province-wide, is critical to the long-term success of BC's Woodlot Licence Program.

If I had my own woodlot licence to operate, I would strive to achieve social licence in a number of ways, generally centered on developing trust and awareness within my local community,



as follows:

Be approachable: I would post signs on my woodlot, with my contact information, encouraging the public to contact me if they have any questions regarding the woodlot operation. This demonstrates

openness to the public and develops trust.

Be demonstrative: I would actively encourage any interested individuals to take a tour of the woodlot with me. where I could explain the concept and operation of woodlots, and the benefits that they have for the community. I would focus on how my woodlot operation helps to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem for a wide variety of plants and wildlife, and how maintaining healthy timber densities helps to keep communities safe from interface fires. Direct invitations to naturalist clubs and service groups would help spread awareness among the broader community.

Maintain a positive personal outlook: The most important way for me to achieve social licence is in keeping an open mind and a proper attitude with regard to my industry and to community engagement. When faced with negative attitudes towards forestry operations from the community, I need to remember that these attitudes are not the community's problems, they are mine. As a woodlot licensee and representative of the forest industry, it is my responsibility to demonstrate that I am taking the best possible care of BC's natural resources, on behalf of the community.

Once I have graduated from the UBC Faculty of Forestry, I will have gained a broad base of knowledge regarding forestry operations, ecosystem processes and health, and community values. This knowledge will provide me with the tools to educate the community and make the best management decisions. After graduation, keeping up to date on evolving management practices and studies throughout my career will also be important. Demonstrating that I am continually striving to improve management practices, and that I have respect for the community, will help to maintain social licence for my forest operations, and those of the industry in general.



The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions for "Member Reflections" related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block. "Member Reflections" can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us. If you'd like to submit an article or photo, contact Cathy McClary at cjmcclary401@gmail.com.

FBCWA Scholarship Winning Essay:

"When it comes to woodlot licences, what does social licence mean to you?"

by Samantha Ballan

Social licence to me means earning and maintaining the trust of the community through transparency. As a student of the Applied Sustainable Ranching program in Thompson Rivers University, I am discovering the value of gaining a social licence to operate in the agricultural sector and strategies that can be transferred to managing my family's third-generation woodlot. According to Bruce Vincent at BC Cattlemen's Association Annual Education Day in Merritt on a video students were assigned to watch, the timber industry was a pioneer in the concept of social licence as a response to public backlash and lawsuits that ultimately resulted in unmanaged forests that were overstocked and unhealthy. It is our responsibility as woodlot licensees to educate the public, understanding their perception of reality and the misinformation they have been exposed to. As stewards of the land, the needs and interests of the community are important to us and by communicating our shared values, the public will realize that we as woodlot owners are part of the solution rather than part of the problem. We can learn from each other and work together to achieve social, economic, and environmental sustainability on our operation. To achieve social licence on our woodlot, I would organize woodlot tours, engage recreational users, and utilize social media.

Public education is essential in gaining a social licence. The Millennial Generation should know the story of the wood that their houses are made of and, more importantly, what woodlot licensees are doing to manage forest resources. Partnering with schools to organize woodlot tours is one way I would achieve this. Additionally, as part of my business plan in the Applied Sustainable Ranching program



I incorporate agritourism into our cattle operation with a B&B where guests will have the opportunity to explore our woodlot and engage in educational tours. We can demonstrate our qualifications as forest managers by sharing our understanding of forest ecosystems through identification of tree species and habitat, ecological succession and regrowth in cut blocks, and the interconnectedness of species that allow for biodiversity. Not only will the public see how our operation is compatible with nature but also how it contributes to employing a high percentage of the community (i.e. mills). The goal of the tours is to foster an appreciation in the community for the forest and what we do to preserve it. By encouraging recreational users to share our woodlot, personal connections to our operation will develop.

In my community, there are many outdoor enthusiasts looking for recreational opportunities. We can achieve transparency while fulfilling our obligation to make crown land accessible to the public by making the woodlot user-friendly. I can identify trails with signs and offer maps to guide recreational users in a way that respects ecologically sensitive areas. Educational signs identifying species, habitat, management practices, and points-of-interest will allow the public to engage in self-guided tours. If the community can feel like they are part of a collective identity as partowners of the forest and a part of our operation, they will support what we do and grant us a social licence. This is where social media is a useful tool.

We want to hear what the public has to say and learn from them. With social media, we can communicate openly with the community and discover what is important to them when it comes to woodlot management. We will lead the discussion, posting questions in forums and stimulating conversation. We will provide clarification or answer questions while implementing ideas that members of the community have that will improve the sustainability of our woodlot, making them feel valued. We will also use social media as an educational platform and to make a connection with local families by sharing the story of our thirdgeneration farm and woodlot and our hands-on approach to woodlot management.

With woodlot tours, a user-friendly woodlot, and social media, we can gain a social licence to operate on a social, economic and environmental level. We will demonstrate our values as woodlot owners and the vision we share with the public to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. We will show that we value the opinions of the public and will work towards building our operation on the foundation of the community to achieve social licence. Transparency earns trust and the consent of the public to operate; that is what social licence means to me.

Link to Bruce Vincent's With Vision, there is Hope talk:

BCcattle. (2015, Sep 30). BC Cattlemen's Association 2015 Annual Education Day - Keynote speaker Bruce Vincent (Video file). Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=GBWEXUzTs9k ◆

Praise to Volunteers

We welcome three new members to the FBCWA Board of Directors. Reece Allingham (Quesnel Woodlot Association) Tyler Hodgkinson (Boundary Woodlot Association) and Ian Lanki (Cariboo Woodlot Association).

Many thanks to George Delisle and Ainslie Jackman for serving the executive so well. George will be missed for his dedication and enthusiasm and Ainslie for her input and thoughtful suggestions.

A special thank you to Mark Clark, for his long-term dedication and service as the FBCWA President. He served in this position for 13 years, volunteering countless hours and contributing to the woodlot program in many ways. While stepping down from this role, he will be staying on as a director and member of the JWG. •

FBCWA New Bylaws

The members passed new bylaws for the Federation at our AGM. New/revised bylaws were required to transition to the new BC Societies Act. The bylaws can be found on the licensee section of Federation's website www.woodlot.bc.ca under Federation Business>Governance>Constitution, Bylaws & Modus Operandi.

One of the changes is that the Executive is now referred to as the Board of Directors and representatives from each association are referred to as Members.

All societies have until November 28, 2018 to transition to the new Act. Visit the Societies Act website to learn more about how to transition www.bcregistry.ca/societies/

If you have any questions, contact Lisa Marak at 250.765.6156 or admin@ woodlot.bc.ca. ◆

New Board of Directors

(previously referred to as the Executive, under the FBCWA's old bylaws)

FBCWA President – Jeff Beale

FBCWA Director – Jon Seinen

FBCWA Vice President – Brian Amies

FBCWA Director – Coleen Maclean Marlow

FBCWA Treasurer - Nancy Pezel

FBCWA Director – Reece Allingham

FBCWA Secretary – Lisa Marak

FBCWA Director – Tyler Hodgkinson

FBCWA Director – Mark Clark

FBCWA Director – Ian Lanki

FBCWA Director – Miles Fuller

The FBCWA has several items that would make great gifts for Friends, Family, Contractors and others on your list. Items in stock include Screen-printed logo on T-shirts and Coffee Mugs, Embroidered FBCWA logo on golf shirts, oilskin ball caps and knitted toques. Order through the WPDC coordinator, Cathy McClary.

Notices:

WPDC AGM Resolution from the Floor:

The following Motion was presented at the WPDC Annual General Meeting in Sun Peaks on October 2, 2017: "Council adopt a policy that a serving WPDC Director may not act as a representative of a Woodlot Association at a FBCWA AGM."

The motion was narrowly defeated, reviewed by the Council Board of Directors and no further action will be taken. ◆

During the WL AGM at Sun Peaks - a question came up on the timing of when a licensee should make an application to the Ministry to harvest damaged timber in volumes greater than what is available for the woodlot. For clarification licensees are encouraged to apply for a cut control exemption or an AAC uplift as soon as they are aware that there is a need to harvest timber in volumes greater than the available AAC for the woodlot. Ministry processing of applications may take longer than anticipated and if harvesting proceeds the licence holder may risk being in non-compliance with cut control limits. Your local district office is always available if you have any questions or concerns.

Patrick Russell RPF
Manager, Timber Tenures
Forest Tenures Branchhttps://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/index.htm
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations & Rural
Development

Office: (250) 387-8955 Mobile: (250) 896-1817 ◆

EPERFORMANCE

FBCWA 30 YEARS • WPDC 20 YEARS

AN<mark>NU</mark>AL JOINT AGM OCTOBER 1-3, 2017
SUN PEAKS RESORT



2017 Minister's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management presentation - Keith Granbois for R & K Woodlot Ltd. (coast recipient); Leanna and Craig Mann, WL 1595 (interior and overall provincial recipients); Dave Peterson, FLNRORD ADM, presenter on behalf of Minister Donaldson; Alison Patch for Omineca Ski Club (north recipient); and Mark Clark, FBCWA President.

































Telephone Support for using the Woodlot for Windows AAC program is available to all woodlot licensees or their representatives.

Contact Mike Bandstra ph: 250-847-4822 fax: 888-273-0209

email: mbandstra@forsite.ca ◆



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Advertising Rates

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

Business card.....\$50 Quarter page \$135 Half page.....\$175 Full page.....\$250

There is a 10% discount for ads appearing in two or more issues. A complementary annual subscription is mailed to all advertisers.

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Thank you

to our contributors for this issue:

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