

# SCANADIAN SILVICULTURE MAGAZINE

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WINTER 1996

1996  
WESTERN  
SILVICULTURE  
CONFERENCE PREVIEW

in this issue:

**Commercial thinning:  
Balancing volume  
and value**

**Sheep grazers left  
out in the cold**

**Conservation of  
Northern forests  
conference**

plus regional silviculture  
reports from across Canada

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# CANADIAN SILVICULTURE MAGAZINE

Winter 1996, Volume 4/Number 1, Issue #10

## ON THE COVER

Timberjack 1270 harvester at work  
in a commercial thinning operation.

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## Balancing volume and value

Dirk Brinkman

In 1991 the CSA, in co-operation with Maclean Hunter, CFS and BC MOF, held Canada's First National Silviculture Conference. The theme of the conference was "Creating a Blueprint for doubling the productivity of Canada's working forests by the year 2040."

Conference organizers took a lot of flack for raising the volume flag above BC just before the hot summers of Clayoquot, the CORE land-use roundtables and the Forest Practices Code.

At that conference, one of the Finnish inventors of the Single Grip Harvester, Pekka Harkonen, presented a technical innovation for commercial thinning. He suggested that Canada could increase the volume of its harvest while protecting forest soils and reducing the toll of human injury and death.

According to Harkonen, the Single Grip Harvester can

- surface the trail with branches and tops by processing in front of the machine, reducing damage to a very low level, equal to what a person, a chainsaw and a horse can attain;
- eliminate the human fatalities and injuries resulting from chainsaw; and
- produce merchantable products with which to pay for improving the quality and value of the stand.

A superb set of articles in the Summer 1995 issue of *Forest Industries Magazine* updated Canadian readers on the state of commercial thinning in the east. And this issue of *CSM* features articles on commercial thinning in BC.

BC Silviculture Branch does not consider commercial thinning to be a silviculture practice, and harvest volumes are subject to normal stumpage rates and come out of the licensee harvest quota. FRBC has also not qualified commercial thinning as fundable, since it is a form of commercial harvesting. This effectively discourages commercial thinning from developing in BC.

The Pacific Northwest states are heading in the opposite direction, with the US Forest Service (USFS) in Washington cutting over 20,000 acres of commercial thinning in 1995. A cooperative USFS-forest industry venture is starting a school for single-grip operators in Port Angeles. According to Harkonen, "Without skilled operators, technology is nothing but a pile of complicated scrap, which can seriously damage the stand and the environment."

...continued on page 42

## Surfing the green certification wave

Dirk Brinkman

Green certification is being simultaneously and separately developed by various industry associations, independent companies, non-government organisations (NGOs), environmental associations, independent consultants and environmental conglomerates. Values differ among peoples and so the world may end up with as many environmental certifications as there are religious movements.

The forest industry is working within ISO (International Organisation of Standards) through the CPPA in Canada, many of whose members are already ISO 14000 certified for their product quality. The environment services sector, which is predominantly composed of engineering services, is also developing ISO 14000 standards for implementation in 1998.

One of the most compromising aspects of the current ISO standards for sustainable forest management is that it measures compliance relative to local regulations. If local forestry regulations are slack, as they are in Manitoba, compliance would still certify the product as green. At this time, the environment movement is not satisfied that it is properly represented in the ISO process.

The environment movement is working through the Forest Stewardship Council, which has initiated a process to accredit eco-certifiers. The certifier sector is further divided into non-profit and for-profit groups with non-profit groups claiming they are less pressured by business interests. One non-profit certifier, the Silva Foundation, has just awarded two Vernon Forest District operations the first eco-certifications in Canada, based on the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council.

The problem of balancing global environmental concerns will lead environmental organisations to increasing international co-operation. Shell Oil's approval from the UK Ministry of Environment to scuttle an oil drilling platform fell quickly before Greenpeace's brilliant *Brent Spar* media stunt. The power of the international consumer boycott cut Shell's Northern European sales by over 30% within a couple of weeks. Despite its success, Greenpeace has declared that it is undergoing a paradigm shift from confrontation to increased co-operation with industry.

Co-operation between the industry and NGO processes is inevitable. Canada must continue to take a leadership role in defining practical sustainable forest ecosystem management, such as put forward this summer by the Clayoquot Scientific Panel. This will prevent less environmentally benign but market-responsive regions from taking a significant market share, and wood product prices will continue to support investment in Canadian intensive silviculture. ❖

### **Changes mean silvi-UI-blues**

A number of the recently announced UI changes will affect the silviculture industry. The good news for contractors is that on January 1, 1996, employers' UI premiums will be lowered from 3% to 2.95%.

Workers will now qualify for UI based on accumulated hours not weeks worked. This will free contractors from pressure to tailor their work day schedule toward maximum UI benefits (as well as the temptation to fudge their books). A new conflict between reality and the books will emerge because workers will reach their qualifying hours faster if the contractor records their real hours worked. Contractors whose long working hours or extended shifts become evident may face Employment Standards problems.

UI benefits will be reduced to a maximum of 55% of insurable earnings. In addition, "repeat users" forfeit 3% of their benefit rate for every 20 weeks of UI claimed within the past five years. Seasonal silviculture workers come to UI with perhaps the greatest history of repeat use so their benefits could be reduced to as little as \$300/week. Such low claim rates will add pressure to find other employment during the off season; or to leave the industry entirely. Losing career silviculture professionals will inevitably drive the industry's costs up.

### **Delegation goes to El Salvador**

BC's Gaia project and the Salvadoran Centre for Appropriate Technology (CESTA) are sponsoring a second environmental delegation to El Salvador for the first week of February 1996. The delegation will visit many of CESTA's community-based projects including the Forest of Reconciliation. The delegation will exchange skills, knowledge and solutions to environmental problems in the areas of permaculture, community water quality management, mangrove restoration and medicinal plants. The first delegation was a great success and a lot of fun. On their return, participants instigated an international campaign to protect El Espino, San Salvador's watershed. For more information, contact the Gaia project at 604-384-1534.

### **Canada's first official eco-certified logging operation**

The BC Ministry of Forests Vernon District Small Business Enterprise Program has received an official eco-certification from the Silva Forest Foundation and Greenpeace. The certification was conducted by forester Herb Hammond of the Silva Forest Foundation, using the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council, an international standards organisation that is being endorsed by wood product retailers world-wide.

Canada's first eco-certified site is being logged by "single tree selection," a labour-intensive system that leaves four out of five trees standing. In addition, no pesticides are used and the natural structure of the forest is maintained. According to Hammond, "What remains after logging is a forest pure and simple... while providing social and economic benefits to people who rely on the forest for their livelihoods." District Manager Ken Belik says, "Staff at the Vernon Forest District, and myself in particular, are pleased that two of our harvesting operations meet strict ecological guidelines for certification."

Demand for eco-certified wood is high according to Catherine Mater, a US forestry consultant. She found that 90% of US wood product manufacturers surveyed would prefer certified wood to non-certified.

### **Forest Practices Code raises BC logging costs**

BC's Coast Forest and Lumber Association estimates that the cost of harvesting on the coast will rise to \$105 per m<sup>2</sup> by 1996 (compared to the 1992 average of \$67 per m<sup>2</sup>). Interior harvesting costs have also increased from \$40 to \$60-\$100 per m<sup>2</sup> according to the Northern Forest Products Association. The increase costs are primarily due to FPC's higher road building standards, more roads to reach smaller clearcuts spread over a larger landscape, and increased planning and development costs. Meanwhile pulp log prices have dropped from \$100 to \$60/ m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Alberta private land hemorrhaging wood**

More than 300 loaded logging trucks rumble out of Alberta private forests and into BC sawmills every day— enough wood daily to employ ten Alberta forest workers for a year. Although timber from Alberta Crown land cannot be exported as raw logs, the government has so far refused to introduce any regulations for logging on private land. The wood shortage in BC has driven up prices, but due to low stumpage fees, Alberta timber is \$20-\$40 cheaper per m<sup>2</sup>, including hauling charges. A further problem is that small Alberta lumber operations who do not have access to Crown timber may be squeezed out of business by the fibre exodus. In an unprecedented step, some Alberta municipalities, who are worried about huge clearcuts blighting their viewscapes, are introducing bylaws that provide strict guidelines for logging on private lands.

### **New BC program moves more wood to value-added sector**

More wood from major licensees will go to the job-intensive value-added and remanufacturing sectors under a six-month Forest Service pilot project with funding from Forest Renewal BC. The program has two main objectives: to increase the flow of primary forest products to companies that make value-added forest products but don't hold long-term rights to harvest Crown timber; and to increase the production of value-added forest products by major forest companies.

Under the program, major forest companies receive recognition through a newly developed credit system for the primary forest products they supply to independent value-added operators. Target supply volumes have been established for the pilot period. The target on the coast is to have 5% of the harvest from major licences supplied to remanufacturers, while the target for the interior is 4%. ♦

## UV rays will fry ecosystems for two more generations

This year Antarctica's ozone hole is worse than ever, according to the UN's World Meteorological Organization. The ozone layer is thinning to a similar degree all over the world, leaving animals, plants, and people more susceptible to the skin cancers, damaged immune systems and stunted growth that excessive exposure to ultraviolet rays can cause.

Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, countries are phasing out production of ozone-destroying chemicals. According to a UN report, atmospheric levels of CFCs could start to drop by 1998. But even if nations cooperate fully with the protocol, the ozone layer will not recover fully until the middle of the coming century.

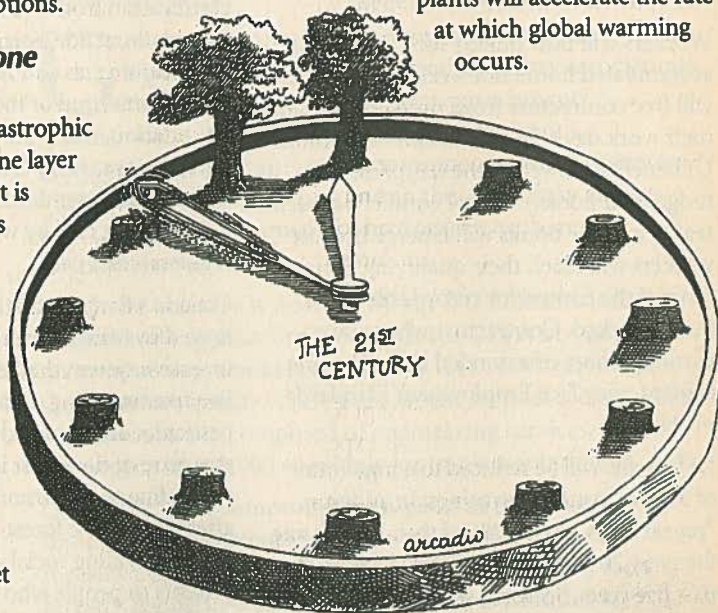
These next 50 years pose a major challenge for two generations of foresters and ecologists, for unlike humans, most

species in ecosystems cannot develop the habit of staying out of the sun. It is critical to identify the probable effects of levels of ozone on Canada's forest ecosystems to allow silviculture practices to factor these effects into prescriptions.

## Forests and ozone depletion

The effects of a catastrophic collapse in the ozone layer will be profound. It is clear that there was no life on land prior to the formation of the ozone layer. Ultra violet radiation has a very negative impact on almost all life forms. Recent research indicates that the ultra violet

permeates 30 meters into the ocean, damaging plankton which, as well as being the basic element in the aquatic food chain, is also the main carbon sink on. The damage to aquatic and terrestrial plants will accelerate the rate at which global warming occurs.



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As to the impact of ultra violet on forests, there is currently little or no scientific information. Logic would suggest that the canopy of an old growth forest will tolerate this stress much more successfully than massive clearcuts with delicate seedlings exposed to the combined stresses of global warming and increased ultra violet radiation.

According to the Canadian Environmental Network, concern over the impacts of global warming and increased ultra violet should lead to a ban on clearcut logging of ancient forests until these effects are better understood.

**Forests and global warming**

Recent Canadian research indicates that our forests will be unable to adapt to the rate at which global warming is expected to happen in Canada. Research by Environment Canada predicts that the boreal forest will almost disappear west of James Bay by the year 2050. The boreal

forest, which currently covers about 30% of Canada, will be reduced by 50%. The research predicts that the forest will be destroyed by out-of-control wildfires, and that other species of trees will be unable to replace the boreal forest, which will become grasslands. The huge reduction of the boreal forest by burning will help increase the rate at which global warming occurs.

Models of global warming produced by Canada, the United Kingdom and the US predict a 2-6 degree Celsius increase in the winter temperature on most of North America's west coast. Research suggests this will mean that Douglas fir and other species below 300 meters in elevation will not get their winter chilling requirements. These forests will likely stop producing seeds, and may well not survive. This further loss of forests will again accelerate the rate at which climate change occurs.

**Ozone profits display green consumer power**

The coolant industry response to the ozone-conscious consumer could be an inspiration to the forest products sector. Instead of considering the Montreal agreement a threat, according to Clive Bates, ozone campaigner at Greenpeace's London headquarters, the companies saw it as a way to sell new products to the aerosol, refrigeration and foam industries.

In Germany, propane- or butane-cooled refrigerators have already captured 50% of the market. The back-to-hydrocarbons movement began in 1992, when, with Greenpeace's backing, the East German firm Foron launched its Greenfreeze refrigerator. At first other manufacturers opposed the technology, but once they saw how popular the Greenfreeze was with consumers, they jumped into the market.

...continued on page 42

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## **Brush Blanket Carrier increases productivity**

The Arbortec Industries Ltd. Brush Blanket is a consolidated mulch made of porous plastic. It prevents weeds from germinating by blocking sunlight. This mulch improves conditions for seedling growth by increasing and maintaining soil temperature. It also allows water to reach the soil and excess water to evaporate. Brush Blankets prevent weed growth around seedlings in the first few years after planting and eventually photo-degrade.

A new carrier developed by Arbortec Industries Ltd. can increase Brush Blanket mulch installation productivity up to 50% and make the dispenser boxes easier and more comfortable to carry. Constructed of water repellent material, the slot-type pouch with adjustable straps is carried with a padded hip belt. The carrier can be adjusted to fit all sizes of Brush Blanket dispenser boxes.

The two staple pouches allow you to carry

both the 4" ones for use in mineral soil, and the 6" staples for securing the Brush Blanket in organic and duffy soil site conditions. The adjustable hip-belt distributes the weight and makes for the most comfortable, convenient and efficient way to carry and install Brush Blankets.

Contact Arbortec Industries Ltd. at (604) 493-1007.

## **SPACE KAP provides transportation flexibility**

Canada Wide Distributors Ltd. is introducing two conversions of their SPACE KAP unit designed specifically for the forestry industry. The Insulated Transportation Unit (ITU) insulated with Heatlok urethane foam is designed for remote seedling transportation. The customised SPACE KAP Emergency Transportation Vehicle (ETV) meets the WCB specifications for an ETV or Industrial Ambulance and qualifies as a Mobile Treatment Centre (MTC). The SPACE KAP can also be customised to meet the combined requirements of both ITU and ETV.

The self-contained SPACE KAP is designed to fit all full-sized domestic

trucks. A boltless tie-down system makes it portable from vehicle to vehicle or to a temporary on-ground location, without unpacking. Only one person is required to transfer the unit safely in minutes. These unique features are not found on any other unit.

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The SPACE KAP has been field tested and is recommended by one of the leading silviculture companies in BC.

Contact Canada Wide Distributors at 1-800-252-5511.

## **Ringer knocks out competition**

The Ringer eradicates trees competing with managed plantations by removing a ring of bark and cambium from the undesirable tree. No fibres are left behind for regrowth. The Ringer is a solid aluminum tool with an adjustable knife blade that allows for a treatment of trees from 5–35 cm in diameter. A ring of bark 1.5 cm wide and 1 cm deep is removed in



*Brush Blanket Carrier improves productivity up to 50%.*



*Brush Blanket protects seedling from competition.*

one smooth action. The Ringer has been extensively field tested and used by many different crews to treat over 10,000 hectares.

Contact JMC Forest Maintenance at (604) 652-2039.

## **Shovel Logger lays a trail of trees**

First introduced in June 1995, the 735 Shovel Logger is the latest addition to Timberjack's full tree logging team. This wide track, high clearance machine will satisfy the needs of the wetland logger and provide environmental benefits. It significantly reduces the ground disturbance and keeps the skidders moving instead of digging into the ground.

In soft ground conditions, harvesters on high flotation tracks can get to the trees and fell them, but the ground is often too soft to skid them out. With its high tractive effort, 31-inch ground clearance and high flotation tracks, the 735SL can follow the harvester anywhere.

The 735SL goes behind the harvester picking up the felled trees with its long reach boom and placing them out in front of itself, creating a mat of trees as it goes. Once at the back of the cutblock, the 735SL picks up a bunch of trees, swings it around and places it on the tree mat.

The skidders can back down the mat, pick up the bunch, and take it out to the roadside landing. The shorter, straight-line skids speed up cycle times, so skidding is much more efficient. The tree mat is removed by the shovel and skidded out as the 735SL moves back to the landing. When needed, the 735SL can even double as a loader.

Contact Timberjack at (519) 538-6271.



*Timberjack's Shovel Logger goes anywhere.*

## **New publications**

### ***Fight back against kickback***

It's a process that can affect workers a dozen times a day. At least, it poses a few seconds' interruption in the flow of work. At worst, it can injure, maim and even kill.

Chainsaw kickback was once a little-understood phenomenon, but today researchers have a much better grasp of how it happens.

*Kickback*, a new video from the Ontario Natural Resources Safety Association (ONRSA), shows workers how to avoid and control kickback.

Kickback happens when something abruptly stops the chain and the momentum of the chainsaw is hurled in the opposite direction. That can send the cutting bar shooting out of the log and into the operator. From 1989 to 1993, 187 Ontario workers were injured when their chainsaws kicked back.

The 13-minute video portrays a frighteningly real kickback accident. The video then describes why the accident happened and what steps should be taken to avoid kickback.

Contact ONRSA at (705)474-SAFE.

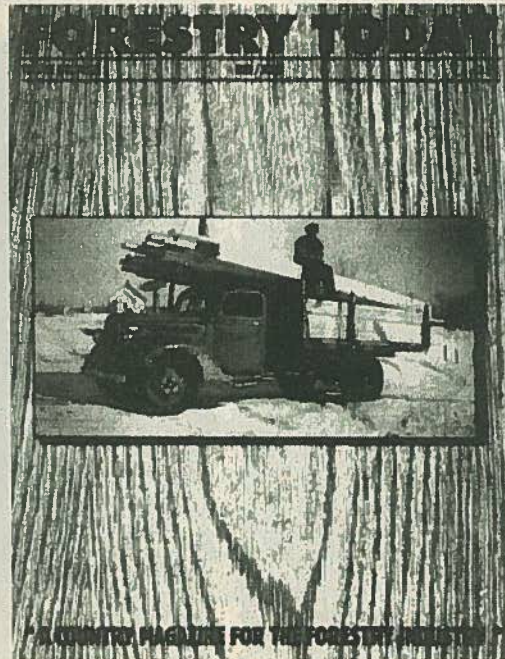
### ***Forestry Today keeps you current***

*Forestry Today* is a new periodical covering the small-scale forest industry and forestry-based communities in Atlantic Canada. It calls itself "a country magazine for the forestry industry," with good reason. Although packed with useful information and articles, the tone is very informal—the magazine equivalent of a chat around the woodstove in a country store. The May/June 1995 issue provides a surprising variety of articles: an homage to

WWII veterans, an excerpt from Hamish Kimmins book on clearcutting, kids' forestry quizzes, safety tips for professional fallers, and even a few country cooking recipes.

An excellent article about the current gold rush mentality in Nova Scotia forests is reprinted in this issue of CSM.

Contact *Forestry Today* at (902) 625-2365



*Forestry Today with an historic (1949) logging photo on the cover.*



# Commercial thinning conundrum in BC

John Betts

Frustrated proponents of commercial thinning say a huge potential harvest is languishing in BC's woods because of the blinkered bureaucratic attitude of the Ministry of Forests. But the ministry sees it differently, saying such claims are exaggerated and, in some cases, are just part of a self-serving ruse by industry to get their hands on public wood at bargain basement prices without affecting their cutting quota.

Caught in the middle of the debate are contractors like Mike Steeves who would like nothing better than to let his squad of forwarders and fallers glean some of the growth in BC's forests. In fact, Steeves has so many good reasons for increasing commercial thinning in the province, he can't believe the province isn't on a commercial thinning blitz in some areas.

"For me it's incomprehensible that people can't see the advantages of commercial thinning," said Steeves in a phone conversation from Victoria.

"In the stands we're going into right now, we're making a profit for the landowner

and when the final harvest comes, he'll have a far more valuable stand and lower logging costs to cut it."

To Steeves, the whole idea makes basic silviculture and financial sense. With commercial thinning, trees that would normally die off, or get left behind in the future clearcut, wind up at the log dump generating some revenue today. Later, the remaining stand, which now gains the growth that it would have shared with the thinned trees, grows bigger and more valuable logs. That's just good management, says Steeves.

But the argument doesn't seem to be whether tending stands through commercial thinning is a bad idea. Instead, it revolves around an administrative conundrum of how the ministry calculates the allowable annual cut. The ministry doesn't believe that any extra wood is being generated by commercial thinning and, therefore, says any wood volume thinned should be considered part of any TSA or TFL quota.

Thinning advocates argue there are no incentives to use commercial thinning as

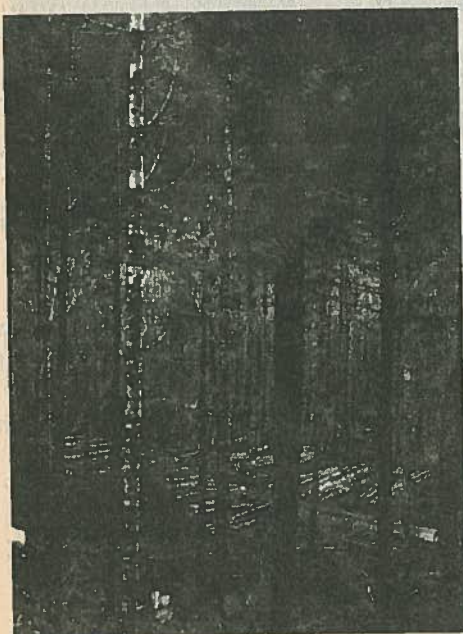
a forest management tool because under the current system companies have to pay the expensive logging costs of commercial thinning and the going rate of stumpage for the "pecker poles" they cut out from the stand, and have the volume of the harvest deducted from their AAC. Why would licensees bother with commercial thinning now if it will reduce the more profitable pickings at the end of the rotation when you can just clearcut the big stuff?

"Is commercial thinning wood in fact extra wood or not?" asks Mel Scott, a Ministry of Forest commercial thinning specialist based in Victoria. "The research says 'No.' So, therefore, why allow it to be off quota?"

Staying on that same tact, Scott then says the public would lose money on the deal as well by letting companies take wood out of the forests before it is mature.

"From our revenue side, why should we sell wood now for a certain price when, if we let it stand there for another thirty years, we can get a much higher price?"

The argument see-saws back and forth



A thinned stand on Vancouver Island.



Single-grip harvester at work deep in the woods.

with advocates saying that commercial thinning is primarily salvaging the mortality in a stand along with those smaller stems that would never make it to the landing in the crush of the final harvest. It's getting wood that would be lost, they say, and is in reality wood outside the AAC.

The ministry counters with claims that proper commercial thinning involves many "softer" entries into a stand, which are too costly to be put into practice here in BC. Based on their own experience, the ministry also doubts if there is a consistent market for the wood either. Nevertheless, the ministry is involved in commercial thinning wood through various Crown timber sales throughout the province, as well as on some TFLs where they say some companies are commercial thinning under "duress."

About the only thing both sides seem to agree on is that there hasn't been enough commercial thinning done to come up with real conclusive or convincing data either way.

Nevertheless, while the arguing continues over volume, others assail the ministry's logic on the grounds it is forgoing a huge opportunity to supplement the dwindling wood supply and create a whole thriving industry between the trees, so to speak, of the province's forests.

Extrapolating from figures first presented almost twenty years ago in Peter Pearse's Royal Commission on Forest Resources,

forestry writer Ken Druska estimates there are at least 6 million hectares of prime forest ripe for commercial thinning in BC.

"The ministry has never looked at this," says Druska. "Nobody really knows the volumes that you could get. Even with really conservative estimates the numbers are staggering. The numbers would account for all the reduction we've gone through under the recent timber supply review process."

According to Druska, the benefits aren't just confined to salvaging a huge volume of wood out of the growing forest.

"Commercial thinning would also allow us to do a lot of silvicultural improvements to the stand while covering the costs through the wood taken out. . . .

Unfortunately, we have a situation where the bureaucratic system of rules and regulations is prohibiting something from happening. The forest service, and in some ways the industry too, have been so obsessed with the idea of volume they don't see the idea of value."

But perhaps the most telling insights into commercial thinning come from what

some forest companies are doing on their private land.

"We do a lot of things on our private land from the point of view of investments," says Hugh Sutcliffe, Pacific Forest Products' Vice President of Woodlands and Chief Forester. Pacific Forest Products keeps up to three commercial thinning sides at work year round. Sutcliffe's company has been thinning on their private land for five years.

"We own the land and we own the trees and we reap the benefits or we reap the losses of commercial thinning. We've put a lot of effort into our program and we're

going to continue to do it. We can make commercial thinning work (economically) on our private land today."

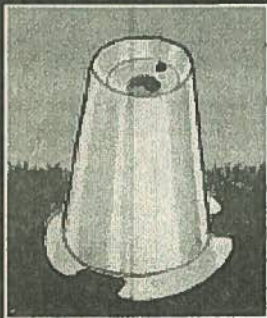
Sutcliffe says part of the company's success with commercial thinning is that working on their

own land frees them from the burdens of the ministry of forest's bureaucracy.

"Private land enables innovation. . . . Crown land is just so bureaucratic, it takes too long to implement things. One of the big advantages of private land forestry is that you can go and implement things and make them work," Sutcliffe said. ♦

**...BC is forgoing a huge opportunity to supplement the dwindling wood supply and create a whole new industry between the trees...**

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# Man of the woods

Cheri Burda

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While no stranger to industrial forestry, Bob Woods has evolved in harmony with the woods he manages. The photo album he keeps in his truck displays snapshots of an earlier time, with clearcuts and his logging camp in the foreground. These are juxtaposed with more recent photos of innovative machines and healthy stands of intact forest.

After years of witnessing and participating in the clearcutting of second-growth forests around Campbell River and his hometown of Courtenay, north Vancouver Island, BC, Bob started his own business in selection logging in 1976. His company, Enviro-Harvesting Incorporated, evolved with the belief that forests must be nurtured and watersheds protected. He envisioned harvesting the forest carefully and perpetually, nurturing an unhealthy, sunlight-starved plantation into a dynamic forest with diverse species and ages. By drafting models for selectively logging second-growth stands, Bob created logging equipment from modified farm tractors so that old logging roads would not need upgrading. Essentially, he designed machinery to work with the terrain, not against it.

Based on the amount of plantations in his

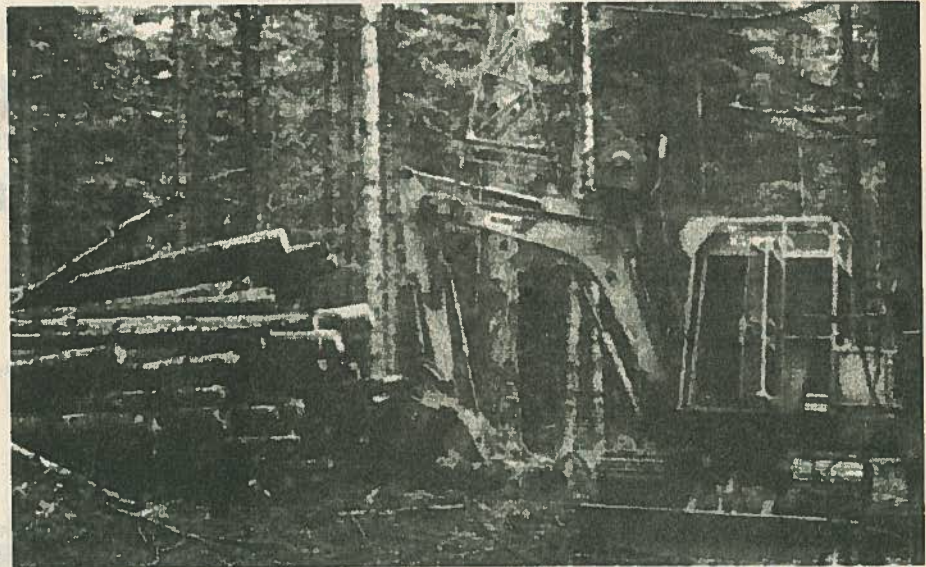
forest district requiring attention, Bob predicted that selective thinning would emerge into a predominant silvicultural practice. He landed a commercial thinning job with the Forest Service in 1979, but such contracts with the Forest Service have not been plentiful. Enviro-Harvesting was ready to change how forestry was practiced, but the forest industry was not ready to change. Nor was it ready for Bob.

"Many people have said that Bob is 20 years ahead of his time," explains his wife, Mattie. "Bob never cared about making money. He had his beliefs and stuck to them."

## The short log system

Bob developed the "short log" system of logging, aimed at maximizing value from second growth while minimizing impact to the stand and the soil. Short logs are trees bucked in the forest to 13 1/2 feet, after they are felled and before they are yarded. About half the length of regular commercial logs, short logs are ecologically and economically advantageous for many reasons.

Logs are graded according to a number of features, including size. Regardless of the diameter at the butt end, if the log tapers to less than 8 inches in diameter, it is



Bob Woods' excavator yards precisely, putting no more than 3 pounds per square inch on the ground.



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graded for pulp. By bucking the trees into two short logs, the larger half can be graded as a sawlog. "It comes down to greater utilization, better quality," Bob explains. "We must recover more value from our forests."

Short logs require a smaller space for swinging when they are yarded, resulting in minimal or no damage to standing trees. Bob's mini-highlead system, a drum-and-winch apparatus built onto the roof of his excavator, yards the logs easily and precisely, negotiating standing trees and avoiding bumps and crashes.

Small logs also require smaller, less harmful equipment: Bob's excavator puts three pounds per square inch of pressure on the trail. The short log swing requires no skidders that drag logs out of the forest, carving up the trail and disturbing the soil.

Long logs require bigger loaders accommodated by bigger roads. With short logs, Bob can employ a light trail system instead of building roads. The most significant feature of Bob's trail system is the care and effort invested in protecting the trail itself from soil damage. Bob utilizes all the limbs and needles from felled trees, placing them meticulously on the trail to create a thick layer of protection. Instead of using conventional methods to level coarse

terrain, such as digging or ballasting (laying crushed rock to form a road bed), Bob builds up the dips and gullies with woody debris.

The same trail system is used for each selective cut, and the first logging is minimal, which is followed by an assessment of the ecological impact. The impact determines the following selective cuts. "You have to know the forest to understand how one cut will affect the other trees, the hydrology and the entire stand," explains Bob.

**...Bob utilizes all the limbs and needles from felled trees, placing them meticulously on the trail to create a thick layer of protection...**

### **The Forest Service test**

Enviro-Harvesting is a small, untended company that seldom enjoys a secure timber supply. Bob has had to rely on private land and woodlot owners who contract his services, and is

currently bidding for small jobs under the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. Recently, however, Enviro-Harvesting was awarded a small timber sale in the Campbell River Forest District, designated as an experimental job for the Forest Service. Bill Hughes, Forest District Commercial Thinning Coordinator, admitted that the Forest Service chose the toughest possible terrain for Bob to demonstrate his trail-building and logging methods. "The site represented all the potential problems:

heavy slash, sensitive soil and steep hills," Hughes stated. Consequently, Bob's trails curved intricately to avoid difficult grades, sensitive areas, rocky ground and marked trees selected to remain standing.

Bob had to work in thigh-deep debris left behind by a juvenile spacing operation 10 years earlier, which left all the felled trees to rot. He made use of the debris, laying it on the trail for protection and to level the ground. (Interestingly, Bob bucks and sells logs smaller than many of the ones abandoned by this spacing operation.) The result was zero compaction. I stuck my hand deep into the fibrous mass but could feel only needles and twigs. The soil far beneath was undisturbed. Hughes visited Bob regularly to inspect his work, digging holes every 30 meters. In seven years of inspecting timber sales, Hughes described Bob's work as "the lightest on the land" he had ever seen.

Bob's prudence and attention to detail revealed itself in the cautious methods he used to protect streams and creeks. We crossed a couple of small bridges constructed to prevent the equipment from affecting the water system in any way. Bob carefully fashioned a log bridge over a trickling creek no more than a foot in width. After the last cut, he will remove the logs and take them to market, and use the excavator to remove any remaining debris.

The trail cover of woody debris also acts as a filter for rain water, preventing any run-off or soil erosion. Bob pointed to a stream down the hill protected from any damage due to road construction by

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conventional methods, which significantly impact soil and watersheds, causing erosion and sedimentation. "We must end clearcutting to protect the watersheds," said Bob. "It's not just overfishing we have to worry about— it's bad logging."

The Forest Service job allowed Bob to perform his magic on the forest, but it did not permit him to select the trees. The Forest Service did the selecting, removing 40% of the stand's volume. Bob is concerned that too much volume was removed on the first cut and fears that the next cut will be a clearcut, as Hughes indicated would likely be the case. Conventional forest management employs selective logging— actually commercial thinning— as a silvicultural method to allow superior trees to grow in an improved environment; minimum soil damage is important only because it helps to maximize the growth and volume of the thinned plantation.

It seemed absurd that Bob's time and care may mean nothing in 30 years after a clearcut. I asked Bob if there was a chance that this particular stand could be ecologically harvested in perpetuity. He said, "That's your job to bring about such alternatives," referring to the Ecoforestry Institute and other organizations working for change. It was never more clear to me that the environmental movement has the potential to protect not only forest ecosystems and biodiversity, but also forest workers who depend on the survival of the forest.

### Private woodlot management

We drove for an hour to one of Bob's favourite sites (and mine), Father Charles Brant's property near Courtenay. Bob logged an initial cut there in early 1994, removing only 15% of the forest's volume. I visited Father Brant's forest over a year ago, just as Bob was completing his work. The forest had impressed me then with its healthy canopy, diversity and wildlife. I remember watching a



A trail with woody debris to prevent soil compaction.

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woodpecker on a snag and chasing clumsily with my camera after a deer.

Now, a year later, the forest was even more magnificent. The forest floor was green and lush. Seedlings thrived in sunlight starting through new canopy openings, yet were sheltered by strong parent trees. We stood knee-deep in vegetation now carpeting the trail. Returning to visit this woodlot was uplifting for both of us.

We then drove to a nearby private woodlot, owned by forester Al Hopwood. The young stand needed a tremendous amount of ongoing attention. The forest floor was like a dark desert, with juvenile trees crowding one another. Unlike the Forest Service site, the small trees spaced by Al and Bob were not discarded to rot; many will be utilized. The future goal is removing the optimum number of trees, using the logs, and leaving enough organic material to provide nutrients. Although the work ahead seemed insurmountable, Bob delighted in the possibilities: "This is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate how to

properly manage a forest every step of the way."

Not surprisingly, the edge of Al's woodlot suffered blowdown from an adjacent clearcut, a private woodlot owned by a big corporation. Bob commented on the effect on the local watershed: "The filter system is gone, and there won't be anything to work with for another 40 years. Al's place, on the other hand, could keep a family going for years to come."

***...the whole industry has to change, existing equipment is too big. It breaks everything...***

### ***Employing the community***

Bob believes that labour-intensive management of second growth not only nurtures

our forests back to health but also employs communities. His employees enjoy and appreciate working with him. "I'm happy to be working in my community," said Randy Brower, a former contract faller for a number of clearcutting companies. "The money goes back into the community and the people living in the community are employed."

Bob involves his crew at every level. They learn and perform every job, from precision pulling and yarding, soil and

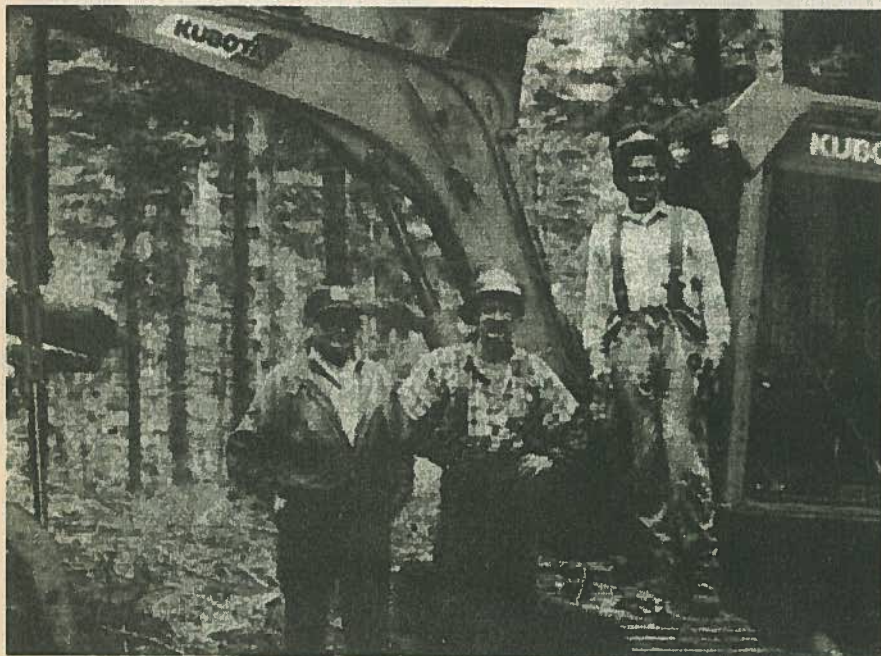
stream protection, to bidding on contracts. Their work is interesting and challenging. "I've learned more with Bob in six months than I did in 15 years of logging—important things like soil compaction, scarring damage and how to protect the environment," said Charlie Parkinson. "We could employ the Comox Valley, perhaps all of BC, with the amount of second growth we have, if we logged it properly."

Neil Blackburn, who has been with Bob the longest, emphasized the importance of small-scale forestry: "The registered professional foresters for the big companies criticize Bob's type of operation, claiming it cannot supply enough lumber for the world. I say, 'Let's take care of our own island first.'"

As Bob's crew reiterated, Enviro-Harvesting is "new" and the logging industry does not like "new." "The whole industry has to change," insisted Wayne Beelteith, who trucks Bob's logs to the local mill. "Existing equipment is too big. It breaks everything. Regular logging trucks, for example, are much too big for short logs. We need new equipment, new trained workers, and new road systems. This new way of logging could keep people working all year long on timber that would have otherwise been broken, wasted."

Whether or not enviro-harvesting is adopted by the forest industry, it is certain that Bob will continue to develop innovative methods and equipment. "He's been doing this all of his life," joked Mattie, "waking up in the middle of the night to write down ideas or draw a machine." Hughes added, "Bob is not a regular logger: he's an inventor."

People are beginning to notice and appreciate his work. The same loggers who told Bob that his ideas would never work are now purchasing equipment originally designed by Bob. Bob and his crew are becoming accustomed to frequent visitors, from school groups and film crews to timber giants MacMillan Bloedel and Interfor. Thankfully, Bob Woods' years of dedication have resulted finally in awareness, an important step toward change. ♦



Bob (left) and crew, Neil Blackburn (centre) and Randy Brewer (right).

# Crisis in the sheep vegetation-management industry

Dennis Loxton

**G**iven the number of Canadian plantations in desperate need of a safe and cheap vegetation-management tool, sheep grazing contractors cannot understand why BC foresters are not taking full advantage of this wonderful silvicultural opportunity. We firmly believe that sheep are a proven environmentally safe and cost-effective vegetation-management tool.

We think that the issue is this simple: when foresters have plantations that are having difficulty competing with vegetation, contractors can bring sheep and the necessary staff and equipment, and remove the problem vegetation. The seedlings will be released from competition and grow freely. Of course, sheep are not suitable for all plantations. For example, they obviously cannot remove 30-foot-tall alder, and their mobility is inhibited on plantations with extreme slash loads. They will, however, do a tremendous job on most BC clearcuts.

Foresters do not have to worry about sheep health or predation, or concern themselves with global lamb and wool markets, etc. They can simply hire a professional contractor, give him/her a bunch of maps and put the cheque in the mail. It can be that easy!

Numerous forest districts and timber companies have been successfully using sheep as a vegetation-management tool for the past 10 years, including Northwood Pulp and Timber of Prince George, Ziedler Forest of McBride, Riverside Forest of Williams Lake, and Ministry of Forests sites at 100 Mile House, Kispiox, Fort St. John, Prince George, Clearwater, among many others.

## *Why is the sheep vegetation-management industry in such a crisis now?*

The projects of 1995 were a complete success. Nobody shot any grizzly bears. There was no (and has never been any) disease transference from domestic sheep to wildlife. The sheep all got fat, and the farmers are very satisfied with the condition of their sheep. Our shepherds and even our bankers are happy. We have the support of BC First Nations and the voting public.

Our sheep vegetation-management industry has enjoyed excellent growth up to 1994, but it is now being drastically reduced and we do not know why.

Clearly, there is something wrong with this picture. One thing that is wrong with sheep as a silvicultural tool, is that you cannot "shut the machine off." They must keep eating vegetation (or die). You cannot "park it" for a season

and "fire it up" again next season. The tool may be gone!

In 1995, the contractors had signed binding sheep rental agreements with the farmers who regularly supply sheep to the industry. The farmers, fully expecting to send their sheep to BC plantations again, had made no alternative summer-pasture plans. Because it had been so successful in the past, they believed that their sheep would be grazing in BC again.

Nobody expected the program to be cut from 40,000 sheep in 1994 to 32,000 sheep in 1995. Some of the farmers had actually increased their flocks in anticipation of a higher sheep demand for 1995.

The contractors, caught between the farmers' supply and the foresters' reduced demand, were in a bind. Most of them joined the Western Silviculture Contractors Association, who wrote three letters to the MOF on their behalf.



*Some woolly critters enjoy a clearcut.*

Nothing happened. No new contracts were forthcoming.

Contractors finally told the bad news to the farmers, who scrambled around and luckily found alternative pasture for their sheep. Farmers had spent \$4.50 to \$5 per head on vaccinations, parasite control, veterinary inspections and certifications, in compliance with the terms of the government "Health Protocol for Sheep Grazed on BC Clearcuts in 1995." Some contractors reimbursed the farmers for this capital outlay and some did not.

The BC sheep vegetation-management contracting industry and the BC MOF lost credibility with the sheep producers.

On November 7, 1995, sheep contractors had a meeting in Prince George with foresters from the MOF and the timber industry. MOF representative Jacob Boatang told us about the anticipated further 50% cut to a 15,000 sheep program for the 1996 season. No real reasons for this reduction were given.

This further reduction will clearly mean tough times for most sheep vegetation-management contractors and possibly the end of others.

We believe that the BC sheep silviculture industry has tremendous potential. We could create lots of jobs, produce tons of world-class meat and wool while saving millions of seedlings. We sheep vegetation-management contractors totally believe in our product. We have demonstrated our commitment by working hard and

putting our money where our mouths are. Some contractors have invested as much as \$300,000 on the purchase of sheep, working dogs and equipment.

Sheep producers are losing their patience with the lack of continuity, and we may be in danger of jeopardizing our

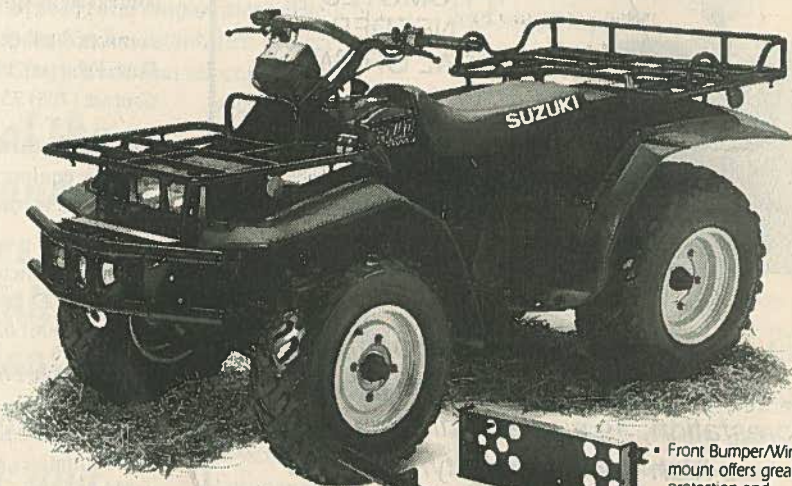
sheep supply. It would be a major shame to lose one of the very few successful, cost-effective, non-chemical vegetation-management tools that is available to us.

We need some MOF vision and direction— now. ♦

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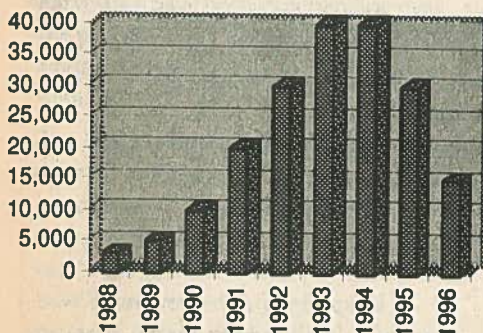


Figure 1: Number of sheep used for vegetation management in BC



# FRBC policies short-change BC's forests

Joyce Murray, WSCA representative, Lands and Resources Committee, FRBC

*Note: This article is an edited version of a letter sent to the FRBC board by the WSCA in October 1995. It summarizes a lengthy analysis of current FRBC funding policy that is available from the WSCA.*

## FRBC a positive response to shrinking forest resource

FRBC is a part of a larger government strategy to improve the sustainability of BC's forests. The corporation is funded by current harvest revenues for re-investment in forest lands, environment and resources. Some of the funds are to be used in promoting the additional processing of wood supply. Another mandate of FRBC

is to cushion the impact of job losses in the harvest sector and its communities, and provide employment opportunities for First Nations. Recent government initiatives to protect forests have accelerated the adjustments that workers and

communities dependent on forest harvesting have been experiencing over the past few years. So government has assumed responsibility to provide more than the basic "safety net" assistance.

The WSCA supports the mandate to reinvest in forests, the forest land and the environment. We applaud Cabinet for taking action on this historic problem of under-investment. Many potential pitfalls have been avoided through sound program design: the funding is separate from general government revenues, is flexible to the fluctuations of forest product prices, utilizes existing

government delivery infrastructure, and involves advocates for many different uses of the resource.

We also accept the rationale for using a part of the new forest tax to mitigate harvest sector and First Nations unemployment. The problem lies in how this is being carried out.

## Potential benefits from FRBC are being lost

So much of the project funding is channeled into subsidies that FRBC will fall far short of potential achievements of forest value and employment. The corporation has established project funding criteria that select projects for

social rather than silvicultural or economic criteria. Of FRBC funding, 27.5% is allocated to community and workforce activity areas, both of which are primarily focussed on social objectives. Another 65% of the funding, intended to be invested in

enhancing the volume and value of the forest and forest environment, is also awarded according to social and redistributive criteria. The silviculture work itself is primarily being delivered on a non-competitive basis by "partners" from certain groups: laid-off harvest sector employees and First Nations. The established silviculture contractors, who have a track record of experience and efficiency, are restricted access. Unfair new competition in the industry is being subsidized with government funds.

Projects involving a target group "partner" can be priced on a monopoly

basis since there is no requirement to price the work competitively. Avoidable costs and inefficiencies, known to accompany monopoly pricing, will be pervasive throughout the FRBC program. The higher level of worker turnover, which happens in make-work programs, will generate non-productive training and other costs. Here are some of the short- and long-term negative consequences:

### Short term

- fewer jobs are created since a larger portion of the available funds is absorbed by operational inefficiency, re-training and supplier profit.
- fewer hectares can be treated since average unit prices are higher due to inexperience, and non-competitive award of the work. This impacts negatively on future timber supply and AAC calculations.
- potential new jobs in the harvest sector are lost due to negative effect on AAC. The effect of some silviculture treatments on the AAC is immediate.
- slower ramp-up of on-the-ground project delivery due to the inexperience of the new silviculture workforce comprised of the targeted unemployed groups.
- government is interfering unfairly in a successful, functioning, competitive industry.
- existing workforce loses work opportunities, and may be squeezed out of the industry in favour of new entrants with subsidized jobs.

### Long term

- efficient and qualified suppliers of silviculture are weakened, threatening the stability of the industry over time. The subsidized excess capacity in the industry will lead to eventual price crashes and bankruptcies.
- subsidy dependency is created in communities, and workers are drawn to

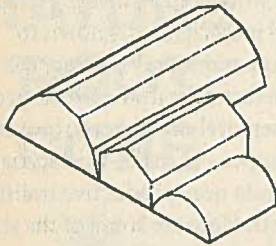
**...so much of the funding is channeled into subsidies that FRBC will fall far short of potential achievements in forest value and employment...**

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stay in the forest industry who might not be suited to the silviculture sector.

- student unemployment rises as their job opportunities become limited by the FRBC bias toward year-round jobs.

- quality problems affect future forest volume and value. Inexperienced firms and workers are buffered from the competitive pressure for continuous quality improvement and completion of work within critical biological windows.

- training costs blossom, due to subsidized supply and to the expected higher turn-over of workers entering and leaving the industry.

- future volume and value of forests is impaired by the reduced quantity of forest enhancement accomplished from a finite budget.

- BC loses its status for world-class forest management.

*Less silviculture, poorer quality, fewer jobs and unfair competition*

The WSCA recognizes that these effects were not intended by decision-makers creating FRBC. The FRBC was careful to design the value-added activity area to prevent this type of unfair industry interference. However, since the WSCA has not been involved in the planning process, the interests of the silviculture industry have been left out. In the pressure to create immediate results from FRBC funding, some mistakes have been made in implementing the program.

FRBC represents governmental intervention in the free market supply of silviculture. Government is adding to the supply of this good because it is inadequately supplied by the private sector due to the long time frame of returns, and due to extra benefits of productive and sustainable forests, which do not accrue directly to the private sector investor. FRBC should aim to deliver this intervention efficiently

(maximum value of forest investment for the dollar), as well as satisfy the objective of redistributing public funds to targeted groups with above-average unemployment. Both these objectives can be attained if the program is implemented differently.

### ***Established silviculture industry is a resource for achieving FRBC mandates***

The silviculture contracting industry is the primary supplier of basic and enhanced silviculture services to forest industry clients and MOF. Silviculture firms have built experience and capability in silviculture problem-solving, training, logistics, and cost-effective quality in the extremely competitive silviculture market over the past twenty-five years. The demand for basic silviculture, supplied by

the competitive market, is shrinking. Contractors have been investing in training, management learning, and equipment to supply the long-awaited increase in demand for enhanced services.

Contractors are a substantial resource for implementing a program as ambitious in size and scope as FRBC.

Silviculture firms want to develop their partnerships with industry clients and supply a wider range of services. In doing so, they can keep the client's silviculture costs low and increase the season length for their workers, trained in several silvicultural activities.

### ***Changing the FRBC project award system will solve the problem***

The WSCA is confident that, through competition rather than subsidy, FRBC can avoid the unfairness and interference of the current situation, will better achieve its goal of efficient silviculture investment, and can target support to unemployed groups and their communities. An important caveat

***...the most effective policy is one that completely separates the silviculture component from the subsidy...***

concerns the definition of competition: the WSCA is not advocating a purely low-bid system. Competitive and efficient supply of a service is one in which attributes such as quality and reliability are considered, as well as price.

**Ultimate strategy**

The most effective policy is one that completely separates the silviculture component from the subsidy. FRBC should aim to implement its programs so that in the long term:

- *The market supplies the silviculture at competitive prices.*
- *Funds are distributed directly to the target unemployed individuals in the form of credits toward education, training and apprenticeships.*

Allow the silviculture industry to do what it does best: supply professional and efficient silviculture services. Firms will hire and train new workers, some of whom will come from the ranks of the target groups and communities, and some of whom will move into the rural communities adjacent to the new silviculture job sites. Aid unemployed forest workers to prepare for jobs in a field of their choice, rather than push them into work they may not be suited

for. This strategy minimizes government intervention in a functioning industry, delivers more and better quality forest enhancement for the money, creates more job opportunities, allows the increase in demand for services to generate jobs and training efficiently, and redistributes public funds to target groups as promised.

**Transition strategy**

A change of this scope may be politically difficult to implement at first, given the existing expectations of preferred access to benefits. In the short term, we recommend that a transition strategy be adopted that has some element of subsidy, though less pervasive and distorting than the current FRBC system:

- *The market supplies silviculture services at competitive prices.*
- *A top-up payment is made to the supplier for each person hired and trained from the target unemployed groups.*

Allow the competitive market to supply silviculture, with some incentives in place to encourage hiring and training of target unemployed workers. Compared with spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year to inefficiently and unfairly

subsidize new entrants into the silviculture industry, this is a wiser use of funds, creates more person-days employment, and makes use of the established firms. Community economies will benefit from the increased demand for silviculture in nearby forest ecosystems. New workers will be integrated into existing experienced crews, so the ramp-up and learning will be quicker and more effective than otherwise. Opportunities for jobs and training within experienced silviculture firms will over time enable First Nations people to enter and play a larger role in the competitive silviculture industry.

**The success of FRBC is at stake**

The WSCA wants FRBC to be successful. It is not in the interest of any forest resource stakeholder that we return to the former inadequate level of forest resource investment. We predict that in these fiscally conscious times, the political fallout of avoidable inefficiencies and unfair business interference will be high. Future decision-makers could choose to dissolve FRBC and find a more effective delivery method.

With the changes recommended by the WSCA, the public will get the highest possible forest volume and value for its investment, and FRBC will be judged a

Sample Scenarios for 5 Year FRBC \$1,000,000,000 budget

Scenario	\$/day	units/day	unit price	wage/day	total # of units treated	worker days direct	worker days indirect
<b>1. Established firms</b>	\$300	1000	0.30	\$180	3,333,333,333	3,333,333	1,111,111
Notes: competitive pricing						<b>Total direct &amp; indirect jobs</b>	
Expense breakdown: Labour 60%, Expense, 35%, Profit 5%						<b>4,444,444</b>	
<b>2. Subsidized firms</b>	\$300	660	0.45	\$150	2,200,000,000	3,333,333	733,333
Notes: Inexperience = lower production; learning and inefficiencies = higher expenses						<b>Total direct &amp; indirect jobs</b>	
Expense breakdown: Labour 50%, Expense 35%, Learning/inefficiencies 10%, Profit 5%						<b>4,066,667</b>	
<b>3. Subsidized, monopoly</b>	\$300	660	0.45	\$141	2,200,000,000	3,333,333	733,333
Notes: Monopoly pricing- supplier earns above normal profits						<b>Total direct &amp; indirect jobs</b>	
Expense breakdown: Labour 47%, Expense 35%, Learning/inefficiencies 10%, Profit 8%						<b>4,066,667</b>	
<b>4. Ex- forest industry</b>	\$300	660	0.45	\$180	2,200,000,000	3,333,333	733,333
Notes: Organized Labour- same as Scenario 3, but higher wage floor (\$180/day)						<b>Total direct &amp; indirect jobs</b>	
Expense breakdown: Labour 47%, Expense 35%, Learning/inefficiencies 10%, Profit 8%						<b>4,066,667</b>	

**Assumptions**

- 50% of FRBC budget (\$200 million/year) is invested in forest enhancement
- Subsidized firms achieve 66% productivity (Forest Worker Development Program only 33%)
- Indirect Worker days are created immediately in forest from silviculture treatment.
- Every 3000 treatment units create one indirect worker/day from the forest benefits of the enhancement
- The inefficiencies of #2-#4 remain due to subsidy dependency and turnover.

**Conclusions:** Scenario #1 creates 1,258,889 more work days of employment than Scenario #4 and treats 52% more units than Scenario # 4.

success. Competitively tendered silviculture projects will create job opportunities for unemployed people interested in silviculture work, and these wages will support their communities. There will be room for the genesis of new firms to supply this demand, which will be more successful in the long run if competitive market forces rather than subsidies select the players. ❖

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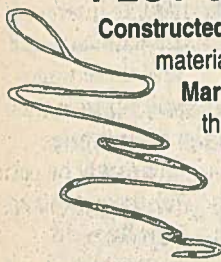


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# BC's invisible industry

John Betts

Silvicultural contractors in Western Canada are beginning to think they are invisible—at least in the eyes of Forest Renewal BC.

The latest oversight from the huge provincial crown corporation, which is expected to spend \$400 million annually in BC's forestry sector, comes in the form of a proposal before the FRBC board to provide financial assistance to new silviculture contractors throughout the province.

The help, in the form of loan guarantees to fledgling businesses bidding on FRBC work, has traditional silviculture firms worrying they will eventually face competition from a new crop of subsidized contractors.

"This initiative will destabilize the existing contracting industry," said Western Silviculture Contractor's Association president Peter Gommerud in a recent interview. "The whole thing is totally unnecessary. It's a complete waste of FRBC time and money."

Gommerud says the proposal is misguided and based on the mistaken perception that there is a shortage of silviculture contractors in BC. He fears the financial package, which is aimed at fostering new businesses in communities without local silviculture firms, will particularly hurt regional contractors who operate over the whole province. Gommerud figures any firm

just starting up should sweat it out and take the same risks as other new contractors in the business. He adds he doesn't think there is an FRBC conspiracy to make life difficult for existing contractors. Instead, he says, it's ignorance that's informing this latest FRBC initiative.

"These people don't understand the trade. They don't understand what we do. They don't understand how many people are involved, who we hire, or

how long we have been in the business. They don't understand how we are already involved in the communities of the province."

If the FRBC wants to encourage economic stability in forest-based communities, Gommerud says

*... the core issue is that the silviculture industry is not acknowledged by the FRBC as a useful resource to accomplishing the FRBC's objectives...*

they just have to organize the silviculture work so that it takes place year round. That continuity of opportunity would satisfy FRBC's social and economic objectives.

But the problem of recognition of the silviculture industry runs deep throughout the FRBC, says Joyce Murray, one of three silviculture representatives who sit on three of the five FRBC committees advising the corporation's board. Murray's voice is one amongst 78 others on the committees. There is no silviculture industry representative on the FRBC board of directors.

"The core issue is that the silviculture industry is not acknowledged or validated by the FRBC as an industry that has competent players, provides value, and can be a useful resource to accomplishing FRBC's objectives," says Murray. As an example of this underlying problem, she cites a recent draft of an FRBC handbook intended to guide proposals for FRBC projects. Silviculture contractors are scarcely mentioned as possible implementors of projects.

"Proposal writers— client firms and industry— are going to get the idea that they've got to design their programs to hand work to local people, millworkers or First Nations."

Murray claims these groups already enjoy a preferential status and a built-in bidding advantage because of the so-called

"partnership" agreements that allow companies to hand over FRBC work to their own select groups without any competitive bidding.

Although the data available on who has been getting FRBC work is incomplete, contractors feel

they have been shut out of the "partnership" process. Murray says the FRBC "partnership" award system is fraught with inefficiencies and likely to produce less jobs in the forests in the long run. The WSCA recently made a report to the FRBC outlining their concerns about how some FRBC work has been awarded.

However, FRBC chair Roger Stanyer remains sanguine, suggesting that contractors may be more worried than they need be. He says the financial program is a "minor amount of money" and is available to other industries such as the value-added sector who are working within the FRBC mandate.

Nevertheless, Stanyer says he recognizes the silviculture industry's concerns.

"We don't want to be subsidizing anybody to get into business to put existing companies out of work," said Stanyer in a phone interview from Victoria. "Any kind of assistance through Forest Renewal BC would take those kinds of constraints into consideration."

Stanyer says the financial package is aimed more at creating businesses that would train technical workers rather than manual labourers. He bristles at the idea that his corporation is out to offer compensation to laid-off millworkers or loggers.

"A lot of people have made the comment that Forest Renewal is aimed at displaced forest workers. We certainly hope that displaced forest workers get

some benefits out of it. But there isn't anything specific that does that, and the reason is we recognize there is a contracting community that is out there."

With FRBC representing a "doubling of the enhanced forestry activities in the province,"

Stanyer says contracting industry will get the bulk of this work.

Stanyer says he recognizes the silviculture contracting industry and its contribution to the forest sector, but from what he hears, many local politicians may not be so well informed.

"A lot of mayors and municipalities across the province are saying they get very little benefits from silviculture work in their communities."

That is a perception that silviculture contractors must answer to, said Stanyer. ♦

***...a lot of mayors and municipalities across the province are saying they get very little benefits from silviculture work in their communities...***



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# Conservation of Northern Forests conference

John Lawrence

*Note: The Conservation of Northern Forests Conference was held in Toronto, Nov. 27— Dec. 1, 1995.*

The conference, put together by the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, covered a wide range of topics related to the very topical issue of forest conservation. The last several years have seen increased concern over the impact on forest lands of industrial intervention in terms of forest structure, landscape management and biological diversity. Anyone involved in forestry planning, management and operations is faced with the increasingly complex and dynamic challenge to take into account a wide range of considerations in their work.

This conference attempted to address these issues and considerations in a wide-ranging discussion over five days. With the variety of sessions and topics covered, there was something for everyone. The following is a brief look at some of the many topics covered.

The issue of certification of sustainable forestry is of particular interest in the light of recent trends towards market-driven regulation of forestry practices. Clearly, this is not a simple issue to resolve. As one of the speakers

indicated, forestry is part science and part art. While it may be inevitable that certification is coming, both for marketing and forest policy reasons, there are still numerous stumbling blocks towards credible and effective implementation. One major issue is the need to bring together the differing visions of certification expressed by the ISO process, the Forest Stewardship Council, and the developing CSA process. It would seem that before this process can move ahead, there needs to be acceptance on all sides of the legitimacy of the divergent interests.

Another trend in forestry that the conference highlighted is the notion of "Community Forests." In Ontario, we are familiar with this trend after the establishment of four pilot projects. At this point, it is uncertain what the concept means for forest management

beyond the status quo. On the federal level, the Model Forest program, as it relates to community forestry, appears to be a good example of the expensive nature of this approach. (At a cost of \$1 million per year per Model Forest, it is still not clear what is happening with this program. Certainly if model forestry is taking place within this program, then this conference would

*...a few concrete case studies that blended together the various approaches and strategies alluded to in the discussions would have added some practical grounding to the conference...*

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have been an appropriate forum for highlighting what is occurring.)

Perhaps the success or failure of this concept lies in the definition of a Community Forest. Is a Community Forest one in which the community is an active advisor? And if an advisor, then at what level? If, on the other hand, a Community Forest is a forest managed "hands on" by the community for the community, then what is the limit to this type of management? As was noted by the panel, different situations require different notions of Community Forestry and perhaps not Community Forestry at all. But the basic approach involves bringing together what are often divergent interests in order to develop a wider concept of forest management than is currently taking place in many situations. The interesting aspect of this approach is its potential to resolve persistent conflicts and to develop a community sense of involvement and empowerment. At the same time, one has to wonder if it requires a level of democratic involvement that is no longer a feature of our culture.

What was most noticeably absent at the conference was the practitioner of forestry planning, management and operations. In the session on "Appropriate Cutting Practices," the discussion was limited, for the most part, to generalizations of what is or isn't appropriate. A few concrete case studies that blended together the various approaches and strategies alluded to in the discussions would have added some practical grounding to the conference. This doesn't mean that a particular case study would offer all the answers, but it would be instructive to know how it is working in the field.

Similarly, the session on "The Environmental Movement and the Forest Industry" was little more than a re-stating of divergent views and approaches with particular emphasis on BC's coastal forests (which was highly contentious as usual). It would be a refreshing change to see some practical examples of how these divergent views are being reconciled. If there are no examples (surely, they must exist!), then the discussion should be directed to where we go from here rather than how far apart we are.

In general, the week was a stimulating exchange of ideas both within the conference proceedings, and on the lunch and coffee breaks. But even in the best of situations, it is not just sound forestry (whether it be holistic, ecosystem-based or whatever term is deemed appropriate) that guides decisions surrounding forestry management, planning and operations. One could remove all the forestry professionals, scientists, environmentalists and forestry workers from the room and still be left with a room crowded with the very considerable political (i.e., the urge to get re-elected) and economic (i.e., jobs and profits) pressures that prescribe how much forestry will be carried out. ❖

## Selection harvesting

*Wanson Hemphill,  
General Manager, PEIFIA*

**S**election harvesting simply means cutting the mature trees, and the diseased and dying trees, and leaving the remaining trees to regenerate, maintain a forest canopy and grow into the next harvest. It won't work with some species, for example, white spruce, and there has to be sufficient trees of different ages to provide a continuing forest to work with.

For a selection harvesting operation to be successful, the trees to be left must be given the most consideration. The general rule is to grow the most valuable species to the largest possible diameter. Selection harvesting is best suited to forests that contain tree species that are long-lived and are insect, wind and disease resistant such as sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, white ash, hemlock, white pine and red spruce.

Selection cutting is more expensive than clearcutting, and greater skill is required to directionally fall and avoid getting trees hung up and damaging the remaining future crop trees. Maintaining a forest cover and trees of different ages and species protects and enhances existing ground ecosystems. Because selection harvesting is environmentally acceptable, provides natural regeneration and is sustainable, we will likely move more towards managing appropriate forest stands by this method in the future. The challenge of converting existing forests to ones managed by selection harvesting will require the support and education of all forest stakeholders. ❖

*...for a selection  
harvesting  
operation to be  
successful, the  
trees to be left  
must be given  
the most  
consideration...*

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*Ian Dennison, President  
Wanson Hemphill,  
General Manager*

# Markets demand sustainable forest products

Wanson Hemphill, General Manager, PEIFIA

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is leading a diverse group of partners to develop a certification system that will ensure forest products are harvested from forests that are sustainably managed. These partners represent forest industries, governments, forest professionals, environmental and woodlot owner groups, academics and others.

The Canadian forest industry strongly supports this initiative for two very important reasons. Firstly, it's in everyone's interest to see that healthy forests continue to flourish and provide sustainable wood products while respecting the environmental and social values of the forest. Secondly, the market for forest products, both in Canada and abroad, is increasingly governed by environmental concerns for forest products.

This process was initiated by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. It not only backs the principle of sustainable forestry, but it supports the development of standards to objectively define what

sustainable forestry is, along with a process to certify that these standards are being met by forest producers and suppliers.

And once the standards have been set, what then? Then comes a process to verify that companies are respecting these standards and practicing sustainable forestry. The certification process will be carried out by qualified, independent auditors. Companies and organizations will apply for certification on a voluntary basis.

The process will involve a review of both their management practices and on-site inspection of managed forests.

Certification standards are expected to be completed soon and they will be presented to the International Standards Organization for international adoption.

It will be quite a challenge for PEI forest producers to meet the certification

standards, especially considering that 90% of PEI's forest is managed by private woodlot owners. All Island stakeholders including government, contractors, sawmills, environmental groups, forest workers, professionals and woodlot owners will have to work together to develop practical strategies to ensure that the certification standards can be met. It will take a cooperative effort to develop codes of practice for forest operators, a mission

*...the market for forest products is increasingly governed by environmental concerns...*

for the industry and sustainable management treatments.

Certification will not be an easy task but it must be done if Island processors and contractors want to maintain their lumber and pulpwood markets. Many of the 1,450 forestry jobs will depend on industry's ability to prove that its products are produced from sustainably managed forests. ♦

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# NB sustainable development leadership

**J**obs and a cleaner environment. The holder of the new Chair in Sustainable Development at the University of New Brunswick says we can have both.

"This province is on the move, and we are going to make our best contribution to strong development of its economy, satisfying livelihoods, and a healthy environment," chairholder Stephen Thompson says.

"Dr. Thompson is ideally qualified to fill this position with his background in resource economics, research management, government regulation, national and international policy formulation, and executive experience," says

Ian Methven, dean of UNB's faculty of forestry and environmental management. "Probably of most importance, however, are his skills in facilitation, conflict resolution and consensus building, since sustainable development is an area fraught with potential controversy and conflict," he adds. "Dr. Thompson can bring a wide range of stakeholders together to discuss and develop effective strategies for sustainable development, particularly as these affect the natural resource sector."

Over the last two months, Thompson has developed in conjunction with Jessie Davies, director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre, a plan for action. It covers four strategic areas: communities and livelihoods, regions and resources, conflict and consensus in Canada, and national and international outreach.

"Many communities in New Brunswick

are dependent on natural resources, and several are wholly dependent on just one resource for income," Thompson explains. "One of the centre's projects will offer assistance to communities who want to map out their own future." A second project will examine the greening of the university itself, and a third will research ways to achieve greening, cost savings, and job enrichment for some of New Brunswick's larger institutions.

"The second area, regions and resources, will take the many sets of principles now being developed at the national level for the sustainable development of Canada's natural resources and find ways to make them

operational at the regional and company level in New Brunswick," centre director Jessie Davies points out.

Two of the centre's projects will deal with improving the effectiveness of the institutions and mechanisms we use for resolving conflicts and will offer training in facilitation skills to reach consensus in Canada's resource sectors.

The final area deals with outreach—spreading the word to students and mid-career professionals in New Brunswick and across the American continents. "We'll develop a set of distance learning modules to create interactive courses and workshops covering a range of sustainable development topics," says Davies. "The centre and university are well placed, through their already extensive links, to offer a distance-learning program tailored to the needs of professionals and executives who are interested in the interaction between trade,

environmental regulation and sustainable development.

To achieve their plan, the chairholder and centre director are going to ask for volunteers from the community who would be willing to devote time and effort to moving these projects forward. "We'd like to create a team of people here at the centre who can help organize the necessary conferences and workshops, and in doing so, keep their fingers on the pulse of change in New Brunswick," says Thompson.

To take up his appointment at UNB, Thompson gave up the position he held since 1989 as senior fellow at the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. The Round Table advises the Canadian Prime Minister on policy for sustainable development and acts as a catalyst for sustainable development in Canada's economy. In that position, Thompson worked with over 100 industry chief executives, public interest groups and government departments to facilitate two-year policy dialogues to develop sectoral codes of practice and action plans for sustainable development. To date, the forest, paper and tourism sectors have adopted this approach. ♦

***...many communities in New Brunswick are dependent on natural resources, and several are wholly dependent on just one resource for income...***

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*Roland Roy,  
President*

# Nova Scotia's future is leaving on the back of a truck

**Waddie Long**

Note: Reprinted from Forest Today, vol. 1, no. 3, May/June 1995.

The forest industry is booming! The woods are alive with activity. To some people, this is a welcome change from the struggle to survive for the last several years. However, all is not as good as it seems. Nova Scotia taxpayers, along with

industry and the federal government, have spent in excess of \$500 million on establishment and tending of forest stands throughout the province. New access roads have been built and fire ponds strategically located. All are part of an overall plan to secure a wood supply far into the future.

We have spent \$50 million to train one of the most highly skilled group of forest workers in the country. But we have failed to protect this investment. What we have in fact done is build an infrastructure that allows out-of-province contractors to come into our region (using our nicely built roads) and harvest private woodlots to feed mills outside Nova Scotia. Landowners are enticed into selling stumpage to outside companies by the lure of fast money.

With local pulpwood stumpage hovering around \$10 to \$14 a cord, woodlot owners are jumping at the chance to sell for \$20 and \$25 a cord. (For those of you that don't know, stumpage is the price a contractor will pay a landowner, per cord, to harvest their wood). There have also been some new products added to the forest worker's list such as veneer logs, spoolwood and the "hysteria causing" birds-eye maple.

I realise the lack of production facilities to manufacture these specialty products in our area has opened the doors to outside companies and allows them to come in and remove these highly valued resources. But they are taking good paying jobs as well. We must come up with a plan to have these raw materials manufactured at home and export finished products. We must do it before it is too late.

Many people do not realise our woodlots have very valuable species on the world market. Species such as eastern white pine, yellow birch, white birch and sugar maple are just a few. Most of these products are imported from other parts of Canada at a very high price. For example, pine sells in the range of \$2 per board foot while maple will cost you \$3, and brace yourself for this one, yellow birch comes in at \$6 per board foot (a board foot is a piece of wood measuring 1" thick by 12" wide by 12" long).

Not only are the resources and jobs leaving the province, the real kick in the head is that we are left with the very expensive job of reforestation and maintenance of roads and fire ponds. I don't expect outside companies to be lining up to help pay these costs.

I do not want to sound like a crusader

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but my concern is one of greed. I have two small children and plan on having grandchildren. My main objective is to secure a future for them in the province we all love. That province is of course Nova Scotia.

I do not like the idea of spending millions of dollars and many years to set up an infrastructure on which to plan our future, only to have outside interests come in and take it right out from under our noses. We have to try to attract some investors that will build facilities to manufacture this resource here. If that proves to be too difficult, then we must do it ourselves.

Nova Scotia has less than 2% of Canada's forest sector. We can be wiped out of the whole scene very easily if we do not control our own destiny. Organization is the key to success. So make it your business to get involved and help create an atmosphere that will have people come to stay instead of leaving with our future on the back of a truck.

I must add that we cannot blame local contractors for selling to the highest bidder. The cost of doing business is going up almost daily and it becomes a necessity to secure high-paying markets for their products. I'm sure our landowners and contractors do not like selling their logs and studwood out of province but they don't seem to have a choice. We need more hardwood mills, saw mills and manufacturing facilities. We are lagging behind in the lucrative value-added sector of the forest industry.

With high unemployment and governments scrambling to find areas of growth to put people back to work the obvious industry is being overlooked. We have been hewers of wood in this province for 400 years. The millions of dollars being spent on retraining, just for the sake of retraining, must be analyzed. One unemployed fisherman has said that when he finishes his retraining he will be an educated unemployed fisherman and he does not expect his situation to change.

We have the infrastructure in place, we have the technology, and we certainly have the people to make it work.

Let's do it. ♦

## Le débroussaillage

René Ouellette

**N**ous connaissons des problèmes de productivité sur les sites où les compagnies forestières décident de faire exécuter les travaux malgré la présence élevée de déchets au sol. Ceci retarde énormément la production des débroussaillieurs. La grille tarifaire du MRN ne reconnaît pas ce facteur dans l'évaluation. Des études ont été faites pour conclure que la production du travailleur n'était pas affectée.

Cependant, une étude spécifique à ce problème pourrait révéler la baisse de productivité dans ces sites. Il faut bien être conscient que les ouvriers sylvicoles se plaignent de cet aspect. Si un travailleur a le choix entre un terrain avec présence de déchets, il préférera un terrain avec plus de tiges/hectare et moins de déchets au sol.

Il faut également tenir compte du nombre plus élevé de blessures des travailleurs à survenir sur ces sites. Le taux de cotisation à la CSST risque d'augmenter pour les années à venir. Alors, on ne pourra plus offrir des taux concurrentiels à l'industrie.

### English summary

*Decreased productivity is an important problem for thinning sites with a lot of slash. The MNR does not recognize this factor in its pricing formulas. However, a study specific to this problem could reveal the loss of productivity caused by slash. There is also an increased number of injuries on these types of sites which may increase the industry WCB rate significantly in the future. ♦*

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# L'éclairci précommerciale au Québec— plusieurs modifications souhaitables

Line Martin, Group de Gestion G. Batil

Depuis quelques années, l'éclairci précommerciale tend à se tailler une place de plus en plus importante parmi la liste des différents travaux sylvicoles au Québec, au détriment du reboisement qui s'avère une activité beaucoup plus drastique et onéreuse à grand échelle. Devant ce changement de cap, plusieurs modifications s'imposent afin

d'éviter une crise de croissance trop douloureuse pour les différents intervenants forestiers tant privés que publics.

Si on veut assurer la pérennité de la ressource, il faudra d'abord assurer la survie et l'essor des différentes entreprises qui réalisent ces

travaux. La formation du personnel spécialisé, un camp pépionnant aux normes de la CSST, l'utilisation d'équipement technique sophistiqué, la qualité des travaux et la garantie d'emploi sont autant des facteurs à considérer pour tout entrepreneur intéressé à oeuvrer dans ce domaine.

Afin de parler le même langage lors des négociations de contrats avec les différentes compagnies forestières, la méthode de calcul de la densité des peuplements à traiter devra être standardisée et le nombre de tiges/hectare devra également refléter la réalité sur le terrain (tiges de 60cm et plus).

Les compagnies qui établissent des critères de qualité plus sévères que celles

établies par le MRN devront accorder un prix à la mesure de leur sévérité (supérieur aux crédits de base accordés par le MRN) pour la réalisation de ses travaux.

Quant à lui, le MRN devra revoir son calcul des crédits accordés pour la réalisation des travaux. Un plus grand nombre de tiges/hectare, il devra considérer l'essence, la pente,

l'éloignement, les déchets de coupes, et l'âge des peuplements à traiter.

Tous ces changements ne pourront que profiter aux débroussailliers, eux-mêmes, qui investissent énormément en temps de formation, pour acquérir un

niveau de spécialisation, et en argent pour l'achat et l'entretien d'équipements nécessaires à la réalisation de leur tâche.

À chacun d'assumer sa part de responsabilité pour que ce dossier évolue le plus rapidement possible. Tout en ne perdant de vue les raisons d'être de cette activité—le maintien de la productivité de nos forêts et le développement économique de nos

régions. Un comité devrait être formé regroupant les compagnies forestières, le MRN et les réalisateurs des travaux, afin d'en arriver à un consensus et de développer un partenariat pour l'évolution de la forêt du Québec.

## English summary

*Precommercial thinning is becoming more and more important in Québec to the detriment of planting, which is seen as a more onerous and drastic measure in the big picture. Before this drastic change of course, changes are needed to the thinning industry to avoid a crisis of plantation growth.*

*To preserve the future of the forest resource, it is necessary to ensure survival of the organizations who do the work. Specialised training, camp standards, quality standards and employment security are important factors for the industry. Stocking standards must reflect the realities on the ground, and companies with special quality requirements need to pay more than the MNR standard rate. MNR payment*

*formulas must take into account more than just the number of stems/hectare—remoteness, steepness, slash levels and the age of the trees to be thinned are all important cost factors.*

**...to preserve the future of the forest resource, it's necessary to ensure survival of the organizations who do the work...**

*We need a committee composed of forest companies, MNR and the silviculture industry to develop a partnership for the evolution of Québec forests. ♦*

# Public and professional attitudes to forest management in Ontario

## Ontario Forest Research Institute

Note: This is an edited chapter from a report called "Vegetation Management in Ontario's Forests: Survey Research of Public and Professional Perspectives." The full Ontario Vegetation Management Alternatives Program report is available from Ontario MNR at (705) 946-2981.

### Forest management and attitudes toward intervention

We first examine the Ontario public's priorities regarding forest management: what should forest managers in the province attempt to accomplish? The Ontario public was asked about forest management priorities through a series of questions designed to identify their primary goals for forest management. Responses showed strong support for the environment and, secondarily, a recognition that maintenance of a healthy wood products industry is also important. When asked if the first priority for forest management should be to protect the environment, 91% of participants in the general public sample agreed.

When asked the same question about priorities regarding jobs, recreation and wood products, a significantly lower percentage of respondents agreed: 50% of those surveyed supported recreation as the primary goal of forest management, 46% supported jobs, and 39% supported wood-products production. Thus, all

four of these uses of the forest received substantial support. However, these questions were painless for participants to answer in the sense that no tradeoffs or conflicts were addressed among management objectives. We therefore returned to this topic area later in the survey, asking participants to review their values and to directly address tradeoffs across management goals in a more realistic manner.

In timber communities, protecting the environment was seen as the most important objective for forest management; 90% of the people surveyed agreed with this goal. However, two economically-oriented goals (providing jobs and producing wood) also were seen as important by many people. Job provision was seen as a first priority by 58% of people in timber communities, 12% higher than in the general public. Wood production was seen as a primary goal by 46% of responses, versus 39% in the general public. Recreation was not as important a goal for people in timber-dependent communities; agreement with this objective was lower than in responses

from the general public (44% vs. 50%). These responses fit well with intuition. It is not surprising that residents of timber communities viewed jobs as a cornerstone of forest management policies and that recreational aspects were considered somewhat less important than for the general public.

...continued on next page

## Ontario Silviculture Contractors Association

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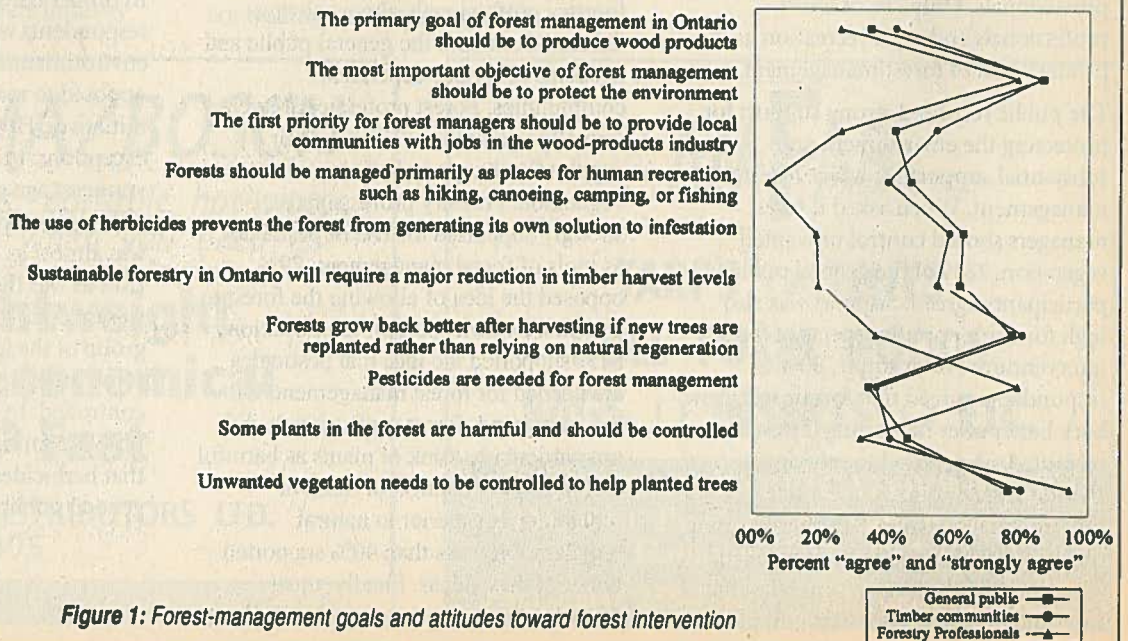


Figure 1: Forest-management goals and attitudes toward forest intervention

...continued from previous page

All three groups of forestry professionals generally agreed with respondents from the general sample about specific forest management goals. Environmental protection, again the clear priority, gathered support from 80% of respondents. Professional foresters also placed a priority on both jobs and wood production, although private sector foresters supported ("agree" and "strongly agree") wood production over jobs (90% vs.

46%). The position of private sector foresters was thus opposite to that held by residents of timber-dependent communities, who expressed greater support for jobs than for wood production.

Forest

professionals differed from the general public with regard to the importance of managing forests for recreation. The concept was supported by just over 50% of the general public; it was solidly opposed by all three groups of forest professionals. Only 7% of forest professionals endorsed recreation as the primary goal of forest management.

The public recorded strong support for protecting the environment and substantial support for active forest management. When asked if forest managers should control unwanted vegetation, 78% of the general public participants agreed. Support was also high for some specific aspects of forest intervention. For example, 80% of respondents agreed that forests will grow back better after harvesting if trees are replanted, as opposed to relying on natural regeneration. On a more fundamental question, whether harmful plants exist and need to be controlled, about one-half (48%) of general public respondents agreed that harmful plants should be controlled.

Although generally pragmatic in their support of forest management, the people of Ontario did resist some management practices. This is particularly true of pesticide use. Only 36% of the general public agreed that pesticides were necessary for forest management. Two-thirds thought that herbicides prevented the forest from generating its own solution to infestation. In addition to this resistance to pesticides, the people of Ontario were concerned about timber

removal practices; 65% agreed that sustainable forestry in Ontario would require a major reduction in the level of timber harvesting.

The views of residents of Ontario's timber-dependent communities on

forest intervention varied only slightly from those of the general public. The largest (but still minor) difference is the 5% decline in support for the idea that harmful plants need to be controlled.

On the subject of forest intervention, forestry professionals almost always differed from both the general public and residents of timber-dependent communities. Forest professionals were virtually unanimous (97%) in their support for the control of unwanted vegetation. Forestry professionals also strongly supported the use of pesticides as tools of forest management; 79% opposed the idea of allowing the forest to generate its own solution to infestation; 81% supported the idea that pesticides are needed for forest management. On the other hand, forest professionals did not particularly think of plants as harmful and in need of control, or think of replanting as superior to natural regeneration. Less than 40% supported either of these ideas. Finally, most forestry professionals were satisfied with

current timber harvest levels; only 22% thought that levels needed to be reduced for sustainable forestry.

## **Demographic variables and support for forestry goals and intervention**

### **Gender, forestry goals, and intervention**

Men and women in the public sample generally responded the same to general forestry practices. The only substantive difference between men and women involved the use of herbicides, with women more likely than men to agree that herbicides can interfere with the forests' ability to generate solutions to infestation problems.

### **Age, forestry goals, and intervention**

When public support for forestry practices is examined by age group, a familiar pattern repeats itself: younger respondents were more likely to oppose forest management, except when managing for environmental protection. The only deviation from this pattern coincided with job creation as a management priority, with the youngest age group slightly (and logically) more supportive of that goal than the middle-age group.

In timber communities, the younger respondents were more supportive of environmental positions and more opposed to management's production initiatives. However, there were three exceptions: in timber communities the youngest age group was most supportive of job creation as a management priority; was almost as concerned about herbicide risks as was the second age group; and was twice as supportive as the oldest age group of the idea that some plants in the forest are harmful and need to be controlled. In addition, all groups in timber communities tended to believe that herbicides are less risky than does the general public.

**...on the subject of forest intervention, forestry professionals almost always differed from the general public...**

**Forestry professionals, forestry goals, and intervention**

Biologists again recorded a response pattern that was distinct from both government and industry foresters, strongly supporting pro-environmental forestry practices and showing little support for industry jobs or timber production. These results are similar to those discussed in the previous chapter, where biologists frequently held stronger positions regarding environmental

values than did the general public or timber-community residents. For example, nearly 30% of biologists strongly believed that forest management should emphasize environmental

protection, compared to only 17% for OMNR foresters and 12% for industry foresters. Similarly, only 6% of biologists strongly agreed that unwanted vegetation needed to be controlled to help planted trees, compared to 28% of OMNR foresters and 50% of private foresters.

Foresters employed by private industry

took the strongest stands in favour of timber production and timber harvesting.

**Aboriginals, outdoor interest-group members, and forestry goals**

Among all groups surveyed, Aboriginals portrayed the greatest degree of support for forest practices that emphasize environmental protection. In another chapter, we saw that Aboriginals held the strongest pro-environmental value positions; the same is true of forest-management practices and goals. In

many cases, Aboriginals were more than 15 percentage points higher than any other group in support for environmental positions and in opposition to the use of herbicides. The few

exceptions to this include: management of the forests for employment (Aboriginals were more supportive of this goal than any other group, suggestive of a strong need for additional employment opportunities); managing the forests for wood production, where Aboriginals were almost as supportive as the general public; and support for the idea of controlling unwanted vegetation, where

Aboriginals were more supportive than residents of timber communities, but less supportive than the general public.

Outdoor interest-group members tended to support environmentally oriented forest practices in a manner similar to the general public: however, a caution is in order here. The small number of outdoor interest-group respondents does not allow us to make useful comparisons with larger samples.

**Conclusions**

Most of the people and groups surveyed or interviewed for this study were highly pragmatic when asked about forest management practices and goals. Although there were very strong levels of support for environmental goals and related forest-use issues, levels of support for economic-and-commodity uses of the forest were also reasonably high. Job creation in forest management was also recognized as important. This mix of management objectives was especially apparent in timber communities, where high levels of environmental support were coupled with high levels of support for management initiatives to increase jobs in the wood-product industries. The absolute levels of support for herbicide use by any group other than industry foresters were very low. ♦

*...absolute levels of support for herbicide use by any group other than industry foresters were very low...*

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## Paper waits depress fall standtending in BC

John Betts

The BC government's recent attempts to bail out its foundering budget through across-the-board fiscal clawbacks has left the coastal standtending industry in serious trouble with few contracts tendered this fall and hundreds of workers facing a workless winter, say a number of major BC silviculture firms. According to the contractors, their situation hasn't been helped with private sector thinning and spacing projects often held up by a growing administrative gridlock as more government and industry foresters are drawn into the bureaucratic maw created by the new Forest Practices Code.

"All totalled it's having a potentially devastating effect on the intensive silviculture contracting sector," says Theo Boere of the Western Silvicultural Contractors Association. He warns that the current downturn in the business is brought on primarily by what he calls "a government freeze" of silviculture spending for this fiscal year, leaving contractors, particularly in the coastal standtending business, looking at bleak prospects over the next few months.

"This loss may be enough to put some of the smaller firms out of business," says Boere. He adds healthy companies will lose more than just money as they try to survive the year.

"Our company just laid off 70 people. Normally, we would keep them working straight through the winter. . . . The work force is going to be devastated. All these people who would be working

now in the industry will be looking for work elsewhere. They may not come back. Everything that has been done in the last few years to develop and stabilize the intensive silviculture community, including worker training, could all be lost as we face six months of no work."

Boere said Forest Renewal BC has been

more of a bureaucratic bottleneck than a help to contractors with proposed projects languishing for months in administrative limbo before making it to the field.

According to Ministry of

**...Treasury Board began a review in October of all MOF contracts planned to be let during the remainder of the fiscal year...**

Forests Silviculture Branch Director Henry Benskins, the province's Treasury Board, acting on a government initiative, began a review in October of all MOF contracts planned to be let during the remainder of the fiscal year. That led to a temporary hold on contract work ranging from tree girdling to professional services, as districts were asked to prioritize their projects.

"There is no general freeze on at the present time," said Benskins in a recent phone interview.

"There has been a time-consuming review process but it has been completed. A lot of these standtending contracts (were ranked) in the high and medium categories, and have proceeded. What I can't say is what the net impact has been of the ranking process itself or any delays created by the review."



To a number of contractors the impact has been obvious.

"We would normally have a minimum of one standtending crew working through the winter," says Lee Maxwell, operations manager for Brinkman and Associates. Maxwell says her firm, like Boere's, has just laid off its standtending crew— 20 people it normally keeps busy year round.

"We have nothing in the offing. There seems to be a lot less work being tendered this year."

Although industry foresters are not saying their intensive programs are lapsing as they figure out their burgeoning obligations under the Forest Practices Code, some will admit they have been preoccupied lately.

"Our first responsibility is to take care of our basic silviculture," says Doug Regier, area forester for Canfor's Englewood logging division. "Our incremental program kind of takes a back seat to that."

This year the Englewood division managed to keep up with their standtending, but Regier admits the process wasn't quite ideal.

"Last year in the spring, we had March madness as the forest service came up to the end of their fiscal year, and every licensee and their dog had contracts out there. Prices went through the roof."

In a more perfect world, Regier says foresters, once they are free of the current paper weight, will be able to stagger projects throughout the year, making things a little more stable for contractors. He points out that under the Forest Practices Code, foresters will have to have a year's worth of projects approved in advance.

However, meeting that goal will take a huge mobilization of forestry troops on the government side where industry has

been doing some crew raiding lately.

"Right now, industry is hiring out of the forest service like it was their own personnel department," said MLA Corky Evans, parliamentary secretary to Forest Minister Andrew Petter.

"Every forest district north of Campbell River is 25 under their allotment of people. . . .(keeping up with the Forest Practices Code) is going to be a stretch. It's a growth industry."

That growth has led to what the Ministry of Forests is calling a "massive" hiring blitz.

"The upside to all this is that every single

forestry graduate who looked for a job in BC lately has got one," Evans said. ♦

**...every forest district north of Campbell River is 25 under their allotment of people...**

**E R R A T U M**

The article on page 40 of the last issue of CSM entitled *Alberta WSCA changes timber management classification*, should have been titled *Alberta WCB changes timber management classification*. The WSCA opposed these changes.

**Western Silvicultural Contractors Association**

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The short dark days of winter are here which means that the 15th annual WSCA Conference and AGM will soon be upon us. This year we plan to get back to the basic issues that affect every silviculture contractor. This is reflected in the overall theme of the 1996 conference: **Taking care of our business futures— Long-term health, not just survival.** The conference will be held Thursday, February 1 to Friday, February 2 at The Clarion Hotel, located at 4331 Dominion Street in Burnaby, BC.

The 1996 conference will follow last year's extremely successful format. The first day will feature workshops where we can discuss the key issues facing our industry in smaller working groups. The second day will start with a very brief AGM. Then, the moment you've all been waiting for— the infamous WSCA Bear Pit session, moderated by long-time silviculture industry pundit John Betts. This is your chance to put high profile representatives of the Ministry, industry and FRBC on the hot seat. Questions and suggestions from the workshops will be brought forward for focused discussion and solution building.

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to put high profile  
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- MOF – Contract issues, funding freezes, under-staffing, etc.

This meeting is for you to talk to and influence the policy makers. Please come and voice your concerns about changes happening in the industry. We need your participation to maintain the WSCA's dialogue with government and industry.

If you haven't already registered for the 1996 conference, call the WSCA office today at 604-736-8660. ♦

# The singing forest

Dirk Brinkman

"break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest and every tree therein" — Isaiah: 44:23

On May 18, 1990, Gladys McIntyre, then in her eighteenth year as a treeplanter, stood up during a planting run. Later, she described what she heard and saw:

"Looking up and across the valley this morning, I heard the forest singing ...shafts of light appeared to be coming from the top of a spectacular pyramid-profiled peak, illuminating the forest on the hillside across the valley.

"As my attention was drawn to the illuminated trees, I was struck by their immense verticality. A profound vertical alignment took place in me in response, and suddenly I felt about twelve feet tall ...then, I was struck in my solar plexus region by an impact of sound. It grew to an up-welling, crescendoing symphony of sound, in range and tone unlike anything I have ever heard before! Emanating from the forested hillsides across the valley, it was unquestionably a great hymn of adoration, of joy in creation and praise to the creator! Words cannot possibly express the magnitude of this joyous sound, and my absolute awe at witnessing it."

Gladys is an outstanding planter and a person of high integrity, who planted with Brinkman & Associates, Green Peaks and the Argenta Coop for many years. She and her husband, Vince, market garden-organic carrots and potatoes with their horses, and live in an old clearcut in an example of "ecologically sustainable living." Gladys is a director of the Applied Ecological Stewardship Coalition of BC.

When Meadow Creek Cedar applied to log the area of which she spoke in 1993, Gladys visited it again and began a unique campaign to save this forest, based on her (and by then, several others') experience of its spiritual value.

There are places where it is easier to touch into something larger than ourselves, and forests are one of those places, especially some forests with a unique combination of characteristics. The forest industry was horrified at the idea that anyone who has had a spiritual experience could apply to preserve a forest. Meadow Creek Cedar, determined not to set that precedent, refused all pleas for mercy, commenced logging in September, and received court injunctions against the inevitable protesters. The BC media featured this conflict with its unique sound bites (e.g., a Meadow Creek logger claiming he "never heard my carrots scream when I pull 'em out of the garden").

As the conflict developed, facts about the forest's other values emerged. If appeals for the preservation of the Singing Forest had been based on these factors alone, the outcome might have been different. However, since applications to preserve the area were based on its spiritual value, the forest seems doomed by default. Politicians and bureaucrats are afraid of appearing foolish, especially in the face of industry's determination not to set a precedent.

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**Old growth value**

Marion Parker, a dendrochronologist for 34 years, who was allowed to visit the area for three hours through a variance on the injunction, said he expected "many of these trees are not only over 1000 years old, they may rival the coast in terms of age."

Parker has measured the oldest tree in Canada, a 1,835-year-old coastal yellow cedar. He said, "I don't believe trees sing, but it is sad to see such a unique area logged. Of course, it will be easier to age these trees after the area is logged."

Less than one quarter of one percent of the forest in the Kootenay Lake District is 360 years old and older, and stands with trees over a 1000 years old are virtually unknown.

**Wildlife values**

The stand is the only remaining, significant, old-growth-habitat, low-elevation corridor connecting the East and West Kootenays in the North Purcells. A hydrologist reported that the site is too wet to be sustainably logged in compliance with the Forest Practices Code since unacceptable sedimenting of Tenise Creek will occur.

**Recreational and aesthetic value**

In 1995, the Singing Forest was the most popular back country destination in the West Kootenays and some groups led Singing Forest Pilgrimage Treks. The government has received more public support for the protection of this old-growth candidate than any other area in the Kootenays.

**Spiritual Values**

On the issue of spiritual values, an impasse was reached. "Spiritual value is intangible, unquantifiable," said Ken Baker, of the Land Use Committee. "No technical criteria can be found to evaluate it," according to Mike Geisler, who worked on the Protected Area Strategy. Yet the word "spiritual" is mentioned three times in BC's Forest Practices Code:

**Part 1: Section: 1, Interpretation**

"Cultural Heritage Resources include objects and locations of traditional importance to First Nations. These will include burial sites, village sites and special locations of spiritual significance."

**Preamble**

c] "Balancing productive, spiritual, ecological and recreational values of forests to meet the economic and cultural needs of peoples and communities, including First Nations."

**Discussion Paper, VII. What are the costs/benefits of the code?**

"When considering the cost, it is important not to lose sight of the benefit that will stem from the FPC. Sustainable use of our natural resources is vital to our economic and environmental survival. Our forests provide a myriad of societal, environmental and economic benefits. Among these are maintenance of water quality, wildlife and fish populations, outdoor recreation, tourism and spiritual values."

In the summer of 1995, as the code emerged, Gladys pointed out that by adding "including First Nations" to that preamble, the code

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clearly establishes a mandate to include spiritual values for all peoples and communities in its balancing act.

BC Minister of Forests Andrew Petter replied to Gladys' appeals: "I can appreciate that your interest to have it preserved as a spiritually significant site is very sincere. The government has a role in generally respecting and acknowledging individual spiritual beliefs and experiences, but not a role in evaluating or quantifying these experiences for the purposes of defining public policy."

While no one wants government to create a manual of spiritual regulations, the complete lack of a process in the code makes the foresters' task of balancing spiritual values impossibly difficult.

BC and Yukon Archbishop David Crawley recommended to Premier Harcourt that a commission of First Nation and non-aboriginal qualified persons assume the responsibility to give such sites a fair hearing. Chris Hamilton, a well-known Edmonton theologian, and other spiritual leaders have echoed this recommendation and offered to assist in this process.

The concept of forming an aboriginal/non aboriginal panel to examine potential spiritual sites might also be welcome to aboriginal peoples. There is a due process to determine an aboriginal spiritual site, requiring a certified archeologist to demonstrate that its use predates 1848. There is no process for determining a site with current value. Without a spiritual values panel, sites whose combination of characteristics may merit special recognition, will get the negative hearing that the Singing Forest is getting.

CP 159's 289-hectare cutting-permit on the 650-hectare Tenise Creek mountainside is partially cut. Now preservation efforts have focused on a small ten-hectare stand of the oldest trees. Canadian actor Matt Frewer, ironically best known for his portrayal of Max Headroom, was moved by his experience visiting the forest and offered to compensate Meadow Creek Cedar for any profits lost if they would not log the area. This is a serious offer, as Frewer has paid royally to save some large oaks near the Ontario Science Centre in the past. His offer to save the Singing Forest was rejected.

Of course, there would be no cost if Meadow Creek is given another area to harvest. The problem in selecting alternative harvest areas is the new Forest Practices Code. It takes many months to process and approve applications for alternative harvest sites.

These old hollow cedars may not yield much value in timber, and they probably would have offered the Kootenay Lake District greater value as the mythical pipe organs of the legendary Singing Forest. But no one is mandated to hear the appeals of Gladys and the Applied Ecological Stewardship Coalition of BC, as they make this unprecedented spiritual appeal.

In further describing her 1990 experience, Gladys said that the "joy in the creation of this up-welling crescendoing symphonic sound suddenly changed to abject sorrow." What she heard next, she translated as: "O noble and worthy exploiters and conquerors, have mercy... do not end our singing."

It would be wise for BC to select a handful of sage individuals capable of giving such unique requests a fair hearing in the theatre of BC's forest conflicts. ♦

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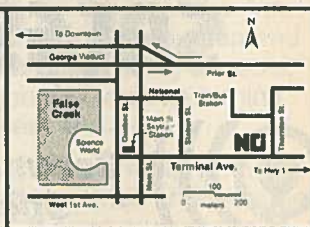
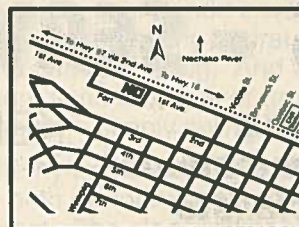
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The German and Swiss governments have Greenfreeze development projects with two of the largest fridge companies in India and one in China. Greenpeace is exploring markets in South America and China, where demand for refrigerators is booming.

### Study says environmental protection is good for the economy

A UBC study finds environmental protection and enhancement policies generate substantial economic benefits, and are a major contributor to BC's overall development. The study concludes environmental enhancement policies are consistent with high levels of economic performance, and says there's a correlation between environmental protection and advanced levels of economic development. BC Environment Minister Moe Sihota says the report reaffirms the need to continue along the path of environmental stewardship.

### Predicted UV levels could decimate Spotted Frog

Three researchers in BC (Inigo Flamarique, Kristiina Ovaska and Ted Davis) have investigated the hatching success of the Pacific Tree Frog and the Spotted Frog. The eggs were hatched under three experimental treatments: 1) UV-B blocked (control), 2) natural ambient UV-B, and 3) UV-B enhanced. The UV-B enhanced treatment consisted of natural ambient light plus UV-B radiation from fluorescent UV-B lamps, adjusted to match estimates of the ambient UV-B that will exist next

decade. Eggs at an early embryonic stage were monitored until hatching. Hatching success for the Pacific Tree Frog was 80-90% for all three treatments. Hatching success for the Spotted Frog was 80-90% for the first two treatments but only 56% for the enhanced UV-B treatment. These results suggest that in the next decade, the reproductive success of the Spotted Frog may be dramatically reduced.

### Greener development banking

A recent World Bank report tallies up the wealth per capita for each nation, taking into account human resources, produced assets and natural capital. It ranks Canadians as the world's second most wealthy citizens, with Australians first. This is the first international study that goes beyond the narrow reductionist gauge of gross domestic product. The GDP counts the drive for short-term profits as a positive, and ignores the

negative impact on human resources, previously produced assets and natural resources. Forest management practices of burning up long-term values for short-term economic return are often given as examples of red, as opposed to green economics. The aim of this study is to get people and governments to change the way they think about development. The study counts a country's investment in its people (through education, health and nutrition) as two-thirds of its wealth, while produced assets (GDP) account for only one-fifth. This represents a greener, more people friendly shift for the bank. ♦

## E D I T O R I A L

...continued from page 6

Forestry schools in Quebec are also teaching operators to use the single grip, though primarily for clear-cutting.

In many parts of Canada, clear-cutting reduces forest complexity to even-age stands, not a normal ecosystem feature. Selection harvesting preserves mixed age and multi-story forest ecosystem integrity. Selection harvesting will also increase the harvest volume over the long term through promoting accelerated growth in the leave-trees, shortening the regeneration gap and helping preserve the health of the forest ecosystem. According to the CPPA, selection harvesting is increasing rapidly across Canada.

Combining selection harvesting with commercial thinning, we may yet increase the future harvest in Canada. ♦



The Spotted Frog.

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