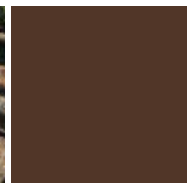




THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



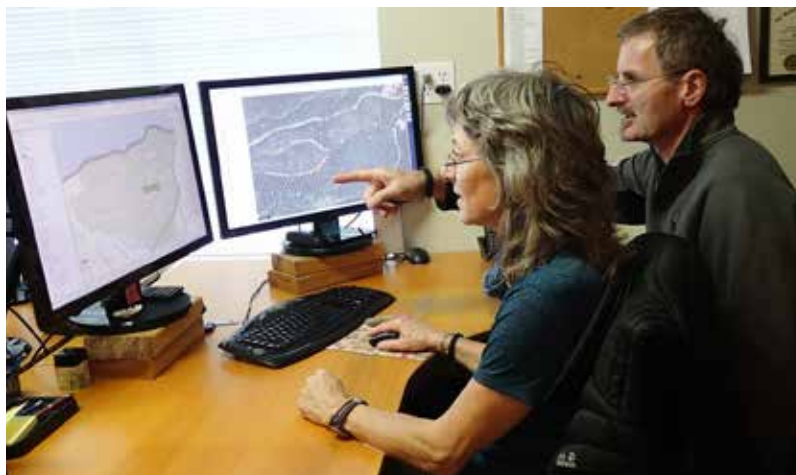
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Summer 2017

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Social Licence: Going Above and Beyond



Woodlot planning work by Wolfram and Sibylle.

by Sara Grady

In 2014, we told you about a unique woodlot couple on Vancouver Island, Wolfram Wollenheit and Sibylle Walkemeyer of Econ Consulting. They had received two significant honours: the regional Minister's Award of Excellence for their work on Woodlot License #1641 near Campbell River in the Coast region, as well as overall provincial honours for the outstanding example they set for woodlotters around the province. They strive to uphold the "social license" for woodlot management, going above and beyond the legal requirements set by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Woodlot licensees on the Island come under intense scrutiny due to the predominance of urban interface (working forests that are near or adjacent to population centres) and the public use that comes along with it. They strive to maintain a good rapport with the members of their community. It's their mandate to carefully manage Crown resources and they consider themselves stewards of a shared resource.

As such, Wolfram and Sibylle have undertaken forest management practices that acknowledge the ecosystem while still upholding their responsibility to make their piece of Crown land accessible to the public. They've set up signs for roads and

cont'd on page 7 ...



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Improvements for Woodlot Performance

by Brian McNaughton

For those of you, who like me, are trying to better understand the Canada-US softwood lumber dispute, there is a very good article in the May 31, 2017 edition of the National Law Review entitled "Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Dispute: What's Changed? B.C. Log Export Restrictions (LERS) and NAFTA Implications." It can be found at <http://www.natlawreview.com/article/canada-us-softwood-lumber-dispute-what-s-changed-bc-log-export-restrictions-lers-and>. The article takes a very complex issue and explains it in understandable terms.

The Federation is continuing its efforts to help woodlot licensees improve their performance and meet their obligations. In addition to the Getting RESULTS project and CP Reminders List, the Federation has been meeting and exchanging information with Resource Practices and Forest Tenures Branches on ways to improve FRPA administration. At this point, it doesn't appear there are going to be many, if any, significant changes to



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

the legislation or regulations. Instead, the focus will probably be on refreshing licensees, consultants and ministry staff's understanding and

knowledge about the Woodlot Licence Planning & Practices Regulation.

The Forest Practices Board report on its special investigation into woodlot licences is expected to be released soon. You may recall that year the Board conducted some audits on WLs in the Kootenay Lake area then followed up with an investigation. Board representatives who attended last year's Annual General Meeting were very forthright in providing the directors with some preliminary insights into the findings. Undoubtedly the report will provide more detail and perhaps highlight some other areas where work is required.

Patrick Russell is the new Manager, Timber Tenures, Forest Tenures

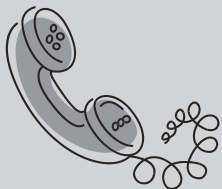
Branch (FTB). Patrick replaces Ron Greschner who retired earlier this year. Patrick has worked extensively in the North on tenures and major projects, and more recently with FTB on the Forest Fibre Action Plan. Patrick is planning to attend the AGM at Sun Peaks in October where he hopes to meet many of you.

Neil Edwards has retired from FLNR. Many of you will know Neil from his days as the Coast Region's woodlot forester and more recently as the First Nations Policy Forester in FLNR's First Nation Relations Branch.

Regarding the AGM, the program is rounding into shape. The title is Achieving Peak Performance and the theme is centered around social licence. Many great speakers have been confirmed. It promises to be a very informative and fun meeting so please plan to attend.

I wish you an enjoyable summer. Be safe and please do your part to prevent forest fires.

Brian ♦



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 ♦

Woodlots Working to Reduce Wildfires

by Mark Clark

I am pleased to report that the Cariboo and Prince George Woodlot Associations were recently notified that their Forest Enhancement Society applications have been approved. Both applications were based on the analysis work done by the Federation in 2016, identifying woodlot crown lands that are within the Wildland-Urban interface and that have High or Extreme threat of fire impacting communities. The projects entail collecting and ground truthing data, and developing prescriptions from a pool of 119 woodlots. The projects represent a commitment to invest \$199,500 for the Cariboo's



Mark Clark
President

project and \$202,500 for the Prince George project, totalling \$402,000. Subsequent applications will be made for funding to carry out prescribed treatments.

These projects will guide efforts to prevent or mitigate the impacts of wildfire by addressing the fuel build-up on woodlot licences. Additional benefits include but are likely not limited to improving overall forest health, stand value, wildlife and bird habitat through increased browse, and improved range values. Of course, all work will be conducted on crown

land and will be incremental to tenure obligations.

Thanks go to FLNRO for supporting, and to FES for approving, these important projects. I encourage other Associations to use the information that has been provided by the Federation to develop project applications for WLs in their area. I'm sure the Cariboo and PG WL Associations would be happy to share their application packages.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer, and I hope to see you at Sun Peaks this fall. And please remember that safety should be a 24/7 commitment.

Mark ♦



ACHIEVING PEAK PERFORMANCE

FBCWA 30 YEARS • WPDC 20 YEARS

ANNUAL JOINT AGM

OCTOBER 1-3, 2017

GRAND HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

SUN PEAKS RESORT

A key to managing your cut control: Track the volume you log!

by Debbie Zandbelt, RPF

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to know where you are on your cut control. One key to managing your cut control is tracking how much wood volume crosses the scale. The Ministry of Forests Harvest billing system works well in tracking scaled volume and is available for your use free of charge. You will need your timbermark handy and the month and year you would like to query the system for.

Step 1: Go to the Harvest Billing system website (no password needed for the public site)

<https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/hbs/>

Step 2: The second black bold heading is **Harvest Reports**. Under that heading select “By Date of Scale”

Step 3: In the first light green bordered box – select the dates you would like to query. This can be up to a 1 year (12 months) maximum.

Step 4: In the second light green bordered box – toggle the circle beside “**Timbermark**” and add your Timbermark into one of the light grey boxes. (For more advanced searches in the last light green bordered box named “Filters” the species, product, or grade can be selected – with a suggestion to keep the billing type to Normal.) Select “Configure PDF report” at the bottom of the screen.

Step 5: This step is used to ask you how you would like the information presented. My suggested starting point would be:

- In the first light green box – select license and mark
- In the second light green box –



Debbie Zandbelt, RPF
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

select volume (m3)

- In the third green box – keep the toggle at None. (For more advanced searches the species, grade or products can be selected).

Step 6: Select an output option.

The “View PDF Preview” option displays only one month of report data (in the layout specified in Step 5 above). To receive the complete report, click the “Send PDF report” button and “Submit”. The entire report, with all the specified months, will be sent to your email address.

To do this: Select the grey box “Send PDF report”. A new screen will appear requesting your email address. Enter it in both locations requested on the screen and hit the “submit” button.

Your report should arrive in your email within 5 minutes of your submission.

If you need any help interpreting the report or any of the steps above – please do not hesitate to call. Once you get a report you will wonder how you managed without them!

REMEMBER – Waste billed goes towards your volume as well.

April 2017 Interior Appraisal Manual Table 6-2 Update

The typical May 1, 2017 update of the Interior Appraisal Manual Table 6-2 occurred one month early this year. This was done to accommodate the amendment prior to the provincial government break-up leading to the spring election. However, the data used still included the 12-month period of data that the table is updated with. Any new Cutting permits issued on or after April 1, 2017 will use these updated figures (until the semi-annual November update). As markets rise rates are creeping upwards. You can find the updated table at this website address on page 6-4. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry/timber-pricing/interior-timber-pricing/interior-appraisal-manual>.

In my last article, back in March I had a typo! On page 7 of the Timber Pricing Interior report...in the first paragraph it should have read “In scenario 1 you need to decide whether \$4099 was worth more opportunity to log another 200m3.” The published version read \$4300. My apologies for the typo – Thank you to those readers who pointed it out.

As always give me a call if any questions or concerns, at 250-549-3089 or Debbie@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

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. ♦

Woodlots: A Socially Recognized Sector

by Ed Hughes, RPF

Woodlot Licences Sawlog stumpage rates -TAB.

There has not been any positive or negative input regarding this years TAB rates following my last Almanac article. The TAB rates are working well, without complaints from FLNRO or licensees.

There is little doubt that within the FLNRO the workload related to full MPS appraisals has been virtually eliminated over the past decade, to the point where a simple one page form is required as part of the Cutting Permit application. The rates are clear and simple within section 7.2 of the Coastal Appraisal Manual, updated annually, through a routine calculation. TP branch supports the TAB system that works for both government and licensees.

Woodlot Licensees are now able to focus on other priorities, which all take effort, time and expenses. The time element for Licensees to keep up to date, engage, understand and adequately respond can be substantial. The types of forest management within the forest/urban fringe requires significant and continuous effort, involving a wide array of participants from the licensees' team.

The Woodlot group has become a well recognized sector within the forest industry, supporting communities, associations, local businesses, conserving the forest resources and employing people/contractors. These are long term relationships that work well, helping to stabilize the rural economy. Licensees still keep a sharp eye on their stumpage, while investing in their people and businesses.



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

Our social Woodlot licenses work for many reasons, but the TAB rate system goes along way towards creating a significant foundation for the Coastal Woodlot program. There are many varied Woodlots which now meet the local, provincial and other demands. Let's keep things working well!

Trends in Average Market Values for second growth:

There are trends that could help with projecting TAB rates for next year. The AMV values from Table 52 (second growth) for the months from January to June 2017 used for MPS full appraisals change by month (for a three-month period). The trends for Cedar (J grade) is up and down and up, with an average decrease of \$3/m3. The trend for J grade fir is a steady increase of \$6/m3 and for Hemlock is a steady decrease of \$5/m3. These value changes (discounted to 30%) only give an indication of TAB rate changes next March 2018.

I will provide projections based on actual data in the fall almanac based on a longer time period (9 months) so there is time to adjust harvesting plans. For now we can project (based on only a portion of the 2017) TAB rates for next year will have a slight decrease in Cw, and Hw, with Fd likely to increase.

Market Pricing System Advisory Committee (MPSAC)

The update to the Coastal Appraisal Manual (CAM) is not expected to restart until after the Provincial election settles. The MPSAC has a good foundation built (appraisal data

set) to help work toward an update to CAM, following the election.

Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA)

There is no longer a lull in SLA. The SLA and NAFTA storm is now directed at Canada.

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC):

The first CTPAC meeting since the August 2016 conference call is scheduled for late June. I will have updates after the meeting on a number of issues.

Flat Fee for Woodlot Waste:

There is a plan for a meeting with Inventory Branch to look at our flat fee proposal findings.

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. ♦

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



cut blocks, generated maps and created a parking lot so that they can gently guide weekend ATV riders, bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts in ways that will maintain the many values of their woodlot. This year the Back Country Horsemen of British Columbia will pass through their “backyard” with expert and novice riders alike on a multi-day trail ride.

Like many other woodlot licensees they’re constantly battling Mother Nature when it comes to protecting their crops. Borrowing from European forest management systems they’ve figured out a way to design patterns of small blocks taking into account the strong winds coming from the south-east. “Wind throw” can be a significant detriment to the value of a stand of trees. But if you harvest strategically against the main wind direction, the wind firm timber edges take the brunt of the wind and shelter the larger, more vulnerable timber. They’re enjoying success with this strategy.

Modernization and mechanization have changed the means by which all foresters manage their timber. Wolfram and Sibylle have introduced mechanical “strip thinning” on areas with dense, immature stands, a process that creates the herringbone pattern seen on aerial photographs. And when harvesting a cut block the timber can



Excavator falling and processing wood in one of the thinning corridors to create a herringbone pattern to reduce wind throw

now be processed within walking distance of a logging road. Wolfram and Sibylle leave the tops and broken ends at the roadside and after the completion of the waste survey invite the locals to gather it for firewood.

They recently negotiated the purchase of an adjacent woodlot licence – not a smooth process due to red tape – and will be expanding their exemplary forestry practices, retaining the expertise and insight of the prior woodlot licensee and building on it. Their collaborative approach with the community and fellow woodlotters

serve as excellent examples for the woodlot program province-wide.

Sidebar: The excavator in the photo is Wolfram and Sibylle’s own machine in one of the thinning corridors. It is a EX270 excavator with a Logmax processor head that can fall and process the trees. They converted the machine to be a woodlotter’s swiss army knife. They can quick change between buckets and thumb for road building, grapple for hoe-chucking and processor head for falling and processing. ♦

Woodlotter’s Tricks of the Trade

Submit your ideas on what makes woodlot life easier. Examples could include anything from a handy tool, how you have made something work, or ‘How to’ tips that you have discovered that you want to share with other woodlot licensees. Specific examples might be suggestions like how you keep that old 30 year chainsaw going, how you extend the life of a power saw chain, how you have adapted that 40 year old piece of equipment to keep on running, etc. Send your ideas to Cathy McClary at cjmclary401@gmail.com or call her at 250-961-0271. The licensee whose idea gets published each issue will receive a FBCWA hat or Shirt. ♦

Rotations

by Peter Sanders

Editor's Note: Peter is recognized as the FBCWA's first Life Member, and a private Forest Land Manager who practices what he preaches on his forest land near Buffalo Creek.

We are all familiar with the term "rotation". It is the term we use to describe the time required to grow a crop of trees to merchantable size. The length of time depends on the type or crop, the current management objectives, soil geographic location, climatic factors and current market projections. The proposed crop rotation length for a specific area is generally included in all prescriptions. In forestry, we have a series of different types of rotation, and it is useful for us to look closely at all these types, not merely the projected current market driven rotation for fiber production. Thus, we require knowledge of the "technical", "physical" and "silvicultural", as well as the "pathological" rotations.

The term is also used in the production of farming crops, many lasting less than a year, and in some intensive operation, a matter of weeks. We have our own short rotation crops in our gardens and in the Interior of BC where I live and where the frost comes early, there is definite time limit that we are well aware of and have to harvest the crop well ahead of this time or use a green house.

It is all very well to know the options and benefits relative to rotation but if there is no true vision for the future it doesn't matter the capability of field managers. A clear lack of intent,

direction, understanding or flexibility at the senior and political levels means a constant lack of funds for field work, particularly for crop renewal and maintenance.

Let's return to why we recognize different types of rotation. In a time of rapidly increasing social demands, how we can use these concepts to adjust our management strategies and prescriptions to creatively change rotation length and maximize the product stream to the benefit of ourselves and the community as a whole?

Briefly the "physical" or "ecological" rotation is the time of the natural life span of the selected tree species. This is not an economic term but has considerable significance if short or long-lived species are grown together. It does mean that we have to know the length of time the wood will remain sound and reach peak quality. It provides room for development of the longer-life species, and for the residual crop to accumulate volume and value. The physical rotation is a useful concept if an old growth product is required, as well as providing the necessary information to optimize the use of the intermediate, shorter lived companion crop.

The "silvicultural" rotation is the length of time when the species of choice will retain vigour, accumulate appreciable volume, retain the ability to maintain full canopy and also produce viable seed which is an important factor if your silvicultural system involves a seed tree or selection system using natural

regeneration.

The "technical" rotation is the time at which the species of choice yield the maximum volume of the target MAI (mean annual increment) and CAI (current annual increment) and are a delight for use in the classroom or boardroom, a gem to economists and management alike. There are copious books, papers, computer models where people can pontificate on the theoretical benefits when the MAI/CAI graphs cross.

The "pathological" rotation is determined by the pathogens or other ills (e.g. insects, atmospheric pollutants) that shorten the natural life span. Some species re dominated by pathogens, in the presence of which the trees never reach old age.

However, without a healthy, vibrant, vigorous and a well-maintained forest estate, all the academic and senior management hot air is for naught. It is useful for the field guy to understand the type of rotation and how this information, together with the impact of stock density, silvical characteristics, soil and other site-specific attributes work in unison to determine treatment option points in crop management, and recognize the feasibility of possible crop product changes and rotation length as the needs arise. Modern management has useful aids to provide helpful diagnostic information, but it is the well-informed, experienced person with their boots on trudging through the bush who is the key to successful forest management. ♦

Societies Act

by Lisa Marak

The Constitution Committee is preparing a new set of bylaws to transition to the new societies act, which will be voted on at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in Kamloops this October. They were developed with input from the directors at the spring directors meeting. Thanks to everyone who provided comments and feedback. Once approved, the Federation's bylaws will provide a model for each association to use if they wish.

All societies will be required to "transition" to the new Act by November 28, 2018. Two guides are available to help:

- Preparing for BC's *New Societies Act*: A Guide to the Transition Process
- Filing Guide: How to file a Transition Application in Societies Online



If you need to know what bylaws and constitution are on file with the Corporate Registry, you may want to consider ordering a transition package (\$40).

All these resources can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/SocietiesAct

Transitioning is fairly easy. It requires a society to re-file, in electronic format, with the Corporate Registry, a current constitution and bylaws updated to meet the new Act.

This is a good time for members to get involved in their associations and shape the future direction of their association, be it simplifying the existing governance model, cleaning up inconsistencies in old by-laws or making changes which are more appropriate for today's membership. ♦

Notice:



2017 National Forest Week September 24-30

During National Forest Week Canadians are invited to learn more about Canada's forest. Consider hosting an event or a walk in the woods for children during this week to raise awareness about this valuable and renewable resource.

We have produced a YouTube video promoting a "walk in the woods" that can be sent to teachers or someone interested in a fieldtrip to a woodlot. It can be found on our website <http://woodlot.bc.ca/education/>.

The Federation has educational materials for children to hand out such as the colouring and activity book "Ollie's Woodlot Adventures". To order, contact admin@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

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/wpd.html#projects> ♦

Cut Control CAUTION...

As all woodlot licensees know or ought to know, they are responsible for ensuring that the volume of timber harvested and charged against cut control does not exceed 120% of the sum of the allowable annual cut(s) for their 5-year cut control period.

If the volume charged against cut control exceeds 120%, a licensee will be subject to a monetary penalty and the excess volume will be charged against the next cut control period.

“If the holder of an agreement exceeds the applicable cut control limit, the volume exceeding the cut control limit is subject to an automatic monetary penalty at the rate prescribed in the Cut Control Regulation.”

*- Cut Control Administration Guide,
March 20, 2017*

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However, if a licensee intentionally or deliberately exceeds their cut control limit, the ramifications can be much more serious. The licence could be subject to suspension or cancellation and, in some cases, a licensee could be charged with theft.

You need to pay close attention to the volume of timber being harvested and charged against cut control, regardless of who is doing the harvesting. If you find yourself in a circumstance where

the cut control limit must be exceeded, there are a couple of options. The first, and preferred option, is to apply for and receive a cut control exemption. A cut control exemption allows a licensee to harvest to a higher volume limit. It is often used to address blowdown, fire kill or beetle infested timber. Be aware that the ‘extra’ volume will get charged as an overcut carry forward to the next cut control period(s). However, licensees may submit a new Management Plan and propose a one-time AAC uplift for the extra volume along with a new, sustainable AAC for the future.

The other option is to submit a new Management Plan and request an AAC uplift. This approach entails a lot of work with no assurances that the uplift will be accurate. Remember, you will be charged annual rent on the uplift volume whether you harvest it or not. Also, once the need for the uplift is over, you will need to submit another MP to establish a new sustainable AAC. As noted previously, the cut control exemption is a much more efficient and effective way of addressing situations where a short-term increase in AAC is required.

It is best to not exceed the cut control limit then seek a resolution. Since exceeding cut control is considered

a contravention, it’s unlikely the Ministry would grant a cut control exemption or AAC uplift retroactively.

To not exceed 120%, here are some things you may want to consider doing.

- Target harvesting 100% not 120%. In other words, use the 20% as a buffer against volume being charged against cut control after harvesting is complete; e.g. waste, the sawlog component of grade 4 loads, etc.
- Pay close attention to scale slips and conversion rates. The volume you think was harvested may be different than the official scaled volume.
- Remember to include all sources of volume that could be charged against cut control including volumes harvested under cutting permits and road permits, waste volumes and even the sawlog component of pulp or grade 4 shipments.

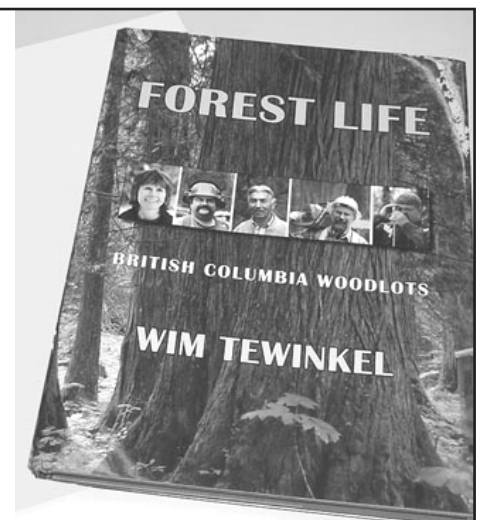
More information about cut control, including the Cut Control Administration Guide, applicable legislation (Forest Act) and Cut Control Regulation and can be found at <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timber-tenures/cut-control.htm>. ♦

“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 ♦





What are Woodlot Licensee/Community Forest Agreement holder responsibilities regarding the safety of workers, volunteers, visitors and learners on their licence?

Woodlots and community forests are great places for visitors to learn about forest management or hike and ski, and for volunteers to participate in productive projects. However, as a licensee holder, you may wonder about your safety responsibilities for workers, volunteers, visitors and learners. Below is guidance on the matter.

	WSBC Compensation	Liability Issues	Caution/Due diligence
Worker ¹	Eligible for WSBC compensation.	Worker cannot sue the employer (licensee) for a workplace injury.	As an employer, your main obligation is to ensure the health and the safety of workers at the workplace.
Volunteer ¹	Not eligible for WSBC Compensation	The volunteer, if injured on a woodlot or CFA area, has the right to sue. The licensee can be held liable if the injury was the result of a malicious act or gross negligence on the part of the licensee.	Workers' Compensation Appeal Decisions have found that cash and "non-cash" payments (e.g. ski lift pass or beer) are enough for an individual to be considered a "worker", rather than a volunteer. Courts would look more favourably on a licensee that made efforts to identify and remove hazards.
Visitor ¹	Not eligible for WSBC Compensation	The visitor, if injured on a woodlot or CFA area, has the right to sue. The licensee can be held liable if the injury was the result of a malicious act or gross negligence on the part of the licensee.	Courts would look more favourably on a licensee that made efforts to identify and remove hazards.
Learner ^{1, 2}	May be eligible for WSBC compensation (as determined through the courts).	If not eligible for WSBC compensation, the injured person has the right to sue. The licensee can be held liable if the injury was the result of a malicious act or gross negligence on the part of the licensee.	Courts would look more favourably on a licensee that made efforts to identify and remove hazards.

In practical terms, a licensee needs to ask: "Have I done all that I can reasonably do to ensure the health and safety of workers, volunteers, visitors and learners?"

- Notes:
1. A family member, depending on what they are doing and if there is any compensation, could be any of the above i.e. a worker, volunteer, visitor or learner.
 2. A learner is defined as a worker who, at the time of injury, is an apprentice in a trade, an occupation or a profession, or a person, although not under a contract of service or apprenticeship, who becomes subject to the hazards of an industry for the purpose of undergoing training or probationary work specified or stipulated by the employer as a preliminary to employment.

Wilfred Chelle

March 20, 1932 – May 12, 2017

(Obituary prepared by his family)

Wilf Chelle passed away at Fort St. John Hospital at the age of 85. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Alana, son Michael (Vickie), daughters Margot and Alannah (Leonard), son Rob, brothers Bob and Larry, grandchildren Morgan (Misty), Tyler, Lane, Ryan, Devon (Amanda), Brennen, Reuben, and Cameron and great grandchildren Reece and Michael.



Wilf on the Ranch

Cold Lake (Alberta) then Germany, until the land acquisition was finalized in 1967. Then they moved with their four children to carve a ranch home out of raw bush land. He, along with his wife, continued to run the ranch until his death in 2017. He loved ranching and was interested in researching breeds (such as Luig) to find cattle that would be hardy and thrive naturally without special attention.

Wilf was born at home on his parents' farm near Stockholm, SK. His mother passed away when he was a baby and he was raised in the convent in Stockholm. He was sent to boarding schools to attend high school, college and university. In his last year of college (1950-51) he joined the naval reserve (naval training division). After university, where he studied science and agriculture, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force where he became an electronics engineer specializing in fire control systems on fighter jets. After serving five years, Wilf left the air force and went to work for Federal Electric, then Canadian Aviation Electronics where he worked on the operation and maintenance of radar equipment used in the Distant Early Warning systems which monitored Canadian airspace for unauthorized aircraft. While with C.A.E, he also worked on the BOMARC guided missiles. In 1959, he married Alana Lees. With Wilf's work they moved frequently, including overseas. In 1962, he went to work for Litton Industries, working on military aircraft as a field service engineer working on advanced technology including inertial navigation systems on star fighter jets.

In 1963, he and his wife, Alana, staked some land along the Blueberry River in the North Peace region of BC, southwest of the community that is now called Buick. He continued to work for Litton, stationed in

Over the ranching years, Wilf was involved in many things. He was very interested in education and in the early homesteading years, was actively involved in the local PTA. He also served on the local school board as well as the provincial and federal school trustee associations. He was very active in, and dedicated to, the F.S.J. Friendship Centre, the Legion, and the Peace River Woodlot Association and Woodlot Product Development Council. His interest in politics led to involvement in the Grass Roots group designed to look into a more representative voting system, and later involvement in the Citizens Assembly for Electoral Reform where he made many more friends.

At home, he and his wife loved spending time together surveying the view off their deck or sitting in the garden enjoying the lush variety of shrubs, veggies and flowers.

Wilf was a unique individual who made friends everywhere he went. He loved social gatherings of family and friends, talking philosophy and politics. Wilf Chelle led a full life and will be greatly missed. A celebration of life memorial gathering will be held on the afternoon of August 26, on the ranch at the home of Leonard and Alannah Bartsch. Campers and RV Trailers are welcome (weather permitting).



MEMBER Reflections

From the Peace River WL Association

The Peace River Woodlot Association Board of Directors would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Family and Friends of Wilf Chelle. Wilf was a Woodlot owner in the Fort St. John area from 1994 and his contributions to the Peace River Woodlot Association will remain. Wilf was a director and past President of the Association as well as representing the Association at the Provincial level with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. Wilf's hard work and commitment to our local woodlot association and the Federation can be a testament for all of us to stand up and work to better our communities and our resources. We thank Wilf and his Family for his dedication and extend our most sincere gratitude and sympathies to his family and friends.

Tributes to Wilf:

- Wilf Chelle was awarded Life Member #4 from the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
- He acquired two woodlot licences, one of which was recently sold.
- Wilf was a Federation director or alternate director between 1988 and 1998.
- Wilf was a founding member of the Woodlot Product Development Council and was an active and contributing member— serving two stints as a Director from 1997-2002 and then again from 2005 -2011.
- Wilf was President of the Peace River WL Association keeping it alive and active for many years.
- Wilf, was a very strong advocate for the North, especially the Peace region.
- For anyone who knew Wilf, one could say he was also pragmatic!

Wilf was perhaps most known for hosting late night get-togethers at whatever meeting he was attending. How many of the “world’s problems” were solved while plying guests with a glass of good whiskey? He always greeted women of all ages with a big hug and the men with a handshake and the question: “How the Heck are you?”

Despite the seriousness of the mission at hand, Wilf always asked that members not lose their sense of humour.

To leave you with a quote from his own words:

*“I was looking out the front window of my ranch yesterday, watching the deer and coyotes and other wildlife (including my wife). A cowboy song came on the radio and the guy sang:
'No matter what I've done, I've never had too much fun'”*

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 cjmccclary401@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Open Letter to FBCWA from North Island Woodlot Association (NIWA)

On behalf of NIWA, I would like to thank the Federation staff, our consultants and other association representatives for their work. We really do appreciate all you do on our behalf.

NIWA would like to take this opportunity to provide 3 recommendations to the Federation.

- 1. Focus on the Future of Woodlots – best tenure ever.** The Federation has been highly effective in achieving major efficiencies such as the Woodlot Licence Plan, Tab rates and the One CP. And we think that much of the streamlining (80+%) we set out to do has been achieved! And the Preliminary Thoughts document will help us get to the finish on the remaining issues. While there is still more to do, it is time to shift our focus and energy toward two foundation elements, 1) our social license and 2) showcasing woodlot performance.

These may seem like lofty goals and some will argue that individual licensees already have this characteristic. Instead we are referring to the collective – all of us. We have some ideas about how to achieve this goals:

- Firstly, we require an exceptional relationship with FLNRO
- We need to Assist our members in improving FG performance and record keeping;
- We need to become involved in provincial initiatives, such as:
 - a) participate with the Provincial Integrated Silviculture Plan
 - b) Supporting the Ministerial mandates (per Mandate Letter)
 - #4 – Continue to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to prepare for and minimize the impact of timber supply reductions caused by the mountain pine beetle.
 - #8 – Continue to “Work with the forest industry on a new Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy to maintain and enhance the industry, protect jobs and forest dependent communities and extract maximum value from our forest resource.”
 - #11 -Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and her Rural Advisory Council to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development, access to capital and the rural dividend.

- 2. Support our new programs with strengthened financial support.** Use a small portion of our WPDC funds to support the initiatives above. WL self-funded programs will demonstrate our commitment to the program and to the public.

The FBCWA’s mission is for all its members to practice exemplary forest and natural resources management in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible manner.

- 3. Regional Representation.** There are significant regional differences in the province. We can lever our local knowledge using regional representatives to support our Executive Director on significant provincial committees and/or meetings with senior levels of government staff.

On our own behalf, we would like a coastal representative to be included in meetings, calls, or committees, such as:

- o The newly formed RPB and FTB committee
- o Meetings with ADM’s and Branch staff.

And we commit that a coastal representative will be available for such.

In summary, the NIWA think we need to focus our future on improving our collective performance and social licence, strengthen the proposed programs with increased financial support and lever the regional representation to demonstrate our collective resolve.

Thank you.

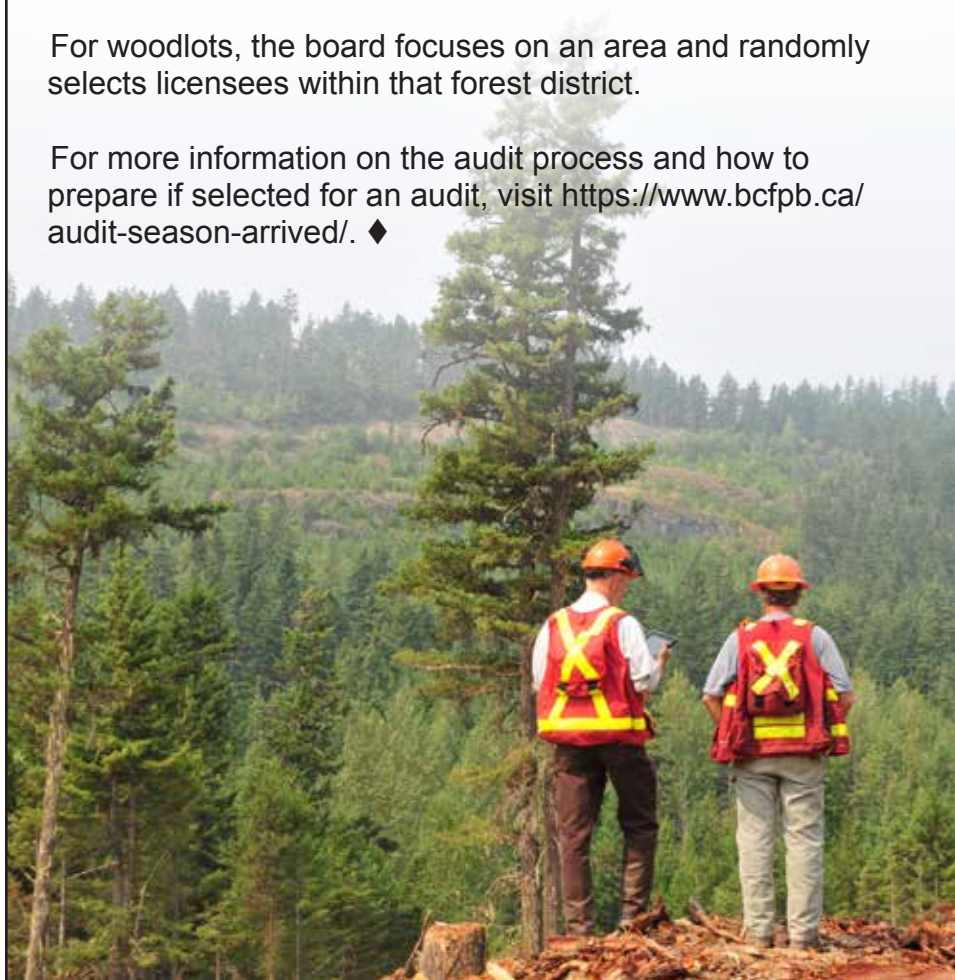
Notice:

Forest Practices Board announces 2017 Audit Season

The Forest Practices Board is BC's independent watchdog regarding forest and range practices. The Board conducts audits and investigations to gauge how well, or poorly, industry and government are meeting the intent of BC's forest practices legislation.

For woodlots, the board focuses on an area and randomly selects licensees within that forest district.

For more information on the audit process and how to prepare if selected for an audit, visit <https://www.bcfpb.ca/audit-season-arrived/>. ♦



We hope to see many of you at the AGM in Sun Peaks. For a chance to win your registration fee, please submit the registration form and payment by September 1, 2017.

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. ♦

Stewardship & Minister's Award

Woodlots and Woodlot Licensees are small scale forest managers who strive to take a hands-on approach to natural resource management. Timber is harvested in a manner consistent with principles of stewardship and sustainability. Each year the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recognizes woodlot licensees in three different regions in the province, Northern Interior, Southern Interior, and the Coast as well as an overall provincial winner with an Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management.

The award program was introduced at the AGM in Quesnel, September 2010 with Pat Bell, Minister of Forests, Range and Mines, awarding \$500 to Alex Hartford (Coastal recipient), Anne Davidson (Northern Interior recipient) and Rod Blake (Southern Interior recipient) in recognition of the "true legacies" these licensees created in woodlot management.

Applications for 2017 are now being accepted until August 17, 2017. For additional information please visit

<http://woodlot.bc.ca/stewardship/> ♦

10 years later: Where are we now?

Editor's Note: This letter was originally written in 2006 during the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and resubmitted for this issue of the Almanac as a reflection on what has or has not changed over time.

Date: Dec. 10, 2006
Topic: Mountain Pine beetle problem
To Whom it may concern:



I would like to comment on recent Media coverage regarding the mountain pine beetle problem in BC. The situation should be a “wake up call” to all preservationists. Trees don't live forever. At the same time, I am totally disgusted with the way the professional foresters and professional biologists who presided over this mess are trying to deflect the blame and responsibility or lack of it for what has happened. Blaming the problem on “Smokey” the bear and “GOD” may be a great way to deflect criticism from the general public, but as a forestry worker for the last 30 years and having spent approximately 5 years doing Mountain Pine Beetle Surveys in the late seventies and early eighties I don't buy it. This problem did not develop overnight. It started to develop over twenty years

ago. Poor public understanding, bad regulations, and excessive bureaucracy also contributed significantly to the horrible result.

It is a good thing that the government didn't ban logging like some groups would prefer. There is no credit given to the logging industry for removing large volumes of green timber that would surely be dead today and would be contributing to an even larger fuel load. Indeed, in the last 50 years approximately 50% of the working forest has been logged. Perhaps a lot more if you listen to the anti-logging groups. The preservation groups have been screaming about the over-cutting for as long as I can remember. The way I see it, we should have been cutting a lot more up north. If it wasn't for the logging industry, we would have an even bigger fire

risk than we already have. However, this is not saying that industry should be given a free hand to do what ever they want. We need to take the management of our resources away from the desk jockeys and put it back in the hands of field practitioners who really understand and care about our forests.

What is the risk to the environment given the current state of our pine forests? It is not a matter of “if it is going to burn”, but “when is it going to burn”. The big question now is how much of the fuel load can be removed by logging the worst hit areas before a fire gets started. It is the world's biggest lumber yard standing on end waiting to catch on fire.

The current policies regarding management in our parks is also a major contributing factor in the development of the beetle problem. I believe that timber harvesting should be allowed in the parks, but not by timber interests but by the parks people themselves. The parks system should be able to keep all the profit generated from the logs to manage the rest of the parks. General revenue should not get a penny. We have already made the decision to forego

Links of Interest

- Our own website: <http://woodlot.bc.ca>
- The Working Forest newspaper offers an e-newsletter and a newspaper on small-scale forestry across Canada: www.workingforest.com ◆



the revenue when we made it a park. The focus should be on forest health and not on a timber objective. It works in Ontario with no problem so why not try it here?

The size of this catastrophe can be blamed on several groups. The first is the preservation mentality that exists among a lot of people. There is a large group of people that think that if no logging is done, BC will, over time, all look like the “Cathedral Grove” on Vancouver Island or Stanley Park, or at least what it looked like before the latest storm changed it’s looks. The reality is quite different, and the insects and diseases along with forest fires, bad storms, etc. are ensuring it. The professionals that are supposed to be managing our resources, have failed the public’s interest miserably. It is their responsibility to make science based decisions on how to manage our resources and explain forest management decisions to the public,

not bow to public pressure. Here is where the “press” has to shoulder part of the blame. I never see the press promoting good forest management results, only some yowling protester screaming about how bad logging is.

The cost to the future taxpayer for this miss-step in forest management is beyond most people’s comprehension. Indeed, the damage is not only to our forests, but water, wildlife, visuals, preservation of private property values, and damage to the atmosphere by contributing to green house gases from the impending extensive wildfires, not to mention the loss in jobs, revenue from stumpage and income tax. The cost is beyond calculation, and future generations will come to curse the day we turned forest management over to the “bureaucratic desk jockey” professionals.

Since 1987, they have cost the forest industry huge sums of money by

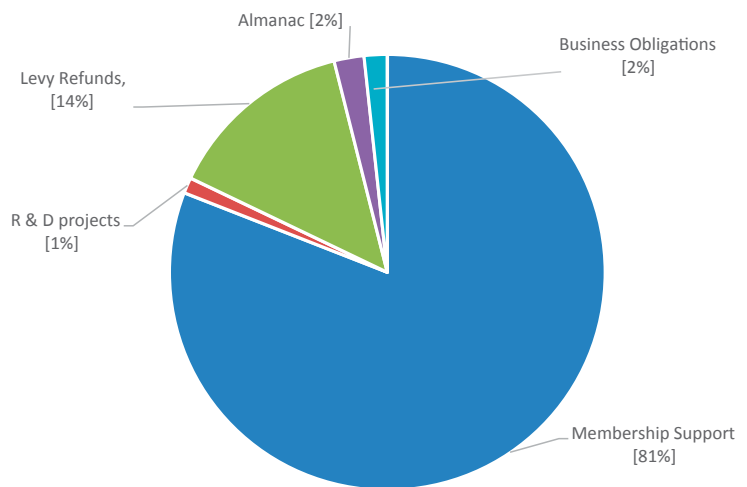
imbedding the requirements for professionals to sign everything. There is still no accountability from these professionals. The results to date have been absolutely horrific. They have done such a lousy job that by 1995 the Forest Practices Act was required to ensure compliance by the professionals. When I look at the results to the environment over the last 20 years, it makes me sick to my stomach. Over the last 20 years the health of all the resources have been getting worse and worse. All that seems to be able to be done these days is “call another meeting” and not agree on any thing, so “call another meeting”. This is much like Nero playing a musical instrument while Rome burned to the ground, only for us it will be BC burning to the ground.

Just some thoughts from a very disgusted taxpayer

Yours truly
George Delisle ♦

Where your \$0.25 annual levy goes

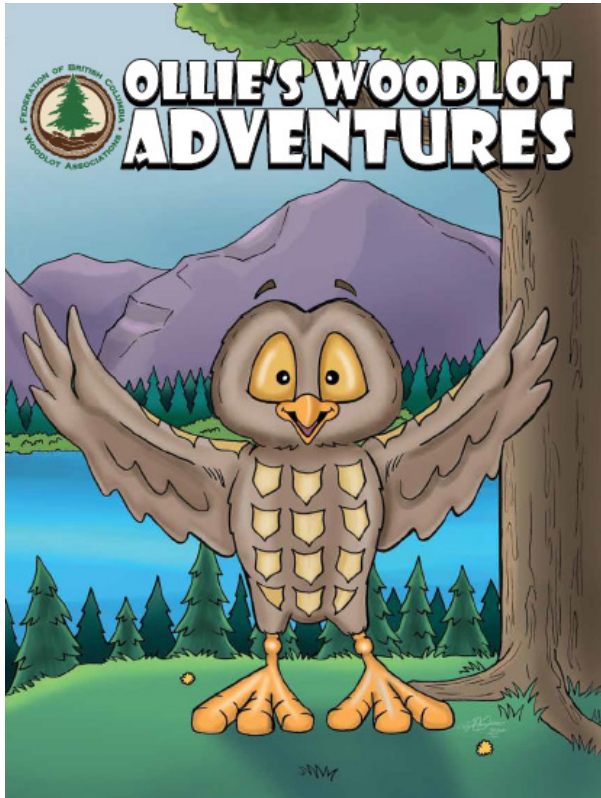
The Woodlot Product Development Council has a responsibility to ensure funding originating from the woodlot levy is prudently managed and used only for work and activities consistent with the Purpose of the Council which are to: Promote a positive image of the woodlot industry and its products; educate 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. ♦



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. ♦

Ollie's Woodlot Adventures

Ollie's Woodlot Adventures takes you to a woodlot licence where you will learn about trees, the forest and how it is sustainably managed. An informative and fun resource and activity book for licensees to give students visiting a woodlot or interested in the forest. It even has a colouring page of a woodlot licensee.



IDENTIFYING TREES

There are three ways to identify a coniferous tree - by its needles, cones and bark. Match the pictures of the tree needles with the descriptions.

- 1. **FIN THIN - NEEDLES ARE THIN AND FLAT**
- 2. **CYRUS THIN - NEEDLES ARE FLAT AND HAVE 4 SIDES**
- 3. **WIDEN LARCH THIN - NEEDLES ARE THIN AND POINTY**
- 4. **EDGE NEEDLES THIN THIN - NEEDLES ARE THIN AND POINTY**
- 5. **SPINCE THIN - NEEDLES ARE THIN AND THICK**

Did you know that larch trees lose their needles in the fall?

TENDING THE FOREST

Ollie has an important job looking after replanted areas to ensure the forest is re-constituted. Once the seedlings are healthy and strong, they are left to grow on their own.

ECOSYSTEM

The forest is an ecosystem - a system of soil, water and air which supports communities of plants and animals. These must be managed along with the other resources.

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 world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦

Understanding Property Taxes on Managed Forest Land

Property tax incentives are a key component of the Managed Forest Program. Recent increases in bare land assessed values have forest owners concerned about a corresponding increase in property tax bills for 2016.

Based on these concerns, PFLA initiated a conversation with BC Assessment, as well as the Tax Policy Branch of the provincial government.

Thanks to a communication with Duncan Jillings, Director, Property Taxation, Tax Policy Branch, Ministry of Finance, we've received some clarification on how property taxes are calculated for properties within the Managed Forest Land Classification.

The amount of tax payable on a property depends on three factors: the classification of the property, the assessed taxable value of the property and the various tax rates that apply to the property.

BC Assessment assesses Class 7 Managed Forest Land using a two-step process that includes the bare land component, as well as the value of harvested timber.

While the majority of your property might be classified as Class 7 Managed Forest Land other portions might be classified in other classes, for example: Class 1 Residential, Class 4 Major Industry, Class 5 Light Industry or Class 6 Business and other.

If nothing else changes, a higher assessment value on a property, or a higher tax rate, will lead to an increase in tax payable; however, things do change.

Calculating provincial school and rural area taxes

Since 2008, the province's policy is to capture only an inflationary gain from non-residential classes in its provincial school tax and provincial rural area tax, plus any revenue from new properties or new construction on old properties.

Inflationary gain refers to the BC Consumer Price Index, (1.1% inflation last year), not inflation of land values.

That means, by current policy, if managed forest land values double for all types of forest land, then provincial school and rural tax rates for managed forest land are cut in half, and the inflation factor added.

This calculation is applied to the property classification as a whole.

Under this policy, the province expects only modest revenue increase from a property class, unless there are new buildings, new properties entering the class, or land which has been re-evaluated with respect to its topography, accessibility or soil quality.

If one forest owner's property value went up while another's went down, year over year, with no changes to the physical property, one owner would see a school and rural tax increase and the other a tax decrease, while both owners would see an inflationary increase.

School tax rates for the Managed Forest Land Classification have been about the same (in the range of \$2.3/\$1000 to \$2.1/\$1000) since 1999, the first year of the new tax regime. In comparison, school tax rates for Business Classification were about \$9.9/\$1000 in 1999, and declined to \$5.8/\$1000 by 2015.

Calculating police taxes

For police taxes, the province is looking to recover a certain percentage of police costs. If managed forest land values go up faster than values in other property classes, the MFL class will pick up a larger share of the tax burden.



If managed forest land values rise slower than other property classes, then the police tax burden on the MFL classification will fall relative to other classes.

With property values going up faster than inflation in most property classes, average tax rates are falling, and individual members will need to look at both their assessed values and their police tax rate if they want to see how their police tax burden is changing.

Regional district taxes

Regional districts also tax to pay for their annual budgets. The tax rates will vary depending on services, costs, and assessed values.

The province imposes tax rate ratios on regional districts. When regional districts set tax rates to recover costs, the Managed Forest Land Classification rate must be set at three times the residential rate.

On it's own, the 3:1 ratio on regional districts looks bad to managed forest landowners, but it was part of a package that actually helped forest owners overall.

When managed forest land tax changes were implemented, regional districts had recently lost considerable base because machinery and equipment were removed from the property tax base in the 1980s. The government wanted to avoid further shifts of tax burden to other property classes, perhaps residential class in particular.

When the MFL changes were made, tax shifts were reduced by requiring regional districts to keep a higher ratio on managed forest land than would otherwise have been the case. The province lowered its rural tax rate for managed forest land to provide the tax benefit directly to the Managed Forest Land Classification.

MFL ratios are more favourable under provincial school and rural area taxes, but less favourable under regional district taxes, regional hospital district taxes and the newer provincial police tax.

You can find more information about how managed forest land is assessed and how to classify as managed forest land from the BC Assessment website (bcassessment.ca) or contact the Managed Forest Council (mfcouncil.ca).



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Woodlot For Sale

Woodlot 1619 is 600 ha and is located in the South Okanagan. The five year allowable cut is 5187m3. There are no private lands attached. W.L.P., Management Plan and blanket CP are good to 2021. All "Results" reporting and silviculture obligations are up to date and in good standing. Good proximity to multiple wood buyers.

For more information contact Mike Rymus at mrymus@hotmail.com. \$190,000 OHO.



Thank you

to our contributors for this issue:

Mark Clark

Brian McNaughton

Sara Grady

Peter Sanders

Ed Hughes

Debbie Zandbelt

Lisa Marak

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.

"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August."

—Jenny Han, The Summer I Turned Pretty



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