



Forests in Good Hands

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2022/23

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Honouring Al Waters



Al has always been a supporter and advocate for doing the right job, doing it well and doing it with respect. In the true sense, Al knows what hard work is. He is a strong mentor in teaching good forest land stewardship. He is always willing to help and to teach the next generation of foresters on the past learnings. He is a true caretaker of the land, works hard to know the land and works to improve the processes in place to protect what needs protecting.

by Sara Grady

Since 1970 the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) has celebrated Registered Professional Foresters who exemplify the standards of the designation. The honour is given to foresters who are nominated by their peers and vetted by the ABCFP council and past presidents.

We'd like to congratulate Al Waters, RPF(Ret), who was acknowledged with the prestigious ***Distinguished Forest Professional*** award this year.

Al has made a significant impact on the woodlot program, first as a Senior Woodlot

Licence Forester in the Tenures Branch, and later as a manager of two woodlot licences near Quesnel. He also served as the president of the Quesnel Woodlot Association, where he worked tirelessly to achieve excellence in forest management on his own woodlots while encouraging his colleagues to do the same.

Peers talk about his work ethic, perfectionism, and willingness to share his knowledge with other stakeholders in forestry. He is a Life Member of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and a valued member of BC's forestry

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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.

If you require a Director or member representative's contact information, please email communications@woodlot.bc.ca or call 1-250-765-6156

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community.

Here’s what the ABCFP had to say about him. Congratulations, Al, we’re fortunate to have the benefit of your wisdom and experience.

Alan Waters, RPF(Ret), of Quesnel, is one of two forest professionals who will be presented with the 2022 Distinguished Forest Professional award by the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) during a ceremony held as part of the organization’s 75th annual forestry conference in Prince George on February 9, 2023.

The Distinguished Forest Professional award recognizes a registrant for outstanding contributions to the forestry profession and for furthering the ABCFP’s principles.

“Alan’s career exemplifies his integrity and commitment to achieving real and meaningful success in forestry and ensuring we are sustainably caring for BC’s forests for future generations,” said Garnet Mierau, RPF, ABCFP president.

Waters graduated from UBC in 1978 with a BSF (Honours) degree, and won the Canadian Institute of Forestry gold medal.

Waters was a consummate field silviculturist who consistently worked 15-hour days, walking every area he managed, completing field prescriptions and executing high standards of fire hazard abatement and reforestation on every cutblock. He perfected summer broadcast burning on thousands of hectares of north aspect Devil’s club sites.

Waters also established more than 40,000 hectares of free-growing stands by supervising the planting of 30 million seedlings, naturally regenerating pine stands to target densities, and executing almost every silviculture treatment imaginable.

Waters worked with the forest service as well, starting as a regional research forester and later in Victoria as a silviculture specialist, legislation forester, and leader of the Woodlot Licence Program.

In 2005, Waters formed a forest consulting corporation, purchased two woodlot licences, and conducted small-scale harvesting and silviculture treatments designed to maximize timber production.

“During his career, Al worked passionately to achieve forest management excellence,” Mierau said, adding Water has also trained and inspired many young foresters.



WPDC Director Vacancies:

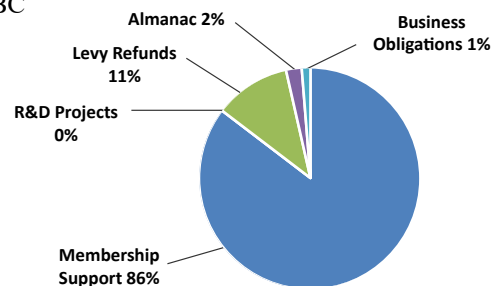
Interested in providing direction on the spending of the woodlot levy?

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: cjmccclary401@gmail.com. ♦

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. ♦



Uncertainty in the Forest Industry and Structural Changes to the FBCWA

by Mark Clark

I hope this issue of the Almanac finds you all well and in good spirits. The province has certainly had its share of shocks over the last several months.

The closure of large sawmills, pellet plants and a pulp mill, the continued unwinding of the Old Growth

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Strategy Implementation, and ongoing permitting delays all create uncertainty. But Woodlotters are a resilient group, and I am confident we will find a way to overcome these challenges and maintain our place as stewards on the forest landscape.

The Federation organization continues to evolve. Look for the summary article in this issue for further detail, but the review of our governance and organizational structure is a large undertaking and consumes a lot of



Mark Clark
President

paid and volunteer effort. Progress is being made, and my hope is that the efforts will conclude in 2023.

Our new General Manager is fitting well into our

organization. He has been on the ground, visiting several woodlot associations across the province, networking and learning. Our 2023-4 budgeting process continues as per the agreement with the Woodlot Product Development Council, and will be submitted to the joint boards in early March. Look for some increases in our Communications efforts and some regional representatives.

Please remember that safety in all aspects of your life is very important, work or play, and I hope you have a safe and smoke free summer. ♦



Links of Interest

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

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. ♦

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. ♦

Reading the Stars

by Gord Chipman

As I prepared to write my first Almanac article, I thought it would be relevant to start with researching what an "almanac" is. So, I asked "Google" and Webster's Dictionary, and this is one of the tidbits I received:



Gord Chipman,
General Manager

Almanac: a publication containing astronomical and meteorological data for a given year and often including a miscellany of other information.

So, in my role as General Manager, I should be able to read the stars, predict the weather ahead, and give other rich fertile information. Let us see how I do. Hopefully it does not read too much like a Christmas letter.

Looking at the Milky Way

In the past few months, I have been working closely with Brian McNaughton as I transition into the new role as General Manager. As a result, there have been many introductions. I have met the Minister of Forests, the Associate Deputy Minister, the Timber Pricing Manager (actually Al is an old friend) and the Tenures staff in the Branch. In November I was invited to the South Island Woodlot Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Ed Hughes and Nancy Pezel toured me around and we were able to visit a few woodlots during the day and then conduct business during the evening. I also virtually attended several woodlot association's AGMs including Fraser Valley, Shuswap Okanagan (SOWA) and Prince George. Currently I have arranged field tours in the spring with SOWA, Fort St James and the North Island Woodlot Association. I would like to set up 5 more Woodlot tours for the year. If you would like to show me what issues you are managing, please let me know. Meeting people

virtually is ok but I prefer face to face of course. I have been impressed with how supportive everyone has been to date with my new role. Many different woodlotters have shared perspectives and given me advice lately.

Stars and Weather

The provincial government has many modernization initiatives on the go. This means more regulations in an over-regulated industry. I predict poor visibility and fog for much of 2023. With the Forest & Range Practices Act (FRPA) the government has 4 regulatory packages that they plan to deposit and approve this year. They are Bill 21 and Bill 23 that were announced in 2021. These regulations will concern the following: Forest Operation Maps, Forest Stewardship Plans, Declared Areas, Natural Range Barriers, Wildfire Management, Road Liability, Chief Forester Stocking Standards, Forest Operation Plans and Forest Landscape Plans. The good news is not all of these changes concern Woodlots; the bad news is we and everyone else in the Forest Industry have not been privy to the draft regulations. We have been told the intention of the new Regulations, but we all know the devil is in the details. The Forest Amendment Act Bill 28 has many issues concerning Woodlots but so far the Government has not announced any regulations to enact this Bill. The general opinion is the current government mandate is too big to be able to accomplish before the next provincial election. We will continue to attempt to be on top of the new Regulations. The current process is like the Wizard of Oz; we are following the yellow brick road and we are not allowed to see what is behind the curtain.

Growing the Old Forests

The conversation about Old Growth deferral issues is starting to pick up. The past 4 months have been noticeably quiet. The recommendations of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) created many overlapping technical issues. The government is hosting meetings with First Nations in Vancouver at the end of January and Industry in the first week of February to discuss some of the issues. Brian McNaughton and Ken Dodd are attending on behalf of Woodlots. There are standing Old Growth Issues meetings occurring weekly where we sort out technical issues from the TAP recommendations and establish policy solutions. One example of this was the issue of roads that need to be developed through a deferral area and how to create solutions so that roads can happen and deferrals are created.

When it comes to the old growth deferrals, I want to remind everyone that the deferral only occurs if your woodlot overlaps the traditional territory of a First Nation that supports the TAP deferral process. To date most do not support this process. See the April 4, 2022 letter from Forest Minister Conroy which stated:

"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."

Please contact your local District Manager for further information or if you have a relationship with your local First Nation communities ask their leaders about the TAP deferral process.

The Only Constant is Changing Weather

I do not know if it is because of the demographics of the Baby Boomer generation or because we are in the post-

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Covid phase where everything was on hold, but one common statistic is that every industry is looking to hire and replace people that are leaving. There are many people retiring or planning to retire or search for a new job. This is causing many delays in the government mandate. One example of this is implementation of the Modernization of Forest Policies. Two years ago, the government announced timelines for policy changes. The government is already 6 months behind on their scheduled forest modernizing mandate.

For the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) change is in the air. We are advertising for an Admin/ Communications contractor. Karen Forge retired at the end of December from the Administration position. Currently Nancy Pezel is acting in the admin position until the end of March. Lisa Marak has other plans in April so will let her contract with the Federation expire at the end of March. Lisa has agreed to help mentor a replacement in the important function of communications. There will be an advertisement to replace the admin and communication role. Ideally, I would like to combine these two functions because there is overlap. There are other major discussions on the go as well and all I can promise is change.

Comets and Brushing out the Path.

At the beginning of February, a new green comet is predicted to travel close to earth. Apparently it travels by earth every 50,000 years. Is this a sign? Is the timing right to reduce the overregulated bureaucracy? It never ceases to amaze me how complicated we have made area-based forest management. The fact that there are 3 or 4 approval processes that all have to be sent out for referrals just makes the permitting process lengthy and that has been causing uncertainty in the forest management activities. We need to be able to conduct innovation without all the hoops and hurdles. We do not need any more disincentives to

manage the forests. I keep asking myself how could we simplify the process to be able to manage woodlots? I attended the Natural Resource Forum in Prince George on January 17-19th 2023, where one of the themes was permitting delays and industry uncertainty. Five different Ministers were on stage and discussed how they intended to improve permit approval delays. One of the biggest items was regarding First Nation consultation. No solutions were forthcoming but it was identified as very important. During the forum, the Blueberry Agreement was announced. It is our understanding that the area has 15 woodlots but at this time 5 are impacted by this new land use agreement.

We need to reduce uncertainty of the tenures. Improving the permitting process will be a focus for me in 2023.

Blue Skies Ahead

We are planning a spring meeting in Victoria on March 17, 18, 19, 2023. The spring members' meeting hosted by the FBCWA is for the association representatives to meet and discuss the issues of the day. This year the Board of Directors has suggested that we meet in Victoria so that we can invite Ministry representatives to discuss some of the pressing issues. We have already invited the Tenures Staff from the Branch as well as the Associate Deputy Minister and Staff. We really want to talk to the Government representatives about the uncertainty in the Woodlot program and how this is interrupting innovation and good forest management.

Investments and Fire Hazard

In the fall there were proposals for forest investment projects submitted to the Forest Investment and Reporting Branch (FIRB). We have projects submitted in the Cariboo, Kamloops, Selkirk, Peace, Nadina, Skeena-Stikine, Stuart-Nechako and Campbell River areas. In total there were 27 project proposals. The Branch recently sent the proposals to the District Managers (DM). There is a list of

activities identified within the Districts for DM review to ensure they are aware and provide DM endorsement of the intent to fund these activities on the land base. Once the Branch receives the DM endorsements, they will be submitting a budget request for funds. Permission to spend letters are targeted to come out for approved projects in March – April, 2023.

For me, the Heat Dome in 2021 was a game changer. It was the 3rd major fire year in 5 years. Whenever we have major fire years between 8,000 to 10,000 hectares of woodlots go up in flames. If the past is any indicator, the future will have more fire events. Just recently the Provincial Government announced that the Forest Enhancement Society will receive \$50 million dollars to fund wildfire risk reduction and supplement transportation costs for wood residuals to be shipped to markets. They really want Woodlots to participate in this program, one of the reasons for this is that 80% of woodlots are within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). There will be more information on these opportunities provided in the near future as it rolls out so if you are interested, please stay tuned. For Wildfire risk reduction opportunities please contact your BCWS fire center regarding possibilities in your area.

In the past Mike Simpson would coordinate funding programs on behalf of woodlots. However, in the spirit of moving on he gave the FBCWA notice last year that he does not plan to offer that service this year. We intend to create a position within our organization to administer this program for delivery to woodlot licensees for the future. There will be cost recovery for this function.

Signoff

The woodlot program has a remarkable story to tell. I need your help to tell the story. Ask yourself: What is getting in the way to perform innovative forest management? Is there something I can do to help ? ♦

Important New Dates in 2023 Relate to Log Delivery

by Debbie Zandbelt, RPF

Redetermination Dates for Stumpage Rate Changes in 2023

In 2023 Interior licensees have two new dates in their calendars, May 1st and November 1st. Going forward on these dates the Interior woodlot licensees will have their stumpage rate redetermined. No longer will Woodlot stumpage rates change on August 1st. Interior woodlot stumpage rates are based on a data set of all major tenure active timbermarks in the interior. Log market volatility and the wish for stumpage rates to reflect that volatility is the reason for this change. The dates were selected to generally coincide with the start of spring log deliveries and the fall/winter delivery schedule. Table 6.2 in the Interior Appraisal Manual be updated biannually on May 1st and November 1st as it has been in the past.

In the interior, Spring also marks the start of the annual update to the Interior Appraisal Manual. Industry and government continue to explore ways to fine-tune the market pricing system to the current complexities of the forest industry. New technologies, the stretched search for volume to cut, while the diverse range of harvest considerations from the north to the south keeps the interior difficult to standardize. An increase in cruise base cutting permits for the major tenures



Debbie Zandbelt, RPF
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

is a current consideration. The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) continues to monitor adjustments and amendments for any impacts on our tabular rates with all the ever-changing equation updates.

Provincial Waste Committee

Interior licensees have now spent a full survey year completing the new method of waste assessments. Recognizing the bumps and bruises of any new system, government has recognized the need to continue working on fine-tuning aspects of what is working and what is not. Submission timelines, site preparation deadlines, simplified waste processes, and sharing agreements are a few of many topics we are tackling.

February will bring a review of the district average waste survey data that woodlot licensees submitted into the WASTE reporting system for the 2021 data collection year. This data will be compared to data submitted by the Interior major tenures. We are striving to provide woodlot and community forest holders another tool for waste billing. If your data from the 2021 harvest season is not yet submitted, this is the time to do so. Data will enable the FBCWA to have a strong data set to defend the best interest of our members.

Cut Control Resources

Every month many folks call with questions regarding their cut control. These are never easy questions with more unique situations than I ever thought possible! However, a few consistencies do exist. At the bottom of the cut control letter is a field with your Ministry of Forests Regional Contact phone number or contact person. These regional folks deal with cut determinations on a very regular basis and I have found them to be a good resource. If you have a District contact that is great as well. Following is a link to the latest cut control manual. This is another good resource to understand how the system is managed and is also a great place to answer most general questions. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-tenures/cut-control/cut_control_administration_guide.pdf. ♦

Please note:

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



■ Coastal timber pricing

TAB rate system responsive to economic changes, Waste Manual revisions underway

by Ed Hughes

Coastal Appraisal Manual - TAB rates 2022/23

The Coastal Appraisal Manual (CAM) was updated on November 1, 2022. This update was the first that used our new tabular rate methodology, which now requires redeterminations every 6 months. Nothing else has changed in the TAB rate methodology.

This November 1, 2022 amendment resulted in our TAB rate system becoming more responsive to economic changes that had been requested by Timber Pricing branch over the past few years. Our Woodlot advisory group worked with Timber Pricing branch in support of this biannual redetermination change.

Our Tab rates for Coastal Woodlot Licenses under the CAM are set under section 7.2 from November 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023 in Table 7.2 The TAB rates are listed below in \$/m³:



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

the annual cost surveys that influence the CAM.

Coast Pricing Appraisal Advisory Committee

The Coast Pricing Appraisal Advisory Committee (CPAAC) had its second meeting on January 18, 2023, which was well attended and received. The purpose of

the committee is to provide a forum under the Ministry of Forests CAM to bring up items related to coastal appraisals for discussion and review.

The committee is chaired by two very experienced appraisal experts; Robyn Modesto from Industry (Interfor Corporation) and Ross Harris Timber Pricing Coordinator, Coast Area Pricing from Government. The January meeting provided a valuable forum for the group of appraisers within government and industry. Ross Harris provided an excellent update covering the newly approved January 1, 2023, CAM. All the significant changes were

complete.

The Timber Pricing Branch is working with the FBCWA on a CWM that will work for Woodlots (and other small-scale operators). The new interior waste manual, surveying and reporting options are now being reviewed by Debbie Zandbelt. Debbie has advocated for continuous improvements to the interior waste manual that can work for small tenures like Woodlots. Debbie and our new General Manager (Gord Chipman) are following up on the interior waste manual changes. Gord and Debbie organized a meeting that included Coastal participants to increase awareness of the potential waste manual changes.

Market Pricing System Technical Sub-committee (MPSAC)

Beginning in early 2023, the MPSAC meetings will start the updating required to produce a new Coastal Appraisal Manual for January 1, 2024. This is a very detailed and repetitive data crunching exercise!

Coastal Timber Pricing Steering Committee (CTPSC)

The Timber Pricing steering committee meets periodically providing

input on proposed changes to our stumpage system. The FBCWA was entitled to have this seat based on our continuous efforts in support of an equitable stumpage system.

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. ♦

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| Coast Zone | Balsam | Hemlock | Cedar | Cypress | Fir | Spruce | Other Species |
|------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Northern | \$9.94 | \$9.68 | \$12.85 | \$11.05 | \$9.94 | \$7.80 | \$9.94 |
| Southern | \$9.89 | \$13.22 | \$22.44 | \$13.30 | \$17.78 | \$12.50 | \$14.99 |

The new CAM was approved on January 1, 2023 eliminating the previous December 15 date. The information and data used to produce the CAM is now prepared on a calendar basis.

Another change that could impact Woodlot cutting authorities with an Extended Road Amortization Agreement was a slight increase under section 5.2 to the Low Volume Cost allowance to \$9.29/m³. This rate is set based on the data submitted as part of

presented, and many anticipated issues were also discussed. Meetings will occur every 6 months and will result in improved communications and training opportunities for all participants.

Coast Waste Manual

The Timber Pricing Branch is progressing through a review of our entire Coast Waste Manual (CWM) and survey methodology. Similar to the now completed interior waste manual revisions, the CWM revisions are expected to take a few years to

Joint Board Strategic Planning Process: The Future is Now!

In the Summer 2022 issue of the Woodland Almanac there was an article titled “*FBCWA and WPDC Boards look to the future by initiating strategic planning process.*” The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) and the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) want to ensure that they are serving the needs of woodlot licensees and other stakeholders in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Earlier in the year, at the Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) 2022 Spring meeting in Kamloops, a Motion was presented by the Peace River and Prince George Woodlot Associations to approach the Woodlot Product Development Council to investigate a best business model to serve woodlots in BC. As a result, a Joint Task Force (JTF) was formed to develop a recommendation for consideration by both Boards. Members of the JTF include Mark Clark, Tyler Hodgkinson, Rick Walters, Brian McNaughton, Gord Chipman, Brent Petrick, Gernot Zemanek, Chris Hawkins, and Cathy McClary. The project is being facilitated by Colin Sauer of The Governance Group. (The Governance Group Consulting | British Columbia)

After surveying over 100 woodlot licensees, conducting interviews, polls, participating in meetings, hosting workshops, and obtaining legal advice, the JTF developed the following recommendation.

The FBCWA/WPDC Joint Task Force recommends the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council develop a singularly governed entity to serve the needs of Woodlot Licensees in the Province of BC.

The Recommendation was presented

to and agreed upon by both Boards on January 26, 2023.

With the acceptance of the recommendation by both Boards, it is an exciting time for both organizations as they re-position to effectively deliver value to all woodlot licensees.

During their sessions, the Joint Task Force recognized the importance of identifying statements that were used to guide the development of the recommendation. These include a series of common beliefs; a well-defined and easily understood purpose; a definition for success; and a list of strategic objectives.

We believe in:

- Woodlot Licences and small-scale forestry
- The diversity of licensees, and the privilege to be a caretaker of the land
- Achieving social licence by developing and maintaining a good reputation with neighbours, communities, and business partners
- Excellence in forest management
- Resilient and healthy ecosystems
- Advancing innovation

Our purpose:

Connecting Woodlot Licensees and giving voice to their tenure.

Success is:

A thriving program with well-managed Woodlot Licences.

Strategic objectives

- Economic viability of the woodlot tenure
- Effectively anticipating and managing change
- Support the development of working relationships between Woodlot licensees and First Nations
- A strong and stable small scale forest community
- Knowledgeable licensees

Getting to this point has raised questions; many of which we will learn the answers to as we progress. After reading this, you and other Woodlot Licensees may present new ones that were not anticipated. While the Joint Task Force has researched the feasibility of proceeding with the recommendation, there remains much to be done.

Working towards the shared objective of a singular governing entity will involve several steps, the first of which include:

- Endorsing an intentionality agreement
- Defining and recommending an implementation process
- Developing and executing a Communications Plan that includes engagement from woodlot licensees, Governments and other stakeholders.

Both Boards will have the opportunity to review and consider all future implementation recommendations. All woodlot licensees will be kept informed as the process evolves. ♦

NOTICE:

The Woodlot Product Development Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 was approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting in Abbotsford on October 15, 2022. A copy is on the website: www.woodlot.bc.ca Paper copies are available on request. Contact Cathy McClary cjmclary401@gmail.com. ♦

Waste Residue Workshop

Effective April 1, 2022, the Interior Waste/Residue rules changed for Woodlot Licensees. To understand these changes, the Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Association reached out to Silvatech Consulting Group to host a waste/residue workshop on May 27, 2022.

The workshop began with a morning session dealing with the pre-survey / planning phase: mapping/stratification, block aggregation, submission of waste plan to MOF, and a discussion of the many issues that Silvatech has dealt with over the three years the new waste rules have been in place.

Of particular interest to woodlot licensees were the various opportunities to reduce waste at the harvest, processing, and clean-up phases of logging, and how pulp/bioenergy log shipments, grinding of post-harvest fiber, and utilization of Grade 4 credits can all be integrated to reduce waste/residue levels on our tenures.

The afternoon field session, hosted by Seig Ruckemann W1568, dealt with stratification and plotting methodology of the new full survey system.

Some take-home information from the workshop:

1. First and foremost, the new full survey methodology is a Beast! A very expensive Beast! The process is lengthy, technical and bureaucratic, and expensive. There are no simplifications, shortcuts or alternatives to reflect the scale of woodlot operations.



2. There are very few qualified waste surveyors. Woodlot licensees are strongly advised to proactively organize their survey needs.
3. The new full survey methodology, compared to the old ocular approach, has resulted in significantly higher records of waste levels. (See MOF website: www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/timber-pricing/residue-and-waste/interior_district_average_waste.pdf)
4. Stratification is important. A clear on-the-ground delineation between the dispersed and accumulation strata is critical.
5. Based on Silvatech data (>100,000 ha, >2,800 blocks, 14 Forest

Districts) utilizing the new rules approx. 60% of waste/residue was recorded on the block (dispersed strata)

6. The new rules require the tally of Grade 4 dry logs – a large component of dispersed waste.
7. Waste reduction opportunities are many and varied. Some constraints are fiber demand, pulp/biolog haul cycle times, grinder availability and road suitability for b-train traffic.
8. The MOF has developed a Concurrent Residual Harvest System (CRHS) to reduce the admin burden of improving utilization. The CRHS has simplified the pulp, pellet/bio-energy, and hog fuel scaling system. Licensees wishing to utilize the CRHS must apply to the MOF to ensure woodlot fiber is matched to scale strata. (See MOF website: ...timber-pricing/harvest-billing/timber-scaling/interior_crhs_process_12_21b.pdf)

Thanks to Charlie Gerstmar and Joel Weatherhead from Silvatech Consulting Ltd. for hosting the workshop. Thanks also to FBCWA/WPDC for funding support.

Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Association ♦



Admin & Communications Coordinator FBCWA

- Contract position, term to be negotiated
- Part Time (approx. 60-80 hours/month)
- Compensation will be negotiated based on skills and experience

Forests in Good Hands

The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations is seeking an Admin & Communications Coordinator (remote, work from home position) to join the team.

About the Position

Reporting to the General Manager, and working as part of a Communications Committee, this role provides administrative support to the Federation as well as managing external communications to members and the public about the activities of the Federation.

Duties and responsibilities include:

Administrative Support

- General administrative support services for the Federation
- Record maintenance
- Receive and respond to correspondence and inquiries
- Meetings & Conference Calls
 - Assist with arrangements for meetings, conference calls and video conferencing
 - Send out notices, background information and agenda
 - Record and distribute minutes
 - Collect and record all motions and resolutions
- Assist with preparation of work plans and budgets
- Support training, extension and education efforts
- Provide advice or recommendations for compliance with the Societies Act and bylaws
- Assist with policy development and updates

Communications

- Communicate with members as required
- Create content to promote the activities of the Federation through various forms of media

- Support Federation's contractors with the communications aspects of their work
- Advise Communications Committee on promotional and communications strategies
- Action directives from the Communications Committee
- Prepare and manage annual Communications Work Plan. Propose amendments and/or revisions as required.
- Award contracts and provide oversight to communication sub-contractors
- Manage the Communications budget in accordance with the Federation's policies and procedures
- Support the FBCWA Board of Directors' efforts to raise the Federation profile by making recommendations, e.g. with promotional campaigns
- Monitor and report on other organizations' communication efforts and collaborate when appropriate
- Assist Woodlot Associations in their communications efforts by providing guidance to promote their Association, Woodlot Licences and the Woodlot License program
- Obtain and maintain a supply of communication and promotional materials
- Assist the Treasurer to award FBCWA scholarships as and when required

Reporting:

- Collecting and organizing monthly, quarterly and reports from contractors and committees
- Submission of Annual Report
- Preparing monthly, quarterly and annual communications report

Miscellaneous

- Silent auction – Arranges auction, requests associations donate, set up and conduct auction at AGM

Other duties may also be requested by the Federation.

The Admin & Communications Coordinator is an independent contractor who reports to the FBCWA General

Manager. This is a remote position; the successful candidate may reside and work from anywhere in BC. Hours are mostly flexible, with some required hours e.g., at scheduled meetings. Some travel may be required occasionally e.g., for meetings, for which travel expenses would be paid.

About the FBCWA - Forests in Good Hands (www.woodlot.bc.ca)

The FBCWA is a non-profit society, whose members are Woodlot Associations that represents the interests of the 845 woodlot licence holders throughout the province of BC. The Federation seeks fair and reasonable forest policy that allows all woodlot licensees and owners to practice exemplary forest management and natural resource stewardship in a socially, economically, and environmentally responsible manner.

About the Ideal Candidate

We are looking for an individual who can demonstrate:

- Skill using MS Office and email, especially Word and Excel
- Knowledge of and ability to understand basic financial reports (e.g., balance sheets)
- Knowledge and experience of social media, along with an interest in staying current on best communication practices
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Tact, diplomacy and respect
- A high level of organizational skills
- An ability to work with minimal supervision
- Innovative thinking and resourcefulness
- 5 years experience in an administrative and/or communications role is preferred

How to Apply

Please submit the following to liz@humannaturedevelopment.com, no later than February 28th 2023:

- Resume
- Cover Letter highlighting what attracts you to this role and how your skills and experience are relevant.
- References ♦



Weather Events and Worker Safety

British Columbia is experiencing the effects of climate change: temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising, and variable and extreme weather is becoming more frequent. Scientists expect these changes to accelerate and intensify in the years and decades ahead. Understanding and managing these risks is necessary to protect B.C.'s workers, tenure holders and infrastructure within the forest sector.

The increased frequency and magnitude of weather events compels Woodlots and Community Forests to re-examine existing safety plans and/or develop new safety plans to address the potential for increased risks to worker safety.

Licensee obligations are defined in the Workers Compensation Act. Specifically, as Owners (Section 119), Woodlot Licensees and Community Forest Agreement holders, must provide and maintain the land and premises in a safe manner. The owner must know, control and communicate any health and safety concerns of persons at or near the workplace, that could result in being harmed by a condition or use of the workplace. *The owner must also ensure a plan is in place to address the hazards.*

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Further responsibilities for worker safety are also provided in the following sections of the Workers Compensation Act.

- Section 115: An employer
- Section 116: Workers
- Section 117: Supervisors
- Section 118: Prime contractor

Specific bulletins describing these responsibilities have been previously developed by the Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Association Safety Committee (WL-CFA SC) and are available on the association websites.

Weather Related Worker Safety Issues and the Development of Safety Bulletins

The Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Association Safety Committee will be developing resources to inform and support tenure holders, association members and workers to better understand and address the elevated risks associated with a changing climate and associated weather events.

The following table provides an overview of topics and overall priority:

| Weather Event | Priority | Topic |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Locally Significant Rainfall | 1 | Safe work practices as it relates to significant rainfall events, specifically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to rainfall shutdown procedures • Development of rainfall shutdown procedures • Additional management implications of significant rainfall events (e.g., post event road inspections, communication, potential contract considerations and signage) |
| Wind Events | 2 | Safe work practices as it relates to significant wind events, specifically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard assessment (road edges, block boundaries, partial cuts) • Safe work practices • Management options |
| Extreme Heat | 3 | Safe work practices as it relates to extreme heat as well as considerations related to the associated issues of wildfire and smoke. |
| Extreme Cold and Snowfall | 4 | Safe work practices as they relate to extreme cold and heavy snow accumulations. Bulletins will include info related to cold weather shutdown protocols and emergency warming. |

These resources will be developed on a quarterly basis and made available through standard association communications channels as well the BC Forest Safety Council’s Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Association Safety Committee webpage.

Links:

[Preliminary strategic climate risk assessment - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://gov.bc.ca)

[Safety – Federation of BC Woodlot Associations](#)

[Safety Publications – British Columbia Community Forest Association \(bccfa.ca\)](http://bccfa.ca)

[Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee \(WLCFASC\) – BC Forest Safety Council](#) ♦

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

| EPP # | Description | Product | Reference | Status |
|----------|---|--|--|------------------------|
| 2022-002 | Forest Carbon and Woodlot Licences | Summary of carbon opportunities for woodlot licensees | | Ongoing |
| 2022-001 | Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building Phase 3 | Explore partnerships | | Ongoing |
| 2021-003 | Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building Phase 2 | Network Database | Summer 2022 | complete |
| 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 | | | Awarded, Not completed |
| 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 ♦

What is Marcescence & the Abcission layer: Reasons Why Leaves or Needles Fall –or-- Don't Fall From Trees¹

by Fred Marshall

What Is Marcescence & the Abcission layer: Reasons Why Leaves or Needles Fall –or-- Don't Fall From Trees 1

For many, the arrival of fall marks the end of the garden season and time to rest and relax. The cooler temperatures are a much-welcomed relief from the summer heat.

During this time, plants also begin the process of preparing for the winter ahead. As the temperatures change, the leaves or needles of a few coniferous trees and many deciduous trees begin to show bright and vibrant colors. From yellow to red, fall foliage can create absolutely breathtaking displays in our landscape.

Why do leaves or needles fall? Well, this depends on several things including; the tree species and their inherent 'silvical' characteristics which include their response to: the changes in temperature from warm to cold; the changes in the length of day—from long to ever shorter; their genetic makeup and, various climatic factors, the effects of which we are just observing and have yet to learn about and understand.

Silvics is the study and science of the inherent nature of trees and how they function and even determines where they live. For example Western larch is naturally only found in SE BC; Alpine larch is only found at the higher elevations and Eastern larch is only found in north central and eastern B.C. And of course in eastern Canada.

Almost all trees have what is known as a very thin "abscission layer" which exists between the needle or leaf and the branch or branchlet to which they are attached. Western larch, which loses its needles every fall, has a very weak abscission layer. Ponderosa and Lodgepole pines lose only their 3 year

old needles. It takes this long for the abscission layer to mature allowing these older needles to cast. Most hardwoods lose their leaves every fall, some early, some later, and some very late and some a year or two after forming.

What causes the needles or leaves to remain attached to the branches for extended periods? The answer is the presence of the property "Marcescence"

Have you ever seen a tree that has retained its leaves into the fall and even through the winter? Depending upon the variety, the tree may be experiencing marcescence. This occurs when some trees, especially deciduous ones such as beech or oak, fail to drop their leaves. This results in trees that are full or partially full, covered in brown, papery leaves.

Winter marcescence is caused by the lack of enzymes produced by the tree. These enzymes are responsible for producing an abscission layer at the base of the leaf stem. This layer is what allows the leaf to easily be released from the tree. Without this, it is likely that the leaves will "hang on" throughout even the coldest periods of winter.

Reasons for Marcescent Leaves: Though the exact reason for marcescent leaves is not known, there are many theories regarding why some trees retain their leaves or needles throughout the winter. Studies have shown that the presence of these leaves may help to deter feeding by large animals like deer. Less nutrient-dense brown leaves surround the buds of the tree and protect them.

Since marcescent leaves can be observed most commonly in juvenile trees, it is often thought that the process does offer growth advantages. Smaller trees often receive less

sunlight than their taller counterparts. Slowing the process of leaf loss may be beneficial in maximizing growth before winter temperatures arrive. Other reasons affecting which trees retain leaves suggest that dropping the leaves later in the winter or early spring helps to ensure that the trees receive adequate nutrients. This seems especially true in cases where the trees are grown in poor soil conditions.

This fall, many of the Western larch trees on our property retained their needles for an extended time with some, as of December 10, still attached to the trees. This is the first instance we have ever observed such lengthy needle retention and, of Western larch, exhibiting the phenomena of marcescence. We can only attribute this happening to some, as yet unknown, aspect of climate change. If we observe the same lengthy needle retention next year---perhaps some scientist can provide us with a plausible answer as to why and whether it is climate-induced.

Our weeping willow tree just started losing its leaves yesterday, December 9th; our apple trees haven't, as yet, lost any leaves. However, this exhibition of Marcescence is what we observe every year in these two very different species of trees. We'll soon see if they exhibit extended signs of Marcescence over the next few weeks.

However, our memories of exactly when leaf fall from these trees happened last year are not overly accurate.

Perhaps the abscission layer that connects these memories to our brains is very weak! If so, we'll attribute it to an advanced state of maturity!

Read more at Gardening Know How: *What Is Marcescence: Reasons Leaves Don't Fall From Trees.* ♦

¹ Commentary adapted by Fred Marshall from article by: Clayton Lubbers in The Banner magazine, November 2022 issue.

Dealing with a Catastrophic Fire on Woodlot 1599

By Judy Thomas

It felt like my guts were being torn out of me, step by step, walking through our woodlot in September 2021. All summer we'd watched the fire expand on satellite imagery, heard the updates from Wildfire Services about the Sparks Lake Fire. From the map we'd seen that our entire woodlot had burned. (See photo 1.)

We decided to take this “burnt woodlot” project on. After all we were 2 foresters with reasonably extensive experience, we could handle it. Little did we imagine how big the job actually was.

Photo 2 shows our version of a ‘Gantt chart’, a “task mountain range” we made in those early days as we figured out what steps we'd need to

plantation or ground fire). We had some needed ‘start up’ money from logging Fir beetle the previous year. We'd made some connections from last year's logging, such as a logger, people at the Ministry. Other plusses: log prices were high. Even the black Douglas fir was still merchantable. My daughter's family, with my 5 year old grandson, had a basement suite we could rent nearer the woodlot. We already had a good relationship with our accountant. (A good accountant will be essential.) We had our Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP) and 1 Cutting Permit (CP) already in hand.

Now over a year into the process, what advice and learnings can I offer to other woodlot holders that may be faced with something similar? First I'd like to outline what we did, then some thoughts on the process.

Our first step was actually a proforma projection of anticipated revenues and costs. Not just to see if it would pay for itself, but also to help us understand the scope of the coming work, we had drawn out on our “task mountain range.”

After a full reconnaissance and using the latest satellite imagery, we made a harvest plan that preserved all the currently green, buffered any water, wetter areas and left connecting wildlife corridors. We sent the harvest plan out to the approximately 30 First



Photo 1: First View of Fire on WL 1599 showing both black and brown stems

Walking through the stands last September 2021 mostly we saw black, and brown stems. What wasn't dead, had ground fire- burnt roots, green tops. Had to be careful you didn't fall in a burnt root channel. This was first time we'd been allowed back on the ground since the fire was essentially out.

After that September day, my husband, fellow forester and woodlot co-holder looked at me: “Are we up for this challenge? It'll be a lot of work.”

What were our options? Hand the woodlot back and Ministry would log it—and likely not leave as much biodiversity. Surprisingly asking a consultant to do the work didn't occur to us—likely because we are not the biggest delegators. (Delegation being a skill we've improved on since then!)

complete and in what climbing order. A bit daunting. Many of these task mountains felt taller, tougher hiking than we ever anticipated.

A lot of plusses, however. There were 2 of us, both experienced foresters with much of the breadth required. We were retired, so had the time. We were already incorporated, so easier all around. Not all the woodlot was actually burnt dead timber--perhaps only 50% of it (the rest being prior

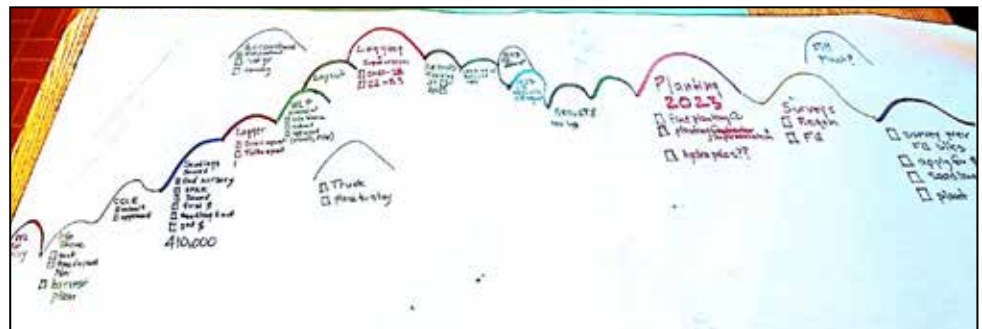


Photo 2. Task Mountain Sept 2022

cont'd on page 17 ...



Photo 3 Douglas fir seedling 412B from Landing Nursery in Vernon

Nations for their input and received no directions at that time.

Next using this harvest plan and the Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) volumes per hectare, we estimated stand volumes and requested a 'Cut Control Limit Exemption' to the Ministry. This exemption allows us to harvest over our Allowable Annual cut (AAC). (We will need to recalculate our 'base' AAC after the harvesting dust has settled.) We couldn't really start harvesting until this was approved and there was sufficient harvest room for the salvage required.

Before any logging started, that fall of 2021 we ordered post harvest seedlings. How much would we realistically log and need for reforestation? Kind of a scary step given we hadn't even started harvesting. We decided on ordering 400,000 seedlings. Seedlings take 1.5 years from sowing to planting. This first meant finding Douglas Fir seed. Fortunately, we already owned both lodgepole and ponderosa pine seed. 45% of the seedling costs, for the sowing, was due that fall before any logging had started. Almost \$53,000 due before any revenue. Felt risky, frightening as this bill came well prior to any cash in

hand and before we were certain that logging would go ahead. Now with a big 2023 planting program before us, I am sure glad we ordered those baby trees back then.

A planting operation this size is way too big to complete with overrun nursery seedlings. Plus, with overruns you often don't get either the species or the stock size you'd prefer. (See photo 3 of Douglas fir seedlings.)

Logging started that winter in early 2022 and again early summer 2022. In total we logged 240 hectares. Biggest program we had ever dealt with. It was a wet spring, early summer. Those wet soils created embarrassingly more site degradation than we had hoped. On the plus side, the soil disturbance made and maintained the mineral seedbed, which was good for both planting and for the biggest cone year I've ever seen. Lots of Douglas fir cones on the remaining green trees. As well nothing could help those burnt roots on the green trees more than the wet spring we had last summer. And now this fall, remaining green trees look surprisingly, pleasingly green and lush. Teaching us that you don't need to log it all, just because it is burnt. With Mother Nature cooperating, burnt trees can survive. See photo 4 of logging.

After the summer logging, we started planning the planting. We dithered about the need for site prep, did research, talked to others and finally decided against using equipment. The Interior Douglas Fir (IDF) zone has wicked pine grass competition and suffers both seedling mortality and reduced growth due to the lack of moisture. The fire had created its own mineral seedbed. Pine grass continues to take up soil moisture after seedlings shut down in dry conditions. Heat

domes are particularly frightening. Site prep helps with both the moisture lack, shading and grass competition. Eventually we decided that given the fire, there was still enough bare dirt to plant untreated next spring. We would use both obstacles and fertilizer to help seedlings flourish.

Next in our task mountain range traverse was the unexpectedly high crag of waste surveys. In spring 2022, the MOF increased the complexity of waste assessments for both woodlots and major licensees. This added complexity increased both field work and computer input. No qualified consultants were available. These waste surveys must occur prior to site prep (which we originally hoped to do) and before bringing a grinder in for the piles. With some learning, some technical guidance from a seasoned practitioner, some 'nose to the



Photo 4 Logging June 2022 showing bunched wood and dead biodiversity leave trees as well as green leave areas

grindstone' field work and some field assistance, we managed to complete the waste on the task mountain.

Concurrent with the waste survey, we found planting contractors, viewed the site, and crafted a planting tender, then a contract. We also put in a proposal to get government funding for underplanting non-obligation reserves for about extra 30,000 seedlings.

Planting of 420,000 seedlings (actual seedling yields) at perhaps 60 cents a tree requires a lot of money. And one of the things we learned this summer was the importance of a contract or agreement with stated terms to ensure the contractor completes the work to your specifications. Even for smaller things like grass seeding (which went sideways) having contracts, and multiple bids are important. So, a thorough planting contract is essential. I borrowed clauses, made our own modifications from a Ministry planting contract. We also found an excellent person who had owned a planting company for the planting implementation, who was both qualified and someone we liked working with. Too many pay plots and too much keeping track for us and we don't have sufficient depth of planting experience.

You must plan the entire program out. It's a huge amount of work! Be sure you are up for it, in both the amount of work and the skills and experience required. Some things will go smoothly; others much less so. There will be unexpected additional things. For example, dealing with the First Nation with core territory on the woodlot, took much more time, and more emotional energy than the previous year. Miscommunication on both sides caused much grief.

The woodlots we hold are on First Nations' territories. Proper relationships, respecting how Indigenous people would like the land managed, along with monetary homage is appropriate.

Figure out what your strengths are, how much extra people power you will need, and how much actual work you are willing to put in. Yes, you will learn things; but you can't do everything. We did get some field help in the summer but wished we had more. RESULTS is still an unclimbed mountain for us. Yes my woodlot partner got re-certified on RESULTS and he has both the mapping and computer skills needed for RESULTS. But is that how we want to spend our time? Especially after a year and half of 1.5 people's full time work. Evaluate that for yourself. Every woodlot holder has skills, abilities in some areas, but not all.

Photo 5 shows of the mostly completed mountain range. You'll note this photo shows mountains we climbed that weren't originally evident to us. All in all, quite an accomplishment though.

I haven't yet mentioned maps. Can't climb mountains or woodlots without maps! And we made many along the way.

It likely will be more money than you've ever dealt with. Our attitude was this money isn't really ours. We

didn't want to get dollar signs in our eyes. We need the revenue to pay expenses, future silviculture.

How "generous" will you be with your contractors? We decided fair to both sides, not stingy. As consultants we've been on the receiving end of the stingy stick too often. There is enough money for all of us. But you'll need to manage it well.

Who do you want to work with? You're not the Ministry, so you have some choice, not just lowest bidder. Do you trust the person? Like him/her? You'll be working with them so why not have fun out there? Reliable? Good work?

We spent a portion of our profits on charity. We awarded a proposal to an environmental organization which furthers better forest sustainability. (Be aware: charity donations have to be spent in the year earned. This is unlike most expenses which may be accrued e.g., silviculture.)

Overall, this burnt woodlot has been a lot of things. Stressful, too much work, exciting, interesting, good learnings, challenging, neat and an opportunity to meet interesting people.

I would not wish a burnt woodlot on you, but like all difficult things, there's a silver lining. Climbing these mountains offered great views, perspectives. ♦



Photo 5 Task Mountain Dec 2023 showing the additional tasks done

The Ministry of Forests' Modernization Program

The Ministry of Forests is modernizing its suite of forestry software applications. Called the *Forestry Suite of Applications Modernization Program*, (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7OSu6n_9EE) it aims to reduce costs, improve performance, and expand the ministry's digital capacity.

There are many modernization projects underway under the program. This article highlights two of them.

Forest Client

Forest Client is the ministry's system for managing its business relationships with B.C.'s forest industry. It assigns a unique number to each legal entity or person who does business with the ministry.

Scores of Forest Client users have been interviewed to understand their experience of the application. The team handling the modernization has also mapped the application's current state, identified its pain points, and pinpointed

areas for improvement.

The team has now developed a Forest Client form prototype and is doing preliminary testing with users to ensure it meets their needs. Work also continues to build the technical infrastructure to support the rest of Forest Client.

Seed Planning and Registry (SPAR)

SPAR (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/tree-seed/seed-planning-use/spar>) is the ministry's online tree seed registry. Users can enter and update information about their seedlots, orchards, and parent trees, order seeds, seedlings, and cones, and request seed processing, sampling, testing, and transfers.

The modernization team has done extensive consultations with SPAR users. It also mapped the application's current state, identified its pain points, and recognized functions to improve.

It's also developed a prototype form and a backend technical infrastructure. (Watch this SPAR demonstration video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fSDjj-bAbE> to see how modernization will improve the user experience.)

If you would like to participate in SPAR user feedback and prototype testing sessions, please sign up here (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6GRKWFG>).

Engagement and testing

We're working to keep our forestry industry partners up to date on the modernization program. So, look for updates in this and other industry news and information sources.

Also, we'll continue to need your help to test our modernized applications to ensure they work for you. We'll reach out again soon to let you know how you can take part. ♦



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 ♦

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>. ♦

E-business: Woodlot Licensee Compliance with RESULTS Reporting

by Tom Bradley

WL and RESULTS Situation Report

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) had recent talks with the Office of the Chief Forester on Woodlot Licence (WL) compliance with RESULTS reporting requirements. We saw real improvements in compliance during the 2016 Getting RESULTS project, which the FBCWA completed with help from Resource Practices Branch. Unfortunately, our RESULTS error levels are slowly climbing again.



Tom Bradley

manner of satisfactory reporting, in the manual titled *RESULTS INFORMATION SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS Form and Manner of Reporting Woodlot Licensee Submissions*, (better

known “the RISS”).

In addition to WLPPR S 76, S 75 prescribes the duty to survey by free growing date or within 3 years after harvest in an intermediate cut. S 75(7) also prescribes that a WL shall provide a copy of the records of each survey or assessment prepared under S 75 to the Minister when submitting the annual report.

Taken together, RISS-wl and WLPPR 75 and 76 establish legal requirements to report completed forestry activities by a due date, May 31. The details of exactly what and how to report are defined in the RISS, with the authority of Regulation.

In short, RESULTS reporting is a legal obligation. If you go logging, you must also do reporting until your harvest area is Free Growing or meets applicable intermediate cutting specs. It is not optional or a favor to government, it is the law.

Service Providers

So how does a WL holder meet these reporting obligations?

You could study the RISS and the WLGML manual, learn to create accurate spatial data in QGIS, download WLGML, and spend some time doing RESULTS reports. If you really want to, go for it! I look forward to helping you master the art!

Contact me any time for advice and support.

If, like many WL holders, your reaction to the above is more “I’d rather die,” your obligation as a tenure holder is to find a qualified, competent service provider who can do the work for you correctly. Whether you know what the inside of RESULTS looks like or not, you are responsible for taking reasonable steps to ensure that the information specified in WLPPR and the RISS has been reported to the required standards.

We know this can be difficult. You can look on-line to find an Accredited Silviculture Surveyor or a Professional Forester. Accredited RESULTS Reporter? Nope. No such accreditation.

This leaves some choices open. You can ask other WL holders who they use, and hope that their provider is good at the job. You can ask a major mapping and consulting firm to do it for you, under the assumption that they must know how. But there is not a satisfactory answer. And some service providers have made the same error repeatedly, likely because there was an aspect of RESULTS reporting that they did not understand.

And let us be honest here: Everyone doing RESULTS reporting makes occasional errors. As a service provider and forest professional, I know it my job to not make reporting errors, and to promptly correct any errors I do make as soon as I find them or they are brought to my attention, without charge to my clients.

But not all errors are caused by service providers. A fair amount

of WL non-compliance is due to “Deadline passed long ago, no one did anything.” Some woodlot licensees think that their service provider should tell them when free-growing is due. Service providers point out that unless a specific arrangement is made, they do not provide monitoring and reminding. Money could be well invested to pay your service provider to monitor your silviculture and reporting obligations and keep you informed so due dates do not get forgotten.

When to Report

It seems clear: report completed activities (logging, planting, brushing, surveys) by May 31 following year.

However, the Office of the Chief Forester feels that some woodlot licensees are stretching the definition of “completed” harvest block to report only when a Cutting Permit (CP) is running out, rather than when the harvest blocks are completed.

The usual reason for I hear “Well, what if some trees blow down and I have to go do 0.5 hectare of cleanup? Don’t want to pay to report twice.” If you really think that is a possibility, you are within your rights to assert the harvest unit is not complete, and to delay reporting until end of CP.

But if you have logged an area to clear boundaries with no likelihood of “issues”, you should follow WLPPR

S 76, call the block complete and get it reported. And it is easier to do reporting when your memory is fresh, and you are not under the gun to get your reporting caught up to get your next CP issued.

In my view, the FBCWA is opposed to any use of “No authorization for you until your RESULTS are perfect.” However, the MoF has a solid legal point on the “No new 1 CP until all your previous 1 CP harvest is reported to RESULTS.” If there is unreported harvesting on the WL, a new 1 CP would establish a second CP authorization over the unreported harvest area. This is a legal quagmire and is just wrong.

Is Anyone Looking?

The fact that RESULTS reporting is a legal obligation was addressed above. But so is driving 90 km/hr in a 90 zone. We all obey the speed limit when a police car is in plain view.

Perhaps because Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) actions for RESULTS non-compliance are not common, a myth has built up that “No one is looking.” Not so.

Multiple times a year, Certes Consulting mines various data sources, including satellite imagery of harvest activity, and reports to government which woodlots appear to have RESULTS “priority reporting

errors” that affect Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data integrity. Certes uses some custom built assessment tools and direct access to government data sets in their analysis. Certes workers look at each potential error before including or rejecting it.

The Fall 2022 spreadsheet has 1,492 lines of woodlot errors, with woodlot number, cutting permit, block, type of error, when reporting happened, and who reported.

They are not just “looking”, they have it all in detail. With names, dates, graphs and tables.

WL Errors


Certes reports that the most common WL priority reporting errors remain the same as they were in 2016:


- Error 3: No forest cover has been reported.
- Error 7: Free Growing due date has passed, but no Free Growing forest cover has been reported.
- Error 11: Forest cover attributes are reported, but forest cover spatial is missing.

These three forest cover related errors account for 80% of current WL errors. My review of many situations suggests each error is generally from a different source.

Error 3 occurs when the person doing

cont’d on page 22 ...









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the RESULTS reporting just does not report any forest cover information. Either the person did not know or they forgot. WLPPR and RISS establish that (a) a WL must report activities, and (b) that a report on harvesting activity must include forest cover attributes and spatial data, even if the forest cover is Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR).

Error 7 looks to me like “I forgot”. WLPPR and the RISS require reporting of forest cover at free growing (FG) date. Generally, the Error 7 harvest block was reported to RESULTS years ago, but now the FG clock has run out and no other reporting has been done. There is often a personal story that explains how this has happened, but regardless of the history, the reporting is incomplete and non-compliant.

Error 7 also includes some cases where forest cover at free growing was in fact partially reported, but the report failed to include Free Growing Stems/ha (the key data item) and is thus non-compliant.

Error 11 is an extraordinary case which accounts for 37% of WL errors. It is generally caused when a person is trying use the web interface to report new forest cover information by updating the forest cover attributes for forest cover spatial data that is already in RESULTS. For example, to input the outcomes of a free growing survey. But the well meaning person falls for a known trap in RESULTS: They

click the option labelled <New Forest Cover> in the RESULTS320 screen, because they want to add some new forest cover info. (see chart below)

This is NOT the right approach! If you click the <New Forest Cover> link and then click <Save>, the link to the existing FC spatial data disappears. As far as The System is concerned, there IS no FC spatial data. There is no <Undo>. You will have created an Error 11, and the fix is to either (a) to submit a full XML/GML report to replace the forest cover spatial you unintentionally incinerated, or (b) to re-do the “New Forest Cover / Include Exhibit A Spatial” process (if that is how you created the now-missing forest cover spatial in the first place).

Error 11 is painful to see because the intent was good, but the outcome is non-compliance and lots more work to fix it.

There is unfortunately no simple way to “see the errors”. There is no canned RESULTS report of Priority Errors that a person can run. All a WL can do at this time to find errors is to look at their RESULTS reporting themselves or, more likely, to have a knowledgeable service provider look over their RESULTS reporting for shortcomings and errors.

And Error 11 is, as usual, exceptional. In the Spring 2020 Almanac, I reported that I had finally figured out how to “see” Error 11. I was wrong. My

2020 method does find Error 11, but it also identifies situations where the on-line update of forest cover was a success and spatial link is intact as “Error 11”. No good. At this time, we have no method for a WL holder or a service provider to easily identify Error 11 situations. We are still looking for a solution.

Closing

Reporting harvesting and silviculture activities on a Woodlot Licence to the **Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land Status Tracking System** (aka RESULTS) is a legal requirement.

What to report, when to report, and the required data standards are defined in the regulations and the guides empowered by the regulations. Failing to meet the reporting standards is a contravention, subject to a \$5000 penalty under the S 17(e) of the FRPA Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation. And failure to comply is extremely poor optics when the local paper reports that the Forest Practices Board has visited and found non-compliance with regulations in local woodlots.

Woodlot tenure holders have a duty to meet free growing obligations, to survey when required, to report to RESULTS when required, and to hire competent service providers to meet the RESULTS reporting standards. ♦

RESULTS320 - Forest Cover Summary

Back Delete Forest Cover **New Forest Cover** Forest Cover History

Last Action Date: 2019-12-10 Comments: No [Forest Cover Map](#) 1 rows returned

| SU | Polygon ID | Non-Mapped Area | Layer | Polygon Area | | Stocking | | Reference Year | Species Code | Stems/ha | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-----|----------|------|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Gross | Net | Stat | Type | | | Total | Total Well Spaced | Well Spaced | Free Growing | |
| 1 | SU_1 | | I | 2.5 | 2.5 | NSR | PL | 2015 | FDI | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Details |

Forest Carbon Management

By Mike Simpson

What is forest carbon management? How much carbon is in my woodlot licence, and how does this relate to emissions of carbon dioxide and equivalent greenhouse gases? How can I manage forest carbon as a woodlot licensee? Is this a potential revenue source for what I'm already doing? Is this a stable market or is it full of snake oil salesmen? Is a woodlot licence too small to get in the game?

If you have these questions, I'll be answering them and more this year thanks to funding from the Woodlot Product Development Council and project sponsorship by the Cariboo Woodlot Association.

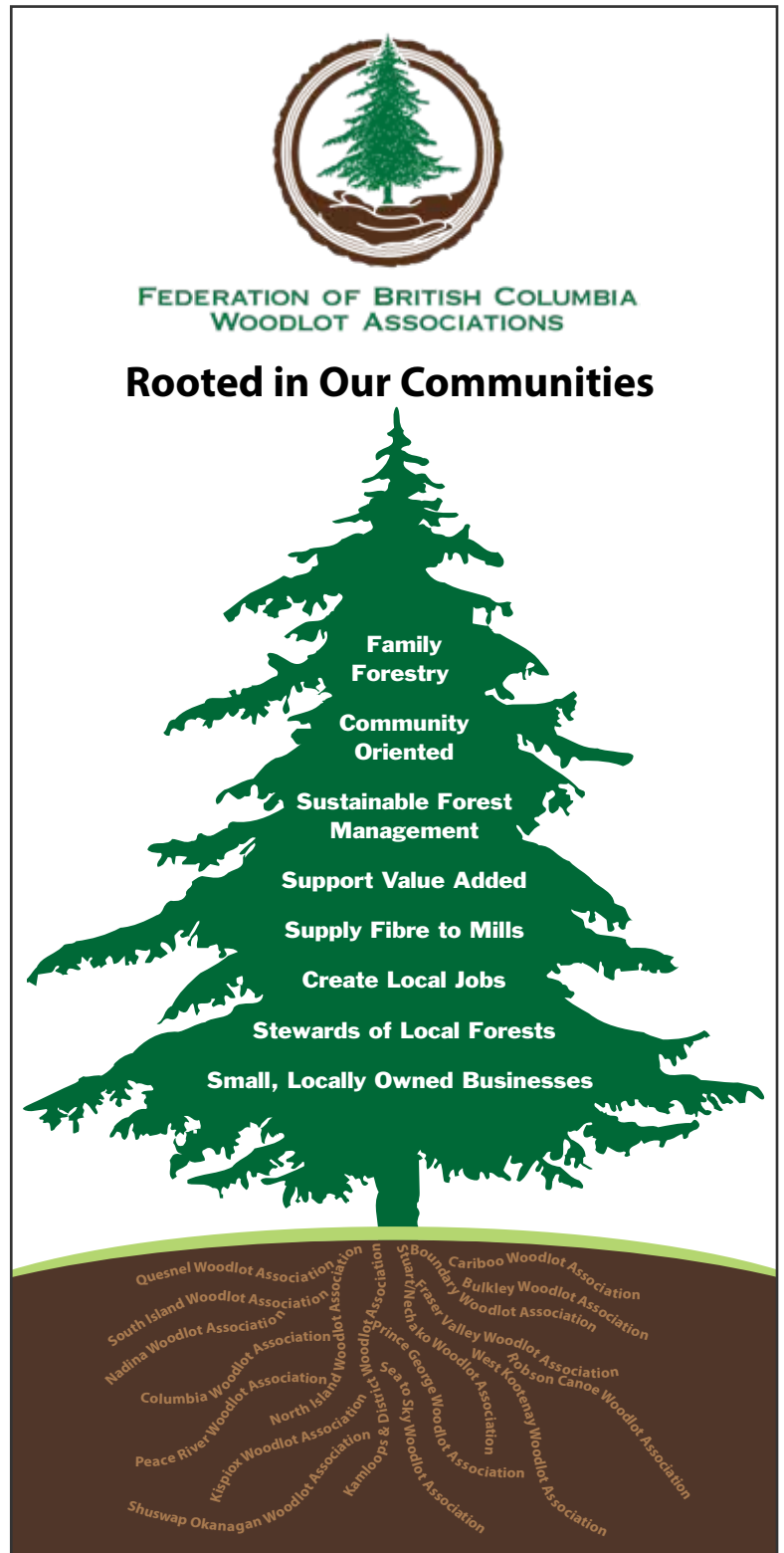
Forest carbon management and the world of carbon credits and markets is rapidly evolving, both here in BC and around the world. The opportunities on Crown land are currently limited but are likely changing to take advantage of the carbon markets that are growing. Major companies such as Mosaic Forest Management are securing revenue opportunities from managing carbon by deferring timber harvesting for 25 years on 40 000 ha of private land on Vancouver Island; similar approaches on large tracts of private land are underway in the USA and around the world.

I will be working on this over the course of 2023, culminating in a report and a presentation at the October 2023 annual general meeting and conference with the following content:

1. Summary of the current and emerging carbon situation in terms of standards, methodologies and markets
2. List of carbon opportunities for woodlot licensees – what kinds of things “count” as a carbon project on a woodlot licence
3. Synergies with other area-based forest tenure holders such as community forests, and private forest landowners
4. What is currently possible on Schedule B (Crown) lands and what is possible on Schedule A (private) lands, and where things are going

If you have specific suggestions or queries regarding this work that I can investigate while I undertake this work, please feel free to email or call me.

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“I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, ‘Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.’”

- LEWIS CARROLL



Thank you
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