



THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2008

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PHOTO: DEBORAH GREAVES

(L — R): Chris and Jennifer Cunningham and Dean Bodman. They have shown that woodlots can be examples of how small, community-based businesses can thrive. It's a message that resonated with AGM attendees as well; the Cunninghams gave a pre-AGM tour of their ranch and woodlot, and 15 people attended.

A hilltop Eden

Jay Springs Ranch and Woodlot 311

by Deborah Greaves

When you drive along the highway that traverses the city of Kamloops and glance up at its golden grassland hills, you may not think of what lies far above. Though the slopes near the city are grassland studded by pine trees, at a higher elevation there's another world.

When you cross over from the highway to ascend the mountainside to the northeast of the city, there's an almost immediate sense of being away. The bustling city of Kamloops disappears as you climb the winding road and enter into a world of greener, densely-treed mountainside that makes the bunchgrass ecosystem you left behind seem like a place you

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Letters from licensees: Your views

Minister's \$10,000 award: Dream or nightmare?

Editor:

By now you have probably heard of Minister Pat Bell's offer of \$10,000 if you shorten rotations and increase your annual allowable cut. There is even an offer of carbon credits for the extra cut produced.

Perhaps I should pinch myself and see if I'm dreaming.

Not only do you get your extra cut, but you are also contributing to carbon sequestration. Talk about a big time win-win.

Don't pop the cork too soon, though. I recently read a report from Rick Brown on the Defenders of Wildlife (2008). The report has over 200 citations in the bibliography and seems to me a fairly good review of mitigation strategies.

Looking at shortened rotations as a carbon sequestering strategy, the report is critical of the time frame to actually reach the goal of becoming a carbon sink. Only after several rotations is there a suggestion of a net sink.

Why is this a problem, you might ask?

Perhaps one should go to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment website. This study was done for the United Nations and has several 500-800 page reports. There is a summary at the website.

Apparently our world is on track to warm up 3 to 4.5 degrees Celsius over the next hundred years.

At this rate of warming, all the 24 ecosystems are expected to get ham-

pered, resulting in major species extinction and possibly swinging us into an ice age.

The result will be a world capable of sustaining only a fraction of the current population.

Based on this report, our government has adopted a mitigation strategy that moves us towards carbon sequestering over the next few years in a big way.

Because of the delayed effect of carbon in the atmosphere, the time frame to move is by 2020. The goal of our government is to achieve 80% of 2007 levels of carbon into the atmosphere by 2020. (Presentation by Tim Lesiuk, Government of BC Climate Change Secretariat, at Kalamalka College, October 25, 2008)

The short rotation, higher cut strategy model is ill-suited as a mitigation strategy capable of meeting these targets. The short rotation model will actually increase carbon to the atmosphere in the next 20 years with the promised higher levels of cut.

The irony of the \$10,000 award is that management that retains mature and older forests with partial harvests has been identified as the best mitigation strategy for carbon sequestration



PHOTO: ALVIMANN, WWW.MORGUEFILE.COM

over the next 20 years (Rick Brown report), and the least likely to win the award.

The good news is that the Minister has left the criteria for the award up to us.

I like the suggestion jokingly offered at our Directors' meeting after the AGM: "Word the criteria such that the President of the Federation wins."

The expense of travel and time would be covered by the award, and we wouldn't have the divisiveness the award is sure to cause. — Fred Newhouse ♦

In changing times, adaptive management worth considering

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Editor:

Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.

Decisions about how to use our land and water are among the most complicated and critical decisions that we are called upon to make.

One needs to listen to other resource users' concerns, and then try to figure out a way to implement innovative approaches to accommodate the concerns with the minimum impact on your ability to provide for a healthy vigorous ecosystem.

Change is inevitable, landscapes and human understanding are constantly

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Adaptive management: We need to be able to anticipate change

moving forward through time on the foundation of the past, and that what appears to be a disaster may actually harbour astonishing new opportunities.

I believe that we must learn to capitalize on what's been learned previously, and think outside the box to try out new approaches.

We cannot escape from the ultimate dilemma that our forest knowledge is based on the past, while the decisions we make will impact the forests of the future. We should not try to relive our past, but strive to move into our future.

We do this by starting to plan ahead, anticipating change rather than reacting to it. We must learn to propose rather than oppose changes in how we do things. We need to promote resilience to change, not resist it; this in turn will enable ecosystems to absorb disturbances without undergoing fundamental change.

We should not have to prove that something works before we can get plans approved that are not the “status quo” or accepted practices of the day. Many of these proposals may be the result of thinking outside of the box, and they just might work!

Sometimes the solution consists of looking at the same thing as everybody else and thinking and seeing something different.

The terms *restoration* and *recovery* imply a return to former conditions, but for many areas and forest management approaches, there is no going back, only going forward. The way we diversify our management now will

undoubtedly play an important role in this adaptation or shift to other species where required.

We must diversify to manage for uncertainty. The rate at which the climate actually changes will play a key role in how or if a species adapts, or even survives. Hopefully, as we consider our own survival and adaptability, there will be a shift to managing proactively to facilitate resilient ecosystems. Proactive management recognizes that the climates may change faster than species and entrenched attitudes can adapt on their own.

As our forests store enormous quantities of carbon that contribute to the overall health of the environment, and indeed the human species itself, maintaining the health and productivity of our forests takes on a new and important aspect of our management as stewards of the public forests.

To anticipate change and plan accordingly requires science and the forest industry to stay apace of change, so we can make informed decisions. Our decisions and actions will be critical in facilitating adaptation to climate change and mitigation efforts.

We need to shift our thinking to managing for future processes and ecosystem services, rather than for perceived desired conditions frozen in time. We need to spend our time and effort trying to figure out how we can make things work, instead of spending all our efforts explaining why we should not try something new.

“There are many ways of know-

ing.” (from a publication of the Pacific Northwest Research Station.) The scientific method is one way. Learning through doing is another. Thoughtful reflection and storytelling are another.

With these ideas in mind, some questions come to the forefront. Will the Forest Service or the forest industry be the key players providing the role as the “steward of the scientific process”?

I believe that woodlots can play a role as stewards of the “learning through doing” process. Perhaps the First Nations are the people to lead the storytelling vision forward.

In order to maximize the carbon storage capacity of our forests while reducing the risk of loss from catastrophic fire, insect and disease problems, I do believe that we all need to work together to ensure that our forests are healthy and growing to their optimum.

We (especially the decision-makers) cannot afford to be afraid of failure, as those who have never made any mistakes, have never tried anything new.

In the most effective form, “active adaptive management employs management programs that are designed to experimentally compare selected policies or practices, by evaluating alternative hypotheses about the system being managed” (Forest Practices Branch website). I am not sure if that last sentence is the storytelling portion or the scientific method, as I do not have a clue what they are talking about, but it is worth quoting!

George Delisle, Boundary Woodlot Association, Woodlot # 411 ♦

■ Message from the President of the FBCWA

Another great AGM

By Cliff Manning

Wow, another woodlot AGM has come and gone! Many thanks to Cathy McClary and the organizing committee for their outstanding work in the preparation and running of the meeting in Kamloops, October 2 - 4, 2008. The theme of our AGM was “Woodlots: Facing the Future.”

Although attendance was lower than usual, those who did attend appreciated the full agenda and choices of events, including field tours, breakout sessions, business meetings, guest speakers, and the announcement from the Minister of Forests, Pat Bell.

A note of thanks to Colleen MacLean-Marlow, the Ministry of Forests and Range, and Forsite Consulting for the RESULTS Training that was provided in conjunction with the AGM. Licensees were encouraged to bring their own data to be entered and those who did left very satisfied.

We should also thank those who have served as volunteers in the Federation for many years. Kathy Mayes, who has been very involved as Treasurer and has served for close to 10 years, decided to hand over the reigns to Nancy Pezel. Miles Fuller and Brent Petrick are two others who have volunteered more than five years of service and continue to do so.

Carmen Wheatley, who recently left her position of FIA Coordinator, has been involved with the Federation for almost 10 years as well.



Cliff Manning
FBCWA President

On behalf of the FBCWA Executive and the membership, we say “thank you” to all of you, for the hours you have given to make this program a success. One person at the AGM summed it up nicely by saying, “We, as woodlotters, are very lucky to have such a caliber of people working on our behalf.”

The exciting position of Vice President was accepted by Shawn Flynn, of Port Alberni. New FBCWA Directors are Mark Clark of Prince George and Nigel Ross of Campbell River.

We welcome Nancy Pezel to the position of Treasurer of the FBCWA and also as the FIA Coordinator.

And finally I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! ♦

FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licenses and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products.

The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy.

BC's woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦



PHOTO: BRIAN MCNAUGHTON
Cliff Manning, FBCWA President, and Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range, during the Kamloops AGM, held October 3 —5 at the South Thompson Inn.

Major decisions took place at AGM

By Brian McNaughton

Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range, made two announcements on October 4 at the Annual General Meeting in Kamloops.

The first was that woodlot licence stumpage will shift to community forest rates effective December 1, 2008; i.e., interior woodlots will pay 15% of table 6.1 (Interior Appraisal Manual), while coast woodlots will pay as per table 7.2 of the Coast Appraisal Manual (30% of table rates).

At the time of writing this report, implementation and transition provisions were being worked out.

The second announcement was a Minister's Woodlot Award of Excellence, starting in 2009, to recognize a woodlot licensee who has excelled at improving forest productivity and utilization.

The Minister also announced \$10,000 in prize money! Association directors have been asked to nominate a few people who are interested in working with the Minister's staff to design the award criteria and the process to decide the winner(s).

For those not able to attend the AGM and hear the General Manager's report firsthand, here is a summary:

Forestry Roundtable

The Forestry Roundtable is on target to submit its recommendations to Cabinet in December. The Federation made a written submission on July 23, 2008,



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

entitled "Small Offers BIG Opportunities: Realizing the Untapped Potential of BC's Woodlots and Woodlot Licences." The submission is available on the Federation's website.

Since then, the FBCWA has responded to a series of questions proposed by the roundtable on Aug. 15, 2008. As well, Lisa Marak and I met with the roundtable on Sept. 11, 2008. We gave a brief introduction, then answered their questions.

A roundtable representative gave a presentation to the Minister's Practices Advisory Committee. It was interesting to note that the Federation's key messages appear to have been heard and are generally consistent with the input from other organizations and groups.

Forestry Regulatory Review

The Ministry of Forests and Range's Forestry Regulatory Review received over 540 submissions covering 26 topic areas. The FBCWA made 17 submissions, which were listed and summarized in a previous edition of the *Almanac* and can be obtained from the Federation's website. The submissions were sorted into four categories:

1. No legislative change or further consultation
2. Requires regulation change
3. Related to First Nations and require consultation
4. Longer-term and requires legislative changes

So far, only items in the first category have been addressed, which included the MFR shifting back to one blanket

salvage permit covering a woodlot licence area. Integral to pushing this action item forward was a Forest Practices Board complaint submitted by Rod Krimmer.

For more information on Rod's complaint, please see his opinion article ("My two cents' worth") on page 12 of this edition of the *Almanac*.

For a copy of the MFR bulletin dealing with blanket salvage permits, please go to www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/InterpretiveBulletins/. The rest of the Federation's submissions fall into categories 2, 3 and 4!

Safety program

The directors reviewed the safety package developed by Kevin Nichol (under contract to the Federation) at the Kamloops annual meeting and approved its distribution to woodlot licensees. The package had previously been reviewed by the BC Forest Safety Council, who also referred it to WorkSafeBC.

It is primarily targeted at licensees who are independent owner-operators, and is intended to help them become WorkSafeBC-compliant and set the stage for the next step to safe certification. Look for a notice in the *Almanac* or on the FBCWA website about how to acquire the program.

Expansion of woodlot program

The announced expansion of the woodlot licence program is underway. As of the beginning of October, three new woodlots had been advertised: one

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■ Interior timber pricing

New interim tabular rates policy

By Dean Daly

As you are probably aware, the Minister of Forests and Range announced that the interior timber pricing policy for woodlots will change on December 1st, 2008. This interim tabular rates policy will be in effect until the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) complete work on an “Annual Rent” model that is intended to be the long-term policy for woodlot timber pricing.

The Minister’s announcement was a welcome recognition of the major structural problems that have been faced by woodlots for many years under the interior timber pricing policy.

The interim tabular rate policy for woodlots will be calculated as 15% of the average sawlog stumpage rates for major licensees and BC Timber Sales timber.

Woodlot rates will be summarized in Table 6.1 (a) of the Interior Appraisal Manual by species and forest zone. The calculation methodology and percentage factor are now the same for community forest agreements and woodlots, which helps to level the playing field between the two log-selling tenures.

Since the Minister’s announcement, the MFR and FBCWA have been working on a list of policy transition provisions to enable implementation of tabular rates, as well as to maintain Market Pricing (MPS) cutting authori-



Dean Daly, Interior
Timber Pricing
Coordinator

ties where required.

The transition’s provisions are intended to give licensees and government direction on how to deal with cutting permit appraisal and administration issues related to the interim policy change. Although a number of transition provisions had not yet been

finalized at the time of writing, the following issues are likely to be implemented as of December 1, 2008:

- All “normal” MPS cutting authorities (i.e., normal letter permits such as A, B, C) that were approved before the policy transition date (anticipated to be December 1, 2008) will remain under full MPS policy of the day until they are completed, expire or are surrendered. This means that all MPS policy and cutting permit administration rules will apply to these cutting permits (i.e., surrender policy, options to elect fixed or variable rates, amendment and reappraisal provisions, take-or-pay penalties, etc.);
- For cutting permits issued before December 1, 2008, where no harvest has occurred, the licensee will continue to have the option to surrender that cutting permit without penalty and reapply under the tabular rate;
- All blanket salvage cutting permits will be reappraised to the interim policy tabular rates (Table 6.1 (a)) as of December 1, 2008;
- Any licensee who has an Extended

Road Amortization Agreement (ERAA) existing as of November 30, 2008, will be permitted to continue to apply for MPS cutting authorities (normal letter cutting permits) in accordance with their ERAA, until the ERAA amount is depleted to zero dollars. It is understood that this may require several MPS permits for any licensee;

- All woodlot cutting authority applications submitted by licensees on or after December 1, 2008, which are not associated with ERAAs will be appraised in accordance with the interim tabular rate policy (Table 6.1 (a)).
- The interim tabular rate policy will apply to all woodlots, regardless of their Allowable Annual Cut. Tabular rate cutting permit (CP) submissions will be reduced to a Forest Tenure Administration (FTA) submission (gross and net area by block for the licence), with no requirement for Electronic Appraisal System (ECAS) submission;
- Road permits are likely to continue being reappraised (unresolved at the time of writing) on June 1 each year, in accordance with the current policy (average of sawlog stumpage rates for harvested volume on your woodlot in the previous year, or district woodlot average where there was no harvest in the previous year from your woodlot);
- Table 6.1 (a) will be updated once annually on August 1 (the same

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“... buyers have to live up to *our* standards.”

dreamed.

As you drive farther and higher up the mountain, shafts of sunlight pierce the thick tree canopy, and warning signs appear on the trunks of hefty trees.

“Sheep and guardian dogs on road,” warn several of the signs. You are now in a forest -- more specifically, a woodlot license -- managed by the Bodman family. Dean Bodman’s sister Jennifer and her husband, Chris Cunningham, manage picturesque Jay Springs Ranch, the family’s sheep ranch that lies a few more kilometres up the road.

8 “Our parents Geoff and Shirley Bodman got us into all this,” Dean told me with a chuckle when I visited him and Jennifer on top of the mountain in September. “Our dad was awarded the woodlot license in 1985. They bought the homestead from another sheep rancher, so sheep ranching has gone on here for eighty years.” The Bodman family has been raising sheep here now for forty.

For the past five years, the ranch and woodlot have actively used silvopasture techniques to grow trees and grass. Silvopasture is an agroforestry practice that combines livestock grazing on forage crops or pastures within actively managed tree crops. On the Cunningham ranch, woodlot production and sheep raising are managed together.

“We are using the sheep as a vegetation management tool, especially on the areas that were devastated by the

pine beetle and had to be logged,” they noted. “There are many benefits of having the sheep and woodlot – the sheep supplement cash flow while the forestry industry is down because of the beetle damage, and the sheep benefit growing trees by dispersing nutrients in the wooded areas, and keep down competitive vegetation to give new trees a chance to grow. We rotate pasture so we have healthy grass, even in drought conditions. If there’s plenty of grass, we can graze more sheep and get more meat to market.”

Jennifer Cunningham and her family are the second generation to manage Bodman sheep, and the Cunninghams’ twelve-year-old daughter Maggie seems willing to be counted in the third. Fortunately, Jennifer’s husband Chris immediately immersed himself in the family enterprises, working with Dean in the woodlot at times, and is heavily involved in sheep ranching.

“My sister Jocelyn is still involved,” Jennifer Cunningham said, “but not in the day-to-day operation. My nephews are also interested in the future of the ranch. Malcolm, Jocelyn’s eldest, helps while we are away at markets and Zack, Dean’s eldest, helps his dad in the woodlot side of things. The other two cousins are too young to help out yet, but always know where the sheep are and what the dogs are up to.”

Dean Bodman attended Selkirk College to become a Registered Professional Forest Technician, and spends most of his time managing the wood-

lot, which is six hundred hectares of Crown land forest, along with the family’s 320 acres of private forest. Much of the terrain is extremely steep, and on those treacherous slopes, Bodman does most of his own tree harvesting.

The sheep range free through the forest, which keeps down some of the understory beneath the trees, and are guarded by a vigilant team of several dogs, both Great Pyrenees and Maremmas, who travel with the flock.

The woodlot is presently in its fifth five-year cut rotation. The six hundred hectares of Crown land in the woodlot licence are also part of the ranch’s grazing lease.

For a while, both Dean Bodman and sister Jennifer were employed by the family’s Registered Professional Forester, or RPF. The two educated themselves on forestry regulations, practices and woodlot operations, and slowly took over the management of Woodlot 311. Later, through his own company, Jay Springs Forestry Consulting, Dean took over operation of the woodlot as well as logging for the ranch partnership on a contract basis.

In 2003 the families formed Pemberton Ridge Timber Inc. The woodlot license was transferred from Geoff and Shirley to Pemberton Ridge, with Dean in charge of operation and management of the family’s timberland.

Now, Woodlot 311 boasts Green Tag Forestry certification, a third-party certification that was developed in the

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USA by the National Forestry Association. A Green Tag Forest is woodland whose stewardship has been certified as incorporating good forestry practices that assure a balance of natural diversity and sustainable forest productivity.

“In March 2004 our woodlot was audited to test the new Pan Canadian Woodlot Standard certification developed by the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners,” the family states on their website. “Woodlot 311 was found to be in conformity with the requirements of this standard.”

More review is in progress, and it appears that Woodlot 311 will receive endorsements in recognition of its sensitive management practices.

Sheep raising activities at Jay Springs Ranch have reached a new level, as Chris and Jennifer Cunningham work to get their products known and appreciated – especially in the big-city markets of Vancouver. The sheep operation is now called Jay Springs Lamb Company.

Jay Springs Lamb Company’s positive marketing strategies and regular journeys to Vancouver over the past six years have paid off. They’ve found that urban gourmet chefs and foodies like to know the people who raised the lamb they buy, and appreciate the fact that the animals are humanely raised, free-range creatures. At the farmers’ markets, the Cunninghams are available in person for direct sales of their products.

Jay Springs lamb is packaged as individual cuts at a Canadian Food Inspection Agency processing facility, and sold frozen. The lamb is available as large freezer orders, custom cut and wrapped, and also in individual cuts and freezer packages, available at the markets, for delivery or for pickup



PHOTO: DEBORAH GREAVES

The Cunningham's daughter is an active contributor to her family's success.

right at the ranch.

Photos of the contented free-roaming sheep, Jay Springs Ranch itself, and the full selection of cuts for sale can be seen on the ranch’s attractive website, and e-mail orders are accepted.

The Cunninghams have thought of just about everything to make their product available and appreciated.

Not only has the lamb from Jay Springs Ranch gained a regional reputation, but lately, the Cunninghams say, “buyers have to live up to *our* standards.”

Along with the marketing of the meat, Jay Springs is also imaginatively promoting wool. The one to two thousand pounds of wool they gather each year can be turned into felt to make humble dog toys, or converted to yarn suitable for knitting, dyed in an array of colours.

At age twelve, the Cunninghams’ daughter Maggie is an expert sales person and cashier, gaining a rich variety of experiences through life on a mountaintop ranch, and regular treks with a freezer truck to “the big city.”

Jay Springs Lamb and Pemberton Ridge Timber have left no stone unturned in their team quests to make a living on the land. They’ve joined forces with other ranchers who provide quality naturally-raised lamb and beef, and on their website even promote the surrounding valley’s tourism amenities.

This is a family with a thoroughly modern outlook, living in a timelessly beautiful pastoral setting. Theirs is a lifestyle that’s always challenging and filled with hard work.

However, as people in BC continue to get more interested in locally and ethically-raised food, Jay Springs Ranch appears to be headed into a bright and very profitable future. ♦

Please note:

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

■ Coastal timber pricing

Woodlots moving to community forest model

By John Marlow

As most licensees are aware, the Forest Minister announced at the AGM in Kamloops that the woodlot licence program will be moving to the community forest model for timber pricing as of December 1, 2008. By the time you read this article, this may be a reality.

Throughout the summer and into September, on the Minister's suggestion, we worked on a totally new timber pricing model where licensees would rent the land instead of paying stumpage on a per m³ basis.

The theory was (and is) that by renting the land, licensees may find ways to better use all sites, both productive tree-growing sites, as well as sites that may not be suited to growing trees.

The concept was also to encourage incremental silviculture that may increase the yield on a woodlot licence where any increase in harvestable volume would be a net benefit to the licensee, as rent would be paid per ha.

A land rent proposal was submitted and has apparently been reviewed by government. The announcement that we are moving to the community forest model was described by the Forest Minister as a bridge between the full MPS appraisals we do now, and a possible new land rent system in the future.

It is not clear how or when we will resume land rent discussions, but the intent is that in the New Year we will



John Marlow, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

investigate this option further. We are diligently working on the transition policy to the community forest model. The stumpage rates are direct from the table on page 7-3 of the Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM), and will be updated annually on March 1.

Once this system is in place, the stumpage rates will simply be the rate indicated in the appropriate table. Cruising and ECAS submissions will no longer be required. There will still be a requirement for a CP application (cover letter) and digital map submission (FTA submission).

At present, there will still be a maximum four-year term on cutting permits, and waste and residue procedures will remain in place.

The intent is to ultimately move to a system where licensees have only one cutting permit for their woodlot licence, and blocks are simply amended into and deleted out of that CP.

The main transition issues in regards to this tabular system are as follows:

Extended Road Amortization Agreements (ERAAs)

Many licensees on the Coast have ERAAs (estimated to be in excess of \$4 million) and these "cannot be changed unless by mutual agreement" (from the CAM). The Federation has proposed two options :

- Preferred option: Write costs off against the table rate. This option provides for a clean transition to table rates where, as of December 1,

all licensees would be on table rates.

- Second option: Licensees with ERAAs will continue to appraise timber under the Market Pricing System (MPS) until their ERAA costs are \$0.00.

Status of existing road permit rates

Early in 2009, we expect to begin dialog with government to fine-tune this tabular system to make it fair to all licensees. At present, Interior community forest licensees pay 15% of the major licensee rates, whereas Coast community forest licensees pay 30% of major licensee rates.

This obvious discrepancy between the two systems will be a key focus of discussions in January / February with the intent of the woodlot program (and the community forest program) provincially moving to the 15% factor value.

We have initiated discussions with coastal community forest licensees, some of whom are not operational, or have having severe difficulties operating at the 30% table rate.

We hope to work with community forest licensees to resolve this issue in a way that benefits all, and helps enable licensees to start harvesting operations.

The Federation continues to have a seat at the following two stumpage committees:

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC)

One CTPAC meeting was held immediately following the Federation

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Update on electronic forest management

By Coleen MacLean-Marlow and Tom Bradley

We're in a bit of a valley in the e-FM world . . . between planning and implementation.

The joint Federation-MoFR e-FM Project wrapped up in July following the presentation of our findings to the Joint Working Group. The e-FM team researched and mapped, in great detail, the business requirements and rules (not always the same) of each electronic submissions system that currently affects woodlots.

This process resulted in 15 business process maps (BPMs) – colourful and thoroughly daunting visual aids that show the myriad of things licensees are supposed to do. Printing the BPMs at a readable scale requires a map plotter.

One thing we found out right away is that the MFR business areas were unaware of the sheer volume of e-submissions required, or how many times woodlots had been swept up in submission requirements originally envisioned for major licensees. This was a positive outcome, in that we saw broad consensus that “it was not intended to work like this.”

Whether we can capitalize on that consensus to implement positive changes remains to be seen. The team also compiled 127 recommendations for improvement with regard to ESF systems, data requirements, tool sets, and training. Those recommendations have since been boiled down to 70 . . . so as not frighten anyone off.

The BPMs and all of the recommendations are contained in the project's technical report, which was finalized



PHOTO: BRIAN MCNAUGHTON

George Delisle gets some tips on the RESULTS training package during one of the popular one-on-one e-FM sessions at the AGM.

in October 2008. The *General Report for the EFM Strategic Plan*, which describes the project methods and contains key findings, was just finalized in November. We feel that really useful work has been done in a co-operative environment to produce the recommendations and a way forward.

However, we still need implementation to deliver something of value to licensees, and to the MFR staff, who also suffer e-Frustration. Both e-FM reports will be reviewed by the MFR operational leadership team, who will determine resource allocation for implementation.

The new and improved version of the RESULTS Training package was tested at our AGM this fall. The much, much shorter basic training (three to four hours -- we took out all the rhetoric) was well received. We also offered one-on-one sessions where individuals could get help with their issues and enter their own data and spatial infor-

mation. These were very popular.

There was a suggestion that we incorporate the one-on-one at every AGM, as an annual education and troubleshooting session. The AGM model will form the basis of further RESULTS training – a short classroom session followed by optional individual sessions. There will be at least another eight training sessions held between January and February 2009, at locations yet to be decided.

The RESULTS cleanup is chugging along. The MFR is committed to the process. The underlying difficulty is that we can only fix what we know about. The MFR spreadsheets catch only certain things. If your silvicultural data or spatial information is still incomplete or incorrect, please let Coleen Maclean-Marlow know, and she will make sure your issue is assigned to the correct consultant. If you have difficulties with a consultant, please contact Coleen. ♦

My two cents' worth: What can you do?

By Rod Krimmer

As woodlot licensees, we are used to working under regulations that may seem inappropriate or unnecessary at best. Most of the time we feel completely impotent to effect a positive change and so we dutifully jump through the hoops.

Occasionally, however, we run up against a policy that seems to contradict the very essence of what woodlot licences were designed to do best. Such was the case in December 2006, when blanket salvage permits (BSPs) were no longer allowed over the entire license area. The new policy made it vastly more complicated to go about the simple task of cleaning up pockets of scattered fir and spruce bark beetle to prevent the spread of infestation.

But what to do?

The BSP has been fundamental to my operation in recent times. I checked my options and decided to file a Forest Practices Board (FPB) complaint on the grounds that this regulation negatively



Rod Krimmer,
Almanac columnist

affected the ability of all licensees to implement good forest practices on the ground. At first the process of filing a complaint intimidated me, but it turned out to be quite simple. First, I placed a phone call to see if I had adequate grounds.

Second, I wrote a one-page Notice of Complaint.

Third, I had an interview and visit from an objective complaint analyst.

And last, I waited for the report.

Through the whole process, which lasted a little over a year, I wondered whether it was worthwhile. I was assured that the very act of making the complaint, no matter what the FPB ruling, puts pressure on the parties to resolve a situation.

And sure enough, the one woodlot license provision coming out of the Forest Regulatory Review was a return to blanket salvage permits over the whole licence area.

Now, I am not saying that my com-

plaint was entirely responsible for that, but I'm sure it didn't hurt. The subsequent FPB report supported my premise and recommended permanent amendments to the salvage permit policies for woodlot licenses in BC. It can be viewed online at www.fpb.gov.bc.ca, along with other information about the FPB.

The simple lesson here is that we are not always helpless in the face of indifference and inaction. The Forest Practices Board (1-800-994-5899) is a powerful tool available to us all. As stewardship advocates, we should use it whenever forest practices are negatively impacted on our licences.

At least, that's my opinion.

— Rod Krimmer, W0550, Big Lake Ranch, BC ♦



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

► From page 7

Interior timber pricing: New policy may lead to more streamlining

update timing for both woodlot licensees and Community Forest Agreement holders);

The FBCWA and the MFR believe that the change to an interim tabular rate policy will begin to produce the much-needed administrative streamlining for both licensees and government (i.e., should dramatically reduce appraisal submission and review costs for new tabular rate cutting permit submissions).

The interim policy change enables government to now implement many of the other key recommendations of the WARRT committee to further realize administrative efficiencies for government and licensees (i.e., one cutting permit for a woodlot, simplified cutting permit amendment processes, elimination of take-or-pay on tabular rate cutting authorities, etc.).

This is a step in the right direction en

route to a long-term interior timber pricing policy for woodlots. The Minister's leadership is much appreciated.

For more information, contact Dean Daly, Interior Appraisal Representative, c/o Lynx Forest Management, 6180 Raceway Rd., Smithers, BC, V0J 2N1

Ph: 250-847-3259 / Fax: 250-847-1884 / e-mail: deanrdaly@gmail.com ♦

Name our coffee table book!

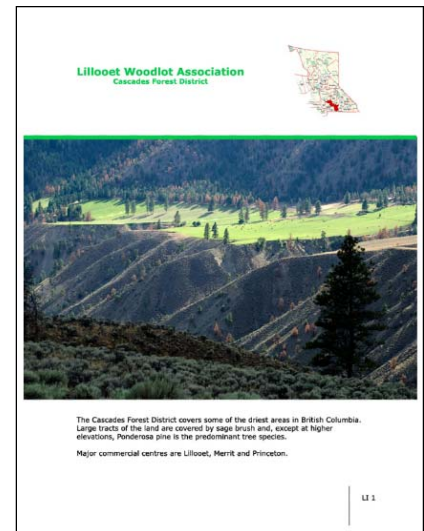
The coffee table book being produced by the FBCWA (see article at right) needs an alluring title.

Those who suggest a name for the coffee table book will be entered in a draw to win an FBCWA hat and T-shirt.

Send your ideas, along with your name and phone number, to Cathy McClary by phone (1-888-925-9995), fax (250-962-9199), or e-mail (cjmclary@shaw.ca). ♦

Reserve your copy of new coffee table book

The FBCWA has commissioned Wim Tewinkel to create a coffee table book that showcases and celebrates BC's woodlots and woodlot licensees and their families. Through beautiful photos and a few well-chosen words, the book attempts to capture the seasonal beauty of Coast and Interior woodlots as well as the spirit and culture of the woodlotter and their families who so diligently manage the licences. The book is expected to be released in 2009. Order now online at www.woodlot.bc.ca, or by contacting Cathy McClary at 1-888-925-



The new book celebrates BC woodlots

Adaptive management and tenure rights

by Fred Newhouse

The ability to adapt to change is a key feature in evolution, and, given current climate warming scenarios, it will be a key feature for future forests. In the case of an entire forest, the way we manage can have consequences currently unfathomable to us.

If we have tenures capable of providing more adaptive opportunities, this may be of value, especially in the interface zone between the extensive forest and the urban and rural settlements in BC. The woodlot licence is one of those tenures, and as such, should be given a further look as a direction we need to go in for our public forestlands.

For those unfamiliar with the woodlot license, a good starter is the home page of the BC Federation of Woodlot Associations, www.woodlot.bc.ca.

There are roughly 800 woodlots throughout BC, located mainly in the interface zone between the urban and rural areas of BC and the vast unpopulated public forest that stretches between our travel

routes. One of the few highways through this forest is the Coquihalla.

The landscape seen from this highway is a dense mature pine forest and numerous pine plantations, most less than 20 years old. The north's mountain pine beetle epidemic has just reached this forest, and over the next few years there will be a dramatic change in roadside view.

What makes the interface zone different from this vast forest is its accessibility and closeness to our homes. With an increasingly urban population, the forests within half an hour of home are the places we are most familiar with. Due to the price of gas and the higher value we put on our leisure time, trips to the forest are either the short ones close by or the longer planned trips to a specific location.

This interface zone that we experience is more valuable when it has a high level of standing trees and is safe from wildfire. The zone is most often our source of firewood, water, recreation, and food and materials collected from non-timber resources. For these reasons, this zone is

highly regulated.

The management of this zone has gone through a few changes over the years. We can start by going back 200 years, to a time before the European fur trading economy forever changed the existing culture. The natural disturbance pattern of fire had a 20- to 200-year return time on the plateaus, but on the valley corridors, we have records that show the fire interval was down to 12 years. In the book *1491*, author Charles C. Mann notes that while "wildfires reset the ecological clock," human-lit fires were a cultural disturbance pattern most evident along travel routes and near villages.

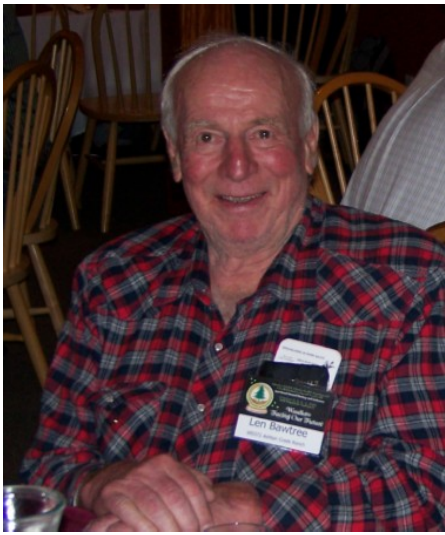
With the removal of this cultural disturbance pattern, the landscape shifted to one dominated by less frequent natural fires that consequently allowed fuels to grow and build up. This period of non-cultural disturbance became a problem when settlement occurred in the mid-19th-century. The result of the catastrophic fires of the late part of the century — 90- to 120-year-

(Continued on page 27)

AGM memories



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FBCWA Business Resolutions

Note: *The resolutions below were presented to the general membership and voted on by delegates at the AGM on October 4, 2008. The FBCWA Directors considered, reviewed and voted on the resolutions at their meeting on October 5, 2008. The outcome of both sessions appears below each resolution.*

1. Whereas:

- Under FRPA and the Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use (CFSSU), licensees are only permitted to exceed seed transfer standards for up to 5% of the total trees planted annually within a measurement unit. The CFSSU definition of a management unit ranges from all licenses held by a major licensee within a Timber Supply Area, to an individual woodlot licence; and
- Given the scale of a typical woodlot's annual planting program, this "one size fits all" regulation effectively imposes zero tolerance on the woodlot licensee's ability to manage seed use; and
- The MFR has announced their intention to amend the CFSSU this fall;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Working with the MFR to develop a seed use policy that recognizes the scale of woodlot operations and provides woodlot licensees reasonable operational flexibility in seed use.

Moved: Terry Hammond
Seconded: Lisa Marak
Membership: Carried
Directors: Carried

2. Whereas:

- The woodlot licensees of the province have dutifully paid their WPDC levy to build the current fund and many of them are currently (and in the future) being threatened to be converted to treaty lands; and
- Most woodlot licensees are not experienced in the negotiations of replacement and compensation;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Establishing a legal support program by retaining the services of experienced lawyers and compensation specialists. The program will provide services of up to a maximum of \$10,000/year to affected woodlot licences in order to support fair and consistent settlements.

Caveat written by Directors:

- Developing in a timely fashion, a licensee support program including legal references to define parameters around tenure rights and compensation

Moved: Wolfram Wollenheit
Seconded: David McBride
Membership: Carried
Directors: As written: Defeated;
With caveat: Carried

3. Whereas:

- Woodlot licensees have been classified as Integrated Forest Management under WorkSafeBC; and
- The classification is based on revenue streams, not on risk;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Taking the WorkSafeBC classification problem to a higher level; i.e., the Minister of Labour and/or WCB Chairman of the Board with the intent of proper classification of woodlots relative to their individual risk.

Moved: Kathy Mayes
Seconded: Lisa Marak
Membership: Carried
Directors: Carried

4. Whereas:

- Some woodlot licensees have been severely affected by the pine beetle to the point that they do not have any merchantable wood available for harvest; and
- The woodlot licensee is in good standing; and
- The option of removing Schedule A land may allow them to pursue a better use of the land;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Requesting the MFR to consider the option of amending the Management Plan and Woodlot Licence Document to include wording to the effect that if removal of Schedule A land occurs, no ownership transfer of the woodlot licence will be approved except to licensee's estate, unless lands are replaced.

Moved: Anne Davidson
Seconded: Marvin Strimbold
Membership: Carried
Directors: Defeated

(Continued on page 26)

■ AGM

MOFR approves new WL licences; managers enthused

by Deborah Greaves

Licensed woodlot managers from all over British Columbia who gathered last weekend to discuss their futures during tumultuous times in the forest industry reacted positively to the news that the provincial government has decided to allow more woodlots.

On October 4th, one hundred people associated with the province's 828 active woodlot licenses gathered at an Annual General Meeting at the South Thompson Inn in Kamloops to hear Minister of Forests Pat Bell's announcement. Bell described how the forest industry will need to look at ways to more intensively manage the forest resource and how woodlots are perfectly suited to this. He also showed his support of the woodlot licence program by announcing the release of new woodlot licenses and addressed some of their concerns on the administration of a licence.

Members of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations expressed reserved optimism at the announcement that up to seventy-five new woodlot licenses will be granted over the next few years, to bring the total of licensed woodlots to 900 by the year 2011.

"We're pleased to hear about new woodlots and adjustments to the paperwork," said Harold and Shirley Turner of Kamloops after the announcement, "but our costs are three times what they used to be, and we need a good market for the wood."

Despite the fact that Minister Bell stated woodlot licensees in 2005 generated an estimated \$183 million in economic activity in BC and harvested just over three million cubic metres of timber, woodlot licensees have been referred to as "the forgotten foresters."

Woodlot licensees, licensed to manage forested Crown lands, are often farmers, ranchers and registered professional foresters who own their own property near their woodlots and have deep roots in the community.

Unlike larger, high-profile timber



PHOTO: BRIAN MCNAUGHTON

(L-R) At the AGM: Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range; Derek Strimbold, woodlot licensee; and Dave Zirnhelt, woodlot licensee, Council director, and former Minister of Forests.

companies, licensees are usually families, individuals and First Nations groups who operate their woodlots as small businesses. Many licensed woodlots, which combine private land with up to 800 hectares of Crown land on the Coast and 1,200 hectares of Crown land in the Interior, are located in interface areas close to cities and towns.

Woodlots are often located near communities or over areas with sensitive resource management issues. As well as providing some income to those who manage them, woodlots help maintain a connection to the forest for local and visiting natural resources students and enthusiasts. Mature trees are cut and new trees planted at mandated intervals, enabling many woodlots to provide recreational opportunities in all seasons for local hunters, hikers, horse riders and naturalists.

Many licensed woodlots are logged selectively for decades. Larger cutblocks are generally found on woodlots only in the event of tree disease, blow-down from intense storms, or beetle infestation.

Each woodlot generates jobs in planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, reforestation, silviculture

and small-scale timber processing.

These jobs are usually filled by members of the family holding the license or other skilled local workers, resulting in enhanced economic activity in nearby communities providing goods, services and equipment needed by woodlot managers.

Family foresters tend to manage for the future, often handing down their woodlots to their children with the hope that several more generations may find ways to profit from and care for the forest.

"When it comes to knowing how to add value to forests, no one is better prepared than woodlot people," Minister Bell said on Saturday.

To celebrate excellence in the management of woodlots, Minister Bell also announced a new annual competition that will recognize woodlots that exhibit the most fully utilized landbase and best effective management with a \$10,000 cash award.

More information is available on the Federation of BC Woodlots website, www.woodlot.bc.ca ♦

Reducing interface wildfire risk: FireSmart management practices



tation management are the current national standard.

The FireSmart program manual *FireSmart – Protecting Your Community from Wildfire* (Partners in Protection – July 2003) is a useful reference (www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca).

The goal of interface fire protection fuel treatment is to reduce the chance of structural ignition from direct wildfire impingement or heavy firebrand accumulation and resulting spot fire ignitions.

The general fuel management strategy for provision of wildfire protection to wildland/urban interface communities involves using existing fuel breaks (areas featuring deciduous or low flammability fuels, green space or access/utility infrastructure corridors) or stand-level fuel treatments involving fuel removal, fuel reduction, or fuel conversion in strategic locations.

Fuel treatment recommendations are based on FireSmart fuel management guidelines and incorporate the following general principles:

- Removal of selected whole trees to leave a forest of more separated and fire resistive trees,
- Pruning of trees to increase the height to live crown to a minimum of 2 meters,
- Removal of surface fuels or slash created by spacing and pruning.

Fuel treatment recommendations provide for shaded and open fuel breaks by varying whole tree spacing criteria.

Both fuel treatment standards (specifying tree, surface fuel removal and burn pile criteria) and fuel treatment actions (methods – handfall, mechanical, chip and spread, and firewood salvage with environmental and operational guidelines) are specified.

FireSmart fuel management guidelines are flexible and can be varied to optimize or improve ecological conditions, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic qualities in the interface.

Other factors such as forest health, windfirmness, slope stability, riparian zone management and maintenance of fuel modified areas can also be addressed in the fuel management prescription. ♦



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By Don Mortimer

Editor's note: The following is an abstract of the presentation Don made at this year's AGM.

Fuel management is an important component of any strategy to reduce wildfire danger adjacent to interface values at risk. While there are no strategies providing failsafe wildfire protection to structural values located in forested areas, the FireSmart recommended guidelines pertaining to vege-

About Don Mortimer

Don Mortimer (Fireline Consulting, Rossland BC) is a wildland firefighter with over 30 years of operational fire suppression and management experience in most areas of Canada.

Don was one of the principal contributors working with the Partners in Protection group in the development of the manual "FireSmart – Protecting Your Community from Wildfire."

Don's fire protection consulting work includes the development of

wildfire protection plans for a variety of municipal / regional district and private clients. Don has also worked with a variety of agencies in developing operational training and policy / procedure for both wildland fire suppression and the structure protection operations used on large wildland urban interface incidents.

Don is currently working on a project with BC's Office of the Fire Commissioner, where his operational work

as a structural protection specialist on interface incidents has led to a consulting role in assisting with the development of a provincial structural protection program. ♦



Message from keynote speaker

Larry Mason sent the following message: "Congratulations on a great conference and thank you for your hospitality. I really enjoyed meeting with BC woodlot owners. Also enjoyed hearing the Minister speak. I learned a lot about the woodlot program, which I find to be an impressive approach to stewardship."

A copy of Larry's speech is on our website, www.woodlot.bc.ca, in the AGM section. ♦

Silent Auction raises \$1800

\$1800 was raised by those supporting the Silent Auction at the AGM.

Thank you to Bea and Craig Mann for obtaining prizes and items from local businesses.

Proceeds go to the FBCWA scholarship fund (see information and application form on page 22 and 23 of this issue of the *Almanac*). ♦

Purpose of the Woodlot Product Development Council

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*. ♦

Thank you to AGM organizers

by Cathy McClary

For the past twenty years, local woodlot associations have hosted the Annual General Meeting. This year, for the first time, the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council took on the organizing of the event.

The FBCWA/WPDC chose the central location of Kamloops and asked me to be the AGM coordinator.

In early April, I met with the Kamloops and District Woodlot Association to inform them that we would be delivering the AGM in Kamloops.

I went to the meeting with a wish list of ways that they as locals could help me to put on a successful meeting. I returned home from that meeting with a taste of local flavours, ideas for speakers and most importantly, people offering to help.

From that, and with additional requests through the FBCWA, a volunteer host AGM planning committee was formed.

Over the next six months, I really appreciated the opportunity to have committee members available to toss ideas around with, to review suggestions or to offer new ideas.

As the AGM drew closer, others who were not on the organizing committee offered to help.

I am grateful for all the support and assistance offered by the FBCWA, the WPDC, the MFR, the organizing Committee and individual licensees who helped out with the 2008 AGM.

The exact location of the 2009 AGM is yet to be determined. If you are interested in helping to organize the event, I'd like to hear from you! ♦

2008 AGM Organizing Committee

Mark Clark, Prince George
George Delisle, Westbridge
Bryon Every, Chase
Norm Fennell, Kamloops

Bea Mann, Barriere
Craig Mann, Barriere
Warren MacLennan, Clearwater
Fred Newhouse, Lumby



PHOTO: BRIAN MCNAUGHTON

Elwood and Jake (a.k.a. Brent Petrick and Tom Bradley) plan their next gig. It was indeed a rare moment caught on film when Brent actually removed his hat!

WPDC investment fund

by Steven Wright, WPDC Treasurer

The AGM was a great success and was enjoyed by many who attended. At the WPDC portion of the AGM on October 3, questions were asked about the investment fund.

The main query was questioning its rate of return and where the money is invested. All figures presented at the AGM were based on our year-end of March 31, 2008.

The investment fund is mostly a result of increased revenue due to higher AAC, caused by the MPB epidemic. The extra income is already dropping and WPDC will face decreased revenue due to lower AACs for the next 70 years or so. The investment fund is managed by the Vancouver branch of Phillips, Hager & North.

The decision to go with that firm was based on a review by the previous Council executive of a few select investment companies. Phillips, Hager & North (PHN) was purchased by the Royal Bank earlier this year, but daily management is still handled by PHN.

The financial sector has faced some turmoil over the last year and fluctuating markets are expected to continue.

The fund is in relatively safe in-

vestments, but can still face fluctuations and losses.

However, we do not expect the 30% decrease in value that equity-based funds are realizing. The fund

...fluctuating markets
are expected to
continue.



does have about 20% of its value in equity-based assets, so some value reduction is anticipated.

Last year the fund made about 1.4%, or about \$28,000. The performance of the fund is not great; we had hoped for better returns. The fund is being managed within the parameters.

Council was looking into changing the parameters of investments at the beginning of 2007.

Since it is the licensees' money, it

was decided that we needed input from them. A question was asked in the fall 2007 questionnaire on strategies for investment. The majority of respondents (about 60%) did not want a more aggressive investment strategy.

Consequently, the investment followed the plan in place. The current strategic targets for PHN to manage the fund on our behalf are cash 5%, fixed income 75%, Canadian equity 15%, US equity 5%.

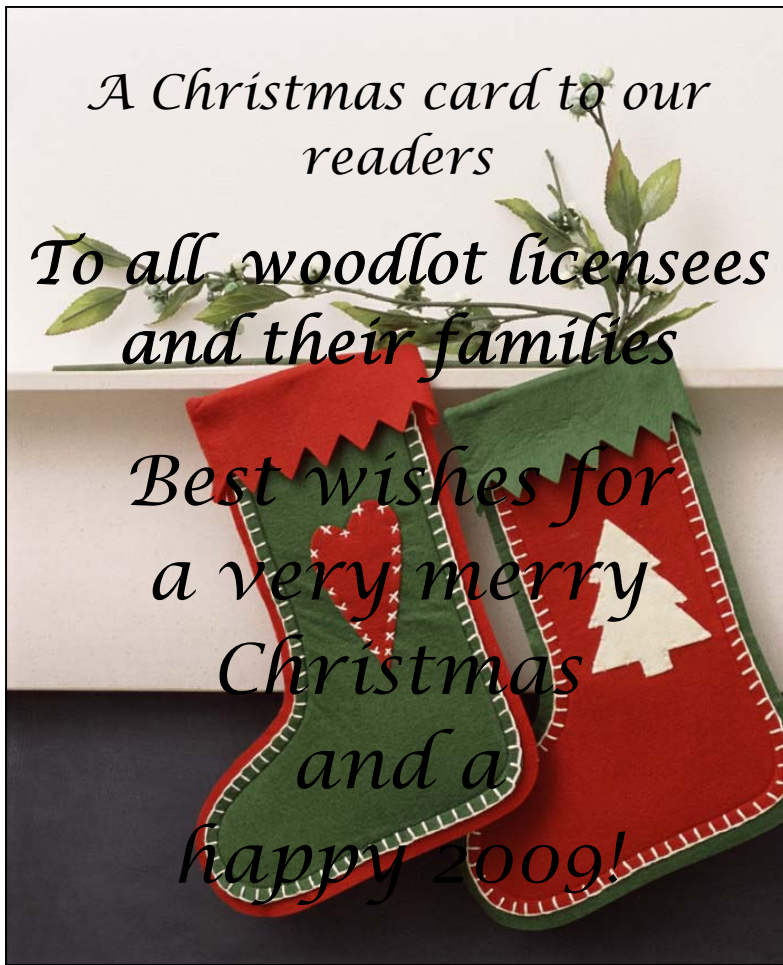
PHN can vary from this target, but they try to move back to this asset mix as units are bought or sold.

The accompanying table shows a comparison of account holdings as of March 31, and September 30, 2008. Comments to Council are welcome. A question on investment strategies will be asked again this fall in the annual questionnaire. The answers from the questionnaire will drive our strategies.

The annual budget is at or exceeding our income, as harvest levels decrease. This fund will be used to augment the revenue shortfall. Depending on the fund's rate of return, the levy income and the annual budget, the fund could be depleted in 20 years, or last in perpetuity. ♦

Woodlot Product Development Council Investment Account For March 31, 2008 and September 30, 2008

Fund	Market value to Mar 31/08	Percentage of total portfolio	Market value to Sep 30/08	Percentage of total portfolio
Cdn Money Market	271,376.46	14.0	271,415.28	14.4
Short Term Bond & Mtge	568,091.49	29.2	554,705.25	29.5
Total Return Bond	738,095.39	38.0	702,222.01	37.3
Canadian Income Fund	21,217.03	1.1	18,167.96	1.0
Dividend Income	40,840.07	2.1	38,005.50	2.0
Canadian Equity	180,573.75	9.3	184,591.07	9.8
Overseas Equity	38,569.74	2.0	28,621.80	1.5
C-Hedged Overseas Equity	12,316.02	0.6	9,961.86	0.5
US Equity fund	61,141.78	3.1	57,718.56	3.1
C-Hedged US Equity	12,301.17	0.6	16,140.89	0.9
Total	1,944,522.90	100.0	1,881,279.97	100.0



Province creates more forestry opportunities

KAMLOOPS – The Province will expand the number of woodlots, creating more opportunities for individuals, small business, and First Nations to benefit from forestry for decades to come, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced this afternoon, in advance of speaking at the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations Annual General Meeting tonight.

“Woodlot operators have a long-term relationship with the forest they manage, which can often lead to innovations in silviculture and help us maximize the growth potential of our forests,” said Bell. “If we want to become world leaders in growing trees, we can learn from successful woodlot operations, and at next year’s annual general meeting, an inaugural Forests Minister’s Award for Excellence in Woodlot Management will be presented.”

The Province will offer 60 to 75

new woodlots over the next three years, which will result in a total of about 900 woodlots operating in British Columbia by 2011. The new licences are being offered throughout the province and all woodlot opportunities will be advertised on BC Bid at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca. Bids have been received on three advertised tenures, one north of Campbell River, one north of Fort St. James and the third, southwest of Dawson Creek.

“Expansion of the woodlot licence program is good news,” said Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations’ General Manager Brian McNaughton. “It’s gratifying that the Province realizes how important it is to create opportunities for continued local investment in new, community-based, forestry businesses. Many of the Federation’s members plan on leaving their woodlot to their children and they manage it accordingly, using light-

touch forestry techniques to the benefit of their families and the forest’s future.”

Woodlot licences are small, area-based tenures that combine private land with up to 800 hectares of Crown land on the Coast and 1,200 hectares of Crown land in the Interior, and are managed by individuals, groups, First Nations or public institutions. They are replaceable tenures, awarded for 20 years.

There are currently 828 active woodlots that include about 546,000 hectares in British Columbia. In 2005, woodlot licensees generated an estimated \$183 million in economic activity in B.C. and harvested just over three million cubic metres of timber. Each woodlot generates jobs in planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, reforestation, silviculture and small-scale timber processing. ♦



Scholarship Award Information

Rules and Regulations

1. Applications for this award must be received prior to April 24, 2009. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be a direct family member of a woodlot licensee or private land owner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA.
3. Applicants must be planning to attend a post secondary institution within 24 months of the application deadline.
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. The award of \$1,000.00 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.
7. Essays and photos from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the Almanac.
8. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
9. The Award Committee of the Federation of BC 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.

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IMPORTANT

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

1. A 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 extra curricular activities.
2. A one-page (approximately 500- 700-word) typed essay entitled “How do woodlots contribute to my local community?” This is an open-ended topic so you can decide how to approach it.
3. Two letters of reference from previous or current teachers or employers,
4. A copy of your **most recent** report card, and
5. A recent photo of yourself.

Return to: Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
Attention: Nancy Pezel, Treasurer
173 W. Hoylake Road,
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia
V9K 1K3

Or send it digitally to islandswest@shaw.ca with a subject heading of FBCWA Scholarship Application

Applications must be received by April 24, 2009



Scholarship Award Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Educational Information:

Currently enrolled in: _____

Post-secondary school you plan to attend: _____

Program you will be registered in for 2009-2010: _____

Relationship to woodlot licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot #

(e.g., daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345) _____

The woodlot licensee/private landowner to whom you are a direct family member, has been a member of which woodlot association and for how many years?

Please include information on volunteer work, extracurricular 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.)

General Manager's report: Expansion of woodlot program

north of Campbell River, another north of Fort St. James, and one southwest of Dawson Creek.

The new award process seems to be working well. Over the next two to three years, 60 to 75 new woodlots in total (~150,000m³/year) will be awarded. A reminder to all: legislation was changed a couple of years ago and a person can now hold two woodlots.

Alliance with industry groups

The Federation has been working on building stronger relations with other forest-based organizations with which it has common business interests. We have been working more closely with the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA), the Truck Loggers Association (TLA), the Central Interior Loggers Association (CILA), the Western Silviculture Contractors Association (WSCA) and the Independent Lumber Remanufacturers Association (IRLA). It seems we have several common themes, including the following:

- BC needs a new forest sector vision;
- Building a better business environment;
- Creating more community-based, independent, small forestry businesses which can operate and be profitable on their own merits;
- Building a more diverse forest sector;
- Leaving more dollars in the local forest sector.

The objective is to have a stronger voice to the government and public. Currently, we are getting to know each other, building trust, and figuring out

how best to proceed.

Joint Working Group

The MFR and FBCWA formed a Joint Working Group after last year's AGM in Port Alberni to address priority issues. The following is an update of issues currently being worked on.

Regulation to allow the surrender of a woodlot licence

A regulation has been drafted and submitted to the Minister for decision. It is not known whether the Minister will approve it or not, or request changes. If approved, licensees can expect the regulation to ensure the province has adequate security to ensure a licensee fulfills all obligations: e.g., burning, road maintenance/deactivation and free growing.

Withdrawal of private land

The Ministry of Forests and Range interprets S. 54.7 of the Forest Act to mean that private land can be removed from a woodlot licence only if there is going to be a disposition of that land; i.e., the licensee intends to divest themselves of their interest in the land if and when it is removed.

Consequently, they say either a change in the legislation or writing of a regulation is needed to address withdrawals without disposition.

To add to the issue, the recently released Auditor General's report on private land removal from a TFL on Vancouver Island generated considerable reaction. The working group has had to take this report into account when developing recommendations for

the Minister. Getting this issue resolved remains a high priority with the Federation and the Joint Working Group, but is going to take some time! It is not a simple issue.

E-FM Project

Revisions to the final report, including the 100+ recommendations aimed at fixing errors, making e-FM licensee-friendly, and addressing inefficiencies, are almost complete.

The project brought to light the many problems the current system creates for government (MFR) and licensees. The Ministry executive is expected to act on many of the recommendations.

It is worth noting that the training session at the AGM and access to Coleen Marlow to support licensees are two things that have already been done in response to this project. There is still much more to be done to make e-FM more functional and practical.

Cutting permit postponement regulation

An amendment to the aforementioned regulation is in effect. It expanded the reasons for allowing a CP issued on or after November 4, 2003 to be postponed if there is other timber in danger due to forest health factors that should be harvested, or where the harvest will likely have an adverse effect on reforestation or an unacceptable fire hazard.

This applies to entire CPs only, not individual cutblocks, and the postponement can be up to a maximum of two years.

(Continued on page 25)

Coastal timber pricing: "Totally new timber pricing model"

AGM in early October. At this meeting, the proposal for the woodlot program to move to the community forest model was discussed and all licensees are aware of the transition. Other topics discussed included the following:

- Appraisal risk ratings
- Special stumpage pricing for stained cypress and powder worm in Cw
- Timing of new CAM
- Discussion of data protocols for new MPS equations.

MPS Technical Subcommittee

Due to the announcement that the woodlot program is moving to the tabular system, I have not been attending the MPS technical subcommittee

meetings but receive all minutes and submissions. The intent of this committee is to analyze the most current timber sale bidder data to update the MPS equations to best reflect timber sale bidder behaviour.

This is primarily a mathematical exercise, but deals with important issues such as no-bid sales, as well as ensuring that timber sales are harvested as they were bid, to ensure bids accurately reflect the conditions of the sale.

Appraisal Forecasting

Disclaimer: As we are moving to a tabular system, appraisal forecasting becomes difficult. Tabular rates do not change until March 1, and information is currently not available to accurately

determine average licensee stumpage rates for the year.

Log prices on all species have dropped substantially over the past year and it would be expected that stumpage rates have also come down.

Other variables as per the MPS equations are more difficult to estimate (Vol / ha, HB%, slope, location, piece size, etc.).

If there are stumpage issues that require attention, I encourage licensees to contact their association president or myself.

I can be reached at

- jmarlow@oberon.ark.com
- 250-285-2544 (Rockview Resources Limited). ♦

(Continued from page 24)

Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR)

Earlier this year, the MOE released an intentions paper (www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema_codes_of_practice/open_burning/obscr-paper.pdf) regarding revisions to the OBSCR. It generated more than 100 responses and the MOE is now reviewing and considering next steps to address issues and recommendations. As many as 94% of woodlot licenses could be in the high and moderate restriction zones.

This is something licensees and associations should pay close attention to, as it has significant operational and cost implications to woodlot holders.

AAC vs. Cut Control exemptions

There has been much confusion regarding the use of Forest Act section 8

(setting a new woodlot AAC via a management plan) and S.75.9 (granting a cut control exemption) to authorize increased harvest levels on woodlots hit by beetles or other catastrophic events.

The Joint Working Group (JWG) is drafting a guidance bulletin to ensure everyone clearly understands the implications of these two sections.

The recent announcement by Minister Bell regarding woodlots moving to ComFor stumpage rates changes the situation with respect to AACs, appraisals and the applicability of the LVCE, so the JWG is revisiting the work it has done to date. The JWG expects to have the guidance out before the end of the year.

Blanket Salvage Permits

As noted in a previous section, information about BSPs can be found at the

following website address:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/InterpretiveBulletins/

Replacement woodlot offer

This is a friendly reminder to those licensees who receive a replacement licence offer. Act quickly and don't forget to respond. If your licence agreement expires, it cannot be replaced and will simply turn into a non-replaceable licence.

In other words, it will run its term (usually another 10 years) then revert to the Province!

And last but definitely not least, thanks to all of you who had a hand in organizing and planning this year's AGM.

It was an informative AGM in a comfortable setting. You did a great job! ♦

FBCWA resolutions

5. Whereas:

- Woodlot licences that have been severely affected by the pine beetle to the point that they do not have any merchantable wood available for harvest; and
- They are faced with no chance to have their woodlot operate as a viable small business; and
- The woodlot has a proven exemplary forest management record;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Requesting the MFR to consider expanding these existing woodlots to the current maximum size to allow these proven performers to continue to manage their tenures as viable business and contributors to the local economy.

Moved: Anne Davidson
Seconded: Marvin Strimbold
Membership: Carried
Directors: Defeated

6. Whereas:

- Many licensees are now over 65;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Allowing these licensees the option of removing their Schedule A lands from the woodlot licence.

Moved: Anne Davidson
Seconded: Marvin Strimbold
Membership: Carried
Directors: Defeated

7. Whereas:

- Schedule A lands are providing an environment for wildlife, clean water, clean air and a green viewscape for all of society to enjoy; and
- Private land committed to a woodlot at various times has greater social values than growing trees for a future generation; and
- Society as a whole takes little responsibility for the maintenance of this greenscape, but expects it to remain intact;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Investigating the applicability of financial recognition for the owners of private lands that promote exemplary land stewardship and management practices on their private land portion of a woodlot. This could be accomplished through supporting and participating in the Ecological Goods and Services

recognition program that the BC Cattlemen's Association is currently pursuing.

Moved: Anne Davidson
Seconded: Marvin Strimbold
Membership: Carried
Directors: Carried

8. Whereas:

- Some licensees feel they cannot afford to attend the AGM, especially during the current economy; and
- There appears to be a predominance of grey-haired people at the 2008 AGM; and
- Not enough licensees bring families to the AGM, yet families are involved in the vast majority of woodlot licences;

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Investigating the possibility of finding a suitable woodlot location where a family field camping-based AGM venue could be secured, with the goal of reducing licensee cost, and adding loads of fun and family participation for mid-September 2009 or future AGMs.

Moved: David McBride
Seconded: Wolfram Wollenheit
Membership: Carried
Directors: Carried ♦

Links of interest

- Learn about issues on private woodlots south of the border: www.treefarmssystem.org
- One- and three-month Coast and Interior log market reports: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm
- 2007-08 silviculture statistics for BC, including annual estimates of not satisfactorily stocked land, area planted, etc., with links to previous years' information: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/statistics/2007-09.htm
- BC Forest Safety Council appoints Bev Briscoe as new Chairperson: www.bcforestsafesafe.org ♦

Adaptive management can foster resilience, diversity

old forests — can be seen from many of our towns and cities.

Through fire suppression, we have curtailed many wildfires, especially those starting on the cooler east slopes. An example is Tweedsmuir Park, where the latest pine beetle epidemic got its start. There is a strong case for arguing that fire suppression is a cultural intervention. In the Jasper Model Forest, there has been a detailed look at this issue and the forest is now managing for fuel risk, using the pre-European disturbance as a template to moderate a strict natural pattern.

In the future, we can possibly model the unpopulated stretches of BC forest after the pre-European pattern, while accounting for climate warming, but in the interface zone, we need an approach that provides the resources and services demanded by the public while offering an adaptive forest capable of changing with the warming climate. (Climate change is a fact; visit www.pacificclimate.org for an examination of data from the past 100 years.)

Two papers from Oregon are relevant to the interface forest model for adaptive management. The first, by John C. Bliss and Erin C. Kelly, is titled “Comparative Advantages of Small-Scale Forestry Among Emerging Forest Tenures.” (see <http://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:108325>.) The main issue is that the societal advantages of small-scale tenures are reason enough to expand the program.

A second paper, “Land Ownership and Landscape Structure: A spatial analysis of sixty-six Oregon (USA) Coast Range Watersheds” by John Bliss, Brooks J. Stanfield, and Thomas A. Spies, looked at ownership patterns and resulting forest

structures. They found that “(1) forest cover diversity increased with land ownership diversity, (2) size of forest patches increased with size of land ownership patches, and (3) connectivity of forest cover increased with connectivity of land ownership.”

The small private ownership watershed ranked highest for stand complexity and diversity. This is important when looking at resilience and adapting to change. The forests with the most diversity and complexity will fare better than those without.

Large private forests ranked the lowest in complexity and diversity. The disturbance pattern reflected by these watersheds most closely mimics our large tenures.

One argument against small tenures is that they fragment the landscape. While the watershed study confirmed this, some studies and knowledge gaps suggest that the semi-permeable structure of the small-scale tenure may be beneficial to some species.

In the interface zone, existing regulations on visual retention, recreation, water and wildlife reduce the risk of large openings. The size of the licence also keeps openings small, as the annual cut is small and cannot be concentrated in blocks larger than five years of cut (unless fire or beetle cause catastrophic loss).

This results in a semi-permeable fragmentation. In the words of one researcher, “What is seen as fragmented habitat for some organisms could also act as a semi-permeable landscape for organisms traveling between larger, more contiguous tracts of forest habitat.” (Mladenoff *et al.*, 1995)

One information gap recognized by forest science is the relationship between

small fragmented forest cover and habitat. Most studies have linked fragmentation problems to the agricultural field edge and the forest. “There is a caveat about research on edge effects. A large portion of it has been undertaken along edges in agricultural landscapes where the forests have been reduced to isolated woodlots rather than in a perforated forest landscape,” says Malcolm L. Hunter Jr., in *Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century*.

Further replication of this work in forested landscapes is necessary. For example, some studies have not shown a predation/edge effect in a perforated forest landscape (Ratti and Reese 1988, Rudnický and Hunter 1993).

Anecdotal information from woodlot licensees suggests the perforated interface zone is creating a favourite habitat area for wildlife. (George Delisle, Boundary Forest District).

A diversity of approaches leading to a diversity in our forests seems like a no-brainer, but increasingly we are regulated to do everything the same way. The strength of adaptive management is the opposite approach, the ability to try alternate approaches.

Through the generations, this becomes a tradition, and as with the pre-European disturbance pattern, a cultural disturbance pattern that pays attention to the health and growth of the forest in the interface zone will in the long run maintain a forest structure that has the greatest resilience, based on stand complexity and species diversity. This is the approach most likely to succeed when faced with a changing climate and with social demands for sustainable long-term forests. ♦

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