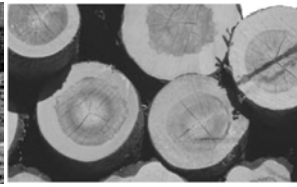




THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Fall 2011

The \$2 million question!

The next level of success in woodlot product development

By Mike Larock, President, Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC)

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Almost 20 years ago the leadership of our woodlot community invented a way for us to achieve common goals for woodlots: the 25 cent per cubic metre levy. And as a woodlot licensee myself, I'm

grateful that they did. For example, through WPDC's funding of the FBCWA, the levy benefits all of us.

Successive WPDC boards have prudently overseen our financial portfolio through good times and bad, and our cash assets have grown to \$2 million. It's time to revisit how best to use this asset to support woodlot development. This Almanac mailing includes a document that explains this planning project: why it's needed, how it will be done, and examples of what we could do.

Some may wonder why we're taking the unusual step of sending all of



Mike Larock working in the forest

you a 20 page report. We debated that too, but ultimately felt that this subject is too important to limit communication to a summary in the Almanac. The report was sent to the executive of all woodlot associations prior to the 2011 AGM and was

then presented to the AGM. We received excellent feedback on our aims, approach and timeline, and the revised document attached to this Almanac strives to reflect what we heard.

The final product of this planning work will be a report that provides options for use of our funds, and the costs and benefits of each option. We're not jumping to conclusions about what to do. Action examples include maintaining the status quo and just "keeping the money in the bank," cost-sharing the fees of specialist business advisors who would help individual

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www.woodlot.bc.ca

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licensees and groups of licensees, developing a coaching/mentoring program to link woodlot holders who have successfully diversified with licensees exploring new ideas, investing or loaning directly to woodlot businesses, or joining forces with others to create a permanent institute that will work on woodlot development projects. We have many options! A final draft of the plan will be sent to all licensees in next summer's Almanac, in advance of the 2012 AGM, and we'll make decisions after the 2012 AGM in consultation with the FBCWA.

Your feedback on this project is essential, and we especially welcome your ideas on how to productively invest our assets to help licensees. There are many ways for you to communicate your ideas. And there are draw prizes for the first round of feedback! We'll give a warm and stylish fleece vest to each of ten licensees who give us feedback by December 31, 2011. We'll be taking feedback into the spring, but the earlier you give us ideas, the better chance that they'll be incorporated into the plan.

The key point of contact for feedback is Cathy McClary, the WPDC coordinator. You can provide your feedback to her by phone, fax, email or post mail. You can also participate in the upcoming survey of all members on this project; email me and/or other WPDC directors; or talk to your local association directors. Future issues of the Almanac will report on this planning project, and about other ways to provide feedback. (See the inside page of the Almanac for email addresses and telephone numbers.)

This is a valuable and necessary step to achieve the next level of success in woodlot business development. I look forward to hearing from you: our rich diversity of views is our collective strength. ♦



Council directorship vacancies

Council directorship vacancies: The Woodlot Product Development Council is comprised of seven woodlot licensee directors representing the Northern Interior, Southern Interior, Coastal Forest Region and the Peace. The positions are staggered so that vacancies come up every year. The Council currently has a vacancy in the Coastal or Southern Forest Region. Directors are required to participate in the planning and carrying out of the Council mandate and to lead in the delivery of key projects. Council hosts ~10 teleconferences and two meetings per year. Meetings are held in March and at the AGM in the fall. Directors are compensated for travel expenses and the AGM registration fee. If you are interested in joining Council please contact any of the Directors or the WPDC Coordinator, Cathy McClary. ♦

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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. ♦

Fall and Winter 2011

Coastal Stumpage Rates continue to stay low

by Ed Hughes

John Marlow has now left for the jungles of Indonesia. I have taken on the Coastal Timber Pricing position since July. The Coastal Woodlot Licensees are beginning to rebound from depressed markets and a complicated stumpage system (the focus of many concerns and complaints over the past decade). Some of the stumpage highlights are noted as follows:



Ed Hughes,
Coastal Timber Pricing
Coordinator

equation, has been stalled. The MPS formula has not yet been approved and has been delayed until November. I will keep up to date with any changes to the MPS formula, but for now the impact will not increase stumpage rates for another year. If the formula is implemented, the magnitude of the increase will still be 30% of the predicted \$10/m³ change for major licensees .

If there is a new formula, there will still be an implementation period, for which the methodology has not yet been provided. There will be more to come regarding the MPS formula in the next almanac.

Tab vs MPS Rates – The option

The interpretation of the wording in section 7.2.1 (CAM), provided the option to either apply for cutting permits appraised using TAB or by completing a full MPS appraisal to set stumpage rates. Many coastal licensees have now used the TAB rates, both those with and without Extended Road Amortization Agreements (ERAA). This new interpretation, allowing the use of the TAB rates for those licensees with ERAA, has streamlined (along with the simplified Cutting Permit process) the appraisal process for both the Ministry of Forest, Mines, Lands and Natural Resources Operations and Licensees. Stumpage hurdles, the focus of years of complaints, have been reduced to the point where at the FBCWA AGM in Harrison there were no stumpage complaints.

The “stumpage holiday” does not mean that there should not be any attention put towards the continuous

adjustments that the stumpage system will undergo in the future. We must continue to keep up to date on what changes or adjustments are coming in the future.

Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee – Keeping up to date

The Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee meets periodically to communicate between industry and the Timber Pricing Branch. The meetings cover primarily major industry issues, with a few items related to Coastal Woodlots.

During the July meeting the Low Volume Cost Estimate (LVCE) was an item on the agenda identifying the threshold of 10,000m³ and the cost data used to calculate the rate as issues. There was a brief period of time where the cost data was considered to be out of date and a new cost survey was contemplated. The outcome is that a new cost survey is no longer being contemplated, in the short term. The threshold of 10,000m³ (requiring that either the CP volume or AAC is less than 10,000m³) has become an issue due to some new licensees keeping their AAC less than 10,000m³ so that they qualify for the LVCE. This should not be a problem for Woodlots yet, since most are on Tab rates and those who still have an option for MPS have AAC's less than 10,000m³.

New Appraisal Issues – Continuous communication

The Coastal Timber Pricing portfolio provides assistance to Woodlot Licensees upon request. If you have any concerns or issues I can be reached at 778-424-6129 or by email at ehughes2@shaw.ca. ♦

Tabular Stumpage 2012/2013 – The prediction

The Tabular Stumpage (TAB) for Coastal Woodlot Licensees for 2011/2012 were set at low rates as noted in section 7.2 of the Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM). The rates ranged from \$.25/m³ to \$.75/m³, which are all less than the buck that everyone in the past seemed to believe was good for the Woodlot sector. Although the final table for 2012/2013 has not yet been finalized, TAB rates are not expected to change substantially. The average TAB rate, based on information provided to me by Timber Pricing Branch, based on the first three quarters of the year (a full year of rates is used to produce TAB) is \$.41/m³. The rates by species will be provided before the end of 2011, for a more accurate prediction of the new rates for 2012/2013.

Market Pricing Formula – More to come

The warning provided by John Marlow from the MPS Technical subcommittee, that industry analysis predicted stumpage rates could increase by a magnitude of \$8.5-10/m³, as a result of the new stumpage

Portfolio Review

by Blain Arnett

I had the opportunity to attend the Woodlot Federation AGM at Harrison Lake on Sept 23 and 24. It was a good chance to meet with woodlot licensees, the area directors, the Woodlot Product Development Council and get up to date on woodlot events and news.

Since we have just completed our AGM I would like to give a brief summary of the Interior Timber Pricing portfolio activities in this report.

During the past year the interior stumpage portfolio has been quietly active by being involved with provincial and regional stumpage and timber pricing committees.

The committees are comprised of senior provincial Ministry of Forests personnel and Industry representatives. Usually a phone conference meeting is held every two weeks to discuss and make recommendations regarding technical timber pricing and stumpage issues. Decisions that impact policy are often made. The Federations participation with these committees is to ensure policy that effects woodlots is reviewed and discussed. Also it is very important to have a good working relationship with policy makers in Victoria. When we have questions we at least know who to phone and that person knows who we are.

The committees discuss everything from the softwood lumber agreement, to Timber Sale volumes and bids, to the low volume cost additive for woodlots.



Blain Arnett,
Interior Timber Pricing
Coordinator

Other activities under the portfolio include participation in monthly Woodlot Federation directors phone conference meeting, responding to licensees questions and attending the AGM and spring directors meetings.

The Tabular stumpage system most of use has provided a very stable and predictable stumpage method for our cutting permits. Current rates are around \$1.00 per m3. The tab rates are adjusted twice per year, the rates were recently updated on August 1 and the next adjustment is due at the beginning of November. Please link through our website to access the appraisal manual and check Table 6-2 for current rates, (I will post the rates in my next report).

Stumpage will likely remain stable over the next six months, lumber demand looks to be stable as well. The key marketing strategy for woodlots is to have permits ready and be able to sell into temporary log volume requirements at the mills. If mill log volumes are not being supplied for whatever reason, there may be opportunities to sell your volume at reasonable prices.

Good luck with your woodlot activities over the next few months. Please email or phone if you have any stumpage questions or hear of a log market that is too good to be true.

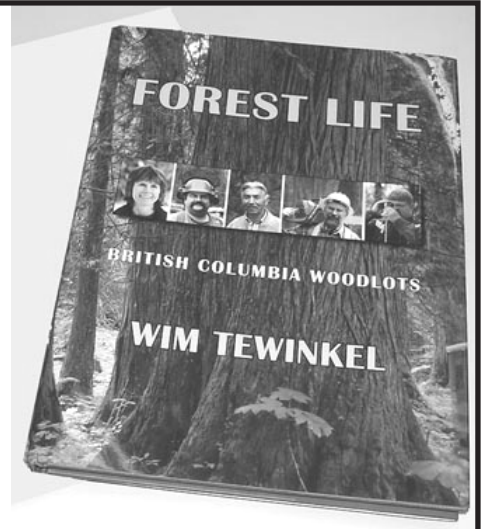
Contact me at 250-964-4105 or greggcreek@shaw.ca ♦

“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 ♦



2011 Annual General Meeting

Harrison Hotsprings, September 2011

Life Members inducted at Woodlot AGM

By Sara Grady

Woodlot Licensees from across the province gathered at Harrison Hot Springs for the joint Federation of BC Woodlot Associations/Woodlot Product Development Council Annual General Meeting and celebrated the addition of three new Life Members to the Federation's roster.

Len Bawtree, Wilf Chelle and Peter Kokowska were recognized for their significant and lasting contributions to the Woodlot program at a presentation during the AGM held at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Hotel in September.

Passionate and persistent, Len Bawtree acquired W0372 on December 1, 1985 as Ashton Creek Ranch Ltd. According to the publication *Ten Rings* - and his peers - he is considered a Federation builder thanks to his substantial involvement as a pioneer and leader in the organization. He has served as a Director or alternate Director since its inception and, in 1994, was a founding member of the Shuswap Okanagan Woodlot Association, of which he was President for many years. Most recently he's represented SOWA on the Land Resource Management Plan for the Okanagan Shuswap region. He has strived over the years to ensure that forestry and range policies 'are fully thought through and make sense' and continues to contribute to the improvement of the program.

Wilf Chelle, has been at the forefront of the Federation since its inception as

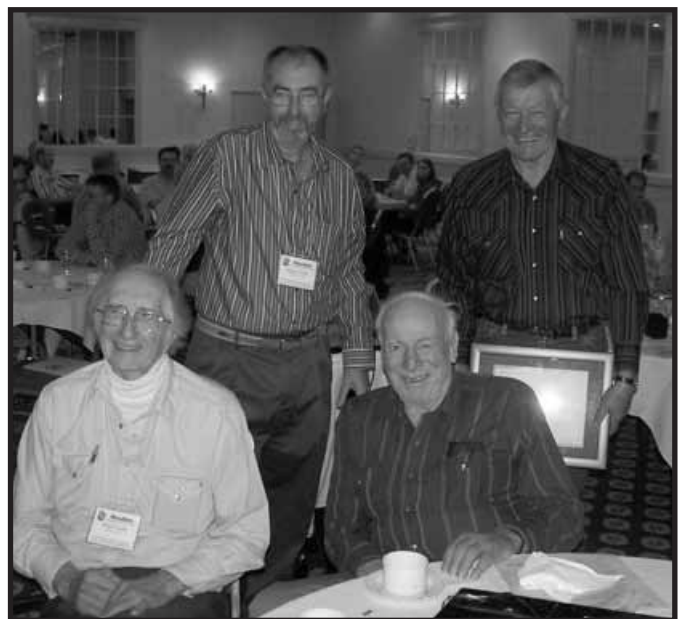
well, acting as a Director or alternate between 1988 and 1998. He was a founding member of the Woodlot Product Development Council, serving two terms as a Director from 1997-2002 and 2005-2011. As President of the Peace River Woodlot Association he works hard to keep the program alive and thriving, and has recently added another woodlot to his operation. A self-confessed pot-stirrer, Wilf is known and admired for his pragmatism and his strong advocacy not only for his region, but for small-scale sustainable forestry province-wide.

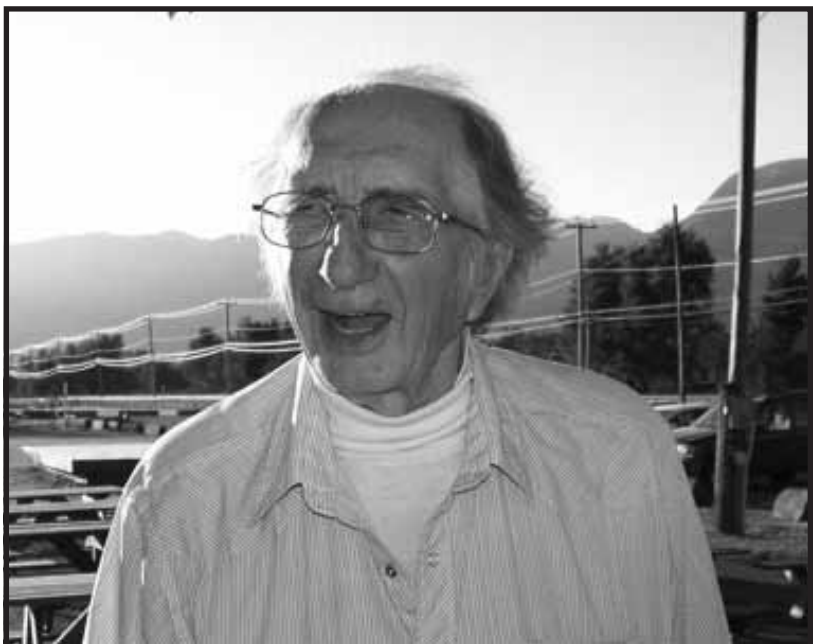
Peter Kokoska has the distinction of having the first woodlot license, W0001, which he was awarded July 24, 1984. In the words of his colleague, Brian McNaughton, "woodlotters are riding on his efforts." He's recently transferred ownership of this woodlot to another owner, but he paved the way for licensees with his practices. Operating "in a fishbowl" - a highly visible area in the Lower Mainland with considerable public interaction - he managed to balance the concerns of residents with the needs of his business. In addition, he was harvesting tough terrain that often required the use of helicopters. A former Vice President and President of the Fraser Valley Woodlot Association, he has been - and will remain - a strong supporter of the Federation and all its endeavours.

These three new Life Members represent a strong and vibrant past and form part of an even stronger foundation for future growth in the Woodlot program. ♦



Thank you to Matt Wealick and Kevin Webber of Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Forestry Limited Partnerships for organizing the field tour to Woodlot 0084. ♦





The Woodlot Product Development Council thanks Wilf Chelle for his many years as a director on the Council. Wilf is inviting all woodlot licensees to come to the Federation's 25th and the Council's 15th AGM in Fort St. John in the fall of 2012. ♦



Should you plant or promote natural lodgepole pine regeneration - or can hybrid methods give you the best of both worlds?

By: Alistair Schroff

In 2004 Bill Chapman and I contributed an Almanac article about planting vs. natural regeneration. In the summer of 2004 we carried out drag scarification (to encourage natural regeneration of lodgepole pine) and planted genetically improved spruce. We used this “hybrid” method in order to:



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- 1) Meet the regeneration obligation immediately by planting over the minimum number of well-spaced stems of a preferred species. We achieved a well-spaced stem density of 790 stems per hectare, where the minimum stocking standard was 700 stems per hectare.
- 2) Include spruce to improve stand diversity and prevent losses due to the hard pine stem rusts that affect our area. Mortality rates can exceed 50% of pine in highly affected areas like our woodlot.
- 3) Plant stock that is genetically improved to give a boost to stand productivity. This weevil-resistant stock had a genetic worth of 24% - representing roughly a 24% increase in volume at age 50.
- 4) Drag to supplement the stocking and exceed target density, further offsetting potential losses due to stem rusts and creating potential commercial thinning opportunities.
- 5) Reduce total stocking costs substantially. We saved about \$4000 on our reforestation costs or about \$200 per hectare compared to full planting at normal operational densities.

This was never intended to be a perfect scientific experiment! However, I can give you some numbers on how things look today, seven years after my wife and I planted the block with family and friends. I provide some more traditional “reference” numbers based on an adjacent block that was logged the year before by the same contractor, same season and system in the same site conditions and stand type. I surveyed the other block last year, so the figures for both blocks are “Year 7” figures. The numbers exclude the few residuals on site.

Variable	Block D 6 – Normal Planting, no Dragging	Block E 7 – Hybrid Method with Dragging and Planting at Reduced Density
Planting Density (sph)	1300	790
Total Conifer Density Yr 7 (sph)	2160	3220
Total Well-spaced Stems Yr 7 (sph)	1280	1160
Total Free-Growing Stems Yr 7 (sph)	920	620
Natural Ingress – Pine (sph)	860	2430



Some observations:

- 1) Dragging increased the ingress by about 1600 sph. It also improved the coverage of natural regeneration across the site. The cost of this additional natural regeneration is about ten cents per tree, compared to about fifty cents per tree for planted stock.
- 2) Well-spaced density is similar between the two blocks.
- 3) The hybrid block is about 1 to 2 years "behind" the full planted block in terms of achieving free growing status.

These blocks were pre-mountain pine beetle, and I was interested to see Blain Arnett's anecdotal ponderings in the Summer Almanac on whether more natural ingress was possible on mountain pine beetle salvage blocks. I think that in general we should expect to see more ingress on mountain pine beetle salvage areas, but results will vary.

As always the natural ingress of pine will depend on cone distribution, amount of viable seed in the cones, and the suitable seedbed. Dry trees are more prone to scattering their cones, but the dead trees are not making new cones and the viability of seed

does decline over time (somewhat). Whether or not more suitable seedbed is created depends on site disturbance, which varies by season, harvesting methods and site conditions. I was surprised when I looked at our most recent salvage block. It was an area of small dead pine salvaged for posts and rails. Due to breakage there was a natural corduroy effect and less ground disturbance than you would expect from summer harvesting.

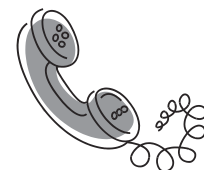
So would we use the hybrid approach in the future? The short answer is yes, we were happy with the results. However, planting almost 800 stems per hectare was excessive. Even where you have stem rust problems planting 500 stems per hectare of spruce should be plenty in most cases. I should note that the choice to plant 800 stems per hectare was my choice and not Bill Chapman's recommendation! If conditions are suitable there may be no need for planting whatsoever, you can get away with just dragging for naturals. If economics of salvage are tight, then a serious look at natural or hybrid natural / artificial regeneration is advisable.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at forestreeguy@yahoo.com.



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). ♦

The FBCWA has a number of items that would make great gifts for Friends, Family, Contractors and others on your list. Items in stock include Screen-printed logo on T-shirts and Coffee Mugs, Embroidered FBCWA logo on golf shirts, oilskin ball caps and knitted toques. Order through the WPDC coordinator, Cathy McClary. ♦



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 ♦

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 cjmccclary@shaw.ca.

Boundary woodlotter recognized for outstanding contributions

By Sandra Grady

It's not often you meet someone who speaks about their job in terms of centuries. In fact, if you're having that conversation, there's probably a woodlot licensee in the room. These unique forest stewards approach their vocation with their vision set far into the future, managing a precious resource that will provide social, environmental and economic benefits not only for the present, but for generations to come.

George Delisle is one such steward, and his efforts were recognized this summer by MLA John Slater, who named him winner of the Minister's Award of Excellence for Woodlot Management for the Southern Interior. Launched in 2010, the award program assesses three core categories: site productivity, improved utilization and streamlined administration. Its intention is to encourage and support licensees by giving them incentives to improve their operations, acknowledge their



MLA John Slater and George

exemplary efforts, and help maintain woodlotter's reputation as a valued contributor to BC's forestry sector.

We've all heard the adage "can't see the forest for the trees". Delisle's uncanny ability to see both makes him an extremely effective woodlot manager. A self-taught forester and silviculturalist, Delisle spent 27 years looking at the forest through the lens of a large lumber mill before redirecting his energies to his 730 hectare tenure in Rock Creek, part of BC's scenic Boundary-Similkameen region.

His approach to forest management is a tempered blend of productivity and preservation, and while his methods don't always conform to conventional practices, the health of his woodlot speaks to their effectiveness. Eschewing the use of fertilizers to improve yields, Delisle instead adheres to a system of thinning, spacing and pruning, giving more room, water and light to the remaining stock. The resulting improvement in growth is significant, as evidenced by the even spacing of

the rings on the "cookies", the growth lines on cross-sections of timber from recent harvests.

In addition to improving the quality of timber, clearing the forest floor of debris and pruning lower branches – or ladders – removes fuel that would aid in the spread of wildfires. While this season was damper than most, Delisle attended a flare-up near his property that was the result of a lightning strike, and it's not the first fire he's fought. Despite the current government policy of letting nature take its course and allowing remote forests burn, he is committed to preserving the trees and not allowing fires to spread out of control. In his words, "fire is a blunt instrument compared to harvesting and spacing on a forest." He doesn't try to replace Mother Nature on the job, though, just nudge her in the right direction.

Mother Nature also gets a nudge when it comes to species selection, though Delisle simply takes clues from the signals she gives. As the terrain grows and changes, certain varieties establish themselves in spaces they hadn't occupied previously. By watching this shift, Delisle is able to supplement a stand with additional planting and take advantage of the favourable conditions that have emerged. He's also acutely aware that he is sharing his woodlot with indigenous wildlife; as a result, he has a management regime that ensures the preservation of habitat which exists without the need for formal Wildlife Tree Patches. For example, he has a well-established population of "cavity-nesters" – birds that build their nests in tree trunks – such as the rare Williamson's Sapsucker, which prefers cedar nesting sites.

Please note:

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



By “listening to what the forest” tells him, Delisle has managed to grow stronger trees faster, and he’s committed to producing high-quality lumber for timber frame construction and log homes. He firmly believes that BC can establish itself as a premier source of material for this market, though it will take patience and a willingness to sacrifice quantity for quality to a certain extent. While growing regions to the far south – such as Brazil – can turn their harvest cycle in a mere 15 years, our climate dictates a cycle in excess of 100 years, however the resulting product is stronger and more appealing for the premium lumber market. Delisle runs his woodlot on a 20-year selective harvest cycle and sees a strong future for his tenure well into the future.

However, one of Delisle’s concerns – one that he shares with many licensees and stakeholders – is the lack of young families applying for woodlots. One suggestion he put forward is an incentive-based program, whereby a young person could “earn the right to manage a woodlot”. For example, a ‘gift’ of 10 hectares of Crown land could be given to an individual, and could be managed for a set period of time. The silviculture practices could be assessed and, upon successful management of the 10 ha parcel, a participant could manage increasingly larger proportions until they could obtain a license and, therefore, cut and draw income from the land. However youth are engaged, it’s definitely an issue that’s top-of-mind for Delisle as he looks to the future of the program.

As MLA John Slater said when presenting him with the award, “George is clearly committed to education and continuous improvement in forest management... I have no doubt George’s woodlot will be a resounding success for many years.”

Centuries, even. ♦

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.
- Buy BCwild is an annual directory of BC Businesses that offer natural and wild products and services. It is published by the Centre for Non Timber Resources at Royal Roads University. For more information: www.BuyBCwild.com. ♦



Al Waters in his Christmas tree Farm directly north of the Victoria airport. These trees were 1+0 415D special Christmas tree seedlings that Al transplanted in a soil bed for a year before planting in February 2010. Al intensively manages the trees on a 4-5 year rotation. Trees are planted on a 6 by 6 foot square spacing where the rows running north-south have been sprayed with herbicide to reduce vegetative competition and allow maximum benefit from fertilizer treatments. If you want to chat with Al, call him at 250-255-7008. ♦

British Columbia Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative (AIDI)

By David Trotter
Minister of Agriculture
Abbotsford, BC

The Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative supports the development and adoption of agroforestry practices and the new provincial agroforestry strategic plan published in 2009 guides the development priorities and activities needed to expand industry participation (available at www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/). This is Phase two of the Initiative which carries forward from Phase one that was delivered through the Federation from 2003-2009.

The AIDI supports innovative projects from individuals and/or groups that address one or more of the Initiative's strategic goals:

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1. Develop the business case for agroforestry practices in British Columbia;
2. Improve market connections for agroforestry products and services;
3. Demonstrate agroforestry practices to showcase operational examples of agroforestry systems;
4. Improve agroforestry awareness, extension and education; and,

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. ♦

5. Expand and strengthen partnerships among agroforestry practitioners and stakeholder organizations.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) have allocated \$421,000 dollars of funding to match industry contributions to implement the AIDI's goals through 2013. In British Columbia, this program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF). The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations administers the AIDI with the guidance of the Agroforestry Management Committee (AMC). The AMC consists of twelve voting industry members and six non-voting ex-officios and technical advisors from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Investment Agriculture Foundation. A part-time financial Administrator (Nancy Pezel) and Project Development and Communication Manager (George Powell) have been hired to facilitate the Initiative. The call for proposals was initiated on September 21, 2011 and further information on the AIDI, and links to the application guide and forms are found on the following websites: www.agroforestry.info or www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry. ♦



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MFR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE BOARD

- Woodlot Licences – Interim Guidance: Roles and Responsibilities of woodlot licensees, government staff and forest professionals (version 1.0) (see letter and table on the following pages)
- The Provincial Waste Manual has been revised and now includes best practices for ocular waste estimates. For the changes go to: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HVA/external/!publish/Web/Manuals/RWProcedures/2005/RWProceduresAmendNo19.pdf>
- The Tender Package for Intending Applicants for a Woodlot Licence has been revised effective July 2011. The revisions were made to incorporate recent changes to the Forest Act, which now preclude individuals or corporations that hold one or more ineligible licences that together have an aggregate allowable annual cut greater than 10,000m³ from applying for and being awarded a Woodlot Licence.

Woodlot Licences - Interim Guidance:

Roles and Responsibilities of woodlot licensees, government staff and forest professionals (version 1.0)

File: 19720-00IPProfessional Reliance
September 14, 2011

This follows up on the memo dated May 25, 2011 from Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, titled Advancing Professional Reliance.

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP), the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) has developed a matrix to guide the use of Professional Reliance (PR) for woodlot licences. The matrix is intended as interim guidance and is expected to be a positive contribution to the work plan being developed by the PR steering committee. The matrix does not represent legal advice and is not intended to fetter the discretion of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or delegated decision makers. In the event of a conflict between this guidance document and the relevant acts, such as the *Foresters Act*, the *Forest Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, etc., the wording of the Acts will prevail.

Additional consultation with other professional organizations and government regulators to further refine and define roles and responsibilities will be based upon this interim document.

The PR initiative has implications that are somewhat unique to woodlot licences. In summary, PR can significantly increase costs and workloads since most woodlot licensees must acquire professional services by retaining consultants.

Some woodlot licensees, a portion of who are forest professionals, question whether professional reliance provides good value for the money when applied to certain tasks or activities. There are also some forest professionals who question why the practice of professional forestry work is being undertaken by individuals (licensees) who are not registered forest professionals.

With this in mind, the FBCWA, ABCFP and FLNRO has collaborated on finding ways to achieve a better balance of:

- protecting the public interest; and
- achieving the objectives of government without significantly increasing the financial burden on woodlot licensees.

This was done by first examining the different activities/responsibilities undertaken by woodlot licensees and

comparing that to the component requiring the practice of professional forestry. Secondly, an assessment was completed on whether or not the activity/responsibility already contained a credible and accountable proportion of professional service. For example, a vegetation inventory containing the work of a forest professional can be used by a woodlot licensee for the purposes of management planning and the licensee should not be required to have the inventory checked, signed and sealed for the management plan. If required, this would amount to a repetition of professional work. Thirdly, by looking at what was practical and reasonable which was then summarized in the attached matrix.

The matrix will be a useful resource for the woodlot licensees, government staff and professionals. However, we do not consider our work complete with the joint distribution of this matrix. We recommend continued work on the following key items:

1. Creating an equal balance between accountability and professional judgment;
2. Encouraging collaborative dialogue between professionals;
3. Communicating the requirement for professional rationales as a professional practice standard; and
4. Connecting PR success with forest legislation and levels of compliance.

These items are from the ABCFP publication, entitled *Assessing Professional Reliance in the Forest Sector: Improving Professional Reliance*, January 2010, Pages 7, 8 and 9.

The matrix and the four items identified above will provide a basis for discussion between and among the ABCFP, various ministries, other professional organizations and government regulators and woodlot licensees as the concept of PR matures and evolves. It also provides a resource for consideration by individual branches as current and future guidance and requirements are reviewed, revised and developed.

As this is interim guidance, further discussion is anticipated and welcomed. In particular, there are likely some topic areas and activities that will generate more input and discussion in determining the roles and responsibilities of the licensee vs. the professional. In the immediate future, comments can be directed to the authors noted below

Future activities may involve striking a peer group (e.g. joint practices working group) to address one or more of

these topic areas and/or activities. It is also anticipated that a website will be created at a later date to receive comments, establish a "frequently asked questions" site and promote respectful communication.



Dale Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division



Sharon Glover, Chief Executive Officer
Association of BC Forest Professionals

The following table is provided for information and general guidance and does not represent legal advice. It is not intended to fetter the discretion of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or delegated decision makers. In the event of a conflict between this guidance document and the relevant acts, such as the *Foresters Act*, the *Forest Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, etc., the wording of the act will prevail.

Each woodlot licensee is responsible for ensuring the practice of professional forestry is upheld, where and when required, for activities on their Woodlot Licence. This may require obtaining independent legal advice from their own sources.

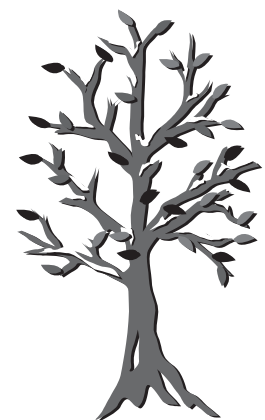
If a licensee has any doubt or questions as to whether or not a practice on their woodlot licence falls under the practice of professional forestry, it is strongly recommended they contact the Association of BC Forest Professionals or staff at their local Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations office. ♦

Topic	Activities	Licensee &/or Professional	Comment
Application for new WL	Verification that private land is suitable as forest land	RPF/RFT	Description of the private land including its suitability as forest land, productivity and current stocking.
		RPF/RFT	<input type="checkbox"/> While not truly the practice of professional forestry, to advance expansion of the WL Program, the FBCWA and MFLNRO agreed that distance between Crown Land and private land parcel(s) and attestation as to the legal ownership. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a case of the ministry using professional licensure to secure factually correct information.
Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal description and ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Distance between Crown land and private land parcel(s)	Licensee & RPF/RFT.	<input type="checkbox"/> A woodlot licensee may opt to: <input type="checkbox"/> have their entire Management Plan (MP) signed and sealed by a professional, or <input type="checkbox"/> only have those elements of the MP which involve the practice of professional forestry signed and sealed For further guidance go to Appendix I.
Woodlot Licence Plan	Default performance requirements	Licensee	
	Alternative performance requirements, measures or strategies	RPF/RFT	A woodlot licensee must have the elements of a WLP that involve alternative performance requirements and/or results & strategies and measures signed and sealed by a RPF/RFT.
	WLP amendments	RPF/RFT	RPF/RFT unless amendment is to accept a default performance requirement.
FTA	CP/RP application and FTA submission	Licensee	A woodlot licensee can do a FTA submission themselves or use a service provider. NOTE: A FTA submission by a non-professional for a market based pricing system (MPS) cutting permit/road permit must be supported by accountable information and professional judgement exercised by a RPF/RFT.
Site Plans	Site Plan for harvesting of a CP or cutblocks approved under the Forest Practices Code; i.e. shown in a FDP	RPF/RFT	Must be signed and sealed by a RPF/RFT.
	Site Plan for harvesting of a CP or cutblocks approved under FRPA; i.e. as per a WLP.	Licensee	For due diligence and other reasons, it is recommended that a licensee prepare and sign a site plan for areas to be harvested under a WLP. It doesn't have to be signed and sealed by a professional since harvesting must be done in accordance with the WLP.
Pre-Harvest Map (FRPA)	Pre-Harvest Map (site plan) for licensees under a WLP on file.	Licensee	RPF/RFT seal and signature not required.
Appraisals	Tab Rates – Miscellaneous Appraisal Data Submission	Licensee	Licensee simply accepting rates established in the Coast or Interior Appraisal Manuals do not need to utilize the services of a professional.
	MPS – relates to WLs with Extended Road Amortization Agreements	RPF/RFT	Appraisal data submissions require RPF/RFT signature.
Cutting Permit Cruising	Cruise plans, cruising & compilations (MPS permits only). Does not apply to tab rate permits.	Licensee	Procedurally based cruise planning, data collection and compilations do not have to involve a RPF/RFT. However, as noted above under "Appraisals", a professional takes responsibility for this work when they sign and seal the MPS appraisal submission.
Scaling	Scaling timber	Licensed scaler	Scaling must be done by a licensed scaler. A RPF/RFT cannot sign and seal in place of a licensed scaler.

Hazard Abatement	Reduce fire hazard so activity does not increase risk of fire start and if a fire were to start, would not increase fire behaviour or fire suppression associated with a fire.	Licensee, qualified holder or RPF/RFT	WL licensee must abate (reduce) hazard as required by the Act & regulation or as specified by a professional forester or RFT. Time frames different for interface vs. non-interface areas
Silviculture Surveys	Includes the following surveys: <input type="checkbox"/> reforestation, <input type="checkbox"/> regeneration, <input type="checkbox"/> stocking surveys, and <input type="checkbox"/> free growing	Silviculture Accredited Surveyor (SAS), RPF/RFT or licensee under supervision of a professional	Silviculture surveys, and all related works, must be conducted or supervised by a Silviculture Accredited Surveyor (SAS), RPF or RFT. A licensee or non-professional can do procedurally based survey work under the supervision of a forest professional. Management &/or treatment recommendations and declarations that accompany a survey report must be done by a forest professional.
RESULTS	RESULTS submissions	Licensee/non-professional (e.g. service provider), RPF/RFT	RESULTS submissions may be done by any one providing the survey data and report, done as per the "Silviculture Survey" (above) requirements are documented and on file.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free growing declarations, and Regeneration delay declaration (if required) 	Licensee/non-professional (e.g. service provider), RPF/RFT	<p>A woodlot licensee has responsibility to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> that a free growing stand is established (FRPA); <input type="checkbox"/> that a free growing survey is conducted (WLPPR) using an Silviculture Accredited Surveyor (SAS) or an RPF/RFT; and <input type="checkbox"/> that a Free Growing declaration and the associated inventory information is entered into RESULTS accurately and at least once per calendar year. <p>NOTE: A FG submission may be made by a non-professional providing it is supported by a free growing declaration signed by a RPF/RFT; i.e. the declaration is on file.</p>
Waste	Assessment	RPF/RFT or A logging residue surveyor or scaler, licenced by the MFLNR.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed waste assessments must be submitted by: - RPF/RFT, or - A logging residue surveyor or scaler, licenced by the MFLNR. <input type="checkbox"/> It is the licensee's responsibility for ensuring that the work is carried out in compliance with ministry standards and requirements. (Source: Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Measurement Procedures Manual; Chapter 1 – Policy Administration – directive signed by Dana Hayden on Jan. 13, 2011.)
	e-submission & declaration	Licensee, Prof or surveyor	e-WASTE submissions requires either a RPF/RFT, surveyor licence #, or declaration that you are the licensee.
Remediation	Plans, implementation of plan and supervision of work	RPF/RFT	<input type="checkbox"/> When a woodlot licensee's operation contravenes legislation, approved WLP or harvesting authority, then the licensee must request an ABCFP member to assess the situation then prepare, sign and seal the required remediation plan. <input type="checkbox"/> The woodlot licensee, with assistance from the ABCFP member, supervises implementation of the remediation plan and conducts any post-treatment assessments that are required.
Controlled Burns	Prepare, approve and report prescribed burn plans	RPF/RFT	The planning, monitoring and reporting of a fuel treatment for hazard, silviculture or some other purpose is the practice of professional forestry.

NOTICES:

- BC's Forest Community Launches online Wood Market Place: www.WoodSourceBC.com is a free marketing tool designed to help BCCFA members, woodlot licensees, First Nations, private forest landowners, re-manufacturers and others to access up to date information on the availability of wood products within BC's forest communities. This website will provide buyers and sellers the ability to market themselves to a wider network of BC's wood users. The creation of this website was guided by input from 140 forest community members at 12 community meetings across the province.
- The provincial government Business Application Support Section (a.k.a. APPHELP) has new phone numbers: 250-952-6801 or toll free 1-866-952-6801. ♦



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to our contributors for this issue

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“A woodland in full color is awesome as a forest fire, in magnitude at least, but a single tree is like a dancing tongue of flame to warm the heart.”

~ Hal Borland



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