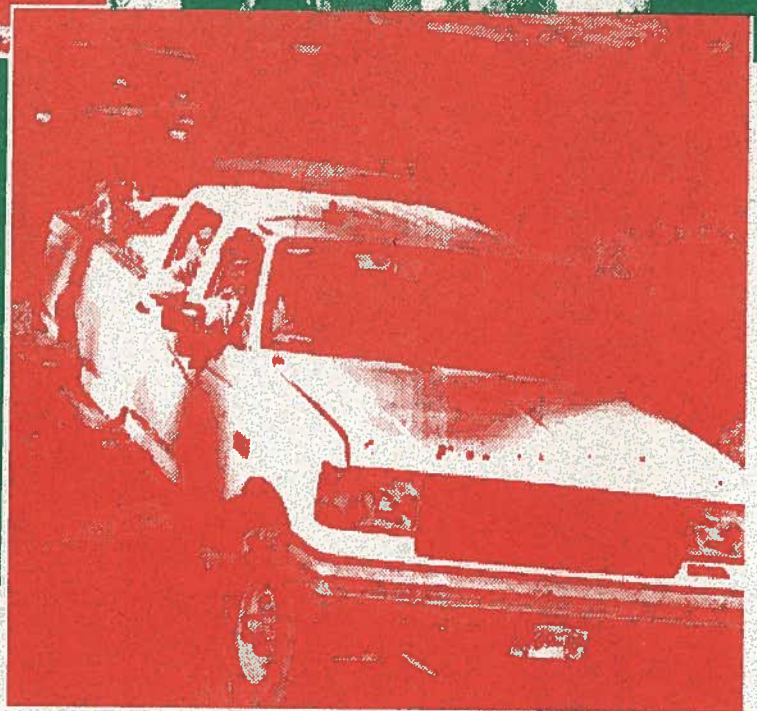
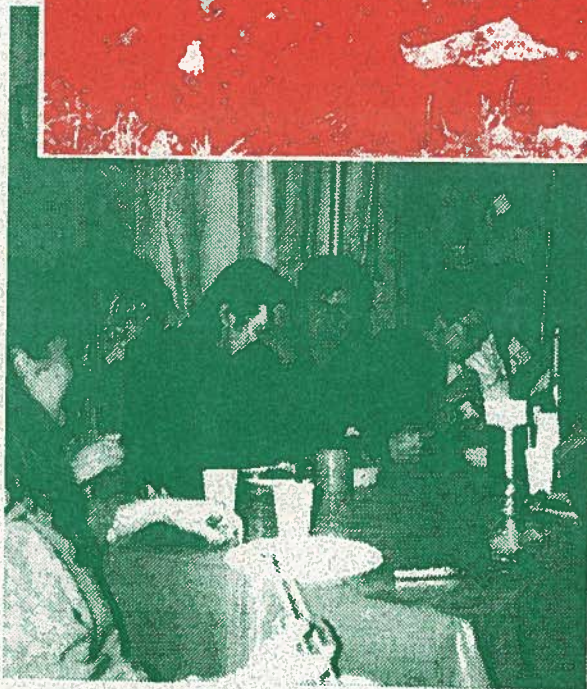


WSCA

Fall 1990

N E W S L E T T E R



**B.C. Minister of Forests Agrees
to Entrench Silviculture Worker
Health & Safety in the Forest Act**

Western Silviculture Contractors Association

Newsletter FALL 1990

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The WSCA Newsletter is published by the Western Silviculture Contractors Association three times a year.

Opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent the views of the WSCA.

This Newsletter was produced by Gordon Murray and Claude-Michel Prévost of *GraphiCoe*™

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W.S.C.A. Newsletter Subscription Notice

Mailing of free newsletters has become a financial hardship the WSCA cannot afford to continue. In the past we attempted to send the newsletter to everyone we thought would be interested. We will soon have to cut back our mailings. If you want to be sure of receiving each issue, please become a subscriber or a member. See page 36 for more information.

Editorial

A Season of Change

Claude Richmond, B.C. Minister of Forests, has agreed to work towards entrenching the responsibility for health & safety in the Forest Act (See pages 8 and 12 for more details) This, coupled with Employment Standards Branch's plans to enforce ESB regulations more seriously and WCB's manual (in progress) on Silviculture Worker Health & Safety, will make life more difficult for contractors who try to play the margins of legality.

Levelling the Slash Pit

The changes in enforcement of standards will create a level slash pit in the dimension of employee working conditions. The changes should be welcome to all reasonable contractors—those who are cutting corners because they feel the market compels them to, as well as those who refuse to compromise health and safety. It is time for all contractors to recognize that the success of our industry depends on healthy, safe and fairly paid employees.

Van Accidents

The biggest single event of the season was the deaths of eleven planter in vehicle accidents. That is one death for every thousand planters working. I've talked to some of the survivors of these accidents, these students went tree planting believing that good business practices were in place in the silviculture industry.

The planter in the B.C. accident who crawled back onto the road (despite severe injuries) and kept a second van from going off of the bridge is a hero who deserves our thanks.

These were accidents that could have happened to any of us. Both vehicles were in reasonable mechanical shape. The drivers were in normal exhaustion states after long shifts. In both cases most passengers were asleep and not wearing seatbelts. Both drivers were young, inexperienced with heavily loaded vans.

The Alberta van clipped a sign as went off the road. The stump of the sign stripped the drive-shaft out from under it leaving it without power. It began to flip end and side over five times, its common removable centre seats (with seat-belts attached to the seat, not the

floor) disengaging—it was a miracle anybody survived.

WCB Premiums to Rise

In the B.C. accident an Alberta vehicle with Saskatchewan insurance working in B.C. for an Alberta Contractor (Evergreen) who has a different company (Vin law) contracting in B.C. for a logging company (Carrier) which using a Forest Service road (no Ministry of Transport responsibility) during the heaviest rain storms B.C. has seen (an act of God). At the time I talked to them the survivors had been told that neither WCB nor insurance coverage was available.

WCB did cover the Alberta victims. It offered \$2900.00 to the families of the deceased for their expenses. I am told that the average claim in Alberta for a death is \$250,000, nearly one hundred times what was being offered planters. This accident represents \$2,750,000 in potential claims when WCB was already planning to increase their rate for silviculture. Expect giant premium increases in Alberta.

Primary Contractor Responsible

Fifteen years ago, Alberta Occupational Health & Safety cleaned up contractors' safety lapses in the oil patch by making the primary contractor (Dome, Shell, Nova etc.) responsible for safety. AOHS has served notice that they are going to do the same for reforestation.

AOHS have said Alberta Forest Service is responsible for the Alberta vehicle accident even though the crew had left the jobsite to go and work in B.C.. The forest industry and AFS will be made responsible for enforcement of contractors safety practices. Alberta reforestation contractors were advised

by AOHS & AFS on July 27, 1990, "If you are not completely conforming, don't bother to plan to work in 1991."

In 1985, B.C.'s WCB commissioners also ruled that the Ministry of Forests is the primary contractor when they contract out. Thus, the responsibility for enforcement of WCB regulations lies with MOF.

After the accidents this spring, it is not surprising that Claude Richmond has responded positively to our request for legislation to enforce health and safety issues through the forest act. This will require on-going active support from the contracting community to finally get it pushed through.

At the same meeting, Richmond assured the WSCA of progress on camp standards, the pesticide and herbicide issues and the enforcement of safety and first aid regulations (see page 12).

Standards and Safety Enforcement

At the WSCA regional meeting in Nelson, a contractor pointed out that the lack of drying facilities on the ill-fated Prince George contract may have been a partial cause of the planters' trip to town and the George Creek accident. Further investigation reveals that the drying tent was up but the stove was not set up. The planters are reluctant to say they went to town because they were wet—they say they just wanted a break. They had been on a seven day shift, following a sixteen day shift.

The circumstances are too familiar for all of us not to recognize how close our industry operates to a dangerous precipice. We are compelled to change our practices and prevent further tragedies.

In reviewing these incidents, the only effective and simple way to enforce safety standards is to include them in the contract and give enforcement authority to the contract administrator.

This will require very level headed persons are selected for this crucial role. It will be increasingly difficult for forestry summer students to enforce such a wide range of standards. We will all be looking even more urgently for common sense from our contract administrators.

Employment Standards

In the spring of 1990, B.C.'s Employment Standards Branch emerged with a surprise announcement: the deducting of fines from

planters was declared legal (after 15 years of claiming this practice is illegal). Most contractors achieve this by averaging the fines over their crew.

When the WSCA pointed out to ESB that they had authorized wages being deducted from planters as a result of the poor quality by others, they were embarrassed. They promised to change this policy and review other features of the industry: such as overtime payments, regular time off, lack of pay for extra work like camp set-up and biweekly pay.

Most contractors have complex agreements on which their operations profits depend. For example, instead of paying biweekly, they finance their

operations with the planters pay. Enforcing the Employment Standards Regulations in each of these areas will mean significant changes for some contractors. Combining the ESB changes with the enforcement changes in health and safety regulations, will dramatically change the silviculture workers' experience and ensure the long term health of the industry

Will it still be fun? In an era of global warming, with the number of climatic anomalies increasing rapidly, our weather dependant business will surely continue to deliver authentic adventure and surprise for the worlds' highest paid peasants

WSCA News Briefs

MOH Says Compliance has slipped

Andy Hazelwood of the Ministry of Health claims "there is absolutely no question" that compliance with camp standards has deteriorated since 1987. He went on to say that he expected the Forest Service to enforce standards because the Ministry of Health could not enforce the standards throughout the industry "even with quadruple the staff."

B.C. Silviculture Commitment

Forests Minister Richmond denied charges by NDP MLA Dan Miller that \$5 million has been cut out of the reforestation budget. "In fact, this year the silviculture budget increased by 6.4% or \$15.2 million," he said.

The total budget for this year is \$250.6 million. As well as the ongoing forest renewal program, the budget also provides \$89.4 million to fulfill obligations under a new FRDA agreement which the minister hopes to reach with the federal government.

Although the MOF is analyzing all spending as part of a government wide review, the Minister said, "no decision will be made which would negatively affect our government's commitment to silviculture programs."

MNR gives up Union Ghostbusting

The ghost of government union regulations came home in Ontario with a thump this July. At the latest of a series of hearings about union successor rights, the MNR lawyer declared that he had no further arguments, muttering under his breath that the case was lost before it started. If, as seems inevitable, the judge rules in favour of the Ontario Public Servants Employees' Union, then the union's master agreement (5 volumes) would apply to all MNR contract forestry work.

The Ministry will probably cover retroactive payments and costs (back to 1977) to prevent massive failures in the bewildered and uninformed reforestation contracting sector.

Half the Wisdom of Solomon?

The provincial government will protect the lower half of the Carmanah Valley (which includes the groves of giant old growth Sitka spruce) by turning it into **Carmanah Pacific Park**. The upper half of the valley will become the 3100 hectare Carmanah Valley forest management area, overseen by a nine person advisory committee "to ensure that activities in the forest management area do not in any way damage the park," according to Forests Minister Claude Richmond.. Environmentalists objected to the plan, claiming that erosion and other factors from logging in the upper valley would eventually threaten the giant spruce trees.

Kitsch Floors Only

Solid washable floors will not be required in camp dining areas this year. The WSCA, MOF & MOH reached a compromise whereby a separate kitchen area with washable floors removes the need for washable floors in the entire dining area. (See page 27 for more background.)

The 1991 Tree Planting Market

By Dirk Brinkman

According to MOF, 284 million seedlings were planted in 1990.

During the season the contractors were saying, "Where are all the trees?"

During the 1987 and 1988 (about 200 million each) and especially 1989 (238 million) seasons there were millions of trees available from contractors who couldn't complete their commitments.

The contracting community, in its traditional pendulum fashion, all decided to reserve some resources—crews without commitments—to pick up the lucrative projects that should have been popping out of the biggest season ever. Planters were also fooled. Knowing the season was the biggest ever, they were willing to speculate and commit to crews without a full season, expecting to pick up high priced clean-up jobs. They got shorter seasons than they expected and, in fact 1990 was the smoothest running season in many years.

In an industry that expects a rough ride, what was different this year?

Expectations

The industry entered the 1990 season with the expectation of planting 300 million trees and a projection for 1991 of 321 million trees. In fact, there was a lot of forest industry concern that the reforestation contractors were not up to a volume of this magnitude. Contractors geared up too much and had extra resources to deal with their own scheduling conflicts with the collective result that very few pick-up contracts appeared.

Summer Planting Increases

In Prince George Region an increasing proportion of the trees are scheduled for summer planting, reduced the pressures on the spring peak.

Early Start

The interior start-up was not late—in fact some contracts started in April.

While this put pressure on coastal contractors where the start-up was late, the interior June 30 deadline was not crowded by a late start, preventing the May contracts from overlapping the June contract start-ups.

Wet May/June

June was one of the wettest months on record. Consequently, May start-ups that were late did not push June commitments into the hot dry weather. This reduced the normal scheduling pressures for contractors and reduced contract cancellations in order to bring in a more resourceful contractor.

Expectations for 1991

The opposite of the above.

Contractors expect a smaller season and will not waste money on reserve resources for which they did not get any return the year before. Instead, many are diversifying outside of the reforestation industry.

Planters want to confirm their schedules and they know better than to wait for the unknown cream. The difficult summer program is still growing and will be a hot spot for pick-up contracts.

The weather? In an era of global warming—with a dramatic increase of climatic anomalies predicted for the northern hemisphere—good luck predicting the weather. (Europe had one of the hottest summers on record in 1991.)

How Much Work is There?

The number of trees is decreasing from 284 million ('90) to 264 million ('91).

284 million represents an estimate of the actual number of trees planted. 264 million is the total seeding orders registered through the provincial seed center. This time last year, the projection was for 294 million—suggesting that the number of trees for 1991 may actually be 254 million.

The real question is the amount of work (in planter days & total dollar value) hidden behind the simple seedling totals.

If the number of trees goes down, but the number of planter days to plant stays the same, or increases—an industry caught in a reactive downsizing strategy may create a shortage of contractors for 1991.

Larger Stock

The nursery industry does not project a decrease in revenues for the 1991 crop. Because of an increased proportion of large seedling types, this year's crop requires the same space as last year's seedlings did.

A 7% decrease in the number of trees is off-set by the increase in the number of high priced trees. 415's and 615's command from 15 to 25% higher prices and sometimes more, depending on mobility, access and the length of the runs on the block. (See Charles Von Hahn's article.)

Area-Base Planting

More companies and districts are going to area-base planting—which results in a higher price per planted tree. A 100,000 seedling program that is area based will cost 10% more than a 100,000 tree program that is per tree based. The reason is simple: 15% more ground is being covered at an average cost savings of 5% per hectare. Thus, an apparently smaller 1991 program hides the increased planter days required to cover more area.

Microsite Planting/Scalping/Mixed Bag/Shade Planting

In this new era of free-growing targets the quality demands on the planter are steadily increasing as foresters discover what works and what does not work for long term seedling survival. Increasing knowledge results in more and more specialized site-specific custom-tailored quality requirements.

which generally slow the planter down while delivering higher value for the dollar to the client. This steady increase in the number of planter days required to properly plant the block the first time is also not reflected in provincial tree totals.

Alberta

While B.C. projects planting a diminishing number of trees, Alberta expects its program to go from 35 million to 85 million in the next four years. This will tap some of B.C.'s planting contractor resources, just as it has resulted in growing contracts for a number of B.C.'s nurseries.

Vegetation Management

In the herbicide/environmental go game, white is winning.

Gradually, District after District is successfully blocked from using herbicides by environmentalists appealing the herbicide applications, constraining them to labour intensive manual vegetation management. The

investment of nearly two and a half billion seedlings in provincial plantations needs a dramatically increased protection program.

The reforestation contractors and their highest paid peasants in the world, who re-invented the hoe and the spade, are now busy re-inventing the third basic agricultural hand tool, the scythe. Scything is a natural for manual planting crews and this activity is adding to the planterdays of work in the plantations.

It does not seem as if there will less work in 1991, in fact there seems to be much more.

What Will Happen to 1991 Prices?

There does seem to be a perception that there is less work and this will cause some contractor panic. The initial result may be reduced prices, or stagnant prices that do not increase with inflation.

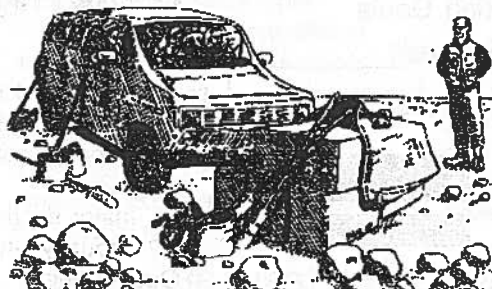
The open market is shrinking. More and more companies are inviting se-

lect contractors or negotiating directly. Contractors who have failed to supply competent services will show up at the open viewings in increased numbers. They may think they have to bid low. This would once again mean a lot of pick-up contracts available in the spring of 1991.

In fact, there is still a growing demand for contractor services. Prices will probably rise to reflect inflation increases, the strong demand for the limited supply of competent supervisors and crews, and the extra work of larger stock and microsite planting specifications.

It was a surprise that the season went so easily in 1990. Knowing how the market moves in cycles of reactions to its own experience, there is bound to be more surprises in store for us in 1991. One pleasant surprise for the industry would be the increased prices resulting from contractors realizing that there is at least as much work (in planterdays) as last year.

Good Luck.



A W.S.C.A. Report

Silviculture Employment Issues

Western Silviculture Contractors Association

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**Mark Grady
Employment Standards Branch**

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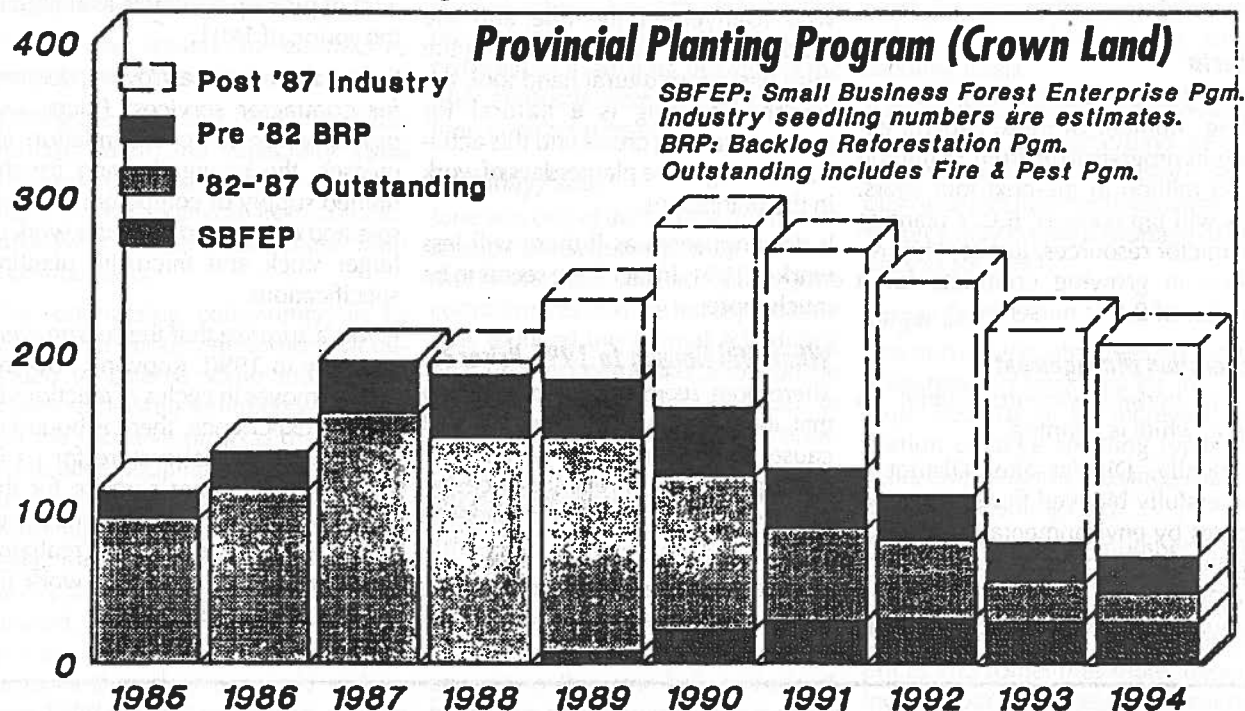
**Essential for all employers
Working in the woods.**

Planting Programs 1990-2000

By Charles Von Hahn

These are notes and graphs from a presentation given by Charles Von Hahn to the Nelson chapter of the WSCA

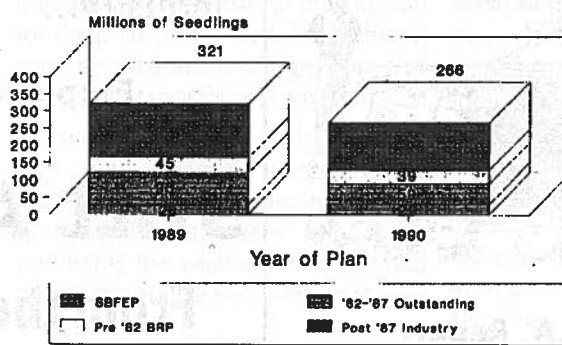
Millions of Seedlings



Planting Program Forecast

- Magnitude of the Planting Program is declining.
- 1990 was peak planting year (281 million)
- unsure of rate of decline or steady state level harvest and reforestation is in balance and no backlog exists)
- current forecast is that steady state reforestation will be reached by year 2000 and 175 million seedlings will be planted.

5 Year Forest & Range Program 1991 Planting Goals



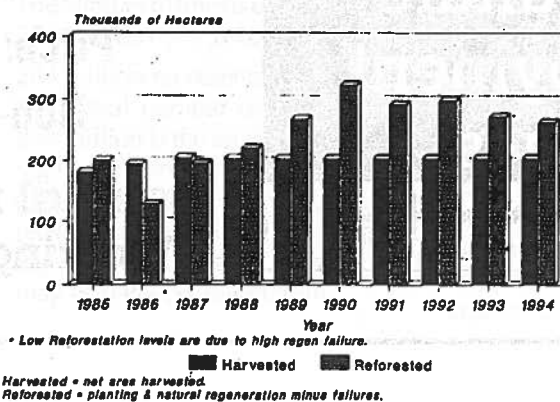
Planting Program Changes

- compare 1991 planting goals for 1989 & 1990 Five Year Forest & Range Program.
- major decline in Post '87 Industry and '82-'87 Outstanding.
- What are the reasons for the decline in the number of seedlings planted?

Four funding sources

- 1 Post '87 Industry = steady state approx. 135 million.
- 2 Pre '82 Backlog = 250,000 ha treatable good & medium sites to be reforested by year 2000. Steady state approx. 25 million.
- 3 '82-'87 Outstanding = initial planting completed by 1992, planting of failed plantations remain.
- 4 SBFEP = steady state approx. 28 million seedlings.

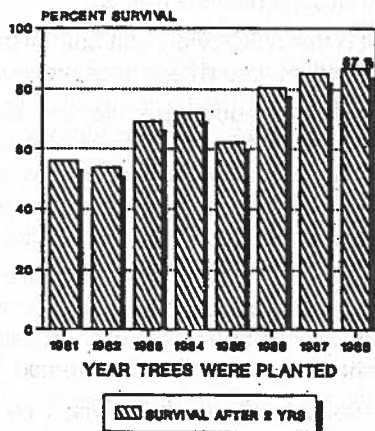
Reforestation on Crown Lands



Why a Reduction?

Reforestation Commitment Remains

- every hectare harvested must be reforested.
- fewer seedlings are needed to achieve this goal. Why?

AVERAGE 2ND YEAR SEEDLING SURVIVAL
FOR TREES PLANTED IN DIFFERENT YEARS**Improved Survival**

- survival has greatly improved in last 10 years.
- survival has increased from below 60% to mid 80%.

Improved Species Selection

- Biogeoclimatic Classification System.
- currently 20 tree species being grown in nurseries; 17 will be planted on Crown forest land.

Improved Stock Types

- 21 stock types sown in 1990.
- majority of seedlings now being grown are large stock types.
- PSB415's & 615's are one-fifth of all seedling sown and this ratio is rapidly increasing.

Improved Seedling Health

- improved nursery culture.
- improved stock handling—from the nursery to the planting site.

More and Improved Site Prep

- currently 27 disc trenchers and 20 excavators in province working full time to prepare microsites for planting.

Stocking Standard Changes

- need for consistent stocking standards to coincide with ecosystem correlation project.
- standards are a first approximation, changing over time as information becomes available.
- standards are not planting targets—must consider survival rates and natural ingress when choosing a planting target.
- in some Regions standards have dropped; in others they have remained the same or increased.
- estimated that stocking standards have been reduced by an average of 10% provincially.
- new stocking standards also provide an incentive to practice aggressive silviculture by planting.
- by planting a cutblock, a licensee is able to reduce the regen delay and thereby declare the block free growing at an earlier date.
- licensee is relieved of his obligation more quickly by planting.

Natural Regeneration

- stocking surveys over the last few years indicates that natural ingress has occurred on many backlog blocks considered NSR.
- potential to use natural

regeneration to augment planted seedlings to achieve free growing targets.

- silvicultural systems other than clearcutting (shelterwood and selection systems) rely much more on natural regeneration to reforest a harvested area.
- smaller clearcuts offer more opportunities for seeding from the surrounding timber edge.

Direct Seeding

- interest revives now that Industry pays reforestation costs.
- Branch is investigating the opportunities to spot seed Pli concurrent with MSP (disc trenching & spot scarification)
- Pli is almost 40% of the entire planting program.

Five Year Silviculture Plan and FRDA II**5 Year Silviculture Plan (1991-95)**

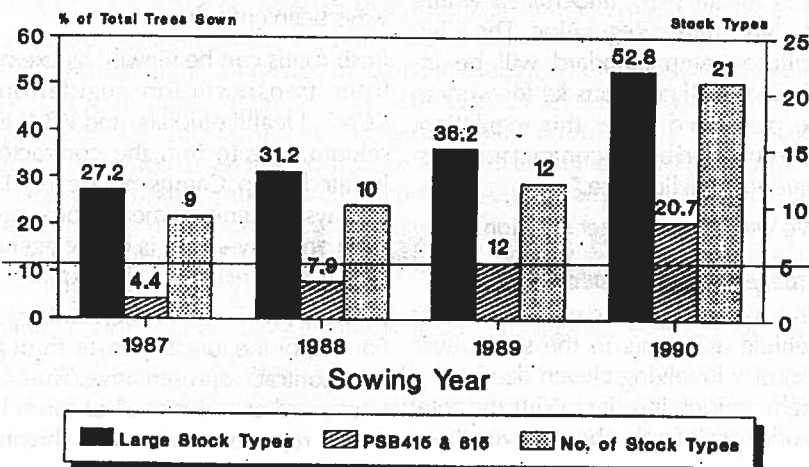
- The next plan, presenting a number of scenarios, is being prepared for presentation to Cabinet.
- the plan includes a 5 year Program with a 10 year outlook.
- plan includes incremental silviculture and Growth and Yield programs.
- details of silviculture plan are confidential but hopefully will be in place by next fiscal year.

FRDA II

- discussions are ongoing as to funding level and content.
- important point to remember: FRDA II is considered just another funding source for the 5 Year Silviculture Plan.

Conclusion

While levels of planting will decline during the decade of the '90s, the opportunities for silviculture contracting will continue to expand and diversify.

Sowing Request for Large Container
Stock Types: 1987 - 1990
(PSB313B, PSB415 & PSB615)

The Level Playing Field

By Dirk Brinkman

Note: This presentation was made to Claude Richmond on Sept. 12. For the important and historic results of this meeting see page 13.

Unless all contractors are supplying the services to the same standards, those who cut corners will set the market price and force responsible suppliers to compromise safety and health. In addition, innovative solutions to meeting the standards will not emerge since the incentive to creatively solve the problem disappears.

Health & Safety Standards

The principle contractor has the primary responsibility for the health and safety of the workers. The principle contractor is the Ministry of Forests & the Licensees, according to the ruling of B.C.'s WCB commissioners.

This does not change the fact that contractors are responsible to conform with all health and safety standards. However, if the primary contractor looks the other way while the contractor they retained flagrantly violates the regulation in order to keep their costs low, the primary contractor is also considered responsible.

Silviculture Camp Standards

When in 1986, we lobbied to have the Silviculture Camp Regulations put in place, we insisted that MOF, and the Forest Industry through Section 88, be made responsible to enforce the camp regulations. This worked very well.

In Oct. 1987, Bill 70 negated this agreement. The forest industry is currently not required to have their contractors camps meet the Silviculture Camp Regulations, because now their silviculture activities are no longer governed under Section 88, but rather through the Silviculture Regulations. The Forest Industry successfully lobbied to have the new Silviculture Regulations exclude enforcement of the Silviculture Camp Standards. WSCA protests and requests were ignored by MOF.

In the past couple of years some contractors avoided or ignored the Camp Standards in various ways.

The lack of uniform enforcement of the Silviculture Camp Standards undermines those who supply responsible services, since they lose bids to contractors who cut corners.

In our industry, we know that the person who is present has the power to enforce those standards. That is the MOF or forest industry representative—they can threaten to shut the contract down unless the basic standards are complied with.

The Ministry of Health has stated clearly that they do not have the personnel to enforce these regulations. Even if they quadrupled their staff, they would be unable to enforce the regulation due to the nomadic, isolation, poor road conditions and life span of the silviculture camps. They are, however, available to provide expertise whenever needed.

We do not want a dozen agencies enforcing health and safety regulations helter-skelter. It was the Ministry of Forests responsibility to include the Silviculture Camp Standards field enforcement in the new forest legislation governing silviculture work.

We have suggested that a clause be added to the Silviculture Regulations:

"The Silviculture Camp Standard, negotiated and updated from time to time, by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Forests, will be complied with for all work undertaken within the Silviculture Regulation. The Silviculture Camp Standard will be included in all contracts let for work to be performed under this regulation, and enforced by the contract administrator for the licensee."

We welcome a better solution.

Transportation Standards

This past spring there were two major vehicle accidents in the silviculture industry involving eleven deaths and eight serious injuries. With the total work force of only about eleven thou-

sand planters, that means one in a thousand planters is dead.

It is the WSCA view that both of these accidents could have been prevented.

A lot of young people are being transported in rental Vans and other vehicles, by inexperienced drivers, in bush conditions with inadequate insurance and no safety standards.

A review of transportation in the silviculture industry could establish a set of basic standards. These standards should be immediately enforced.

Violators should be advised by the contract administrator that the contract will be shut down unless they correct the violation. In this way, all suppliers of silviculture services will be providing the same services to the same basic standards.

The WSCA has suggested minimum safety standards that should be adopted. [See page XXX].

Flood Victim Fund for Treeplanters

The victims of the B.C. accident are not getting any compensation. Some of the survivors, even though they worked for five weeks, received pay sheets with so many deductions that they did not earn anything. In addition, they had to carry costs related to their injuries, including their families leaving work to visit them in the hospital, special travel costs and continuing difficulties related to their injuries. We would like the Flood Victims Fund to consider assisting them, since the contractors insurance does not seem to provide for their needs.

Enforcing Transportation Standards

The problem in our industry has always been enforcement.

Bush roads can be viewed as exempt from transportation regulations. RCMP, Health officials, and WCB are seldom able to find the contractors isolated camp. Camps move every 15-20 days and enforcement is only possible one way—that is by the agency who is responsible for the work.

In B.C., this is either the Ministry of Forests, or the forest licensee through their contract representative. The contract checker—the MOF or forest industry representative—can threaten

Administering Regulation Unnecessary

To: Dirk Brinkman, March 23 1990

Thank you for your letter of September 21, 1989, in regard to regulation of Camp Standards and notification of pesticide/herbicide use. I apologize for the delay in replying but my staff has been investigating both these issues in depth. Your Association has requested that the Ministry of Forests make provision in the Silviculture Regulation for maintaining silviculture camp standards and for requiring that the contractor be advised of the past usage of pesticides/herbicides on both the seedlings and the sites that are to be planted.

Although the Ministry of Forests agrees with the WSCA that it is in the interest of everyone concerned to maintain high standards for the planters' health and well-being, it is the Ministry's position that this objective may be achieved without the expansion of the Silviculture Regulation.

1. Silviculture Camp Standards

The maintenance of adequate standards on all Crown lands is important, however, the Silviculture Regulation is not the proper forum for dealing with this matter. Due to the fact that the setting of the camp standards is primarily within the mandate of the Ministry of Health, it would be inappropriate for the Ministry of Forests to enact regulations in that area.

The Ministry of Forests shall continue to monitor Silviculture contractor camps on lands where it is responsible for basic silviculture. However, the Ministry shall not monitor camps on areas where major licensees bear the responsibilities for basic silviculture. Discussions are underway between this Ministry and the Ministry of Health as to how to best address the WSCA's very legitimate concerns. You shall be advised of the results of these discussions.

2. Notification of Seedling Pesticides

In 1982 the Ministry of Forests and the WSCA agreed that the Ministry would provide the planting contractor with notification of the pesticides used on the seedlings. The Ministry shall continue with this procedure for seedlings produced in Ministry nurseries and those produced under contract for the Ministry. Specific information regarding these seedlings may be obtained from the local Ministry District or Regional office.

Seedlings grown in private nurseries are not subject to the terms of the 1982 agreement referred to above. Furthermore, the regulating of pesticide usage does not fall within the auspices of the Ministry of Forests. Therefore, no revision may be made to the Silviculture Regulation in this regard. I suggest that the WSCA should contact the WCB to discuss the matter of putting information signs on the boxes of the seedlings being produced in private nurseries.

3. Notification of Herbicides on site

The WSCA has asked the Ministry to make the Silviculture Regulation require a standard contract clause ensuring the disclosure of all pesticide and/or herbicide treatments which occurred on the site(s) in the previous year. Again, this is not an appropriate area for the Ministry of Forests to be making regulations. The current practice of the Pesticide Control Branch is to require signs to be posted on all treated sites for a period of six months. Therefore, the workers are, in effect, "notified" through the absence of any signs, that there has not been any recent chemical treatment. The WSCA should contact the pesticide control Branch of the Ministry of Environment to discuss the possible extension of the posting requirement.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the management of B.C.'s forests.

Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests

to shut the contract down unless the basic standards are complied with.

Standards should be specified in silviculture contract for industry & MOF.

Bear Hazard Standards

This spring, and it seems almost every spring, a planter was seriously mauled by a bear. Bears are the second most serious hazard in silviculture. Bear Hazard management is simple

- keeping the camp clean, garbage contained and removed daily.
- training a person to protect planters with a gun if necessary.
- properly informing the crew how to minimize their risk and respond in the case of encounters.
- training planters how to protect and support each other in the case of an attack.

Pesticide & Herbicide Notification

In 1983, the Minister of Forests agreed that contractors will receive notification of any pesticides applied to seedlings with each shipping invoice. This information is not being supplied by all licensees, although many comply.
continued...

Frustrated Response

To: Claude Richmond

It is a mystery to me how your staff can have investigated the issue of the lack of pesticide notification, camp standards enforcement, and herbicide notification in-depth, as you describe in your March 23rd letter, without consulting with the WSCA.

Perhaps such a consultation took place without the executive of the WSCA being aware of it. If there is another organization, or several contractors being used to represent B.C.'s silviculture contractors, the WSCA would like to know who they are so we can integrate our experience with theirs.

We do not feel that you have informed advice and request a meeting to resolve these issues.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very urgent matter.

Dirk Brinkman

Level Playing Field cont...

Contractors often work without knowledge (that the local estate forest administrator possesses) about the herbicide applications on site. Notification of the applications, recent and planned, in the contractors watershed, will allow the crew to protect itself from drinking contaminated water or entering recently treated areas.

Manual vs. Herbicides

On January 12, 1990, you personally assured the WSCA that Silviculture Branch will create a level playing field between herbicide and manual silviculture treatments.

On Sept. 11 1990, the subsidy for herbicides to the detriment of manual alternatives remains in place.

The WSCA believes manual alternatives are good vegetation management tools. Manual alternatives tend to have wider application windows than herbicides & are easier to manage.

Of the three principal ways that herbicides were subsidized on Jan. 12, only

one — the cost of the herbicide is now added to the herbicide bid. Thank you.

2] The contractors environmental degradation liability indemnity is still being supplied for free by MOF.

The decision to have the province self-insure was made in 1986 because the cost of this insurance was becoming prohibitive and that the insurance was difficult to obtain for small contractors. This insurance is available on the open market and should be quantified and added to the herbicide contract price when comparing services.

Recommendation: Private insurance should be made mandatory or the equivalent costs added to the contract price for comparison purposes.

3] The administrative cost of herbicide applications & appeals are still not added to the herbicide contract price.

Herbicide applications require permits and approvals from seven different agencies and departments and face increasing paper loads. Over 10% of these permits are appealed. Appeals involve public hearings, no-

tices have to be posted locally and applications advertised. In many cases applications involve phone calls and questions for district, regional & branch personal. This public anxiety management cost is not a cost for manual alternatives and subsidizes the herbicide applicators bid.

Recommendation: Administrative costs quantified into herbicide costs.

4] Where manual alternatives are being prescribed by districts where the chemical alternatives are delayed by appeals, foresters are prescribing the most expensive manual alternatives.

Recommendation: Manual treatments to be prescribed seriously & carefully. Silviculture Branch can identify the target work and make these contracts more economical by eliminating unnecessary work.

5] The intentional blocking of manual alternatives by prescribing contract specifications that are biased in favour of chemical alternatives.

Recommendation: Equal support for the manual alternative by Silviculture

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Branch can change the context.

Subsidizing herbicides discourages the development & supply of manual alternatives. Please complete your promise to create a level playing field.

Forest Protection Policy

The following requests are made to preserve forest value and integrity.

Free-growing -> "Free to Harvest".

Extend the Silviculture Regulations from Free growing to "Free to Harvest" and include intensive silviculture as an integral part of the basic responsibilities that the licensees inherit in exchange for the right to harvest.

The Silviculture Regulations were set to carry the industry obligations through to free-growing, only because there was no integration of data between plantation survival and growth and yield of productive stands. As this integration is occurring silviculture regulations which encompass the whole projected rotation period of the forest stand should be developed.

Trust Fund for Silviculture

It has been a major concern to our members that the new (Bill 70, 1987, Oct. 1) forest act regulating reforestation on logged areas will be difficult to enforce during a recession.

These projected costs are booked into the balance sheet in the year of logging as accrued liabilities and expensed as a cost of logging.

Since reforestation expenditures are scheduled over three to fourteen years, depending on the ecosystem, there is a near certainty that some of the work will have to be done during tough economic times.

We fear that during tough times the money for reforestation will be spent on other priorities. This will result in the government being pressured to relax the forest renewal standards to save the mill and its jobs.

Historically, when faced with the threat of job losses and the risk of gutting a community, the political system under pressure has resulted in what has euphemistically been called,

"sympathetic administration"— that is, a relaxing of government regulations. Most of this takes place in the field where the subjective judgements of field foresters are difficult to audit.

More seriously, during the last recession a number of firms went bankrupt. Under the present silviculture regulations, areas logged by bankrupt firms would fall to the crown to reforest at government cost.

The WSCA recommends that MOF remove the temptation to compromise the reforestation commitment and eliminate the risk of unplanned costs to the government by establishing a Silviculture Trust Fund.

The money presently booked as a future liability by the industry would be placed in the trust fund. Expenditures for reforesting these areas would be drawn out of the fund.

Public trust in industry's obligation to reforest is enhanced & concerns of our members would be allayed.

Saskatchewan FMA's include a similar trust fund for silviculture work.

continued...

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Level Playing Field cont...

Increase Intensive by Five Times

The levels of intensive silviculture since 1987 (approximately \$20 million per year) are too low. Intensive silviculture through to harvest can result in increased MAI and AAC and mitigate the falldown effect.

Consequently the WSCA proposes the development of industry incentives for taking advantage of the known benefits of properly prescribed intermediate age stand treatments, like commercial spacing, thinning, pruning, and fertilization, to enhance the value and the yield of our forests.

Funds for intensive work must go into the silviculture trust fund. The intensive work could be conducted on alternate stands or areas of similar size based on a parallel costing formula.

MOF could trade increased AAC for intensive silviculture by a forest company. (Only in areas where there is surplus AAC.)

The WSCA believes that the present silviculture industry could competitively deliver an intensive program five times the present program, up to \$100 million— without significant expansion of our human resources.

No Net Forest Land Base Loss

There are many private, industrial, crown corporation, municipal, provincial, and federal consumers of the forest land base.

These annual depletions have been tolerated during an era in which British Columbians imagined that there were lots of trees and that all other development has priority over forest values.

We are now in a Forest Renewal Inventory Emergency (F.I.R.E.) or in the context of the Forest Resources Commission, a Forest Resource Crisis.

Such forest land base depletion cannot continue without at least a program which reforests an equivalent area at the cost of the consumer.

In Ontario, (as a result of a proposal I made in March 1989) Ontario Hydro made a commitment Friday May 4, 1990, to reforest an equivalent area for all forest land depletion that results from the establishment of new powerline corridors. Ontario Hydro also anticipates a similar policy for pondage flooding (often the most productive forest land so that off-set planting may need to include some intensive silviculture to make up for loss of the best growing sites.)

B.C. should develop a similar policy for B.C. Hydro and in addition, develop policies to re-

place forest depletions due to roads by the Ministry of Transport, forest depletions due to urban development by Municipalities, forest depletions due to mining & petroleum development by private companies, forest depletions due to Federal military and construction programs, commercial and manufacturing construction— e.g., pulp and saw-mill construction on forest land and many other similar programs.

Let all consumers of the forest land base reforest an area equivalent to what they use so that there is not a net reduction of the productive forest land base.

It is important to have this off-setting reforestation program be **incremental** to the current reforestation program, incremental to the current plans to reforest the NSR backlog— and any other outstanding obligations incurred from forest harvesting.

Incremental offsetting reforestation can be targeted on wildfire burns where reforestation is needed, on NSR lands over twenty years old, on farm land that has reverted to the crown— been cleared and is not economic for farming and on lands where the forest have been lost to insects or disease and reforestation is needed.

Silviculture Funding

Silviculture offers one of the best returns on the B.C. government's investment—it impacts so many interests positively.

Congratulations on the size of your 1990 budget.

Congratulations on FRIP.

FRDA

Federal funding must come into play in our forest renewal efforts since so many of the harvest benefits have accrued and will accrue to federal coffers in the future. This valuable resource must be renewed by those who benefit.

We are still calling for the elimination of the backlog by the year 2000.

If the federal government is unwilling to assist in this, it may be appropriate for your Ministry to form a Global Forest Research Center in a Joint Venture with Forestry Canada and complete the elimination of the backlog by the year 2000 with provincial funds.

RESULTS! RESULTS! RESULTS!

Note: This letter from Dirk Brinkman discussing the results of the Sept. 12 meeting was sent to Claude Richmond

Health & Safety Enforcement in the Forest Act

Thank you for agreeing to formulate legislation that entrenches the responsibility for enforcement of health and safety regulations and standards in the Forest Act. This will enable contract administrators in the Ministry of Forests and the Forest Industry—who have the power to cancel contracts—to enforce these standards and regulations uniformly throughout the province. Our very irregular playing field, the mountainous slash pits of B.C., must be level in the critical dimension of silviculture worker health and safety.

As we discussed, such legislation will impact harvest and other operations as well, and will involve expanded responsibilities in other branches besides Silviculture Branch. It is important, however, that the enforcement legislation be in place by Feb-March 1991 for the beginning of the next planting season.

Herbicide Subsidy Ends

Thank you for instructing Peter Ackhurst to complete the process of ending the herbicide subsidy. Contract administrators will now include the cost of liability insurance and the administrative costs of permits with the herbicide contract bid price when comparing tenders by herbicide and non-herbicide contractors. I note that, although you agreed to this in principle in January 1990, only the cost of the herbicides themselves were included in the comparisons. These other issues are still being "studied." We trust that action will be forthcoming quickly after this meeting.

Silviculture Trust Fund

You agreed to look into the silviculture trust fund concept further and expressed some sympathy with our concerns. Since this meeting a number of licensees have cut back their planting programs, claiming lack of funds due to recession. If this is seen as acceptable practice, we fear that many more companies will cut back. We expect your ministry to ensure that the reforestation obligations made by the harvesting industry at the time of logging will be honored. Public stewardship of the forest is at stake as well as our jobs. This is no longer a potential problem—it is happening now and must be addressed immediately.

Intensive Silviculture Strategy

We were pleased to hear that your staff is developing a strategy for intensive silviculture and look forward to your announcements in this area.

Not Net Loss Program

Your very positive response to our proposal to have a **No Net Loss** program for the productive forest land base was gratifying. I see that you have echoed this proposal in your remarks to The Way Ahead conference. At the time we had discussed this policy's implication for wilderness proposals. At the time I pointed out to you that we deliberately avoided putting our proposal in the context of the forest land use conflict between the forest industry and the wilderness preservation movement. We perceive that forest land values and forest use priorities in society are changing. We are proposing a No Net Loss policy to protect **all** of the forests values and uses, not only those of the forest industry. We look forward to seeing quick action on the initial targets for this policy: mainly the replacement of forest land withdrawn by B.C. Hydro, by pipelines, and other industrial users.

FRDA/FRIP

Thank you again for the FRIP program's fill-in for FRDA's absence.

A View from the Bush

by Jim Verboem

Note: *This was an address to the N.S. Section of the Canadian Institute of Foresters & N.S. Forest Technicians Association Joint Annual Meeting in Halifax*

Speaking as a Silviculture contractor and worker, I would like to cover some FACTS about us, in the hope that this will help you see why we react the way we do to Environmental Issues.

1. We like our work. We are in Forest Renewal firstly because we like the work and secondly because we think we can make a decent living at it.

2. We are not over paid. This is easy to prove by looking at the number of people who apply to fill a job vacancy.

Why does the average contractor only last 3-4 years?

Why does our Association have to go to Newfoundland this year to find willing workers?

3. We are paid by production. The pressure of having to judge everything by how much it contributes to paying your bills is something not many outside our numbers can fully relate to.

The Contractors that ignore this fact are the ones that soon find themselves in financial trouble.

4. We need clear rules. We can't afford days of lost production while we try to figure out what the rules are.

How do these four facts relate to the subject being considered today?

Most of us like our work and care about the forests we work in. Given the opportunity to earn a decent living, we do all we can to leave them in better shape than we found them. Although pride in ones' work does not put food on the table, it does make the bread we have taste better.

Workers and Contractors will stretch much further for you if they feel that their opinions count.

You will see much more complications of new environmental type guidelines and laws if we know why they are there.

Once we are convinced of the merits of regulations, our pride will ensure they are enacted on a regular basis.

Since we are not overpaid, it is imperative that the implementation of new

policy be done in a way that will minimize disruption of those working

People paid by production are rarely fans of new environmental laws that decrease their opportunity to earn. It isn't fair to expect us to take all the financial impact of a new law.

Clear rules are a must; and any changes must be clearly conveyed. When one of us does some work and then gets fined (or doesn't get paid) because he broke a rule he never heard tell of, he has a much harder time convincing himself to follow the next rule he comes to.

As the people that actually do the forest work we have a few observations that I would like to share.

As contractors and workers it is our role to take the accepted methods of forest renewal and apply them to the woodlands under our care.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the middle of a fight between those who develop acceptable treatments and those who object to their use.

Spraying has shown us how a controversial subject can force opposite sides further in their corners.

The people who use the spray spend all their time defending their right to use it, while the anti-spray people spend all their limited resources trying to stop the use. The Result - two sides dug into trenches.

Let's cover some more Facts:

1) As a Society we aren't likely to stop harvesting trees completely tomorrow.

2) In some places where we harvest, we need to plant trees to regenerate the stands cut.

3) Many of the plantations need some protection in their early years.

4) Most of the public expects us to keep renewing our Forests.

Now back to the two sides in their trenches. I have yet to see a serious attempt by either side to come up with a better way of achieving our common goal, i.e. A young healthy forest.

It would appear most people are too busy protecting their rights and their piece of turf. They don't think about working together.

Maybe an example would help.

In this blessed province of ours we have some areas that, no matter what you do, will regenerate naturally every time. In other areas no amount of care will cause natural trees to start, therefore requiring planting.

Most areas fit between these extremes. What is being done to minimize that amount of planting we need to do? What are we doing to minimize the spray needed to protect those trees.

I know the expertise is in there to greatly reduce the amount of planting and spraying required to adequately regenerate our forests.

We need systems that will encourage people to find safer and less expensive ways of reaching our common goal. Planting where it isn't needed because it is easier to do than to defend your decision to wait for natural regeneration should become a thing of the past.

I urge the administrators of our forest renewal programs to trust their field staff. Let them try new ideas. Then let's use some of the research money we have available to write down why the idea did or did not work.

If we allow our programs to become a regimented process of filling pigeon holes, our industry will never grow.

Let's use our heads. Let's experiment, try, test, research.

We can come up with new ideas and ways to keep our forests green and the public happier.

Reforestation Transportation Safety

The Tragic Incidents

Vancouver Sun , June 1 1990

Passengers were thrown from a B.C.-bound van as it rolled over several times in a ditch off a northern Alberta highway yesterday, killing seven people and injuring five others.

The three women and nine men (aged 19 to 28) had just finished planting trees in Whitecourt, Alberta and were on their way to Mackenzie in northern B.C.

The van rolled in gusty winds on Highway 43 about 36 kilometers east of Fox Creek. The roads were dry at the time.

An ambulance attendant who went to the scene said apparently no one was wearing seatbelts and that probably caused the large number of injuries because the van was not that badly damaged. "It's the worst accident I've ever seen," he said.

Vancouver Sun , June 13 1990

A helicopter search Tuesday failed to locate four people missing after a van carrying eight tree planters plunged off a partly washed-out bridge on a remote forestry road about 150 kilometres southeast of Prince George Monday night.

RCMP Sgt. Garry Rogers said the van drove on to the wooden bridge over George Creek but, because of the darkness and the rain, the driver probably couldn't see that the far end had been washed out.

The four survivors were airlifted to hospital in Prince George, where they were reported in satisfactory condition with multiple injuries.

Alma Plett said her son has no memory of the accident but was told by the others that he swam to shore and climbed up to a nearby road. "He was found collapsed unconscious. That's what the doctor told us."

Dan Weiner was found in the water unconscious, said his brother Myles Weiner, who lives in Winnipeg.

"Luckily his head was up out of the water and that's how they found him."

WSCA requests Action

Note: *These letters were sent to Alberta & B.C. Ministers of Forests by Dirk Brinkman, President of the WSCA*

May 31, 1990

Never, in the short history of forest renewal, has our industry experienced a tragic event of this magnitude.

I recommend that you, both by letter and by phone, extend your personal sympathies, the sympathies of your Ministry and our industry to these families of the planters killed and critically injured. Peter Dene, president of the Sauze Forestry, will fax you the names of the parents.

This is an industry which has often been in the media for poor safety, hygiene and labour practice. While this is an incident which, in itself does not involve gross negligence or poor practices, the sheer magnitude of the tragedy will have a significant effect on the future of our industry.

This is an event which can happen to any crew. Between contract travel, and camp to planting site travel, is the main danger to which planters are exposed in our industry.

The 'muddy boot' troops of the forest renewal crusade are predominantly young university students. To date the young treeplanters have been enthusiastically supported by parents, family, educators and the voting public.

Peter Dene describes how yesterday one father of a planter not involved phoned five times to demand, "Get my son home right now. You are not killing my son too."

We all have to be concerned about the victims of this accident, and the safety and future of our industry.

Not everyone in our industry transports planters in accord with regulations. Not all of our transporting is on open highway. This event manifests our most horrible nightmare.

Thank you for kindly sharing the responsibility of carrying on with us.

June 12, 1990

Note: *See following pages for WSCA's suggested Transportation Standards included with this letter.*

Once again, I am writing after a tragic accident in the silviculture industry.

On Monday, June 11 a van load of tree planters drove off of a partially washed out bridge into George Creek. Four planters were missing and presumed drowned. This brings to eleven, the number of planters killed in vehicle accidents while planting.

I had intended to wait until some time for mourning had passed after the last tragedy in Alberta before requesting a Review of Transportation in the Silviculture Industry. Clearly, there is no time to postpone such a request and on behalf of all the members of the WSCA and the workers in the industry, I herewith request that an inquiry commence immediately.

Enforcement is the key. The only means to achieve enforcement is through the Silviculture Regulations.

Please give this matter your prompt attention in order to put at rest the hearts and minds of the families and friends of 11 planters who have died, and the many planters still out there.

Ontario Precedent?

An Ontario contractor who was transporting planters in the back of his pick-up truck this season could not be prevented from doing so.

MNR did not have a contract clause to manage this problem.

The WCB Health & Safety representative had no jurisdiction over transportation.

Ministry of Transport's Highways Act doesn't apply off public roads.

When requested to refrain from the practice, the contractor replied "Don't blame me I had to bid too low to get this work."

Alberta Acts!

Notice of Health & Safety Meeting

To: Alberta reforestation contractors

Alberta Occupational Health & Safety and the Alberta Forestry Service are undertaking a joint effort to improve safety in the forestry industry. Within the industry as a whole, particular attention is being paid to reforestation. The recent tragedy in which seven young workers were fatally injured on the highway and a high lost time injury rate indicate the need for action.

To discuss ways in which safety in the reforestation industry can be improved, a meeting is being arranged with all tree planting companies in the province. We are inviting you to attend this meeting and to join with us in making tree planting as safe an activity as possible. The meeting will take place in Edmonton on July 24th. The place and time are being arranged to make it as convenient as possible for you to attend. Specific arrangements are being made by Lawrence Guenette, Forestry Specialist, Alberta Occupational Health and Safety.

Your attendance at the meeting is very important. We are determined to see a reduction in the number of tree planters injured on the job. This will not happen unless all employers in the industry make safety a priority and work with us.

Alberta Minister Replies

To: Dirk Brinkman

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 1990 requesting an inquiry into transportation in the silviculture industry.

I want to assure you of my department's concern with the tragic deaths associated with vehicle accidents involving tree planters. In fact, members of my staff are currently meeting with our Occupational Health and Safety officials and Alberta's tree planting contractors to explore this issue fully. From these sessions we hope to provide a series of recommendations which we intend to implement in an effort to avoid any further similar accidents.

I hope that by working together on this issue we will be able to develop an effective solution.

I certainly appreciate your association's concern and participation in our review. Thank you again for taking the time to provide me with your comments.

LeRoy Fjordbotten,

Minister of Forests, Lands & Wildlife

Alberta Occupational Health & Safety Standards for Treeplanting

In July the Alberta Forest Service held a meeting to review Principal Contractor responsibility for health and safety. Senior management looked at A.F.S. awareness and contract clauses to examine if it's doing everything reasonable to prevent injuries.

They decided there will be changes.

1. There are a lot of acts and regulations. They will be identified and cited in the contracts.
2. There will also be a contract supplement that puts safety specifics onto one document. This is to be signed by the contractor endorsing their awareness of the regulations and standards.
3. A work plan with safety review at the pre-work conference, which is signed.
4. Any hazards which A.F.S. feels is unique to the project will be presented, in writing, at the pre-work contract review.
5. Deviations from agreed-to standards by employees (e.g. not using seat belt, not using ATV helmet, not supplying first aid kit) will all result in "follow-up". It will be brought to the attention of the supervisor on site and sent in a letter to the contractor.
6. If the contractor fails to address the deviation A.F.S. will either:
 - a) call A.O. H. & S.
 - b) cancel the contract

This procedure will be enacted on contracts starting immediately.

The project officer is responsible to supervise the technology of the silviculture project, this should include a pre-contract safety check.

continued...

WCSA Appreciates Action

To: C.A. Henderson Director of the Alberta Forest Service:

Thanks for making significant progress with a safety policy for AFS.

Under the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, the principal contractor shall have a designated representative on site who will ensure that every contractor and worker complies with the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act. The most serious accident in the history of treeplanting in Canada occurred on an Alberta Forest Service Contract.

As a member of the Health and Safety Working Group of the Alberta Treeplanting Contractors, I would like to express my concern that the A.F.S. take positive preventative action and actively enforce the regulations that Alberta Occupational Health & Safety have in place, on all A.F.S. contracts.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Dirk Brinkman

Transportation Safety cont...

B.C. Evaluates.

To: Dirk Brinkman

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 1990, in regard to transportation of silviculture workers.

It is with sincere regret that I learned of the tragic accidents which took the lives of these tree planters. I extend my sincere sympathy to the families of those killed and injured.

You have asked that the Silviculture Regulation embody a section related to the transportation of workers.

I have made a careful evaluation of your request, but I consider it inappropriate for a Regulation which is concerned with basic silviculture standards to include other items which are covered under the Industrial Health and Safety regulations of the Workers' Compensation Board, or under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Employers must be responsible for workers transportation to ensure that it meets or exceeds other regulations or the laws of the province. It is not practical for Ministry of Forests staff to enforce other regulations which affect employee health and safety.

While these accidents were indeed a tragedy, at this stage nothing would indicate that any regulations or laws were being abused by the vehicle operators.

It is most important that all of your member companies in the Western Silviculture Contractors' Association are made fully aware of their responsibilities under the law and operate accordingly.

Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests

Letters from Parents

Review Safety Rules

To: Dirk Brinkman

This is in reply to your letter of June 29/90 calling for comments in regard to the regretful accidents of this summer.

What more can I say but to subscribe to the remarks you have already made to the Minister of Forests concerning the review of Transportation practices in the Silviculture Industry. In particular, safety rules which are not enforced as appears to be the case in the May 29 tragedy. Anyone at all was allowed to drive a vehicle carrying many people.

Furthermore, I gather that the young people were made to believe they are going to make a huge sum of money in a short time (\$5,000 to \$10,000 in two months). In fact it would be a rare exception with so much physical effort and 10 hour-schedules in awkward physical and psychological conditions.

Omer Fleurent.

WCB no help

To: Claude Richmond

My wife and I want to thank you for your message of sympathy to us. Even though the tragedy did not happen on your province, you took the time to write some words of comfort.

But as you might well know, comfort is not the only thing that we, the seven families, need. For instance: guidance.

On June 12, 1990, we received a cheque from the Alberta's Workers' Compensation Board to cover some of the funeral expenses. And knowing that these expenses will be high, it seemed at the time a very welcomed sum to have. But one thing the W.C.B. forgot to mention: by cashing the cheque, we were accepting this to be a no-fault accident, that we were losing any right to some recourse against the company whose vehicle was involved.

How are we to know before the investigation is concluded that this was a no-fault accident? I cannot, and our government should not condone this kind of practice. I did not deposit this cheque yet, but how many have?

Furthermore, I cannot seem to be able to get the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any of the families involved in this accident. Because I am far from the scene, and not having the means to hire myself a lawyer, who do I turn to and what do I do now? Not enough that we have lost our son, do we also have to cry for help?

Gilles Richer

WSCA Letter to families of deceased

On behalf of all of the contractors, all of those who work with us in our company, and all of our fellow planters, I would like to express our deepest sympathies to you, the family and friends of someone who worked with us replanting the forest.

We all experienced shock and sorrow. No tragedy of this magnitude has ever occurred in the reforestation industry.

There have now been two major accidents. I am enclosing some correspondence from the first accident and our request to the Minister to hold an Silviculture Transportation Inquiry.

If there is anything you would like to say to the Silviculture Industry, if there is anything I or our association can do, please feel free to call or write us.

Transportation Standards for Silviculture

by Dirk Brinkman

During the height of the 1990 planting season there were two major accidents in the silviculture industry.

The industry will be plagued by doubts about these two accidents until there is an Inquiry into Transportation in the Silviculture industry. The Inquiry can establish a set of Transportation Standards for the industry and then examine these accidents in the light of those standards to see if the tragedies might have been prevented.

Whatever the conclusion, these accidents graphically underline the magnitude of the risks of Transportation in the Silviculture Industry. Many young people are being transported in rental vans and other vehicles, by inexperienced drivers, in bush conditions.

While neither accident appears to involve gross neglect, they raise many of the basic questions that have to be examined for our industry. There are simple basic standards that should be immediately enforced. Violators should be shut down until they remedy the violation. In this way, all suppliers of silviculture services will be providing the same services to the same basic standards.

Enforcement

The problem in our industry has always been enforcement.

Bush roads can be viewed as exempt from transportation regulations. RCMP, Health officials, and WCB are seldom able to find isolated camps. Camps move every 15-20 days.

In our industry, the only person present with the power to enforce those standards, is the contract checker—the MOF or forest industry representative—who can threaten to shut the contract down unless the basic standards are complied with.

These standards should be specified in the silviculture contract for industry & MOF.

Suggested Standards

The WSCA recommends the following vehicle safety standards:

Transportation provided

Contractors must provide adequate transportation to and from the work area.

Responsible and licensed drivers

Class 4 drivers licences must be required.

Contractors should select the most mature and experienced driver available (minimum 5 years driving experience).

Training that alerts drivers to special hazards of the bush should be mandatory.

Drivers should perform a daily '10 point' safety check of their vehicle.

The driving records of the designated drivers should be checked.

Drugs or alcohol

Alcohol and drugs must be strictly prohibited. Contractors not enforcing this simple standard should be shut down.

Vehicle Insurance

The vehicle must be designated for commercial use so that the liability insurance is valid. (The insurance on the Avis vehicle that went into George Creek did not cover the planters.)

\$2 million liability is low for the incidents that we have witnessed this season. We recommend \$1 million for pick-ups; \$2 million for crew cabs; \$3 million for 8-11 passenger vans; \$5 million for vehicles with 12 or more passengers.

General liability insurance

All contractors must have general liability insurance. (MOF contracts do not require general liability insurance.)

Safe and suitable vehicles

Vehicles must not carry more passengers than they are designed to carry. We want to see an end to the 'cattle' trucks (planters in the back of pick-up trucks).

The contractor must provide proof of a recent MOT Vehicle Safety Inspection before beginning a contract. The contract administrator executes spot checks if there is any reason to doubt vehicle safety.

Radio communications

Appropriate and working radio communications equipment is necessary on active logging roads. At the least, one vehicle per convoy must have a radio.

Radio communication procedures for emergencies must be in place.

Seat belts

One seat belted seat per employee.

Contractors not requiring employees to wear seat-belts would be in violation.

Driving with due care

Checkers should have the power to reprimand and manage safety on their roads. Some companies have stated clearly, that irresponsible driving can result in the contract being cancelled. All speed limits must be observed.

First Aid

Survival first aid for crew vehicle drivers is a minimum recommendation.

Each vehicle should have the appropriate kit for the size of vehicle.

Employment Trends in Silviculture

Dirk Brinkman

During a meeting with Frank Oberle in February about FRDA, the Minister spoke to me about some statistics that were bothering him.

Unemployment among Woodworkers was 19% and unemployment among Silviculture Workers was 31%. He was concerned that a FRDA dedicated primarily to reforesting the backlog would fuel the tendency for Silviculture workers to go on UIC after the planting season.

He was also concerned that in Prince George Region, harvesting is currently only sustainable for 60 years and has a rotation age of over 100 years. Industry is facing the prospect of reducing the AAC in order to create even flow harvesting plans or meet sustainable developments goals.

He felt there were a lot of potential incentives for a major intensive silviculture program.

Since that conversation I have been looking into the employment statistics that are available to decide how these factors impact on each other.

In summary, these factors are:

- 1) Reforestation is seasonal and contributes to Federal UIC payment in B.C.
- 2) Intensive Silviculture has the potential to lengthen the season and reduce some of the UIC costs by creating more off-season work opportunities for silviculture workers.
- 3) Employment in forestry has been declining due to mechanization and silviculture offers the potential of offsetting those trends.

In 1989 the number of people employed in the forest industry went up from 85,000 to 100,000. This is due to both small business initiative and the growth in silviculture. Even with the expected fall down in the number of trees to plant, the increasing stock size, area base trends and quality requirements are going to expand the amount of work, even without an intensive program.

Capacity For Intensive Program Growth

Using the Contractor Performance data base, we learn that approximately 200 contractors are involved in intensive silviculture. Of those, 70% are solely in intensive. I believe there is much capacity for growth in this group.

The average provincial expenditure on intensive was \$20 million over the past three years. This means approx. 67,000 person days of intensive work annually (assuming an average gross to the contractor of \$300/person/day).

There are currently 120 local, 60 regional, and 30 inter-regional contractors. I estimate the current workforce of cutters is maximum 2,500. This means an average of only 27 days work per person.

(This is based on the following assumptions. The local contractor has one crew, the regional two, and the inter-regional four crews. Then 120 local = 120 crews, 60 regional = 120 crews, 30 inter-regional = 120 crews—for a total of 360 crews of about seven cutters each = 2500. Finally 67,000 persondays/2500 people = 27 days.)

Given that the average cutter work season is very short (less than six weeks), I estimate existing cutters can readily absorb any expansion of the program up to three times the existing \$20 million program.

In other words, existing experienced intensive silviculture contractors are capable of delivering at least \$60 million provincial intensive program.

Any rapid expansion of intensive work would, of course, attract many new contractors. I estimate that 50% of any expansion would be taken up by the existing intensive contractors; 35% by planting contractors with large investments & planters looking for longer seasons; and 15% by logging contractors out of work due to timber shortages. (The small logging contractors are often located in the very communities facing withdrawals from the harvest; areas most in need of intensive silviculture and the quick volume/value fix it gives the forest.)

In other words, industry is capable of an immediate increase in the intensive program from \$20 million to \$120 million.

Let's go for it!

I also think the program can be expanded by five times before it will experience the cost increases associated with a very high percent of inexperienced workers.

- 1) Change is unlikely to alter the local/inter-regional mix among contractors.
- 2) Prices will likely rise 20-30% maximum, even with a 5-fold increase, because there is a big demand for intensive silviculture work.

WCB needs to develop a program to enforce basic safety standards for protecting the intensive silviculture worker.

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CSA Planning Meeting

T.J. Drew, Forestry Canada

Dear Dirk:

I have reviewed your letter of May 31 in which you requested ForCan to fund the attendance of two WSCA representatives in attending the founding and planning meeting in Ottawa of the National Silviculture Association, planned for February, 1991. I feel that this Association would provide an important national focus on silviculture, and would, therefore, agree to support your request. I will have one of my staff contact you with further details.

As a comment, I would like to get some feedback from your representatives as how they felt the meeting went, and what role they feel ForCan/PFC can serve. Feedback would assist us in better understanding this area.

In closing, I would like to wish your Association success as it works towards the formation of a National Silviculture Association.

Organizing Principles:

The CSA will seek as members all associations in Canada who represent those whose primary activity is silviculture work.

Each member association will select a representative who will sit on the board of directors of the CSA.

The Board of directors will elect a president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer to act as the executive board. The executive board will conduct the affairs of the association. Election, July 17, 1990; Dirk Brinkman, President. Jim Verboem, Vice President. Simon Landy, Secretary Treasurer.

Associations who are members of the CSA are requested to pay 10% of their annual revenues to the CSA or \$200, whichever is greater.

Sustaining Associate Membership is available to organizations, universities, government agencies, and businesses for \$250 per year. This will give the Sustaining Associate Member access to all information distributed to the members.

Provincial governments and regional offices of Forestry Canada will be asked to assist the regional participation of the member associations in the CSA.

Resolutions and policies of the CSA will be decided by the unanimous consent of the Board of Directors of the CSA.

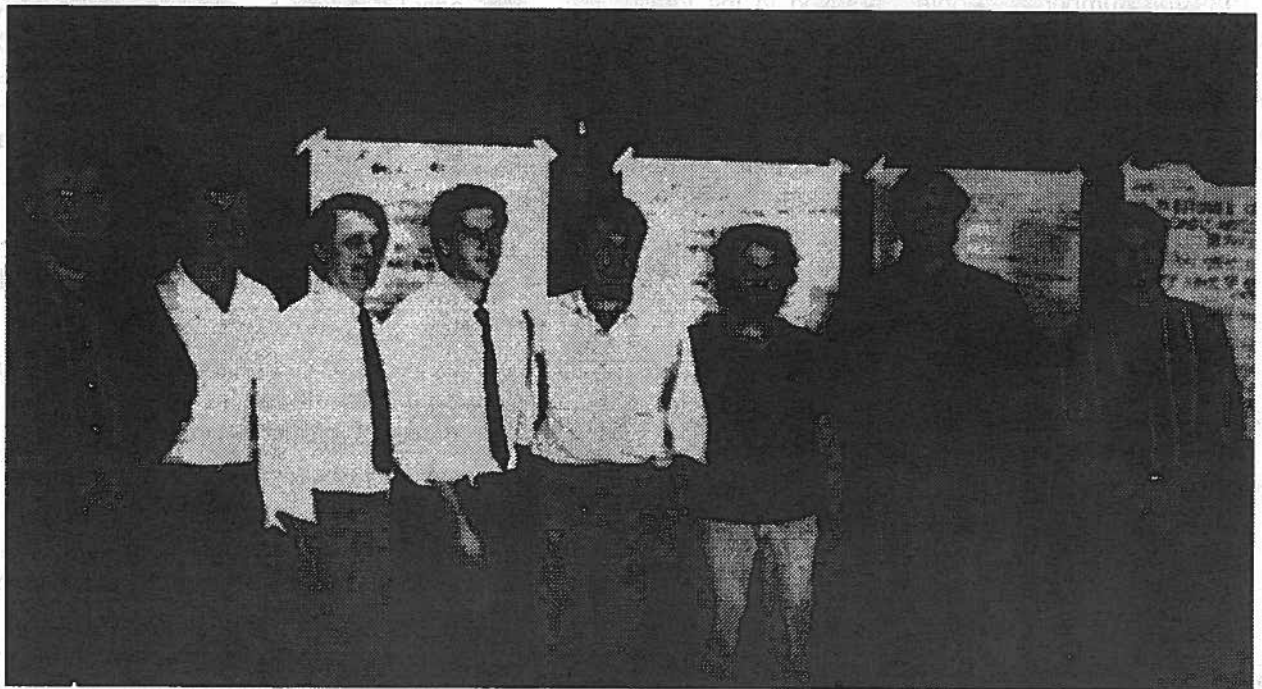
The CIF has graciously agreed to provide at cost, an office, telephone, answering service, fax #, and the as needed services of their Executive Director, Jim Crayford, office manager, and part time clerical staff, during their hours 8:30 to 5 PM.

Underlying Resolution.

The CSA will not lobby for issues of a regional nature but will lobby for issues of national importance.

Principle

The fundamental principle of the CSA will be to have the cost of renewing or replacing resources as a first charge against the user of the resource.



CSA Directors at the Inaugural meeting

Resolutions

It was resolved that the purposes of the CSA are as follows:

- 1 To provide a national and unified voice for the silviculture industry.
- 2 To provide access to national media attention.
- 3 To lobby Forestry Canada and other national Ministries, public and private agencies to increase appropriate silviculture activities in Canada.
- 4 To lobby to set reasonable, standard working conditions for silviculture workers in Canada.
- 5 To facilitate the development of national silviculture worker training accrediting and facilitate regional training programs.
- 6 To facilitate the development of common standards in the awarding and execution of contract silviculture work in Canada.
- 7 funding between all the regional associations.
- 8 To promote the use of standard silviculture terminology to aid in the comparison of data and spread of information.
- 9 To focus public attention on national critical silviculture issues.
- 10 To promote the implementation of national global commons or green programs in silviculture related to CO2 and climate change, bio-diversity, air and water quality and soil conservation.
- 11 To facilitate the comparison of silviculture practices in different jurisdictions across Canada in order to make regional programs more effective.
- 12 To represent the Canadian Silviculture industry internationally and to international interests.
- 13 To work toward mitigating the degree of fragmentation in the silviculture industry.

Meetings July 18, 1990

1. National Silviculture Conference

The CSA agreed to host the first national Silviculture Conference in Canada which is being organized by Silviculture, Maclean Hunter.

2. Forestry Canada

Meeting: Jean-Claude Mercier, Deputy Min. Forestry Canada, Joakim Hermelin, Policy Advisor, Forestry Canada and Dirk Brinkman, Pres. & Jim Verboem Vice Pres. CSA.

Jean-Claude Mercier indicated that the potential role of the CSA in establishing national standards for certification of Silviculture Worker training programs would be a function that Forestry Canada would appreciate seeing managed by the CSA. The CSA will have to put a proposal before F.C..

Jean Claude also indicated that he does not see F.C. having an appropriate role supplying ongoing contributions to an association lobbying F.C., however, a formative contribution to assist in the establishment of the CSA might be considered.

The CSA's role in coordinating the comparison and standardization of silviculture activities throughout Canada, and potential role in provid-

ing an ongoing function of technology transfer between regions was also reviewed. The CSA will have to work out the methodology for such a potential contract service to F.C.

Also discussed was the initiation of research strategies to link the value of establishing healthy forests near the urban centers for their environmental and health related values, was also discussed.

3. Canadian Forestry Association

Meeting with Glen Blouin and Lise of the Canadian Forestry Association in Ottawa, made it clear that there will need to be a strategic alignment between the various organizations (CIF, CFA, CSA, FOE) representing aspects of Canada's forests, in order to prevent unnecessary overlap, and to differentiate each others roles.

4. Graduate Forestry Student

Directors Marcel Arsenault, Frances Donnelly, Jim Verboem, Dirk Brinkman met and agreed that one short term goal of the CSA will be to have a graduate student who is interested in a national public service career work for 6 months to a year in a CEIC funded post, to get the CSA up and running. This CEIC money is yet to be applied for.

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Re-Bidding Wars

by Jennifer Lauriault, Hawkeye Reforestation Ltd.

Note: This letter was sent to MOF regarding some bids that were tendered in the Rosedale Forest District.

Our company, Hawkeye Reforestation Ltd., has been doing tree planting contracts in the Rosedale District for the past five years. One of the companies we usually bid for in the Rosedale District is Treeland Forestry Services Ltd., a consulting company which takes care of tree planting for several small logging companies including Herman Sawmills Ltd. On March 15, 1990, we bid on the Herman's work through Treeland. This letter is to expose the unfair way in which our bids were handled.

There were four contractors invited to bid on this work who are all regular bidders in the Rosedale District. These are the original bid prices rounded off to the nearest \$100.00.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Hawkeye | \$35,200.00 |
| 2. Whiskey Jack | \$38,400.00 |
| 3. Beaver Foot | \$40,500.00 |
| 4. Green Peaks | \$52,300.00 |

This job should have been awarded to us. We were working in the area at the time for Prettys' Lumber and were about to run out of open ground. (Ground not covered by snow.) Had we been awarded the contract, we would have almost been finished the job. As it happens, the job was re-tendered. At the time this letter is being written, not one tree is in the ground and our crew is laid off.

We were not awarded this job was because the Ministry of Forests, Rosedale District and Herman Sawmills deemed the bids too high. Ministry has authority as more than half of the project is Government funded. The bids were not too high. As one can see, the prices were close amongst the first three bidders. This consistency is proof of fair market value. The fourth bidder obviously wasn't interested in the job but threw in a bid anyway. The average of the first set of bids was \$41,600.00. These were fair bids. Part of the contract included "by the hect-

are" work which is a bit more expensive than "by the tree" work but the results are more efficient in difficult to plant or fill-in ground.

When we phoned Treeland for the bid results, we were shocked about the decision for a re-tender. No one had contacted us to let us know anything about it. To top it off, we were told by Treeland that MOF Rosedale had instructed them to invite a group of reputed low bidders (from their "list") to bid on the work. None of the original bidders except us bid on the re-tender. We discovered that they had not been invited to re-tender but were only sent a letter stating the job would be re-tendered. The letter contained no dates or particulars (see sidebar).

We suspect the second set of contractors had access to the original set of bids before submitting their bids. Our suspicions are aroused because the second group of bids came in awfully high for a bunch of known low bidders. Another fact which has bearing on the second set of prices is that the contract was changed and all of the "by the hectare" work was changed to "by the tree" work. These are the second set of bids rounded off to the nearest \$100.00.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Top Hill | \$19,700.00 |
| 2. Hawkeye | \$30,600.00 |
| 3. Big Little | \$31,700.00 |
| 4. Super Valley | \$35,700.00 |
| 5. General | \$37,200.00 |
| 6. J. Kosa (sp.?) | \$41,200.00 |
| 7. Eagle Forest | \$66,700.00 |

In principle, we shouldn't have changed our bids from the original but because the contract format had changed and because we really wanted the job to keep our planters working we did lower our price.

The only way we would have been able to preform this contract at our low price of \$30,600.00 would have been to do it quickly and efficiently with a

crew of experienced tree planters paid a decent wage. Our operating expenses would have been covered but our profit would have been minimal. We do regret lowering our bid but we felt under pressure at the time. The average bid price on the second bidding was \$37,500.00. This isn't really much lower than the original bid average of \$41,600.00 especially considering the change of contract format from "by the hectare" to "by the tree". In fact, without the outrageously low bid of the first place contractor, the average is almost identical.

Prices in the Rosedale District have gone down because of the escalating number of low-bid, sub-standard, colluding contractors. Their prices are 30%-50% less than average prices around the province. Standards and "Market-Value" should not be set by these low prices. We believe tax payers would want the job done at a fair price with workers paid a fair wage. In our experience one can only work so cheaply without breaking the law. It may be Labour Standards or Immigration or WCB rules or just plain stealing in the manner of "stashing" trees. Something has to give.

We feel we have been cheated out of this job. We feel the bids were handled unfairly and unprofessionally. We don't expect to gain from this letter except fairer bidding practices in the Rosedale District.

Re: Tree Planting Contract, Herman/Tamih 90-1

On behalf of Herman Sawmill Ltd., please be advised that your tender of March 15, 1990 in the sum of \$35,216.50 submitted in connection with the above noted planting contract has been unsuccessful.

For your information, this contract will be re-tendered as all bids received were deemed to be too high by the Ministry of Forests and Herman Sawmill Ltd.

Thank you for your interest & tender.

Paul Rehler, R.P.F.
Treeland Forestry Services

MOF's Reply

Thank you for your letter dated April 2, 1990 outlining your concerns with regard to Herman Sawmills Ltd.'s tree planting contract Tamihi 90-1.

The District Manager at Chilliwack has reviewed the issue and advises me the district followed standard procedures for contract awarding.

To ensure fair and equitable contract solicitation, and assure the taxpayers receive true market value for the work performed, it is not uncommon for the ministry to re-tender contracts where the bids exceed the district estimate. In this case the initial bids submitted by Treeland Forest Services, who are representing the licensee, Herman Log Sales, were well above the district estimate and an agreement was made with the licensee to re-tender the contract. It was also agreed, after reviewing the prescription, that a price per tree bid would be a preferable way to obtaining the desired stocking.

The retendering procedure was conducted in an appropriate manner. The original bidders were notified by letter of the project being re-tendered and other available contractors were invited to submit tenders. Although the ministry has limited control over the licensee's tendering procedures we were told by the licensee the second set of bidders did not receive any information regarding the first set of bids.

The Forest Service ensures that all ministry funded contracts are administered in a fair and equitable manner through approved inspection methods which assure a satisfactory standard of work is achieved regardless of the price bid. Substandard work is not condoned from any contractor.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. The Chilliwack Forest District Manager, Mr. John Hall, 9850 South McGrath Road, Rosedale, British Columbia V0X 1X0 (794-3361) would be pleased to provide you with any further information you require.

*Claude Richmond,
Minister of Forests*

Mis-informed non-consent?

by Dennis Graham, Director WSCA

Note: *This letter was sent to the Minister of Forests on Aug. 17, 1990. At press time no reply had been received.*

On behalf of the WSCA I would like to inform the MOF of some significant omissions in the information concerning Herman Sawmills' treeplanting contract 90-1.

The re-tendering procedure undertaken by Treeland on behalf of the licensee was not conducted in an appropriate manner. The letters received from Treeland informing us of the re-tendering were dated March 21st, 1990. Allowing for delivery time, they were of course received some time later. The contract had been awarded prior to March 21st.

As can be noted from the list of new bids, only Hawkeye was able to re-tender because they had managed to find out what was occurring before the delayed letter was received. Since the original bidders were not notified that a re-tendering was taking place, the opportunity to re-submit bids reflecting the new prescription was denied them. We feel the procedure was both messy and irregular making the whole process suspect.

I have since determined from telephone conversations with personnel at the Chilliwack Forest District office, that the successful bidder in the re-tendered Contract, who's bid was \$19,700.00 received only 30% payment for the 1.0 portion of the work and approximately \$10,000 to \$11,000 overall was received by the contractor for the work performed. In other words, the quality was in the mid-70% range!! Do you find this acceptable?

Obviously, this whole issue needs further attention. Certain questions need to be addressed. The Forest Minister replied that the re-tendering procedures were conducted in an appropriate manner. Were they? It is stated that the Ministry has limited control over the licensees. At what point does the Ministry assume some control (bearing in mind approximately 50% of the stock were 1.0 trees)?

To quote from the Minister's letter, "The Forest Service ensures that all ministry funded contracts are administered in a fair and equitable manner through approved inspection methods which ensure satisfactory standard of work is achieved regardless of the bid price. Substandard work is not condoned from any planting contractor." Is 70% acceptable? Were the funds well spent?

Should the contractors who were unable to re-tender be reimbursed for their viewing expenses and administrative costs incurred in submitting their bid?

Our membership awaits your reply.

PETER M. KENDALL

Barrister & Solicitor

Specialist in Silviculture Law

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M 1991 MOF Silviculture Contracts

By R.G. Brown, Manager, Regeneration Programs

We wish to advise you of the following requirements relating to silviculture contracting for the approaching calendar year:

1. Contractor performance system

The Silviculture Branch has concluded that the existing Contractor Performance System (CPS) is unresponsive to the needs of the Ministry's District Offices and the Ministry does not have the necessary staff to adequately administer the System in its present form. Consequently, the CPS will be suspended for the 1991 season, during which time the Branch will re-examine the system, with a view to establishing a more effective and efficient process.

2. Performance Securities

While the CPS is suspended, the performance security requirement for silviculture treatment contracts will normally be the greater of \$1000 or 10% of the contract value, with the following exceptions:

- for Silviculture Survey contracts the performance security will normally be the greater of \$500 or 10% of the contract value;
- the Ministry may establish the amount of the performance security as high as 25% of contract value if, in the opinion of the Ministry officer, there are unusually high risks to the Ministry in the event of contract failure or non-completion;

Acceptable forms of Performance securities for Silviculture Contracts are:

- Cash;
- Certified Cheque or Official Cheque;
- Money Order;
- Bank Draft;
- Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit;
- Safekeeping Agreement (replaces Receipt and Agreement)—appropriate form LB available from Ministry;
- Performance bond in the amount of 50% of contract value.

3. Camp Standards

The following paragraphs of the Silviculture Contract Camp standards will be amended as indicated:

2.1 Assessments

If an inspection indicates that the operator has failed to comply with any standards specified in this Schedule, the contract Officer may immediately impose upon the operator an assessment of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each infraction. The Contract Officer may repeat the assessment each time that a subsequent inspection indicates that the Operator remains in non-compliance with the standards. W.C.B. and Health Inspectors may impose any assessments provided in their respective legislation.

3.5 Dining Room

- The dining area shall be dry, heated, and constructed so as to deter the entry of insects and vermin. Dining rooms shall be supplied with smooth, durable, non-absorbent easily cleanable floors.

3.6 Food Handlers

- All food handlers shall have a valid food handler's certificate indicating their completion of a basic food handlers course recognized by the Ministry of Health.

4. Invoicing

Due to revised government payment procedures established by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, it is no longer possible for the Ministry of Forests to initiate payments solely on the basis of a Payment Certificate. Therefore, in order for the Ministry to process a silviculture contract payment, the contractor must, following completion of the required work, submit an invoice to the Ministry. To be

acceptable an invoice must:

- be addressed to the Ministry of Forests;
- bear the name and address of the company or individual holding the contract;
- identify the project/contract to which the invoice applies;
- be dated; and
- show the amount of payment claimed in accordance with the contract;

Upon receipt of the invoice, the Ministry will date stamp it, adjust the amount of payment due (if necessary) to correspond with the Ministry's post-treatment inspection results, and process the invoice for payment.

Unless an early payment discount has been arranged, Ministry of Finance and Corporate relations procedures specify that payment will normally be received by the Contractor within thirty to sixty days after the invoice is received by the Ministry of Forests. Interest may be claimed (at rates specified by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations) for amounts which remain unpaid after sixty days.

Performance Rating in Suspense

By Dirk Brinkman

Silviculture Branch has decided to reduce the stress levels on Greg Cousins and his support staff who have had to deal with up to 40 calls a day from contractors and licensees related to the Contractor Performance System. For 1991, all contractors will have to pay 10% deposits for MOF contracts.

"The tremendous time creating the present data base doesn't justify the results," according to Robin Brown. "Contractors are rated 'A' who require a lot of baby-sitting."

Dan Lousier has been asked to review the system. He will interview MOF, industry and contractors and recommend a new system that flows more naturally out of the present records and reflects more useful performance information on the contractors.

WSCA has proposed to MOF that the Association can effectively track this information under contract to MOF.

Camp Floors Unnecessary

C. Akehurst, WSCA Director

At a recent meeting of the WSCA Directors there was some discussion of the Camp Standards situation.

In particular, there was a general feeling that the proposed implementation of solid flooring in the eating area for the 1991 season would be an unnecessary burden on contractors. The WSCA would much rather see a more rigid enforcement of existing regulations, than the addition of new regulations. Some of our reasons for this request are:

Many contractors are still not adhering to the existing standards (especially on Appraisal Tree contracts) and we feel that the Ministry's energy would be better spent enforcing those regulations already in existence.

We can see **no** good reason for the flooring requirement. It merely seems part of the trend to make us less mobile and more like logging contractors. We would have to tow large trailers into the bush and set up major camps. For many jobs this is impractical because of the short duration of the contract and lack of space to camp. It would also decrease the adventurous nature and outdoor lure of the work. If the flooring standards were to be strictly enforced in 1991, we would see far less camping, and much more motel work with its inherent danger of much longer drives and less productivity.

We want to ensure the Ministry that we are not against the strict enforcement of camp standards, but we do not see the need for a requirement that will not add to the health and safety of our employees; but will cause large costs, less mobility and will greatly reduce the adventurous nature of the work.

No Floors Won't Wash

R. G. Brown, Manager, Regeneration Programs

Thank you for your letter of August 14th in regard to the introduction of the new clause for washable dining room floors.

While I understand your concern, this amendment was intended to have been in place for the 1990 season but, through an oversight, we neglected to include the requirement in the Camp Standards schedule. Thus there has been a years grace for contractors to comply with this requirement. The contracting industry has been aware of this addition for at least one year.

We are presently sending out a letter to all contractors reminding them of the changes to the Camp Standards which had been negotiated with the Ministry of Health, including the requirement for washable floors in the dining area.

Nevertheless I appreciate your' concern about the extra problems involved in transportation and costs and I suggest that you raise this issue with Mr. Gerry Penner of the Ministry of Health at 387-2695. We are certainly prepared, if there is agreement with The Ministry of Health, to rescind this requirement.

Note: The WSCA initiated the this exchange of letters on camp floors with Robin Brown Manager, Regeneration Programs at Silviculture Branch on August 14, 1990.

As we go to press MOH & MOF have agreed to not require washable camp floors for the 1991 season.

Herbicide Project Costing

P.W. Ackhurst, R.P.F., Director, Silviculture Branch

Silviculture Branch is presently looking at the overall costing formula used in the decision profile to assess the economics of herbicides in relation to other vegetation management treatments. It is our intention to produce procedures which Districts can use to allow a fair evaluation of all methods for contract award purposes.

In light of substantial changes that have recently occurred in the insurance market, the Branch is looking at the implications of requiring herbicide contractors to purchase environmental impairment and health hazard insurance coverage.

We are also attempting to find an equitable formula for assessing the administration costs inherent in all treatment methods. For example, how do we equate the cost of a herbicide appeal with the additional administrative costs resulting from the longer time necessary to complete a manual treatment project? This is especially troublesome since the appeal may be the result of arbitrary decisions taken outside of our control.

Please consider sending this memo to all Resource Officers, Silviculture, for their information and comments.

Feel free to pass along any advice on this topic that you may have. Your comments can be sent to Warren Mitchell at 356-7778.

Memo from P.W. Ackhurst, R.P.F.

This is a reminder to all Regions and Districts that the cost of the herbicide must be included and considered when herbicide versus manual vegetation management project tenders are being compared. This will ensure that the tendered bids are more fairly evaluated from the cost standpoint.

Sustainable Development

Excerpts from Forestry Commission Hearing

Richard Dalon, Deputy Minister of Environment

The basic objectives and principles of forest management are rapidly changing. There is a recognition of the great biological diversity in our forests and a desire to perpetuate this diversity in the forests of the future, whether managed or wild. Research in the northwestern United States suggests that, in order to maintain biological diversity, some of the structures and the diversity of old-unmanaged forests must be carried over into new, managed forests. Their structural diversity supports a wide variety of plants, insects, animals and birds, many with specialized habitat requirements.

B.C. has the greatest variety of landscapes and thus, the greatest biological diversity in Canada. Not only is there a great diversity of forest types (with 14 bio-geoclimatic zones), but the Province is home to at least 280 species and subjects of mammals, 460 commonly resident bird species (of which 285 breed in the province), 70 species of fish, 12 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibians and over 3,000 species of plants. Nearly three-quarters of all the species found in Canada are present in B.C., about one-half of which are exclusive to our province.

The replacement of old-growth forest with even-aged stands will lead to decline in diversity of habitats & species.

The Ministry of Environment has documented resource use conflicts in a number of areas, including soil degradation, roads and access, herbicide application, rangeland allocation, and slashburning. Soil degradation has been identified as a major environmental problem in B.C. Forestry activities, such as logging, road construction, skidder trails and post-logging treatments can contribute to soil degradation and affect water quality, fish habitat and long-term habitat productivity.

Construction of roads may also reduce wildlife habitat, especially in valley bottoms where animals have critical winter ranges, migration corridors, and mineral licks.

The Ministry is preparing a White Paper on the use of pesticides in B.C., and will circulate it widely for public comment.

The Ministry also recognizes the considerable public concern about herbicide use. That such treatments may reduce the diversity of species available for forage and wildlife habitat - and notes the need for further investigation of alternative silvicultural practices.

Burning for wildlife habitat enhancement increased from 17,000 ha in 1982 to 54,000 ha in 1989. During the same period, broadcast burning, for silvicultural purposes increased from 30,000 ha to 74,000 ha.

Unless carefully planned, clearcutting can result in negative impacts on wildlife, affecting population levels and species diversity.

The Ministry of Environment supports the planned use of a variety of cutting practices which are appropriate to accommodate fisheries, wildlife, water, scenic and aesthetic values.... It is true that we only make recommendations to the Ministry of Forests which they may or may not accept....

Governments feel strongly about finding a process much more centered within the community. ...

The Forest Service submits plans to us and we comment. It is not done jointly.

Travers (Environment): The principle which the Forest Service operates on is that the companies propose and government evaluates.... Nothing is binding on the Forest Service.

Walker (Fisheries): The only authority we have is after the fact, in the case of habitat damage, and there we rely upon the Federal Fisheries Act.

Travers: When we refer to watershed forest, hydrology sensitivity analysis provides a reading on how much activity could occur without serious impact.

A rule of thumb is that we shouldn't remove more than one-third of the trees in a watershed within a 25-year period. (Only 3 of 300 community watersheds has detailed plans respecting harvesting activity)....

On the coast, the need to apply watershed planning, guidelines is probably academic, as we've logged many of these watershed well beyond the threshold set in analysis procedures.

Market Value & Product Quality

Excerpts from Forestry Commission presentation by Philip G. Halkett Deputy Ministry of Forests

If a substantial portion of the timber harvest of the province from all regions and species were going into a log market, then that would set a real & determined market value better than the judgements of companies, bureaucrats or anybody else....

This economic truth is persuasive on the point that value is determined through the market place. What is something worth? It is worth what somebody is willing to pay for it in a free market. A log market is, in traditional economic thinking, the way to determine value, just as it is for houses or coffee cups....

Research aimed at improving the product quality, in value, suggests that longer rotations will be needed to capture the benefits of silviculture treatments in second-growth stands of coastal Douglas fir. Lengthening rotations can supplement silvicultural treatments such as pruning to improve wood quality and product value. Pruning promotes the production of clear lumber and a three fold value premium. (FPC: Over-all, the intent of ever-decreasing rotation ages has been to increase the rate at which old growth timber is liquidated. In response to lowering of rotation ages, the allowable annual cut has increased from approximately 37 million cubic metres in 1970, to some 73 million cubic metres in 1988).

Contractor/Nursery Cooperation

by Dirk Brinkman and Jack Starr

Note: This presentation was made to B.C. Nursery Growers

We are team players in one reforestation program. We both effect plantation performance. Traditionally, we blame each other for failures. Increased cooperation and liaison between contractors and nurseries will result in an improved planting program.

It is important for growers to understand several current problems related to nurseries that contractors face. Improved understanding will create an environment for cooperation.

Contractors need to become informed of nursery practices, especially about the condition of their stock. Nurseries also need to communicate authentically with foresters and contractors. A common language for describing stock conditions, clear knowledge of uncertainties, and awareness of the consequences on both sides, is essential to avoid recent problems.

Stock delivery irregularities

Irregular stock delivery during the rapidly expanding summer program have created serious extraordinary costs for reforestation contractors. Nursery growers were pressured by foresters (who in turn were pressured by con-

tractors & schedules) to make delivery commitments they could not keep.

Some nurseries delivered on schedule by commencing black out one to three weeks before delivery. Contractors and our client foresters are determined to see changes for 1991.

In the event of delivery or stock irregularities, reforestation contractors have the option to

- bid these irregularities into the contract
- seek compensation for extra costs
- be released from obligation to perform
- take delivery of flushing seedlings and proceed with planting

The WSCA has endorsed the principle that contractors pass these costs on the client very visibly. The clients will then pressure nurseries to take preventative action.

One question we will look at is: Is the cost to the contractors greater than the cost of assuring regular delivery?

Clauses are needed in the growing contract that reflect the costs and consequences of late delivery to the field.

Tree box recycling

Reforestation contractors would like to have an official arrangement with the nurseries enabling them to return tree boxes and recover their costs for maintaining box quality and gathering, folding and delivering used boxes for reuse.

Larger Boxes

Larger stock requires a 2 foot box to prevent stock with bent tops.

Other issues will be identified to be discussed at a later date.

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"We will invest 50 million to plant more than 36 million trees under the new Forest Renewal Initiative Program, in addition to the province's regular silviculture programs of 130 million seedlings planted this year."

"In addition, the forest industry will plant a further 116 million seedlings this year, at its own expense, to meet the government requirements."

The minister said a total of \$182 million from the Sustainable Environment Fund will be invested in forest management this year.

He said the new program has been established through this fund to maintain the forest renewal activities previously funded under the five-year, \$300 million federal-provincial Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA), which expired on March 31, 1990.

"The provincial government is keenly interested in renewing FRDA, but the federal government has yet to make an acceptable offer," Richmond said.

"The Forest Renewal Initiative Program demonstrates British Columbia's goodwill and strong desire to renew the agreement as well as our province's commitment to renewing our forests. While the Forest Renewal Initiative Program is a provincial program, it provides an opportunity for federal co-operation when a renewed agreement is reached."

"These activities must continue or millions of dollars invested in new plantations under the federal-provincial agreement will be lost," said Richmond.

FRDA Reduced NSR Backlog Substantially

The pre-1982 backlog on good and medium sites is down to 436,700 ha from 738,000 ha reported in 1984.

Between May 1985 and January 1990, silviculture surveys and prescriptions were carried out for more than 454,000 hectares of the backlog lands to determine forest land stocking to develop reforestation plans.

Seedlings were planted on more than 133,000 ha of backlog, thousands of hectares of NSR lands also regenerated naturally since 1982.

Forest Minister Richmond said the large decrease in the net backlog of NSR lands will significantly improve the province's long-term timber supply and regional employment.

"FRDA was a welcome addition to the B.C. Forest Service's regular forest-renewal programs, and disease, are reforested."

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FRDA Expired but not dead

Letter to Dirk Brinkman

Thank you for your letter dated March 23, 1990, regarding the Canada-British Columbia Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA).

As you know, FRDA expired on March 31, 1990. The province is very disappointed that we do not have a renewed agreement in place. As far back as 1987 the province requested that negotiations begin. In our view an early renewal was necessary to allow for an uninterrupted progression from the first agreement to the second.

The forest renewal component of the recently established Sustainable Environment Fund provides funding for provincial programs which protect the investments and further the aims of FRDA. This fund ensures provincial commitment to forest renewal while providing the opportunity for federal cooperation if a renewed agreement is

reached. Forest renewal funding is currently at a level which will meet our goal of eliminating the backlog not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) forest land by the year 2000.

I continue to hold preliminary talks with the Honourable Frank Oberle, Minister of Forestry Canada, regarding the size and content of a new agreement. I remain optimistic that the federal government will join us in a renewed forestry agreement that is so

important to our communities, to the province and to Canada.

I agree with you that an opportunity to further extend the success of FRDA internationally was missed at Globe 90. We will strive not to miss such opportunities in the future.

Thank you for your interest in a renewed FRDA.

Claude Richmond
Minister of Forests



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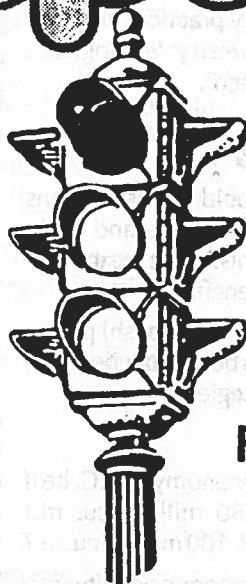
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Strategy for Public Involvement in FRDA II

by Dirk Brinkman & Larry Atherton, RPF

Note: This presentation was made to a strategy workshop on the communication-extension component of FRDA II.

The WSCA appreciated the opportunity to participate in this brief respite from 'no FRDA II' to seriously fantasize with MOF, Forestry Canada and select representatives of the forestry community, about strategies for the new FRDA Extension, Demonstration and Public Involvement Program.

The following are key elements to increasing the level of knowledge about forests and forestry in British Columbia.

Government Forestry Funding

The glaringly deficit in the past Extension Demonstration program is that there is no FRDA II in place today.

There must be public support for federal & provincial forestry investment.

A key element in the extension program has to concrete measures and assessments of success. There have to be on-going tests which alert us immediately to the effectiveness of the extension initiatives.

For example, we needed to know long before now that the past extension program did not have the desired result of enrolling the public and ensuring the continuity of this vitally essential forest renewal program.

More broadly, it is FRDA's responsibility to restore public confidence in the forestry programs implemented through FRDA.

The Federal role

Why is the federal government spending money on the backlog?

Lets clear up the questions of the federal role, the provincial role, the appropriateness of the federal government involvement and specifically, through the program, how the federal mandate is being realized.

Public Confidence & The New Forestry

FRDA, linked to forestry, is associated with clear-cut logging, herbicides,

monoculture plantations, waste, pollution, erosion, soil degradation,

There is guilt by association. So there has to be an emphasis in fact as well as representation.

The FRDA program will have to undertake to introduce strategies, both in R&D and operational projects, that are effective alternatives to the undesirable features of forestry today. These initiatives have to be highlighted by a extension & demonstration program.

To achieve this, FRDA II will have to intrude in all levels of forestry, including harvesting practices, prescribed burning, CO₂ issues, wildlife habitat issues, etc..

It will have to participate in creating acceptable forestry practices and represent the **New Forestry**: 'ecological', 'holistic', 'integrated'.

The Benefits

There has to be lucid representations of the values of intensive and basic forestry investments. What are the volume and value benefits?

The urban and the rural (bush) public audiences have to be approached with two separate strategies.

Urban benefits

What would the economy of B.C. be if the AAC was: 50 million cu. m.? 75 million cu. m.? 100 million cu. m.?

Show that lost economic activity, forest industry unemployment, and loss of indirect jobs affects ordinary people in Vancouver and their jobs.

FRDA Strategy Workshop

FRDA II negotiations are continuing and all are agreed that communication and extension should receive increased emphasis and several million dollars in funding.

What strategy is best for this program and do you have a role to play?

Please send the most appropriate member of your staff to contribute to the success of this workshop.

P.W. Ackhurst

Director, Silviculture Branch

Show how this relates to hospital, education & highway funding.

Rural benefits

Which communities will be shut down or boosted with which options?

ForestLand/ScienceWorld

Enhance the opportunity for public involvement by creating an interactive setting of programs, a **ForestLand** of Beautiful B.C.'s forests by FRDA.

Make it so kids want to go there because it is fun. It could gain world renown because its with-it, environmentally right.

Possible feature exhibits include:

- **This was Logging**— forestry in the past.
- **Forestry in the present**— by film, and mechanical displays— (e.g. a Nintendo control for a live grapple-yarder, etc..)
- **Future ForestLand**, project the new, soft forestry, with its human values, its selective logging.

A Forestland pilot project could be set up through ScienceWorld. In cooperation with FRDA they develop a forest exhibit using their very effective child involvement techniques. Interesting FRDA research results could be demonstrated to the kids with Hamish Kimmins interactive computer games.

The effective parts of the exhibit would move to a permanent location, perhaps Green Timbers and maintain it there.

"Change In The Forests"

A George Lucas-type film made by FRDA about:

- Changing Expectations
- Changing attitudes.
- Changing practices.

The Media

Keep the media up with the program, involve them in it and suggest special profiles of progress being made.

Press releases from the FRDA agreement about research progress and programs should be jointly released by Forestry Canada and MOF.

Implementation

Lets have the research work translated into practical terms. What does it mean? What has to change? How?

It should be a requirement that the authors pictures, pictures of the research work or plots, and photo and graphic illustrations of what has been found, be included in the research reports.

The report has to audited by a Report Communication Quality Team of practical field people.

What is the WCSA role?

Contractors on the Advisory Committee

Advisory committee must include those DOING the work.

Silviculture Contractors with a high level of expertise, should be on the advisory committees, doing and reviewing the research.

Lets have practical research, research which can be applied immediately.

Training & certification

In Nova Scotia & New Brunswick, FRDA funding fueled contractor and silviculture worker training.

This lends a lot of credibility to the program, as well as creates a more informed work force.

Work-site visit program

During forestry week— or later in the spring season, FRDA can supply a sequence of signs, which are set up on all major transportation arteries, leading to all active FRDA projects, which encourage the public to visit projects.

A component of the projects during that week would be a requirement that the contractor host any members of the public long enough to show them what they are doing, let them plant a few trees.

WCSA Newsletter

The WCSA would welcome the use of its newsletter to get FRDA information through to the silviculture contractors. This may be more interactive— our reporting on action at the political level has created a dedicated readership.

FRDA Extension/Communication Meeting notes

Larry Atherton, RPF

The first day of the meeting had presentations by a number of people including Chief Forester John Cuthbert.

The second day of the meeting was spent developing the following purpose statement and strategic objectives:

Statement of Purpose

To provide a full range of effective forestry training, education and communication services through a collaborative and responsive framework.

Strategic objectives

On behalf of the WCSA I committed members to participate in the attainment of each strategic objective in the following ways.

- 1) To develop a neutral and representative structure to:
 - expand the network
 - coordinate
 - inform
 - support
 - advise
 - exchange information
 - to meet our statement of purpose

WCSA Actively Supports

- 2) To put in place a plan for securing sustained funding and staffing to achieve our purpose and vision.

WCSA Consults

- 3) To put in place a responsive plan for transferring information to include:

- definition of target groups and needs
- organization and coordination of all resources and activities
- time-table
- follow-up & client evaluation

WCSA Actively Supports

- 4) To identify roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies involved in extension/education /communication.

WCSA Informed only

- 5) To establish a leadership position in exploring and developing the emerging paradigm in forestry.

- To promote and accelerate the acceptance of new technology and new thinking.

WCSA Consults

- 6) To put in place a strategy for the promotion of life-long learning within the forestry community.

WCSA Consults

- 7) To solicit active participatory representation from all forest resource stakeholders.

WCSA Consults

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Ready for Site Prep?

We recently took part in a series of seminars held by the B.C. Ministry of Forests, FRDA, and Selkirk College. During the tour, the need we have recognized for the organization of mechanical site preparation contractors was reinforced many times.

In conversations with April Anderson of Selkirk College, Loren Bedford of the B.C. Ministry of Forest, Cindy Pearce of FRDA and Al Todd of Integrated Silviculture Services, your organization was mentioned numerous times as a possible starting point for this type of organization.

Therefore, we would like to have the following information from you:

1. Information on membership in your organization.
2. Your executives feelings on the possible sub-organization under the auspices of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association of a group of mechanical site preparation contractors.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

*Iva L. Tuttle, President
I & I Construction Ltd.*

Bob Jones Memorial Fund

The Advisory Committee to the Forest Resources Technology Program at Malaspina College, by way of an announcement in the next WSCA Newsletter, wishes to express its gratitude for the donations that have been made to the Bob Jones Memorial Fund. The annual interest from this fund will be given as a bursary to a forestry technology student with a particular interest in silviculture.

To date, the fund stands at \$2,900, and the target set for it is \$5,000.

Donations are still welcome and should be sent to: Malaspina College, 900 Fifth St., Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5S5.

*D. Weber & D.A. Smith,
Forest Resources Technology,
Malaspina College*

Site Prep reply

Site preparation contracting could potentially be well represented through the Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association.

It has such unique problems that it is logical to have either a special committee or a separate chapter which houses the site prep contractors, and elects its own executive, the president of which sits on the WSCA Executive.

As you know, we have a number of members who do site preparation.

It was our goal to extend our membership, response attention and lobby efforts to include site preparation contractors, fire management contractors, spacing contractors & vegetation management contractors, to complete our silviculture representation.

We all sink and float in the same boat.

We have to be together and act together to get in control of our collective destiny.

Thanks for your interest. Get involved, we are open to make it work for you.

Enclosed is a draft copy of our Member's Handbook which contains our constitution, Code of Ethics and our policies and procedures. We have also enclosed our two most recent newsletters.

Dirk Brinkman

Industry Wide Training

As an Associate member of the WSCA, I read with interest the article, "CONTRACTING - OUT OF CONTROL" in your Spring 90 edition. I was particularly fascinated by Mr. Lousier's recommendations in regard to training.

His focus on the need for industry wide training, including Ministry staff, in Contract Management, Project Management, and Personnel Supervision, is one that our company has recognized for more than two years. In fact, the programs identified in the article have been available and promoted to contractors since the 1989 AGM. However, the industry seems reluctant to invest in this way.

The programs have been developed with Forestry specifically in mind. They are based on considerable research and hard practical lessons in the industry. The quality of the programs are representative of the sizable investment in development and production. The courses are all reasonably priced and can be delivered anywhere in the province.

I would hope that the MOF and the WSCA would examine and evaluate the existing programs before any more funds and resources are devoted to developing new programs.

*Garry Ward, Manager
LORAX Forestry (1987) Ltd.*

Mardon & Campbell Apology

re: Letter to WSCA Members dated April 4, 1990

Dear Bruce: Over the years you and your firm have build a reputation among WSCA members for excellent service and staunch support of the association. I recognize that you have served the association and its members well. Therefore, if comments I made in my letter to WSCA members gave you cause to feel that your character had been in impugned, such was certainly not intended, and I apologize for any such impact my letter may have had.

One the directors had invested considerable time and money in a review of agency proposals to offer General Liability Insurance for members and selected what they thought was the "best deal" for members, it seemed reasonable to me, as the Association's Executive Director, to encourage members to support the "agency of choice" with their business. I have since learned that there is much I do not know about the workings of the insurance industry. It was this lack of understanding that gave rise to those comments to which you have taken exception.

Ross Styles, Executive Director of the WSCA

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The following are the paid-up members of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association.
(A indicates Associate Member)

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Coast Range Contracting Ltd.
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Loki Reforestation Ltd.
Mountain Reforestation Ltd.
New Forest West (A)
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Talking Tree Forestry Contractors

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Lid's Reforestation Ltd.
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GTG Contracting Ltd.
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Summit Reforestation Ltd.
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