



THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Summer 2018

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Ever wonder where the cork in your bottle of wine or champagne is made?

Cork Oak



by George Delisle, woodlot licensee and traveller extraordinaire

Cork Oak --- a sustainable, inter-generational forest management industry Portuguese style.

Cork, as we know it, comes from a member of the Oak family called Cork Oak. The leaves do not resemble the characteristic oak leaf shape and remain year-round on the tree. They are very leathery with smooth edges. The best cork is produced on acidic soils. The tree itself can live for several hundred years. Some of the best cork in the world comes from Southern Portugal. The cork itself comes from the outer bark of the Cork Oak. Cork oak seed has been transferred to other countries such as China but has resulted in poor cork production due mainly to soil types. The commercial production of cork in Portugal was started

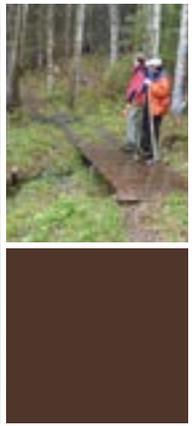
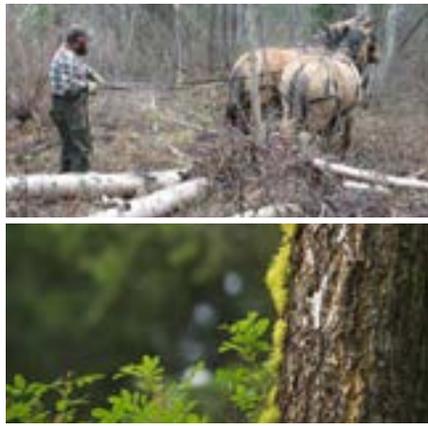
about 300 years ago. Earliest use goes back to Roman and Greek times. Cork stoppers were uncovered in Pompeii.

The Cork Oak is Portugal's official tree and is highly regulated by government regardless of the ownership of the land. The only exception is if you have a single Oak tree growing in your back yard and do not attempt to sell the bark commercially. All Cork Oak trees in Portugal are individually mapped and on

government records. There are huge fines if one damages or kills a Cork Oak, either on private or crown land. One interesting aspect is that if your oak tree has branches towering over your neighbour's land they can not cut the offending branches. If it is an Orange or Lemon tree they can take the fruit or cut the branches off. Areas damaged by forest fires are replanted immediately on a 10m x 10m spacing. As the trees mature, constant thinning is required. As the roots are very sensitive to damage no mechanical means are employed for fear of killing the tree. The Cork Oak is considered very important to the ecosystem and is managed very strictly.

The first bark removal is at 25 years of age, after which subsequent bark removals are on approximately 10-year intervals.

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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

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West Kootenay:	S. Deverney

FBCWA JOINT WORKING GROUP

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Tom Bradley	Coleen Maclean-Marlow
Ian Lanki.....	Tyler Hodgkinson
Brian McNaughton	

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From Adversity Comes Inspiration

by Brian McNaughton

For those of you whose Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP) is coming up for extension or need a new one, you will want to check out the recently revised WLP template. It provides clarification and guidance respecting all aspects of WLPs; but particularly on subjects which tend to be the most subjective; i.e. invasive plants, natural range barriers, wildlife tree retention, cultural heritage resources, etc. The template can be found under Woodlot Licence Operational Plans at

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-tenures/timber-harvesting-rights/woodlot-licence>.

Another recently revised document is the private land removal guidelines. The two main revisions involve roads on the private land to be removed and licensee performance. It can also be found at the link noted above but under the heading – Woodlot Policy & Procedures.

Reviews, reviews and more reviews. The two most recently announced forestry related government reviews involve provincial inventories and wildlife habitat. The Federation will be making submissions to both. Speaking of inventory, barring any unforeseen circumstances, the updated WL Inventory Handbook should be approved and circulated before you read this report. It's been a long time coming but there were many things to address including new inventories, new technologies, ensuring the inventory work was commensurate to the



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

size and scale of WL operations, etc. With many WL needing new Management Plans due to fires and beetles, the Inventory Handbook will be a useful resource.

No word on the Professional Reliance review or when it will be released. And there are no hints or indications what it will say. Hopefully, it recognizes the need to put some of the business of managing WLs back into the hands of licensees!

The report for Provincial Flood & Fire Review entitled “Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia” was released recently. It contains 108 recommendations! The government advises that 19 or 20 recommendations

were already being actioned as a result of internal reviews carried out post last year's wildfires and floods. The other 80+ are going to have to be prioritized and will be actioned in due course.

A note about wildfires. As many of you know, I live in Williams Lake and was evacuated twice last summer – once from my home then from the city. I was asked by the BC Community Association to attend and make a presentation at their annual general meeting in Burns Lake. My topic – to share my first-hand experiences as a wildfire evacuee in 2017 and offer some perspectives as a long-time forester in the area. On May 24th I arrived in Burns Lake about 6:00pm, sat down for dinner and while waiting for my food opened the Williams Lake Tribune (local newspaper) app on my iPhone. The headline - BC Wildfire responding to fire on Fox Mountain. What??? I live on Fox Mountain. My initial reaction, after muttering a few expletives, was -

oh no, not again. I texted my wife to make sure she was OK. Fortunately, she was. The fire was across the road - probably within 600 m of my house. Thanks to the Williams Lake Volunteer Fire Department and BC Wildfire Service – including a bomber drop, it was contained to about 1 hectare. A close call with a happy ending but...

...for me, it was yet another wake-up call, another warning shot across the bow.

The threat and risk of wildfires in and



cont'd on page 9

Delivering Programs to Benefit Woodlot Licensees

by Dean Daly

The WPDC Board members along with our Coordinator, have been busy through the spring managing the business of the Council on behalf of woodlot licensees. I want to thank them very much for their continued commitments to the organization!

I also want to acknowledge the difficulty that many woodlot licensees and their neighbours have endured through the last year due to the extraordinary damage from both fire and flood activities across the province. We wish you all the best in your efforts toward recovery.

Some highlights of recent WPDC work include the following:

While the WPDC investment fund growth has slowed recently, it continues to perform reasonably well given market uncertainty and the conservative nature of the investment mix. The balance of the fund at the end of May was approximately \$3,100,000. The Council reviews this fund performance with our professional manager at TD on a monthly basis.

On May 31, the WPDC Directors approved revisions to our Strategic



Dean Daly
President

Plan which will be in effect from 2018 to 2023. This work is undertaken every five years by Council and sets our organization's strategic goals. This work requires significant volunteer effort from our Board members. Thanks to all

involved for committing your valuable time to this important exercise! A copy of the plan is available through our Coordinator, Cathy McClary.

The WPDC Directors also completed the review and renewal of the WPDC Coordinator contract for the next 3-year Term.

The Extraordinary Project Proposal committee was very active completing their review of a training proposal from the FBCWA. The FBCWA did an excellent job working with our government colleagues to jointly develop a training initiative designed to help licensees, consultants and government staff review and interpret key components and requirements of FRPA, the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation and the Woodlot Licence Plan as they relate to management on woodlots. This proposal was approved

in principle by the Council Board in April and the FBCWA is moving towards rolling out the training initiative. We look forward to seeing many licensees at these training sessions. Approved extraordinary projects are financed by the WPDC Investment Fund.

In the past two months significant work has been done, in conjunction with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA), to help the Cariboo Woodlot Association in organizing the joint WPDC/FBCWA Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Williams Lake on October 12-14, 2018. Complete your registration and send in to Cathy McClary by the early bird deadline for a chance to win back your registration fee. With the theme of "From Adversity Comes Inspiration", we look forward to enjoying the Cariboo hospitality, learning about their recovery efforts and visiting local woodlots with you at the 2018 AGM! 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. ♦

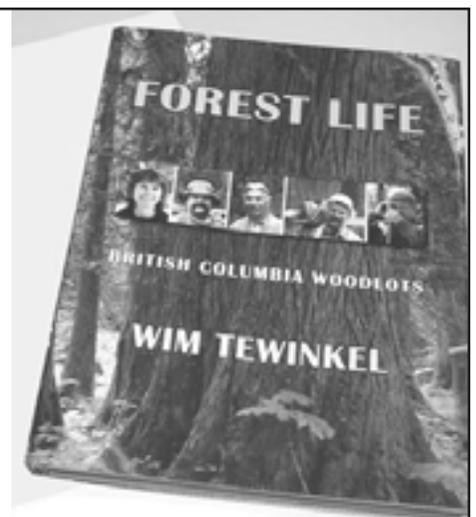
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"Forest Life" makes a great gift

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 ♦



Waste Assessment Obligations: Advocating for Cost effective and simple implementation for woodlot licensees.

by Debbie Zandbelt, RPF

Flat Fee for Woodlot Waste Assessments

In May we met with Timber Pricing Branch to advance our proposal for an additional woodlot tool to meet the waste assessment obligation. This agenda topic has been a long-haul push to get traction, but we are finally getting there. Together the Interior Industry and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development have collected updated data on interior waste levels with a two-year pilot study. Now that this pilot study is complete it is opportune time to update our proposal and move it forward. We are aiming for a system that is cost effective for woodlot licensees and simple to implement. The Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Measurements Procedures manual is also being updated with Industry being consulted and having opportunity for input. Those changes are expected to be published in 2019. It is important to know your waste assessment obligations before you start harvesting and post harvest. This manual presents the options available to you, the



Debbie Zandbelt, RPF
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

procedures and time frames for reporting requirements.

Annual May Update to Table 6.2 for Woodlot Stumpage Rates

Stumpage rates have been on the rise for quite

some time now. The rate increase was expected with strong lumber markets affecting stumpage over the same time period. Stumpage is continuing to be high as log prices do not appear to be dropping in the short term.

Table 6-2 shows the approved May 1st, 2018 update to the Interior Appraisal Manual (IAM) stumpage rates for the Interior woodlots. Any cutting permits that have an annual August 1 update will have these rates applied at that time. Any new Cutting permits issued between now and the November update to the IAM will also have these rates.

Committee Update

The Kamloops Regional Appraisal

Advisory Committee and the Northern Regional Appraisal Advisory Committee usually meet 2 to 3 times a year. Provincially, the Interior Operational Cost Committee and the Interior MPS Technical Committee are the two venues for timber pricing discussion and meet regularly. I represent your interests at these meetings, thus if you have any issues or concerns to bring forward, please let me know. The Federation Timber Pricing Committee includes from the Board of Directors Jon Seinen (Interior) and Colleen Marlow (Coast). Dean Daly, Brian McNaughton, Ed Hughes and I are the remaining members. Three to four times a year we assess priorities and project updates. We also participate in quarterly communication meetings with Timber Pricing Branch.

Harvest Billing System

It is great to see the continued interest in access to the harvest billing system to track your woodlot scaled volumes or confirmation of your stumpage rates. <https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/hbs> The site remains accessible to the public without any sign in required. If you would like help navigating this site, please let me know. It is very helpful to track and confirm the information you have collected, better tracking leads to less surprises down the road.

Contact info for any questions or ideas is Debbie@woodlot.bc.ca or 250-549-3089. ♦

Table 6-2: Community Forest Agreements and Woodlot Licences: Coniferous Average Sawlog Stumpage Rates in \$/m³

FOREST ZONE	BALSAM	CEDAR	FIR	HEMLOCK	LARCH	L. PINE	SPRUCE	W. PINE	Y. PINE	OTHER ¹
North Central	3.97	-	5.75	4.06	-	3.48	4.20	-	-	4.11
North East	1.19	-	-	-	-	1.40	1.17	-	-	1.23
North West	0.71	1.77	-	0.41	-	2.65	1.96	-	-	1.21
South Central	2.95	-	2.39	-	-	2.54	2.60	-	-	2.54
South East	3.00	3.20	3.58	2.15	3.53	3.22	3.10	2.69	3.27	3.23
South West	3.67	4.00	4.29	4.35	3.43	3.92	3.90	4.07	-	4.04

¹Average for the Forest Zone



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 ♦

A Working Forest that Works!

by Ed Hughes, RPF

The coastal woodlot sector has come a long way from the times when stumpage was a dominant part of our business. The TAB system works at keeping the woodlot program moving forward for coast licensees. The licensees are planning towards a “working forest” that meets the needs of the different users of our woodlots. The Woodlot users are many and varied, with many of the infrastructures (trails, roads, treatments, tours etc.) expenses paid for by sweat equity and a stumpage system that works.

As I travel through the many different coastal woodlots I see small scale intensive forest management. The variety of user groups that I stop to talk to are happy they have a woodlot in their backyard. They see the steady line of licensee, employees, contractors, and many of the other users. They like how licensees look after their woodlot differently than larger scale operations. There is a personal attachment, that comes at a cost, which is partially supported by our TAB rates. Licensees take the extra time to do more and explain why, how and when they do the things that are being done. The public appreciates this little extra effort.

It is a challenge to balance the variety of responsibilities that come with being a licensee, which is made possible by the TAB stumpage system. This is especially important when the stumpage squeeze comes anytime soon. As your Timber Pricing representative, I maintain a growing list of all the benefits that come from Woodlots and our stumpage system. Feel free to call or email me to add to the list!

Flat Fee Waste Proposal:

Debbie Zandbelt, Brian McNaughton and I had a good face to face meeting



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

with Allan Bennett and Keith Tudor in May. This was our first opportunity to flush out our Flat Fee proposal, which is being seriously considered for implementation as an additional option for reporting Woodlot waste. The details are being worked out by

Timber Pricing branch with some tasks for the FBCWA to complete by the end of July. There are more details to come, but for now a simple percentage applied to your S&R invoices (or an annual summary) is being considered. Some of the details being discussed include:

- maintain their existing options for other waste survey methods;
- have a term for the selection of the flat fee that is linked to an existing permit (Cutting Permit term seems logical);
- use a percentage that is applied to our S&R invoices or as an annual charge linked to the volumes we harvest;
- keep the system simple, with periodic adjustments when required.

Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst

My little bit of advice for anyone in the forest sector is to begin, if you have not already, to plan for the worst. It seems that everyone is talking about the great log market that exists, which has been slowly improving this past few years. Prices have never been better! There is a log market super cycle being predicted. All good news for plan A hoping that this market continues for some time to come. Plan B is to prepare for lower log prices that no one likes to talk about.

Preparing for the worst does not prevent Woodlot Licensees from

continuing to move forward. Here are some points to consider:

- set aside some funds for silviculture when markets are low;
- the impact of lower volumes that you might want to harvest when markets are poor;
- hold some good wood for harder times;
- watch the market trends (I personally like a good graph!);
- keep the good contractors working, so they are ready and able to help when required;
- when possible, keep more than one market supplied (usually it is the long-term relationships that help when times are not so good).

Market Pricing System Advisory Committee (MPSAC)

The Coastal Appraisal Manual was updated on April 1, 2018, incorporating changes as a result of Timber Pricing branch and MPSAC efforts. There are numerous changes to improve the MPS model, which are being tested to get things right. As these meetings are confidential, I can not provide details until the changes have been made, at which time interested readers need only to link to the Timber Pricing web site. All the Coastal MPS manuals and amendments are available to see the timing and details of changes made.

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC):

The CTPAC meeting will follow the MPSAC meetings which are still ongoing.

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. ♦

The Cork Bark can only be removed from June to August in 35-degree C plus temperature, which is required to soften the natural glue layer between cambium layer and outer bark. The first removal at age 25 removes approximately the lower 1.2 m of bark. Further bark removals are gradually removed in 1.2 meter increments up the tree once the proper age is reached. Some trees may have three 1.2 m segments up to where the branches fan out. Once the bark is removed a number from 0 to 9 is painted on the cambium layer to correspond to year of harvest so subsequent harvests are kept on schedule. Removing the bark does not harm the tree. The trees are resistant to wildfire except the first several years following harvest.

The actual removal of the bark is done by hand by only very experienced workers. The activity is considered a multi-generational skill that is passed down from one generation to the next. Generally, the workers that do the cutting of the bark, are over fifty and the younger generations do the heavy lifting of carrying the bark to a delivery vehicle. Extreme care must be taken when cutting the bark, because if the cambium layer is damaged it may kill the tree, or at least render that portion of the tree useless for future “bark production”. If a Cork Oak is damaged in the bark removal process, there are financial penalties attached. There is no waste from cork production as every little piece is harvested and brought to the processing plant.

At the processing plant the cork is piled onto a pallet about 2m x 1m x 1.5 m. This pallet is then immersed in a boiling vat of hot water fired with wood heat to a temperature of 112 degrees C for one hour. This treatment does two things. One is that the bark becomes soft and pliable, and the other is to kill any bugs or lichens in the bark.



The cork is then graded for quality with the very best cork going to the production of wine or champagne bottle stoppers for the better-quality wine and champagne industry. If the bark had lichens on it, the roots of the lichen penetrate into the bark and leave a yellow or green stain that affects the taste of the wine or champagne. Insect galleries and air pockets also affect the quality. The cost of a single cork for a champagne bottle may go as high as \$6.00 CAD for one cork. One method that the cork industry employs to reduce the cost of corks for the wine industry is to take a thin slice of the best cork and glue it to a poorer quality section, top and bottom, to prevent the fluid coming in contact with the poorer quality material, thus costing less per cork. The cork is actually extracted parallel to the bark rather than vertical into it. A pallet of top grade cork has a value around \$8,000.00 while a lower grade may be worth only \$800.00.

The middle grade of cork is sliced into cork sheets. The cork sheet is then glued to various fabric depending on use, and used to make a variety of goods from purses, to shoes,

sandals, hats of all kinds, slippers, belts, umbrellas, wallets, hand bags, pot holders, jewellery, watch straps, flooring, wall coverings, engine gaskets, picture frames, kitchen trivets, covering for cigarette lighters, pens etc. Once treated, cork becomes just about as strong as leather and wears the same as leather.

The lower grade cork is all processed into granular cork and used for industrial purposes, mainly for thermal insulation, sound proofing, floatation devices, inner core of baseballs and cricket balls, floats for fishing nets, etc. Because it has very good thermal insulating values and it is resistant to fire it makes it ideal for house construction. The granular cork can easily be processed into sheets or slabs as thick as required. No cork is wasted, as all the trimmings from the two upper grades all go into the production of granular cork. The granular cork is reconstituted with heat and pressure so that the natural glue in the cork reconstitutes the cork without any additional glue required. ♦

OFFICE OF CF LETTER ON APR 2018

Amendments to CFSSU for CBST

April 5, 2018

Reference: 18157-02 Cliff ID: 238018

To: Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List Regional and District Managers, FLNR Forest Licensees and Silviculture Agreement holders BCTS Business Area Managers, FLNR



BC V8W 9M1 Tel: 250 387-1544 Fax: 250-356-2150 Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for

Information sessions on the amended Standards and related changes to SPAR will be offered by the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch (FIRMB) staff. FIRMB is also sponsoring updated cone collection workshops over summer 2018. Dates for all sessions will be

listed at: www.gov.bc.ca/climatebasedseedtransfer

CBST policy development and stakeholder engagement is ongoing and additional changes to the Standards are expected to be implemented in stages. Future changes that are currently planned will address:

- Removal of the option to use the “Geographically based transfer standards.” This is targeted to be in two years; however, timing will be subject to the results of CBST impact and gap analyses (currently underway); and, additional consultation with stakeholders.;
- Replacement of current seed planning zones / breeding zones with new CBST seed planning /breeding zones. This is expected in 2 to 5 years’ time.
- Implementation, administration and streamlining of the Standards.

Please note that the full extent of climate change adaptation through CBST will be realized at a later date when the climate change informed species selection (CCISS) project advances to implementation.1 Collaboration efforts between the CBST and CCISS projects will continue to ensure integration and consistency between decision tools and policy realms.

FLNRORD District Managers are requested to forward copies of this letter to local forest licensees and silviculture agreement holders who may not be on the Forest Tree Seed Users Distribution List.

For questions pertaining to the CBST Project or the amended Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use please contact Margot Spence, Tree Seed Policy Officer and CBST project lead (Margot.Spence@gov.bc.ca), at Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch.

Diane Nicholls
Chief Forester ♦

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that the Chief Forester’s Standards for Seed Use (Standards) have been amended to enable the option to use Climate Based Seed Transfer (CBST) from this point forward. The amended Standards come into effect after a four month notice period, on August 6, 2018; however, forest licence and silviculture agreement holders may waive the notice period and begin using the amended Standards immediately.

CBST promotes healthy, resilient and productive forests and ecosystems through the matching of seed sources (seedlots) to climatically suitable planting sites. Introduction of CBST is one of the ministry’s first climate change adaptation policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The attached Information Bulletin, “Transitioning British Columbia to Climate Based Seed Transfer” (Attachment 1) contains more details on CBST. I encourage all seed users to become familiar with CBST, the revised cone collection standards and the option to use climatically suitable seed sources (seedlots) for planting.

In brief, amendments to the Standards (Attachment 2) include:

- The addition of the option to use CBST transfer standards, continue with the current transfer standards (“geographically-based transfer standards”), or use a mix of both;
- New cone collection requirements that align with CBST; and
- Other minor amendments to update references and administrative provisions.

A consolidated version of the Chief Foresters Standards for Seed Use, updated to April 6, 2018, is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/tree-seed/legislation-standards/chief_forester_standards.pdf

The introduction of the amended Standards brings an end to the streamlined process for requesting a CBST Alternative, which I introduced in September 2017. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Office of the Chief Forester Mailing Address: PO BOX 9352 Stn Prov Govt Victoria,

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. ♦

FBCWA Award Winners for 2018

around communities and residential areas is serious! When fires do start, they are becoming increasingly volatile and hard to control. We need to do something about it. In my opinion, we need to change the way we manage our forests – not just to reduce fuel loads, but to improve their overall health and condition. Our forests need to be much more diverse, resilient and resistant to wildfires. If that means we may have to re-think some of our land management designations or the way we manage those areas, particularly in interface zones, then so be it. Woodlot licensees should be encouraged to propose new and innovative ways to manage forests.

I wouldn't wish what happened to my family and I last summer on anyone. It was awful. All the stress; all the anxiety. The fire across the road this spring brought all of those feelings and emotions back again – even stronger. It also hit home that just because there were fires around Williams Lake last summer, it doesn't mean it won't happen again this summer.

People keep referring to what happened in the Cariboo last summer as the NEW NORMAL. Those words are even used in the title of the Abbott/Chapman report. If we don't do something about fuel loading and the health & condition of forests, unfortunately those words are going to ring true.

This year's Federation Annual General Meeting is going to be in Williams Lake – October 12 to 14th. The theme is around wildfires – what happened here and why, plus what can be done to prevent a re-occurrence around other communities. It promises to be very interesting. Please plan to attend.

I hope you have an enjoyable, fire and smoke free summer. Take care and be safe.

PS Sorry about the somewhat personal rant about wildfires; but enough is enough! ♦

by Nancy Pezel

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.

Trevor Chambers, the recipient of the \$2000 scholarship, is the son of Geoff Chambers W1719. Trevor's father has been a member of the Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Association for 19 years. On his father's woodlot, Trevor has been involved with conifer release projects, walk through surveys of plantations, helping with mechanical repairs on machinery, and maintaining roads.

Trevor says that his interests in forest economics, sustainable resource development and small business management likely developed as a result of the time he spent working with his dad on the woodlot. He has been accepted into the Resource Economics program at Trinity Western University and looks forward to the attending and meeting new people there.

Thomas Younger, the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship, is the son of

Dave Younger, W2032 and W0161. His father has been a member of the North Island Woodlot Association since 1988. Tom says woodlots have been a part of his family since he was born and that he has helped his dad with almost all phases of operation on his woodlots.

Tom plans to attend the Natural Resource Management in Forestry Program at the University of Northern BC this fall. He says that woodlots are beneficial not just to the owner but to the community that they operate in and the province as a whole. We need more young advocates of the program like Tom!

In this issue of the Almanac you can read Trevor's and Tom's essays that answer, "What would you do to reduce the risk of human caused fires on your woodlot?"

The five-member scholarship committee was impressed with the quality of all the applications. Applicants are scored not only on their essays, but also on their applications in general, application letters, grades and references. Thank you to all who applied.

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

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. ♦



As a small tenure licensee what are your responsibilities during fire season?

First is the understanding of what is fire season. Fire season is not bound by calendar dates and should be recognized as any time a fire can spread outside the area of the fire's intended use. Fire season is generally understood as being when an area is snow free and weather conditions are conducive to fire spread. As a woodlot and Community Forest licensee our actions are dictated by mainly the Wildfire Act (WA) and its supporting Wildfire Regulation (WR).

If a community forest/woodlot licensee is conducting industrial operations, as defined by the WA and WR during fire season the WR sec 4 requires the licensee to provide 24-hour contact information to the BC Wildfire Service by March 1st if the operations are planned to take place between the dates of March 1 and November 1 of the year. This notification is made to your regional Fire Centre and should also be cc'd to your local Fire Zone. An industrial activity should be considered as anything that can create a spark during the use of mechanized tools or explosive materials. So can going out to cut firewood be considered an industrial operation? Technically yes because it is an operation requiring a firewood permit.

When conducting operations during fire season the licensee should be aware that they are responsible to have firefighting hand tools on site sufficient to equip each person working. More importantly the licensee should be aware of whether the operations include what are considered as high-risk activities. High risk activities are defined in the WR sec 1(3) and generally are activities that are recognized as having a higher likelihood of starting

a fire. High risk activities involve the use of engines, so using chain saws for spacing or all harvesting activities. These high-risk activities have more restrictions as to when and how the activity is to take place. High risk activities have additional firefighting equipment requirements in that not only are firefighting hand tools necessary on site, but they must be supported by an adequate fire suppression system.

Under section 1(1) of the regulation: "fire suppression system" means a system for suppressing fire by delivering (a) water, (b) a suppressant, (c) a surfactant, or (d) any combination of the substances listed in paragraphs (a) to (c) and may include a water delivery system.

"Water delivery system" means a system that can:

- (a) deliver a sufficient volume of water to effectively fight a fire of a reasonably foreseeable size, taking all factors into consideration, including the conditions of any area where the water delivery system may need to be used, and
- (b) deliver water to any place (i) at the site of an industrial activity, (ii) on the burn area or site of the high-risk activity, or (iii) reasonably adjacent to the burn area or the site of a high risk activity;

Note that a water delivery system is a fire suppression system by definition, but that a fire suppression system need not necessarily include a water delivery system. It could be, for example, a system capable of delivering a chemical retardant or even a backhoe capable of covering a fire with soil (a suppressant) for rapid initial attack.

A fire suppression system can potentially take many shapes and

forms as dictated by the type of high risk activity and the fire hazard. It may involve any of the application of: water alone, water mixed with a surfactant, a suppressant (e.g. soil, retardant, or foam), or a combination of all three. The system should be practical and reasonable for the activity being carried out, and capable of extinguishing or controlling the fire to limit fire spread and damage until additional resources arrive or the person is relieved by an official. If the fire suppression system involves the delivery of water, it should be nearby, operational and capable of being deployed in a length of time commensurate with current fire hazard.

The proximity and capacity of the fire suppression system should take into consideration the time to arrive to support the operation. As the fire danger rating increases, the available time to deploy a fire suppression system to support the suppression operation decreases. Larger, more mobile systems may be located in a central area and serve several high risk activities, while smaller, less mobile fire suppression systems may be located in a strategic position or on the machine itself, for use by the operator.

Along with the fire hazard and values at risk, some other considerations for a fire suppression system may include:

- the ability to be activated quickly;
- the number of high risk activity sites to be serviced;
- the presence or absence of potential fire suppressant materials such as soil.

While a fire suppression system could include, for example, a system capable of delivering a chemical retardant or even a backhoe capable

of covering a fire with soil (a suppressant) for limited initial attack, for adequate suppression and control as the fire hazard increases, the fire suppression system at the site of the industrial activity should be supported up by a water delivery system that can be quickly deployed to the site to provide a full suppression response if required.

If water is in limited supply, a suppressant or surfactant may be added to the water in a water delivery system to improve its effectiveness. Use of a suppressant or surfactant reduces the rate or volume of water delivery expected from a water delivery system.

High risk activities also require the licensee to determine the Fire Danger Class for the area where the activity is taking place. The Fire Danger Class is determined through the daily (1200 PST) collection of weather data consisting of temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction and 24-hour rainfall, this data then computes the fire danger class as Low, Moderate, High or Extreme. Depending on the fire danger class, high risk activities have further restrictions placed on them. These restrictions include things such as the requirement of a firewatcher for specified time periods, initiate early shift requirements and ultimately can require that operations be shut down until such time as fire danger has been reduced.

The Fire Danger Class is to be determined daily during fire season and activities have to be conducted accordingly. Make sure as a licensee that you are using data that is produced by a weather station that is representative of your area of operations taking into account factors such as distance from the weather station, elevation, date of snowmelt, aspect, etc. Acquiring this data is considered as a cost of doing business and in most cases an existing weather station's data may be used. Contact your local fire zone office to determine what station to use and how to access the information. In some cases it may require the licensee to establish their own weather recording

equipment. Keep in mind that rainfall has the greatest influence on the Fire Danger Class and weather recording equipment may be as simple as an on-site rain gauge with temperature, relative humidity and wind speed and direction obtained from a suitable existing weather station.

Should the worst case occur, what is expected of the licensee? The WA sec 6(3) states that if a person is carrying out an industrial activity and a fire starts at, or within 1 kilometre of, the site of the activity it is the person's responsibility to report the fire and immediately carry out fire control if safe to do so until such time as the fire is extinguished, fire control becomes unsafe or they are relieved in writing from fire control responsibilities. The WR sec 13(1)(a) further requires that all the person's employees, fire suppression systems and heavy equipment within 30 kilometres by road of the fire be made available.

We are not firefighters, so other than ensuring the prescribed equipment is available and that our operations are conducted with due diligence in respect to fire, how are we to know how to fight a fire? In 1991 a 30 year old logger lost his life while fighting a fire on behalf of his employer and recommendations from the B.C. Coroner's investigation resulted in WorkSafeBC including in its Occupational Health and Safety Regulation sec. 26.3.1 the requirement that workers expected to fight a forest fire as part of their duties be trained to do so, and to receive annual re-training. This, when coupled with the requirements to carry out fire control under the Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation, has resulted in persons working in the forest receiving training in the form of the B.C. Wildfire Service's S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety course supported by an annual refresher in order to meet WorkSafeBC standards.

How can we better protect our forest tenure? We can better prepare ourselves and our tenure for fire season. Did you burn debris piles last year and go and ensure that no holdover fire exists? Have you

assessed the fire hazard resulting from your prescribed or industrial activity as required under the WA sec. 7 and completed the necessary abatement? If something does happen, are you prepared to respond in a safe and efficient manner?

As a woodlot licensee, and hopefully a member of a local association there are opportunities to enter into Protection Agreements (WA sec 60) with the government. A woodlot association can approach the B.C. Wildfire Service and see whether it would be feasible to have an agreement in place which could train and even equip members of the association under B.C. Wildfire Service direction. With an agreement in place, should a fire occur, the association could contact the Wildfire Service to provide assistance on a fire and upon receiving approval be deployed to the fire as an employee with compensation made to the association and working under the B.C. Wildfire Service insurances and WorkSafeBC coverage. Protection Agreements have been in place for years with many entities such as community associations, Cattleman's associations, etc... and have enjoyed much success.

As a final note, listed below are links to the various Acts and Regulations discussed. The document entitled 'Update on Recent Wildfire Regulation Amendments and New Interpretive Bulletin' is an excellent read and will remove many of the 'gray' areas created when reading the legislation.

B.C. Wildfire Act

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_04031_01

B.C. Wildfire Regulation

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/11_38_2005#section1

Update on Recent Wildfire Regulation Amendments and New Interpretive Bulletin (June 23, 2011)

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/bulletins/interpretive_wildfirereg.pdf



FBCWA \$1000.00 Scholarship Winning Essay: “If you were the licence holder, what would you do to reduce the risk of human caused wildfires on your woodlot?”

by Thomas Younger

Human caused fire risk is always a concern to any woodlot owner and to many, it is a big concern due to public attractions inside the boundaries. Where a woodlot is located determines what measures must be taken in order to reduce that risk. Fire awareness is important in areas of heavy use, limiting machinery operation in the summer and reducing the overall fire risk. These three tactics are the keys to reducing potential human caused wildfire.

The first of the three main tactics is to advise the public of the potential fire risks. Hanging signs and posters in the entrances to the woodlot accesses cause the public to become aware of the fire risks in the area. The posters should provide the number to report a fire which is 1-800-663-5555 or *5555, as well as the closest areas of cell



phone service, and the current fire risk. Alex Hartford, a woodlot owner on Quadra Island, hangs “No Smoking” signs on his woodlot because of his location on the Island. Public announcements are important for him because of the popular Haskins Farm Trail passes through a large chunk of his woodlot. Hartford says that smoking has a high fire potential in times of extreme dryness and is easily prevented with public awareness. Being aware of the residences around a

woodlot is also important. On Quadra Island there are more house fires than brush fires making a woodlot in an urban area more at risk of fire than those in remote locations. The public announcements about fire risk and burning bans become crucial to Hartford because of the number of

homes surrounding his woodlot. These public announcements advise people of the risks and how to effectively report a fire if one is spotted or started.

Machines working on site are known to cause fires, but by working during the low fire season, the threat isn’t so great as it is in the middle of summer. When I interviewed Coleen Marlow she said, “We do our best to complete the harvesting operations before fire season begins. This means that no heavy machines, chainsaws or other potential fire starters are on the site during the extreme dry season.” The large machinery is not nearly as dangerous for sparking fires as chainsaws. Most homeowners in the Quadra Island area own a chainsaw and a wood stove, meaning that firewood hunters can be a potential fire risk. By contacting firewood cutters about a new cut block in the low season, much of the firewood will be removed before fire season and deterring chainsaw use in the summer. If you are working during fire season, you must have a fire watch after shutting down for a certain period of time in High or Extreme Fire

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. ♦

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. ♦

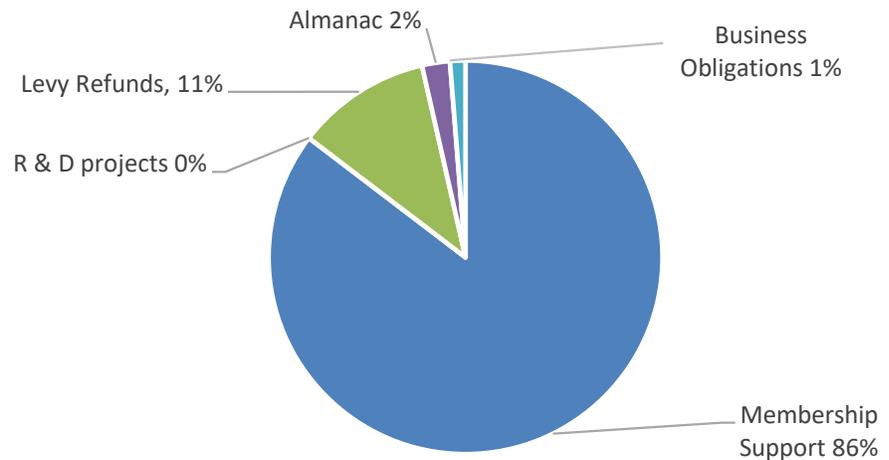
Danger. It is a regulation to have a fire watch period in case a fire was indeed started and if one is found it can be put out immediately.

The final tactic to reduce the risk of human caused wildfires on the woodlot, is by piling the leftover debris of a cut block and burning it during the off season. There is less flammable material therefore reducing fire hazards. Some woodlot owners like Hartford go so far as to remove the brush completely from the roadside by loading it into dump trucks and moving it. A regenerated forest has low fire hazards and it is important to return the forest to this state. Planting a cut block accelerates the regeneration of the forest as well as proving the owner with a preferred species of tree. By planting a block, it effectively reduces the fire risk of a woodlot.

In order to reduce the risk of human caused wildfires on a woodlot, it is important to use public announcements, limit machinery use in the dry season and reduce the overall fire risk of the block. By using these practices, a woodlot is much less likely to produce a fire as well as make it harder for the fire to spread. I gained these insights by interviewing three Woodlot Owners who live near me, they are Bryan Mills, Alex Hartford, and Coleen Marlow. ♦

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. ♦



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>. ♦

MEMBER *Reflections*

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.

FBCWA \$2000.00 Scholarship Winning Essay: “If you were the licence holder, what would you do to reduce the risk of human caused wildfires on your woodlot?”

by Trevor Chambers

During the 19 years that my dad has managed our woodlot it has been struck by lightning probably several times, but two of those times led to small fires. Fortunately, they were both extinguished quickly with minimal damage. There is not a lot we can do about lightning strikes, but we can at least reduce the chance of human caused fires.

In thinking about this issue, I wrote down notes and later realized that there seemed to be three main areas to focus on: reducing the risk caused by other people, reducing the risk we ourselves cause, and reducing the risk factors on the ground.

To reduce the risk caused by other people I would post additional signs to remind people of campfire bans when that is in effect. I would also ask people to be careful during times of extreme fire risk. It would also be a good idea to drive around on the woodlot and check for illegal campfires on occasion.

To reduce the risk that we pose, I would carry basic tools like a shovel and a Pulaski and a fire extinguisher in our vehicle during fire season. If we were working up there even just



doing silvicultural work. It would be a good idea to be prepared for anything that might happen. On our woodlot we have good cell reception as well, it is a great asset to have. Finally, I would avoid mechanical work during the extreme fire risk conditions. I find it can be too hot to work then anyways.

To reduce the fire risk on the woodlot in general, I would make sure any garbage or litter, like broken glass or old oil containers, are cleaned up. We have found these thrown away on our woodlot sometimes. I would put some work into keeping old skid trails and roads usable to provide

access to more areas. They might be useful if a fire started in an older cutblock.

I have notice that when some of our slash piles were burned off, which was done during the winter, the entire pile did not get burned. This is probably due to the wetter conditions at the time they were burnt. However, since some of the pile remained it could be a fire hazard. The difficulty is that when we noticed this our logging contractor had already removed his equipment so it was not available to re-pile what was left over. I am not sure if the remains of some of the piles is a big fire risk but I would like to see them re-piled and burned again.

I have thought about this issue and tried to come up with some ideas that we could do. These ideas will probably be useful for other woodlot managers as well. So far we have only had two small fires on our woodlot. Unfortunately, I know some woodlots have recently had really severe fires. With the hot dry summers that we get it is important for everyone to at least do what they can to prevent wildfires. ♦

FBCWA Priorities

Priority	Tasks
WLS practicing good management / Healthy forests in good condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action/respond to FPB Special Investigation, audits, C&E reports, etc. - Improved silviculture practices and innovation - Promote integrated management - Wildfire prevention, fuel mitigation and risk reduction - Establish a Best Managed Forests Committee (see below)
FRPA – Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WLP training (part of FRPA continuous improvement)
Revitalization of WL Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the steps described in the Jan. 26, 2018 memo to Board of Directors
Fair and reasonable administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure legislation, regulation, policy implementation, administration and enforcement are reasonable and appropriate for WLS - Professional reliance - WLP extensions - Fire hazard assessments - Flat fee for waste - Inventory handbook - Private land removal policy & guidelines - Road reporting
Supporting WL Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revitalize WL Associations - implement the steps described in the Jan. 26, 2018 memo to Board of Directors - Extension and guidance to Associations & licensees
Retaining the THLB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing species at risk and other constraints/downward pressures on the WL land base
Social Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage licensees to respect the public's interests in WLS - Manage government's expectations - Promote and publicize WLS
Government Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure WLS have access to government funded programs - Ensure government funded programs respects the tenure and private land rights of woodlot licensees

Approved 2018-19 WPDC Work Plan

WPDC Business	\$ 59,400
Questionnaire	\$ 5,000
Annual Report	\$ 700
Woodland Almanac	\$ 9,000
Woodlot Stewardship	
Recognition	\$ 6,000
AGM	\$ 8,500
R& D Project Proposals	\$ 10,000
WPDC Total	\$ 98,600
FBCWA Delivery	\$308,015
Extraordinary Project	
Proposals	\$100,000
2018 Total Approved	\$506,615

INSPIRATION

DIVERSITY

EFFORT

**FBCWA 31st WPDC 21st
Annual Joint AGM & Conference**
October 12-14, 2018

WILLIAMS LAKE, BC

My WLT File Died

by Tom Bradley

Lots of folks are working with Woodlot for Windows (W4W) to propose a new AAC as part of a new woodlot Management Plan. Great!

And lots of folks are starting work one morning to find that their *.WLT file, that looked just fine last night at quitting time, is very dead. “Open File” command is greeted with “Unhandled exception has occurred in your application. If you click blah blah blah...” Not great.

We have figured out how to fix a lot of these. We’ll sneak up on the answer slowly.

First, why is this happening? Well, there is a close to infinite list of ways to disable a WLT file, but a very effective and common one is to have a flaw in the species listings that are input to the yield calculation software. Such as:

- Species percents do not add up to 100.
- You have supplied data for species 1, species 2 and species 4, but left a blank line at species 3.
- You have an NSR stand with no species data and did not set the poly type to ‘NSR’.
- You told W4W to use TIPSYP to calculate yields for a stand that contains deciduous and coniferous species. (In W4W 4.2. May be about to be fixed in W4W 4.3)

W4W says nothing about the error(s) in your WLT file, calculates yields, calculates AAC, looks good. So, you save and exit. But when you try to re-open the WLT, you get the “Unhandled exception”.

How to avoid? Well, never calc yields on and save your main file until you are sure it is A-OK. Save your main file before yield calc, then save a copy and run yield calc on the

copy. Save the copy, close it, and try to re-open it. If you succeed, you can rename it to your main file name.

Or better, just keep incrementing: W1234_V1.WLT, W1234_V2.WLT, W1234_V3.WLT, etc. If your WLT ever rolls over and dies, you can go back to a saved earlier file and look for the problems noted above.

Too late? WLT is already dead? The fix is “easy”.

- 1) Make a copy of your dead WLT and rename it to something like TEST.WLT. (Or something more poetic if you are inclined.)
- 2) Open TEST.WLT in NotePad. You want a text editor, NOT a word processor.
- 3) Find the yield tables section in the WLT. Starts around line 2000 and runs to line 50,000 or 75,000 or so. Yep, bulky.

In the WLT files I have worked on, the yield tables section starts with
`*YieldGroup VDYP`
`1 {FID},{MAPID},,,F,,`
`WLT,,,,,`
 and ends right above
`[Selected]`
 The yield tables section is notable for having a number series from 0 to 290 or so down the left margin, over and over and over.

Anyway, find this large block of text and delete it. Yes, you are going to be holding down <shift> and <page down> for quite awhile! You can of course delete in chunks.

Save your newly modified TEST.WLT file, close Notepad, and see if the altered WLT file now loads into W4W. If no luck, open it up in Notepad again and look around for a piece of the yield tables section that you missed.

Once the WLT is back to loading, you need to find the species listing errors, save, save a copy with new

name, calc yield on copy, and test copy with a reload. And generally, “repeat”. It can take awhile! But often nothing compared to the amount of work that many WL invest in tweaking the veg cover in a WLT to meet their needs.

Constraints Can Be Copied

Expanding on this basic idea that “A WLT is just a big text file”, there are other cool things you can do with a WLT and NotePad.

One of them is copying constraints between WLT files.

Now, if your entire constraints section is “8% Area Netdown for Wildlife Trees”, you will not care about this.

My constraints sections tend to have several UWR polys, 3+ different VQO polys, several different watershed green-ups, and a set of RMZ constraints. 22 lines of constraints in my WL, so far.

When you decide (i.e. realize you have to) change a baseline data input to the GIS process that built the veg cover and constraints data set, the shape file of veg cover you add to W4W changes. So you have to start again: re-import your revised veg cover shape, and add all those darn constraint statements back in. Adding a complex constraint set by hand is a major pain of clicking and keyboarding, with excellent potential for error.

To avoid, you can copy the constraints from one WLT to another. Or you can store your constraint package in a text file and copy it to any WLT you need to.

About 2000 lines up from the end of the WLT file, there is a section that looks like:

```
[Constraints]
```

ES 5	ES 2	True	1
100	0		
ES 5	5	ES 5	True
1	100	0	
ISLANDS	6	OUT	
True	1	100	0
WTRA	2	WTRA	True
1	100	0	
Dumont	4	Dumont	
True	2	75	15

[ReportPoly]

These are your constraints, with Tab delimiters.

Copy the text brick between [Constraints] and the next section header [ReportPoly], go to new WLT file, and past it in empty [Constraints] section. Leave one blank line between sections.

Best to make a temp copy of your WLT to try this on. And be mindful that if the basic info that supports or requires a constraint has changed, you will have edit the altered constraint in W4W to make it work right. Still, this is a great labour saving and quality control trick.

(And the stuff you can do with classifiers, CSV export and Excel! Maybe more full on geekiness next time.)

The RESULTS Access Test

I just found out this week that we are required to re-write the RESULTS access test every two years when our RESULTS Submitter access expires and we apply to renew our access. There is flexibility for those who have many reporting access permissions expire at once. We re-write the test once, not 20 times. But it is Policy. No negotiation. Feel free to tell the computer how you feel about this - I did - then write the test and get it over with.

View only access is still freely available to any WL holder who wishes to look at, but not touch, the info entered in RESULTS for their WL. ♦

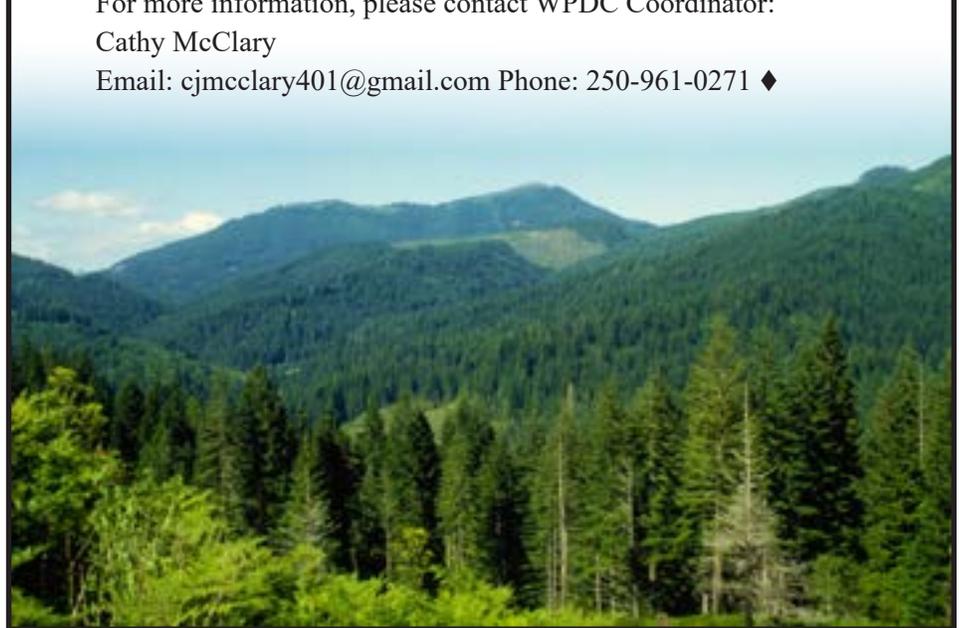
Woodlot Product Development Council Extraordinary Project Proposals:

Woodlot Product Development Council Extraordinary Project Proposals: 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. Applications will be received throughout 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: cjmclary401@gmail.com Phone: 250-961-0271 ♦



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 ♦



MAPS MADE EASY: The Killer App for Forestry Drones

by Tom Bradley

Maps Made Easy stitches together and georectifies “air photos” taken from a drone. You upload images, a few hours later you download a hi-res, accurate, georectified TIF. Cheap, current orthos on demand for ArcMap, QGIS, or Avenza.

My family bought me a basic DJI Phantom 3 Standard for Xmas 2015. I immediately started trying to create orthophotos using the drone. Flying on a grid, shooting to get image overlap, processing in Photoshop and rectifying in TatuK Editor. I kind of succeeded, but it took way too long and the georeferencing error level was always high.



mission. 50 hectares photographed. 15 minutes to upload the images. After an hours work, I have a hi-res accurate ortho for 50 ha. Digitize cutblock boundaries? Check. Digitize roads? Check. Digitize the complex boundaries of a group selection partial cut? Check. Can I do any of this in an hour with a GPS? No way.

One of the hardest things about creating orthos is “flying on a grid”. It hard to do by hand, and the second you exceed the range of the controller to drone link, the drone turns to face the Home Point and you loose your orientation and ability to fly a grid.

Maps Made Easy solves this with the Map Pilot autopilot for DJI drones. You outline the area of interest on a satellite image map, set the height to fly, check the plan, and press “Start”. Drone takes off, climbs to altitude, flies the grid, takes the images, then comes back to Home. You follow the progress on the screen.

The autopilot warns you that “Flying on autopilot increases the risk of drone loss.” What it means is that if you have instructed the drone to fly into a cliff or a big snag, it will do so. It is an aircraft and you are the pilot!

Setup costs? A used drone is \$400 or less. You also need a drone case and a

good newish smartphone or iPad mini. That’s it.

Are there other fine points and tips of the trade re: flying a drone? Or the autopilot program setup? Of course. But it frankly is not that hard.

I now do block layout with a 3 day old ortho image basemap in Avenza. I find relevant things in the bush, can see them

on ortho, and can map them better from the ortho than I ever could on foot. I capture new harvest boundaries (and fix the badly mapped old ones) from drone orthos. Current orthos on demand on the cheap. What is not to love? This single app has changed how I work in 3 weeks.

You don’t feel like learning to fly a drone? Buy one for a younger family member and turn them loose.



The Map Pilot info screen while drone is at work.

(Disclaimer: Maps Made Easy is a commercial service. They may have competitors. There may be even better choices. I use and am voluntarily endorsing Maps Made Easy, but I have not done research into alternatives. No incentive when it is all working so well.) ♦



A piece of drone ortho shot in November 2017.

I stumbled onto the Maps Made Easy site 3 weeks ago while looking for something else. As a lark, I uploaded 32 images I had flown on a grid. Two hours later they sent back a perfect ortho image, way better than any I could ever create. For free. Small jobs are free (a) so you can learn how to do it well and (b) to get you hooked. (Objective (b) was highly successful.) Cost for a large job is about \$10.

What is it good for? Well, it takes me 45 minutes to set up and fly a mapping

MEMORANDUM

RE: Woodlot Licence Plan Template

I am writing to inform you of revisions to the Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP) template located at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timbertenures/woodlots/woodlot_licence_plan_template_2018-04-05.docx. This template replaces the version dated November 2007.

The new template has been developed to provide updated guidance for staff and licensees and to promote provincial consistency in the interpretation and application of the Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA) and specifically the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation. The template was developed in recognition of fact that many of the original WLPs are now being extended or new plans are being submitted.

The template was developed in association with the Office of the Chief Forester and in consultation with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. The template is a guide to the required content of a WLP and establishes a consistent starting point for plan preparers. The example text



provided in the template does not constitute default or pre-approved content. Those preparing the WLP are expected to consult relevant

FRPA bulletins: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=D65006C0326B4E0F838194044C10CA86>, provincial and district guidance documents, other legislation, applicable Government Actions Regulation orders, etc., to fully develop the content of a WLP.

Chris Stagg, Assistant Deputy Minister
Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations Division
Area Assistant Deputy Ministers
Regional Executive Directors
District Managers
Woodlot Licence Holders via the Districts

I appreciate the efforts of the district managers and the Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations in distributing this memo to woodlot licensees throughout the province.

Ministry staff and woodlot licensees are invited to provide

ongoing feedback that may be considered in the periodic review and updating of the template. Please direct any questions or feedback to Emma Neill, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Forest Tenures Branch at (250) 726-6249, emma.neill@gov.bc.ca or Geoff Klassen, Timber Tenures Forester, Forest Tenures Branch at (250) 387-8328, geoffrey.klassen@gov.bc.ca.

Doug Stewart
Director
Forest Tenures Branch ♦

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Thank you
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“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby



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