Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations
Forests in Good Hands

THE WOODLAND
ALMANAC

www.woodlot.bc.ca Summer 2023

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High school students get their feet on the ground with Project Forest Management

by Sarah Sutton

High school students from Nechako Lakes School District (SD91) took part in the annual Project Forest Management on May 9 and 10, 2023 on Omineca Ski Club's W0111 near Burns Lake.

Students learning hose wrapping

Each year 24 students from Lakes District Secondary School, Fraser Lake Secondary, Fort St. James Secondary and Nechako Valley Secondary experience hands-on instruction in GPS, timber cruising, brush saws, ATVs, forest ecology, tree planting and wildland fire protection.

"They love being out of the classroom," says project coordinator Patti Dube, who's been involved for the past 18 years. "They love the hands-on learning, and love that it's people in the industry who are coming out to engage with them. It's great hearing them say 'wow, I didn't know that!' or 'man, this would be a great job!'"

She says that any student in the district can apply to be a part of the 2-day event held in May, and the hours contribute towards graduation requirements. The event is often held at the Omineca Ski Club woodlot but other woodlot locations have been used in the past as well, including Cliff Manning's W1689.

Generally there's a variety of ministry and industry representatives who come out and talk with the students including BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forests, Burns Lake Community Forests and Council of Forest Industries (COFI). And students have even found summer jobs through the event.

"The year-to-year commitment of individuals, organizations, and industry to Project Forest Management has provided hands-on learning opportunities that are real and relevant for hundreds of SD91

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2023 Group of Students

students," says Darren Carpenter, Career and Trades Programs Coordinator for Nechako Lakes School District.

"Without our many 'Partners in Education', career awareness events such as Project Forest Management would not be possible," he emphasizes.

During COFI's annual convention in Prince George in April 2023, a panel of speakers discussed how to encourage a new generation of workers to join the forestry sector, which undoubtedly faces some uncertainty in the province.

Fire suppression activities

It's clear (or maybe not so clear) that the industry is changing - shifting to modernity and new technologies, as well as increased conservation and Indigenous land stewardship.

As a sign of the times, UBC's Faculty of Forestry has added a urban forestry program and science technology program. Also, coming for 2023 is a new bachelor program for Indigenous land stewardship,

Events like Project Forest Management give students interested in forestry the opportunity to hear from professionals first hand and ask questions about the future of forestry. It's also great that they get to experience woodlot management at the same time.

"The BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) is proud to partner with SD91 and their teachers, Pattie Dube and Darren Carpenter, who commit to engaging their students with hands-on learning through Project Forest

Hose Spraying

Management," says Jim Costly, COFI's Manager of Forest Education.

"COFI appreciates the teachers, parents, industry, and organizations' continued dedication to delivering experiential learning in forest management. Well Done!" he adds. ♦

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. ♦

External Policy and Internal Workings: Change is in the Works

by Gord Chipman

Gord Chipman, General Manager

I have said it before and I will say it again, the only thing you can count on these days is change. The Provincial Government has been creating external regulatory / policy changes and we have been working on Internal organization proposals. The difference is you get to vote on the Internal changes.

First of all, we have been working on changing the organization. So, in order to do this, I have been focusing on 3 main Changes for the organization:

1. Restructuring of the organization.
2. Engaging with woodlots through their local associations and hearing their ideas.
3. Redesigning and populating the new contracts to perform duties for the woodlotters.

EXTERNAL ISSUES: PROVINCIAL CHANGES

Timber pricing

Tabular rates were updated May 1st. This was based on the past 8 months which still had high prices last fall. The next update will be November 1st when I expect a price drop. Moving forward from there, the Timber Pricing Branch is planning to update rates either monthly or quarterly, yet to be decided. Volume based tenures will have their rates based on the previous 3.5 months of pricing data. We expect that woodlots will be similar. This will be sorted out in early fall, working through the majors first. For tabular rates, the average interior rate is $9.30/m3 and the average coastal rate is $6.37/m3 on the North Coast and South Coast sits at $11.84/m3. On other pricing related issues, it is interesting to note that the Provincial Allowable Annual Cut AAC has only been 60-70% utilized in the past 3 years. This has created a run up in bid prices for timber sales which is populating the market pricing system.

Modernizing Forest Policy

There are 2 regulatory packages that have been deposited in Victoria recently. The first concerns are in Bill 21 involving forest operational mapping, Forest Stewardship plans, declared areas, resource features and repealing the "without Unduly constraint". http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_02069_01

A major change is the Bill 28 regulations which concern Special Purpose Areas and the Compensation formula for the taking of a tenure. I know this regulation will concern many woodlotters. At the time of writing this report we are sorting out the technicalities. For a copy of the Regulations, please see the following: https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0386_2023

Package 3 is expected to be deposited this fall and it includes Natural Range barriers, wildfire management, section 108, Chief Foresters stocking standards, Compliance & Enforcement. This package will include establishing the Wildland Urban Interface, which will overlap approximately 80% of the woodlots in the province. There is a lot of work to be done on this file over the next year.

Wildfire Regulations

Separate from the Wildfire Objectives, the Ministry of Forests updated the existing Wildfire Regs to address a couple of different loose ends. These updated old regs clarified what the fire levy ($0.10/m3 of AAC collected as part of the annual rent for woodlot licences) covers and what a Category 4 fire is. There are new expectations about the role of a Fire Watcher. The Wildfire Regulation has been amended to clarify that the list of forestry-specific activities in section 29 of the regs does not include the use of open fire. If a licensee starts a fire for debris disposal, then they are liable to manage the fire within the terms of the burning permit. In the past there was an understanding that the wildfire levy was insurance, in the circumstance of silviculture fires, that now occur on pile burning and now it is specific regarding operating equipment.

For more information see the following links –
https://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire/changes-to-b-c-wildfire-regulation/
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/governance/fact_sheet_qa_amendments_to_wildfire_reg_2023_1.pdf

Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) Deferrals

One of the ongoing initiatives that the Provincial Government has been working on is the TAP Old Growth / Biodiversity initiative. There were 26 open forums held in person throughout the province which many woodlotters attended. These discussions have been in progress since January 2023.

During these open forums It became obvious that they were not just about Old Growth, but instead about ecosystem health and resiliency. There were many professionals that

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discussed that the management of our ecosystems must consider natural disturbance such as wind, insects, and fires. There have been biweekly conversations about the Technical Advisory Panel recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review report. These conversations have included COFI, ILMA, BCCFA, FBCWA, and representatives from the Chief Foresters Office. Many comments were expressed by those in all walks of life. We expect a Report regarding the Biodiversity/ Old Growth recommendations to be published by the Chief Foresters office in the fall of 2023. Please note that the voluntary TAP deferrals are due to expire at the end of November.

INTERNAL WORKINGS

On the Road Again

During April and May I have personally traveled on two ferries to Quadra Island, halfway to Gold River on Highway 28, to the Kinsol trestle south of Duncan, on both ferries to and from Nakusp, over the hill to Golden, up to Kispiox, Smithers, Houston, and Fort St. James. I have traveled to Vancouver twice and Prince George 3 times to attend provincial level conferences or meetings. Approximately 10,000 km of driving. In total I attended 6 woodlot meetings in person and 2 virtually. I met in person with 200 woodlot licensees and talked about the merging of the two organizations and the importance of voting on this in October. Our main objective has been to get feedback from you, our members.

Through all this and the many hotel stays, it was great to meet up woodlotters and with each of the Regional Woodlot Representatives to discuss their new roles and responsibilities in person rather than on the phone or screen. I am still open to meeting with you if I have not done so yet.

Funding Programs

Samantha Charlton just came on board in May as the Funding Coordinator and is starting to get up to speed with the various funding programs available to us. The funding programs are a work in progress these days. The three programs on our short-term radar are as follows:

- Forest Investment Program - Signed a recipient agreement with Price Waterhouse Cooper. One tree planting project was conducted on W1599 to restore the forest that burnt in 2021. There are 26 other projects that are due to get started.

- Forest Enhancement Society - We will propose a project to conduct fuel reduction projects on 6 woodlots in the Cariboo Woodlot Association.

- BCWS - Grant to identify high level wildfire risks to Woodlots.

New Committees

- Our Engagement Committee has been very productive since April. We have focused on a communications strategy to reach out to the members and inform them of the current discussions to merge the two organizations into one. This committee is now complete.

- The Communications Committee led by Sarah Sutton, Communications Coordinator, will help create a Communication Plan going forward. This is very timely now that she is starting to get an understanding of the needs and objectives of the woodlot program. A 5-year Communications Plan will be developed.

- The Logging Residue Committee will start in July to examine the results of the district volumes and work with the timber pricing branch to reflect on woodlotters' needs. A discussion about partial cutting is planned.

- In the fall an Old Growth / Biodiversity Committee will start up. We have been waiting for the provincial process to prove out. Going forward, I expect a tie to academia to engage with us on this topic that is important to society.

Going into Summer

May and June will be remembered for the earliest wildfire starts in recent memory. The spring dip resulted in many fires starting in the Northern part of the Province. Smoke has been getting in the headlines. Highways have been closed and drought conditions are extreme. As of July 5th, there are 5 woodlots that have been impacted by the Northern Stoddart Creek fires. I have been keeping track and this is the 4th record Wildfire year since 2017. Hopefully, we get more rain in the coming months so we do not have to breathe in smoke for the rest of the summer, however predictions are that 2023 will be a long fire season. I hope you enjoy the articles in the Almanac. There are new contractors introduced in this edition. We have a great new team and creative ideas are forthcoming. I look forward to meeting more woodlotters and continuing to be part of the management of the Lands in BC and I hope to see you in October at the Woodlot Conference in Cranbrook.♦

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. ♦

Woodlot for Windows (W4W) Input Data Support and Musings

by Tom Bradley

Tom Bradley

RESULTS works with New Browsers!

Some exciting news. Team Silva, the MoF group working on the replacement for the current RESULTS system, took a few moments and updated current RESULTS to work with Chrome, Edge and Firefox. As Jazz the developer says, "You can get rid of your Windows 7 installations now!"

Woodlot for Windows Suggestions

As the Woodlot for Windows (W4W) support guy, I get to meet nice people and try to help get W4W to work for them. After we have the basics like TEMP folder location addressed, most of the issues that lead people to contact me track back to their input data. And the same issues come up regularly. So, for this issue, I am going to blather on about "W4W Input Data".

Most Woodlot licensees use downloaded VRI data as the starting place in their timber resources inventory / Management Plan process. This article refers to timber resources inventory data as "VRI" throughout, as "VRI" is a much shorter name.

Shape, not FGDB

W4W wants a shape file with specific data field names. I have seen it ingest a shape file created by converting a downloaded FGDB of VRI data to shape, but in the end W4W did not work properly because the FGDB VRI and the Shape VRI have differing field names.

So, download and use VRI in shape format.

(Historical Note: Way back in 2015, at the insistence of the MoF, W4W was modified to accept a shape file with the attribute field names used at that time in Vanderhoof Woodlot Licence inventories. I have never used this data format or W4W ability, and do not know if it still works.)

W4W - Editing VRI Files

I get asked the question "Are we allowed to edit VRI files before we load them into Woodlot for Windows?"

Answer is not just "You are allowed." Answer is "You are required to in many circumstances. And you are allowed to do other things in passing." The timber resources inventory for a Woodlot Licence is the intellectual property of the woodlot. It has to meet professional standards, and it is convenient to meet established VRI standards for data attributes and data coding, but it is the Woodlot Licence inventory. You are in charge.

The Forest Act s45 requires the Woodlot to have a timber resources inventory prepared to the specifications in the Woodlot Licence. The standard Woodlot Licence document states that the timber resources inventory shall be prepared per any directions of the District Manager and any applicable handbook. The applicable handbook is the Woodlot Licence Timber Resources Inventory Handbook (the Handbook).

The Handbook Section 2 specifies that the forest professional involved in the preparation of the Woodlot Licence Management Plan should assess the suitability for purpose of the VRI or other timber resources inventory data they plan to use. If the inventory data has shortcomings, such as missing disturbance(s) or incorrect information, steps should be taken to improve the inventory data to meet professional standards. The Handbook provides detail on how to do this.

The MoF process that moves information from RESULTS to the provincial VRI data is such that almost all Woodlot Licences with harvest blocks that are not yet free growing will have to edit downloaded VRI data prior Management Plan work.

Edit the VRI, THEN Import to W4W

W4W has internal polygon splitting and attribute editing abilities. A W4W user can monkey wrench a VRI file to (allegedly) show completely different things than the downloaded version. My opinion: Don't. Rather, change the VRI spatial data and attributes as required in a GIS system. This is my opinion, and some of you may take strong exception! Here is my rationale:

1) Editing the forest inventory data inside W4W means that your edits, and the extensive work that went into them, are trapped inside a WLT file. If you realize that you need to start again at square one to illustrate a scenario or fix a mistake, or if your WLT file goes unserviceable, you cannot recycle that editing work. Editing the VRI file avoids this situation.

2) I have seen unintended consequences from polygon splitting in W4W, such as W4W refusing to let the user input different attribute information for the two polygon parts, which is the whole point. We figured out a polygon-by-polygon fix, but I would not want to have to do it for multiple polygons!

3) Internal data consistency. I have seen unintended consequences when forest cover attributes changed within W4W no longer agree with the attributes in the shape file that was imported into W4W. The user had changed Site Index, Height and Age, but W4W was going back to the imported VRI PROJ_AGE_1 and PROJ_HT_1 and determining Site Index from them. And there is no way

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I know to get at PROJ_AGE_1 and PROJ_HT_1 inside W4W. Whereas in the VRI file, they are just attributes you can edit (with supporting info and a rationale).

4) The Inventory Handbook requires that a shape file of the revised VRI and an Excel table of before and after attributes in any VRI polygons that were edited be included in the inventory revision report in the Management Plan. Editing inside W4W makes it impossible to generate that shape file, and difficult to generate the XLS.

5) GIS is now inexpensive. I still mostly use ArcMap, but QGIS is available at "pay what you feel is reasonable" cost.

Reduce Field Count

A VRI shapefile downloaded from the Geodata warehouse has ~ 188 attribute fields. The timber resources inventory data set required by W4W has ~ 81 fields.

The extra attribute fields are not harmful, but they are useless and they totally "get in the way" when you are trying to edit the required VRI attributes.

I prune all the VRI I use back to the minimum field count. You can easily do this too.

I have posted a set of zipped shape files to http://www.woodfor.com/WFED/VRI/ If your mapping is in Albers, download the ALBERS zip file. If UTM 11, download the UTM11 Zip file. Etc. ALBERS is used in the example here.

Unzip the file. It will create a shape file called ALBERS.SHP which is a single triangle polygon with the minimum attributes that W4W requires. Put this shape file in a folder you can find, most likely where the rest of your W4W and inventory data is.

Using ArcMap APPEND or QGIS APPEND FEATURE TO LAYER, append the VRI data you downloaded from the Geodata Warehouse to ALBERS.SHP.

Check. ALBERS.SHP should now contain polygons in the woodlot area, and those polygons should have VRI data attributes. All good? Delete the dumb triangle polygon, save ALBERS.SHP with a better name, and you are ready to proceed with a much simpler data set.

If you wish to add more fields, such as classifiers for W4W, feel free. More fields are allowed!

Ignore the Volume Fields

W4W requires that the input shape file contain the fields LVLSP1_125, LVLSP1_175, DVLSP1_125, DVLSP1_175 etc up to species 6.

The alleged stand volume by species information in these fields is not used by W4W. All volumes used in W4W are determined from VDYP or TIPSY. The VRI file volume fields can contain 0's, valid data, whatever. So just ignore the fields / do not stress over inputting accurate stand volumes.

(Why W4W requires input of 24 data fields it never uses is not known to me. Maybe one of you remembers!)

If It Is In RESULTS, Add It to VRI

The Handbook states:

"Vegetation cover information based on field surveys that has been reported to the RESULTS system has met a set of data standards and professional practice requirements. Such RESULTS data can be used to update existing inventory data or current VRI data for disturbance."

Thus, the forest cover data entered in RESULTS can be transferred in entirety to the VRI data file for input to W4W.

RESULTS Silviculture or RESULTS Inventory forest cover data? I use the Silviculture data and TIPSY in W4W to predict future yields for managed stands.

Simplify! Map Sheet and Poly Number

I cannot work with polygons named 093F047 6703456. I am utterly unable to identify that polygon in a list of 80 polygons with very similar names, and I get so mad trying my eyes mist over. I may be tetchier than you, but if you find it at all frustrating having to find and review information labeled like that, then don't. There is no requirement to stick with the VRI as-shipped numbering.

Rename all the map sheet numbers in the VRI file to "1".

Rename all the polygons in the VRI file to a series starting from 1 by calculating POLY_ID to equal row number.

When you import the VRI data to W4W, the label display in the Polygon View will be 1 1, 1 2, 1 3, etc. You can ignore the leading "1", and just look for "3" or "27" or whatever you need.

The labels in the Map View will still use the old numbers, unfortunately, but this is not a serious drawback as "Selecting a polygon" makes it clear which poly is being looked at in Map View, Polygon View and Tabular View. (I do have programs that clean up the VRI polygon label to use my new polygon numbers, but they are written in archaic languages.)

Simplify! Polygons

Murphy says that all Woodlot Licences shall be located such that a BC 1:20 k map sheet boundary passes through the WL. Sometimes two! Those map sheet boundaries cut the VRI data as-shipped-into separate adjoining polygons.

The Inventory Handbook requires that I turn to mind the suitability of the VRI data for modeling timber supply on the Woodlot Licence. I prefer to turn to mind, and possibly revise, one polygon, not two or more. So, I merge the separate pieces of the single VRI polygon back into one polygon in the GIS.

I display the VRI poly labels in the GIS when I do this, and I verify

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that what appears to be a single poly split by a map sheet edge has the same attributes on both sides of the line before I merge.

Simplify! Edge Slivers

Many VRI polygons attempt to follow the Woodlot Licence boundary, often due to past harvesting that tried to go "to the boundary". But they almost never hit the legal Woodlot licence boundary bang on.

Therefore, when you clip the VRI for the Woodlot Licence out of the provincial VRI data, you are often blessed with some or many small polygons a few meters wide that run along the edge of the Woodlot Licence, with polygon areas < 0.1 ha.

If those polygons are retained, you are going to have to assess them and manage the data for them. I see no value in this extra work for a micro area that has no bearing on harvest rate outcomes and will never be managed as a unit.

I check these sliver polys using an ortho, and if they are relatively the same as the adjacent full polygon inside the Woodlot Licence, I merge them into that adjacent Woodlot Licence polygon.

Check the NVEG

The VRI data set used by W4W contains the fields NVEG_TYP_1, NVEG_PCT_1, NVEG_TYP_2, NVEG_PCT_2, NVEG_TYP_3, and NVEG_PCT_3. These fields are filled in as required by the VRI interpreters to indicate that the VRI polygon contains a percentage of non-vegetated land that will not grow trees. Therefore, W4W interprets the NVEG calls as netdowns to THLB. If the NVEG total for polygon is 25%, then 25% of the THLB in that polygon is netted out.

All good, unless the NVEG calls are incorrect. I use readily obtainable Bing or Google Sat imagery in the GIS to start the review of the NVEG calls.

A situation I often see is an NVEG call for, say, 10% RZ, meaning that 10% of the VRI polygon is allegedly occupied by Road Surface. But if the road in question is actually in a portion of the VRI polygon that is outside the Woodlot Licence, the 10% netdown is incorrect and should be revised. And of course, this can go the other way. If a road was built through a forested polygon since the VRI was interpreted, you should add the correct percentage of NVEG RZ netdown to reflect the reduction in THLB.

Another situation I have seen in the central interior is NVEG calls for DW - Downed Wood: "Consolidated coarse woody debris, blow down, log decks, burn pile, or area of downed trees". Netdowns up to 25% are seen. I think the VRI was interpreted during beetle kill salvage with recent or in progress roadside logging. If the Woodlot Licence has since disposed of the roadside residue and reforested the area, this NVEG call is no longer accurate and should be revised.

Keeping a record of the NVEG changes made and rationale for them is required by the Handbook.

(Note: Due to a many years' old MoF data error, NVEG_PCT_3 is actually character data, not number, but W4W seems OK with that.)

VRI Field Code Guides

Amazingly, not everyone can rattle off valid BCLCS code strings and NVEG codes on command! And to be honest, I still need to refer to the BCLCS guide regularly to be sure my 5 value BCLCS code strings are valid.

You will need two Guides.

Google **"VRI data dictionary"** to find the VRI Data Dictionary. "Too much info" for sure, but you need it to be sure your coding of obscure VRI fields is correct.

Google **"BC Land Classification Scheme"** to find The B.C. Land Cover Classification Scheme (2002). This is your guide to getting the BCLCS codes right.

Help?

You are using W4W, and something above makes no sense to you? You tried it and it is not working? Contact me for one-on-one support: tomb@netidea.com. ♦

Opportunity to Restore Private Land

by Juliet Goveia

In one of the worst wildfire years in Canada's recent history, many people wonder if it will be possible to restore the vast expanse of forests that are being lost. In some of these areas, depending on the severity and extent of the fire, parts of the forests may be slow or limited in their ability to naturally regrow trees that once dominated this landscape. This loss could result in less habitat for animals, soil instability and erosion leading to water quality challenges, negative impacts to air quality, and is a stark daily reminder of the harm of these types of natural disasters. It is in places like this that Land Life can help.

Land Life's mission is to help restore the world's 2 billion hectares of degraded land. We partner with landowners to implement science-backed, technology-driven reforestation projects to restore degraded land lost to wildfires, storms, pests, or deforestation. Our approach builds healthy ecosystems by bringing in local expertise, investing in local landowners and jobs, and creating a thriving, more fire resilient forest for future generations. We do this by working with private businesses that want to support nature restoration and positively benefit our climate.

For the last two years, Land Life has been working in British Columbia to design, fund, and implement reforestation projects on more than 500 hectares of post-beetle kill forests around Prince George. Now we are accepting applications from new potential partners. We are looking for:

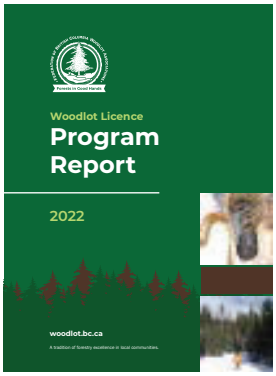
- *Formerly Forested Land* - Land that has lost its forest due to wildfires, pests, or former agricultural development.
- *100 hectares or more* - Smaller parcels may be considered if combined with surrounding lands to reach the necessary scale.
- *Commitment to Letting Trees Grow* - Trees take time to grow and nature takes time to restore. Landowners must agree to allow the trees to grow for at least 40 years. Maintenance for forest health and fire resilience is encouraged.
- *Environmental Benefits Assignment* - Land Life funds the cost of design and implementation of reforestation projects by claiming the environmental benefits, like carbon sequestered.

What does this look for landowners and why might you want to work with us to restore forests?

- *We Cover The Costs* - With Land Life, we complete a technology-driven assessment of the landscape including current and future goals with you, the landowner. From this Land Life completes a planting design, purchases native seedlings, hires and manages planting crews at no cost to you. We hire and invest in local businesses whenever possible.
- *Your Land, Your Rights* - We respect your private property rights while assisting in restoring your land. We work in partnership with you, the landowner, on the restoration contract and planting design.
- *Our Commitment to Success* - For the first 3-5 years, we monitor project success and conduct replanting, if needed, to ensure optimal results, in consultation with you.
- *Revitalizing Nature with Precision* - Experience your land's transformation through our science, technology, and tracking of results. This includes long-term monitoring that provides tree growth information, reports, photos, maps and a secure internal web page for you to track progress.

If this is of interest to you, please reach out to Juliet Goveia our partner with Strategic Natural Resources Consultants as well as our British Columbia team at juliet.goveia@snrc.ca or northamerica@landlifecompany.com to see if you qualify or learn more about our mission at www.landlifecompany.com/northamerica. ♦

NOTICE



The 2022 Woodlot Licence Program Report is now available at https://woodlot.bc.ca/publications-reports/. ♦

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

Introducing three new Regional

Coastal Woodlot Representative

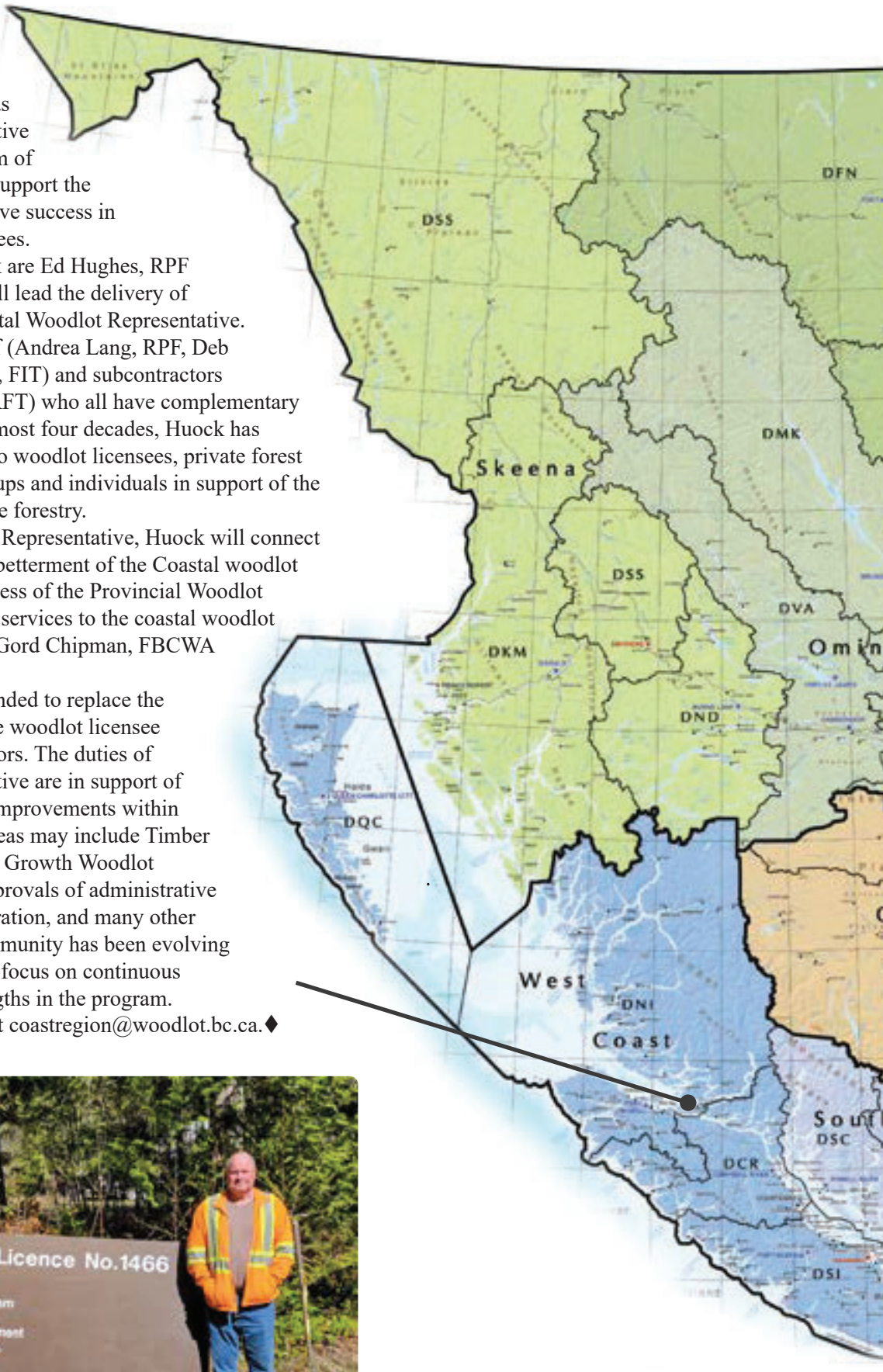
Huock Resource Consultants Ltd. (Huock) has been selected as the Coastal Woodlot Representative contractor. Huock is a small team of qualified practitioners who can support the FBCWA General Manager achieve success in the program for Woodlot Licensees.

The principals of Huock are Ed Hughes, RPF and Mike Larock, RPF. They will lead the delivery of services for the position of Coastal Woodlot Representative. Huock will be supported by staff (Andrea Lang, RPF, Deb Webster, GIS, and Tom Younger, FIT) and subcontractors (Nancy Pezel and Dave Mack, RFT) who all have complementary experiences and training. For almost four decades, Huock has delivered professional services to woodlot licensees, private forest owners, government, public groups and individuals in support of the woodlot program and small-scale forestry.

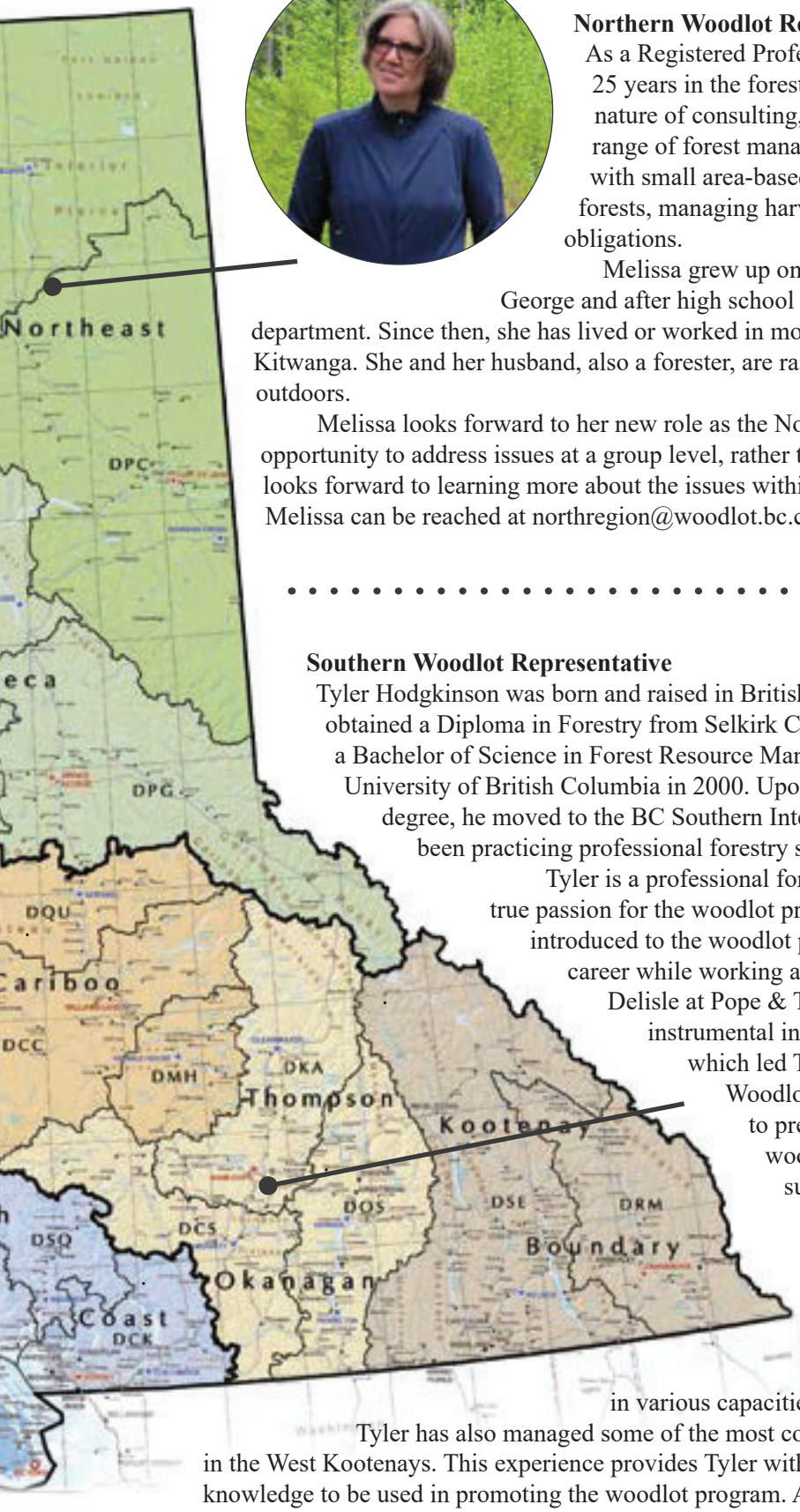
As the Coastal Woodlot Representative, Huock will connect with Woodlot Licensees for the betterment of the Coastal woodlot community and support the success of the Provincial Woodlot Program. Our team will provide services to the coastal woodlot licensees under the direction of Gord Chipman, FBCWA General Manager.

This position is not intended to replace the existing relationship between the woodlot licensee and their consultants or contractors. The duties of the Coastal Woodlot Representative are in support of general coastal woodlot tenure improvements within many areas of concern. Some areas may include Timber Pricing, Waste and Residue, Old Growth Woodlot Strategies, supporting timely approvals of administrative processes, First Nations collaboration, and many other issues. The woodlot licence community has been evolving over a long period of time and a focus on continuous improvement is one of the strengths in the program.

Huock can be reached at coastregion@woodlot.bc.ca.♦



Reps to support woodlot licensees



Northern Woodlot Representative

As a Registered Professional Forester, Melissa Steidle has spent over 25 years in the forest industry, the majority as a consultant. As is the nature of consulting, she has worked on projects that span across a wide range of forest management. Much of her career has included working with small area-based tenure holders such as woodlots and community forests, managing harvest, cut control, re-inventory and silviculture obligations.

Melissa grew up on an off-grid cattle ranch an hour south of Prince George and after high school attended UNBC in the Natural Resources department. Since then, she has lived or worked in most communities between Prince George and Kitwanga. She and her husband, also a forester, are raising two girls to enjoy the splendor of the great outdoors.

Melissa looks forward to her new role as the Northern Woodlot Representative as it gives an opportunity to address issues at a group level, rather than as a single woodlot licensee's consultant. She looks forward to learning more about the issues within the districts covered in her area. Melissa can be reached at northregion@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

Southern Woodlot Representative

Tyler Hodgkinson was born and raised in British Columbia. He obtained a Diploma in Forestry from Selkirk College in 1996 and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management from the University of British Columbia in 2000. Upon completion of his degree, he moved to the BC Southern Interior where he has been practicing professional forestry since.

Tyler is a professional forester with a true passion for the woodlot program. He was introduced to the woodlot program early in his career while working alongside George Delisle at Pope & Talbot Ltd. in the Boundary region. George was instrumental in fostering Tyler's interest in the woodlot program, which led Tyler to become an active member of the Boundary Woodlot Association in 2005. George's mentorship helped to prepare Tyler for the last round of government woodlot dispositions in 2011, where Tyler was successfully awarded a woodlot in the Boundary. In 2017, Tyler decided he wanted to give back to the woodlot program, so he signed on as a director for the FBCWA. Tyler held this role until recently when he was awarded the Southern Woodlot Representative position.

Throughout Tyler's career he has worked in various capacities from technical field work to the corporate office. Tyler has also managed some of the most constrained and publicly scrutinized timberlands in the West Kootenays. This experience provides Tyler with a well-rounded perspective and a wealth of knowledge to be used in promoting the woodlot program. As he takes on the Southern Woodlot Representative position, Tyler looks forward to supporting our members and the program as a whole.

He can be contacted at southregion@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

A joint publication of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations & the Woodlot Product Development Council

FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Scholarship Award Information and Application Form

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received on or before September 22, 2023. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be a direct family member of a woodlot licensee or private landowner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA OR a woodlot licensee can sponsor an applicant who has no direct family connection. In cases where the woodlot is not owned by an individual, one applicant per woodlot is eligible to apply in any given year.
3. Applicants must be planning to attend a post-secondary institution, including a trades school, within 24 months of the application deadline. Enrollment in this post-secondary program must be full-time. The threshold for full-time is 60% (or 3 courses) in Universities.
4. Preference will be given to students in grade 12 and recent high school graduates.
5. Preference will be given to students entering a forestry-related program. Students entering other areas of study are welcome to apply, knowing there is preference for forestry related study.
6. **Two scholarships, one for $2,000.00 and one for $1,000.00 will be awarded to the top two ranked applications.**
7. The awards will be payable on receipt by the FBCWA of documentation confirming registration into the institution for post secondary education. This generally occurs in mid September.
8. Video, audio and photos may be posted on our website and/or social media sites.
9. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
10. The Award Committee of the Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations will be empowered to:
    a) grant this award at its discretion;
    b) withhold this award in any year if there are no eligible applicants, or for any reason deemed good or advisable.

IMPORTANT – FORMAT OPTION!

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Please complete the application form and include:

1. Create a 2-3 minute video that promotes the value of the woodlot program in British Columbia. You can choose to showcase the woodlot you're affiliated with. Your video should target a broad audience, including someone who may not be familiar with the woodlot program.
2. A one-page letter describing the reasons which you feel qualify you for this award. Your letter should also include a detailed description of your experience in forestry, particularly on woodlots. Your letter may include information about your various interests and extracurricular activities.
3. Two letters of reference from previous or current teachers or employers,
4. A copy of your ***most recent*** report card, or transcript and
5. A recent photo of yourself.

Send digitally to: **Bridgitte Pinchbeck (admin@woodlot.bc.ca)**
with a subject heading of FBCWA Scholarship Application

Applications must be received by September 22, 2023

FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Scholarship Award Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Educational Information:

Currently enrolled in: _____

Post Secondary School you plan to attend: _____

Program you will be registered in for 2022-23: _____

Relationship/connection to Woodlot Licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot #:
(ie; daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345) _____

Woodlot Licensee/Private Land Owner to whom you are a direct family member or sponsored by, has been a member of which woodlot association and for how many years?

Please include information on volunteer work, extra curricular activities, membership in school and community organizations, sports, interests, hobbies etc as well as employment information. (you may use another sheet if you need more room or if it's more convenient for you) _____

SAFEWOODS
Woodlot Licence & Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee

Making safety part of good community relationships

One of the best features of BC woodlots and community forest areas is their ability to give the public opportunities to see and interact with local small-scale forest management. Indeed, the stated purposes of most such tenures include contributing to the achievement of a range of objectives, values and priorities held by the community, and flowing to the people who live there.

What that looks like on-the-ground depends on the tenure, the licence holder and the community. The list can be lengthy: firewood cutting, mountain biking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails, access to fishing, hunting and gathering opportunities, and more. Most often, those activities occur right on the licence area. But sometimes, building and maintaining good relationships with neighbours includes activities that occur outside the licence area.

In all cases, safety is a top priority that licence holders should keep in mind. When those activities occur on the tenure area, the licence holder has, at a minimum, safety accountabilities as the site owner. Even when legal duties are ambiguous, upholding community interests includes the social responsibility to do what you can to minimize the risk of anyone getting hurt.

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

Consider firewood cutting. Given the number of firewood cutters you see on your licence area and the wide variety of skills and approaches they have, you might be thinking that it is only a matter of time before something bad happens. It's probably impossible to stop firewood cutters from going into your tenure area, so that's not a viable way of preventing those incidents. You probably don't want to try to "police" them, partially because doing so incurs other legal duties. But the due diligence voice in your head still tells you that there's something you can do to reduce the likelihood of anyone getting hurt.

Maybe you can implement a permit process that obliges the holder to have proper gear and training. Or maybe in the long run, it's cheaper, easier and safer to just buck up a bunch of firewood and deliver it to a central location. That way, you are the only one handling a chain saw or processor, you'll save road maintenance dollars and reduce fire risks. Plus, your house log deck remains intact.

Perhaps you want to give back to your community by helping a local teen gain exposure to career opportunities in forestry. Whether its building trails, planting seedlings or running a piece of equipment, even if they are not your employee, you don't want that teen to be hurt before they start their career. So, you take the time to explain and show them how its done - properly. You tell them about hazards they might encounter, and how to avoid or overcome them. When you think they're ready, you have them give it a try. Before you turn them loose, both of you are confident they can do the job without risk of incident. And even though you might not technically be their supervisor you stick around and watch them, just in case.

Whether its legally hard-wired safety responsibilities, a matter of due diligence or just your own desire to make sure none of your neighbours suffers an injury, building and maintaining good community relationships includes proactively thinking about what could possibly go wrong, considering the spectrum of ways to reduce risks and choosing actions that lead to safe outcomes.

Additional resources
Know Your Responsibilities – Owner
Know Your Responsibilities – Board of Directors
Know Your Responsibilities - Summary ♦

Feasibility Studies Examine Capacity Building Strategies for Small Tenure Holders and Small Wood Manufacturers

by Beth Oldham

The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) would like to announce the release of two feasibility studies as part of Phase 3 of the Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building Project. Following the release of the May 2022 research report 'Small Forest Tenure Capacity Building in the Kootenay Boundary,' researchers conducted preliminary assessments on the feasibility of the capacity building opportunities presented in the report and completed feasibility studies on two of them.

The first study, "The Feasibility of an Online Log and Lumber Exchange in the Kootenay Boundary," examined the concept of a web-based Log and Lumber Exchange platform to facilitate log sales from small tenure holders to small wood manufacturers and found that the project has the potential to increase capacity for the Southern Interior small-tenure and wood-manufacturing communities. The study researched the market, structural, technical and financial feasibility of the concept and identified the benefits and future steps toward operationalization.

The second study, "Small Tenure Holders and Small Wood Manufacturers Working Together: A Study of Joining Forces to Add Value in the Kootenay Boundary" explored the feasibility of a business relationship, whether launched under a formal or informal partnership, between small tenure holders and small wood manufacturers to stabilize fibre supply for manufacturing operations and increase revenues for small tenure-holders. This study also looked at the operational, market, technical and financial feasibility of the project and presented recommendations for future steps.

Both studies are available for review on the NACFOR website (https://www.nakuspcommunityforest.com/special-projects/). The project committee is currently identifying potential proponents to implement each project with the goal of strengthening the capacity of small tenure-holders and small wood-manufacturers throughout the Kootenay Boundary. Should you be interested in learning more about these projects and the opportunities, please contact: info@naksupcommunityforest.com.

We are grateful to those who have funded this project to date: Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC), Nakusp and Area Community Forest, Regional District of Central Kootenay-Area K, and Bell Lumber and Pole Canada. The volunteer steering committee, led by Woodlot owners Brent Petrick and Hugh Watt, continues to provide leadership for the project. ♦

The Joint Task Force and Subcommittee members met in Kamloops on June 5 & 6, 2023 to discuss, plan and prepare for the implementation of the singularly governed entity that will serve the needs of Woodlot Licensees in the province of BC. From left to right: Colin Sauer, Bridgitte Pinchbeck, Gord Chipman, Nancy Pezel, Gernot Zemanek, Lisa Marak, Denise English, Brent Petrick, Sarah Sutton, Kevin Webber, Rick Walters and Cathy McClary. Missing from photo: Dean Daly

BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEW REGULATORY CHANGES: Considerations for Woodlots

by Aaren Ritchie-Bonar, FRPA Values Coordinator

IMPORTANT CAUTION: The information contained in this article does not constitute legal advice. Government practitioners should seek legal advice from the Ministry of Attorney General, whereas industry practitioners should seek independent legal advice.

As part of the ongoing Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) improvement initiative, Cabinet approved Order in Council (OIC) 403/2023 on June 26, 2023. The OIC made several changes to FRPA regulations, including the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR), Government Actions Regulation (GAR), Range Planning and Practices Regulation (RPPR), Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation (WLPPR), and Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation (AORR), which will impact forest and range agreement holders across the province. While most of the changes will impact Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) holders, there are two key changes that Woodlot Licence Plan holders should be aware of stemming from this OIC: a new definition for resource features and practice requirements for ecological communities.

1. The definition of "resource feature" has been amended in section 1 of the FPPR.

By updating the definition of "resource feature" in the FPPR, the definition also applies in the WLPPR.

The previous definition in the FPPR only referenced those resource features identified under the GAR. The definition now includes both:

a) An interpretive forest site, a recreation site, or a recreation trail, or;

b) A resource feature identified under the GAR

This means that, effective immediately, the provisions within the WLPPR that mention "resource feature" apply to interpretive forest sites, recreation sites, or recreation trails that have been established under FRPA s. 56. This change does not impact features within the woodlot licence area that have not been legally established.

The new definition means that the practice requirement found under s. 56 (1) of the WLPPR will now include legally established interpretive forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails. This provision specifies:

Resource feature and wildlife habitat features

Under section 56 (1), unless exempted under section 78 (1) [minister may grant exemptions], a woodlot licence holder who carries out a forest practice that could affect a resource feature must

(a) carry out the measures specified in the holder's woodlot licence plan that relate to the resource feature, or

(b) if no measures are specified in the holder's woodlot licence plan, ensure that the forest practice does not damage or render ineffective a resource feature.

Until a 10-year extension or a new Woodlot Licence Plan (WLP) is required, woodlot licence holders will need to abide by WLPPR s. 56 (1) (b). When providing required updates to the WLP, the WLP map should identify all resource features, and describe areas where timber harvesting will be avoided or modified to protect these features. After the updated WLP is approved, the woodlot licence holder will need to abide by WLPPR s. 56 (1) (a).

The definition of "resource feature" was updated to ensure that interpretive forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails that were established through FRPA s. 56 are provided default management through practice requirements in regulation (I.e., FPPR, RPPR and WLPPR).

2. A new practice requirement in the WLPPR for compliance with general ecological community measures.

The *Forest and Range Practices Amendment Act, 2019* (Bill 21) added the definition of "ecological communities" to section 1 of FRPA. OIC 403 has amended the GAR to allow for the designation of ecological communities at risk (GAR s. 13.1 (1)) or a category identifying an ecological community as regionally important (GAR s. 13.1 (2)). Additionally, general measures in relation to ecological communities, applied to specific areas, can be established by the

cont'd on page 17 ...

► From page 16

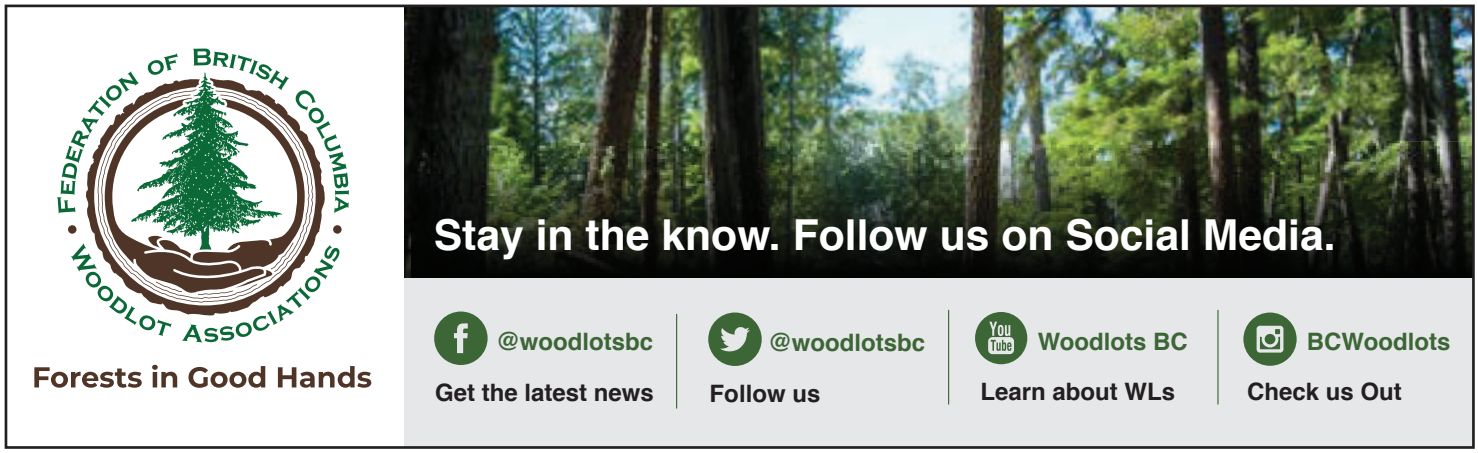
minister responsible for the *Wildlife Act* in accordance with GAR s. 9.1.

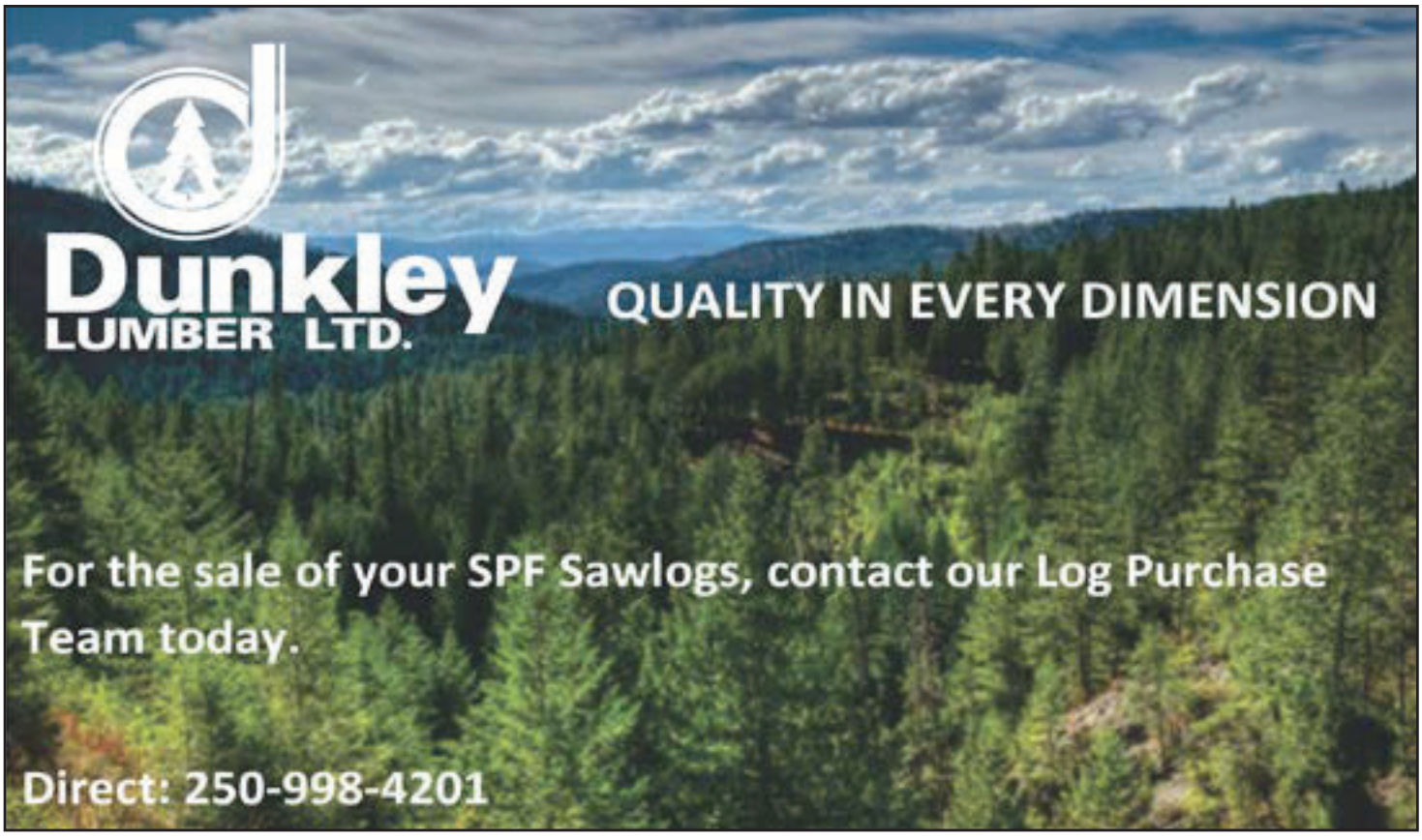
Once an order establishing ecological communities or general ecological community measures is made, GAR s. 4 outlines that notice must be provided which includes publishing in the BC Gazette and made publicly available at the regional office of the forest region to which the order relates.

Woodlot licence holders will be impacted by the new practice requirement per WLPPR s. 55.1, stating that "Unless exempted under section 79 (1) [minister may grant exemptions], if a general ecological community measure is established for a woodlot licence area, a woodlot licence holder who carries out primary forest activities in the area must comply with each general ecological community measure that applies to the area." The practice requirement has been added to the Offences section, WLPPR s. 90 (1) specifying liabilities to persons upon contravention of the general ecological community measures.

The addition of ecological communities and general ecological community measures to forest and range legislation was made to prevent the incremental loss of habitat and biodiversity in B.C. Previously, the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Code) included the ability to list and establish management direction for these communities. However, this ability was not carried forward when FRPA replaced the Code and is being re-established now.

Woodlot licence holders are encouraged to discuss how these changes impact woodlot operations with their forest consultant, or their woodlot contact at the Natural Resource District. ♦





~ 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…

Samantha Charlton, Funding Coordinator

Samantha has 17 years of experience as a project manager, program manager and strategic planner. As an independent consultant, she has worn many hats, but has spent much of her career to date working with BC Farmers and Ranchers, and First Nations communities on Climate Change Adaptation, Food Security/Food Sovereignty and Emergency Preparedness/ Disaster Resilience. Her experience with respect to funding, spans from being a funding applicant representing small NGOs and very small neighbourhood projects, all the way to overseeing and managing provincial-scale multi-million dollar and multi-year programs.

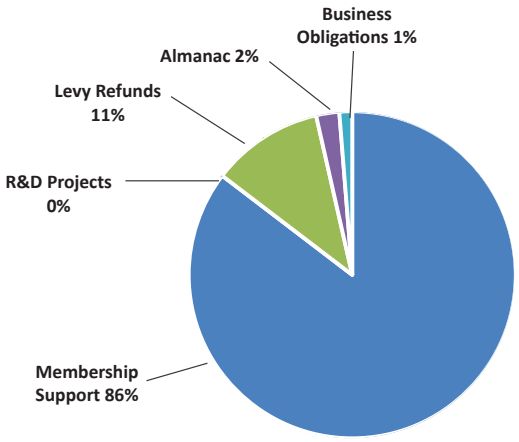
Samantha is originally from Ontario but has called British Columbia home for the past 17 years. She spends half of the year on Vancouver Island, and half of the year in Baja, Mexico with her dog Bandit, but can be reached by phone or email anytime! She is an avid kiteboarder, mountain biker, surfer, skier and gardener. Samantha also moonlights as an experienced yoga teacher and runs a yoga business off the side of her desk. Email Samantha: funding@woodlot.bc.ca. ♦

REGISTER NOW!

For the Annual General Meeting in Cranbrook, BC Registration form is enclosed. We hope to see you there!

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. ♦



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 ♦

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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: cjmcclary401@gmail.com | Phone: 250-961-0271 ♦