



THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2010

Woodlot Licence Plans Lessons Learned

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By Brian McNaughton, General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

With the number of Woodlot Licence Plans (WLP) being submitted on the increase, it was suggested that it might be useful to offer up some tips or lessons learned about woodlot licence planning. So here goes...

- Use the Woodlot Licence Plan template. It can be found at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/woodlots/woodlot-licence-management-plans.htm>.

Some of the links are outdated, but it is very useful and will help guide you through the process. The hidden text (in blue font) helps you understand the content requirements.

- If there's a nearby WL with similar forest cover, topography, constraints, etc. and management practices AND they have an approved WLP --- then ask to borrow it. Incorporating previously approved terminology and content with regards to results, strategies, performance requirements, etc. will save you and the Ministry a lot of time and money.

- Make sure you notify the local



First Nations that you're embarking on a new Woodlot Licence Plan and ask them to participate in the planning process early on. Often a blank map leads to open dialogue and is the best way to address matters of cultural and heritage importance. Ask the FN to identify important areas then focus efforts on developing results or strategies that safeguard those assets. A First Nation is only going to endorse your WLP so you can

operate without referring future activities to them if they are confident their concerns have been addressed. Including an 'open door' clause, which invites FN(s) to bring forward new information in the future, is a good idea.

- Under the heading of ...if I can do it, you can do it, be aware that do-it-yourself mapping for a WLP is possible! I'm not going to write a how-to manual but I suggest you go to [HTTPS://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfs/imf.jsp?site=mapview](https://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfs/imf.jsp?site=mapview). You'll need a BCeID to get in but this site gives

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Grow the Pie

by Mark Clark

We've all seen those charts that plot the historic prices for wood products against other commodities like oil, grain, and currencies. Generally, the graph slopes up through time, giving us a sense of security and optimism that the future gets better. The trend may not go up as quick as we would like, sometimes it even goes down a little, but it is generally positive over time. This optimism is also reflected in recent industry and government reports, in the media, and certainly at most woodlot meetings!

But the reality is that our log prices are not going up, and that our costs are. Bills keep coming in, fees for service get higher, and the government expects us to pay for what was once their obligation.

So what does a woodlot holder do in the meantime?

One strategy is to hunker down and wait out the storm. Wait for the mills to re-open and traditional markets to build and for the prices to climb. Don't spend any money and wait for better times. Not a very dynamic solution, but one that will possibly work.

A second strategy is to grow the pie. In the resource rich world we live in, look at your woodlot with a new light, and investigate other methods of catching some new value as the products flow from your land. Look to new and alternative revenue sources from timberland, not only in the underlying value of the land itself, but in protecting land, and deriving value from water, wind, and recreation. We can grow the pie by taking part in the long term potential in carbon markets and by demonstrating improvements



Mark Clark,
President

in forest management in a way that sequesters more carbon and then finding markets to sell the value of that increased sequestration.

During the next year, the Federation will provide assistance with growing the pie through 3 specific projects. All are based on the strength of diversity, with multiple partners joining to meet a common need. All are being leveraged by various forms of government funding, and all have the potential to dramatically shift the long term value stream from our woodlots.

The first project is called BRIDGES. This is a joint undertaking with the BC Community Forests Association, Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin through the Regional Economic Diversification Initiative (REDI), and the Ministry of Community and Rural Economic Development. Approvals for this project are currently being finalized, with completion planned by January 2012.

The project objective is to identify fibre markets, including those beyond the traditional buyers. Buyers and sellers will list their products for sale or purchase, including potential new milling and manufacturing proponents, with the intent of initiating some business to business relationships. Some of our members will provide expert advice to BRIDGES as to which markets to pursue and how best to pursue them. For example, advise about the importance of Forest Stewardship Council certification,

and how RONA's vendor licensing program could increase not only the value but also the range of products we produce.

A second project has to do with selling carbon credits. It would be a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Community and Rural Economic Development through the regional Beetle Action Coalitions, and with anticipated participation of woodlot licencees, other private land owners, ranchers, and other land managers. This project will produce an analysis tool that Woodlot licencees and other tenure holders could use to analyse both their existing businesses and what the addition of Carbon as a product would do for their sustainability.

Lastly, the Agroforestry Initiative is now underway, with the target of creating specific, profitable agroforestry opportunities. This project will develop the business case for agroforestry work across the province, improve market connections, and create on-the-ground on-farm or in-forest projects to serve as learning tools.

These three projects are just some examples of the work being coordinated by the volunteers, executive and contractors of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. We have been in a bit of stormy weather lately, but remember that survival isn't based on the size of the storm; It's how you set your sail that counts.

I'd like to wish you and your families all the best for the holiday season, and a prosperous new year! ♦

I didn't see this coming ... did you?

By Brian McNaughton

From my perspective, the BC government's recently announced re-organization is a real head scratcher. We were just getting to the point where the benefits of Woodlot Licence Plans, tab rates and aligning all decision making under the Ministry of Forests & Range (MFR) were starting to be realized. FRPA growing pains and the culture shift to results based were mostly behind us. More efficient business processes (RESULTS, waste, etc.) had been developed collaboratively by the Federation & MFR. One-stop shopping at the MFR boutique was turning out to be a pretty good thing! And if you, like me, believe BC's forest industry is on the cusp of an economic upturn then the timing of all these positive actions was looking pretty darn good.

Then YIKES, the Premier announces a major reorganization. Wait a second. Stop the bus; back it up! After spending 5 years working at it, centralizing decision-making so a licensee could conduct their business at one Ministry office was the wrong thing to do? Instead, we should have spent all this time fragmenting Ministry responsibilities into multiple ministries?



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

This is a really hard decision to understand, and time will tell whether it's the right one. Obviously, it's quite shocking and on the surface doesn't appear too promising. As a woodlot licensee who is also a rancher said to me - How in the hell can anyone believe that making me get my woodlot

plan approved by the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands (MFML), my cutting & road permits issued through the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO), my range plans approved by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAO) and then go back to MNRO over range permits is more efficient than going to one Ministry? *(Actually, the phrasing was quite a bit more colorful but I cleaned it up so not to offend some readers.)*

It was a very good question and I wish I had an answer for him. What I do know is that if government is involved, change is inevitable. The Federation can and will express its concerns but like most of these high level political decisions, at the end of the day we are just going to have to make the best of it. With that in mind, this latest & greatest reorganization just means it's more important to get the 1 Cutting Permit approach approved and implemented across the province sooner than later. Clearly it is more efficient to

get 1 permit that lasts 4 years than deal with multiple Ministries over multiple permits year after year! One (1) CP is HIGH on the Federation's priority list and, thankfully, it's high on the Joint Working Group's list as well. The necessary guidance is currently being written and should be completed by Christmas. It, along with a decision note recommending the more widespread implementation of 1 CP, will be presented to the Ministry executive for decision shortly thereafter.

With regards to other key topics, there is still no word from Minister Bell on withdrawing Schedule A (private) land from a WL but still keep the licence with the Sch. B lands. In fairness, the Minister did say at the Quesnel AGM that he would make a decision by Dec. 31st! After dealing with this topic for about 5 years, being patient is tough!

The Federation as well as some associations and licensees responded to the Ministry of Environment's intention paper on open burning. This is a topic of high importance to woodlot licensees and landowners who operate adjacent to or near communities and settlement areas. The MOE is currently compiling the feedback received.

All the best to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas and Happy 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. ♦

Transition Protocol: Extended Road Amortization Agreements

by John Marlow, RPF

The Woodlot Licence program continues to share the tabular stumpage rate table with the Community Forest Licence Program and rates in the 2010 table have been relatively low for this year. Unfortunately, low stumpage rates are generally a direct correlation with low log prices and operating an area-based Woodlot Licence continues to be a challenge.

Typically this time of year most major licensee timber has been scaled and the Ministry of Forest provides us with a pretty good estimate of stumpage rates for the 2011 Tabular Stumpage Rate Schedule. It was mid 2009 when the stumpage rates for major licensees decreased substantially and adjusted average stumpage rates for major licensees have ranged between \$1.00 and \$2.50 throughout all of 2010. I have received a summary of major licensee average stumpage rates up to October 31, 2010 and it appears that the 2011 Tabular Rate table will see very little change from the current 2010 table (most species rates decrease 20-30% other than Fd which is predicted to be approximately the same).

The revised stumpage equation is being worked on this fall with planned implementation date in April of 2011. Initial speculation is that the new equation, combined with a continued improvement in log markets will result in Tabular Rate table increases for



John Marlow,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

2012. Another key issue in regards to timber pricing this quarter is the transition protocol for licensees who have stayed with MPS appraisals due to Extended Road

Amortization Agreements. Section 7.2 of the Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM) states *“Where a cutting authority has been issued under a Woodlot Licence with an effective date after Nov 30, 2008, with an extended road amortization agreement that has been entered into under section 5.3.2.1, the stumpage rate shall be calculated using the Market Pricing System”*

Several discussions have occurred between The Ministry of Forests and myself on behalf of the FBCWA to clearly interpret this section.

Woodlot Licence Cutting Permits must be designated in an Extended Road Amortization Agreement (ERAA) in order to be appraised using the Market Pricing System (MPS). If there is no ERAA link within the Cutting Authority then that Cutting Authority will be appraised using the tabular appraisal system. **The Coast Appraisal Manual does not preclude licensee from applying for an MPS permit with ERAA money attached following the application and receipt of a tabular CP.** Senior Ministry of Forests

Revenue Branch staff have discussed this issue with regional appraisal officers (coast and interior) in regards to the protocol for Woodlot Licence Cutting Authorities and there is now a better understanding among Ministry of Forest staff in regards to this MPS / Tabular transition. Licensees are to be diligent in ensuring the correct Cutting Authority designation (CP#) is used for the application.

This protocol makes the transition from MPS to Tabular appraisals clear for both Woodlot Licensees and to regional appraisal staff. If there is any confusion about this issue I encourage licensees to contact me (phone or e-mail) as it is recognized that substantial costs are included in these agreements. ♦



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. ♦

Selling Logs: Check Often & Be Ready

by Blain Arnett

The spring planting trees are ordered, the logging debris piles are burned, and winter cutting permits are under application. Everything is in order on the woodlot to do some logging, we just have to wait to see what the purchase price will be and determine if we can make a nickel in today's market.

We burned our debris piles this fall, if you want to get teenagers interested in woodlot management just take them to help with the burning; they will be in the pickup and ready to go before you are (not always the case for other activities)! Rumour has it that there is a market for logging slash either for hog fuel or as material for pellet plants. With a potential few dollars per tonne to the owner for the slash it might be worth checking into prior to logging and burning.

On November 1, 2010 the appraisal manual was amended with new stumpage rates for woodlots. The potential stumpage rate for your woodlot is shown in Table 6-2 of the appraisal manual (page 100). The manual can be linked through the BC Woodlot Federation website/members/workplan portfolios/timber pricing/interior appraisal manual.

Some of the current rates effective November 1, 2010 are (\$/m³):

- North Central: 0.52 Fir, 0.66 Pine, 0.89 Spruce (all down about \$0.20/m³)
- North East : 0.71 Pine, 0.98 Spruce (all down about \$0.03/m³)



Blain Arnett,
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

- North West : 0.30 Cedar, 1.59 Pine, 1.31 Spruce (all down about \$0.30/m³)
- South East : 1.37 Cedar, 0.90 Fir, 1.27 Pine. 1.38 Spruce (all down about \$0.20/m³)

- South West : 2.32 Cedar, 1.01 Fir, 0.95 Pine, 1.14 Spruce (all down about \$0.40/m³)

The above rates are as of November 1, 2010, the rates have gone down since August 1, 2010. The rates in Table 6-2 do change during the year when the table is updated to allow for new appraisal data; expect the next update with new rates in May. The rate applied to a new cutting permit will use the rates from the table at the time of permit approval. Once your permit has a rate it is fixed until July 31, 2011.

The lumber market has improved

to \$260 per 1000 BF, but our dollar is also near par with the US\$, which does not help local mills selling into the US. Housing starts in the USA have improved a bit to 598,000 per year but are still weak. BC mills are selling more lumber to China which is very encouraging news.

Please feel free to forward any comments, phone calls and emails of your concerns or issues. I can be reached at 250-964-4105 or at greggcreek@shaw.ca and remember the local mill may not be buying today but winter conditions might change and in January the mill suddenly needs wood, check often and be ready. ♦



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Links of Interest

- 1 & 3 Month Coast & Interior Log Market Reports: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm>
- For daily scans of news from BC, Canada, the US and around the world focusing on Forestry, Forest Products & Business, Climate Change, Carbon & Bioenergy and Wood products and Green Building http://www.treefrogcreative.ca/Daily_Forestry_News.html ♦





Migratory Birds – Incidental Take

Did you know that the Migratory Birds Regulations, under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994), strictly prohibits the harming of migratory birds or disturbance or destruction of eggs and nests, and that even inadvertent harm or destruction, i.e. ‘incidental take’, is considered illegal?

Environment Canada is the Federal agency responsible for the protection of migratory birds. Starting back in 2007, Environment Canada started contemplating changing the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to

introduce new policy tools to improve their approach to managing incidental take of migratory birds and conserving migratory bird populations. The Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO), of which the FBCWA is a member, actively represented the interests of woodlot owners and operators from across Canada on this file.

Recently, Environment Canada sent out notification that it is not going to pursue new regulations. Instead, efforts will focus on the development of best practices that will help sustain

migratory bird populations in Canada and provide guidance to those who conduct operations that could impact birds, eggs and nests. The CFWO will participate in the development of these best practices in attempts to ensure they are relevant and practical to woodlots and woodlot licences.

In the meantime, please remain mindful of migratory birds when planning and conducting operations on your woodlot or private lands. The Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulation still are in full force and effect. ♦

Please note:

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



The Quesnel Woodlot Association, as a result of hosting the AGM, made a generous donation to the Y.E.S. group (Youth Entertaining for Service). Shown is Paul Galliazzo with Y.E.S. members from Quesnel.

One CP Concept

*By Harold Macy, Director, NIWA
With thanks to Ron Greschner
(MOFR) and Len Apedaile (ECON
Consulting)*

The idea for a one cutting permit came up in the WARRT days (circa 2004-2005) and it required tab rates to make it work. Once tab rates came in (end of 2008 I believe) it set the stage for one CP. Basically the MoFR/FBCWA joint working group formed a subcommittee to start/do the work. In the Spring of 2010, 3 districts volunteered to pilot the concept (Campbell River, Quesnel, and the Peace). They have been piloting it since then & we have had monthly calls/updates. Most of the bugs are worked out. We are now in the process of developing bullet proof documents/instructions to explain to the other districts how it works (an idiot's guide to One CP, so to

speak). By December the MOFR is hoping to present the prototype to Executive and they will be in a place to make a decision as to whether or not they want to move forward and roll this out provincially, possibly as early as next spring.

So here's how it works:

- A CP would be issued that covers the whole woodlot for a 4 year term. No spatial block shape would be required at the front end.
- The licensee would have the flexibility to harvest wherever they wanted on the woodlot in that 4 yr period (subject to the constraints in the woodlot license plan).
- The licensee would supply a notice to commence to the district office (as they currently do) to let them know where they will be operating & starting up (so that C&E can do inspections if they so desire)
- The licensee would submit electronically into RESULTS the block shapes once the harvesting was completed.

There are however a number of requirements that **MUST** be in place for it to apply:

- The CP has to be on tab rates
- There has to be a Woodlot License Plan in place (not a FDP)
- The district manager must be satisfied that the First Nations consultation for the area (whole

woodlot) is adequate.

Administratively the permit is set up in the system like a blanket salvage permit since it can be readily amended as you add more blocks. The CP will have a standard four year term. The application process is similar to a conventional CP except that there is no specific block data included although the FTA submission includes the next block name and assigns a floating generic area and volume projection. The permit and associated Hammermark will apply to all timber harvested in the WL (road, block, salvage). Under this permit there is no take or pay. Practices and performance requirements are as per WLP & MP. No more road permit application prior to construction but roads built will need to be amended into your road permit at the expiry of the CP (or before). Note new road admin processes still evolving so there could still be some changes here.

No application for specific blocks prior to harvest however you are still required to develop a PHP for each harvest area and notify MoFR at commencement (and you must provide the block name at that time). MoFR will set up the block name in FTA so that you are able to do the subsequent reporting. In terms

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

of road and block development - you will have more flexibility in making changes and adjustments to shapes and sizes during operations (rather than having to nail this all down at the layout stage) - since the spatial submissions will be post-development. That said the PHP requirements still require a map and stocking standards to be prepared and retained on file prior to harvest.

It is not clear yet on what the subsequent (post harvest) reporting requirement will be. The Federation is advocating that submission of data only need to be submitted every 4 years at expiration of the permit, however

this is contrary to the annual reporting requirement and ongoing need to update RESULTS (at least annually). We also think that it is risky to wait four years before reporting because it is too easy to lose or forget information so we advocate sticking with the annual reporting at a minimum.

One issue that has arisen relates to FN consultation depending on what commitments have been made in the WLP. If there is a commitment to share new road and block information with FN at the CP application stage then this process may need to be adjusted. ♦



Woodlot Licensees are invited to apply for the Minister's Awards of Excellence for Woodlot Management associated with site productivity gains, improved utilization and administrative streamlining. A woodlot licensee may be nominated by a woodlot association, another licensee, an individual, Ministry staff or the Federation. Annually one woodlot licensee from the Coast, Southern and Northern Interior Regions will be recognized and awarded \$2500.00. The application deadline is December 31.

For more information:

www.woodlot.bc.ca

(Min Award) ♦



Courtenay library manager Mari Martin (left) accepts a gift from Wolfram Wollenheit, president of the North Island Woodlot Association, which has donated the Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots coffee table book by Wim Tewinkel to the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

photo credit: Comox Valley Record



Telephone Support for using the Woodlot for Windows AAC program is available to all woodlot licensees or their representatives. Contact Mike Bandstra
ph: 250-847-4822; fax: 888-273-0209; email: mbandstra@forsite.ca ♦



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MFR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE BOARD

- The MFR letter found on pages 18-19 was sent to forest licensees on October 25, 2010 regarding Forest and Range practices Act (FRPA) s108 related to catastrophic damage to a stand prior to the achievement of free growing status. This letter applies to Woodlots as well under section 83 (1.1) and 83 (3) of the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation. This would be of specific interest to those Woodlots impacted by the 2010 wildfires, but would also apply to previous wildfire damage providing the damage did not occur before December 17, 2002. Note that the damage must cause significant extra expense in establishing the free growing stand and the woodlot owner did not cause or contribute to the fire. Although the letter indicates a submission timeline of December 1, FRPA 108 applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year. Information on the submission process can be found at: <http://lbis.forestpracticesbranch.com/LBIS/node/10>
- Two amendments to the Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Measurement Procedures Manual as follows:
 - 1) Amendment #16 in effect on October 1, 2010. "The purpose of this amendment is to amend the Waste Assessment Policy to provide waste relief for specific criteria."
 - 2) Amendment #17 in effect November 15, 2010. "The purpose of this amendment is to "Clarify the procedures for processing requests for relief from waste billing pursuant to the new Waste Relief section of the Waste Assessment Policy introduced in Amendment #16." Further information can be found at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/rwprocedures.htm>

■ from page 1

you the ability to create a map of your WL then overlay the spatial information required under S. 8 of the Woodlot Licence Planning & Practices Regulation. You can adjust the map scale, add as much or as little information as you want, make different maps depending on the type of information you want included, etc. Once you have the map set up the way you want, save it as a .pdf file. When you're ready, simply copy the files into the WLP template.

- If you are going to agree to meet a certain standard, e.g. stocking standards, then cut and paste them into your plan. Don't just refer to a table or standard stated in a particular document. Standards and the documents in which they are contained change over time. Better to insert the standards as they apply to your WL in the WLP now and avoid the risk of confusion later on. Remember, the standard is a legal commitment by which your performance will be measured!

- Be careful when making commitments. A woodlot licensee need only make commitments respecting topics required by legislation and/or regulation. It's great to agree to do extra stuff. Just remember that if it's in your approved WLP then you have incurred a legal obligation and any failure to fulfill an obligation may subject a licensee to compliance and enforcement action.

- Be aware of commitments with maintenance implications. For example, if you agree to build a drift fence to mitigate the loss of a natural range barrier, make sure to state that you are only responsible for construction!

- Get a copy of the WLP checklist from the MFR (now MFML). It's available at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/woodlots/woodlot-licence-management-plans.htm>. Pretend you're the district woodlot forester and go through the list. If you find an aspect of your plan lacking, so will the Ministry! Take the time to fix it up. You will save them and yourself time in the long run.

- If you're not sure ask your district woodlot forester. Trust me, it's way better to get it right in the first place than have a WLP go back and forth trying to get a result stated in measurable terms or rationalize an alternative performance requirement! I hope these tips help! ♦

Copies of the 2010 Woodlot Stewardship Video featuring Paul Galliazzo are available from Cathy McClary.

FSC for Woodlots

Lower costs for a new position in the marketplace

By Orrin Quinn, FSC Group Manager, Ecotrust Canada

While FSC certification has been in operation since the early 90s, certification for woodlots has only recently become a feasible pursuit. A new 'group structure' allows Ecotrust Canada to certify large numbers of woodlots, effectively lowering the costs to become certified. This group benefits from a 'group manager', who compares current practices against FSC requirements and works to address any gaps. This helps to streamline the certification process, making it less onerous for woodlot managers. Once certified, Ecotrust further assists its members with market expansion, and linkages to buyers seeking FSC-certified products.

We know that the green marketplace has grown considerably. While there are no guarantees of increased profits with FSC certification, the rapidly changing markets mean woodlots will also have to adapt to remain competitive. Larger companies such as Tembec, Isaak Forest Resources, Kalesnikoff Lumber, and the CFCI Group (large



Ecotrust Canada certified Brian Moore Log Homes of Abbotsford, recently producing one of the first FSC-certified log homes in Canada (Woodlot Licensee Rod Krimmer was the very first!).

FSC group formed on the mid-coast) have recognized the need to identify new opportunities, and FSC certification is one of them. Ecotrust Canada's interest in supporting FSC is based on its mission to promote the 'conservation economy', where businesses receive credit for their sustainable efforts. Woodlots are a prime example, where forest management standards go above and beyond those of mainstream operations, yet the economic, social, and ecological values of woodlot products go unrecognized. Ecotrust is also pursuing woodlot certification to support its growing Chain-of-Custody Group. This group has grown to 28 value-added producers who are demanding increased FSC supply.

Ecotrust is looking to change the model even further in partnership with the Federation of BC Woodlot associations. The economic challenge for woodlots has always been related to small economies of scale. Opportunities exist to reduce certification costs even more by bringing in multiple woodlots in an area. As well, cooperation amongst woodlot

managers can enable new market opportunities.

Over the coming months, Ecotrust's FSC Group manager, Orrin Quinn, will be completing the certification of several woodlots from the Boundary area. Further, Ecotrust plans to continue conversations with the Woodlot Product Development Council to explore the opportunity of a Federation-wide FSC Group, offering certification to those interested in accessing new markets and opportunities. Currently, Ecotrust has a handful of certified woodlots on Vancouver Island and is expanding its group throughout BC. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Orrin at orin@ecotrust.ca. ♦

**Limited copies of the Joint FBCWA/WPDC Annual Report for 2009-2010 are available.
Contact Cathy McClary to request a copy**

A forest full of opportunities

By Evelyn Hamilton and Wendy Cocksedge

Looking for ways to diversify your woodlot to manage for more than conventional wood products? The understory contains a wide range of natural resources, often called non-timber resources, which contribute to local livelihoods, economic diversity, wildlife forage, and the health of the forest. The Centre for Livelihoods and Ecology (CLE) at Royal Roads University can help you find the information you need to better understand the potential of these species. Working in partnership with First Nations, industry, communities and all levels of governments, the CLE (formerly the Centre for Non-Timber Resources) is improving the contribution of natural products and services to sustaining livelihoods and forest ecosystems.

The CLE and the B.C. Ministry of Forests has co-produced growing series of handbooks of interest to woodlot license holders who would like to determine how to manage their woodlot to sustain a range of non-timber resources.



These reports include:

- Understanding Non-timber Forest Products Activity on the Land Base. *An overview of how to identify current and potential NTFP use by recognizing harvest signs on the landbase.* <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Lmh/Lmh62.htm>
- Non-timber Forest Products, Tourism, and Small-scale Forestry: Income Opportunities and Constraints. *Suggestions for complementary management and marketing of services and products.* <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Lmh/Lmh63.htm>
- Compatible Management of Timber and Pine Mushrooms. *Determination of potential pine mushroom habitat and suggestions for compatible management of timber and pine mushrooms.* <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Lmh/Lmh64.htm>

- Non-timber Forest Product Development in British Columbia's Community Forests and Small Woodlands: Constraints and Potential Solutions. *Identification of compatible management barriers faced by managers of community forests and small woodlands, and suggested resources*

to overcome them. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Lmh/Lmh67.htm>

We welcome your feedback. For further information on the Centre for Livelihoods and Ecology at Royal Roads University, please visit www.royalroads.ca/cle or contact us at 250.391.2600 ext. 4328 or by email: cle@royalroads.ca.

Evelyn Hamilton is a retired B.C. Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands researcher and Adjunct professor with the Center for Livelihoods and Ecology at Royal Roads University, Victoria B.C. ehamilton@shaw.ca Wendy Cocksedge is the Ecology and Management Coordinator at the Center for Livelihoods and Ecology at Royal Roads University, Victoria, B.C. wendy.cocksedge@royalroads.ca. ♦

Limited supplies of the Booklet type calendars which can be used to record woodlot activities are available from Cathy McClary.

Minister's Award

By Sara Grady

The year is drawing to a close and the deadline for applications to the *Minister of Forests & Range Awards of Excellence for Woodlot Management* is fast approaching.

Readers will recall the introduction of this new program at the AGM this fall in Quesnel. Pat Bell, Minister of Forests, Range and Mines, was on hand to give \$500 awards to Alex Hartford, Anne Davidson and Rod Blake in recognition of the “true legacies” these licensees have created in woodlot management, a sector of the forest industry for which he has advocated so strongly during his tenure in the Legislature.

Mark Clark, President of the Federation stated that, “For these woodlot holders, like most of us, their woodlots are a lifetime undertaking. They manage their woodlots for values that are important today, but also with an eye to the future.” This new, annual award program seeks to reward other woodlot licensees for similar contributions, and raise the standard of business practices for operations throughout the province. The successful candidates – one from the Coast, Southern Interior and Northern Interior Regions – will receive \$2500 with the ‘top performer’ receiving a further \$1000.

Whether you are applying for the award yourself or nominating a fellow licensee, it's important to understand the criteria so that you can frame your application effectively. Submissions will be assessed based on three core categories: site productivity, improved utilization and streamlined administration and the panel has asked

that each section be limited to 300 words.

Site productivity includes elements such as planting genetically improved stock, using innovative silviculture systems – such as those which help seedlings withstand the changing climate – reclaiming or rehabilitating old roads and landings to promote productivity, and incremental activities such as spacing and fertilization.

Under the category of *improved utilization*, the panel will consider such practices as sending waste wood to bio-energy facilities, selling wood to non-typical markets as well as harvesting and marketing non-timber forest products. Licensees operating a private milling site, accessing markets for different species, fully utilizing woodlot resources by harvesting on steep slopes, wet ground or accessing lumber from public interface zones will also be awarded points.

Finally, the evaluation committee will consider steps taken to *streamline administration*. Whether you've introduced time-saving measures in the management of your operation or in your communication and reporting procedures with the Ministry, points will be awarded for increasing efficiency and cutting operational costs. If the procedures you've developed benefit other woodlots, or the delivery of the Woodlot program itself, your contribution will be given higher ranking.

Minister Bell has worked closely with the Federation over the years to raise the profile of woodlots and emphasize their importance to BC's

economy and ecology. This award demonstrates a continued commitment to encourage and support licensees by giving them incentives to improve their operations, raise the standard of resource management and maintain a reputation as a valued contributor to BC's forestry sector.

Applications should be submitted to the General Manager by December 31, 2010 and will be evaluated by a panel with representatives from the Ministry and the Federation. Forms and information can be found at www.woodlot.bc.ca. ♦



The Woodlot Licensee Annual Questionnaire is included in this issue of the Almanac. Please complete and return by January 31, 2011. The Questionnaire assists the WPDC & FBCWA Directors to determine priorities for spending of the levy in the coming year.

BC invites public review of forestry offset rules

VANCOUVER - The B.C. government is releasing proposed requirements for forest-based carbon offset projects that could help unlock new revenue for forest managers and help industry reduce emissions, announced Pat Bell, Minister of Forests, Mines and Lands.

“As a leader in forest management and climate action, the Province recognizes forest carbon is increasingly significant to global climate action,” said Bell. “Because forests absorb carbon dioxide, the vastness and diversity of our forests along with our outstanding management practices put us in an enviable position.”

14 The draft Forest Carbon Offset Protocol will guide development of offset projects on private and public land in B.C. Forest managers who undertake activities that meet the protocol requirements would generate offsets that they can sell on the carbon offset market. Activities would have to go beyond a “business-as-usual” approach and can include planting trees, restoring forests, harvesting and managing forests in new ways, and protecting sensitive areas from development.

“High-quality forest carbon offset projects play an important role in our Climate Action Plan,” said Minister of State for Climate Action John Yap. “We have to act now to meet our own climate action objectives and encourage other jurisdictions to follow suit.”

“British Columbia continues to be a global leader in climate policy,” said Professor James Tansey, executive director for ISIS at UBC’s Sauder

School of Business. The protocol will establish the highest possible benchmark for offset quality and jurisdictions across North America are likely to emulate it.”

Pacific Carbon Trust, one of the largest offset buyers in B.C., anticipates up to one third of its estimated one million tonne portfolio could come from forest carbon offsets.

“Forestry is one of B.C.’s most important natural assets, and has a significant role to play in B.C.’s growing offset market,” said Pacific Carbon Trust CEO Scott MacDonald. “This protocol has been developed to reflect the province’s unique forest management practices and will ensure B.C. offsets are high quality and credible.”

The protocol will position projects as viable within domestic and international offset markets, resulting in new economic opportunities for B.C., including First Nations.

“Through existing Reconciliation Agreements with the Haida and Coastal First Nations, the stage has been set for new opportunities relating to forest carbon offsets,” said Barry Penner, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. “This includes the new draft Protocol for public consultation that will support forest conservation, the planting of new forests and improved forest management offset projects to be developed.”

The public review period closes on Monday, Jan. 31, 2011. Final approval is expected in early 2011. To review the draft Forest Carbon Offset Protocol, visit: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/fcop.html>. ♦



Lost in their Woodlots

In our efforts to maintain an accurate mailing database, occasionally we need help finding some of our woodlot licensees. If anyone knows the current mailing address for any of the woodlots listed below, please contact Cathy McClary by phone: 1-888-925-9995; fax (250) 962-9199 or email: cjmclary@shaw.ca

W0193
W0244
W0258
W0259
W0298
W0375
W0397
W0439
W0455
W0533
W0548
W0600
W0608
W0613
W0627
W0657
W0659
W0695
W1186
W1188
W1425
W1491
W1521
W1542
W1686
W1770
W1803
W1855
W1912

2010 Woodlot Owner of the Year Announced

By Government of Nova Scotia

An Antigonish County family that manage a 190-acre woodlot in North Lochaber are the winners of Nova Scotia's 2010 Woodlot Owner of the Year Award.

"The Department of Natural Resources is proud to present the 2010 Woodlot Owner of the Year Award to Jim Webber and his family," said Natural Resources Minister John MacDonell. "Mr. Webber and his family have demonstrated outstanding innovations in integrated resource management."

The Webbers were chosen as the provincial winners for their excellent planning and management. The property has been salvaged from neglect and molded into a thriving woodlot, including 36 acres of blueberry farm, 10 acres of grassland, and a Christmas tree farm. The woodlot provides a source of income, a place for recreation, and a means to an enjoyable lifestyle.

Within a few years of purchasing the woodlot, Mr. Webber developed a management plan with the assistance of Scott and Stewart Forestry Consultants Ltd., following forestry trends, and updating his management plan to reflect the Forestry Stewardship Councils (FSC) Maritimes Standards.

The Webbers have been implementing sustainable practices since acquiring their woodlot, allowing only small areas of the woodlot to be harvested at a given time. This has fostered the development of uneven-aged stands and the maintenance of wildlife habitat.

The 2010 Woodlot Owner of the Year Award will be presented to the Webber family, along with their award as winners of the eastern region, at a public field tour of their woodlot on Oct. 2.

Other regional winners recognized are Dave Thomas and family of North Range, Digby Co., in the western region, and George Post and family of West River Station, Pictou Co., in the central region.

The Department of Natural Resources receives several nominations for the award each year. All nominations are evaluated by department staff for regional winners, while the provincial winner



Mark Clark, WPDC President

"It's Christmas! Go out and pick some boughs!"

is selected by a committee of two foresters, a wildlife technician, and an environmental studies undergraduate student.

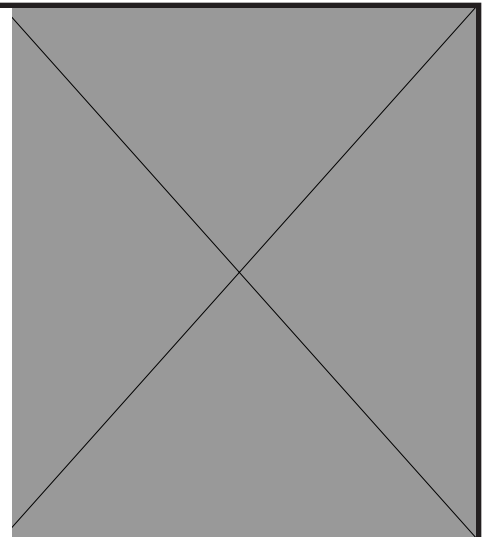
Nova Scotia residents who own 20 to 800 hectares of woodland in the province are eligible for woodlot owner awards. Nominations are accepted at Department of Natural Resources offices until April 15 each year. ♦

"Forest Life" makes a great gift

Are you looking for a great gift idea? Look no further! Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots by Wim Tewinkel showcases and celebrates BC's woodlots, woodlot licensees, and their families.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

You can order it from www.woodlot.bc.ca for only \$39.95, or woodlot licensees can buy it from their woodlot associations for only \$20.00 ♦





FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations Scholarship Award Information and Application Form

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received on or before April 29, 2011. 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. 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 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 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

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) type-written essay titled "As timber supplies in woodlots affected by the mountain pine beetle decline, how will woodlot businesses survive?" 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 B.C. 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 29, 2011



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Scholarship Award Application Form

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Educational Information:

Currently enrolled in: _____

Post Secondary School you plan to attend: _____

Program you will be registered in for 2011-12: _____

Relationship 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, has been a member of the which woodlot association and for how many years?

Extra-Curricular activities:

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)



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Ref. 125954

OCT 25 2010

Forest Licensees

Dear Sir/Madam:

If an eligible event, as described under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) s. 96 (1.1), causes damage to a stand prior to the achievement of free growing status, the minister, under authority of *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) s. 108 (2), must grant relief or provide funding to an obligation holder if the obligation on the area cannot be met without significant extra expense than would have been the case if the damage had not occurred. This relief or funding will only be granted if:

- i) the person did not cause or contribute to the cause of the damage;
- ii) the person exercised due diligence in relation to the cause of the damage; or
- iii) the person contributed to the cause of the damage but only as a result of an officially induced error.



As per Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) s. 96 (1.1), a damaging event is defined as:

- a) a wildfire;
- b) an outbreak of *Dothistroma* in a lodgepole pine plantation, if the plantation was established before July 31, 2006; or
- c) a landslide, or a flood, that makes it impossible to establish within 20 years of the commencement date a free growing stand on the area affected by the flood or landslide.

Obligation relief should only be recommended for those situations where the licensee can verify, for all intents and purposes, that they had achieved the free growing condition prior to the disturbance, but had not officially declared or where it is impracticable for the licensee to fulfil its silviculture obligation or where the district manager determines that the area was in a free growing condition prior to the disturbance.

For the purposes of verification, previous completed performance on free growing surveys, surveys of undamaged portions of the plantation, or the surveys of undamaged blocks with a

Ministry of Forests
and Range

Field Operations Division

Location:
3rd Floor, 1520 Blanshard Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 3K2
CANADA

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9525 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9C3

Tel: (250) 387-1236
Fax: (250) 953-3687

similar history in the vicinity could all suffice as proof for the test of “all intents and purposes.” However, verifying the results of activities involving the practice of professional forestry and the attainment of goals and objectives falls under the definition of professional forestry. In each of these cases, a professional forester should document and sign and seal a statement that verifies the area had attained free growing prior to the damaging event or that it is impracticable for the licensee to fulfil its silviculture obligation.

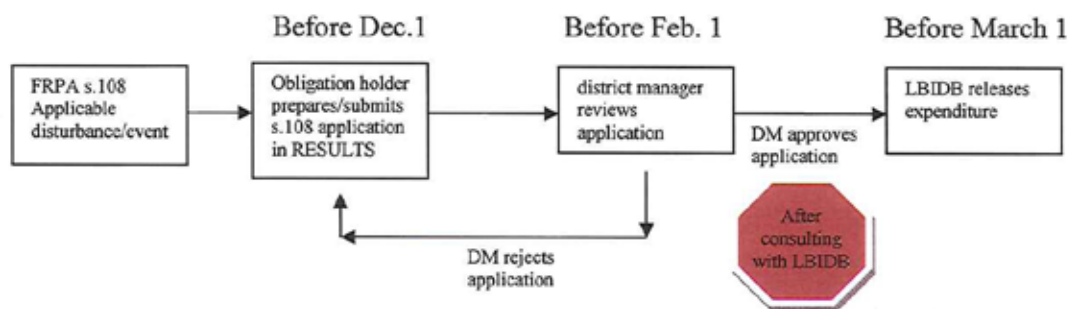
The person making the request for relief of the free growing obligation must provide to the district manager a signed and sealed declaration that:

- (a) identifies the area;
- (b) includes a statement of the extent to which the obligation had been met prior to the disturbance;
- (c) is signed by the person or on that person’s behalf by an individual or individuals authorized in that regard, and
- (d) specifies the date on which the declaration is made.

Application costs are not recoverable. However, some costs incurred in preparing an application may be recoverable if a case can be made that they were necessary for stand restoration, regardless of when they were incurred. In order for FRPA s. 108 applications to be processed in a timely manner all applications must be submitted through RESULTS.

While FRPA s. 108 applications can be submitted and processed throughout the year, for FRPA s. 108 funding to be released in an efficient manner it is recommended that all FRPA s. 108 applications be submitted before December 1st and that the district manager complete their review of these applications prior to February 1st. Following these suggested submission and review dates should allow for optimizing the payments of approved FRPA s. 108 funding applications to be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year. Regardless of the timeline, however, it is essential that the district manager be satisfied that an application is consistent with the requirements of FRPA s. 108 prior to approval even if that review takes the maximum one year as outlined in FPPR s. 96 (2).


The following timeline is suggested for the processing of FRPA s. 108 applications:



Funding for payments of approved FRPA s. 108 applications is now being managed by the Land Based Investments Delivery Branch (LBIDB). The LBIDB will work with district staff on the timing of approvals in conjunction with the overall budget for FRPA s. 108 payments.

Districts will be focused on processing any outstanding applications submitted for approval associated with the 2009 fires as soon as possible.

Please contact the local district office for further information.


Dave Peterson, RPF
Assistant Deputy Minister
Field Operations Division

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Log Buyer/Wood Supervisor

P.O. BOX 173
FAX: (250) 998-4558
EMAIL: dnelson@dunkleylumber.com

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
CANADA V2L 4S1

Merry CHRISTMAS

Advertising Rates

As a service to FBCWA members, the Woodland Almanac will make space available for non-commercial ads, free of charge. Commercial advertising space is also offered to enterprises at the following rates:

Business card\$50

Quarter page\$135

Half page\$175

Full page.....\$250

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

20

Thank you to our contributors for this issue

Blain Arnett

Mark Clark

Wendy Cocksedge

Sara Grady

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