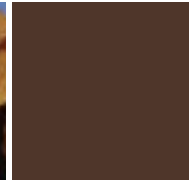




Forests in Good Hands

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Spring 2022

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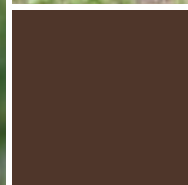
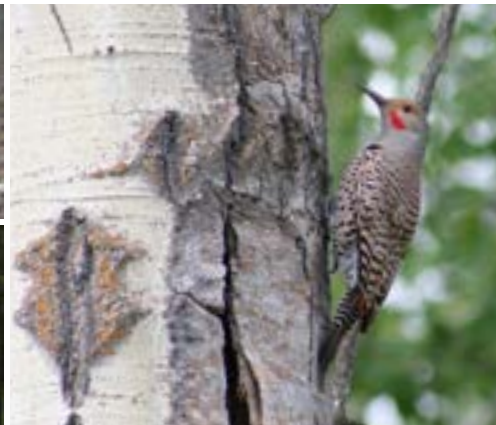
Dorothy's Tree



My name is Will Wardwell. Me and my family hold Woodlot #1564 at Harrogate, south of Golden. This tree is on the adjacent Woodlot #1563 held by Paul Frasca and Mark Dascher. It may not be huge by some standards but it's the biggest tree in the vicinity of our home and my wife Dorothy would visit it on foot, horse or skis. When Mark and Paul acquired that woodlot, Dorothy told them she would chain herself to it if they tried to cut it down. When they did set out a cutblock in that area they left Dorothy's Tree and some trees around it even though she had recently passed away. This photo shows 3 generations of Wardwells – Me, my son Jaro and grandson Reid.” ♦



Forests in Good Hands



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FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

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Note: Directors are currently experiencing phishing so contact information is not being published. To contact a Director please email admin@woodlot.bc.ca

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www.youtube.com/channel/UCiEqfHa03fJ1k_D2pB1oY9g - BC Woodlots

Government Initiatives of Interest to Woodlot Licensees

by Brian McNaughton

For the past few months, the Federation's agenda has been dominated by various government initiatives. Following is a brief status report on five (5) of the key ones.



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

Old Growth

The Federation analyzed the recommendations and maps developed by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel that show proposed old growth deferral areas and candidate recruitment forests, and then set out to inform the ministry about the implications to Woodlot Licensees (WLs). Two letters to Minister Conroy, publication of a special old growth edition of the Almanac, copies of that Almanac with a cover letter being sent to every MLA in the province, widespread distribution to community leaders and First Nations, Associations meeting with their local MLAs, and the list goes on. Most recently, FBCWA President Mark Clark and I met with Minister Conroy on March 23, 2022. We described many of the issues that old growth deferrals and recruitment forests create for WLs and offered some ideas as to how to protect old growth while minimizing the impact to WLs. We promoted the need for a "Made for WLs" approach and asked the Minister to direct her senior staff to work with the Federation. The Minister was aware of the situation with WLs; smiling and nodding when we mentioned letters to MLAs and the Special OG edition of the Almanac and that she had probably received 10 or 12 copies. Subsequently, Minister Conroy sent a letter to all provincial woodlot licensees advising them of her decision to exempt WLs from big-tree old growth (read the letter on page 5). Remnant old ecosystems, and ancient forests still apply to WLs and the FBCWA is working with senior ministry officials on WL next steps. More information will be communicated as it becomes available.

Tab Rates

There isn't much new to report since the engagement session that was held on November 26, 2021. At that session, the ministry advised that further discussions were not likely to be held until June or July 2022. The Federation has familiarized itself with the ministry's concerns, had

discussions with some First Nations' reps and the BC Community Forest Association, is working on some ideas to address government's concerns, and is in the process of developing rationales that support tab rates for WLs.

Bill 28 – Changes to the Forest Act

There are two key changes that relate to WLs - forest resource inventories and the redistribution of Allowable Annual Cut (AAC).

For more information about forest inventory requirements, please refer to Emma Neill's article in this Almanac. Redistribution of AAC is aimed at addressing government's stated objective for First Nations to hold more AAC. The Act allows government to designate special purpose areas over crown land that they intend to include under a new tenure. This includes Schedule B land in a Woodlot Licence (WL). Schedule A land is not affected. The Federation is trying to understand government's intentions with respect to WLs. Obviously, the loss of land from a small, area-based tenure can have profound impacts, including the demise of the WL. We are trying to impress upon government how important it is to keep WLs intact. The Act does provide for compensation, but how compensation is calculated has changed. This is yet another topic for which the Federation is gathering information needed to represent WL interests.

Bill 23 – Changes to the Forest &

Range Practices Act (DRIPA)

Regulation and policy development is underway. The ministry is proceeding in an orderly fashion. There are (3) packages. Package #1 deals with Forest Stewardship Plans and Forest Operations Maps; neither of which is directly relevant to WLs. The other two topics – ecological communities and protecting planning investments - are important to WLs. Packages # 2 & 3 contain topics of interest to WLs including invasive plants, natural range barriers, section 108 funding, wildfires, stocking standards, roads, and aligning FRPA with DRIPA (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act); all topics of interest. I was recently asked to become a member of the FRPA Industry Team which is tasked with advising the ministry of FRPA regulation and policy development. That, along with being a member of the Minister's Practices Advisory Council, means the Federation is well positioned to have input and represent your interests.

FLNRORD Re-org

FLRNORD is no more. Welcome back Ministry of Forests and hello to a new ministry called Lands, Water, Resource Stewardship. There is an article by Emma Neill about the restructuring elsewhere in this edition of the Almanac. For those of you wanting more information about the roles and responsibilities of each ministry, the ministerial mandate letters can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/cabinet/cabinet-ministers>.

To say the least, these are tumultuous times for the forest sector and WLs are not immune. Addressing government's initiatives takes a collective effort. The actions and support from Woodlot Associations and individual WL licensees is much needed and appreciated.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, wildfire free, summer! ♦

■ Coastal timber pricing

TAB Rates, Waste Manuals and Avoidance of Waste Penalties

by Ed Hughes

TAB Rate Methodology Review

There have been pressures to adjust how we calculate table rates (one of which is our TAB rates) over the past few years for a number of reasons. The increased log and lumber prices have pushed government towards more market sensitivity. Industry has been wanting to reduce the lag time between when log values and stumpage rates increase and decrease to be more in harmony and timely. There is a growing trend towards making the Coastal and Interior Appraisal Manuals more closely aligned.

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) is working with Timber Pricing (TP) to address these pressures. I have been working with the Coastal WL advisory group, Debbie Zandbelt, Brian McNaughton and Timber Pricing Branch on addressing the pressure points and maintain the TAB rate methodology at status quo for the important



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

components. Once the update to the Coastal Appraisal Manual has been signed off, expected in April 2022 I will be able to provide more specific information.

Waste Manual Update

After many years of work, the Interior waste manual is close to being amended with a new system to be implemented. Debbie Zandbelt provides more details in of the Interior waste manual update in her article elsewhere in this issue of the Almanac.

The Coastal waste manual update will be reviewed next. The changes to the Coastal Waste Manual are not expected to amend the methodology for at least a year, during which time we have commitments from Timber Pricing to work through a strategic plan that will include WL input. We will be working with Timber Pricing Branch Staff, Michael Wedel (Cruising Policy Forester) over the next year or so to advocate for a waste survey and reporting manual that works for

Coastal Woodlot Licensees.

Waste Penalties Warning - Update

Coastal woodlot licensees have been submitting waste surveys accurately and in a timely manner. The normal and preferred parent block method has been used for submissions by Coastal Woodlot Licensees, but occasionally there are longer delays than are acceptable. The Director, Timber Pricing Branch has asked me to get the message out about Waste penalties.

A penalty may be imposed under Waste Assessment Regulation (BC Reg 262/2019) if any agreement holder (including Woodlots) does not submit waste assessments within 90 days (or a potential \$100 penalty could apply) or 180 days (increases the potential penalty to \$400). These penalties have been in place since 2019 and the authority has been delegated to the Timber Pricing Director to ensure consistency between Forest districts. In addition to the penalties, I believe that most Coastal Forest districts do not issue a new cutting permit without all waste assessment requirements being met, which ensures waste submissions

4

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>. ♦

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 (print or website)	\$ 50.00
1/8 page (print or 3 month revolving banner on website)	\$ 80.00
Quarter page	\$135.00
Half page	\$175.00
Full page	\$250.00

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

are made on the coast before any new cutting permits are issued.

The more serious potential penalty of \$25,000 can be applied if a waste assessment is not paid to government. This authority is expected to be delegated to the Timber Pricing Director this fall who requested that Woodlot Licence holders be made aware of the change.

As a note, WL holders on the coast are being described as doing a good job, especially by using primarily field plots through either full or parent block waste assessments. This is the result of both WL holders taking this obligation seriously and the Ministry staff sending out polite reminders, when required to do so.

Fiber Recovery Zone - Update

The Fiber Recovery Zone penalties have been “turned off” as of March 2022. The FRZ still exist, so penalties can be turned back on at anytime in the future. There are lots of linkages between the FRZ and the waste manual on the coast.

Market Pricing System Technical Sub-committee (MPSAC)

The Coastal Appraisal Manual was updated on December 15, 2021. The MPSAC has completed its annual series of meetings (usually twice/month) from July through to December. The committee currently has monthly updates which will continue, until July when the series of meetings required to update the Coastal Appraisal manual will start all over again.

Coast Low Volume and Woodlot Crown Tenure Management Cost Survey

The low volume cost survey submissions (2021) have yet to be compiled. No new information has been provided regarding Coastal Woodlot submissions.

Financial Record Keeping

Over the next few months, the FBCWA is preparing a guidance document to ensure that provincial WL holders are prepared for any future request for records required by the Timber Pricing Branch. As a result of the coastal WL survey in 2021 we gained knowledge that should be helpful going forward. We will ensure that all WL can access the document which when completed can be used to help if and when a

future costs survey request comes our way.

New Appraisal Issues – Continuous Communication

The Coastal Timber Pricing portfolio aids Woodlot Licensees upon request. If you have any concerns or issues, I can be reached at 778-424-6129 (office), (250) 954-8926 (cell) or by email at ed@huock.ca. ♦



File: 19720-01, 19460-01
Reference: 269661

April 4, 2022

Dear Woodlot Licensees/Cherry Ridge Community Forest/Bamfield Community Forest:

In 2019, the Government of British Columbia embarked on a new approach to old forests, commissioning an independent panel to engage British Columbians and collect their views on the importance and future of old-growth in the province. The panel's report was received in 2020, and government has taken decisive action to act on the recommendations. In November 2021, government released a report and mapping from a technical advisory panel (TAP) that identified old-growth at risk of irreversible biodiversity loss that was to be protected over the short-term, while a longer-term strategy is developed. The TAP reports and map information is available on <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/old-growth-forests>.

After further assessment of impacts and the ability for some licensees to efficiently utilize a ministry field verification methodology, I have made a policy decision to exempt woodlot licences, and the two community forests that are managed under the woodlot legislative regime, from the priority old-growth big tree polygons except where there is overlap with ancient or remnant polygons.

To be clear, where First Nations do not support old-growth deferrals, there will not be an expectation for deferral of harvesting in any old-growth areas identified by the TAP. To meet the broad goals of government and acknowledge the public interest, licensees may wish to consider voluntary protection of old-growth components within their licence area.

Please contact local district staff for additional information. Sector associations may contact Doug Kelly, Director (Doug.Kelly@gov.bc.ca), at the Forest Tenures Branch on implementation of this policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrine Conroy".

Katrine Conroy
Minister

Ministry of Forests

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Tel: 250 387-6240
Fax: 250 387-1040
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for

Timber Pricing, Social Licence and Grass Roots Success

by Debbie Zandbelt, RPF

In 2021 Interior woodlot licensees scaled 169,430 m³ on an average year end log market value of \$128.40/ m³. The economic activity funneled into communities across rural BC from these log sales is a grass roots success of the Woodlot program. It also is a stark reminder of the importance of timber pricing to our program. Woodlots continue to incur direct costs above and beyond the major tenure holders to maintain the social license to be successful. Employment per cubic meter remains higher than industry standard. Tabular pricing with its streamlining of stumpage calculations and the current cost recognition model remains vital to the woodlot program.



Debbie Zandbelt, RPF
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

Forest Act: Section 136 Disclosure of reported Information (Obligation to maintain records).

The 2021 paper “Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia” brought with it an increased awareness of tabular stumpage in BC. We are preparing for discussions in 2022 on this subject. Part of being prepared comes from the woodlot tenure holder themselves. The Forest Act requires tenure holders to keep accurate records with respect to timber harvesting, transportation, construction and maintenance of roads, forest management administration and silviculture. There soon may be a time when this information will be requested, and your obligation will be

to provide this data.

Amendment to the Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Procedures Manual – Interior

The much anticipated and hard-fought change to the waste manual will arrive April 1, 2022. The biggest change is that

ocular surveys are no longer an option for Interior woodlot licensees. At the time of writing this article only the draft manual is available. The draft manual indicates that woodlots will now be responsible to complete a full survey as do the major tenure holders. Nevertheless, woodlots will be able to enter into sample plan sharing agreement with adjacent woodlot licensee’s or community forests in your region. No details are final at this point so please check the waste and residue website (see below) to see how this will affect your waste survey obligations moving forward. The other big change on April 1, 2022, is that Dry Grade 4 measured in your waste survey will be charged to your annual allowable cut.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry/timber-pricing/forest-residue-waste/provincial-logging-residue-and-waste-measurements-procedure-manual-interior-version>

Waste assessment regulation is in effect.

In December of 2019 the province

passed an Order-in-Council for a Waste Assessment Regulation. This means if a license holder fails to complete a waste assessment survey in the required reporting timeframes waste penalties will occur. There are monetary and annual allowable cut penalties. We have been informed that these penalties will start to be assessed in the fall of 2023 thus compliance with this obligation is certainly in the best interest of all woodlot tenure holders. The link below provides the details of this regulation.

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/arc_oic/0646_2019

Please direct any comments or questions to me at Debbie@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Please note:

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



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

Contact Tom Bradley email: tom@woodlot.bc.ca ♦

RESULTS on Edge

by Tom Bradley

For years, we have been telling folks “Use Internet Explorer to do RESULTS reporting!” RESULTS does not work right in Firefox or Chrome.

Well, Microsoft is killing off Internet Explorer. They state:

“The Internet Explorer 11 (IE11) desktop application will be retired on June 15, 2022, for certain versions of Windows 10. This means that the IE11 desktop application will no longer be supported and afterward will redirect to Microsoft Edge if a user tries to access it.”

IE will be missed by no one.... Except RESULTS users. I think what Microsoft means is that installed versions of IE will still work after June 15, but will receive no security upgrades. Time will well.

If you only use IE for RESULTS work, you may not be deeply concerned about the “no longer supported”, and you may choose to continue to use IE after June 15. I will. But there is plainly a level of risk.

What else can be done? You can switch to Microsoft Edge, with special settings!



Tom Bradley

RESULTS seems to work in stock Edge. More or less. Until you try to report an Activity on the RESULTS 315 screen, which is necessary to do RESULTS reporting. Then you see: (see diagram 1)

Looks OK. Until you remember you are supposed to have ability to ADD ACTIVITY at the bottom of the screen. The action buttons are missing! The Special Settings are required to make Edge emulate good ‘ol Internet Explorer, and show the action buttons.

So the goal is to “enable Internet Explorer compatibility in Edge”. If you google that phrase, you will find some truly complex instruction sets for pro IT departments managing corporate environments. We are not headed there. Our goal can be accomplished *relatively* easily.

1. First, Internet Explorer must already be running on the computer, with Compatibility View enabled for the RESULTS site. The process to enable IE Compatibility View is discussed in Section 6.7 of the WLGML Users Manual.

What if you buy a new computer after June 15, 2022? How are you supposed to get Internet Explorer installed so you can meet this prerequisite? Get in touch with me. I have IE install files that work in Win 10. (We do not know about Win 11 yet.)

2. Back to Edge. Open Edge.
3. Type the URL `edge://settings/defaultBrowser` into the Edge web address bar (see diagram 2)

Then <ENTER>.

4. Screen changes to: (see diagram 3)

Unless you want Edge to be your default browser, leave <Make Default> as it is. That button only makes Edge the default browser if you click it, and there is no “unclick”.

Set the middle box to <Incompatible Sites Only>

Set the “Allow” box to <Allow>.

Then <Add> an IE mode page.

5. Another box opens. (see diagram 4)

Either type in `https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/results/` by hand, or log in to RESULT in any browser and copy/paste the URL.

And then click <Add>.

diagram 1



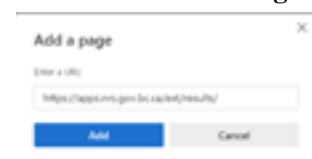
diagram 2



diagram 3



diagram 4



cont'd on page 8

► From page 7

6. New IE mode page is added: (see diagram 5)

Note the “Expires”. I am sure you have already.

Yes, you get to re-do this every 30 days. It is Not Good. One more barrier to happy RESULTS usage.

7. After these steps, you should see the <Add> buttons in the RESULTS315 Screen: (see diagram 6)

If you are thinking “How in heck can this be happening to a govt system?!?”, well, you have company. Short answer is “Time ran out”. RESULTS is a work of programming art, built with Microsoft programming tools a long time ago. RESULTS relies on abilities found only in old MS browsers to interpret your input and change the displayed screen contents in response. No one knew how long the RESULTS code would be supported in Windows, but we all assumed “long enough”. Well, MS is now bumping off the old browsers, the supported clock is running out, and RESULTS is still required. It is not good. What the strategy is, other than “Tweak Edge ever 30 days”, has not yet been shared. And we have not even started testing under Windows 11.

What Will Old Growth Deferrals Do To My AAC?

Mr. McNaughton asked that I pass on “a simple method” to assess the potential impacts of proposed Old Growth deferrals on your WL harvest rate.

There is “a simple method” if you have a current Woodlot for Windows (W4W) file for you WL. By current, I mean a W4W Version 4.3 or 4.4 *. WLT file that uses netdowns and reforest to options that are appropriate for your WL.

(If you do not have such a file, you could make one, but it is a lot of work. The equivalent of the data analysis required for new Management Plan.)

1. Open your WLT file. <Save As> to save a copy: (see diagram 7)

As you can see below, I reused my same long descriptive name WLT file (that tells me what factors were modelled in this run) and added “OG_DEFERRAL_TEST” (see diagram 8)

W1832_w_Landbase_Netdowns_TIPSY_Rotation_2_OG_DEFERRAL_TEST.wlt is now my active file in W4W. This is good. I do not want to change a saved WLT file from my Management Plan work! (see diagram 9)

2. Go to the <Calculations> tab. (see diagram 10)

Click <Calculate> to (a) be sure the WLT is working and (B) to check to see that you get the same harvest rate as previous. If both yes, or close enough, you can be confident that you are modelling OG Deferral impacts in the next steps, not a mistake.

diagram 5



diagram 6



diagram 7



diagram 8

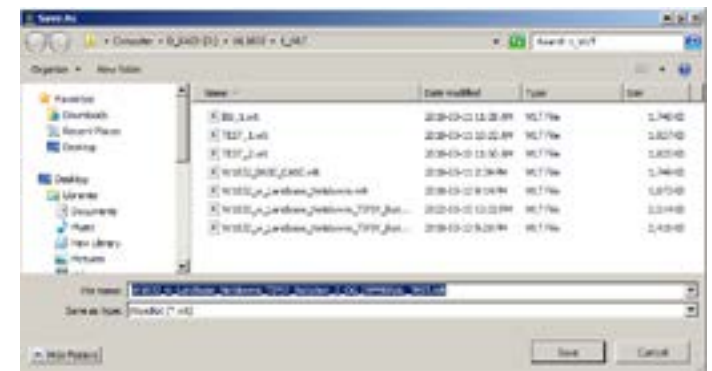
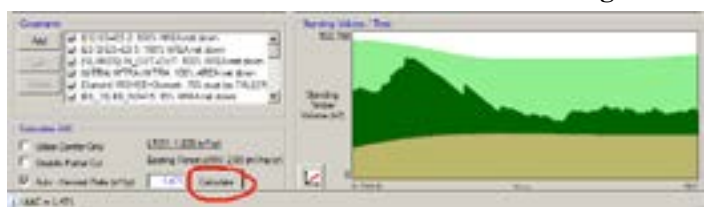


diagram 9



diagram 10



cont'd on page 9

► From page 8

- Next, (a) Switch to <Map View> tab in W4W, and (b) get a map of the OG deferrals in your WL open on your screen. I opened the WL_and_OG_Deferral_n_Recruitment_Using_Dec_2021_Poly_Data KMZ file from <http://www.woodfor.com/WFED/OG/> in Google Earth (GE). The screen view I wanted is: (see diagram 11)

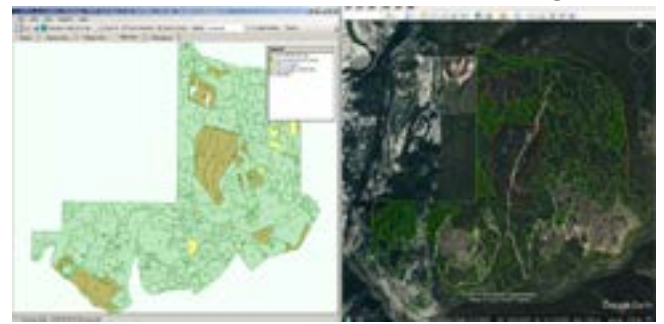


diagram 11

Side by side deferrals and W4W map. Because I am a geek, I also had a KMZ file of VRI poly outlines for my WL to add to GE. Helpful, but not strictly required.

- Looking back and forth between the OG deferrals map and the W4W polygons map, <Alternate Click> some polys in W4W that you can see are deferred. This will select then in W4W. (see diagram 12)



diagram 12

May not be an exact match, but should be “close enough”.

When you “misclick” and select a wrong poly, just <Alt Click> it again to de-select.

- Go to the <Polygon View> tab of W4W.

The polygons you just selected in the Map View have little red cross hatch boxes beside them.

Visit each polygon and change the Silviculture System to “Do Not Harvest” (see diagram 13)

Polys marked “Do not Harvest” do not contribute directly to the harvest rate, but they DO contribute to meeting any forest cover constraints for Ungulate Winter Range, Visuals, Water, etc.



diagram 13

- Back to <Map View> <Edit> <Select None>. (see diagram 14)

- Your W4W map should now show brown shading where you changed polygons that are within the OG Deferral areas to “Do Not Harvest”. (see diagram 15)

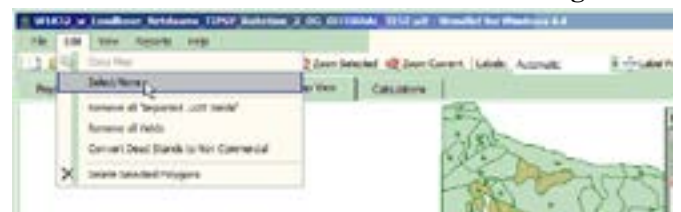


diagram 14

- Repeat until you get them all.

<Save> the WLT regularly so you do not loose your work if “something goes wrong”.

- Back to the <Calculations> tab. <Calculate>. (see diagram 16)

My AAC under this scenario of constraints and silviculture drops from 1,471 to 1,222 m³/yr when the OG Deferrals are modelled as “Do Not Harvest” areas, i.e. excluded from the timber harvesting landbase. That is 250 m³/year less. Not what I call good news, but not as bad as some WL situations. Of course, a bunch of the deferred areas are also the best growing sites with the biggest remaining trees on my WL. That is what happens when the gov’t changes the agreed on management goal from “great timber” to “big tree old growth” in mid rotation. ♦

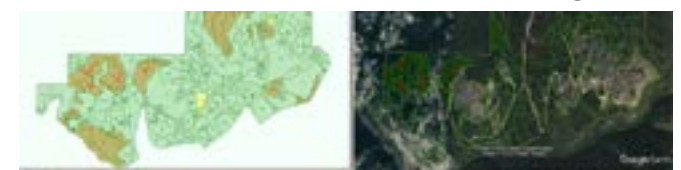


diagram 15

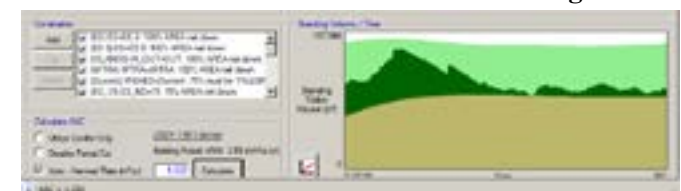


diagram 16

Director(s) Needed

Woodlot Product Development Council and Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

Hello fellow woodlotters. We are all aware of multiple issues coming at us that need to be addressed, such as the Old Growth Deferral Strategy, ongoing changes to timber pricing policy, wildfire hazard management and silvicultural practices.

Ensuring that Woodlot licensees are well represented in these matters through their local woodlot associations and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) requires money, which comes from the \$0.25/m³ annual levy that you pay and is collected by the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) under the authority of the Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act. The WPDC and the FBCWA then engage paid professionals to assist in addressing these issues on your behalf. The prime function of the Council is to receive, administer and provide



accountability for the funds collected from licensees.

Most of you are familiar with the FBCWA through your local woodlot association and you may have attended some of the great woodlot conferences that have been held around the province. After a two-year hiatus, plans are underway to highlight the Fraser Valley at the woodlot conference this fall in mid-October. I hope to

see you there!

While it may be difficult to understand the complexities involved in keeping two Boards functioning smoothly, it is a legal necessity to allow for the collection and distribution of the annual levy. As a Board member on my second stint of volunteering, I can confidently say that the funds collected have made a world of difference in what we have been able to accomplish as woodlot licensees in terms of raising our profile, getting our issues heard and seeing changes that benefit all woodlot licensees.

Collectively Council and the Federation strive for improvement, and as such have recently undergone Board governance training to revitalize our skills in this area. I am confident that we are moving in the right direction of working efficiently together to keep the goal of delivering programs and resources that will benefit all of us.

As is the case in any organization or society there is a need for ongoing refinement and rejuvenation, which is helped by a healthy turnover of directors and councillors bringing their fresh perspectives.

We need you to step up and take part!

Please consider letting your name stand for a directorship position in either organization.

Thank you.

WPDC Director: Paul Galliazzo
email: pgalliaz@shaw.ca Phone 250-983-8023

FBCWA President: Mark Clark
email: markclarkrpf@gmail.com
Cell 250-612-8014 ♦



WPDC Director Vacancies:

Interested in providing direction on the spending of the woodlot levy?

Volunteer Directors are needed to sit on the Board for 2-year terms. Annually the Board needs to fill 3-4 positions.

Directors must be woodlot licensees. The Board meets twice a year in Spring and Fall and conducts business through monthly teleconferences that last about one and a half hours. Expenses are reimbursed for travel to the annual woodlot conference, meetings and phone calls. Contact Cathy McClary for more information: 250-961-0271 or email: cjmclary401@gmail.com. ♦

WPDC 2022-23 Operating Budget

The Woodlot Product Development Council Directors conduct work that meets Council's purpose which is to benefit and promote the woodlot industry. All 845 woodlot licensees are members of the Council. The money to support the work, comes from the \$0.25/m³ annual levy paid by woodlot licensees and collected under the authority of the Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act. The following amounts are approved for the 2022-23 Budget and Work Plan.

PORTFOLIO	BUDGET TOTAL
WPDC Business Directors' Expenses, Professional Counsel, Admin & Coordinator fees	\$ 110,549
Annual Survey Production, distribution and analysis of annual survey to woodlot licensees	\$ 1,800
Annual Report Production and distribution of annual report to woodlot licensees	\$ 2,000
Woodland Almanac Production and distribution of 4 issues of the Almanac	\$ 12,500
Strategic Plan A professionally written document written every 5 years, next due in 2023	\$ 10,000
Conference Provide support to local woodlot association hosting event, & printed materials	\$ 14,000
Member & Education Tech Transfer Initiative in 2022 to encourage member participation at conferences, workshops, etc.	\$ 5,000
R & D Proposals Small projects that benefit woodlot licensees	\$ 5,000
Extraordinary Project Proposals Funding for extraordinary projects outside of joint work plan with FBCWA	\$ 132,000
Program Delivery (FBCWA) Includes fees for FBCWA General Manager, Contractors, Admin & Communications	\$ 468,674
TOTAL	\$ 761,523

Diane Nicholls, BC's Chief Forester Leaving MoF

by Brian McNaughton, FBCWA General Manager

Diane Nicholls, BC's Chief Forester is leaving the Ministry of Forests to join the Drax Group as the Vice President of Sustainability for North America. Drax is a world leader in sustainable biomass generation and supply business. Closer to home, Drax acquired Pinnacle Renewables Ltd. in 2021.

If memory serves, I first met Diane in 2007 on a Minister's Practices Advisory Committee (PAC) field trip hosted by Robin Hood to the Likely – Xat'sull Community Forest. Community Forest Agreements were quite new back then and PAC wanted to get a first-hand look at how planning and practices for mountain pine beetle salvage operations might be different on a community managed tenure. Fast forward to February 2016 – Diane was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister & Chief Forester. One of her duties – PAC chairperson! Interesting how things work out!



Diane Nicholls, July 2007
Cedar Point Park, Likely BC,

I recall Diane being a strong advocate for good stewardship and sustainability back then, so it's not surprising that she accepted a VP of Sustainability position with Drax. It sounds like a challenging position and a great opportunity.

Personally, and behalf of the Federation, I want to thank Diane for all she did for Woodlot Licences and the WL Program while Chief Forester. Whether it involved inventory requirements, Woodlot 4 Windows, stocking standards, RESULTS reporting, FRPA or any one of a myriad of other topics, you always treated WLs fairly. Not that we always got what we wanted cuz we didn't. But your door was always open and your decisions well thought out and rationalized.

Congratulations on the new job and good luck! ♦



Left to right: Ainslie Jackman, Diane Nicholls and Jerry Benner at the annual Woodlot Conference in Williams Lake, October 13, 2018.

'Big' and 'Old' Trees Photo Contest

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the contest. They are all winners with interesting reasons for why the trees have been preserved along with a couple examples of old vets hit by fire and beetle. As you can see from the submissions, woodlotters like trees.

Lisa Marak, FBCWA Communications

NOTE: These magnificent big and old trees are NOT the focus of the deferrals or recruitment identified under the recent Old Growth strategy announced by government.



**Sid and Barb Dawson
W0013, Parksville**

Sid is standing next to a Fir vet, hidden by the 20 years regen. We leave the veteran trees as they are the life of the forest. We plant 1200 stems per ha and the vets do their job in natural seedlings.



**Jim Stewart (lhs)
W1615, Kelowna**

Showing my brother-in-law from Alberta our woodlot. When the first loggers went through this area, they took the Douglas-fir and left the cedar behind.



**Mike Anderson
W0387 Tunkwa Lake**

Just thought I would send this picture of what until recently was one of the biggest trees in our neck of the woods, drybelt fir, down by Logan Lake. It got wiped out by the Tremont Creek fire last summer however and is now just a 20-25 foot burnt snag. Very upsetting.



**Greg Dubois
W0448, Skookumchuk**

I don't have an age or diameter but estimate it around 500 years and 250 cm diameter.



12

**George Delisle
W0411, Rock Creek**

Here is a picture of one of my biggest Spruce saved during logging last year. I wanted to keep it for its good genetics and seeding the disturbed area. This area was NSR from the mid 1940's. The cattle have over grazed this area ever since. About 30 years ago I chose to mound the open area (about 0.5 ha) and underplant it with spruce even though I had no obligation to do so. There were about 15 stems /ha of mature Spruce that has been experiencing blowdown and Bark Beetle attack so I logged out most of them but simply did not have the heart to cut this tree down.



**Al Waters
W0845, Quesnel**

Each year starting in 2017, I stapled MCH capsules on the veteran Douglas-fir trees (before April 1st), to prevent them from being attacked by Douglas-fir bark beetles. I sold the WL in March of 2021 and the new licensee didn't continue MCH. This year two of the trees were attacked by Douglas-fir bark beetles and are dying. This picture is of one of the veteran wildlife trees that was attacked by Douglas-fir bark beetles in 2021 and is dying.



**Don Pigot
South Island**

This tree is on our property. The photo is 7 years old but the tree is still relatively healthy. My children and my grandchildren have climbed up inside the trunk and branches. Why would you cut it down? I would urge members with whoppers to consider registering their big trees.



**Katherine Banam
Managed Forest #127, Ladysmith**

We are leaving these trees standing for future generations of people and trees. Some of them are wildlife trees. We also leave the maples for bigleaf maple syrup and licorice ferns. My 2 year old playing under it.



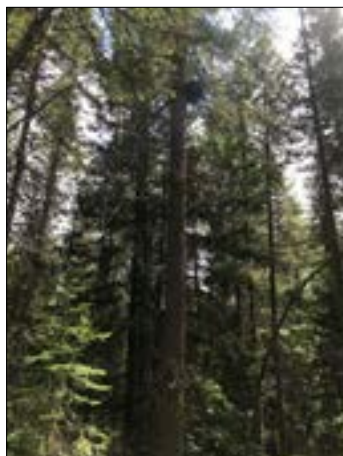
Allen Hopwood
W0082, Courtenay

A tall tree, 350 year-old Douglas-fir that survived 1925 logging and wildfire. I left it because it is a hunting perch for Queen Charlotte Goshawks, a Red-listed species. This tree overlooks adjacent plantations on private industrial forest land.



Brian Amies
W1588, Golden

Here is a big Douglas-fir tree with a Northern Goshawk nest. I have never observed any activity in it yet but I have reserved it of course.



Jerry Benner
W1897, Quadra Island

This photo is precious as it is Jordan's daughter Karina and my dog Frodo. The old growth Douglas fir was adjacent to a cutblock and of course I chose to preserve it in a WTP, especially since it had been used as a den by a mammal. When I laid out the boundary I also added a very rare grand fir OG, a red cedar OG, more Douglas fir OG as well as numerous large mature big leaf maples.



Nigel Ross
W1898, Quadra Island

Rumored to be the BIGGEST FIR on Quadra Island. It is located within a reserve and anyways no old growth is allowed to be harvested on Quadra.



Shawn Flynn
W1479, Port Alberni valley

This photo, taken by Dave McBride, was of us replanting a road we built and then rebuilt to remove some 2500 m³ of old growth blowdown.



Chantal Blumel
W2031, Quadra Island

Here is a photo of myself with a few of the 17 old growth Fd vets we retained in a 3ha cut block on our WL. These Fd vets survived a 1920's wildfire, and were scattered in a second growth stand. We retained a majority of the scattered Fd vets because it's the right thing to do. They're beautiful.



Mark Clark
W1726, Prince George

We left these single firs behind for wildlife purposes, and secondarily as a seed source.



James Wyllie
W1186, Prince George

We avoided this tree during our harvest in 2011 and it survived a previous entry 50 or 60 years earlier that had targeted large Dfir - but apparently judged this one too large. I took some measurements so I could submit it to the big tree registry but have since lost the card with those notes. I believe it was more than 45m tall but the top was dead so it has probably since then shrunk. I christened it 'His Pilot Mountain Majesty'.



Todd Thompson
W0011, Port Alberni

I am blessed to have many true old growth vets on my Woodlot in Port Alberni. Many of them are much larger than the one pictured below with my daughters Acacia and Raquel, and our dog Louie. We protect these vets for numerous reasons, seed, wild life, most of them are over ripe, and because its 2022 and they deserved to be protected. But this tree in particular will always be protected as long as I am alive because every time I walk by it I think of this picture.



An Illustrated Perspective on Proposed Old Growth Deferrals

by Alan Waters

In March 2022, Al Waters gave a presentation at the Southern Interior Silviculture Committee's (SISCO) Winter Workshop called "*An Illustrated Perspective on Proposed Old Growth Deferrals*". A PDF version with detailed speaker notes has been posted on the FBCWA website at <https://woodlot.bc.ca/news/>

The link also takes you to the web portal for all of SISCO's 2022 Winter Workshop presentations including Al's presentation. Sign-in with a password is required. If you are interested to view any of the sessions, and don't know the password, email Cathy McClary cjmclary401@gmail.com.

The presentation contains many irrefutable photos showing that old forests in the BC interior have heavy dead fuel loading which predisposes many of the proposed old growth deferral areas and the existing old growth management areas to catastrophic wildfires. Excellent feedback has been received on the presentation, making it something that everyone who is concerned about forest and wildfire management in BC should review.

Any comments you have about the presentation or if you are interested in discussing more on what could be done to improve conservation of old forests or wildfire suppression with Al, contact him by phone at 250-747-0649 or email: alanwaters@quesnelbc.com. ♦

FBCWA-WPDC 2022 Woodlot Conference: Rooted in Learning

Mark your calendars!

After a 2-year hiatus, the Fraser Valley Woodlot Association is proud to host our annual Woodlot Conference! The event will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre in Abbotsford, BC on **October 14-16, 2022**. The Fraser Valley is home to world-class hiking, fishing, food, wineries, breweries, shopping, professional sports..... and the list goes on! So, please come join us and let's have some fun while learning together.

The Conference will kick-off with "**Roots, Boots and Offshoots**," a Friday-night social combined with a moderated hot-stove discussion. In a casual setting, Woodlot licensees will have the opportunity to note what is working, and what could be improved to help them with their woodlot licence management. Send in your own topics or suggestions for a productive and fun night! Email your ideas to cjmclary401@gmail.com.

On Saturday, you will be treated to presentations and interactive

panel discussions on **First Nation Engagement and Forestry Learning & Education** in our province followed by the always-fun banquet and Silent Auction evening. Proceeds from the Silent Auction go to the FBCWA Scholarship fund.

On Sunday, we will take you outside of the Conference Centre, where you will have opportunities to tour the **BCIT Woodlot** or be guided through the rich **Aboriginal history of the eastern Fraser Valley**. Partners and spouses are welcome on either tour. Bring your boots!

Early Bird registrants will automatically be entered into a **Sturgeon Fishing draw** (1 entry per registrant) presented by Rick Biller.

Conference and accommodations booking opportunities will be sent out soon so be on the lookout!

Please contact Cathy McClary at 250-961-0271 or email cjmclary401@gmail.com for any Woodlot Conference and registration questions.

We'll see you there! ♦

The Fraser Valley Woodlot Association welcomes sponsors for the Woodlot Conference!

Funds raised through sponsorship will recognize you as a supporter of the woodlot program and help to showcase small-scale forestry operations in the Fraser Valley. Sponsorship will encourage people from all over the province to visit and provide opportunities to attract special guests and keynote speakers who support forestry education in local communities. To see the sponsorship package, please visit the FBCWA website: www.woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Links of Interest

- Our own website: <http://woodlot.bc.ca>;
- BC Government: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca>



Forest Inventory and Forest Act Amendments - Bill 28


by Emma Neill

Recent amendments to the Forest Act add a series of new requirements (Section 102) that require the holder of an area-based licence, including woodlots to prepare and maintain a complete and accurate inventory of each of the following resources and features:

- timber;
- soil and terrain;
- water resources, including streams, wetlands, lakes and riparian areas;
- fish and wildlife;
- ecosystems;
- recreation resources;
- visual resources.

Most woodlots are considered pre-existing and the Act requires this inventory be prepared by no later than January 1, 2026. While this appears to be an onerous requirement, most of these inventories already exist in the provincial database. The intention is that the Chief Forester will issue direction in 2023 that clarifies the requirements for inventory, and the provincial source data for the seven types of inventories that are required. Standards for these inventories are already in place through the Resource Inventories Standards Committee (RISC) - [Inventory Standards - Province of British Columbia - Inspiring Ideas \(linkingin.co\)](#). One example is the Provincial Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) that may be deemed acceptable for Woodlots Licences that have not done their own forest inventory.

The purpose of the amendment was to ensure sufficient information is available to assess impacts of forest management, which has not always been the case across tenure types. In addition, the amendment outlines the requirements to maintain the inventories, to keep records and make the inventory information available. There are existing requirements for inventories in Section 45 of the Forest Act (Management Plan) and within Woodlot Licence document. Additionally, requirements for mapping and information for woodlots are currently present under the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation, Section 8 (1) [Mapping and information]. More guidance will be made available as this file evolves, and over time supporting documents will be aligned. A current version of the Forest Act can be found here: [Forest Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](#). ♦

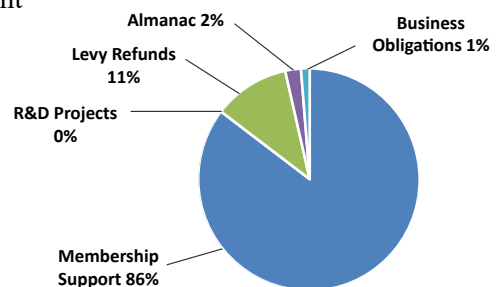


FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licences and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products. The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy. BC's woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦

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. ♦





Partial Cutting Safety - Primer for Tenure Holders

Introduction

The term Partial Cutting has been commonly heard for a number of years. By definition, *partial cutting is essentially any harvesting system that involves some level of tree retention after harvest.*

Partial cutting has often been used in Community Forests and Woodlots to address a variety of non-timber objectives such as wildlife habitat, water quality, soil conservation, biodiversity, recreation, aesthetic values and cultural heritage. It has also been used as an option in addressing timber management objectives such as fire hazard abatement, riparian stability and in certain circumstances can be used to promote the development of Old Growth characteristics in developing stands.

The literature has a variety of definitions for partial cutting but differences are commonly tied to post harvest retention levels and in minor variations in partial cutting objectives. Though there can be considerable differences in the density and distribution targets for leave trees depending on the objectives, in the context of safety, the broadest definition of partial cutting used above is most applicable.

Operations that involve partial cutting can increase the exposure of workers to overhead hazards. The exposure of workers to these hazards can be further aggravated by the interaction of retention objectives with site factors such as distribution and density of leave trees, block topography, harvest system, stand characteristics and weather. Risks to workers can be mitigated and largely addressed through careful planning and safe work practices.

Safety in Partial Cutting Operations – Safety Bulletin Development

The Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee intend to develop a number of bulletins that provide safety guidance related to partial cutting from planning through harvesting to silviculture. The bulletins will provide information specific to harvest system, site factors and tree retention levels that would serve to identify and focus attention on issues specific to the planning and implementation of partial cutting operations. Some examples of areas of bulletin emphasis are as follows;

- Planning for safe partial cutting operations
- Worker training and safe work practices
- flexible leave-tree options that allow fallers to make use of their experience and knowledge of the site to compensate for hazards and felling difficulties present within the stand.
- felling patterns and techniques
- equipment access limitations/operability
- skidding methods
- equipment access limitations/operability
- yarding methods, corridor orientation, yarding carriage options (motorized and slack pulling)



Government Restructures

Many Woodlot licensees will be aware of the recent announcement by Government regarding the creation of a new Natural Resource Ministry. MLA Katrine Conroy remains as the Minister of Forests and MLA Josie Osborne (Mid Island-Pacific Rim) is the new Minister of Land Water and Resource Stewardship. The new Ministry has primarily been created to coordinate land use planning across the resource sector with about 800 staff shifting into the new Ministry.

The responsibilities of the former Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development will now be split between the two Ministries, while some other responsibilities will be split up between other ministries. The Ministry of Forests will include the Office of the Chief Forester and will be responsible for operations, including forest tenures and pricing, range will remain with Forests. There will be little change in District offices, that will still function to process Forests and Lands authorisations, indications are that approximately

90 additional staff will be hired to support the new structures across the province. Forest Tenures Branch is now part of Integrated Resources Operations Division with Matt Austin onboarding as the new Assistant Deputy Minister, Rick Manwaring remains as our Deputy Minister.

The Ministry of Land Water and Resource Stewardship will take on Land Use Planning and Old Growth, they will also play a role in First Nations reconciliation and strategic level agreements. Another notable change, and of interest to Woodlot Licensees is that recreation will shift to the Ministry of Environment. The BC Wildfire Service will now be fully staffed to operate on a year-round basis, to provide better support to the public and implement their programs. If you are interested in more information about the leadership, including the mandates of each Ministry the information is available here: [Executive Council & Parliamentary Secretaries of B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#). ♦

Private Land Removal from a Woodlot Licence

In March, 2012 the Ministry adjusted the long-standing policy that private land could not be withdrawn from a Woodlot Licence and permitted land to be removed if the licensee met certain conditions. This policy shift was mainly in response to the aging demographic of the woodlot licensees and the need for estate planning. Increasing real estate values and more challenging planning regimes have also incentivized woodlot licensees to request private land removal .

There are 845 active Woodlot Licences in BC and the following demonstrates the approximate number of WLs that currently contain private land:

PL Contribution	<25 ha	25-100 ha	10-200 ha	200-800 ha	800-1500 ha	No PL
# WLs	50	128	96	66	8	497

If a woodlot licence holder removes the private land from their woodlot licence they must alert BC Assessment.

If a landowner is considering enrolling their private land in the Managed Forest Program, information

on the program and how it is administered by the Managed Forest Council can be found on their website (<https://www.mfcouncil.ca/>) or give them a call at 250-386-5737.

The application for withdrawing private land from your woodlot can be found on the Ministry of Forest website located here: [Woodlot Private Land Deletion Request \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

If you are considering withdrawing private land from your woodlot, you are strongly encouraged to speak with your district woodlot forester before starting the

process to ensure the withdrawal goes as smoothly as possible. Please also note that failure to obtain consent from the dedicated decision maker to dispose of

private land or an interest in private land subject to a woodlot licence, may result in the subsequent suspension and cancellation of that woodlot licence, consistent with s. 54.7 of the *Forest Act*. ♦

FBCWA Scholarship Award Winners for 2021

by Nancy Pezel

We are very pleased to announce that Jared Frasca and Olivia Gash are winners of our annual award given to students who are related to a woodlot licensee &/or a Private Forest Land Owner or are 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.

Jared Frasca is our \$2000 scholarship winner. He is the son of Paul Frasca, W1563, Columbia Woodlot Association. Jared currently lives in Kamloops where he is enrolled in the Thompson Rivers University's Natural Resource Science program. In addition to working with his father on the woodlot, he has gained considerable summer experience working in firefighting, forest inventories, forest health assessments, and silviculture field work for forest consultants in the Golden area. Most recently he has been working as a research assistant collecting and processing data from grassland and forest ecosystems throughout BC to assist in research that aims to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems. Jared is definitely well on his way to meeting his goal of becoming a forest professional.

Olivia Gash is our \$1000 scholarship winner. She is the daughter of Mike Gash, W1808, Cariboo Woodlot Association. On the family woodlot she has helped with silviculture surveys, beetle probing, GPSing, and tree planting and has learned about fuel management techniques and forest health. Olivia currently lives in Montreal where she is enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at McGill University. Earlier this year she graduated from high school with a double Dogwood degree (a degree in both French and English). With that, her experience being a youth mentor for the local Big Brothers and Sisters, and tutoring children in both French and English reading, she is well set up to meet her career goal of becoming a French Immersion teacher.

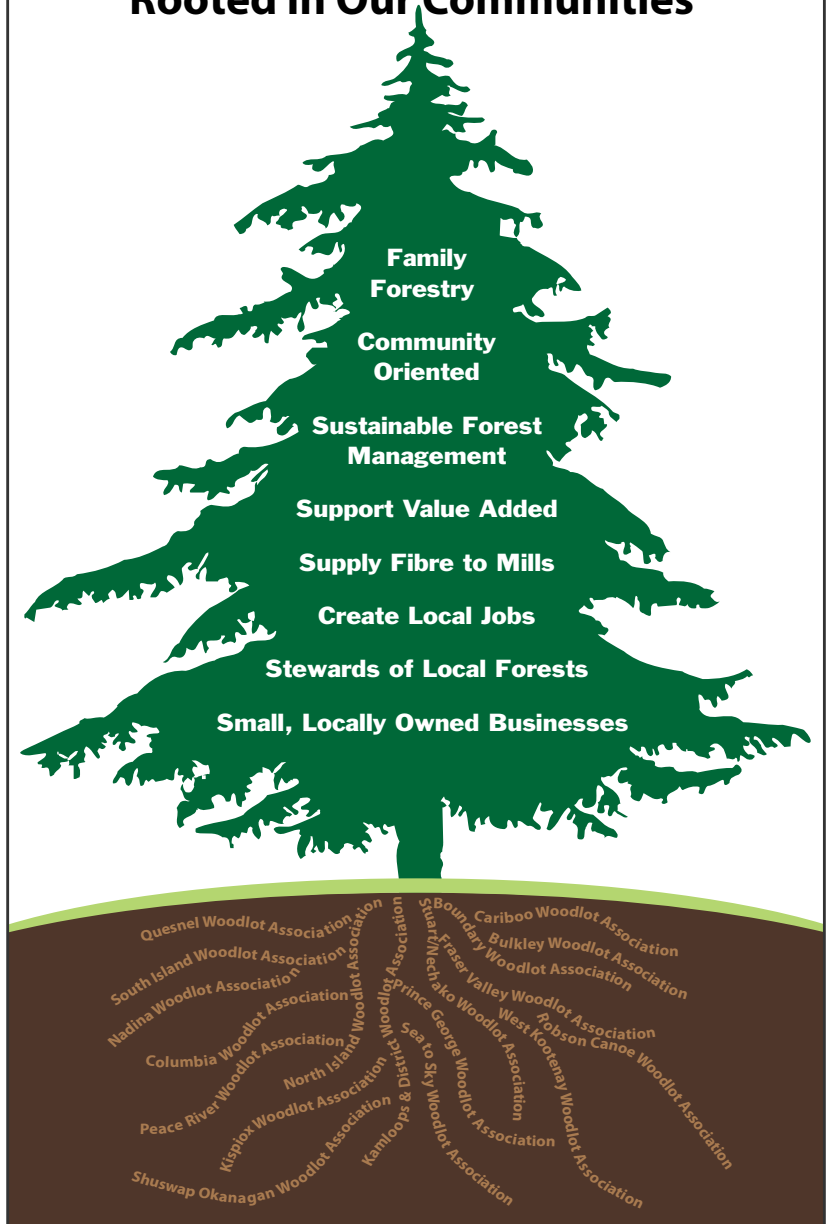
In this issue of the Almanac, you can read Jared's essay that answers *Beyond sawlogs and pulp logs, what economically viable value-added products could or should be produced from a woodlot licence to better utilize the forest resource in an environmentally sustainable way?*

The funds for these scholarship awards were generated through the "Silent Auction" at past Woodlot Conferences. Thank you for your continued support of the FBCWA Scholarship program! ♦



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Rooted in Our Communities



Sustainable Products from Woodlots aside from Sawlogs and Pulp Logs

by Jared Frasca

FBCWA Scholarship Recipient #1

Traditionally, wood products from saw logs and pulp logs have been a very valuable and sought after resource from woodlots. Presently, they remain a highly important resource, however; there are also many other viable value added-products that could and should be harvested from woodlots. In order to better utilize resources obtained from woodlot licences in a more environmentally sustainable way, cosmetics and medications, leisure items and bark products should be produced, in addition to the traditionally harvested sawlogs and pulp logs.

When considering woodlot licences and forest harvesting, medications and cosmetics likely isn't the first thought that comes to mind. However, many important medications and cosmetics are directly resultant of wood products. To begin, a product as common as toothpaste is made from several different components of wood. For instance, cellulose gum, which is a major component of cell walls in wood, is an essential ingredient in toothpaste. Cellulose gum has a high viscosity and is a non-toxic hypoallergenic which makes it ideal for oral hygiene. Cellulose gum is also used in other cosmetics and medications such as laxatives, diet pills, eye drops, nail polish, various detergents, and many more. Another component of wood used in toothpaste is Xylitol, which is a sugar substitute that can be extracted from hardwood trees. Xylitol is primarily used as a sweetener in oral hygiene products such as mouthwash, fluoride tablets and as aforementioned, toothpaste (Government of Canada, 2020). Using wood from woodlots to obtain various cosmetics and medications, in addition to using it as sawlogs and pulp would allow for more environmentally sustainable harvesting. For example, in British Columbia, hardwoods are often not as sought after as conifers and thus, are often left behind during forest harvesting. However, they could be bunched with the conifers and used to make various cosmetics and medications in order to allow for more sustainable harvesting.

Components of wood are not only used in the production of cosmetics and medications but also in the production of leisure items. First off, ping pong balls are an item generally



thought to be made from plastic, but are actually made using components of wood. In detail, ping pong balls are made from the wood component celluloid which allows for the easy moulding and shaping of the ball as well as providing them with high bounce properties.

Likewise, guitar picks are also manufactured using celluloid for similar reasons. Furthermore, increasingly common products that incorporate wood components are LCD screens, in which there is a polarizing film layer in the screens which allows for superior optical clarity. LCD screens are in fact constructed using cellulose triacetate, a component of wood. Guitar picks and LCD screens are only two of the more common leisure items created using wood products, and in the future they should be produced using wood harvested from woodlots. Although it may not make

sense economically to use the largest and straightest trees to make products such as these, there are many smaller and less desirable trees that could be utilized that otherwise would be left behind. Therefore, using wood from woodlots to create these items would result in effective sustainable harvesting.

Tree bark is another part of trees that could be harvested in addition to the wood. There are many potential uses for tree bark including bark based substrates. Bark based substrates are commonly used in the nursery industry to grow food, as well as ornamental plants. Soil substrates are not always in abundance and so bark based substrates are a great alternative.

Additionally, since forests are harvested on such a large scale there is a surplus of tree bark available to use from substrates. Tree bark is often left unused and therefore, using it in substrates would be much more sustainable when harvesting woodlots.

There are many cosmetics and medications as well as leisure items and bark products that can be produced using wood from woodlots. Producing these products from wood harvested from woodlots allows for more environmentally sustainable forest harvesting. Environmental sustainability is an extremely important objective the forest industry must strive for in the future, while still producing sawlogs and pulp logs. ♦

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. ♦

Old Growth, are we looking at this issue through the proper lens?

by George Delisle W0411

Is the age and or size of a tree a true measure of the health of the ecosystem?

The truth is that the age or size of the trees has very little to do with the actual health of the ecosystem. It is the attributes, not the age or size found in the forest that are of critical importance for both ecosystem health and biodiversity of our forests. Setting huge areas aside from any human activity appears to be a major misstep in resource management. Will it result in eventual losses to the destructive forces of nature? We can choose to help build in some resilience to natural disturbances or we stand back and allow mother nature to do it for us with often horrendous consequences.

Yes, many of these valuable attributes are found in old forests. Many can also be found in managed forests and most are not exclusive to either one. According to some research out of the US, there can be significantly more biodiversity in the bird populations in partial cut forests than in the adjacent untouched control areas. The increase in the diversity in plant growth in quality and quantity is clear and the animal traffic increase is significant. So why is it assumed that a managed forest is so bad?

Will the species change? Most likely, as plant and animal presence changes as the environment changes. I question the concept that we should try to freeze the ecosystems as a “snapshot in time” at some point in their development. Or should we contemplate to allow things to change like they always have and always will, with or without mankind. We are damn fools if we think we can replace nature, but we can nudge her in a direction that may be more beneficial to the natural world and the human world, and yes this can mean harvesting different stands different ways.

Everybody seems to have an opinion (including me) on how to manage our natural resources. I wonder how many people can make an unbiased decision regarding our forests? Why is the “vocal few” opinion worth so much more than the rest of us? How much of it is a personal view looking at it through human eyes and not from a truly biological perspective.

I doubt if very many professionals can truly do this as they are biased significantly by their education and personal agendas. Unfortunately, some professionals are desk jockeys sitting in front of a computer; so, their opinion loses some of its value in my opinion. They are reluctant to even ask for input from local people, some

of whom have spent their whole lives in the bush. Nobody knows the woods better than those who have spent their whole life in it. Why can't we benefit collectively from all our experiences and knowledge, to manage our resources more responsibly? No one has a monopoly on knowledge.

Will future generations be grateful that we did what we could so that they may have healthy forests in the future or will they decry the day that we decided to just let nature take its course and be left with massive areas of burned off forest. We have way more forested land now than there was 250 years ago. Let's keep it that way.

We are fortunate in BC to have ecosystems that rebuild after catastrophic events, but we should not take this for granted. How much of the recent burned off forest land will be regenerated back as grasslands? It was a few short years ago that millions of our tax dollars were spent burning off the forested landscape to create grasslands as they were concerned that the forest was encroaching on the grasslands. Now we sit with the prospect than tens of thousands of hectares of forested land have been converted back to grassland by forest fires. Some may never recover as forests. We need to be a little smarter in dealing with the changing landscape! ♦

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Thank you to Mike Bandstra

Mike Bandstra, RPF and consultant with Forsite, Smithers, BC has stepped down as the FBCWA Woodlot for Windows consultant. He has been a valuable asset to the woodlot program, assisting licensees, government staff and forestry consultants in the utilization of Woodlot for Windows for approximately 18 years. A big thank you to Mike for the support he provided to BC's woodlot licences. We wish him well with his future endeavours.

Please direct future Woodlot for Windows communications and enquiries to: Tom Bradley, FBCWA E-Business Contractor at tom@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Woodlot Product Development Council Extraordinary Project Proposals (EPP) Awarded and Completed

EPP #	Description	Product	Reference	Status
2021-003	Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building Phase 2	Network Database		Due November 30, 2022
2021-002	Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building Phase 1	Final Paper	Almanac Fall 2021	Complete
2021-001	Silviculture Survey Practices	High Gain vs Minimum Practice Decision Chart	Almanac Spring 2021	Complete
2020-002	WL Association Building was awarded but not completed and is now replaced by Association Projects as part of the FBCWA approved Budget & Work Plan for 2022/23			
2020-001	Mixedwood Management in Northeastern BC	Measurement Data and Report	Almanac Fall 2020	Complete
2019-002	WL Succession and Tax Planning	WL Succession and Tax Planning Guide November 2020	Almanac Fall 2020	Complete
2019-001	Fire Mitigation and Fuel Hazard Reduction on Woodlot Licences	Fire Mitigation and Fuel Hazard Reduction on Woodlot Licences Phase 1 - Situational Analysis	Almanac Summer 2019 & Presentation 2019 Woodlot Conference	Complete
2018-001	WLP Training	Training at various locations	Almanac Winter 2018	Complete

Woodlot Product Development Council Extraordinary Project Proposals:

The Board of Directors for the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) has an 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 annual 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: cjmccclary401@gmail.com | Phone: 250-961-0271 ♦

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. ♦

What is a GAR Order?

by Emma Neill

The Government Actions Regulation (GAR) has been in place as part of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) regime since 2004. The Regulation enables government to create Orders that establish objectives to protect and manage forest values. A common example of a GAR Order would be to establish Visual Quality Objectives, other types of GAR Orders may include designation or practice requirements to protect wildlife through establishment of Wildlife Habitat Areas or Fisheries Sensitive watersheds.

22 Holders of an agreement under the Forest Act need to be informed of the regulatory process and be aware they have a legislatively defined role in the establishment of these Orders where they may overlap licence areas. Government has discretion as to whether or not to take action under the Regulation and must follow a mandatory process and meet specific tests. Tests for consideration by the decision maker prior to giving a GAR Order effect include that the benefit to the public must outweigh material adverse impact on delivered wood costs and that licensees can continue to exercise their rights as an agreement holder.

Government will engage with potentially affected stakeholders

where a GAR Order has the potential to impact or affect activities within the Agreement Area. If a GAR Order is being considered you are encouraged to actively engage with Ministry staff to learn about the forest value that is the focus of the proposed Order, discuss potential impacts and opportunities for alternative management, and provide input relevant to the legislated tests for consideration by the statutory decision maker. In some cases, Government may be able to either modify or avoid GAR Orders on woodlot licences given their relatively small size and typically light footprint on the landbase. Options and implementation will vary across the province based on the forest values, the type of GAR Order, proposed management and operational realities.

Currently, there is a proposed GAR Order for Mountain Goats in the Selkirk and Rocky Mountain Forest Districts. Also affecting woodlot licence holders on the Southern Coast and Vancouver Island is a Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation Section 9 Notice in order to support the future establishment of Marbled Murrelet Wildlife Habitat Areas under the Regulation.

Licensees may want to reach out to their local association to share information and collaborate with other licensees to explore options that Ministry staff could consider to manage specific

resource values.

Recommended reading;

- 1) The Meaning of GAR (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/Stewardship/Planning_&_Practices/The_Meaning_of_GAR.pdf)
- 2) Government Actions Regulation Policy and Procedures Government Actions Regulation : policy and procedures (leg.bc.ca)
- 3) FLNR GAR Web site Government Actions Regulation - Province of British Columbia. ♦



Thank you
to our contributors for this
issue:

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In loving memory ...

George Lorris Benwell

George Lorris Benwell passed away on October 5, 2021, at the age of 86 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his loving wife Myrtle Rosalie Benwell of 51 years in June 2006. Dad is survived by his wife Beryl Buckley, daughters Laurie Wowk, Landra Lamacchia (Luigi) and his namesake George Benwell Jr (Jennefer), his grandchildren Amanda Wowk, Aaron Lamacchia (Elyse Naylor), Cameron Lamacchia (Brittany McFayden) and Donovan Wowk as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Dad was born in Nelson, BC on January 10, 1935, and spent his formative years as a hotel brat in the Hume Hotel much to the dismay of the hotel guests. He had a privileged childhood and made many special memories at the 9-mile property with his beloved grandfather, Gang (another George Benwell).

In 1955 he married his wife and shortly afterwards had his beautiful baby girl, Laurie in Nelson and then moved to Golden, BC as Assistant Ranger where his second daughter, Landra was born. Now with a family of four to feed he spent the next year in Ranger school and then relocated to Nelson until he was posted to his first Ranger posting in Lardeau BC.

He often stated that the 10 years spent here was his favourite time of his life.

The family once again expanded and his son George Jr was born. In 1971 Dad was offered a position in Revelstoke and after the school year he moved his family here. After a reorganization of the BC Forestry Service Dad voluntarily left his beloved forest service and applied for a Woodlot with Gordon Edwards and spent the last years of his life fussing over every tree in the area. In later years he found a new hobby and with various family and friends enjoyed many cruises to exotic places.

He was a sports fan and was surely

the St Louis Cardinals and Chicago Black Hawks most ardent supporter. He also was a very spirited player of hockey and baseball during his active years.

Dad was mostly passionate about the forests of British Columbia and there will never be another that will take the place of his concern for the future of our most valuable Provincial asset.

Dad will be missed by all that knew him.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Dad's name to a local charity of your choice.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to George's family by viewing his obituary at: www.brandonbowersfuneralhome.com. ♦



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.



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