

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Forests

October 17, 2025

2025 Ministers Award Recipient Russ Clinton

Russ Clinton has been recognized by the Province with a Minister's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Woodlot Management.

Clinton was provided with a \$1,000-grant and presented with a certificate signed by Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests at the 2025 Woodlots Conference AGM on Oct. 18 in Osoyoos.

Woodlot licensees are small-scale forest managers who strive to take a hands-on approach to natural-resource management. Forest practices are continuously progressing to ensure a high standard of stewardship resulting in sustainably managed woodlots. Each year, the minister of forests recognizes a woodlot licensee that exemplifies excellence in woodlot management.

Clinton has spent his career cultivating a deep connection to the land through forestry. Fuelled by a passion for planting and growing trees, he has managed his woodlot with a blend of traditional stewardship and innovative practices.

"As a forward-thinking forester, Russ is never afraid to get his hands dirty," said Melissa Steidle, Woodlots BC Representative for North Region. "His passion for planting and growing trees shines through on the lands he manages. A strong and steady advocate for forestry and good forest management, he is a constant fixture at local meetings and panel discussions ready to initiate positive forestry conversations."

Forestry is a family affair for the Clinton family. Currently transitioning the licence to his children, Clinton is fostering a future of forestry that uses innovative practices and prioritizes regeneration. The next generation will step up to steward the stands that they helped commercially thin as teens.

"Russ has demonstrated exceptional dedication to sustainable forestry and long-standing stewardship of Woodlot Licence W0205," said Kevin Hoekstra, District Manager for the Omineca Region with the B.C. government. "His passion for forestry and contributions to the forest sector have set a high standard for woodlot licensees across the province. This award is a well-deserved recognition of decades of hard work."

Living part-time in a cabin on the property, Russ is hands-on with stand tending, site and soil preparation and removing any competing trees and vegetation, all while exceeding regulatory requirements for land management.

His forestry experience spans the globe, from carbon credit projects in New Zealand to pulp operations in Brazil. A keen observer of global carbon markets, Russ brings a forward-thinking approach to forest management, always exploring new methods to enhance productivity and environmental value.

Quick Facts:

This is the third straight year this award has been given to a single woodlot licensee, instead of multiple winners in previous years.

- 2024 – Wayne Klein, Rock Creek
- 2023 – Jon Seinen, Houston

Learn More: <https://woodlotsbc.ca/>

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