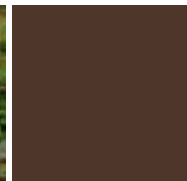




Forests in Good Hands

THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Fall 2023

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Swedes visit BC Woodlots



Swedish Tour Group

by Melissa Steidle

Now that travel restrictions are behind us, tours are once again being organized. Recently Jan Hedberg who is the owner operator of skogsresor tours (www.skogsresor.se) brought his first tour group into Canada since 2019. His tour company specializes in taking Swedish Woodlot Owners around the world to visit forests. And they want to see BC Woodlot holders! They started their trip in Calgary, touring through Banff and Jasper. Admiring the views and the Northern Rocky Mountain timber types. In Prince George they stopped to

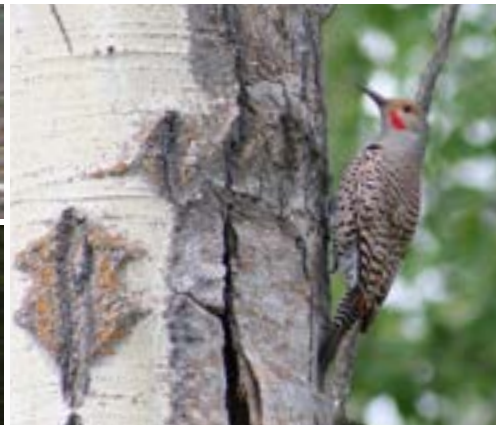
see Finnish Ponsse equipment operating on a cutblock heavily impacted by mountain pine beetle. They visited milling facilities, farms, hatcheries and always forests as they made their way to Prince Rupert, before hopping the ferry and heading through the inside passage down to Vancouver Island. There they made their way through a variety of stops to see Coastal Forestry and those massive coastal trees. They headed to Vancouver at the end of their trip to fly away home.

A woodlot is between 20 to 300 hectares, and Jan is a woodlot holder along with

cont'd on page 3 ...



Forests in Good Hands



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FEDERATION OF BC WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

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

FBCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Mark Clark, Prince George WA
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Director	Coleen MacLean-Marlow North Island WA
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Director	Brian Amies Columbia WA
Director	Hélène Marcoux Fraser Valley WA
Director	Ken Dodd North Island WA

FBCWA CONTRACTORS

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Bookkeeping	Heidi Denney	

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

FBCWA MEMBERS

Boundary	Tyler Hodgkinson
Bulkley	Doug Hobenshield
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	Cliff Manning
West Kootenay	Hugh Watt

WOODLOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THE WOODLAND ALMANAC

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Publication # 40035578

► From page 1

28,000 other Swedes. They all belong to a woodlot owners association which is a sort of co-op organizing contractors to harvest the volume and wood sales to milling facilities. The forests in Sweden are managed differently than in BC. Half of the woodlot area must be older than 80 years. Immature stands are juvenile spaced (if required) in order to organize a stand for a commercial thinning. Plantations are targeted for commercial thinning when they reach 13 metres in height and typically 50% of the harvested volume are sawlogs.

When the stands mature, they are again cut and replanted.

Sweden is quite small compared to Canada coming in at just over half the size of BC. But the amount of volume they harvest is double our AAC in BC. The Swedish AAC is 90 million m³ per year. In BC, our AAC is 45 million m³ per year. Half the landbase, double the harvestable volume. Oh, and if you are a moose hunter, the moose population in Sweden is approximately 400,000 animals, while BC's moose population comes in at around 200,000 animals. Perhaps there is something to learn

from the Swedish Forestry Industry. Maybe we should begin touring the Swedish Forests.

You can check out Jan Hedberg and a Swedish forester Richard Lehmann talk about Swedish Forestry on "On the Brink" Podcast #152. <https://johnabrink.com/category/podcasts/> ♦



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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>. ♦

Riding on Two Wheels

by Gord Chipman

I have been in the role of GM for 9 months now. Time to kick off the training wheels. Looking back there has been a lot going on. Brian McNaughton has been very generous to guide me through the programs that have existed for years. There certainly is a lot of history over 35 years with this organization. There have been about 20 other individuals that have called up or have been willing to share their perspectives on how the world turns.

4 What we do going forward with the Woodlot organization will depend on what is voted on in October. Both Boards of Directors have recommended that we move the majority of the operational functions of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations into the Woodlot Product Development Council. Now I wait to hear what the Woodlot Licensees determine. I hope you received your voting package, and you have your say in a vote.

Over the past 6 months, we have hired Regional representative contractors to be available to woodlottees within their region. We have a new Administrative coordinator, a new Communications coordinator, and a Funding coordinator. We have been meeting online every 2 weeks and we have been digging in. I feel like our contract staff are firing on all cylinders now and ready to shift gears. The question is "Which way are we going?" I have a pretty good idea and I have set the direction in my compass.



Gord Chipman,
General Manager

We just need you to tell me the declination.

Formalities

To date I think I have signed 8 different Non-Disclosure Agreements with the Province. This agreement is to expose me to the intent that the government has with forest

policy and regulation changes but puts a gag order on me to share with you about details such as dates or wording. I have found this to be very frustrating. You should also know that I have not been privileged to see any draft regulations; this seems to be a tightly held secret within the government and the level of secrecy is odd. Not how forest policy evolved in the past.

In order to talk to senior officials within government, we had to register the Federation under the Lobbyist Act. This was discussed thoroughly with both Boards of Directors, which I know was deemed taboo in the past. I have participated in several provincial committees such as the Chief Foresters Leadership team, the Provincial Forestry Forum, and the Provincial Advisory Committee. We will see how productive these discussions are in the future. It is a great way to network, though most discussions have been virtual. There will be face-to-face meetings, which will put me on the road a few times this fall.

The provincial government has been moving forward slowly with regulation changes of forest policy. In the last Almanac article, I outlined the 3

different regulatory packages. At the end of June, they signed Orders in Council to bring in Bill 28 regulations which outline special Protection Areas and Compensation for taking back and canceling forest tenures. This has a direct impact on the 5 woodlots in the Peace River area that were informed earlier that their woodlots were due to be canceled to meet some treaty obligations. We do not know how the new regulations will be implemented for this case. We have requested clarity from the government on this back in July. This is a work in progress. It is interesting how people behave in the summer months.

The government is ramping up the Landscape Level planning processes in the province. The worst kept secret is that there are 4 pilot projects ongoing and 8 or 9 Landscape planning processes about to start. Rumor has it there are 52 to complete in the province, which will take time, years and possibly a decade. We will see how many government mandates it will take to complete this process. Right now, it is not clear how woodlottees will be involved with this process, but since most wear several hats I expect to see many participate in this process since they are involved in other programs. Wildfire resiliency and what is going to be left is a timely topic these days. These changes are like a big wind event on our forests and time will tell how well rooted we are to remain standing.

On a somewhat related note, the Forest Practices Board completed and

cont'd on page 5 ...



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 ♦

released 5 reports on audits that were conducted in the Campbell River area. If you are interested in the findings have a look on the FPB website. There are a few issues that repeat from previous audits that you should be aware of. A couple of the woodlots had no serious concerns. But the repeat findings around visual quality management, bridge management, wildfire hazard assessments and results reporting are worth noting.

Joint Working Group

The Federation has a Joint Working Group with the province to discuss provincial or regional issues. We have changed this JWG to meet virtually every 2 months to discuss what has happened over the past 2 months and to sort out what needs to happen over the next two months. We plan to operate under a consent agenda going forward. We have 7 people from the Woodlot program involved with this JWG. Some of the issues being discussed are Moose GAR Order for Kispiox, Commercial Thinning, Wildfires, Woodlot 4 Windows, Staffing Updates, and the Woodlot Conference.

I want to call out interested woodlotter to join the various Woodlot Committees:

- Sustainable Resilient Old Growth Forests: Chair to be determined
- Rents and Timber Pricing: Chaired by Ed Hughes
- Wildland Urban Interface Management - Mitigation and Prevention: Chair to be determined
- Fire Management and BC Wildfire Service - relationships with Fire Centres and process during a fire:

Chair to be determined.

- Waste and Residue, Log Grades, AAC: Chair to be determined.
- Communications and Engagement: Chaired by Sarah Sutton

In the past many of these operational topics were discussed in detail at Board meetings. This was one way for woodlotter to participate at a provincial or regional level. However, this made the Board meetings long and sometimes did not capture those attending. Going forward these types of operational issues will be discussed in committees, which will allow you to get into details that are not relevant for a board discussion. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at gm@woodlot.bc.ca.

Wildfires

Short update. As of mid-September, there have been 15 woodlots impacted by the 2023 wildfires and the running total is over 8,000 hectares. Lots of destruction in August. Very troubling.

My condolences to those that have been impacted. Please reach out to me or your regional representative if you would like to discuss this further.

Conference

I look forward to the discussions at the Conference in Cranbrook this year. The organizing committee has done a great job for you. There will be updates to many different topics such as funding programs, carbon credits, Lidar for dummies, Woodlot 4 Windows, and of course the theme, which is Engaging for Success, Striving for Resilience. ♦

Hello South Region Woodlots



Tyler Hodgkinson

by Tyler Hodgkinson

I am reaching out today as I look for any woodlots that have completed waste surveys under the new waste and residue procedures. If you have completed the survey would you be willing to share your survey costs, survey data and a few other data points?

The reason I am asking is that your regional reps are part of a committee with Timber Pricing in Victoria in which we are working to resolve some of the issues with waste and residue measurement procedures. In order to fully understand the issues and to be able to support decision making we need data.

If you are in the south region and are willing to participate by sharing your waste and residue information, please contact southregion@woodlot.bc.ca

Any data received will be separated from the woodlot origin and become part of a larger dataset. The more south region woodlots that participate the better, so please reach out to your southern rep.

I look forward to hear from you,

Tyler Hodgkinson,
Southern Regional Rep
Federation of BC Woodlot Association
250-304-4475 ♦

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. ♦

Tech Talk to Help Woodlotters

by Tom Bradley

A short article this time to keep you up to date on some ongoing developments that should help us out in the nearish future.



Tom Bradley

LiDAR

As reported in previous articles, the provincial government has created an online portal to access LiDAR point cloud data and some baseline interpreted products (digital elevation model, digital surface model). Unfortunately, the area covered by the free LiDAR data is spotty at this time.

Two LiDAR news items. First, the government has committed to scan the entire province and make the data accessible. This will be a multi-year endeavor. Details of acquisition schedule and point return density are not released yet. However, as any user will tell you, some LiDAR is vastly better than no LiDAR.

I won't say this future data access plan is a reason to wait if you had plans to get LiDAR yourself or in partnership with others, but it is a good news story.

Second, GeoBC will be interpreting the new data acquisitions to generate a canopy height model and individual tree crown height points. Having a government created tree height model should help clear the way to using LiDAR derived tree height in woodlot timber resource inventories. No agreement with Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) is in place yet, but I hope we get there.

Info Web Site: <https://lidar.gov.bc.ca/>
Select the "LiDARBC Products" option.

RESULTS Upgrade / Replacement

The project to replace the current RESULTS interface with a completely new "user experience" continues.

Keep in mind that the long list of

things you are required to report to RESULTS are reporting obligations established by regulation, not arbitrary system requirements. This project is a system and interface revision, not a regulation revision. So, the long list of things is not getting shorter.

That said, some substantial improvements seem to be coming!

Instead of requiring an XML/GML file upload, the new system will enable users who prefer it to upload a shape file and fill in the required information on-screen. So, you will no longer need custom software to report harvesting / planting / free-growing etc. to "new RESULTS". (They plan to change the name too...)

The business with The Test and having to apply to get official permission to submit information for each individual Woodlot Licence will be gone. The new philosophy is that if a woodlot licensee wishes to give access and reporting permission to any entity, that is the licensee's business. This will be a plus if you are somewhat digitally capable. I do foresee issues for any Woodlot Licence holders who do not have internet access.

And if you are a typical modern person with great eyesight who does everything on an iPhone, the "new RESULTS" interface is being designed to work properly on phones and tablets.

The team's goal is to make the reporting process less of a vertical learning curve. A great goal, but it only goes so far. The user still has to understand the details of what Woodlot Licence planning and Practices Regulation (WLPPR) requires to be reported and when. Having an easier to use system will help, but it

will not make reporting compliance "easy." Many Woodlot Licence reporting errors are due to failure to understand reporting obligations, not just the challenges of using the current RESULTS system.

That said, I think all of us RESULTS users can celebrate that no new instances of the horrendous Error 11: Broken Link to Forest Cover Spatial will be created in the new system! The feature/bug that lets users cause Error 11 will be gone.

See you at the AGM in Cranbrook! ♦

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. ♦



Links of Interest

• Our own website:
<http://woodlot.bc.ca>

• BC Government:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca>

Pause for Concern

by Liam Parfitt

Recent wildfire behavior this summer should make any serious forester pause. Forest fires are becoming a sign that summer is here, along with campfire bans and anxious people displaced from their homes. As someone born in the late 70s it would appear to me as if all the predictions that have occurred in my life time, as in higher temperatures and the threat of fuel accumulation, have come true. Now what do we do? I am not inclined to throw my hands in the air and say, "See I told you so!" In fact, this is the wake-up call that BC Forest Professionals should use to shift the paradigm for the whole industry, from fibre production to climate resilient management specialists.

Specifically, I am talking about the WUI (Wildfire Urban Interface). I have heard it pronounced Wuuwee. It is the space around communities where forests and people mix. Depending on where we put the boundary, the size of the WUI is quite large. In the past this area was often passed over to get to areas where no one lived and few would complain about fibre production. That was then. The WUI also shows the hand of industrial harvesting dating back to the advent of railroads. As those residents start to see their dark quiet forests as terrifying explosive dangers come summer the reason to avoid them quickly becomes the reason to love them. They are close

to mills, they are full of fibre, and they are critical to humanities long term goal to reduce carbon emissions and stop the decline of biodiversity.

Given that hauling costs are increasingly the number 1 cost associated with harvesting timber the WUI is a precious gift. If we change our harvesting techniques to reduce the density of the WUI while still being able to call it a forest with remaining basal area of at least 10 square meters, the public will shift from being anti-forestry, to pro-forestry. This is our chance!


Recent research from UNBC shows that semi-open forests have excellent biodiversity benefits, and most fire fighters agree that less fuel in the forest allows for slower fire growth and easier suppression of those fires. Meanwhile even the most militant green activist agrees that larger trees and openings are better than dense uniform aged forests. fires are producing record amounts of carbon emissions out of our mid-term timber supply.

Something that needs to be worked out to get at this excellent opportunity to actually do something serious to help our planet: what does fuel mitigation look like? A boutique handful of foresters who work on front country mitigation projects with armies of people on the ground picking up almost every last stick may make sense when there are houses nearby. We

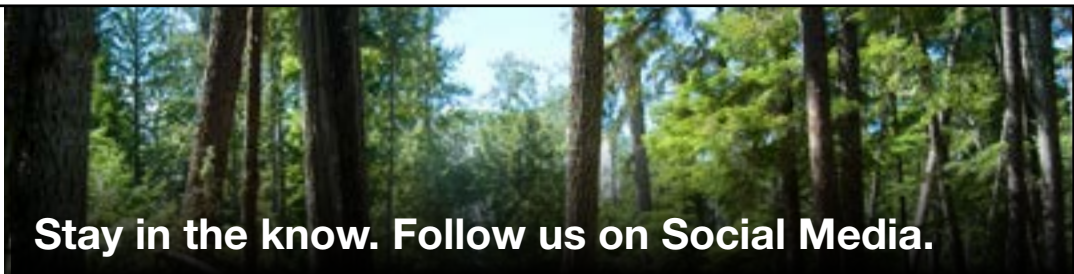
could call this the Cadillac treatment. It is not cheap. Foresters need to give the government the Corolla model. Density reduction, use of slash potentially. Most seriously we need to have our own science on fire for our Boreal and Sub-Boreal landscapes. IDF and PP science that shows persistence of slash over long periods likely will not stand up in moist SBS landscapes.

In conclusion these fires are going to get worse so there is a generational opportunity to change forestry from villains of the environment to heroes of the environment. To restore a semi-open low fire hazard high biodiversity forest to BCs front country is the greatest service we can give our Province. ♦

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




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Letter to the Editor

August 20, 2023

GOOD INFORMATION & OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS NEEDED PRIOR TO WPDC & FEDERATION CHANGE

This fall Woodlot members will be asked to vote on a proposed structure change between the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) and the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC). As you recall, the Federation carries out the day to day work for woodlotter interests while the Council has a broader role. The WPDC is the legal entity that receives our \$0.25 AAC levy then distributes that money to mainly the Federation but also others. Both organizations are run by elected volunteer boards of directors from the Woodlot community.

Clearly there is redundancy of efforts between the 2 organizations. Our money, from the levy, needs be spent wisely and used for Woodlot and Crown Land benefit.

There likely is merit in the proposed altered structure to reduce potential conflicts and reduce inefficiencies.

I understand that under the proposed new structure the Council will hire and oversee the contract for the General Manager. The WPDC will also fund the budget and approve the work plan the General Manager submits. Then the General Manager would do any hiring or contracts needed as per the work plan.

Yet a board of directors, any board of directors, can easily get off track and not carry out actions for the benefit of Woodlotter. Or for the benefit of the public interest, the forest environment whom we also serve as holders of tenure over Crown Land. I'm sure we've all seen councils, and/or boards make decisions in their own interests rather than for the people they serve. People can get caught in group think or group interests. Sale of MEC comes to mind as a worst case scenario by a board that did not include its members or look for wider solutions.

Checks and balances on power

are always a good idea, in case an organization goes off the rails. Separation of funding mechanism from the money recipient, as the WPDC did with the Federation, is one means of ensuring suitable accountability. My understanding is that the new structure will be under a set of "Operating Procedures" which, like bylaws, are quasi-legal and must be followed. Clearly tight "Operating Procedures" are crucial to ongoing organizational success.

It is my understanding that the change in WPDC and Federation structures will occur via an amendment to the WPDC Development Plan, which will be approved by the Minister of Agriculture. (The Ministry of Agriculture is the mechanism our levy comes through and how the WPDC is governed.) Information and the draft proposed Development Plan will be mailed to members this fall. Then this proposed WPDC Development Plan amendment recommending the changed structure will be voted on at the AGM. The Minister of Agriculture has the final say but wishes to see woodlot membership support.

Licensees will be asked to vote via sealed ballot which can be brought to the AGM in Cranbrook either in person or given to a Woodlot licensee who is attending or mailed to the WPDC. The ballots will be counted by two scrutinizers and the outcome of the vote will be announced in Cranbrook. If you are not planning to attend the AGM, but think it important to vote, you will have to ensure you have the means.

The draft operating procedures will not be ready in time for this vote and so will be unavailable for consideration.

If we want this merger to successfully stand the pressures of time, let's ensure we have appropriate control mechanisms to balance power.

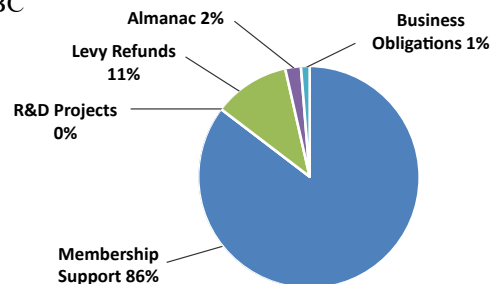
I'm not against the merger in principle. But personally, I find it difficult to endorse this change. Not without seeing these "Operating Procedures" so I can feel confident the details of the governance structure are sound.

Sincerely
Judy Thomas, RPF
WL 1599 ♦

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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. ♦



Joint Presidents' Comment on Judy Thomas Letter to Editor

We thank Judy for her thoughtful comments and would like to add a few points for further clarification.

The intent of the current WPDC Development Plan that was approved in 1997, was for the WPDC to be responsible for many of the activities of the Federation as can be seen in Section 3 of the Development Plan: "The steering committee ... is of the view that the Woodlot Product Development Council will do much of the work that the Federation is currently doing, as well as further work outlined in this plan."

For example, the GM's contract was initially with the WPDC but with time moved to the Federation. In essence we see the proposed New Development Plan (not an amendment to the old Plan) is implementing the vision articulated in the original Development Plan.

Currently all woodlot licensees are members of the WPDC, and all Council Directors are also licensees, with the exception of one non-voting Director appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods. However, this does not apply to Federation membership. The concern about the Board staying on task is a valid one for any volunteer organization members. To allay this concern the Joint

Task Force has developed a set of Operating Procedures for the Board to follow. Currently they are a draft pending approval by the new Board to be elected at the AGM and are available on the secure section of the FBCWA website.

The process for approving the New Development Plan is all licensees were mailed a Resolution package; the member can vote by mailing the resolution back to the WPDC, bringing their vote to the AGM, or identifying a proxy holder to take their vote to the AGM. If the voting members approve (two thirds in favour) the resolution at the AGM, the New Development Plan will go to the Ministry of Agriculture for final approval. With Minister's approval, we will transition to the WPDC organization formally doing business by April 1, 2024.

To sum up, we believe the concerns expressed by Judy have been addressed by the Joint Task Force and our Boards in the initiation of the New Development Plan and Operating Procedures.

Mark Clark, Chair
FBCWA

Chris Hawkins, Chair
WPDC ♦

Streamlining Government Reporting for Woodlot Owners: Key Strategies and Expert Tips

by *Jaya Freeman, TFT, SAS*

Government reporting in the forestry sector is not just a legal obligation; it is essential for responsible woodlot ownership. But for many woodlot owners, this obligation can be a significant challenge to tackle alone. That's why we've assembled a team of seasoned professionals for this article to help simplify this process.

Meet our team of experts consulted for this article:

Jaya Freeman – A dedicated forestry specialist with six years of experience. Employed at the forestry consulting company Silvicon Services Inc., she specializes in RESULTS and FTA reporting for woodlot owners, licensees, and government-funded projects.

Dean and Janette Daly – With over 25 years of woodlot management experience, Dean and Janette have been the stewards of Woodlot 1481. Their extensive knowledge in forestry and woodlot management is invaluable.

Heidi Walsh – A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and the owner of DR Systems. With over 20 years in the forestry industry, she brings a wealth of experience to the field. DR Systems offers Phoenix Connect, a specialized software program for forestry data management and the preparation of files for submission to RESULTS and FTA.

In this article, we will touch on the world of RESULTS reporting, woodlot legal obligations, and efficient data organization to make your woodlot

management journey as smooth as possible.

Benefits of Staying on Top of RESULTS Reporting

- 1. Manageability:** Keeping up with reporting obligations makes each harvest year more manageable by providing clear, defined activities to track, such as harvested and planted areas.
- 2. Memory Reliance:** Delaying reporting for over a year can lead to excessive reliance on memory, a stressful and error-prone practice. Staying up-to-date eliminates this challenge.

Strategies for Effective Reporting

- 1. Integration into Operations:**

cont'd on page 10 ...

Consider RESULTS reporting as an integral part of your yearly harvesting and operational processes. Supervise operations, log sorting, utilization, and waste surveys during harvesting. Source trees for planting, organize planting, and capture necessary data for RESULTS reporting. If needed, collaborate with a consultant for streamlined data entry.

2. Benefits of Accurate Tracked

Data: Accurate, tracked data, including spatial information, is essential when updating Management Plans and Woodlot Licence Plans. It is vital for determining the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) and facilitating government and public reviews. Outdated or inaccurate spatial data can complicate these updates.

3. Key Block Information: When tracking block information, prioritize:

- Gross area and Net Area to Reforest (NAR)
- Ecological data related to the site series
- Creating a Site Plan document that consolidates ecological information and other non-timber resource values linked to the harvest area

While a Site Plan map isn't always necessary, having your consultant produce a harvest map for contractors can serve as a foundation for the Site Plan document, effectively connecting ecological data to the area.

4. Cutting Permit Management:

Under the One CP, diligently track

the expiry date of the Cutting Permit (CP), which occurs every four years. When applying for a new CP, enlist your consultant's expertise to submit the request. Do not commence harvesting until you receive a confirmation email from the Ministry of Forests (MOF) confirming CP approval.

Expert Tips for Accurate and Efficient Government Reporting

1. Stay Organized: Maintain well-structured records, documents, and data to streamline the reporting process.

2. Keep the District Informed: Notify the district of logged locations and dates and submit a Letter of Commencement. This ensures accurate block accounting in the Forest Tenure Administration (FTA) for seamless RESULTS submission.

3. Know the Reporting Deadline: Mark the RESULTS reporting deadline in May on your calendar to avoid last-minute rushes.

4. Keep Records Updated: Record any amendments to your Woodlot Plan (WLP) or blocks to prevent errors when entering block activities into RESULTS.

5. Detailed Notes: Maintain comprehensive notes or records of block information and forestry activities required for your submissions. You can use tools like Excel or forestry management software, such as Phoenix Connect, or collaborate with a consultant for efficient data management.

6. Key Information to Track:

Monitor crucial information, including general block details, disturbance data, site preparation, planting or brushing activities, and surveys.

7. Silviculture Surveys: Plan survey dates based on disturbance dates and regularly use the RESULTS database reports to check for Regeneration and Free-Grow deadlines to determine required surveys for the year.

8. Learning and Technology: If you opt to handle reporting yourself:

- Apply for BCeID, complete RESULTS training and testing
- Stay updated with the Woodlot RESULTS Reporting Manual
- Familiarize yourself with RESULTS reporting codes
- Utilize technology, such as Phoenix Connect, to simplify reporting and centralize your records

9. Consultant Support: If you prefer the assistance of a consultant:

- Provide them with the necessary information for reporting
- Benefit from their expertise, BCeID, and RESULTS Reporting knowledge
- Choose your level of involvement in the reporting process

In conclusion, proactive and accurate government reporting is essential for woodlot owners. By integrating reporting into your operations and following these expert tips, you can ensure compliance, streamline the reporting process, and contribute to responsible forestry management. ♦

~ 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 providing updates on specific work being undertaken.



Sarah Sutton, Communications Coordinator

It's been an eventful six months since I introduced myself in the Almanac in May 2023! Since coming onboard, I've connected with dozens of woodlot licensees, some at the Nadina Woodlot Association's annual meeting (my brother Jon Seinen even served me cheesecake!), others at the governance meetings in Kamloops in June, and many through emails, Zoom and social media. Thank you for the warm welcome!

UBCM Connections

First off, Gord Chipman, Lisa Marak and I attended the UBCM Convention Trade Show from September 20-21. It was a great event to connect with municipal representatives, politicians and fellow forestry folk. During that time, we also attended the COFI Reception, where we were able to chat with Minister of Forests, Bruce Ralston. He also came by our booth the next day. Personally, it was great for me to meet other fantastic communicators in the forestry world, from BC Community Forest Association, Forest Professionals BC, Private Forest Landowners Association, BC Wildfire Service and FireSmart BC.

Contact List

Our diligent admin, Bridgitte, has been putting out the call for updated contact information. We are working hard to have a comprehensive list of licensee information. Understandably, this list will never be complete, but we can try! We'd love to communicate with you in a variety of ways - phone calls, tangible, in-

your-hands paper in the mail (The Woodland Almanac), easy-to-read weekly news with important info for woodlot management (Woodlot Weekly emails), and interactive communications online (Zoom meetings, webinars, YouTube videos). If you have a few minutes today, please email admin@woodlot.bc.ca and send Bridgitte your contact information.

Weekly Emails

There's a new format to the weekly emails! Hopefully you are receiving these forwarded to you by your local woodlot association rep or directly to your inbox. Since they are coming from an email service provider, please also check your Spam or Promotions folders to see if they landed there. If you have any suggestions or news for these emails or would like to be added to the list, please email communications@woodlot.bc.ca.

New Website and Members Login

It's coming! Actually, maybe it's already here by the time of publication! www.woodlot.bc.ca has a new look and features, thanks to the tireless efforts of former Communications Coordinator, Lisa Marak, as well as support from Vigilante Marketing from Kelowna. With the launch of the new site, a password reset link was sent to all members registered in the members-only area of the website. Please follow the link to change your password and regain access. There's lots of good info there! If you haven't registered yet, please do so.

Communications Committee

If you read the General Manager's report, you'll note there are several operational committees ramping up and looking for members. I've already launched the Communications Committee and have 7 members so far: Gord Chipman, Don Whyte, Cathy McClary, Brian McNaughton, Jon Seinen, Samantha Carter and Helene Marcoux. We could use another one or two members so if you are interested, please let me know at communications@woodlot.bc.ca.

Photo Requests

As an ongoing item, we are always looking for photos and videos from woodlots! Please send me an email or call me at 250-845-8082 if you have any you'd like to share. ♦

Woodlotting with Earl

Submitted by Alistair Schroff

My father-in-law Earl was one of the last of the pioneer types, a perpetually near-broke farmer, sawmill and logger. He made his solo escape from the city of Seattle at the tender age of fourteen, and moved to the rolling hills and forests and marginal farmlands of the Tatalrose area south of Burns Lake.

When first I met him, he was working hard at his log hauling business, a single truck operation using one of the only self-loaders in the area. Earl never had a machine that wasn't at least ten years past warranty, so it is hard to conjure images that don't involve greasy coveralls and the bowels of some mechanical implement laid out on his shop floor.

I was a young punk of limited potential, but somehow after a few years I earned enough of his respect for him to ask that we apply for a woodlot license together, one that had come up next door to his old homestead at Tatalrose. We didn't get that one, but in the next round we picked up our woodlot at Tchesinkut Lake.

Earl was a great teacher about the realities of forest roads, logging techniques, and dealing with all the characters a shoestring operation brings together. Informal courses like "Functional Alcoholics 101".

Earl had a lot of sympathy for other truckers and to this day I think "Nice, even grade – Nice, even grade" as I hang pink ribbons on the road centre line. There is far better learning on the woodlot than in any university!

Earl was quiet and patient, and in the many years we worked together on the woodlot we never had an argument over the operation. Even if he shook his head when I laid out a boundary that he said would blow over the next year (it did), or felled and burned beetle trees that would have been cheaper to skid (they were) – he didn't get cross and let the lesson sink in naturally.



In turn, I overlooked some of his traditional burning practices which may have involved a non-standard set of venting indices and range of acceptable accelerants.

"Love" was a tough word for Earl to say, in many ways. But I know he loved the woodlot and the opportunities it created to choose his own forestry adventure and work with his family and friends in the process. I know I certainly have, and that same woodlot at Tchesinkut Lake is one of my happiest places. Even though Earl has been gone for a year now, I can see him in the old roads and trails and the young forests shooting up from the ground we walked together, trying to find that "Nice, even grade".

In memory of Earl Ingram – Woodlot 1690 (1933-2022)



The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions for "Member Reflections" related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block. "Member Reflections" can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us. If you'd like to submit an article or photo, contact Cathy McClary at cjmclary401@gmail.com.

Who's speaking at the Conference?

by Sarah Sutton

The 2023 Woodlot Conference and AGM is just around the corner! Woodlotters from around the province are converging in Cranbrook from October 26 to 28 to dig deeper into the issues of forest resiliency and meaningful engagement with First Nations. It's notable that there are licensees coming from every forest region in BC.

With a lineup of 25 speakers throughout the event, this conference is sure to have something for everyone!

"I am looking forward to the conference because the timing couldn't be better. Learning about engagement in woodlots and being part of resilient ecosystems could not be more important," says Gord Chipman, General Manager of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. "The last two months of wildfires exceeded all predictions, and it brings up the question - what does the future have in store for us? I think we should go into 2024 with plans to manage the way to resilient ecosystems. Let's do this!"

Kicking off the conference on Thursday night is TED-talk famous Dr. Paul Hessburg, a renowned landscape ecologist with the USDA Forest Service from Wenatchee, WA. Paul will speak about landscape resilience mechanisms and his research as an

ecologist within the Pacific Northwest.

His work has shifted the frame of reference from the stands to landscapes and their cross-connected pattern-process relations, transforming the discussion from 'Which trees should we leave in this stand?' to 'How do we create patterns of forest and non-forest conditions, and of forest structure and composition on the landscape that will better adapt conditions to shifting climatic and disturbance regimes?'

Paul will speak about what makes landscapes resilient to wildfires and climate change and how woodlot owners can apply practical management concepts in their woodlot. In 2022 and 2023, he consulted with the BC Forest Practices Board to assist them with articulating new practices and considerations for managing large landscapes.

On Friday, woodlotters will head out to, well, the woods. With 3 different field tour sites, attendees will visit two woodlots and one Wildfire Risk Reduction site near Cranbrook, with a variety of speakers at each location representing industry, Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service, FESBC and FireSmart.

There are two panel sessions after lunch on Saturday. Starting it off, Kevin Webber, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations' Board Vice President, will moderate a discussion

with panelists Garry Merkel, a member of the Tahltan Nation and a professional forester, and Dr. Marcella LaFever, whose work includes investigating Indigenous storytelling as a communicative practice in public dialogue.

This panel will focus on engagement between Woodlot Licensees and First Nations, specifically how to build relationships, with the understanding that woodlot licensees are generally small operators. Essentially, 'how can woodlot licensees engage with First Nations to develop effective and meaningful relationships?'

Next up is a panel discussion about resiliency in our forest ecosystem and what role small scale forestry has in landscape level management. FESBC's Brian Watson will guide the discussion with Ken Day and Jeff McWilliams.

The big question is: 'How can woodlot licensees adapt to be resilient when faced with the realities of wildfire, wildland urban interface and climate change?'

Also in the lineup of speakers are Blair Falconer with TD Wealth Private Investment Counsel, Mike Simpson talking about Carbon Credits, Rick Walters with BC Safety Council and the tag team of Keith Atkinson and Garnet Mierau speaking about audits, visual quality and managing fire at the landscape level. ♦



The FBCWA Coordinating Forest Investment Program Projects

by Samantha Charlton

What is the Forest Investment Program?

The Forest Investment Program (formerly known as Forests for Tomorrow) is a BC government program, originally established in 2005 to respond to the catastrophic wildfires and mountain pine beetle epidemic. Activities eligible for funding and the funding focus do shift and evolve each year depending on Government priorities at the time.

The program invests in reforestation to improve the future timber supply and address risks to other forest values through the re-establishment of young forests on land that would otherwise remain under-productive. The program is geared towards land that is largely within the timber harvesting land base but outside of forest industry legal obligations.

The program has historically focused on mitigating impacts on mid-term timber supply caused by catastrophic disturbance (such as wildfire) in



Samantha Charlton

the interior. It also has been focused on making investments to improve constrained timber on coastal, northwest, and southeast areas of the province through funding stand treatments.

Projects funded this year

This year, the FBCWA submitted 19 projects on behalf of our woodlot members, and out of these 16 were accepted for funding. The 3 that were not accepted are likely to be funded in future years, once pre-liminary work has been completed that will lead to more accurate hectareage, budgets and project plans for the activities. The funded projects are just getting underway this fall. This year, the majority of projects are completing surveying and prescription work to get set-up for treatment implementation over the coming years. There is also 1 planting project, 3 spacing projects, and one project doing site prep.

Projects have been funded in 7 regions over a total of 1238 hectares. Total funding for the projects is expected to be approximately \$240,000.00. The

table below lists the projects that have begun or been completed so far.

(see chart below)

Stay tuned for an upcoming call for projects!

FBCWA is expecting to know what the FIP funding priorities will be for the next fiscal year 2024/2025 sometime this fall. There will be a very small window to gather project ideas to submit for funding, so start thinking about your project now! [The Silviculture Funding Criteria Guide](#), available online, is a good starting point to read up on the program and it's focus, but there are also annual priorities that we do not know yet.

We plan to share any information through our e-mail list as soon as we know, but there will be tight turn around for project submissions, so please start thinking about potential projects and watch your inbox! Our contractor responsible for funding coordination will be available at our upcoming conference to discuss funding opportunities with you and discuss your project ideas. ♦

Region	Woodlot	# Hectares	Project/ Treatment
Thompson-Okanagan	1599	20	Survey and Prescription for site prep and planting
Thompson-Okanagan	1599	30	Planting
Thompson-Okanagan	1601	298	Survey and Site Prep
Cariboo	548	30	Monitoring Surveys
Kootenay-Boundary	1834	2.6	Juvenile Spacing
Northeast	0263	22	Survey and Prescription
Skeena	0117	300	Survey and prescription for site prep and planting
Skeena	1528	100	Survey and prescription for site prep and planting
Skeena	1756	70	Survey and prescription for site prep and planting
Skeena	0950	18	Survey and prescription for spacing
Skeena	1687	62	Survey and prescription for spacing
Skeena	0104	49	Survey and prescription for spacing
West Coast	1611	2	Juvenile Spacing
West Coast	1899	6.5	Juvenile Spacing
Omineca	0651	228	Survey and prescription for brushing or site prep

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	Almanac Summer 2023	Complete
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 ♦



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



Thank you
to our contributors
for this issue:

- Tom Bradley
- Samantha Charlton
- Gord Chipman
- Jaya Freeman
- Tyler Hodgkinson
- Liam Parfitt
- Alistair Schroff
- Melissa Steidle
- Sarah Sutton
- Judy Thomas



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