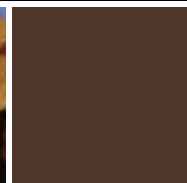




Forests in Good Hands

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Spring 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
- 5 BEST WISHES DEBBIE AND ED
- 6 COMMERCIAL THINNING
- 8 E-BITS FOR YOUR TWO BITS
- 9 JOINING FORCES: THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE ORGANIZATION
- 10 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WOODLOT COMMUNITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS #2
- 12 SAFEWOODS
- 13 WILDLIFE TREE SIGNS EDUCATE AND PROTECT
- 14 EXTRAORDINARY PROJECT PROPOSALS
- 15 LETTER TO THE EDITOR
- 16 CEDAR CONE COLLECTION
- 17 CONTRACTOR'S CORNER
- 18 A BIT OF WOODLOT HISTORY
- 19 MY TWO BITS WORTH
- 20 THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Farewell Woodlot World



Carl and Joy Hennig

by Carl Hennig, RPF(ret)

Author's Note: It can be a small world in the Cariboo! The present FBCWA General Manager, Gord Chipman, went to university with my son (both of whom became RPF's) and at one time (1997) had the office next door to me at Riverside Forest Products in Williams Lake.

My woodlot's gone! For over 35 years it was a major part of my life, from the first few years when I heard about the program, through application for this pristine stand

very close to town. I knew about the area because it had been rejected after I had submitted it as a cutting permit for a local mill. "Too close to town, could be needed as a recreation/conservation area, etc." After my wife, Joy, and I bought a 1/4 section of previously bushmilled land nearby to fulfill the private treed land requirement, the woodlot was applied for and subsequently awarded to us in 1987.

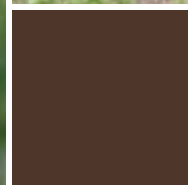
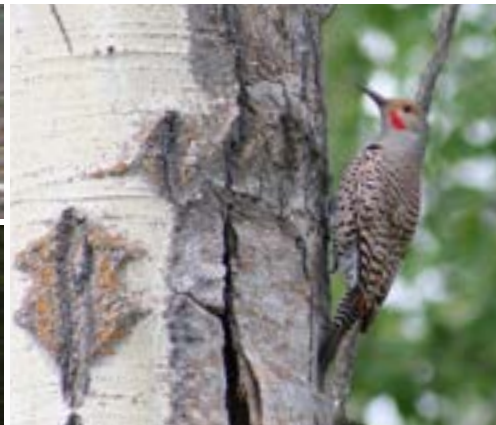
Except for the last few years, we logged on Woodlot License 0587 with an International 175 track loader with a winch and homemade arch. With that machine, one could build roads, landings and skid trails as well as cable skid and load logging trucks. Falling and bucking was by hand, and we did have a small John Deere 440 line skidder in reserve. Both machines moved logs with chokers set by hand. If you want an example of an oxymoron, try "freespool winch". Production logging with 2 men in a Douglas fir stand off the woodlot we could do 3 loads per day, roughly half that on the woodlot being more careful with the single tree selection.

For almost all of the 35 years of the licence beetles have dictated where we logged. First it was Pine beetle, now it is Fir beetle. Skid trails have been constructed only as necessary to access beetle attacked areas. Roads and landings (small 30m X 30m) were initially constructed over the entire

cont'd on page 3 ...



Forests in Good Hands



www.woodlot.bc.ca

FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

E-mail: communications@woodlot.bc.ca Website: www.woodlot.bc.ca

FBCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Mark Clark, Prince George WA
 Vice President Tyler Hodgkinson, Boundary WA
 Secretary Kevin Webber, Fraser Valley WA
 Treasurer Steven Wright, Nadina WA
 Director Rick Walters, Cariboo WA
 Director Coleen MacLean-Marlow, North Island WA
 Director Don Whyte, Shuswap-Okanagan WA
 Director Brian Amies, Columbia WA
 Director Hélène Marcoux, Fraser Valley WA
 Director Ken Dodd, North Island WA

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

FBCWA MEMBERS

Boundary Tyler Hodgkinson
 Bulkley Gary Hanson
 Cariboo Hugh Flinton
 Columbia Brian Amies
 Fraser Valley Kevin Webber
 Kamloops & District Norm Fennell
 Kispiox Eddy Plant
 Nadina District Jon Seinen
 North Island Wolfram Wollenheit
 Peace River Jeff Beale
 Prince George Kathy Mayes
 Quesnel John Massier
 Robson Canoe Norm Lorenz
 Shuswap/Okanagan Don Whyte
 South Island John Gregson
 Stuart /Nechako Peet Vahi
 West Kootenay Brent Patrick

FBCWA CONTRACTORS

General Manager Gord Chipman gm@woodlot.bc.ca
 Outgoing GM Brian McNaughton gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca
 Communications Sarah Sutton communications@woodlot.bc.ca
 e-Business & Woodlot for Windows Tom Bradley e-bus@woodlot.bc.ca
 Bookkeeping Heidi Denney
 Admin support Bridgitte Pinchbeck admin@woodlot.bc.ca

FBCWA COMMITTEE HEADS

Safety Ken Dodd, Rick Walters & Gary Hanson
 WL Joint Working Group Tom Bradley, Brian Amies, Rick Walters, Kevin Webber, Mark Clark & Gord Chipman

FBCWA/WPDC GOVERNANCE JOINT TASK FORCE

Mark Clark, Rick Walters, Gord Chipman, Chris Hawkins, Gernot Zemanek, Brent Petrick, Mike Larock & Cathy McClary,

WPDC EXECUTIVE

President Chris Hawkins chrisofmendenhall@gmail.com
 Vice President Gernot Zemanek gernotzemanek@gmail.com
 Treasurer Samantha Carter smjcarter3@outlook.com
 Director Lee Pond leepond@hotmail.com
 Director Paul Galliazzo pgalliaz@shaw.ca
 Director Dan Burns rocheheavyindustriess@gmail.com
 Director Ron Beauchesne riaenterprises2014@gmail.com

WPDC COMMITTEES

Governance & Nominations: Chris Hawkins, Paul Galliazzo, Lee Pond, & Dan Burns
Financial Oversight & Risk: Samantha Carter, Ron Beauchesne, Gernot Zemanek

WPDC TASK FORCES

EPP Task Force: Paul Galliazzo

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

Coordinator: Cathy McClary
 Tel: (250) 961-0271
 PO Box 23011, Plaza 33 Postal Outlet,
 Kelowna, BC V1X 7K7
 E-mail: cjmcclary401@gmail.com
 Publication # 40035578



www.facebook.com/woodlotsbc

► From page 1

woodlot for access, but even today most landings are not fully trailed.

Regarding roads, I've always had mixed feelings about their quality. They are narrow and only accommodate single truck traffic, but that uses the least productive area. Since the woodlot is close to town, except for mud boggers, the mud holes discourage excessive traffic by lookie-loos in the summer. If you log in the winter, no mud holes, no problem.

The first landing on the west end, the initial access, presently is fully stocked and has up to 40 feet tall stems (25 years old). All we did was build the landing, disturb/compact the soil with the track loader and burn and spread the ashes of the cull pile. It regenerated naturally from the surrounding fir trees. The landing



Burning piles

hasn't been needed again because of the lack of fir beetle activity, I think both because we took most of the bigger, older trees on the first pass (the woodlot wasn't initially in the Mule Deer Winter Range) and the initial harvesting straddled breakup, so we had felled trees that acted as trap trees when we cleaned up in May. Every one of the downed trees was full of fir beetle larvae which we sent to the

mill after breakup. Some day when the landing is needed again, it will have to be cleared again, and it will have some merchantable timber on it. I wonder if that is in the AAC calculations?

I just turned 80 years old in January of this year. I have also just sold the woodlot. I did it to avoid getting an ulcer. The licence area was originally chosen because it was an old growth multilayered stand that could

be selectively logged, taking some and leaving some, which was my expertise. Now they want to "preserve, reserve, defer" in a relatively small, defined area. That would bother me a lot. I enjoyed looking after YOUR area immensely (I used to always tell people - it's your land, it's your trees, it's your bugs, I just have a licence to look after it). Time to shut down. ♦

Dunkley
LUMBER LTD.

QUALITY IN EVERY DIMENSION

For the sale of your SPF Sawlogs, contact our Log Purchase Team today.

Direct: 250-998-4201

the Woodlot Product Development Council is regulated. We envision that the organization will be operated from the Woodlot Product Development Council, and you will have your say through a vote about this. Both boards of the Federation and Council are meeting together now instead of separate meetings. This is a work in progress. You should have received information from us in February about this process. We hosted three different virtual Zoom meetings to present the process and have question and answer sessions.

I found it interesting that we only had about fifteen woodlot licensees attend the Zoom meetings. We are wondering what this means. Does it mean that woodlot holders do not have any concerns? If you do have a concern, please let me know. We will be reaching out to all woodlot holders to make sure they are included in the opportunity to vote on updates to the Development Plan and any other items that require membership votes around this major change. The vote will occur this fall at the woodlot conference. The conference is set to happen in Cranbrook at St Eugene Mission on October 26 – 29. The theme of the conference is Resiliency & Engagement. In keeping with the conference theme, I am getting engaged and creatively thinking of ways that you can too. I

plan to attend as many Association meetings as possible over the next few months. One of my messages will be about getting woodlot holders to engage in the process if you are interested. Remember that the woodlot world is run by those that show up. To date most of the feedback is that Woodlot holders like the idea of being unified through a single entity that represents all woodlots. Later, we will create new branding for the organization. If you have a spring/summer association meeting please let me know, and I will do my best to get engaged. I hope you will too.

New Staffing Contracts

At the end of March, we posted three contract opportunities. These part-time year round contractors will be working as woodlot representatives for a specific region of the province (Northern Interior, Southern Interior, or Coast) to support the woodlot program to achieve goals and strategies identified by the General Manager.

We also plan to have a contract position to replace the role that Mike Simpson fulfilled to coordinate funding opportunities. Stay tuned about this.

If you would like more information, please contact me at gm@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Good Timber

*by Douglas Malloch
submitted by Harold Macy
(W1677 tired & retired)*

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To heaven from the common soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow in ease
The stronger wind, the tougher trees,
The farther sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength,
By sun and cold, by rain and snows,
In trees and men, good timbers grow.

Where thickest stands the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of them both,
And they hold converse with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and of much strife
This is the common law of life.

Also check out my webpage at haroldmacy.ca for a review of my latest book “All the Bears Sing”. Stories which may be of interest to other WLers
♦



Best Wishes Debbie and Ed

The Interior and Coastal Timber Pricing Contracts came to an end on March 31, 2023. We appreciate all the work that Debbie Zandbelt and Ed Hughes put into those roles over the years. Whether it was talking to individual woodlot licensees about cut control and timber pricing or representing woodlots on various committees like the timber pricing appraisal advisory committees, market prices and waste manual revisions, both Debbie and Ed recognized the issues around timber pricing that only a select group of individuals can attest to understand. We wish you the best of luck in your new ventures. ♦

A Practical Guide for Woodlot Licensees in the North Central Interior of British Columbia

by Mike Trepanier

The following is the first of a two-part article series.

Interest in commercial thinning has been on the rise amongst a wide range of BC forest industry stakeholders as a means to mitigate the fibre supply shortage that has contributed to the closure or curtailment of sawmills, pulp mills and pellet mills across the province. Practiced appropriately, commercial thinning also has the potential to increase value of forest land by improving tree growth and timber quality in the remaining stems. As small, intensively managed area-based tenures located close to communities and wood processing facilities, BC woodlots will constitute an important share of the commercial thinning opportunity available on the forest landscape.

With this in mind, the Prince George Woodlot Association, with support from the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council, has commissioned the development of a publication entitled: *Commercial Thinning - A Practical Guide for Woodlot Licensees in the North Central Interior of British Columbia*.

The guide will be available in the spring or summer 2023 to a target audience of woodlot licensees interested in learning how to apply commercial thinning to their woodlots. Due to variability of operating and ecological conditions across the province, the guide is applicable for woodlot licensees operating within the Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS) biogeoclimatic zone of the BC North Central Interior. However, content in the guide may be relevant to woodlot licensees located in other parts of the province.



The guide follows and builds upon two recent provincial-level publications on commercial thinning and provides additional insights and information relevant to woodlot licensees.

- ***Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning – Interior British Columbia*** (Ministry of Forests, May 2021; https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/stand-tending/interim_guidance_for_commercial_thinning.pdf)
- ***Operational Manual for Commercial Thinning In British Columbia*** (FPInnovations, December 2021; TR2021N93.pdf (fpinnovations.ca))

Commercial thinning has been a

cornerstone of European forest management for hundreds of years. In Canada, commercial thinning primarily occurs in the eastern provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. To get a sense of how widely commercial thinning is employed in these regions, one only needs to query Google Earth's satellite imagery and digitally "fly-over" any forested region to see the tell-tale signature of commercial thinning in the forest canopy. See Figure 1 below.

In the past, commercial thinning was not practiced to any significant degree in the BC Interior, due to the abundance of mature, primary forest, focus on salvaging stands damaged by insects, fire or disease and relative infancy of the logging and saw milling industry in regions of the Interior. More recently, with a shortage of economical mature wood fibre available to interior pulp, lumber and pellet mills, combined with a growing abundance of second growth stands acquiring the structural characteristics suitable for commercial thinning, this form of harvesting has the potential to be practiced on a much wider scale.

In the BC Interior context, commercial thinning is the partial harvest of an immature stand of merchantable sized trees where poor-quality trees are logged and removed,



Figure 1. Commercial thinning in Finland (left) and New Brunswick (right).

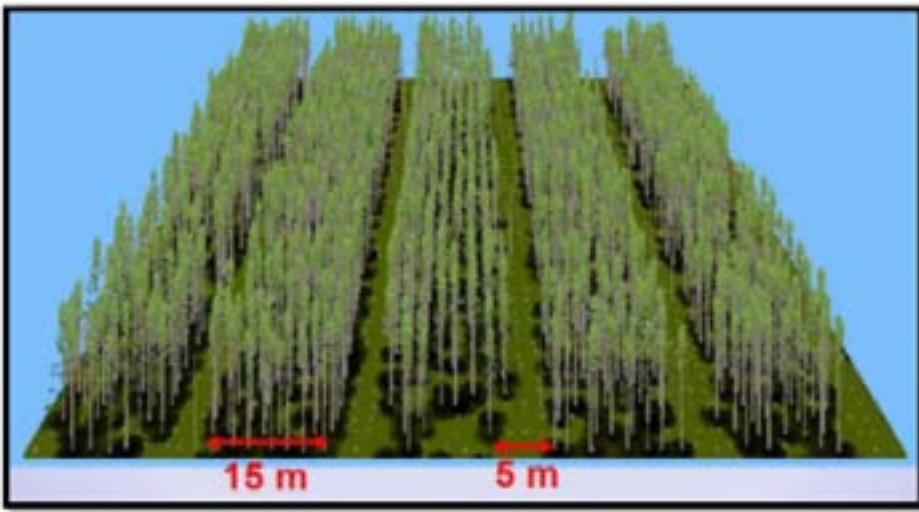


Figure 2. Illustration of machine access trail and selection zone harvest layout (this is adopted from the publication: *Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning – Interior British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, May 2021; and is reprinted with permission.*)

and a fully stocked stand of decent quality trees is retained to grow into a high value stand of timber. The “commercial” aspect implies that the sale value of the harvested trees will cover the costs of the thinning treatment.

There are two goals associated with commercial thinning. The first is timber management focused: to improve the growth and quality of the treated stand; and is accomplished by thinning or removing inferior quality, defective or suppressed trees from the stand, thereby reallocating resources needed for tree growth (light, moisture and nutrients) to fewer trees of better form. The second goal is commercial: to extract value from inferior quality, or low vigor suppressed trees that could die from canopy competition as the stand develops and matures, and whose value would be lost to decay on the forest floor.

For practical reasons, modern commercial thinning is mechanized and utilizes alternating 5-metre-wide machine access trails, separated by 15-metre-wide selection zones. See Figure 2.

Harvesting equipment typically consists of a harvester and forwarder combination. The harvester must have the ability to efficiently cut and process small stems within a 5-metre-wide access trail workspace while minimizing damage to the residual

stand of future crop trees. See Figure 3.

Under ideal conditions, and implemented appropriately, a commercially thinned stand is not expected to provide more volume at final harvest compared to the same stand left untreated. However, the volume of the thinned stand could be more valuable as the volume will be concentrated in fewer, and better quality, sawlog and peeler grade trees. Moreover, the combined volume produced by the commercial thinning and final harvest is likely to be equal to or greater than the

volume of the same untreated stand at final harvest. A woodlot holder might consider commercial thinning for any of the following reasons:

- Improve the timber quality of the future stand
- Produce log types that are desired by regional log buyers
- Shorten the period of time to final harvest by expediting growth of the treated stand
- Redistribute future harvest scheduling over the licence area and fill gaps in future harvest scheduling

Other less tangible benefits include:

- 1) Harvest at risk volume that would otherwise be lost to competition mortality and decay
- 2) Improve the aesthetics and recreational suitability
- 3) Reduce fuels and fire hazard
- 4) Increase production of browse species

Woodlot holders interested in commercial thinning must consider key factors not normally associated with conventional harvesting operations. An article that provides an overview of these factors will appear in the summer 2023 issue of the Woodland Almanac. ♦



Figure 3. Harvester and Forwarder combinations currently in use in the Prince George area

Excitement in the Tech World

by Tom Bradley



Tom Bradley

Access to TRIM Data

Two issues ago, I reported that we were working on “restoring” no-charge access to TRIM data for Woodlot holders and consultants working for WL holders. The authorization to access TRIM at no charge never went away, but the govt forgot we had it. Progress has been made.

At this time, if you require TRIM for a WL, contact GeoBCInfo@gov.bc.ca and explain that you are a WL or are working for a WL, that you want TRIM data for map sheets <xxxx>, and that WLs have access to TRIM data at no charge per the 2008 agreement. You should end up with some TRIM.

If issues arise, please tell me. It is my job to help.

This is not as easy as the good old days of “Go to LRDW and download it.”, but it beats paying the govt 3 figures to get data we are required by the govt to use in Woodlot Licence Plan Map preparation.

RESULTS Excitement

It was a rough few months for the MoF RESULTS team in Victoria. They added 2 new fields to the reportable data set, and thereby opened a so far endless Do Loop Systems hell of:

- 10 FIND NEW ERROR
- 20 FIX NEW ERROR
- 30 THE FIX BREAKS
- SOMETHING ELSE
- 40 GO TO 10

In mid-April, we found a new one. At some point between January and March, RESULTS started classifying all newly submitted Woodlot harvest Openings as Forest Tenure Major Licence. Meaning the submitted XML contains <rst:openingCategoryCode> = FTWL, but the system now changes it to <rst:openingCategoryCode> = FTML

Everyone agrees this is a bug, not a feature. They are endeavoring to fix it, and hope to be able to tell us the

date it started.

So, if you have submitted any new WL harvest openings since January 1, 2023, you may want to quickly check them to see if they are in RESULTS with Opening Category FTML. If so, just use the Web

interface to change Opening Category to FTWL, and <Save>.

If you have submitted MANY new WL openings in 2023, and thus can pin down the start date of the error better than I can, please tell me!

W4W

A part of my job I really enjoy is W4W tech support. I took over temporarily when Mike Bandstra moved on. Some interesting topics from recent months:

1. Windows TEMP file location.

Windows, being Windows, hides its default TEMP file folder in a whacko location. Such as C:\Users\Tom\AppData\Local\Temp\ As a very old school geek, I think TEMP should be C:\Temp. Whatever. The issue is that W4W and/or VDYP seem to think like me. They are defeated by that long path to the TEMP directory, and W4W cannot access the yield predictions created by VDYP. A mission critical total fail.

The fix is to reassign the Windows TEMP variable - to C:\TEMP. I have instructions to send to you if you need help on this.

2. Splitting Polygons.

A user found that after they SPLIT a polygon in W4W and UNLINKED the resultants, the polygons were still “linked”. Changes made to the attributes in one polygon applied to the other polygon as well. Not the desired outcome.

We found a work around using Export to CSV; Change one of the split polygons Polygon Number to a new, unique number; Import CSV back to W4W to bring in the “new” polygon;

In W4W, delete the split poly chunk whose number you just changed in the CSV.

I have instructions to send to you if you need help on this.

My advice: Edit your VRI in a GIS system! Doing this to more than 1 or 2 polygons inside W4W is a lot of work.

3. Use a New Site Index.

A user realized that even though they had input a different-from-the-VRI site index within W4W, W4W was still calculating yields using the VRI supplied site index. Turns out that you also have to blank the Reference Total Age and Reference Height fields in the VDYP input specs screen for the polygon. Yes, I have instructions!

Note that this issue does not occur if you edit the VRI file to have new site index, new Projected Height and new Projected Age (that agree with the site index!) before importing the VRI to W4W.

Late Breaking News

A version of RESULTS that is **not** dependant on ancient Internet Explorer or emulations thereof is written and is in testing. It came out in late April, so I do not know much yet.

But this is great news! ♦

Please note:

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



JOINING FORCES: The Next Steps for the Organization



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS



In February 2023, a letter, info sheet and a set of Frequently Asked Questions were sent to each woodlot licensee describing the recommendation for the FBCWA and WPDC to form a single organization to effectively deliver more value to the woodlot licence program.

	CURRENT STRUCTURE	PROPOSED STRUCTURE
What is being recommended?	Two Organizations: Woodlot Product Development Council Federation of BC Woodlot Associations	One Organization: A council so that we maintain the levy collection process which funds the organization. That will govern and manage all operations and woodlot programs. A single Board of Directors with one mandate and strategic plan.
Why a single organization?	Inefficient, overlap, more costly to operate, reliant on volunteers, difficult to recruit directors to two boards.	An efficient, effective and stronger organization to deliver value to woodlot licensees.
How does this impact a woodlot licensee?	Two woodlot organizations with different mandates and different boards operating in a time when BC's forest industry is facing uncertainty and the Woodlot Licence tenure is encountering threats.	A better format to: Anticipate and address future issues facing woodlot licences. Advocate with one voice on behalf of woodlot licensees. Provide resources to all woodlot licensees.

Progress updates were provided at the Spring Members meeting in Victoria, BC in March. Following that meeting, the FBCWA-WPDC Joint Task Force formed five subcommittees to ensure this new organization is structured to best tackle future issues and threats facing BC's woodlot licences.

- Relationship - New Organization & Woodlot Associations
- Operating Procedures
- Board and Governing Committees
- Delegation of Authority
- Engagement Strategy

Over the next few months, during this 'building phase', these subcommittees are meeting regularly, seeking input, and will be providing recommendations to the Joint Task Force by the end of May. Following a Joint Task Force review and discussion a set of final

recommendations will be provided to the two Boards of Directors for consideration and approval.

Woodlot licensees' input is valuable and will impact the organization as it is being built. To learn more about the recommendation and work being done, visit: www.woodlot.bc.ca Members Section: FBCWA/Building a New Organization.

Contact a member of the WPDC-FBCWA Joint Task Force to provide suggestions and ask questions:

Mark Clark
Email: markclarkrpf@gmail.com

Rick Walters
Email: rickwalters@xplornet.com

Mike Larock
Email: mike@huock.ca

Chris Hawkins
Email: chrisofmendenhal@gmail.com

Brent Petrick
Email: smoky1458@shaw.ca

Gernot Zemanek
E-mail: gernotzemanek@gmail.com

Gord Chipman
Tel: (250) 267-9594
Email: GM@woodlot.bc.ca

Cathy McClary
Tel: (250) 961-0271
Email: cjmccclary401@gmail.com

Colin Sauer (Facilitator)
Email: colin@governance.ca

A voting package will be mailed to all licensees in August. All woodlot licensees will be asked to ratify the plan through a vote at the Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2023 in Cranbrook, BC. Save the date and plan to attend! ♦

Organizational Structure of the Woodlot Community

Frequently Asked Questions #2

The Strategic Planning Task Force held three Zoom information sessions. Questions arising from the sessions became part of the second set of FAQs. More information is available on the Federation website: www.woodlot.bc.ca

1) Will there still be a mechanism to claim the levy back?

Yes, the levy collection and refund processes will stay the same.

All Woodlot licence holders pay an annual levy of \$0.25/m³ on the Crown land portion of the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) which is included in their annual rent payable to the Ministry of Forests. At this time there is no plan to change the annual levy amount. However, in future it may be necessary to increase the levy which has never been increased since its inception in 1998.

2) Retain, promote private forest land management and other small tenures.

Woodlot licensees will continue to be the members of the organization. Many woodlot licensees have private forest land, and the organization has a responsibility to continue to promote and advance the interest of the woodlot licensees in the province. The organization is expected to continue to build on established relationships with other small tenures.

3) In the former structure, the Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) could lobby, and the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) could not. Is lobbying still a concern?

Past activities of the FBCWA suggest that the FBCWA was not lobbying but advocating. The FBCWA participates in some government-led committees, which allows for the constructive exchange of ideas.

4) What about local woodlot association issues that may not be in the forefront for operations? (i.e., CRA, family transfers, avoiding capital gains)

As indicated above, the organization has a responsibility to continue to promote and advance the interest of the woodlot licensees in the province.

At a Joint Task Force meeting on March 19, 2023, the Joint Task Force decided to form five subcommittees to undertake the work that needs to be completed over the next few months. One of these subcommittees is working on "Relationship - New Organization and current Woodlot Associations". One of this subcommittee's purposes is to provide context and definition for an ongoing, productive, and mutually beneficial working relationship between the current Woodlot Associations and the New Organization.

5) How will 1 organization increase engagement?

At a meeting on March 19, 2023, the Joint Task Force decided to form five subcommittees to undertake the work that needs to be completed over the next few months. The Engagement Strategy subcommittee is currently working on developing near term strategies to increase the engagement of woodlot

licensees in the reorganization process. They are also working on longer term strategies to increase licensee engagement in the overall woodlot program.

6) How much confidence do you have in the Minister of Agriculture and Foods approving the development plan in your proposed timeline?

The Joint Task Force has been working with staff in the Minister's office and making recommended changes in an effort to remove any barriers to a timely approval. The 2023 Update to the existing Development Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods for a preliminary review on April 3, 2023.

7) How do you see the regional reps rolling out?

The 2023-24 annual budget was approved at the Spring Members Meeting in March. The three regional representative positions were advertised with a closing date of April 15th. Suitable candidates are expected to be hired as soon as possible.

Reporting to the General Manager, each Representative (Northern Interior, Southern Interior, or Coast) will be working to support the woodlot program to achieve goals and strategies identified by the General Manager.


8) Do you have an idea of Terms of Reference (TOR) or a job description?


The Regional Representative job description was e-mailed out to all woodlot associations, the FBCWA Board and WPDC Council Executives at the end of March. It was also posted on the FBCWA website, LinkedIn, the BC Forest




Forests in Good Hands

Stay in the know. Follow us on Social Media.

 @woodlotsbc
Get the latest news

 @woodlotsbc
Follow us

 Woodlots BC
Learn about WLs

 BCWoodlots
Check us Out

Professional career opportunities website and the Canadian Institute of Forestry job board.

9) How can we as woodlot licensees help you at the ground level? How do you inform all the members?

You can help by reading and sharing any information that you have received or will be receiving (FAQs, Spring Meeting Minutes and associated Governance presentation, upcoming Almanac articles) with your association members and licensees; encourage participation and engage in discussions at local woodlot association meetings or talking directly to other woodlot licensees. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact any of the Joint Task Force members or send your questions and comments to Cathy McClary through email: cjmccclary401@gmail.com or phone 1-250-961-0271.

The Engagement Strategy subcommittee is currently working on developing near term strategies to increase engagement of woodlot licensees in the organization process. Please reach out to the Joint Task Force members if you have any ideas to help engage woodlot licensees.

10) We should try to encourage Woodlot Associations to exist and to help communicate with the licensees. Many licensees depend on their local woodlot association for information regarding changes.

The Joint Task Force's Relationship - New Organization and current Woodlot Associations subcommittee and the Engagement subcommittee are working together on addressing this concern.

11) Why did we not do this years ago?

The 1997 Development Plan was written identifying that there would be two different and distinct entities. Rewriting of the plan requires approval from the Minister of Agriculture and Foods. The plan has never been updated until now.

12) Do we need to continue to meet requirements under FFIDA?

Yes, the one organization will continue to operate under the Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act (FFIDA). Collection of the levy is critical to the ongoing success of the program. This is most easily accomplished through the FFIDA legislation.

13) How many Board members will the new entity have?

The Joint Task Force's Board and Governing Committees subcommittee is currently working on developing the required processes, policies, and practices in order to recruit and elect board directors for the new organization.

In the Update to the Development Plan, we have included the following statement:

"The board may have up to eleven members (number and procedure for nominating determined by the committee developing the Operating Procedures) of whom one or more persons will not be woodlot licensees (lay members) plus one or more ex officio government representatives.

14) Do non woodlot licensees who sit on the Board get voting rights?

The board composition recommendation has not yet been finalized. The structure of the Board will be designed so that the majority of the Directors will be woodlot licensees.

15) Concern with government rep when financial and confidential topics are discussed. How do you go in-camera with a government rep on the Board?

There are processes that can be utilized at the board table to manage issues of confidentiality. These will be fully considered when designing the composition of the new board of directors.

16) When will the draft plan be available?

The draft Development Plan will be mailed out to all licensees by the end of August. Members will be asked to ratify the plan at the Council's Annual General Meeting in October either through a vote if attending in-person or by electronic means prior to the AGM where the votes will be tallied. The Minister of Agriculture and Foods is looking to see that the members support the plan before signing it, after which it becomes a legal document.

17) When will the new budget be available?

The 2023-24 budget was approved by the Woodlot Product Development Council on March 18th, 2023.

18) Who will vote on the changes?

All woodlot licensees in BC will be asked

to ratify the Update to the Development Plan through a vote at the Annual General Meeting in October 2023. The vote will occur at the Council's AGM scheduled for October 27th, 2023 to be held in Cranbrook.

An information package will be mailed out to all licensees by August 30th to allow members sufficient time to review the information in advance of the vote.

19) Will the new entity deliver services at the local level?

At the organizational level, the Joint Task Force's "Relationship - New Organization and current Woodlot Associations" subcommittee is currently working on identifying ways in which mutually beneficial working relationships between the current Woodlot Associations and the Organization can be maintained.

At the more local level, the three Regional Representatives (Northern Interior, Southern Interior, or Coast) will be working to support the woodlot program to achieve goals and strategies identified by the General Manager. They will also assist Woodlot Associations in their communication efforts by providing guidance to promote their Association, Woodlot Licences, and the Woodlot Licence program.

20) Will the new entity be the organization (Council) established under FFIDA?

Yes, the new entity will legally remain the Woodlot Product Development Council established under the Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act in 1998. The Board could later decide to do business under a different name for branding purposes. ♦

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. ♦



Rainfall Shutdown and Resumption Procedures

Forest tenure holders/Licensees must provide and maintain their land and premises used as a workplace in a manner that ensures the health and safety of workers. This includes direct employees as well as contractors who are working on their behalf.

One of the obligations is to ensure that there is effective rainfall shutdown and resumption procedures in place, not only on active work sites but also on the travel routes to and from these sites. This is particularly important given recent rain fall triggered landslide events within BC which have resulted in workers being injured or killed. These events are getting more common place, leading to increased importance for having these procedures in place.

Rainfall shutdown procedures are comprised of three parts:

- 1) Identification of areas of high risk to landslide. These are typically areas containing steep slopes where high rainfall events or rain on snow events could result in a landslide and put workers at risk. Knowing where these areas are relative to the work site as well as the direct routes traveled to and from work is critical.
- 2) Identification of when a locally significant rainfall event has occurred or is happening. This requires:
 - a. Representative local weather stations or rain gauges which identify rainfall accumulation hourly and over the past 24 to 48 hours.
 - b. On site rain gauges to measure rainfall either over night or during the day.
 - c. Worker awareness of what conditions are normal and what might represent abnormal or extreme conditions (i.e., very swollen rivers and streams).
- 3) Process for either calling workers off when it is unsafe to go to work or having them determine that current conditions are making it unsafe to remain at work. Having workers driving into an unsafe situation is as bad as having them remain on site when conditions are getting more hazardous.

Whether the procedures are in the hands of the licensee or the contractors working on their behalf, it is critical that areas that are high risk are identified and that there is a procedure in place to address the potential hazard.

The final component is having effective resumption procedures in place. Determining when it is safe to return to the work site can be as simple as waiting 24 hours post rain event or as involved as calculating when the soil water balance is appropriate. In addition, a best practice is to have a competent individual review the access and work site prior to crews returning to ensure their safety.

Links: Forest Stewardship - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) (Search: Wet Weather) ♦

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. ♦

Wildlife Tree Signs Educate and Protect

By Sarah Sutton, adapted from article written by George Delisle and Tyler Hodgkinson, Boundary Woodlot Association

Bright yellow FBCWA-branded wildlife tree signs are now in the hands of woodlot licensees (and presumably on trees!) across the province, thanks to a project of the Boundary Woodlot Association.

And it's the hope of George Delisle, W0411 in Rock Creek and member of the Boundary Woodlot Association, that these signs will gain public recognition and distribution through field trips, events and tradeshow.

Same Signs, New Look

George has been a wildlife tree advocate for decades, since he first obtained his woodlot licence in 1984. And wildlife tree signs have been around for more than 25 years, but in the past were supplied in limited supply by the Ministry of Environment (no longer producing them). These new FBCWA signs are similar to the previous ones but now include the Ministry of Forests and FBCWA logos.

"I started out with 50 signs and now I am up to 400 on my woodlot," says George, who has always treated his woodlot as a wildlife habitat area with 'legacy trees', as he calls them, intentionally left across his tenure rather than prescribing to only leaving wildlife trees patches.

Saving Species

Wildlife trees are crucial to excavator birds like the Pileated Woodpecker, as pictured on the FBCWA wildlife tree signs, and the Williamson's Sapsucker, which is on the Endangered Species list. It's not by accident that George's woodlot boasts the high concentration of this rare bird in the region. The good news story here is that his woodlot licence has positively impacted the Williamson's Sapsucker, because of George's forest management practices.

Tyler Hodgkinson, president of the Boundary Woodlot Association, says "With the increased scrutiny of harvesting across the province, it is important to demonstrate to the public



how woodlots are managing for other resource values besides timber."

Identifying Wildlife Trees

These signs, when placed strategically along roads and trails, help prevent high quality wildlife trees from being harvested or damaged by firewood cutters or others.

With dry firewood getting harder and harder to find, the pressure on wildlife trees is increasing every year, especially as heating fuel goes up in price.

"We are seeing firewood cutters going up to two tree lengths from the roadside to cut firewood. Many people do not appreciate the value of wildlife trees because they simply do not know any better," says Hodgkinson.

Here's what to look for when identifying wildlife trees (list provided by George):

- stems with existing woodpecker holes
- sapsucker 'sap wells' on the stem
- dead-topped trees for woodpecker drumming towers
- conks on the stem as a decay agent
- large scars that provide port of entry for decay
- large trees with big branches that can provide habitat for nesting
- big trees with broken or forked tops that can provide nesting areas
- dead standing stems with evidence of woodpecker feeding signs
- single tree species out of their normal location, that are 'off-site' and growing poorly - good as 'feeder trees' or nesting trees
- trees with a defect that would

require a good portion of the stem to be wasted in order to make a merchantable log

George notes that there must be a recruitment plan in place, where healthy younger smaller trees are designated to grow into 'old legacy' trees. Selection harvesting is a great way to maintain these 'old growth' attributes while still being able to harvest volume from the forest.

Public Perception

Part of social license is to educate the general public about good forest management. These signs are part of this special management and can help protect and retain these trees that are vital to the life habitat requirements of many different wildlife species found throughout BC woodlots.

"As caretakers of BC forests, we need to be thinking about how we can better educate the public while conserving and protecting valuable resource values such as wildlife trees," says Hodgkinson.

Funding to carry out this initiative was obtained through the Woodlot Product Development Council as a FBCWA Associations Project. In May 2022, the association was approved for this project, with \$6,612 going towards the production of 3280 tags.

Lisa Marak, W0344 and FBCWA Communications Contractor at the time, worked with George to get the signs designed and produced.

"I think the project is important because woodlot licensees are managing their woodlot as an ecosystem, not just for trees to harvest," says Marak. "It is a great example of stewardship and a hands-on approach to managing their small Crown forest tenure."

The wildlife tree signs were handed out to woodlot licensees at the 2022 Annual Conference in Abbotsford last October. There is a large supply of signs, so if you would like to acquire some, please contact the Federation at admin@woodlot.bc.ca ♦



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: cjmclary401@gmail.com | Phone: 250-961-0271 ♦

Letter to the Editor

Re: Building the Organization

by Fred Marshall W0470

Wow, you all have been doing a lot of work---all of which makes good sense and is a good direction and basis upon which to keep the Federation not only alive, but active and able to accomplish good work for the individual licensees and that will keep entire woodlot program well and actively functioning.

The amalgamation of the WPDC with the FBCWA was and is a worthwhile project. This effort essentially eliminates the huge amounts of time and often frustrating work the two separate entities did (especially negotiating with each other) and makes the relationship much more amicable and productive--at least potentially so, and we have high hopes for this potential to be realized.

Also, the three Regional Reps was and likely will be a very good move; there is no shortage of work to do and these three people combined with Gord will strengthen the administrative capacity of the Federation. Also, this supports the concept of regionalizing, at least to some degree and in areas where needed the individual woodlot associations and should collectively, revitalize and strengthen the overall operations of the Federation.

The several things that have changed and severely weakened the woodlot program are:

1. The aging of the overall and initial woodlot licensees which has led to them selling and transferring their woodlots to others.
2. The purchase of several of these woodlots by people who live far away from the woodlot and

who, geographically, and in many instances also professionally and personally, are much isolated from their woodlot.

3. Subsequently, many of these new owners are strangers both to woodlot management and to the local people and hence have no strong, if any, real ties to the land where their woodlot is located. Their neighbours are most likely urban/city neighbours instead of very rural, country and fellow woodlot owners.
4. And, with the ever changing administrative and hence more complex aspects of woodlot management, most or all of this work is hired out to consultants who are also somewhat or almost entirely isolated from woodlot management.
5. Initially, many of the woodlot licensees were personally involved in most of the aspects of logging and/or spacing and/or reforestation their woodlots. This scenario is

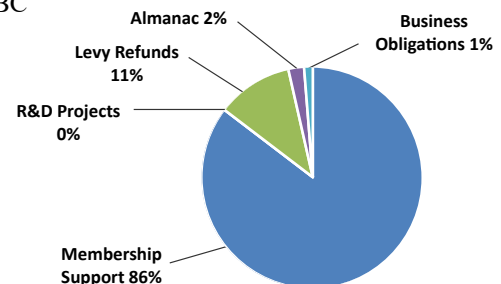
now very rare.

6. And many of the new licensees are heavily, if not solely, focused on making money from their woodlot. Whereas many of the initial licensees had a real respect, affinity and love for the land.
7. The change in Ministry policy that allowed the amalgamation of woodlots has exacerbated all of the above. As noted previously I am aware of one logging contractor, via the creation of several different companies, has acquired 6 woodlots and another woodlot licensee who has similarly acquired 10 or more.

Hopefully the Federation can think of and possibly develop, in collaboration with the government, some new policies that will stop this process from happening any further. The more this happens the more it undermines and weakens the entire woodlot program; in fact, it is contrary to the very founding principles of the Federation. ♦

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. ♦



KISPIOX WOODLOT ASSOCIATION

Cedar Cone Collection



Submitted by Dan Burns

BACKGROUND:

Western Red Cedar (Cw) is harvested and replanted in the Kispiox Timber Supply Area (TSA) in the ICH mc2 BioGeoClimatic subzone. There is a very limited supply of Cw seed in the Kispiox TSA and there has been no seed collection done since 2016. The seed collected in 2016 was done by BC Timber Sales and there is no surplus available for use by Woodlot Licensees.

Woodlot Licensees in the Kispiox have been relying on nursery overruns of BCTS and other licensee planting stock for their reforestation needs. In recent years there have been very few Cw overruns available. The Kispiox Woodlot Association wanted to secure a supply of Cw seed for use by its members and any other woodlot licensees that are able to use that seedlot.

PROJECT:

In the summer of 2022, an exceptional cone crop for all conifer species developed in the Kispiox TSA. This was due to the stress caused by the extremely hot weather (heat dome) during the summer of 2021. In the summer of 2022, Cw cones were abundant and easy to harvest and weather conditions were perfect for a wild land collection.

The developing Cw cone crop was monitored throughout the summer by members of the Kispiox Woodlot Association and plans and preparations for a collection were made. Cedar stands and cone collection sites were identified within the municipality of New Hazelton. The District of New Hazelton granted permission to collect cones from Cedar stands within the municipal boundaries. Collection sites were found within a municipal park, along vacant lots, and adjacent to the town water supply area.

By late August, the crop had developed and ripened to the point that the collection could occur. Some of the Kispiox Woodlot Association members, including their families, spent half a day clipping cone-laden branches using hand clippers, ladders, and pole pruners. A pickup truck load of clippings was quickly and easily collected. No trees were felled. Next came the more painstaking part of the project as woodlot members spent many hours over multiple days carefully plucking the tiny cones from branches. Approximately five 20 L pails (1 hectoliter) of cones were picked. Cones were spread out to dry on the floor of

an open-air shop in front of fans until being bagged and tagged for shipment to the Surrey Tree Seed Centre.

At the Surrey Seed Centre, the seed was extracted from the cones, cleaned, tested and stored. The results from testing of the collection were beyond our expectation. The following data is from the SPAR system for Cw Seedlot 54203.

1.08 Hectolitres of cones collected
1023 grams of seed extracted
917 Seeds per gram
93% germination rate
385,000 potential seedlings

The Project was a good learning experience for Kispiox Woodlot Association licensees to understand more about the process of cone and seed collection. It brought licensees and their families together to collect cones for a much needed Cedar seed supply. It was a collaborative effort that resulted in a Western Red Cedar seed source available to all Kispiox Woodlot Association members.

cont'd on page 17 ...



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 ♦



All labour and costs associated with the collection, preparation, packaging, and shipping of the cones as well as the fees to the seed centre for cleaning, testing, registration and storage preparation were funded by members of the Kispiox Woodlot Association.

Thank you to the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations for providing some funding for the initial planning, cone crop monitoring, assessment and coordination of this project from their Association Projects Fund. ♦



Links of Interest

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

~ Contractor's Corner ~

The FBCWA contracts a number of qualified people to work on projects that benefit all woodlot licensees. Projects are consistent with the activities approved in the annual work plan and are funded by the WPDC levy. In each issue of the Almanac this space will be dedicated to introducing the contractors, or FBCWA committee heads and executive members who oversee the contracts. Introducing...

Bridgitte Pinchbeck, Admin Support



Bridgitte comes to the FBCWA with 15 years of bookkeeping and office administration, two years as a Community Forest board member and nine years in management of a large trucking company. Living in Williams Lake, she and her husband Bill enjoy a small hobby farm and their busy family, which has now grown to include three grandsons. In her downtime, Bridgitte enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, gardening, curling, crafting, traveling and family time. Growing up in the logging industry, and then managing a trucking company, Bridgitte gained a wealth of knowledge and friendships. She loves the rejuvenating air of our forests and has a true appreciation for their integrity. Bridgitte has a strong belief in the relevancy of the forest industry and is delighted to join the FBCWA as its new administrator. "It's been a true pleasure to work here thus far, largely due to the wonderful lead of Nancy Pezel and a group of very welcoming board members, contractors and advisors," she says. Bridgitte can be reached at admin@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Sarah Sutton, Communications Contractor



Sarah is a communicator that has throughout her career shared information and stories in journalism, agriculture, environmental conservation and education. Recently moved to Houston, BC from Lethbridge, AB, Sarah and her husband Matt and their four daughters (ages 7-13) keep busy with sports, hiking, swimming and spending time with family. Born and raised in Houston, Sarah grew up on a ranch near the forest-centric community, with her dad, Henry Seinen, and brother, Jon Seinen, both working in the logging industry and managing W0126. During her time in Alberta, Sarah loved the wide-open spaces and beautiful sunsets but always pined (sorry for the tree pun!) for the trees and mountains of the Bulkley Valley. As she takes on the communications role at FBCWA (from long-standing communicator Lisa Marak, who is retiring), Sarah is honoured to care for and grow the woodlot licence program's profile in the province. She can be contacted at communications@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

TIGHT LINES AND STRAIGHT SHOOTIN' : A Bit of Early Woodlot History

By George Dore (former W0475 licensee)

Author's note: A somewhat sarcastic and humorous review of the early woodlot days with dates and numbers researched to the best of my ability. Many licensees have passed away and many more have foggy memories so this article may help them remember the good ole days. Also, many newcomers have arrived, and they may find some of my memories interesting.

The modern Woodlot Program started with the Pearse Royal Commission on Forestry in BC in 1976, whereby Dr. Peter Pearse was authorized to hold hearings, review and make suggestions on forest tenures.

It was Jim Collins of Reid Collins and Associates who proposed a 'modernization' of the old farm woodlot tenure, where I believe in earlier times, ranchers were offered a licence over small parcels (50-100 acres) of crown timberlands to mill up or otherwise use timber for farm purposes.

Jim's proposal was to allow BC families who had an interest in forestry, a licence to 'work and live' on a piece of Crown land of about 1000 acres (400 hectares), to harvest and manage this timber resource on a sustainable part-time job basis.

At the time of this Commission, there was much reluctance to mess with the current system by a few very large tenure holders, holding all the power and control. To cut to the quick, the Collins proposal was partly accepted, leaving out the 'must live on' part, and thus, the modern Woodlot Program was slowly instituted in the early 1980's.

The first four woodlots were awarded in 1983 on a point basis considering Canadian citizenship, how much private land would be included, proximity of private lands to Crown portion, and forestry experience and/or education.

Soon, a few local grassroot woodlot associations came into being, followed by the formation of a Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) in 1988. I remember an early local Boundary Woodlot Association meeting in Rock Creek organized and chaired by Fred Marshall, who became quite the face and voice around the

woodlot landscape due to his energies and foresights.

The old farm woodlot tenures were allowed priority to 'top up' their small holding to 400 hectares (or less) as advertised. (It should be noted that only a minority of farm woodlot holders agreed, as many didn't want more government control over their private lands). One such farm Woodlot that was rolled over was attached to the Don Davidson Ranch north of Westbridge BC, now W0410.

Licences were advertised, applications received and adjudicated. These new Licences almost exclusively went to ranchers and farmers since they had the most private forest lands to contribute; and Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) who out-classed the 'bush-bunnies'. In my opinion a fairer way would have been to use a rating system where 1 year of "higher learning" equals 1 year "real forestry experience", but alas, the process may have been politically skewed.

In the first 15-year licence term of these new woodlots, I would hazard a guess that 5-10% could not comply or were in outright conflict with the rules and turned their licences back to government. Future Licence awards went mainly to the keener folks, many of whom were real forestry workers with much smaller landholdings. In the instance where there was no private land inclusions, monetary bonus bids were later considered, and the first Woodlot awarded on this basis was the Reid Collins Woodlot in the Fraser Valley.

The FBCWA determined they needed a financial support system, and this resulted in the creation of the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC) in 1998, whereby the Government would collect from Licensees, a check-off (good ole union term) of \$0.25 on each cubic metre of Crown Woodlot Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) and submit to Council, as the funding mechanism between the 2 parties. It is legislated but may not be well known that this check-off requires a mandatory payment and a voluntary refund based on an annual request by a

licensee, which is kept low due to the strong support for the formation of and later work funded by the Council. The WPDC and the FBCWA had their first meeting in Ft. St. John in 1998 where a plan and arrangement were to be drawn up. Unfortunately, this was a very contentious meeting around 'power sharing' with the good ole Federation boys being rather aggressive in their demands for command and control.

Needless to say, a further meeting was scheduled soon after in Smithers with Harold Reedy (the steady hand) and Greg Tegart (Government Manager in charge of Councils) to arbitrate this 'family feud', ending in a business 'marriage' of sorts, and evolving to the modern version of events as we know today. In 2000, Brian McNaughton (former Williams Lake DM) was hired as General Manager and guided the FBCWA until last year.

Al Waters must be recognized for his full-on service, passion and contributions over many years as Woodlot Forester from the MoF, attending to Woodlot regulation and other matters. (i.e., his legacy Reforestation Guidelines)

Over twenty five years, I note that this Woodlot enterprise has mutated much from its beginnings. Original licensees might not recognize the status quo of today. For instance, sawmills are allowed, woodlots can be traded/bought or sold, one can now be a licence holder of several of the larger licences, even consolidating two small Woodlots into one. Submission of hand drawn/colour coded maps and 1 page annual reports are not the way anymore! Timber cruising is gone and a myriad of new rules for the do and don'ts apply.

In summation, a lot of hard work and much volunteer time, from both government folks and the free enterprise bunch, contributed to making yesteryear's small woodlots into the Woodlots of today. Sadly, it seems to me, that some seem to be moving to the 'big' business model. Let's not lose the grass roots ideology and the great story we have to tell. ♦

Time to “stop counting” and time to “start looking.”

By George Delisle W0411

It is time to re-evaluate how we measure success in “Forest Management”. Maybe it is time to “start to”, or “go back to” looking at how the forest ecosystem is working overall instead of just counting trees. A healthy forest is much more than just numbers. Besides, “figures don’t lie, but liars’ figure”. No matter how trees are counted or how much information is presented, there will always be those that manipulate the information submitted to project a positive image regardless of the actual condition on the ground. The real true evaluation needs to be out on the ground by experienced and qualified personnel, not just someone counting trees.

While “virtual forestry” has its place, it cannot replace “Boots on the Ground”. Forest management has gone off the rails due to total reliance on “virtual Forestry and counting numbers”. The Forest is a “living dynamic force” that cannot be described as a “Number”. It must be evaluated as a fully functioning ecosystem. By relying on just counting numbers, we cannot see the forest for the trees.

Assessing how a forest is functioning cannot be done on a computer screen, but only with boots on the ground by qualified personnel that can make a visual assessment of how well the ecosystem is functioning. This “assessment” cannot be arrived at by counting but must be “observed out in the forest”. Why does the Ministry have so many Professionals on staff, if all we do is count numbers? Why can’t these professionals come out and



make a professional assessment on site? We may not agree all the time, but at least someone is actually looking at the forest and not at a screen.

The cost of the “New” waste & residue measuring system, especially for partial cutting, is a definite discouragement to anyone wanting to undertake logging. We should not have a policy that costs multiple times more to measure something than the actual value of what one is measuring. The impact on biodiversity due to the recent implementation of the “New Waste & Residue” survey is yet to be felt but will have significant “unintended consequences” down the road due to the clean log practice that is a result of the new regulations.

Coming up with a policy that will encourage totally clean logging, no matter how well intended, will have a negative impact on the coarse woody debris left out on the block. For years now, Professional Biologists have told us about how important coarse woody debris was. Now we have a policy that is going to reduce the coarse woody debris left behind that impacts wildlife like squirrels, woodpeckers (some that are Red Listed), weasels, birds, rodents, and the future nutrient demands of

the site. There is a fine line between not enough and too much, but to put in place a measuring system that will ensure “not enough” is misguided. Perhaps a much better system is to simply enforce “Close utilization” as defined by the Forest Act out in the forest setting. Mill managers should not be able to dictate utilization standards for any crown owned wood. Mills that try to enforce poorer standards should have their AAC reduced by double the volume represented by their underutilization of existing fiber. How fast do you think that will take to get their attention? The requirements for “Course Woody Debris” should not be included as waste as it should stay in the forest for other forest users. To encourage clean logging to avoid high waste assessments is simply a “Bad Forest Management” practice and needs to be corrected. It is time that we treat the forest as the living entity it is. Only if it is obviously above the benchmark should a full survey be required.

As long as we continue to operate in “silos of power “with total disregard for any other user”, we will have adverse impacts on the ecosystem. We cannot afford to have Revenue Branch dictate forest management, no more than we can afford to allow mill managers, or hard-core preservationists to dictate forest management. Over the last 30 years or so, we have seen how the unpleasant results of these silos of power have played out. How has that worked out for the province and the forest??????? It is high time we learn to do things in a positive way. We are all in this mess together, it is time to start working together. ♦

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>. ♦



LOG PURCHASE TEAM

Contact one of us for your sale of
Sawlogs, Peelers, Pulp and Biomass

CHETWYND	Clay Bassendowski	250-788-4451
FRASER LAKE and FORT ST. JAMES	Erin Burdikin	250-699-6738
WILLIAMS LAKE	Rob Sutton	250-267-3086
100 MILE HOUSE and KAMLOOPS	Malcolm Sutton	250-302-1219
	Tyrell Law	250-706-8141
QUESNEL,	Scott Turton	250-255-7342
PRINCE GEORGE	Greg Scott	250-983-3103
and MACKENZIE	Brian Inwood	250-991-9159
SMITHERS, HOUSTON HAZELTON, TERRACE	Chris DeHoog	250-847-6506

WWW.FIRESAFETRAINING.COM

APPROVED ONLINE COURSES:

- S100A Annual Safety Refresher
- S185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- 2015 WHMIS/GHS
- Course Bundles For Extra Saving
- ICS I-100 Introductory
- ... and more

Doug Richardson, Wildland Fire Consultant/Administrator
dramventures@icloud.com • 250-372-0097 • 1-800-372-0244

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	\$ 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 complimentary annual subscription is mailed to all advertisers.



- ✓ ANY SPEC!
- ✓ ANY ACCESS!
- ✓ COMPETITIVE PRICING!
- ✓ MORE SERVICES AVAILABLE!



778-674-3550
plant-trees.ca



Thank you
to our contributors
for this issue:

- Tom Bradley
- Dan Burns
- Gord Chipman
- George Delisle
- George Dore
- Carl Hennig
- Fred Marshall
- Sarah Sutton
- Mike Trepanier

Treeplanting Services

Planting, Brushing, Surveys,
Pile Burning, FireSmart,
Consulting

Alex Kalmakov-Wellborn TFT
Contact 250 510 8278
zander.kw@gmail.com



FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS
381 Pheasant Road • Williams Lake, BC, V2G 5A9
Tel: (250) 398-7646 • Toll-free: 1-866-345-8733
Fax: (250) 398-7642 • E-mail: gen_manager@woodlot.bc.ca
www.woodlot.bc.ca

**WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
THE WOODLAND ALMANAC**
PO Box 23011 • Plaza 33 Postal Outlet
Kelowna, BC V1X 7K7
Tel: (250) 961-0271 • E-mail: cjmclary401@gmail.com