

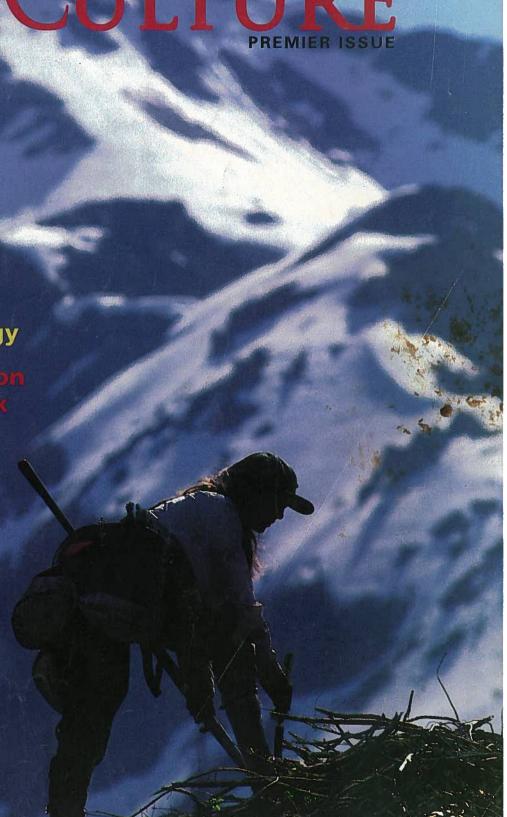
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Questioning Ontario's interim silviculture strategy

PEI's FRDA is first on the chopping block

More makework = less sllviculture in BC forests

Incorporating the William Street Stre



# SILVI CULTURE

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# s n n w

#### Foresters Act amended

The Foresters Act, which establishes the Association of BC Professional Foresters (ABCPF) has been amended. One set of amendments broaden the definition of the practice of professional forestry to improve accountability for forest management decisions. A second group of amendments ensure that persons who are qualified to do jobs which now fall within the practice of forestry will be able to continue. The bill gives the ABCPF better powers to discipline members and clarifies how the public may lodge a complaint against a forester. One amendment will permit the inclusion of lay members on the ABCPF council. (MOF News Release)

# Murray receives Deans Medal for CO<sub>2</sub> Thesis

The Fall/Winter 1992 issue of the WSCA Newsletter featured an article by Joyce Murray proposing a national \$15 billion carbon sink silviculture program. This program has since been adopted as a policy platform by both the CSA and the WSCA. Ms. Murray and her MBA thesis on the carbon sink silviculture program were recently awarded the Dean's Medal for graduate business studies at Simon Fraser University. (SFU Monitor)

#### **Ecoforestry Institute established**

The Ecoforestry Institute Society of BC (EIS) has been founded in Victoria to promote Natural Selection Ecoforestry (NSE), which it claims is an ecologically sound alternative to current industrial forest practices. Its objectives include training and certification of ecoforesters, creation of demonstration foresters, disseminating information about the philosophy and need for application of NSE. Under NSE, no trees are removed before they have been "naturally selected" by nature, so product volume is limited to what the forest naturally produces. For more information you may contact them at (604) 592-8333. (EIS Newsletter)

#### FRDA to be phased out

M

Federal cuts to regional development will spell the end of BC's FRDA agreement. The federal government announced that it will not renew these agreements when they expire. The impact in BC will not be felt until 1997 when the current five year \$200 million agreement ends. Other jurisdictions will feel the crunch sooner— PEI which was in middle of negotiating a new FRDA is without an agreement effective immediately. See page 36 for more information. (The Province)

#### **MOF** regional office moves

The office for the Vancouver Region MOF is moving to Nanaimo from Burnaby, effective September, 1994. The office is moving to Vancouver Island because it has "many of the most sensitive areas for forestry in the province, and a great deal of regional staff's work is now focused on the Island in response to increased interest in forest management by the public." (MOF News Release)

#### Strathcona AAC reduced

Fifteen companies operating in the Strathcona timber supply area (TSA) had their harvest levels reduced by 11%, effective immediately. The AAC was reduced by 188,000 cubic metres in the Strathcona TSA (which covers 480,000 hectares in the Campbell River forest district). The reduction is in effect until Dec. 31, 1995 to establish three study areas under the Protected Areas Strategy. (MOF News Release)

#### Pruning training kit available

Silviculture Branch of MOF has developed an instructional kit for the technical and operational skills necessary to carry out commercial pruning contracts. The course describes what pruning is, why pruning is recommended to create clear high-value wood. Stand selection guidelines are listed as well as information on contract administration and pruning quality evaluation. The kit is available on three week loan. For more information call (604) 356-6045. (MOF News Release)

# S Upcoming Silviculture Events

#### Second National Silviculture Conference

Building on the enthusiasm generated by the first conference in Vancouver, Sept. 1991, the conference brings together woodlot and land owners, contractors, foresters, technicians, researchers, forest managers, and policy planners to discuss the rapid changes taking place in silviculture across Canada and abroad. Theme: Changes at the Stand Level

Location: Toronto, Ontario
Date: September 12-15, 1993
Contact: (604) 683-8254

#### **BC Nursery Association AGM**

The Forest Nursery Association of BC AGM will focus on changes the nursery industry has to plan for during this decade to maintain salable products given anticipated changes in forest practices. Theme: Changing Forestry Practices, Nurseries Meet the Challenge Location: Courtney, B.C. Date: September 13-15, 1993 Contact: (604) 387-8936

#### Silvilog'93

Recognizing the full ecological range of forest values— from timber to wildlife—Silvilog '93 will demonstrate the newest equipment and techniques for woodland management.

Theme: Caring for our Woodlands Location: Barrie, Ontario Date: September 15-18, 1993

# New sections in Canadian Silviculture Magazine

Future issues of Canadian Silviculture Magazine will include several new sections. The National Silviculture Calendar will list upcoming events of interest to the silviculture industry. Silviculture Innovations will provide information about new products developed for the silviculture sector. Forest Voices is an opportunity for you to put in your 2¢ (actually 800 words) about forest management issues for a national audience. Send new product information, event listings, or submissions to: Canadian Silviculture Magazine #310 – 1070 W. Broadway Vancouver BC, V6H 1E7

#### 3

# More make-work projects = Less silviculture in the field

#### Dirk Brinkman

The BC government has been cutting the amount of money available for silviculture work, especially work performed by the professional silviculture industry.

The recently announced BC 21 initiative includes the Forest Worker
Development Program (FWDP), a joint venture of MOF and Social Services.
FWDP is another attempt to divert silviculture funding for "the intended beneficiaries ... people on income assistance as well as traditionally disadvantaged groups" (from BC 21 press release).

In the time honoured tradition of the federal/provincial employment shell game, BC 21 will have the result of putting our workers on UIC so that people on social assistance can go to work. This is counter-productive in both social and forest management terms.

The WSCA does not support the strategy of diverting silviculture funds for other social objectives. We have requested that the government restore the budget for silviculture projects so BC's forests can be sustained by dedicated silviculturalists in the industry.

# 7.6% Reduction in budget for silviculture field projects

This trend becomes more severe when looking closely at the Provincial Silviculture budget for the maintenance and repair of the forest resource.

The silviculture budget for field projects has been directly cut by \$12.5 million or 7.6% (when this is adjusted for inflation, the real cut is over 10%).

Silviculture 1991/2 1992/3

Programs \$204,276,784 \$195,616,185-4.2%

Salaries \$40,056,640 \$43,871,828+9.5%

Projects \$164,220,144 \$151,744,357-7.6%

The Forest Resource Enhancement Program (announced by the Social Credit government at our 1991 AGM) planned to increase the incremental silviculture budget by \$70 million to avoid reductions in AAC and an expected 100,000 in job losses. The NDP government committed to this program (at our 1992 AGM) but then cut the 1992 budget by \$8 million. The 1993 budget represents a major disappointment to the silviculture industry and the public concerned with managing our forest resource.

\$4 million allocated to BC 21
We now understand that the work
available to WSCA members and their
experienced silviculture practitioners
was further reduced by the BC 21
announcement, which allocates \$4

announcement, which allocates \$4 million of the budget for silviculture projects to the FWDP (in addition to the \$12.9 million contribution from the Ministry of Social Services).

The MOF estimates that the total \$16.9 million FWDP will accomplish what silviculture industry crews could do for \$4 million, meaning the BC 21 program is 1/4 as cost effective as the industry. Considering that the FWDP wages are 50% of industry rates, productivity is expected to be 1/8. Historically, it has been as difficult to attain good quality silviculture on make-work programs as it is to attain good production.

The people who have historically participated in make-work programs rarely exhibit the dedication and motivation required for a career in the silviculture industry. BC 21 and FWDP will simply delay their inevitable response to economic restructuring in their communities. If they really wanted a silviculture career, they would already have made that choice.

\$4 million allocated to aboriginal crews

Silviculture Branch is also allocating approximately \$4 million of the budget for silviculture projects exclusively to aboriginal peoples through direct award contracts. While the WSCA supports the goal of training aboriginal silviculture contractors and practitioners, funding for this should not be carved

out of the core silviculture program.

An aboriginal direct award program represents a practical direction for goals historically funded through Advance Education & Job training, Indian Affairs, CEIC and Social Services. Channeling funding from these agencies to meet BC's forest management goals makes good economic, environmental and social sense.

# Experienced silviculture practitioners displaced

The value of silviculture projects available to our members has been reduced by a total of \$20.5 million. This deepens unemployment for career silviculture workers.

The current work force of experienced silviculture practitioners are uniquely dedicated despite adverse working conditions and highly seasonal biological 'windows' when the work can be done. Federal UIC already makes a justified contribution to keeping the dedicated silviculture worker available for this seasonal industry. (Annual unemployment for the forestry services sector in Canada is 38%.)

Silviculture training for aboriginal and socially disadvantaged workers only makes sense if there are more career silviculture jobs available. Due to reductions in area harvested, plus reductions in the provincial silviculture program, experienced and dedicated silviculture workers are already in oversupply.

Replacing silviculture projects for experienced forestry practitioners with make-work projects for the socially disadvantaged undermines MOF's duty to care for public forest resources that made this province the best place in the world to live.

There is lots of work to be done in the forest. The WSCA does not object to make work programs in the forests, as long as the health of our forests and the futures of silviculture professionals are not sacrificed to fund them.

# Responsible forest renewal in Ontario is affordable

Dirk Brinkman, President, CSA

Note: This CSA policy brief was presented to Howard Hampton,
Ontario Minister of Natural
Resources, March 17, 1993.

# Review of interim silviculture policy

Silviculture industry representatives across Canada are alarmed at Ontario's new Interim Silviculture Policy (see page 10). Concerns arise from some of the following features of the policy:

- The policy abandons proven silviculture practices in favour of cheaper treatments that have been shown to be inadequate in other provinces.
- The initiatives fail to address the Regen Audit's reported dramatic loss of conifer cover.
- MNR funding cut backs may require mulching 25 million seedlings.
- Apparent policy acceptance of low stocking standards.

Threat to Canada's global stewardship

Ontario's new initiatives threaten the principles of stewardship and public trust. Principles on which forest policy in the other three major forest provinces is based, such as:

- planned re-establishment of the highest value ecosystem phase
- maintaining the pre-harvest mosaic of hardwood/softwood mix
- reduction of the regen lag for difficult to regenerate species
- replacement stocking to a high standard of forest product value
- preserving other ecosystem values; e.g., wildlife & aquatic habitat
- maintaining forest soil productivity.

Ontario's Interim Silviculture Policy weakens Canada's international stature as steward of over 10% of the worlds forests. Ontario forest companies are justly concerned that this policy will add fuel to the "Brazil of the North" campaign and result in a European boycott specifically targeting Ontario products. Such an outcome would reduce Government revenues more than any silviculture budget savings.

Ontario efforts compared

Ontario's 'working' forest is larger than both BC and Sweden with more area harvested annually, yet Ontario's proposal is to plant one third as many trees as BC and one seventh as many as Sweden. This comparison serves to highlight the alarm of silviculturalists in other jurisdictions.

That does not mean, however, that the recently abandoned treeplanting program does not work. The Audit only evaluates artificial regeneration to 1985. During the mid to late eighties, privatization of the silviculture industry resulted in dramatic improvements in the quality of prescriptions, seedlings and planting—these improvements are not assessed in the Audit. The interim strategy abandons these improvements and the infrastructure that emerged to deliver them.

# Plantations quadruple the flow of forest value

Ontario's silviculture program has become very successful in the past seven years. Some FMA plantations are growing twice the volume in half the rotation compared to the projected

performance of the Interim Silviculture Strategy. As soon as a plantation is established, four times the flow of forest value is brought on stream.

		TO THE	THE PARTY NAMED IN	
Services CAR MAGNI	BC	Sweden	Ontario	
	, (thousands of hectares)			
Accessible Forest	26,000	23,500	30,000	
Area Logged annually	200	184	220	
Area Planted annually	220	197	60	
continued and the continued of	(millions of seedlings)			
Trees Planted 1992	240	600	130	
New MNR Interim Slivid	culture Policy	According to the second	80	
			- HANDLING CONTRACTOR	

MNR interpretation of the audit

In December 1992, the MNR promised to act on the recommendations of the Regeneration Audit (see page 9 for audit conclusions and recommendations), but the Interim Silviculture Strategy announced in January 1993 contradicts the conclusions of the audit.

The MNR has stressed that 96% of harvested sites are green. Silviculturalists recognize the critical data in the Audit is that only 9% of harvested sites are now stocked with free growing commercial conifers. These areas were harvested for commercial conifers and the goal of regeneration programs was re-establishment of the commercial species.

These benefits are immediate. Mills can adjust average future haul distances; reduce projected operating costs; attract greater capital investment; improve profitability; and increase the provincial trade surplus and employment. The benefits in increased tax revenue and indirect benefits more than offset the silviculture budget.

#### Regeneration alternatives

There are four basic regeneration alternatives. Natural regeneration, modified logging that leaves residuals, direct seeding, and planting. A sound forest policy should indeed utilize all of these, as appropriate.

Direct seeding and spacing

Direct seeding followed by spacing is often a more expensive option than well spaced planting, if the stocking standards are high (i.e. the allowable regen lag to free-growing is short).

Direct seeding also has another cost seldom considered. Spacing is a very dangerous occupation, compared to treeplanting. Each year in BC there are several spacing deaths and many serious injuries. Please include the human cost of direct seeding into the scales. These injuries have a direct cost to the provincial government: WCB claims, OHIP expenses, reduced government tax revenues caused by the lost working time of a young productive worker.

Natural regen and residuals

Natural regen preserves the genetic adaptation to the local ecosystem. Modified logging to enhance these options should indeed be encouraged. However, not all species will readily regenerate naturally, especially not the commercial conifers. Artificial logging requires artificial reforestation. Natural regeneration in the worst case is 'log and leave'. Residuals are often the less desirable trees left after logging creams the area.

# Allow for flexible and innovative treatments

While there is an increased trend towards relying on natural regeneration and residuals throughout Canada, this shift is generally taking place within appropriate stocking guidelines.

Government policy in other jurisdictions does not dictate how to reforest—it focuses on stocking goals which reflect the public's best interest. How these goals are achieved is left to the professional silviculture industry. To entrench a specific treatment in Ontario's Silviculture Policy, because it is currently cheaper, compromises the public's interest.

We recommend that the MNR focus on setting high standards and allow field foresters to select the best options.

Reforesting all areas logged

The positive feature of MNR's Interim Silviculture Strategy is the commitment to reforest all areas logged. Ontario is the last of Canada's four major forestry provinces to commit to this (BC in 1987, Quebec in 1989, Alberta in 1991).

Ontario has the opportunity of selecting the best features of other provincial policies and avoiding their weaknesses.

# Recommended forest renewal policy

What follows are forest renewal policy recommendations for Ontario's 'working' forest.

**Equal treatment** 

The CSA recommends that new Ontario Forest Renewal Legislation regulate all FMAs and Districts on the same basis:

- regeneration is financed directly by the 'rent' collected from the harvest
- the same stocking standards must be met

Preharvest silviculture prescription

Before an area is harvested a prescription to regenerate the area must be approved. This prescription must include a budget and commitment to fully fund the renewal.

Forest ecosystem renewal

Canada has developed an internationally distinct forest management regime. We are managing forest ecosystems, not monoculture plantations. The emerging Canadian forest management model is one of periodically extracting forest products from a dynamically changing forest ecosystem. Silvicultural interventions counterbalance extraction to maintain the integrity and resilience of those ecosystems, preserving the world renowned northern wilderness values, wildlife, biodiversity, the integrity of soil and inland waterways.

Monoculture plantations vs. diversity "A Plantation is not a Forest" is a common slogan from the environmen-

tal movement. It is true that a monoculture does not have the biological diversity and interactive dynamic of an ecosystem. In fact, most forest sites exhibit such tremendous variability that the species being re-established should vary for each microsite. In BC, where strong free-growing standards are in place, planters now "bag up" with several species and then fill-plant among existing naturals and residuals. Through increasing familiarity in differentiating microsites, planters are annually improving their ability to recreate a complex multi-species forest. Direct seeding offers no such flexibility.

Classification of forest ecosystems
Ontario's Forest Ecosystem Classification is an adequate framework for ecologically appropriate stocking standards. A lot of the regeneration failures discovered in Survey Of All Artificially Regenerated Sites (SOARS) are the result of inappropriate prescriptions. Prescriptions made within ecosystem classification guidelines will eliminate these failures.

Managing forest ecosystems for forest products

Forest ecosystems are not zero-sum systems. Both volume and value flow can be increased by managing limiting factors in the ecosystem. Non-timber forest values do not need to be compromised and are most often enhanced

For example, heavy harvesting equipment compacts the soil, reducing aeration and friability, and making it hard for roots and soil microorganisms to penetrate and flourish. Soil productivity can be reduced by up to 40%—affecting all plants in the original ecosystem.

Direct seeding requires heavy-machine site preparation which further compacts the soil. Site preparation for direct seeding can also remove the rich organic litter layer, exposing the soil to erosion and compaction from the weather. This then becomes a major limiting factor for the whole ecosystem.

continued on the next page...

...continued from previous page Another interesting example is managing for soil moisture. In closed canopies, winter snows, suspended in coniferous foliage, do not become deep. Clearcut openings, while accumulating deeper snow, melt off in a short period of rapid run-off reducing the spring soil moisture uptake. Careful logging can both maximize winter snows and extend the run-off period, increasing soil productivity. In BC, this has increased the Mean Annual Increment by five times. Obviously, all other plants and animals in the ecosystem also benefited.

Sound Stocking Standards
Ontario's minimum stocking st

Ontario's minimum stocking standard of 40% distribution is the lowest in Canada. Areas stocked to 40% can look quite barren and scattered. Wildlife habitat is dramatically altered.

A recommendation of the Forest Regeneration Audit is the re-examination of stocking standards that were established in the early seventies. We recommend that the minimum distribution standard be set at 75%.

Highest Value Seral Target
Managing using natural succession
involves over a two hundred year
rotation in many forest ecosystems.

In the working forest, the highest value forest ecosystem phase should form the basis for the stocking target. Past provincial regeneration practices resulted in early seral aspen and birch stands. As a result, according to the Regeneration Audit, 17% of the conifer component has been lost. We recommend that the stocking standards ensure a species mix that is at least equivalent to the hardwood/softwood mix at the time of the harvest.

Free-growing standards

We recommend that an area is not considered regenerated until free growing— until the desired seedlings are the dominant plants on the site and

are free to grow to a mature forest. We recommend that a seedling be defined as free growing when it is at least 50% above the height of surrounding vegetation.

To some people, free growing standards imply that competing vegetation has to be suppressed through chemical tending. In fact, chemical tending is usually a co-dependent of the square-mile clear-cut poorly planted with poor stock which was incorrectly prescribed.

Chemical tending can be eliminated with sound preharvest prescriptions; preharvest girdling; vigorous stock with root systems and strong lateral root egress; microsite planting (careful species-specific spot selection) motor manual brushing; sheep browsing and other innovative silviculture "tools". Oregon, Quebec, and Alberta are examples of herbicide free jurisdictions.

...the CSA recommends a
Silviculture Trust Fund to
protect the annual silviculture
treatment schedule from
market and provincial-budget
fluctuations...

Who pays for regeneration?

Those who benefit should pay. We recommend that the forest industry pay for regenerating a harvested area as a first cost of the harvest. This would shift the primary responsibility of the MNR to auditing prescriptions.

Forest renewal is a typical landlordtenant problem. When you make the tenant responsible, the cost of repair and maintenance is reduced. In 1987, before the new forest act in BC, projected 1992 costs for MOF delivering free-growing plantations on all areas harvested was \$750 million. Actual 1992 forest industry & MOF costs are estimated to be \$220 million.

# Universal application of renewal standards

We recommend that FMA's, quota licenses, conservation authorities, and

MNR all have the same renewal responsibilities.

In Alberta, all quotas over 200,000 cu. meters are responsible for their own silviculture and the Alberta Forest Service collects revenues from smaller cuts to pay for forest renewal. In BC, the small harvest licenses are auctioned with the lowest acceptable price being the preharvest prescription's estimated cost for forest renewal to free-growing.

# Regeneration cost as a limit on harvesting

If the costs of regeneration are greater than the benefits of harvesting, this acts as a natural governor to delay the harvest until either silviculture has evolved to solve the regeneration problems, or timber market values warrant the regeneration cost.

Least net cost to free growing
The shortest distance from a decision to

harvest a stand to a renewed forest is taking the line that the harvester has responsibility. The longest distance is through the specialists in the different departments of the MNR's bureaucracy. The logging method has a major impact on the cost and difficulty of forest renewal. If the harvester must pay for

renewal, they will modify logging practices to reduce costs.

#### Silviculture trust fund

The MNR has an inherent conflict of interest when they set the forest renewal standards and are responsible for funding forest renewal. When silviculture funding comes out of general revenue, this conflict inevitably compromises the forests' (and the public's) best interest in the name of short term cost-cutting. Low bid MNR tender auctions do not reflect quality and service, which have an enormous influence on the net costs of silviculture. It encourages suppliers who achieve the lowest costs through seedling and worker abuse.

The CSA recommends a Silviculture
Trust Fund to protect the annual

silviculture treatment schedule from the product/market/provincial-budget fluctuations. Before harvesting, Ontario forest companies would put the estimated cost of establishing a free growing stand into trust fund that is jointly administered by the MNR and the forest industry. Several of the FMAs in Alberta and the FMA's in Saskatchewan are using this model— it is similar to Ontario's Mine Closure regulation.

The regeneration portion of stumpage or other fees charged by MNR to quota holders should also be deposited in the Trust Fund, in order to take the reforestation program entirely out of general revenue.

If a site fails, a new prescription to correct the problem would need to be submitted with an additional deposit to the trust fund. If the company was negligent, their cutting license would be at risk and fines could be imposed.

A trust fund ensures that the Crown is not left with a company's silviculture liabilities if they cancel or forfeit their license because of financial or other difficulties.

#### Revenue Canada & forest renewal

In the year of logging, any silviculture performed becomes a current tax deductible expense booked against the revenues from the harvest. Companies whose license has expired, cannot declare their silviculture costs as a current expense. This makes all work performed after the expiration of the license a post tax expense. A trust fund would increase the money available from industry for silviculture.

High value wood is in short supply

The world is awash in low value fiber. To say that one day aspen may be valuable is speculative and cynical, considering today's softwood lumber prices.

In the Pacific Northwest the spotted owl is a visible symbol of a healthy resilient ecosystem—it represents the peak of a complex pyramid. Environmental reductions in supply have done more to turn around lumber market prices than any other government intervention.

BC's CORE process and Ontario's EA hearings will set aside forest reserves, further signaling the limited supply of high value conifers. With the increasing value of conifers, the benefits of a high standard of forest renewal regulations increase.

Restoring the silviculture infrastructure

If the MNR combines rigorous free growing standards with industry responsibility, the silviculture infrastructure could be restored

Companies would require the best seedlings, microsite planters, and silviculture foresters to keep their costs down and replanting risks low. This would turn the silviculture market into a normal free market where quality of service is valued along with price.

Private sector research and development innovations would be stimulated to reduce the net least cost to free growing. The MNR's focus would be setting and auditing appropriate forest ecosystem standards. The proportion of various regeneration methods used to meet those standards would not be a policy issue. It would be left to the technical experts to select the most effective set of interventions from an increasing array of options.

Silviculture foresters, practitioners and nurseries are also ready to restore Ontario's forest ecosystems on wildfire burns, pest damaged areas, failed plantations, unproductive farm land, the vast accumulation of NSR lands from past decades of Provincial funding shortfalls, on shelter belts, flume kills, highways and in municipalities. MNR initiatives are required in all these areas.

I trust that we will be celebrating the rebirth of Ontario silviculture at the CSA's Second National Silviculture Conference in Toronto in September 1993.

# Ontario to develop new business relationship with forest industry

From MNR news release, May 31, 1993

Natural Resources Minister Howard Hampton has appointed Robert Carman as provincial facilitator to negotiate a new business arrangement between the province and the forest industry regarding the responsibility for forest regeneration. Mr. Carman is a graduate forester, and from 1985 to 1990 he was Secretary of Cabinet, Ontario's highest ranking public official.

A key element of the negotiation will be how costs for renewal of the forest after harvest, and tending the new forest, will be assumed by the forest industry. By assuming more responsibility for forest regeneration and silviculture, the industry will be better able to integrate their harvesting and silviculture activities. The end result will be more efficient operation and significant cost savings.

Quebec, BC and Alberta have moved in recent years to require the forest industry to assume more of the responsibility and costs for forest regeneration, leaving Ontario as one of the last major forestry jurisdictions where the government has continued to pay most of the costs of regeneration.

This will not reduce the role and responsibility of government to oversee Crown land use and resource management planning. Performance standards will be established for forest renewal that can be monitored and enforced. Independent audits will take place and regular intervals to ensure compliance with conditions in agreements between government and industry.

These announcements confirm the government's intent to ensure that all harvested areas are renewed, by either artificial or planned natural regeneration.

# Status of Ontario Forest Regeneration

The Ontario Independent Forest Audit Committee

Note: In 1991 the MNR commissioned an independent audit of forest regeneration on all areas harvested between 1975 and 1985. This is a selection from the conclusions of the audit committee's final report released in October, 1992.

timber management is the restoration of all annual cutover areas to required stocking standards of the desired species, primarily spruce and jack pine by artificial or natural techniques. If all boreal tree species are considered acceptable on regenerated cutover areas, the "regeneration gap" is very small. Indeed, when all species were considered, 96% of the plots were classified as adequately regenerated.

When commercial conifers, i.e. pine and spruce, only are considered, approximately 59% of the plots could be considered successfully stocked, but only 30% would meet minimum height requirements for free-to-grow status.

The existence or extent of the "regeneration gap" should, then, be assessed on the basis of the intended objectives of management for the establishment and development of suitable species.

A comparison of the development and growth rates of regeneration in treated and untreated cutover areas indicates that diameter, height, and basal area on treated sites increased more rapidly so that in a twenty-year period they recorded larger diameters, greater heights and larger basal areas. Presumably, treated stands will attain merchantable conditions earlier than those left to develop naturally after logging. Initially, the shrub competition for regeneration established in treated

cutover areas is less than that in areas not treated. Sample data indicates that such competition increases significantly in a twenty-year period, while remaining constant in untreated stands. It is apparent that control of undesirable vegetation and competing tree species, in both treated and untreated stands,

will be necessary if defined manage-

ment objectives are to be attained.

The potential for reestablishing jack pine and spruce requiring less control of competing vegetation may lie with the lower quality drier sites, frequently characterized by shallow soils and deep sands and growing natural stands of these species. Lower rates of growth than on the highly productive sites would have to be accepted.

The maintenance of black spruce as a major species in boreal forest ecosystems should be a concern as its presence in the boreal forest is decreasing significantly. This important species represents 40% of the coniferous volume and one third of the total volume for all species in Canada. Lowland conditions on which the species occurs widely are generally

...the maintenance of black spruce should be a concern, as its presence in the boreal forest ecosystems is decreasing significantly...

more difficult to treat using artificial techniques. Of the five major boreal tree species, black spruce with its shallow root system can most effectively utilize and grow in the boreal's extensive lowlands and shallow soils.

The final yields of naturally regenerated stands on untreated cutover in these areas may be substantially lower than those of the original, natural stands which they succeed. Artificial regeneration efforts for this species have been concentrated on the more productive, better drained sites on which natural stands of the species was dominant.

Results show that these cutover areas appear to become occupied by mixed, especially hardwood, species in which black spruce becomes a minor component. On such conditions, dominance of the species could be ensured only by the application of measures for the control of competing vegetation.

Jack pine is being maintained as a pure cover type through current regeneration efforts for the species. The reduction of the mixed softwood cover type which includes jack pine, suggests that an expansion of the jack pine regeneration operations would be desirable to maintain this species.

When new cover type conditions are compared for 1970-85 on both treated and untreated sites, the treated more nearly represent the original cover type than the untreated in which a conversion to a mixed species condition occurs (i.e. jack pine treated sites recorded 49% as jack pine cover type, and untreated sites only 9%).

The importance of poplar as a merchantable species has increased signifi-

cantly since 1970. Its presence in the boreal forest is in no way threatened by logging as it readily regenerates naturally. The observation that growth of all species was improved over 20 years on treated sites may indicate that

opportunities exist to increase the growth and yield of this species.

Harvesting activities in the boreal forest creates conditions differing from the naturally occurring destructive cycles that allow for forest renewal. The different logging techniques carried out on the various boreal sites leave cutovers in varying conditions. Logging can logically be considered the first step in the silvicultural process.

The degree to which field results reflect attempts to integrate logging and silviculture is an issue beyond the scope of the report. The Committee did view some sites on which logging had been modified to reduce site disturbance or to protect advanced regeneration.

Silvicultural planning, an integral part of the regeneration process, clearly is required for the successful regeneration of the commercial conifers. Site specific plans set objectives on which results can

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Given that the stands regenerating on the cutovers from 1970 to 1985 are developing differently than the preceding natural stands, current growth and yield data is inadequate for predicting how these stands will look in the future.

The nature and extent of forest renewal operations will depend upon provincial forest management objectives and the policy under which those objectives will be attained.

As suggested previously, over time all cutover sites become reoccupied by tree species. On well-drained, upland sites such naturally regenerated stands on sites formerly dominated by spruce and jack pine become converted to mixed wood stands in which deciduous species may be dominant.

The long-term consequences of the absence of a silvicultural logging forest policy in the boreal region, from a timber management aspect, would be the establishment and development of stands inferior in relation to the natural forest which they succeeded, in both economic and environmental aspects.

The alternative to the acceptance of unplanned natural regeneration arising fortuitously following logging is a management objective intended to ensure the maintenance of the spruce and jack pine cover types. Fulfillment of that objective, will require a sustained commitment of the provincial government and the forest industry to the planned silvicultural activities essential to that end.

#### **Audit Committee Recommendations**

- 1. The establishment and maintenance of permanent sample plots throughout the boreal forest should be adopted as an essential element of forest policy.
- 2. The minimum stocking standard of 40% recognizing all commercial species should be reexamined in relation to its influence on the estimated yields at maturity and to the significant increase of the hardwood species.
- 3. The status of spruce regeneration since 1985 be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of current artificial and natural regeneration practices.
- 4. Assurance for funding of silviculture should be in place prior to harvest.
- 5 Silviculture prescriptions should be made for all sites prior to harvest with the knowledge of allocated funding.
- 6. A joint undertaking by MNR and the forest industry to develop and disseminate forest terminology that adequately describes the status of forest regeneration in terms easily understood by the forestry profession, public and media.
- 7. Tending methods must be implemented that are effective, economic, environmentally and socially tolerable to ensure the maintenance of commercial conifer types as dominant ecosystems in the boreal forest. Such measures should be influenced not only by the economic importance of those species, but also by an environmental ethic which recognizes their dominance and perpetuation in the first forest.

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# Ontario RPFs concerned by new direction

M John W. Ebbs, R.P.F., Executive Director, Ontario Professional Foresters Association

Note: This is an edited version of his letter that appeared in the OSCA Newsletter.

On behalf of Ontario's Registered Professional Foresters Association (OPFA), I wish to express deep concern over the MNR's new direction in forest

renewal announced January 25, 1993. The recent report of the Premier's

Council on Health, Well-being and Social Justice says: "To achieve provincial health goal #3-a safe, high quality physical environment" and "Any sustainable forest management plan must include a comprehensive effort to use appropriate reforestation techniques to restore damaged forest ecosystems." We do not understand how reducing funding and changing to unsound silvicultural

The OPFA's purpose is to maintain high standards of forestry practice amongst its membership for the benefit of the forest and of society at large. Without financial support for forest management and the appropriate silvicultural techniques, our standards of practice will be reduced.

programs will achieve this goal.

We fully appreciate the Ontario Government's unhealthy fiscal situation and the expressed intention to maximize returns on investments in forest management; however, the eventual substitution of low cost regeneration (e.g. direct seeding regeneration for 40 percent of current tree planting) is a course fraught with peril. Consultation with professional foresters having a broad range of experience would have provided you with a clear indication of the negative result of your approach.

The press statement indicated that the MNR will decrease reliance on planting seedlings in favour of increasing the use of lower cost options as part of a strategy to increase regeneration to 100% of the harvest. We would be very interested in the basis and rationales used to reach this decision and the standards the Ministry intends to apply to the renewal program. We would also be interested in what impact this program is predicted to have on harvest volumes and species.

The recent Independent Forest Audit commissioned by MNR indicates a success rate of only 9% for natural regeneration in terms of free-to-grow commercial conifer on sites treated between 1970 and 1985. How this approach can he expected to substitute effectively for even a portion of the planting program is unclear. This apparent contradiction between the Audit and your announced plan of action begs the question of how this new direction supports the commitment of the government to sustainable forestry.

In the press release, "a significant increase in manual tending" is predicted. Manual tending costs five times as much as aerial herbicide release. Two manual treatments are often required, due to comparative ineffectiveness, at a total cost of about \$1000 per hectare. If it were possible to muster the huge labour force required to conduct meaningful programs, the drain on MNR's financial resources will preclude basic establishment programs in may areas. In short, there is yet no cost-effective substitute for aerial herbicide spraying.

Regarding the ongoing planting of surplus seedlings in Ontario, we would appreciate an indication of the survival to date and the extent of planting outside the seed zones of origin. We are concerned about the potential development of genetically maladapted forests over broad areas of Ontario.

Your concluding statement that, "in the long run, forest communities... will benefit from these new directions" is dubious if the tree species on which their industries is dependent are not maintained. Clearly, the means of sustaining lumber and newsprint-dependent mill towns is through immediate, effective and sustained renewal and maintenance efforts. This includes tree planting and aerial herbicide tending at levels best established by experienced professional foresters in government and industry field organizations.

In conclusion, we wish to express disappointment in the lack of consultation with professional foresters in establishing MNR's new, short sighted, silvicultural strategy. The intended direction appears to place cost reduction and a preoccupation with "soft" forestry ahead of scientific principles—principles that we believe professional foresters are best equipped to advise upon. We recognize that a commitment to healthy, sustainable forests must be long term. Without a genuine commitment, our forests will be lost.

### **New MNR forest** renewal strategy

From MNR Release, Jan. 25 1993

MNR will set a new direction in forest renewal for Ontario through a five year strategy to increase forest regeneration from the recent average of 70% of areas harvested annually to

To achieve full regeneration of the province's forests, MNR will progressively decrease reliance on planting seedlings on Crown land and increase forest renewal through a fully planned regeneration program that uses lowercost options such as aerial seeding and natural regeneration.

Under the strategy there will be a significant increase in manual tending and thinning and improvement of forest stands, encouraging growth of desirable trees by controlling competing vegetation.

In 1993, MNR will undertake a planting program of 150 million seedlings. About 120 million seedlings will be planted on Crown land in Northern Ontario, a reduction of 10 million from last year.

As a result of this strategy, this year northern MNR nurseries could have 25 million surplus bareroot seedlings, which MNR will attempt to sell to private landowners in the north. However, remaining surplus seedlings will be mulched and used as an organic fertilizer.

# **MOF** must act on contractor stashing

Dirk Brinkman, WSCA President

Note: This letter was set to Henry Benskin, Director of Silviculture Branch, March 17, 1993.

The WSCA is concerned that some contractors who repeatedly stash trees continue working without serious consequence. It is essential for public trust that the MOF act on its evidence about contractors.

In order to ensure that all contract administrators understand how to establish evidence when "stashed trees" are found, we are forwarding the following notes.

From discussions that Dennis Graham, the WSCA Director reviewing this issue, had with Bob Ellis, of the Boundary Forest District, it appears that the following procedures established a strong enough case for the contractor to admit responsibility for the stock under the Silviculture Services Agreement, Appendix "A", Clause 2.5 Responsibility for Seedlings. This resulted in a settlement of costs levied under Appendix "C", Clause 4.1 Wastage of Trees. Charges by the RCMP are still pending. Not following rigorous procedures results in a lack of evidence for a solid case.

There are doubtless more aspects to the recommended steps to be taken that a further review in the Branch will identify.

- 1. Trees are discovered. Do not disturb or remove anything.
- 2. Keep accurate notes of all proceed-
- 3. RCMP are notified immediately.
- 4. Evidence is laid out in front of RCMP and a witness.
- 5. Count, sort and photograph evidence. Remove necessary sample bundles for identification.
- 6. Determine, in conjunction with RCMP, a location where evidence can be removed to and held under lock and key, with no chance of evidence being tampered with.

Interview contractors in area if possible.

Note: If accurate documentation is kept for stock signed out, irregularities will quickly become apparent when compared with Request for Payment.

Perhaps this outline can assist in seeing that the District Administrators are properly trained.

The WSCA also requests that all cases where there is confirmed stashing, are brought to the attention of the WSCA Ethics Committee. This would disqualify a contractor from being a member for at least two years.

Contractors' names, members or nonmembers, would be published in the WSCA Newsletter.

We expect MOF to be sensitive to distinguishing the actions of a contractor from that of a new employee. We will only disqualify a contractor from membership when implicit, or explicit consent and/or direct contractor involvement is identified.

We presume that MOF should similarly be disqualifying any contractor from planting trees in all districts for at least two years, if evidence exists that the contractor is directly involved or provided explicit consent for stashing.

### **MOF** stashing policies to be reviewed

Henry Benskin, Director, Silviculture Branch

Note: This letter was sent to the WSCA on April 26, 1993.

Thank you for your letter of March 17, concerning the serious issue of tree stashing. The MOF shares your concern regarding this practice and appreciates the advice that you have included in your letter. The procedures that you outline are currently being reviewed.

I applaud the excellent work by Bob Ellis and the staff at the Boundary Forest District and feel that the charges pending against the contractor will enforce the ministry's position on this issue. I also appreciate the actions that your association is planning to take with regard to this very serious issue.

I admit that our current contract administration procedures to not adequately address the consequences where a contractor is found to be stashing trees. Plans are currently underway to address this and other contract concerns. Please contact Robin Brown, if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss this and other issues.

# Dumped seedlings result in criminal charges

John Betts (From the Nelson Daily News)

Criminal charges have been laid against Golden Spruce Treeplanting Ltd. and a company director after thousands of tree seedlings were found floating in a creek near Midway last spring. They face charges of fraud exceeding \$1000 and mischief exceeding \$1000 in connection with the dumped trees.

The discarded seedlings, still bundled in plastic wrappers, were noticed by a farmer. Investigators fished about 3,400 trees out of the creek. The MOF estimates about 10,000 trees went missing at a cost to the taxpayer of \$8,000.

In a lengthy investigation, RCMP and MOF traced the origins of the seedlings through tags in the seedling bundles. The trees were first traced to the nursery and from there the tree planting contractor who received them was identified.

According to investigating RCMP officer Laberge, investigating "tree stashing" is not easy. "Discarded seedlings have been discovered many times, but it is very difficult to prove where they originated," he said.

# WSCA 1993 CONVENTION REPORT

The 1993 WSCA Convention was held Feb. 8–12, 1993 at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver. The first three days were devoted to workshops of operational interest to contractors, such as Bear Safety and Contract Administration (organised by the BC Forestry Continuing Studies Network). The theme for the convention on Feb. 11 was Profits & Regulations, focusing on government regulations that drive silviculture industry costs and revenues. The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on Feb. 12. In this issue we are publishing the conference keynote address by Forest Resources Commission Chair Sandy Peel, as well as Forest Minister Dan Miller's speech on the future directions of the silviculture industry, and selections from the minutes of the extremely active 1993 AGM.

# **Enhanced stewardship of our forests**

Sandy Peel, Past Chairperson, BC Forest Resources Commission

s Chairman of the Forest
Resources Commission for a
three-year period, it was my
responsibility to examine the state of
the Province's forest, what society is
demanding from our forests, and to
provide government with a blueprint
for the use and management of our
forests for the future. Frankly, what we
found was very disturbing. I would
argue that we are at one of the most
significant cross-roads with respect to
forest policy in the history of BC.

# Critical choices for the forest sector

The Commission concluded that our policy choices can lead us in one of two ways: we can continue with policies that will lead to a major contraction in the forest industry in this Province, or we can adopt a different set of policies that will not only maintain the current level of commercial forestry, but enhance other forest values as well. That choice is before government in the coming months and, without question, the results will be felt by all of us.

The preservation position

Most of the advice that the Commission received from the public reflected the first course, the course of major contraction. We heard all sorts of people calling for preservation. They told us that, in order to protect values other than timber, we must have significant withdrawals from the

commercial forest land base, for wilderness, parks, recreation, watersheds, wildlife, etc. They talked about a decline in commercial forestry ranging as high as 70% of present levels, which they viewed as inevitable.

On examination, we concluded that this option would result in a significant loss in jobs, a devastating impact in over 200 communities in British Columbia that are over 50% dependent on the forest industry for their basic employment, a significant loss in government revenue—likely exceeding \$3 billion annually—with the negative impact that would have on the provision of such services as health and education. To put that in perspective, the education budget is about \$3 billion. It would mean a loss in revenue equivalent to the education budget in this Province each and every year.

Analysing the status quo

Others told us that to protect investments, jobs, and economic benefits, we should have a continuation of the current situation, with only minor changes and only when required—the so-called "status quo" position.

I would caution that there's danger in status quo. The danger comes from the fact that we live with it every day, we are familiar with it, and the changes are gradual. Even if the changes are in the wrong direction, we somehow believe that they'll return to normal. Only

when we realise that things aren't going to return to normal do we get concerned, and often then it's too late to do anything about it.

For that reason, it's sometimes necessary to stand back and look at the underpinnings of the status quo position, to look at where all the incremental changes are taking us. That's what the Commission did, and we came to the conclusion that the status quo would result in continued conflict—issue by issue, value by value fights of the nature we're seeing now. And ultimately, a reduction in commercial forestry of at least 40 to 50%.

Direction of the status quo path

How did we come to that conclusion? First, we're still faced with pressures for significant land withdrawals from the commercial forest for parks, wilderness areas, recreation areas, watersheds, wildlife preserves, etc. Unless we find some way to resolve that problem, our annual allowable cut will be reduced by as much as 5-10% if you add up all the demands that are currently on the table.

Second, on our commercial forest lands we are still practicing only basic or minimum silviculture. What we're doing will not expand or enhance the availability of wood. In fact, as we move from old growth to second growth, we can see as much as a 20 to 25% reduction in AAC as a result of the so-called "fall down effect".

Finally, as we move towards true integrated forest management, we will have to reduce harvest levels by another 10-15% as we adjust our practices to respect other forest values such as water quality, fish populations, etc.

Is this an overly pessimistic forecast? I don't think so. We have already seen major harvest level reductions of 20-40% on some tree-farm licenses. And that's just a start. The Chief Forester is required to adjust the harvest level on all TFLs and TFAs by 1995.

Economic impact of the status quo Where does the status quo path lead us? All in all, I would argue that the path that we are currently on will lead to a loss of upwards of 50% of commercial

forestry in British Columbia. That's a loss of 40,000 direct jobs in the forest industry. When you add the indirect and induced jobs that are

dependent on those direct jobs, then we're looking at a loss somewhere in the range of 145,000 jobs in B.C. and that loss will occur mostly in our resource dependent communities. As we have over 200 communi-

ties in B.C. that are more than 50% dependent on the forest industry, a contraction of commercial forestry of that magnitude will result in possibly the largest economic and social disaster that this Province has ever seen.

I noted earlier that those who espouse the preservation point of view regard a reduction in commercial forestry of up to 70% as inevitable. Regrettably, a defeatist attitude in many in the forest industry itself may lead to similar results. Disturbingly, we found that individual firms are adopting a strategy such as "I'm going to position myself to be around when all this is over. I expect that a number of my competitors will fail; their mills will close and I'll be around to pick up the pieces."

These companies are openly talking about "rational down-sizing." That may be good corporate policy, but it's terrible public policy. Fortunately, it need not happen. The forests are a renewable resource, and that resource

responds well to good management. Government can, therefore, adopt policies aimed at avoiding such a decline. In British Columbia, where 95% of all forest lands are Crown Provincial, it is the government alone that must take that initiative.

# Towards enhanced forest stewardship

Managing for all values

To continue the rate of harvest timber on our forest lands will require that we manage our forests better for all values, not simply for the timber value. Society is saying very strongly that if we do not meet that challenge, harvesting will be drastically reduced. In the Commission, we call this managing of forests better for all values, "enhanced stewardship."

...since 1910 at least fourteen permanent silviculture trust funds have been set up. They lasted an average of 18 months...

> We believe that with the intensive, integrated management for all those forest values on the largest forest landbase possible, not only can we maintain a viable forest products industry in B.C. at roughly its present levels, we can meet society's demands for the other values as well. And as I said, we believe in this case, that only government can design policies for the collective good of all British Columbians. The self-interest of individual forest product companies, or preservation-minded groups and individuals for that matter, will not achieve this end, nor frankly do I think it should.

The cost of enhanced stewardship

Most people like the concept of enhanced stewardship, but it has one major problem. It will be expensive. The most conservative estimate made by Forestry Canada in the 1991 publication entitled Canada's Timber Supply: Current Status and Outlook,

suggested a three-fold increase in funding would be necessary simply to get to enhanced silviculture. That threefold increase doesn't take into account managing to maintain or enhance other forest values.

Benefits of enhanced stewardship

What do we get for increased expenditure in our forests? Is it worth it?

A report prepared by the Forest Planning Committee of the Science Council of B.C. states that the opportunity exists to raise the potential growth of our forests by 50% in a span of just 30 years. In short, through intensive forestry, we can replace over time the harvestable wood that may be lost due to forest land withdrawal, new management regimes, and the so-called "fall down effect". We know it will work. We

> have seen it work in other forest jurisdictions around the world, and there's at least one forest company in B.C., Weyerhauser, that has received a 50% increase in its AAC as a direct result of practicing a form of enhanced stewardship.

A second benefit is that enhanced stewardship is employment intensive. While one may aspire to maintain employment at more or less current levels, due to wood made available by enhanced stewardship, and that, by the way, is the conclusion of the same Science Council Committee, the real gains in employment are in the forest enhancement itself. Providing sufficient and superior nursery stock, planting, spacing, fertilizing, thinning, pruning, and managing for non-timber values, are all labour intensive.

A tripling of expenditures aimed at stand management can be expected to at least double, if not triple, employment in our forests. And to me at least, maintaining our forest products industry, and increasing employment in our nurseries and our woods, sure beats losing half our industry, seeing forest-dependent communities decline, and having to cut back drastically on such services as health and education.

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# Government leadership needed for enhanced stewardship

I would argue that the benefits of enhanced stewardship are clear. They represent a take-charge rather than a defeatist vision of the future of our forests. It will occur only if there is

forests. It will occur only if there is strong, decisive leadership by government on a number of fronts.

We need a means to ensure that forest stewardship reflects the land use plan.

We need a means to increase and ensure stable, secure financing for forest management. We need a good inventory of all forest values, and good growth and yield information. We need a means of ensuring that forest prac-

tices meet acceptable environmental, biological, and societal goals. We need an educated public and educated forest workers.

The Commission believes that the government must address all of these issues

to head off a major decline in our forest industry.

Comprehensive land use planning

The Commission advised the government that we must engage in comprehensive Province-wide land use planning. In short, we need a map to help us protect and enhance the full range of forest values. We must know

help us protect and enhance the full range of forest values. We must know on what lands and under what conditions we can harvest timber.

The government has acted on that recommendation by creating the Commission on Resources and Environment under Stephen Owen.

While that is a positive first step, I think a word of caution is due. Many people

that talked to us saw land use planning as a solution to all of our problems. In our judgement, that would be a serious mistake. For the process to be effective, we need a management structure in

government ministries that will not only permit— but assist— true integrated management.

Thirteen ministries gave testimony before the Commission, each with their

fingers in the forest land base in some fashion or another. Ministries, by definition, are advocates of their own mandates, so Parks advocates parks, Forest Ministry advocates timber harvesting and range, Highways advocates building of roads, Hydro advocates flooding valleys and creating dams. That does not provide for integrated management.

Secure forest financing

Historically, in British Columbia, neither government nor industry has adequately replenished our forests. Successive Royal Commissions since 1910 have warned that the forest capital base was being eroded and that it must be replenished before any money was paid into general revenue. That advice has been constantly ignored by successive governments. We found at least fourteen permanent silviculture trust

by the forests, before contributing to general revenue.

Increasing financing for the long term However, simply capturing current levels of economic return is not adequate. We need a way for the forests to generate more revenue over time if we're to have enhanced stewardship. Of course, it isn't popular with people that have to pay.

We suggested that the best way to generate more revenue, over the long run, is to let competitive market forces determine the amount the shareholder gets for the resource. Therefore, we recommended moving toward establishment of an open, competitive log and timber market, to which upwards of 50% of the AAC would flow.

We believe this is necessary, not only to ensure the availability of wood to all potential users, but to let wood flow to

the highest and best use. It will be more volatile than our current system but, over time, it will ensure more money for forest renewal.

### ...I've got news for Victoria we <u>are</u> in a war...

funds were set up for that purpose. They lasted on average 18 months. They were bled to pay for health, education, social services and other things, when government experienced an economic downturn.

Bleak future of forest financing
While past mistakes are bad enough,
the future looks worse. As the Federal
Government attempts to control its
deficit, we can expect Federal transfer
payments to provinces such as B.C. to
continue being reduced. Our major
cost drivers of health and education are
going to continue to put greater and
greater pressure on a budget where

revenue growth is limited.

The ability to fund forest management by conventional means, even at current levels, never mind enhanced stewardship, is very doubtful indeed. The Commission looked at a number of mechanisms, and concluded that we have to get forest funding out of the government's budgetary cycle. And while I don't like them, we concluded that nothing short of a Crown Corporation could legally accomplish the task of capturing economic returns generated

Incentives for enhanced stewardship

We also need a way to encourage forest companies to practice an enhanced level of stewardship on their tenured lands, which they are clearly not doing today. In examining this issue, we concluded that if stewardship of the forest is to be part of a tenure—particularly stewardship that requires an integrated, intensive level of management—then that tenure should be area based wherever possible, more secure with more incentive to practice good forest management.

#### Area based tenure

We found that there is no incentive on a volume based tenure to practice enhanced stewardship because the tenure holder does not know if he will get to harvest a second crop in the same place. We concluded, therefore, that area based tenure should be in the form of a contractual resource management agreement, in which the rights, obligations and remedies are spelled out in advance. In short, as close to private

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ownership as we can get, without selling either the land or the trees.

#### Secure tenure

We concluded that the tenure should be totally secure, subject only to independent performance audits that would be made public. If there were withdrawals from a tenure in future, as a result of changes in the land use plan, then full compensation should be paid to the tenure holder, and the formula for calculating that compensation should be part of the tenure contract.

Increased value to those who pay While all of this is designed to give more security to the tenure holder, and thus encourage more intensive management, we believe that any increases to the AAC that result from the efforts of the tenure holders, should be considered the property of the tenure holder and should not be subject to stumpage charges as they are now.

Forest practices

I'd now like to turn briefly to forest practices. When we looked at timber harvesting in the '90s that has to be conducted in such a way as to respect

the full range of forest values, we were inescapably drawn to the conclusion that a code of forest practices is required. There has to be a standard by which society can judge whether our stewardship practices are good or bad.

Most of the directly affected parties agree that we require a code of forest practices. The forest industry, the Forest Alliance, the Association of Professional Foresters, environmental groups, all support a code of forest practices. My view is that the sooner we get such a code in place-subject to public audit against a measurable standard—the sooner public confidence in our forest practices (at home and abroad) will improve.

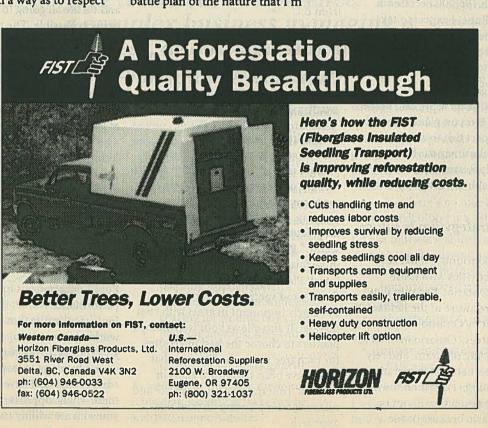
I find it regrettable that the Minister is now indicating a one year delay in bringing in a forest practices code. I can only conclude that the wrangling between the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment, and a desire by many in the bureaucracy to maintain the status quo, has resulted in that kind of delay. If we were in a war, we wouldn't tolerate a delay in forming a battle plan of the nature that I'm

talking about. I've got news for Victoria-we are in a war, and they'd better get with it.

Seizing the opportunity

To reemphasize, the choice between the two options is for the current government to make. Either we can go into major contraction of commercial forestry, with all that entails; or we can manage our forests more intensively for all values, retaining the benefits we get from the forest sector and enjoy all the other values that society is demanding for our forests.

If they choose enhanced stewardship, I believe we will have a healthy forest, strong economy and community stability. If they fail to seize the moment, and let us go into serious decline, then the economic and social consequences are almost too devastating to think about. The future of our forests in British Columbia, will be decided over the next few years. We all have a place in the chain, from forest regeneration to harvest, and we should work hard to ensure that the government makes the right choice.



# ■ Steering the Forest Sector Economy ■ Steering the Forest Sector

Dan Miller, BC Minister of Forests

he forest sector economy is extremely complex, with many stakeholders, and numerous interests. Silviculture unquestionably plays an important role in the forest sector. Your role is bound to grow with increasing opportunities to influence future products, and future uses of the forest. I would like to talk a bit about the role of reforestation and incremental silviculture, and address some current issues as we go.

BC's commitment to silviculture

As members of the WSCA, you know this province has had a long-term commitment to planting and reforestation. British Columbia's planting program began in 1930 with a 26 hectare block. From that modest beginning, we planted almost 230 million trees on 196,000 hectares in 1991/92. This June, I expect to take part in a ceremony commemorating the planting of the three-billionth tree in BC. That's quite an achievement, one we should all be proud of.

Over the last 10 years we've also made significant progress on planting backlog areas, and I expect this to continue.
Our goal is to eliminate the backlog of Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR) lands, on treatable sites, by the year 2000.

Ontario's strategy limits future options

Given this background, I'd like to contrast our activities with those happening in Ontario. I'm sure that some of you are aware of the January 25 announcement by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Ontario intends to reduce its planting program, and rely more heavily on natural regeneration and direct seeding. I question the move and can assure you B.C. will not be following Ontario because of the implications. Direct, or aerial, seeding

has not been a successful option in BC. This method carries a higher risk of delayed or poor reforestation, and it has potentially higher costs in the long term. Frankly, the Ontario move surprises me.

Admittedly these are tough times, and there are tough decisions to be made, but it's my conviction we have to keep a long-term perspective on forest management. A recent audit of Ontario's northern forests, showed a high conversion to hardwoods in their boreal forests. By choosing this reforestation strategy, the province may be reducing its options for future wood products. They may be forced further and further into markets for pulp and board products, and reduce saw timber value. However, their decision may inadvertently help us out, by increasing the importance of high-quality wood from B.C.

Our strategy is one of diversification to strengthen the forest sector. Not a move to put all the eggs in one basket, which seems to be the case in Ontario. In B.C. we are still going to rely on a significant amount of planting.

**Proactive silviculture** 

We currently plant about 40% and prepare sites for natural regeneration on 60% of areas harvested. There are too many advantages afforded by planting. Planting enables us to have a far greater affect on "steering the forest sector." Planting enables us to determine future wood products from the forest. Planting lets us choose the density and species, which can be extremely important in areas with root disease. It also allows your well-trained planters to choose the best microsites for each tree's growth. The fact that there have been significant gains in survival from training on microsite and mixed species planting justifies this approach.

Our current survival rate is 85%, an increase of 25% in the last 10 years. Proper planting ensures high survival of young forests, and is good stewardship. It also allows us to plan and achieve a good balance between conifer and hardwood forests. The Ontario approach appears to be one of standing back and seeing what happens. We, on the other hand, will continue to be proactive.

Since 1987 licensees have been responsible for planning much of the reforestation in B.C., through Pre-Harvest Silviculture Prescriptions (PHSP). They are also responsible for the funding and work to ensure their approved plans achieve the reforestation goals. In the future, the Forest Service will be looking more closely at PHSPs to ensure goals are achieved. The recently announced PHSP audit is just one part of this. Let's face it, the forest sector is under intense scrutiny, and we are all going to have to do the best job possible. The public will not settle for anything less, nor should they.

Before I turn to incremental silviculture, allow me to touch on something I noticed in the last WSCA newsletter. Dirk predicts the silviculture industry of the future will involve fewer workers who will need greater expertise and technical competence. I'm not sure I agree that there will be fewer workers, but let me come back to that. I do agree that silviculture contractors are going to need greater expertise and technical competence. It's a complex business managing a forest, and it's getting more complicated all the time.

Public expectations for improved performance will set the tone not only for silviculturists, but for all people working in and using the forests. As good business-people, you know it's to your advantage to stay on the leading edge of technical developments. I think there will be opportunities for those of you who are willing to try something new, and make it work.

Long range resource planning

We're all in the process of adapting to new markets, new perceptions, and new realities in the forest sector. We're also moving more into coordinated and consensus-based forest management. At the strategic level, the Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE) was established by this government to help direct land-use planning. At the same time the Forest Service and Ministry of Environment are working closely together on a new Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) initiative.

LRMP is planning at the sub-regional level and emphasizes the involvement of local people and stakeholders. These planning processes will lead to a variety of uses for our forests, but in all cases. silviculturists will have an important role to play. For example:

Some forested areas will be managed in a way that places the highest priority on wildlife

habitat.

Spacing and stand tending techniques are tools to assist with these goals.

Other forested areas will attempt to balance timber production with non-timber values.

And some areas will place an emphasis on maximizing timber production, while continuing to recognize non-timber values.

The Forest Practices Code (now in development) is another new reality all people working in our forests will have to deal with. It will directly affect you and make you more accountable for your work. When the draft comes out for review later this year - examine it carefully and give us your input.

The future of silviculture employment

Let me now return to Dirk's prediction that there will be fewer of you involved in silviculture. I think he is basing this on another observation that part of the future work will be done by local crews, unemployed loggers, and First Nations people.

The government is fully committed to improving Aboriginal involvement in the forest sector. First Nations peoples are still under-represented, especially in the rural forest-based work force. Addressing this, government has just established the First Nations Forestry Council to continue increasing First Nations involvement in all aspects of forestry.

The government is also interested in creating greater community stability in forest-based communities in B.C. Part of this process will be to promote local diversification and involvement in silviculture. Doing so may help ensure that your workers can spend more time in their own communities. Over time your membership may change to represent a complete cross-section of silviculture contractors, including more Aboriginal peoples and local contrac-

...silviculture contractors are going to need greater expertise and technical competence. It's a complex business managing a forest, and it's getting more complicated all the time...

> New opportunities in silviculture As you can tell, I'm still very optimistic about our silviculture programs and our forest industry. We're going through a tough economic time right now, but in the long term, opportunities for more broadly defined silviculture are going to expand. We're already moving into more treatments for environmental and forest health

- reasons. New jobs may include: planting riparian zones;
  - road and stream rehabilitation;
  - spacing for wildlife objectives;
  - planting unstable sites with shrubs; and,
  - recreation site development.

As we learn more about the forest ecosystem, doubtless there will be additional opportunities.

Let me also say a bit on the direction forest health is going. With forest health treatments, we can save the loss of mature forests to insects and root disease, which takes pressure off timber supply issues. One way to do this is to reduce bark beetle attacks through setting pheromone traps, or felling and burning trap trees. We're going to need trained workers to do these jobs. The iobs you do may change somewhat, but environmentally responsible silviculture is here to stay. So is incremental silviculture.

Incremental silviculture

You've heard about the benefits of incremental silviculture. We're compiling more and more evidence every year to support the benefits of ongoing stand tending. Expenditures for stand tending have grown from relatively low levels 10 years ago, to \$33.5 million last year (including FRDA

II). The recent Simons report indicated that BC's best strategy is to focus a little more on growing higher quality wood products in the future, and at the same time maintaining a diversity of products.

The Forest Service is developing a draft

strategy looking at end product values for the future forests, and looking at the silviculture treatments that will help us get there. Treatments such as spacing, pruning and fertilization, add value. There is still debate about how much value, but there's no question incremental silviculture is a valuable tool.

I'd like to leave you with an optimistic outlook for the silviculture industry in B.C. I'm optimistic there will be:

- opportunities for you in new
- opportunities to learn new skills;
- opportunities to accept new challenges.

You've done a great job in the past, and I welcome you in being a part of our future direction.

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# **W 1993 WSCA AGM Minutes**

# S President's Report

The President, Dirk Brinkman, discussed the general shift in how government has been doing business from reacting to a lobby group and "experts", to interacting

with all sectors. He noted that it was also time for the Association to make the same shift. The Association used to create a media event (i.e. lobby), in order to effect change. Now that the government is trying to integrate the input from all sectors, our

integrate the input from all sectors, our
Association needs to become interactive;
with more members getting involved.

Dirk mentioned that an admirable job has been done in the CORE process by Dennis Graham representing contractors in the Kootenays. He stated the need for more

people in other areas. Dirk acknowledged
Tony Harrison's contribution to the
Executive, as well as acknowledging Ross
Styles' work and stated that Ross had
indicated that he did not wish to stand for

Director again. Dirk acknowledged Bill
Williams for taking over the Prince George
Chapter from Merl Gordon, and said that

Bill is rapidly climbing the learning curve to becoming a valuable director. He confirmed that Doug Hearn had not been as active in the past year, due to other commitments.

Dirk thanked Chris Akehurst for his superb job as Treasurer; Tony Harrison for his success in putting the workshops together;

success in putting the workshops together;
Allan Bahen for his upcoming presentation
on a benefits program;

Dirk stressed the need for more Regional
Director involvement, as well as more active
member involvement. He suggested

publishing in the Newsletter of lists of those members who have and have not paid dues since mandatory WSCA membership is becoming a part of bidding for some companies and districts.

Regarding membership, Dirk reported that Ross Styles had contacted 544 contractors who were non-members, but who were on

the mailing list. It seemed that some were not members because the Association had not been in touch with them. There was a

high level of interest in becoming a member, and Dirk stated he was very astonished and pleased. There was some further discussion about non-members' concerns regarding membership, e.g.

appearance that the WSCA is against herbicides and also that the WSCA is not environmental enough.

Dirk discussed his representation on the First Nations Council, where one issue is giving 20% of silviculture work to natives.

Dirk is involved in rewriting the spacing manual with WCB; WCB Temporary Camp Sub-Committee; double-jeopardy payment issues. He has had a two-year involvement with the National Round Table on the Economy and Environment.

Dirk mentioned the issue in BC regarding the government cutting back the intensive silviculture program. Dirk felt that the Association has a lot of work to do in that area to develop a funding strategy.

Dirk also briefly commented on his recent participation on a panel in the Forest Summit with Jack Munro arguing against the Alliance position that the laid-off loggers/workers should do tree planting. He noted that MacMillan Bloedel and Fletcher Challenge both cancelled contracts, rather than have IWA loggers do the planting.

Dirk wrapped up by stating that the Association needs to create a slow change towards the direction it wants to go.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Chris Akehurst, presented his report, and discussed the summary of revenue and expenditures, which showed a \$4,000 decline in membership revenue last year (due to the beginning of the recession for many contractors). He also indicated that the last Conference was not very well attended. Revenue from newsletter advertisements were almost double- due to the great job done by Karline Mark-Eng, and confirmed that the Association sent out three, rather than two, newsletters this year. Of the 1150 newsletters that are mailed out, only 13% are paid for. Chris proposed that separate invoices should be sent out for the newsletter, and indicated that the WSCA would like to see payment for approximately 1000. He also indicated that last year's Conference broke even, thanks to the government grant.

Chris drew attention to office expenses, which mistakenly included the \$1,250 paid this year to the CSA (to cover membership dues). Office expenses were actually very close to last year's.

Also discussed was the 1993 budget, with Chris being very conservative regarding membership fees and newsletter subscriptions (which were only doubled). He indicated that the revenue from the Trade Show should help the Association to make money on this year's AGM, and confirmed the receipt of a government grant this year (which will cover the costs of the workshops and transcribing the speakers' presenta-

tions). Chris also mentioned that there will be \$2,000 paid to the Executive Manager (Ross Styles) for his work on the provincewide contractors list.

Discussion revolved around the membership fees; with Chris reporting that he has budgeted \$21,000 if the fees were kept to the same amount as this year.

Chris stated two possible options for membership fees:

- a) leave them the same; or
- b) reduce them by 20%.

He favoured reducing fees, in order to attract new members and felt that the Association should be able to attract enough new members in order to meet the budget.

#### Membership issues

It was reported that there could be 12 to 20 new members and that there was some serious interest from about 50 to 80 of those contacted by Ross Styles. It was suggested that we engage in a recruitment drive, rather than reduce the fees. There was no concern that the fees are too steep; rather that the fees could even be increased. It seemed that some contractors would be prepared to pay more, should there be some perception that the money was being put to some good use-i.e. further government lobbying.

One previous non-member (from the Kootenays Region) spoke about a recent meeting of other ex-members who would consider becoming members again. If they could see that the regional co-ordinator was attending to various problems in the area, they would let past "bad feelings" be bygone. They would even be interested in a bigger fee (even 1% of gross), as long as the money could be directed towards a paid regional coordinator- or a specific regional fund for a co-ordinator. He also discussed low-bid contractors that have taken work away from reputable contractors, with the result that the MLA in attendance at a recent Regional meeting suggested that work be done within the Association regarding certification.

It was noted that the certification process involves promoting to the forest industry that contractors would guarantee each other (i.e. bills would be paid; no stashing would take place). In other words, the Association would make its members credible. There was some comparison to the Roofing Association, which offers guarantees of up to 20 years for its members' work. It is certain that the WSCA members could not give guarantees of that type. The guarantees required from the WSCA were more towards the immediate future, rather than long-term plantation growth.

The suggestion was made to contact a consulting forester; someone with professional credibility, who was already in the business. It was noted that, at the Kootenays Regional Meeting, the suggestion had been made that something be done on a regional level. One idea was to request a proposal on a fee-for-services basis.

**Regional Reports** 

Coastal Region

The Coastal Regional Co-ordinator, Tony Harrison, reported on the two meetings the Coastal Region had this year (March and September 1992). He reported that Fletcher Challenge and IWA had cancelled a presentation set for the March 1992 meeting. The September meeting comprised two workshops; letters were written regarding double-jeopardy (where some licensees were holding back payment until the government had checked the job- Chris reported that the phrase "subject to government approval" cannot be in a contract). There was support in principal, but no action was taken by MOF. Dirk reported that this matter will be pursued.

Tony Harrison suggested that meeting dates be set, for all regions, prior to the end of this AGM in order to promote membership and to help deal with regional problems.

Tony reported that "funding" had also been agreed to-i.e. each attendee at the last Coastal Regional meeting had paid \$20 to cover the cost of the meeting rooms, etc. He reported that the Directors agreed to the proposal that the Association fund the regional meetings-i.e. the hotel cost (say \$500) would be paid by the Association.

Southern Interior Region

Dennis Graham, Southern Regional Coordinator, discussed the meeting that took place in Nelson a few weeks ago. He mentioned that often meetings seem to take place in response to a crisis, and agreed that meeting dates be scheduled in advance. It was suggested that these regional meetings be tied in with the "SISCO" meetings and Dennis felt that this could be arranged.

It was suggested that the Association consider staffing a booth at various group functions throughout the province during the year, and it was agreed that this could be done if there was manpower available (i.e. not during the busiest season).

#### Northern Region

Bill Williams, who has been Acting Northern Regional Co-ordinator, in Merl Gordon's absence, reported that there has been very little activity in his region. However, he indicated that they have lost

several members from his region. He felt that once the AGM was concluded, some work should be done to recruit members back into the Association, especially in the Prince George chapter. Bill felt that the reason they are losing members in that particular chapter was due to the fact that the members felt that they were not getting enough for their membership money. A show of hands indicated that there were six members in attendance at this year's AGM from the Prince George chapter. One suggestion was that a longer notice time should be given for all meetings/conferences (i.e. more than five days' notice. Bill also recommended that someone consider standing as Director for this region, to replace Merl Gordon. It was noted that Allan Bahen would be willing to stand as Director for this region.

One item on the regional meeting agenda could be a review of the survey that Ross Styles completed. Dirk also requested that one of the six PG members present today could write a report on this AGM, that could be given to Karline to send out to the Prince George Region.

**Employee Benefits Plan** 

Allan Bahen had some handouts and gave a brief update regarding the subject of the benefits plan. He reported that last year, we were approached by Mutual of Omaha who had wanted us to endorse their plan. Allan had approached the Truck Loggers Association last year regarding the possibility of the WSCA joining their plan.

After last year's AGM he was instructed to acquire additional quotes for presentation at this year's AGM. He discussed the quotes received from Benefits North, Mardon & Campbell, and Booth Graham; and felt that the two most reasonable quotes for consideration were: Hammer & Associates and London Life. He discussed the various options offered (i.e. medical and dental). The major differences were in how the dental coverage would work, i.e. whether or not the employee would have to pay "up front". Allan felt that the best "group plan" would be Hammer & Associates, but they would require a minimum of 50 people in the group. A group plan, such as Hammer & Associates, would be better for the Association overall vs. an individual plan, such as London Life. The group plan would stabilize over time, with more people joining.

The Executive will review both plans and Allan's suggestions, and will make a recommendation to the membership. A group plan may cost more at the immediate outset for some companies with a large number of employees. It was noted that

Hammer & Associates would operate the dental process themselves.

A general discussion followed the motion, with Allan Bahen answering various questions from the floor.

John Madrisky, from London Life, gave a brief report and confirmed that, although it is a very competitive business, many insurance companies are opting out of Association plans, due to the high number of claims and bad "claims ratio". Thanks were offered to John for his presentation.

A round of applause was given to Allan Bahen for all the work he has put into researching the Association Benefits Plan. MOTION: THAT the WSCA approach

Hammer & Associates, in Salmon Arm, for a firm agreement for a group benefit plan for the WSCA members' endorsement, CARRIED

**New Labour Legislation** 

The impact of the changes in the labour code will affect the ability of the IWA to organize our companies' silvicultural operations. The IWA is interested in representing our workers. Dirk Brinkman reported that he and Tony Harrison met with the Presidents of all the locals of the IWA regarding specifically what they would do for the workers if they represent treeplanting. They were not able to promise any concrete benefits.

Mr. Israel Chafetz was introduced, he is a lawyer with the firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon. He spoke about the changes to the labour code

There was a committee of three people who had meetings throughout the province, in order to take submissions regarding certification, de-certification; and mediation. Bill 84 was the result of all of the meetings, which was a change to the labour laws of this province. Mr. Chafetz spoke about the various firings & hirings of the provincial adjudicators. He also discussed strike vote procedures under the "old" regime. Bargaining for a first contract has changed.

De-certification was also discussed by Israel, specifically with reference to purchasing a company in bankruptcy; dormant companies vs. demised companies; and free speech. "Bargaining Units" were also discussed; and, under the new Bill 84, individual contractors can now form their own bargaining units; which could not happen prior to Bill 84. Picketing and "Secondary Boycotts" were also discussed. Previous legislation did not allow for the type of prohibition that is now allowed (i.e. you can only get your overalls cleaned at a particular teamster-union cleaners).

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Picketing is still limited to the worksite only (i.e. you can only picket where you work).

Israel felt that the legislation helps trade unions; as well as separating the large employers from the small employers (i.e. if an employer's pulp mill is shut down, his sawmill next door cannot be picketed). He stated that if you are a small employer who is non-union, the chance of you being certified is greater. There are apparently a dozen applications per week for certification. There are transitional issues in place

at this point.

There is going to be a reform of government employment standards; these will include greater protection for employees regarding their terminations well as increases in severance pay; holidays and statutory holidays.

A question and answer period followed.

Israel informed the group that as long as a new employee has "employment status", the new employee can join a trade union immediately (even if you hire him today and he is not physically starting work for three weeks, etc.). This aspect of the act has not changed at all.

Still be possible under the law is voluntary recognition. It would be the same as if you were certified. Although this is still permissible, it should only be done depending upon the circumstances.

Regarding "employer free speech" (i.e. the rights to state our opinion), there are fewer rights— you can respond to questions but voicing an opinion is limited.

How many people does it take to form a bargaining unit? One or more employees are needed. It could be specific to a site (i.e. site a and site b could each be individually certified, but the whole company doesn't need to be certified).

Could the IWA refuse to let members work if they are not members of a particular union? It would depend upon on the terms of the contract.

There could be an "employee association" within a company, but it still has to come under the Act. The employees must be willing to undertake the leadership role.

The union organizing process was also discussed, with Dirk Brinkman reporting on how this could occur (i.e. where a union organizer goes to the camp). You are obliged as an employer to give them space and to let them talk to the crew. The crew

obliged as an employer to give them space and to let them talk to the crew. The crew supervisor is not allowed at these "labour meetings.

There are certain specific things that you, as an employer, cannot say; however, you would be allowed to answer questions.

Israel recommended that the employer should get good advice, right at the beginning; and incur a relatively minor expense at the outset, rather than face a larger expense later.

What would happen if there is a pre-existing contract? Individual contracts would be strict evidence of your current employment practices.

The certification process is ten days. The bargaining process is an undefined time.

Dirk Brinkman gave thanks to Israel for his donated time, and suggested that any additional questions could be answered on an individual basis at a later date and time. Israel's presentation on the labour legislation changes was very clear.

**Sheep Browsing Contractors** 

Dennis Loxton reported on the growth of sheep browsing contractors-the gross last year was approximately 2.8 million dollars, with most of the money going to Alberta. In 1992, there were only about 10,000 sheep out of BC, and 20,000 out of Alberta. There are some very serious contractors in this area, with about half from BC and half from Alberta. Dennis felt that the BC contractors were fairly amateurish, with very little production. He indicated that foresters have found very little damage to the seedlings, and they are only just now recognizing this industry. Dennis said that sheep are more effective on flat ground, vs. steep ground and heavy slash. The sheep browsing contractors are now at the point where they should join an association. Dennis will recommend that they join the WSCA. He discussed benefits to the WSCA of having these contractors join the Association.

Dennis said that for the last nine years, he hasn't been able to operate in the Cariboo area at all, as it has been declared a grizzly-bear sensitive area (i.e. a no-sheep zone).

Dennis felt that this industry is working well and is here to stay and can be expanded without the government having to come up with any money.

Ray Greene agreed that browsing contractors should be certified in some way. Ray reported that he had a list of twelve browsing contractors who were interested in feedback from the WSCA's Conference and AGM. He indicated that the Ministry has stated that the browsing contractors should have at least two years' experience. At this time, there is no regulatory body to govern this area. A Sheep Advisory Group has been formed, in order to control the spread of parasites (i.e. a tag must be in the sheep's ear indicating that it wash checked by a vet prior to any sheep being moved from one

area to another (this also included the sheepherding dogs).

Dirk agreed to the validity of sheep browsing and indicated that the question would be whether or not the WSCA would be an appropriate organization for the sheep browsers. There were some concerns regarding regulating the quality of the sheep browsers; there were high risks involved in the areas of animal welfare and the SPCA.

Dirk suggested that the Association would need a Director who would specifically represent the sheep browsing group.

MOTION: THAT the Board of Directors will, in the future, include a Director who is an experienced sheep browsing contractor, and who will represent the sheep browsers' interests.

CARRIED

Further discussion indicated that there should be explicit rules and regulations within the Association's Code of Ethics governing such things as disposal of carcasses, etc.

MOTION: THAT a resolution needs to be passed to change the Code of Ethics to allow the members to endorse representatives from the sheep browsing community to modify the proposed additions to the Code of Ethics and to add them to the Association's present Code of Ethics and to be approved by the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Bill Williams raised the question pertaining to vegetation management regarding the WSCA not "pushing" any specific type. Dirk addressed the perception that the WSCA is against herbicide, whereas that is not the intention. He stated that the intention is to put sheep browsers and herbicide contractors on a level playing field. He also discussed the issue of some herbicide contractors, with insurance indemnity for spills, who have to compete against contractors who do not have this indemnity. The Association may want to consider having eight or nine Directors, in the future, so that all interests are represented.

#### **Site Preparation Contractors**

(Ken Sanders' presentation to the AGM on MSP contractors appears on page 42).

MOTION: THAT the WSCA recognize and adopt, within their group, the MSP Contractors within BC and Alberta; and to give them representation on the Board of Directors. THAT the terms of the Directorship be similar to the other Director's (i.e. to be a one-year term as a Director on the Board). CARRIED

MOTION: THAT a Nominating Committee be appointed by the Board of Directors, so that nominations and resumes can go to the members thirty (30) days before each AGM. CARRIED

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Dirk Brinkman addressed the subject of Spacing Contractors, who had also expressed a desire to join the Association, although they did not join at that point.

#### **WCB Regulations** / Silvicultural Sub-Committee

It was noted that with adherence to WCB camp standards, tents may not be accepted. Recommendations of the committee will be by consensus, although it was suggested that lobbying for changes to the committee's recommendations be considered. Dirk also suggested that he and Bill Williams may resign if no real labour representation emerge, and let the committee continue without employer representation.

Dirk requested input and submissions to the Committee from the WSCA members, prior to the end of March. (See page 25 of the Fall/ Winter 1992 Newsletter). It was noted that the Association might have to prepare a brief to a number of other Committees and Dirk especially requested briefs on the following topics: First-aid Equipment, Ergonomics (there is an ergonomics subcommittee), Agriculture, Pesticides.

Dirk called for volunteers to the Committee, and Peter Gommerud immediately volunteered. Dirk asked Dennis Graham if he would be willing to stay on the Committee (with Peter) and also asked for two or three additional people, indicating that he was looking for a "focus group" for assistance, input, and review. Dirk requested other volunteers to seriously look at packages that come out of this subcommittee and to provide further input. Peter LaMantia also volunteered.

#### **First Nations Forestry Council**

Dirk Brinkman reported that he would be attending the first meeting on Monday, February 15, 1993, and noted that Harold Derickson is demanding that 20% of all silviculture contracts be immediately awarded to the First Nations Council this spring. Dirk asked for any input from the members that he can take to the meeting on the 15th. This 20% would be industry-wide, throughout the province, and was a result of the hearings held over the last few months by the task force. These task force recommendations have been tabled in the legislature, and Dirk reported that the First Nations Forestry Council had been formed as a result of those recommendations. Dirk's personal view was that since the workforce demographics over the next ten to fifteen years shows the availability of young people shrinking annually, it would become more and more difficult to find

people to do the work. The logical thinking in the silviculture industry is that the native community be given this opportunity over time (65% of the native community is unemployed). There would be a large learning curve in adapting to the work force ethics, etc., and reference was made to the resolution passed at the AGM last year regarding a "significant" percentage, providing industry standards of quality and pricing would be sustained. Dirk informed the members that his position would be that the money to fund this training not come from the silviculture budget.

MOTION: THAT we amend last year's motion to read:

THAT the bridging funding should not come from the silvicultural budget and should come from the CEIC agent, etc. There should also be an auditing process in place to determine that there is fairness. CARRIED

#### Canadian Silviculture Assoc.

Dirk reported on his on-going involvement in organizing the 2nd National Canadian Silvicultural Association general conference in Ontario. The Conference theme is Stand Level Silviculture. It will be held at the Regal Constellation Hotel in Toronto, on September 13, 14, 15, 1993. Dirk will forward information to anyone interested.

It was suggested that the WSCA consider staffing a booth at the CSA's AGM. Ken Sanders and Ray Greene both volunteered to work on a booth and Ray suggested that there might be some government funding available.

Dirk noted that the WSCA is a paid-up member of the CSA.

Dirk discussed the CO2 Silviculture Sink Initiative, which was developed through Joyce Murray's thesis and has gone to every Federal and Provincial Environment Minister in Canada. He indicated that funding will become available in the future for this initiative.

Dirk said that this fall in New Brunswick, they are clear cutting all snags because they are hazardous to silviculture workers, whereas in actuality, they are even more dangerous on the ground.

#### **CORE Process**

Dennis Graham gave a report on the three regions: Kootenay Boundary Region, Vancouver Island Region, and the Chilcotin Region. A Chilcotin representative is still required. Dennis is active in the Kootenay area and Tony Greenfield is the Vancouver Island representative. Tony said he had not been notified of any meetings to date. Dennis informed the members that he had

presented a paper on behalf of the WSCA and reported on that presentation, as well as covering other briefs which were presented. Dennis will look into the issue of land use allocation on a regional basis and indicated that CORE would be prepared to support it, as long as regional concerns were met. Dennis indicated that the WSCA must make a decision regarding Association (or silviculture industry) representation. It was noted that was unclear as to what the Association actually had at stake in the process and how it would be measured. Dirk felt that having a Chilcotin representative would help, and called for a volunteer to represent the WSCA in the Chilcotin area. Dirk noted that Doug Hearn had recommended John Massier (Cottonwood), but indicated that John was not a WSCA member. It was suggested that it did not matter whether or not he was a member. Further, it was pointed out that the Kootenay non-members were in agreement that the WSCA represent them in CORE. Ken Sanders recommended an MSP Contractor by the name of Guy Bailey, who would apparently be prepared to become a WSCA member and could represent WSCA on CORE.

The Board of Directors were charged by the members to contact both of the abovementioned people to see if either one would be available for this task.

**Fire Regulations** 

After some brief discussion, it was agreed that the new Directors should deal with this item. Mark Hobday agreed to do some follow-up on this, after further questions were raised by Ron Jansen. Other concerns were with various categories and it was suggested that the new Directors could address this issue (i.e. when are we insured and when are we not insured?). Lawrence Taylor also agreed to follow-up regarding this point.

RESOLUTION: The Association submit a proposal to the Silviculture Branch requesting they investigate a blanket limited liability of \$1,500,000 on all liability. CARRIED

#### 1994 WSCA Conference

Dirk proposed that next year's AGM adhere to a program similar to this years (i.e. Workshop/AGM combination) and asked for feedback. There was some discussion regarding the courses that had to be cancelled due to "under-subscription". Prices were also discussed. Chris Akehurst asked for comments regarding the conference organization and there was general agreement that it was well-done; with members feeling that they received their

money's worth. It was agreed that it was better to have one full day of speakers this year than the two days last year, and that the speakers were well-informed.

Although Dirk reminded the members that last year's motion was to hold the 1994

AGM in Prince George, further discussion showed that the Vancouver location was

preferred, and agreed upon.

The timing for the 1994 AGM was also discussed (November/December vs. early/mid-February). It was noted that a November/December time-frame would be

at the end of the season, whereas contractors are just "gearing-up" in February. It was agreed to leave this decision to the Board of Directors, although February seemed to be preferred by the members.

The question was raised regarding allotting a longer time for the AGM portion, in order to cover everything in time. It was also agreed that a Draft Agenda should be sent out earlier—i.e. with the registration forms.

Dennis Graham suggested that the late-November Chapter meetings could also report back to the Directors, in terms of agenda item suggestions.

A vote of thanks was given to Tony
Harrison for his work regarding the
Conference theme and the workshops; as
well as to Dirk Brinkman for his work
regarding the speakers.

Contract Admin. Procedures and "Request for Proposals"

Dirk reported on his review of the Contract Administration Procedures Manual. He has requested a copy for the WSCA office, with updates to be provided, in order to keep members informed.

There was some discussion regarding the fact that the proposal ended up being awarded on a "low-bid" tenders one-third of the time. Contracts have also been awarded many times to contractors with the "most points".

It was noted that each individual district makes up their own criteria, and it was felt that the definition of the exact criteria should be well communicated. It was noted that any "gray areas" would most likely be

that any "gray areas" would most likely be abused. It was also expressed that the government will not state how they are scoring the proposals (i.e. "marks",

"points", or "price") or how the weighting is done (i.e. 25% price and 75% proposal?). It was then suggested that once the criteria has been stated, then the government should stick to the criteria when awarding the contract. It was also stated that if our taxes are paying for this and if the government

sees a low bid can do as good a job for less money, they have to award it to the low bidder, not to a "candy-coated" proposal.

Dirk also noted that the Contract Administration Manual provides for both options and leaves it to the discretion of the district. He noted there is a special manual regarding "Request for Proposal Process", but that he had not been able to see a copy of it.

MOTION: THAT a sub-committee be formed to come up with a set of contract administration proposal guidelines to recommend to the Ministry.

CARRIED

Dirk called for volunteers to the subcommittee. Mark Hobday, Dirk Brinkman, Bill Williams, Lawrence Taylor, and Peter LaMantia all volunteered to sit on the new sub-committee. Photocopies of the RFP pages in the Contract Administration Manual will be forwarded to the new subcommittee members.

The sub-committee's mandate will be to determine how the WSCA would like to see the Ministry administrate the RFP program. There should also be notice of consequences to the Ministry, in the event of any problem contracts or awards.

**MOF Stashing Protocol** 

It was discussed that the members wished that the Directors insist that the MOF refuse contracts to those who blatantly stash.

With respect to a disreputable contractor that had been given the contract, should it subsequently be determined that the contractor <u>not</u> be creditable, a letter of protest then be sent to the Ministry, indicating that such a contractor <u>not</u> be eligible for any Ministry contracts.

Chris Akehurst suggested that the Association could write a letter of concern to the Ministry. There should also be a protocol established regarding criminal charges.

1993 Membership Fees

MOTION: THAT the Associate Supplier members' fees be changed to \$150, with the balance of the fees remaining as is. CARRIED

The motion was carried, with one objection. Peter Gommerud objected to leaving the fees the same and suggested that they be increased to \$2,500.

Chris Akehurst indicated that a large number of members stated that the current fees of \$500 is too high. A "percentage of gross" was discussed as the membership fee.

**WSCA** Member certification

MOTION: THAT the Directors are instructed by the members to bring to the membership a proposal to hire a consulting forester and to

develop the terms of reference for a peer review of safety and health standards and, through a 67-75% majority vote, by sealed ballot, seek the approval of the members to implement that, along with the fee required to finance it.

CARRIED

The above motion agreed to a peer review to determine what the standards are throughout the province and if they are being met, in order to inform non-members that all members conform. It was noted that some non-members have not wanted to become members in the past, as long as "so and so" is a member. This format would eliminate that reasoning. It was questioned whether or not a letter to the membership would catch their attention. It was agreed that discussions and voting could take place at the Regional Chapter meetings.

There was some discussion regarding the emerging trend of WSCA membership being required for contract awards, and it was suggested that, each time a tender is submitted, an addition is made indicating status as a paid-up member in good standing of WSCA (i.e. to fit the regulations regarding status).

**Elections** 

**Directors** 

The following persons were duly nominated and elected by acclamation.

Ray Greene, Dennis Graham, Ken Sanders, Dirk Brinkman, Chris Akehurst, Bill Williams, Peter Gommerud, Mark Hobday

It was agreed that the Directors would appoint persons to fill executive positions.

Regional Co-ordinators

The following Regional Co-ordinators were duly nominated and elected by acclamation:
Kootenay Region: Kent Mjolsness
Coastal Region: Tony Harrison
Northern Region: Allan Bahen

**Ethics Committee** 

The following three persons were elected by acclamation to the Ethics Committee:
Ross Styles, Theo Boere, Kent Mjolsness

**Nominating Committee** 

Charlie Johnson was nominated and duly elected to head the new Nominating Committee for the 1994 AGM. He volunteered to prepare a proposal regarding nominating procedures.

MOTION: THAT a report be submitted to the Directors regarding the election process as it pertains to the Association, which would then be mailed to the membership and voted upon.

CARRIEI.

# **Proposed Temporary Workplace Camp Regulations**

Silviculture Subcommittee, WCB Secretariat for Regulation Review

Note: This is selected from the final report of the Silviculture Subcommittee, dated May 20, 1993. "Temporary workplace camp" is defined as land or premises on which there are cabins, tents, trailers, dwellings or other structures used as temporary living quarters for workers. SIGNIFICANT changes from the MOF Camp Standards (Schedule 'D') are surrounded by a box for emphasis (most clauses have changed somewhat). It can take as little as six weeks for WCB to implement these proposals as mandatory regulations.

#### I. Introduction

This report provides a summation of the work performed by the Silviculture Subcommittee from January to April 1993.

The mandate of the Subcommittee is to assist in the development of regulations for accommodations, sanitary and safety conditions in and around silviculture camps.

Initially, the Technical Advisor reviewed camp regulations from jurisdictions including B.C., Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Oregon.

Although elements from several of these documents were incorporated into the proposals for regulations presented herein, a concerted attempt was made to develop proposals which:

(a) reflect the concerns of industry and labour in the Province of British Columbia;

(b) are consistent with both the Board's general approach to enforcement of health and safety regulations, and specific requirements contained within the Industrial Health and Safety "core regulations".

The majority of documents reviewed were developed to regulate camps with permanent structures. The proposals for regulations contained in this report are designed to regulate camps without permanent structures. The documents "Schedule D" and "Proposed Silviculture Regulations 1991" were the primary ones used to develop the proposals in this report.

To the extent that these aims were achieved, the proposals for regulations included here are unique and represent the outcome of a truly consultative process. Consensus agreement was reached for all proposals.

As silvicultural operations are of a temporary nature, all of the Subcommittee's proposals should apply to crews/workforces with a sum total of more than six persons (no splitting, ie. the employer cannot divide the work crew into small groups to circumvent the regulations concerning camps).

The Subcommittee strongly recommends to the Committee for Regulation Review that these proposals be reviewed in two to three years following their acceptance, in whole or in part, to ensure that they provide adequate shelter from the elements (including sleeping accommodations) and protection for worker health and well-being.

#### Historical Perspective

In 1986, as a consequence of an epidemic of giardiasis, the Ministry of Forests (MoF) worked with the WSCA and the Pacific Reforestation Workers Association (PRWA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop the silviculture camp standards. The MoF and MoH entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to administer the silviculture camp standards which were attached to the MoF contracts as Schedule "D". Until recently, inspection of silviculture camps was the responsibility of the MoF.

In 1987, the new Forest Act required forest licensees be responsible for reforestation of all their harvested areas. As a result of this change in legislation, the administration of Schedule "D" became more difficult. The standards in Schedule "D" are only required in silviculture contracts given out by the MoF. Some licensees voluntarily adopted Schedule "D" as part of their contracts and some did not. The MoF was concerned that the Schedule "D" Camp Standards could not be enforced on major licensees.

In June 1992, the Ministries of Health and Forests met with the Chair of the WCB on the question of regulation of silviculture camps. The Governors' Committee for Regulation Review through the Regulation Advisory Committee then asked that a Subcommittee be formed to assist the Governors with the development of regulations for accommodations, sanitary and safety conditions in and around silviculture camps. They also asked that the proposals be fashioned in a manner that could be generalized to all short-term camps, whether they be in silviculture or other sectors.

#### II. Regulatory Proposals

\*Note: An asterisk(\*) indicates a proposal or comment which applies to the camp for a crew of less than 7 workers.

#### A. Responsibilities

Responsibility of licensee or owner

A.1Where these regulations impose a duty on an employer with respect to the establishment and operation of a temporary workplace camp, both the employer and the licensee/owner are liable for compliance with these regulations, but as between the employer and the licensee/owner, the employer is primarily responsible.

Comment: The Subcommittee requests that the GCRR and RAC review the responsibilities of the "owner" with respect to the MoF's submission.

Co-ordination between employers

A.2Where the establishment and operation of a temporary workplace camp and any activity incidental thereto requires the services of workers of two or more employers and where these services of the employers adjoin or overlap with each other or with those of the licensee/owner, the licensee/ owner shall co-ordinate safety and health activities to ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent occupational injuries and disease.

Supervision of the camp

A.3 The employer shall ensure adequate supervision of each camp. A certified food handler shall be responsible for any activity involving food handling and/or food contact surfaces.

Maintenance of the camp

A.4The employer shall ensure the camp is properly maintained, its sanitary facilities, appliances & equipment kept in good repair and in a clean sanitary condition at all times.

Informing workers

A.5Upon hiring, the employer shall accurately inform all workers about camp and work conditions, special local hazards and personal equipment requirements and ensure that, prior to commencing work, workers are adequately equipped, including all necessary camping gear.

The employer shall ensure that workers understand their responsibilities under the Workers Compensation Act; especially that workers have the fundamental right of safe working conditions and are required to inform the supervisor (employer) of hazards, defects and contraventions of regulations without reprisal.

Comment: The Subcommittee is aware that some employers do produce and supply booklets describing camp and work hazards. But many workers in the silviculture industry do not fully understand their rights and duties with regard to occupational safety and health.

The Subcommittee recommends that the WCB produce a booklet with a summary of all pertinent regulations.

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#### Worker responsibilities

A.6Every worker shall

- (1) use the camp and its facilities in accordance with these regulations,
- (2) report to the supervisor, employer or worker representative the absence of, or defect in, any equipment, vehicle or protection device of which he/she is aware and which may endanger himself/herself or an-
- other worker, and

  (3) report to the supervisor, employer or worker representative any contravention of these regulations or the existence of any uncontrolled or previously unidentified danger of which he/she has knowledge.

#### Domestic animal restrictions

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A.7The employer shall ensure that any domestic animals permitted in camp are properly controlled at all times and not permitted access to food storage, preparation or serving areas or waste disposal facilities.

#### Notification of silviculture work

Notice of Project (NOP)

A.8(1) Before commencing work at a new temporary workplace, the employer shall notify the nearest office of WCB and provide the following information:

- (a) the forest district or major licence holder who issued the contract, the address of the contact person and telephone number,
- (b) the silviculture contractor, the address, contact person and telephone number,
- (c) the location of project and camp and attach two maps, a vicinity map which orients and a project map which precisely locates the project,
- (d) the nature of the work, for example, site preparation, planting, brushing (manual or chemical), spacing,
- (e) starting date of the project, its anticipated duration, number of workers, and any other pertinent information,
- (f) the name of the person completing the notification form, and
- (g) the date the form was completed.
- (2) A copy of the notification form shall be made available upon request by the Board.
- (3) Prior to commencing work the licensee/ owner shall confirm with the Board that the NOP has been received.
- (4) The Board shall be re-notified by the employer if there are substantial changes to the original NOP; e.g., camp re-location.
  - \*Survey crews shall be exempt from (4).

Comment: The Notice of Project is fundamental to the enforcement of any regulations for the silviculture industry. The Sub-

committee recommends that the NOP apply to temporary camps in all industries. It was also recommended by the Subcommittee that the WCB set up a mechanism to acknowledge the receipt of an NOP, within 24 hours.

#### Posting of notices

A.9The employer shall post in a conspicuous place in a camp

- (1) a copy of these regulations, and
- (2) a copy of any inspection report issued by the WCB.

Comment: Posting will enable workers to detect infractions of regulations and monitor compliance.

#### B. Campsite

**Location of Campsite** 

B.1A camp shall be located, constructed, equipped and maintained so as to be free from any condition that may endanger the health or safety of the workers.

Comment: The Subcommittee recommends this new proposal to ensure that camps are not established at sites which may be subject to flooding or the development of mud conditions.

#### **Natural Drainage**

B.2The site of a camp must have good natural drainage.

#### Sleeping Accommodation

B.3 Where the employer chooses to arrange for sleeping accommodations the facilities shall not be less than the numbers shown in the following table:

# sleeping rooms	# persons permitted
assent the him	2
2 1	
summer 3 consention	
CRAFT OF A STREET	
William Sames	40

Comment: The Subcommittee includes this in the event that the employer chooses to arrange other accommodations such as apartments, housekeeping suites, motels, logging camps, etc.

#### C. Water Supply

**Drinking water** 

- C.1(1) The employer shall ensure that drinking water is provided in quantities sufficient for food preparation and drinking at the camp and worksites.
- (2) All drinking water containers including those for personal use shall be maintained clean and free from contamination.
- C.2The employer shall ensure that
- (1) drinking water dispensers are designed and constructed so that they are capable of

being closed, and equipped with a tap, and are serviced so that sanitary conditions are maintained.

- (2) ice in contact with drinking water is made from safe drinking water and stored and maintained in a sanitary condition,
- (3) open containers such as pails, barrels or tanks for drinking water where the water must be scooped or poured are not used even if they are covered,
- (4) a common drinking cup or other common utensil is not used, and
- (5) containers used to transport/store drinking water are not used for any other purpose.

#### Water supplies identified

C.3Water supplies for drinking, and food preparation shall be clearly marked "drinking water". Other sources within the camp shall be clearly and legibly marked at the outlet as being unsafe for drinking.

# D. Food Preparation

Physical requirements
D.1 A food preparation area (kitchen)
shall be provided and shall

- (1) be separate from any other room,
- (2) be used solely to prepare/store food,
- (3) be constructed in a manner that deters the entry of insects and vermin,
- (4) have smooth, durable, non-absorbent, easily cleanable walls, floor and food preparation surfaces, and
- (5) have walls, floors and food preparation surfaces such as counters and tables maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

\*For crews of less than 7 workers, a food preparation facility provided shall:

(1) be constructed in a manner that deters the entry of insects and vermin,

(2) have smooth, durable, non-absorbent easily cleanable food preparation surfaces maintained in a clean & sanitary condition.

#### Hand washing facilities for food handlers

D.2 Hand-basins with hot and cold running water (drinking water quality), soap and disposable towels shall be provided in a location convenient to, or in, the kitchen area, and shall be for the exclusive use of food handlers. These hand washing stations shall be in numbers adequate to ensure availability to food handlers as required.

\*For crews of less than 7 workers, a hand basin and soap shall be provided in a location convenient for exclusive use by food handlers.

Comment: The Subcommittee felt that even in small camps the food handlers required a hand-basin of their own.

#### **Cleaning of Utensils**

D.3 (1) Equipment and facilities for cleaning and disinfecting utensils shall consist of

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- (a) ample supply of hot and cold running water, of drinking water quality and
- \*For crews of less than 7 workers, should read "an ample supply of drinking water, and".
- (b) (i) mechanical equipment so designed and operated that all utensils are adequately cleansed and sanitized, or
  - \*Camps with crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt from this requirement.
- (ii) manual equipment consisting of a 3compartment sink of corrosion resistant material of sufficient size to ensure thorough cleansing and sanitizing of utensils and drainboards and racks of material that is noncorrodible, or
  - \*For crews of less than 7 workers, this clause should read "three (3) basins to wash, rinse and sanitize utensils and then air dry",
- (iii) such other facilities as may be approved by the medical health office, and
- \*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.
- (c) an adequate utility sink large enough to accommodate the pots or utensils used.
  - \*For crews of less than 7 workers, this clause should read: "a basin large enough to accommodate pots or utensils used."
- (2) These sinks shall be used for washing kitchen ware, dishes & utensils exclusively.
- (3) Utensils for serving food shall be rinsed or scraped to remove gross food particles and soils prior to washing, and
- (a) (i) thoroughly washed with an effective cleansing agent in water of a temperature not less than 43°C (110°F),
- (ii) rinsed in clean water of a temperature not less than 43°C (110°F), and
- (iii) sanitized, or
- (b) washed and sanitized by a method approved by the medical health officer.
- D.4 Only drinking water shall be used for food preparation.

Comment: The Subcommittee recognized the extreme importance of proper food preparation with somewhat limited resources and less than favorable conditions. Personal hygiene, all around cleanliness and sanitation of utensils are of utmost importance in the fight against disease-causing micro-organisms, hence maintaining the well-being of workers.

#### E. Dining Facilities

#### Physical requirements

- E.1 Dining facilities shall be provided and
- (1) be of sufficient size to accommodate effectively with sufficient tables and backed chairs, the entire workforce at one sitting for the serving and eating of meals,
- (2) be dry, adequately heated when in use, and constructed so as to deter the entry of insects and vermin, and

(3) if connected by a common roof to food preparation area, have smooth, durable, non-absorbent, easily cleanable floors.

Sanitary conditions

E.2 All dining furniture and equipment used for dining purposes shall be provided with surfaces of a smooth, durable, non-absorbent material and kept in a clean and sanitized condition prior to each meal.

\*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.

#### F. Food Handlers

#### Communicable disease

- F.1 (1) No person who is a carrier of, or is suffering from a communicable enteric disease shall handle, prepare or serve food.
- (2) No person with a skin infection shall perform any work that brings the person in contact with food in a camp unless written medical opinion stating the condition is not infectious has been obtained before handling any food.
- (3) Open wounds shall be covered with an impervious cover.

#### **Personal Hygiene**

- F.2 Food handlers shall
- (1) wash their hands thoroughly and frequently before handling food and always after using the toilet, and
- (2) wear clean clothes, keep their hair in place and keep fingernails short and clean,
- (3) refrain from using tobacco products while performing food handler duties.

#### Certification

- F.3 (1) All food handlers shall have a valid food handler's certificate indicating they have completed a basic food handler's course recognized by the B.C. Ministry of Health.
- (2) Only food handlers will be allowed in the kitchen.
- (3) Anyone washing dishes, utensils, etc. shall be under the supervision of a certified food handler.
  - \*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.

#### G. Food

#### **Food Source**

- G.1 The employer shall provide three wholesome meals daily of sufficient quantity and variety for the workers.
  - Comment: This proposal is included because of the high caloric expenditure of workers in the silviculture industry.
- G.2 The employer shall ensure that all food used in the camp is obtained from a recognized commercial source.

#### Food Storage

G.3 (1) All food supplied shall be stored off the floor and protected from contamination.

(2) Provide a cool, dry storage area of sufficient space to store all non-perishable foods off the floor.

#### **Protection against contamination**

- G.4 (1) Any food or ingredient capable of supporting the growth of organisms likely to cause disease in humans shall
- (a) not be exposed to contamination, and
- (b) be stored at a temperature below 4°C (40°F) or above 60°C (140°F) at all times.

#### Refrigeration

- G.5 Refrigeration equipment shall
- (1) be of a size capable of storing all foods requiring refrigeration,
- (2) have a thermometer to monitor its operation conditions, and
- (3) be capable of maintaining all foods referenced in G.3(1) at a temperature of less than 4°C (40°F).

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G.6 Ice which comes in contact with food or which will be consumed shall be of drinking water quality.

#### H. Food Equipment

#### Containers

- H.1 Containers for food shall
- (1) be used to protect stored food from water, insects, vermin or other sources of contamination, and
- (2) be of a design and material that is easily cleaned, durable, non-toxic, non-corrosive and designed to close securely.

#### Food service equipment and utensils

- H.2 All food service utensils shall be
- (1) of food service quality materials and free from breaks, corrosion, cracks, open seams,
- (2) kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

#### Storage of Utensils

- H.3 When not in use, utensils shall be stored in closed cupboards or drawers protected from insects, dirt and contamination.
  - \*For crews of less than 7 workers, this clause should read: "When not in use, utensils shall be stored in a manner to protect them from insects, dirt and contamination".

#### I. Communicable Diseases

#### Notification of communicable disease

I.1 As provided by Schedule 'A' of the Health Act Communicable Disease Regulation. Where a person knows or suspects that an animal or another person is suffering from or has died from a communicable disease, he/she shall, without delay, make a report to the medical health officer. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Occupational Health Department, WCB.

#### 26 Canadian Silviculture Magazine

Comment: The Subcommittee proposes the above to better inform employers and workers of their responsibilities to report any incident of communicable disease. The requirement to notify WCB is included to allow for inspection follow up.

#### J. Sanitary Facilities

**Showering requirements** 

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- J.1 The employer shall provide enclosed showers that afford privacy which
- (1) provide on demand an adequate supply of hot and cold water under good pressure,
- (2) are constructed with easily cleanable floors and walls, maintained in a clean and sanitary condition,
- (3) have adequate drainage to prevent pooling or flooding of waste water, and
- (4) have an adjacent dressing area with easily cleanable floors and walls maintained in a clean and sanitary condition that affords privacy to men and to women.

\*For crews of less than 7 workers, the employer shall provide a shower facility which

(1) has an adjacent dressing area that affords privacy, and

(2) both the shower and dressing areas have easily cleanable floors and walls, and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

#### **Toilet Requirements**

- J.2 Toilets (privies) shall be conveniently located, constructed, easily cleanable and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition so that
- (1) flies, insects, rodents or other animals are deterred from gaining access to the waste materials in the pit,
- (2) surface or ground water cannot enter the pit.
- (3) waste material does not contaminate a water supply,
- (4) the enclosure is vented,
- (5) they are located at least 30 metres (100 feet) away from any lake, stream or food preparation and dining areas,
- (6) they are enclosed and provide privacy,
- (7) they are adequately supplied with clean dry toilet paper.

#### **Hand-washing facilities**

- J.3 (1) An adequate number of hand-washing stations shall be provided.
- (2) Common towels shall not be used.
  - \*For crews of less than 7 workers, hand-basins shall be provided with an adequate supply of soap and water.

#### **Privy pits**

J.4 (1) Privy pits shall be taken out of service and filled with clean soil before they become overfull and waste products reach a level within 30 cm of the ground surface.

- (2) An adequate supply of lime, ash or mulch shall be readily available.
- (3) Privy pits no longer in use shall be filled with soil and marked with a durable sign to warn persons of the "Privy Pit Site (date)".

\*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.

Comment: Conditions of hygiene and sanitation in a camp are of utmost importance for the prevention of disease and illness. The Subcommittee recommends that the WCB produce and supply the signs required by clause 3 above.

#### **Facility requirements**

J.5 The facilities required in regulation J.1, J.2 & J.3 shall not be less than:

# Persons	Min. #	Min.#	Min.#		
In Camp	<b>Privy Seats</b>	Showers	Wash Basins		
1-7	1	1	The state of the s		
8-15	2	2	2		
16-30	3	3	3		
31-45	4	4	4		
46-60	6	5	5		
61-75	news 7 same	6	6		
76-90	9	7	7		
91-120	12	8	8		
for each additional group of 20					
over 120	+1	+1	the list of the		
for each ac	iditional group	of 10			
over 120	Marian Par	equiller.	+1		

#### K. Waste Water

#### Location and maintenance of infiltration pits

K.1 All waste water shall be disposed in a closed infiltration pit with closed delivery system sealed to access of flies and vermin.

K.2 Open ditches are prohibited.

K.3 Infiltration pits shall

- (1) be located at least 30 metres (100 feet) away from any lake or stream,
- (2) not be permitted to overflow or accumulate onto the soil surface, and
- (3) be covered to deter entrance of insects and rodents.
- K.4The employer shall not permit natural drainage to be polluted or contaminated by wastewater, refuse or any other waste material generated by a camp.

#### L. Garbage and disposal

- L.1 Garbage shall be placed in conveniently located containers which are covered to deter flies, insects, rodents or other animals from gaining access.
- L.2 Garbage shall be hauled to a waste management site every day where there is a bear problem; under all circumstances, no longer than 3 days.

\*For crews of less than 7 workers, garbage shall be hauled to a waste management site every day where there is a bear problem. Under all circumstances garbage will be removed at the end of the camp.

#### M. Drying room

- M.1 The employer shall provide a heated room to be used exclusively to dry clothes. The drying room shall be separate from the food preparation, serving and dining areas.
- M.2 The drying room shall be adequate for the changing of clothes and shall be capable of drying clothes for all workers within 12 hours.

\*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.

Comment: The need to work outdoors in inclement weather necessitates the availability of adequate drying facilities. A fatality due to hypothermia was discussed in conjunction with this proposal.

#### N. Heating

N.1 Stoves or heaters shall be safely installed and maintained according to applicable codes and regulations and/or manufacturer's instructions.

Comment: The Subcommittee developed the following proposal to help prevent workers being burned, scalded or injured by the heating system.

#### O. Lighting

O.1 Provide adequate lighting in dining room, kitchen, drying room, first aid room.
O.2 Provide readily available emergency lighting on a 24 hour basis.

Comment: The Subcommittee was deliberately vague with the quantitative requirement for adequate illumination.

#### P. Laundry

P.1 The employer shall provide for weekly laundry arrangements.

#### Q. Sewage Disposal

Q.1 No person shall operate a temporary workplace camp without a valid Sewage Disposal Permit issued by a Health Officer. \*Crews of less than 7 workers shall be exempt.

Comment: The Subcommittee recommends that the WCB approach the MoH to have the costs associated with a Sewage Disposal Permit waived for temporary camps.

#### R. Transportation of Workers

R.1 The employer is obliged to provide transportation for workers from the temporary workplace camp or equivalent facilities to the worksite.

Comment: The Subcommittee recommends that this proposal be part of the overall regulations preferably in the Transportation Regulations.

# WCB camp regulation must be uniform

Dirk Brinkman & Bill Williams, President & Vice President, WSCA

Note: This WSCA submission to the WCB Silviculture Subcommittee was made on May 7, 1993

The Nature of the Regulation

Due to the short seasonal and biological 'windows' for wilderness resource work and the physical demand on workers, the WSCA supports, on principle, a strongly enforced regulation. We believe that most of requirements entrenched by the committee in the proposed Temporary Workplace Camp Regulation (TWCR) are necessary.

The TWCR represents a minimum of basic comforts, protection from disease and basic nutrition to meet the needs of the contemporary silviculture worker.

At this time approximately 10-14,000 people who work in the silviculture industry seasonally would be governed by and could benefit from this regulation.

Scope of the Regulation

For everyone to benefit, the TWCR must apply uniformly throughout the whole industry without exception.

We therefore consulted with the WSCA directors and members to identify a project size which would put more than 97% of today's silviculture contracts within the scope of the TWCR.

Initially we suggested this apply to all temporary workplaces which involve less than 60 people for 60 days.

However, we propose that the regulation simply applies to projects with less than 3600 worker days for a maximum duration of 120 days.

This would allow for large short term planting contracts; emergency camps in isolated locations; as well as smaller crews on spacing or brushing contracts (that can last longer than two months); to be governed by a single regulation.

Background

Before the 1986 Silviculture Camp Standard, the industry's camps were theoretically governed by Ministry of Health's Industrial Camp Regulation. In reality, this regulation was completely ignored by the industry, since it was not designed for mobile isolated camps. The result was a variety of undesirable living conditions prevailed.

During the course of Silviculture Subcommittee meetings there have been a number of alternate proposals in which the maximum temporary workplace to be regulated by the TWCR was less than 3600 person days. Larger camps would once again be subject to the inappropriately designed Industrial Camp Regulation. The WSCA believes that both larger and relatively longer contracts should be covered by the proposed regulation.

Such a division of the present industry based on size of crew or duration of camp would not create a level playing field for health and safety standards, but would result in contracts being redesigned by the forest industry to take advantage of the least cost.

The forest industry would shorten contract durations and increase the number of camp moves to reduce costs. This would adversely effect the business of established contractors and their crews, whose previous performance had secured large contracts, reducing the number of work days available to these planters and contractors.

Therefore, we would like this regulation to apply to all current contract sizes.

Include all temporary worksites The WSCA would like the regulation to apply to all contractors, whether or not they offer an on-site temporary workplace camp. Therefore the WSCA proposes that the regulation require the notification of worksite and camp for all temporary worksite projects, not just temporary workplace camps. We recommend that the regulation be called the Temporary Worksite Accommodations and Services Regulation.

continued on next page...

# THE PROFESSIONALS IN FIRST AID

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Background

One historic tactic for evading the Silviculture Camp Standard was for contractors to camp on private land (e.g. a farm or public campground) or put workers in motels or other temporary accommodations, where the standard did not apply. Some contractors would provide little or no services, telling the crew to cook for themselves and drive themselves to the site.

The WSCA feels that all workers should be offered basic health and safety services when employed on BC's temporary worksites, irrespective of the accommodation arranged by the contractor. No special arrangement should exempt a contractor from providing basic temporary worksite services. All contractors, for example, should provide meals and transportation to the worksite.

In fact, if the regulations are too strict to apply to a public camp ground, motel, or other public service rented for the purpose by the contractor, then the regulation may be putting an unfair burden on the contractor that is offering an "on-site" temporary workplace camp— and these regulations may require further review.

When the contractor offering an on-site temporary workplace camp incurs the greater costs, an incentive is created for contractors to use alternate accommodations and have employees drive long distances to the temporary worksite.

The Subcommittee must remember that the greatest danger facing tree-planters (the majority of workers effected by this regulation) is the risk of a vehicle accident. The largest number of deaths and permanent disabilities in silviculture industry have resulted from vehicle accidents.

By putting too much weight on "onsite camp" regulation— and allowing the contractor to evade the TWCR by staying in distant accommodations—workers' health and safety is put at a greater risk. The roads used for

transportation of silviculture workers are often active logging haul roads or roads that have been abandoned after logging—conditions are very adverse.

In Summary

The WSCA believes it is very important that the proposed Regulations:

- Require that notification of worksite and camp for all Temporary Worksite projects.
- Apply equally to projects of all sizes and durations, within the historic scope of the industry.
- Apply equally to all arrangements for accommodations including: motels, apartments, housekeeping suites, private campgrounds, camps on private land, camps on first nations reserves or camps on federal lands.

Application of the regulations to a portion of the industry would result in the WSCA being divided in its support, because the regulations would represent the best interests of only some workers and contractors, but not others.

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# **DRAFT Guidelines for Wildlife Trees**

The Wildlife Tree Committee

Note: This is a selection from the DRAFT Provincial Guidelines for Management and Maintenance of Wildlife Trees, released March 17, 1993. The complete guidelines are available from the WSCA office. Any comments should be addressed to Todd Manning, the Coordinator of the Wildlife Tree Committee at (604) 642-6936.

#### Wildlife tree characteristics

As a general rule, the most desirable trees selected for wildlife trees should meet the following criteria and be incorporated into one or more of the operational options described earlier (patch retention, leave strips, partial cutting systems, green tree retention, artificial wildlife tree creation):

#### Wildlife use

Evidence of existing and active use by wildlife (e.g. nests or foraging signs).

#### Size of wildlife trees

Selected wildlife trees should be as large as possible for the site given the nature of the trees which occur in the area. A recommended range is >30 cm dbh and 15-20m height. However, where trees of this size are not available, at least 3 stems/ha should be within the upper

10% of the diameter range distribution for the biogeoclimatic zone or subzone, including veteran trees.

#### Type of wildlife trees

Selected wildlife trees should consist of a mixture of hard and soft stems (Classes 2-5). Class 2 trees will serve as recruitment snags. Dependent upon species and location, Class 2 trees should be well branched. Live recruitment trees can include veterans, seed and shelterwood trees, and residual stems left on site.

Selected trees should consist of a mix of species and include hardwoods.

#### Number of wildlife trees

A minimum of 5-10 wildlife trees/ha average distribution should be retained (as per above description for mixture of live and dead stems, including 3 stems

in the upper 10% of the diameter range). This total should augment those wildlife trees found in adjacent areas that would not normally be harvested (e.g., inoperable areas such as rocky bluffs, gullies, unstable slopes, environmentally sensitive areas such as: lakeshore zones, Parks, etc.). This is a minimum provincial average. Recommended wildlife tree densities are currently being evaluated and will be ecosystem specific.

#### Distribution of wildlife trees

Not all hectares will contain suitable wildlife trees, therefore stems should be clumped where possible.

Dependent on site specific factors such as topography, wind exposure, stand age and structure, some locations may

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be suited to retention of dispersed, single live recruitment wildlife trees such as seed trees or residuals.

Selected wildlife trees should be distributed across the planning unit ranging from valley bottom riparian zones to upslope areas.

Persistence of wildlife trees Selected wildlife trees should be windfirm.

Special wildlife habitat features Maintain buffers around special wildlife habitat features such as eagle, osprey, or heron nests. These birds and their nests are specifically protected by Section 35 of the Provincial Wildlife Act. Nest trees, and nearby large trees which may be used as alternate nest, perching, feeding, or roosting sites, are usually located near water. For bald eagles, some treed foreshore within 100-150 m of water is aired to avoid adversely disturbing the birds and will provide future nest and perch trees. Thus, clearcutting to the water's edge where eagles are known to congregate should be avoided.

Selective harvesting can be practiced if the integrity of the leave strip is maintained, but should be avoided during periods when birds are nest building or incubating (mid-January to July for bald eagles, and mid-March to July for herons and osprey). However, a multi-layered canopy containing a mix of low grade, branchy wolf trees, as well as immature and some mature and veteran trees, should be maintained. in areas where birds are known to perch or roost, leave strip width depends on the status of available perch sites and the potential for human disturbance. . Wherever possible, avoid building roads and landings near nest sites or rookeries (within 150 m), especially during nest building and incubation periods.

Riparian zones

Due to their high ecological value, maintaining the integrity of riparian zones is critical. Riparian areas often contain an abundance of wildlife trees of varying species, size, and stage of decline. Buffer zones along riparian areas will have to be determined on a site specific basis, dependent upon location, stream gradient, tree species composition, windfirm boundaries, etc. As a general rule, riparian leave widths should recognize the above factors and be as wide as possible.

Wildlife tree species diversity
Wherever possible, areas managed for
wildlife trees including patches, FENS,
and any areas adjacent to harvested
units, should contain a diversity of tree
species, including a deciduous hardwood component.

Coarse woody debris

Wherever possible (factors such as utilization standards and fire protection restrictions not limiting), retain coarse woody and large organic debris on site as foraging and shelter substrate. This could be accomplished by not yarding unmerchantable wood to roadside. The extent of this debris is site specific and should be sufficient to maintain naturally occurring levels found on site. However, 50 cubic metres/ha (including debris prior to harvest) provides a generalized range.

Maintaining wildlife trees in silviculture operations

Maintain wildlife trees in silviculture operations, and along cutblock boundaries and roads where they do not endanger the work area (refer to procedures and criteria outlined in "Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessor's Course"). Suitable trees should be as large as possible (given the site and species present), including live recruits as well as hard and soft snags (Classes 2–5 are most desirable). Care should be taken to ensure that individual trees are well rooted and windfirm.

The Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessor's Course, produced by the Wildlife Tree Committee, provides a reliable technique for assessing safety hazard, soundness, and wildlife habitat value of trees in silviculture, roadside and treatment unit boundary scenarios.

Options for wildlife tree management in silviculture operations include:

 when doing site prep, retain coarse woody debris in various states of decomposition and keep broadcast

- slash burning to a minimum;
- · plant a diverse mix of tree species;
- retain patches of brush, especially along streams and on green tree retention areas;
- where feasible manage brush only around crop trees;
- retain some regenerating hardwoods wherever possible;
- use variable spacing to create a mosaic of stand densities;
- · retain safe snags during spacing.
- dependent on local site conditions
   (existent population and distribution
   of snags/wildlife trees), additional
   snags an be created using girdling or
   herbicides.

# ILA snag safety concerns

Sandra Moskwa, General Manager, Interior Logging Association

Note: This letter was sent to Wildlife Tree Committee, Mar. 15, 1993.

Our association has some concerns over the Harvesting Guidelines for Management of Wildlife Trees:

- 1. Who will ensure that worker safety is the highest priority?
- 2. Will industry get the backing of WCB to ensure that safety is first and support in dealing with Ministry of Environment employees on a site by site basis.?

# WSCA concerns differ Dirk Brinkman, Pres. WSCA

Note: This letter was sent to the ILA, April 19, 1993.

Silviculture safety in the slash seems at odds with logger safety in the bush.

After a burn, downing all the snags makes a more dangerous workplace for the silviculture worker. The faller who snag falls for our safety also suffers injuries which could be avoided by leaving the snags standing.

The WSCA does feels silviculture worker safety has not been given consideration in snag falling guidelines.

All snags are wildlife trees, let them stand unless it's actually safer to fall them.

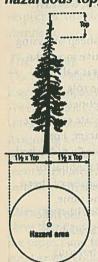
### WILDLIFE TREE NO-WORK ZONES

When a valuable wildlife tree has been noted as hazardous to workers, a no-work zone must be designated. The no-work zone must include all the area on the ground that could be reached by any dislodged portion of the tree.

No-work zones will take Into account the nature of the hazard and the lean of the tree. On steep ground, the no-work zone is extended downhill to protect workers.

The following are the most common no-work zones:

#### Sound tree, no lean, hazardous top, flat ground



1. Determine the length of top that might dislodge.

2. Add 1/2 of its length, to get a 1&1/2 top length distance.

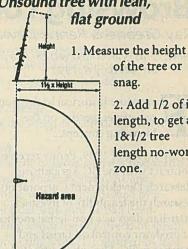
This distance is the radius of the nowork zone.

#### Sound tree with lean, hazardous top, flat ground



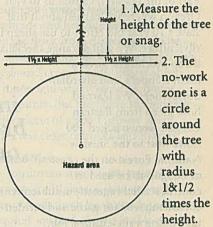
- 1. Determine the length of top that might dislodge.
- 2. Add 1/2 of its length, to get 1&1/2 top length distance.
- 3. Determine from the lean how far from the base of the tree the top might land.
- 4. The no-work zone is a semi-circle, with the radius of distance from #2 added to a rectangle calculated from #2 & #3 above

# Unsound tree with lean.



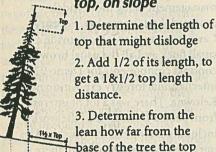
2. Add 1/2 of its length, to get a 1&1/2 tree length no-work zone.

Unsound tree, no lean, flat ground



no-work zone is a circle around the tree with radius 18:1/2 times the height.

#### Sound tree with lean, hazardous top, on slope



might land. 4. The no-work zone is a semicircle, with the radius of distance from #2 above

added to a rectangle calculated from #2 and #3 above

5. On slopes >30%, extend the no-work zone downslope. This distance must be determined on a site-specific basis.

#### Unsound tree, with lean, on slope

1. Measure the height of the tree or snag. 2. The no-work zone is a half-circle extending 90° on each side of the lean with radius of 1&1/2 times the height of the tree. 3. On slopes >30%, extend the no-work zone downslope. This distance must be determined on a site-specific basis. 4. Trees on slopes> 30% need to be carefully

tree value, as the no-work zone will take up a large part of the treatment area.

assessed for their wildlife

#### Deciduous, sound tree, no lean, defective branches



- 1. Determine the length of defective limbs that might dislodge.
- 2. Add 1/2 of its length, to get 1&1/2 limb length distance The 1&1/2 limb length distance must be calculated for all defective limbs on the tree.

# Browsing contractors caught in the middle

Ray Greene & Penny Dewar, co-founders of West Coast Browsing

Note: This is an edited version of a presentation made to the Interprovincial Forestry Sheep Grazing Forum/Seminar in Calgary on February 6, 1993

Virst some historical background to our perspective on the browsing concept...

In the spring of 1989, Penny received a contract with the BC Agriculture Research Development Corporation to research the feasibility of livestock guardian dogs as a non-lethal method of predator control on farms and ranches in BC. She sub-contracted with me to video the whole thing and offer "objective" advice! Funds were provided by the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment.

Part of the research caused us to visit Oregon where we learned about that state's 10 year old effort to use sheep in silviculture. We visited range specialists,

sheep producers, government trappers, and guardian dog owners. We learned how sheep from Eastern Oregon were trucked 300 miles west to the Siuslaw National Forest on the coast of Oregon to be used to

control seeded vegetation, subsequently enhancing feed for game and incidentally doing a silvicultural job.

When we then travelled through BC during 1989/90, we interviewed several browsing contractors already working plantations, including Burt Smith and John & Anne Dunn. We interviewed the various ministries: Forests, Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife. Remember, it wasn't a contract to research the value of sheep in silviculture, but to determine the efficacy and acceptability of guardian dogs. But, if there was any situation that needed guardian dogs, browsing was it.

What we learned from all of this travelling and questioning looked like a list of variables affecting the potential of sheep browsing being accepted as a successful silviculture tool in specific situations. Does the client group, Ministry of Forests or private logging

company, actually require an alternative to herbicides and manual brushing? Is there the necessary communication skill to follow through on the sheep browsing concept and work out the details of a viable sheep browsing service in a particular district? Are the requisite components for a skilled contractor (sheep, shepherds, dogs, camps, etc.) available at a cost, both financially and environmentally, worthy of consideration? In spite of a thunderous lack of support, it looked like sheep browsing might have a place in the huge task of plantation management, incidentally offsetting traditional summer pasture costs.

All of this may sound redundant given

...we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of browsing contracts in B.C. over the past two years...

> the current attention to detail in the browsing industry. But in 1989, the few flocks working in BC were usually electrically fenced onto a plantation, a task requiring horrendous effort on the part of "shepherds". Guardian dogs were only a thought. Health regulations for domestic animals, both sheep and dogs were a hint on the horizon, and a contract that took all of these components and more into consideration was not yet invented. Prices being paid for this "service" were little or nothing compared to the costs of back pack herbicide applications and manual brushing contracts.

In the fall of 1989 we formed West Coast Browsing, and set out to learn what a browsing contract would be like with herding dogs, guardian dogs, portable corral and a mobile camp. The concept still required one important component that cannot be overstressed—a shepherd. Fortunately

a resident of Vancouver Island, John Carter, crossed our trail, told us what he had learned from interior BC browsing projects, and offered to help us launch a trial with Fletcher Challenge on Vancouver Island. We were on the right track and the rest was easy.

The potential exists for sheep browsing becoming a real alternative in vegetation management, but it is a slow learning process, and the role of contractor is far from defined in a manner that would indicate an opportunity for a long term career. For instance, look in the recently published vegetation management manual for Alberta and see where the use of sheep

> fits in. In BC the same problem exists—too little information is available.

In spite of this tenuous situation, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of browsing contracts in BC over the past two years,

and there are other signs of the concept of sheep browsing for vegetation management being more widely accepted. Last September, Forestry Canada contracted us to provide a small flock and all the usual browsing contract components for Demo 92, an international forestry exposition near Kelowna. There was a lot of interest from people from around the world, including New Zealand, which tickles our irony bone no end. Also, there is the recent brochure put out by the silviculture branch of the Ministry of Forests in BC, entitled Managing Vegetation with Sheep.

We may seem to have made a quantum leap into a situation where browsing is accepted as a real alternative, but don't kid yourself. Most districts of BC still refer to sheep browsing as experimental, and the more you know about the part you play in this 'experiment' the better...

### **Browsing Contractor's Perspective**

The browsing contractor is the one in the middle trying to satisfy all parties: the client, the sheep owners, the various interest groups concerned about the effects of this process, the shepherds and other employees doing the actual work, the suppliers of goods and services required to perform the job and, of course, the sheep. We must constantly consider our position with respect to: the client, the sheep and the shepherd.

#### The Client

The client, whether it is a private logging company or a Ministry of Forests district office, is looking for an Integrated Resource Management Tool. Assuming a client has decided that sheep are the best vegetation management alternative, we look at a potential contract with the client to assess:

Client Experience and Reliability

Have they ever used sheep before? Are the project and field supervisors as good as you could hope for with respect to fairness, willingness to learn a new set of criteria, willingness to work hard and, if it isn't asking too much, a sense of humour? Do they have a contract they want to use or are they asking for proposals? Are they willing to renegotiate unexpected problems even if they might be in favor of the contractor? Do they meet their payment deadlines? Have they really looked at the ground and is there enough of it for the number of sheep they think they want? Do they have fall back areas in case of problems? What does the grapevine say about client performance on past contracts? Have they checked out potential land mines with various ministries and special interest groups?

A tiny digression: a couple of years ago MacMillan Bloedel asked us to tender a browsing proposal in a hotly contested site on Vancouver Island. We backed off before getting our feet muddy because we were already getting calls from citizens wanting to know if sheep shit getting into the watershed would hurt the whales? We weren't sure.

Geographical Location of the Work

How far will we have to truck in the sheep, or how far will they have to walk to the site? Where's the nearest store? Will radio phones work at the end of that box canyon? What is the turn around time and estimated costs of a qualified veterinarian with commercial flock experience and working knowledge of health guidelines?

Characteristics of Treatment Area

Factors to be considered include terrain, water courses, road and bridge condition, debris loading, total size and available back-up hectares, plant types and expected forage calculated in tons per hectare, poisonous plants, distance to nearest dump bear or other surprises. The list is growing!

Start-up Date

Does the client need to be reminded that condition of forage is the critical factor, not a date on the calendar? You don't want to start too early, but then again you want to start browsing as soon as there is sufficient vegetation to adequately feed the sheep.

# **Mandatory Supplementary Manual**

Last year we ran into our first taste of the future in some forest districts as we tried to estimate the costs associated with manually brushing a browsed site months before the sheep had arrived on the site. A heated debate on this topic with a government spokesperson sounded to listeners like marine law being debated in Greek. The final rebuttal from the government to my expressed concern for subsidizing their research into the costs of this mixed sheep and manual brushing was: "The market place will decide. We may lose a few contractors, but that is the name of the game."

#### Subject to's

This sampler keeps you wondering about getting back your old job: budget approval, wildlife branch approval, approved cheaper vegetation management method (maybe we won't need you if we get permission to spray the area), range fees (sometimes we have to pay and sometimes we don't).

#### Low Bids

Browsing hasn't even hit the hundred contract mark yet, but already the browsing contractor is forced to worry about how little he/she can do it for and what everyone else is bidding.

#### The Sheep

Now the sheep side of the equation.

This is one of those subjects that seems to lead to endless debate. At one meeting, we were approached by a tribal elder who said he had been thinking about the best breed of sheep for browsing work. He assured us that we would have good luck with a moose crossed with beavers.

Some breeds have been recommended because of flocking ability. However, we prefer to see the sheep spread out enough for relaxed feeding. The shepherds and herding dogs are there to keep the flock from dispersing. So far we have had good luck with a variety of breeds and cross breeds, Bigger sheep eat more, and where we work that is what counts, but they have to enjoy the camaraderie of a good browse spent with a few close relatives and friends.

#### Age and Size

The minimum size is forty pounds. We can't work with lambs that average forty pounds, each lamb needs to be at least that weight before it is able to withstand the stress of trucking, and the shift in topography, feed etc.. Smalls will weaken and hold up the flock, or die and have to be disposed of, or be removed from the site and taken to pasture until they reach the required size. All of that means extra work and expense for the contractor.

Because of lamb problems some contract areas are now open to dry ewes only. The maximum age is about five or six years, with good teeth and sound legs. We have learned a great deal about culls and their role in hedging the farmers bets, but the old and infirm are the ones we lose the most.

#### Sheared and Healthy

The health protocol is something we really believe in. If producers consider the BC Health Protocol too much to ... continued next page

#### 34 Canadian Silviculture Magazine

ask, they certainly don't have to get involved in browsing. Unfortunately this has been the general reaction in BC- and that's the main reason we approached Prairie producers.

Surviving Producer

Almost by definition, anyone left in the sheep business is a survivor. The dance begins when a contractor meets a potential co-operating producer, both parties have a lot of questions.

We look for business stability and sound animal management. Does the producer already know the relative merits and problems of other options? Have they sent sheep browsing before? Do they seem level headed about an agreement that puts their livestock at a distance from home for approximately 100 days? Can they work with several other producers to make up an average flock of one or two thousand head, and have their share ready to go all certified, tagged and trimmed by an agreed upon date? Can they communicate their concerns clearly? Were they reasonable to work with last year? Can they suggest ways we can improve our relationship?

The Shepherd

The shepherds are the largest limiting factor in this entire scenario - after healthy sheep. We have less than a dozen trained shepherds in the two western provinces who really understand browsing for silviculture purposes (which is still more than anywhere else in the world).

These individuals must be highly skilled to accomplish the amount of work satisfactory for the silviculture sector, keep the flock healthy and safe from danger, maintain good public relations on public lands, and juggle it all into some semblance of peace and contentment for 100 days.

**Apprentice Browsing Shepherds** 

What we look for when hiring is a strong background in either animal husbandry or silviculture. Finding interested parties with both skills has proven totally fruitless.

Apprentice shepherds are needed on virtually all contracts, just to make sure we can meet the potential requirements for future years. But how do we fill

these jobs when each year may be the last? Meanwhile we must upgrade our own levels of understanding.

The early stages of any new venture are always filled with wonderful anecdotes, and browsing is no exception. One features a famous shepherd by the name of Robert Willman, his apprentice shepherds (who shall remain nameless), and some unsuspecting DINKs (double income no kids) on Sumas Mountain, near Vancouver.

They were bringing the flock down off the mountain for transfer to another plantation by truck and Bob's helpers had the compass and the map and were leading the way. It started raining. The helpers realized they were lost and it was going to get dark. Bob let the sheep lie down and ambled up to where the helpers were arguing about which way to go. Bob told them they had a great future as pissing posts for his dogs and suggested they go lie down with the sheep. He'd head down the mountain and figure things out.

Meanwhile the DINKs were spending Saturday in their suburban backyard on

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Office: (604) 631-3300 Facsimile: (604) 631-3309 a mountain side miles from the hustle and bustle of Vancouver, peacefully putting the finishing touches on their Japanese garden.

Bob comes out of the bush with his slicker, cowboy hat, shepherd's crook, some pretty wild eyed looking herding dogs and asks where the nearest road is. Without thinking these people said "right through our carport."

Bob said "thanks" and went back and got his helpers and a thousand head of sheep and took the whole show across a little Japanese style bridge, out onto the DINKs' lawn and through their carport. The sheep piled onto the road only 200 yards from the waiting cattle liner.

#### **Conclusions**

We foresee some BC producers eventually responding to the demand for browsing sheep with big healthy flocks, and they will eventually set the standard for price paid for sheep use, because the trucking costs for their sheep will be substantially lower. There will continue to be a range of prices and variety of working relationships

between producers and contractors, we consider this to be an important part of any healthy scenario.

The way business is done in Western Canada is not likely to change in the very near future. The expression "dog eat dog" may have to be modified to "dog eats man" as things become increasingly competitive. To be part of the future we must work to understand and accept what is really going on, not what we wish was going on.

To compete with accepted vegetation management regimes, we must find ways to make our scheme attractive, both financially and environmentally. As sheep producers, silviculturists, and managers of our shared dwindling resources, we must be versatile and willing to keep going, sometimes in new directions. There is a trail through there somewhere, but there are narrow places up ahead and they will require our best efforts as individuals and as a group with a common concern.

#### Sheep browsing contractors invited to join WSCA Dirk Brinkman, Pres. WSCA

I am honoured, on behalf of the WSCA Board of Directors and a unanimous vote of members at the AGM, to welcome new members from the vegetation browsing phase of silviculture.

All silviculture funding or regulations are driven by public concern for forest renewal and enhancement and the publics trust in our industry depends to an important degree on our collective ability to regulate ourselves.

Uniting the representation of the unique hi-bred silviculture shepards of Western Canada within the WSCA's already unique membership will strengthen our ability to build this public trust.

Ray Green was elected to the Board of Directors to represent the special issues of silviculture vegetation browsing.

Your individual initiatives will, in the context of members common interests. effect changes that will benefit us all.

I look forward to your active involvement.

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# M PEI FRDA the first to go

A Dirk Brinkman, President CSA

Note: This letter was sent to Prime Minister Mulroney.

Nearly all silviculture activities undertaken in Prince Edward Island are funded by FRDA under the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), so your government's recent decision to cancel this agreement has completely devastated silviculture in PEI.

Silviculture through the FRDA during the past ten years built PEI's forest land base which:

 produces over 20 million dollars annual value

S

- supplies 50 sawmills that produce half of PEI's requirements
- ships pulpwood to Nova Scotia
- re-establishes PEI's natural ecosystems & tourism attractions.

Without funding for tending, the 18 million seedlings planted over the past ten years may be wasted.

Over 90% of PEI's land is private and with increasingly marginal economics for agriculture, abandoning the rebuilding of PEI's forest land base deepens the farm debt crisis.

This cancellation of the PEI FRDA puts over 1,050 workers out of work (300 silviculture workers directly employed in site prep, tree planting, stand tending, nursery and harvesting operations and 750 workers indirectly effected). This labour force consists of mostly married men with homes and children who depend on their silviculture income.

Over the past seven years, nearly a million dollars in special federal training programs prepared these workers for a future that you have cancelled. This action increases the unemployment in PEI by 7.5%. Unemployment in the forest services sector in the Maritimes has recently been over 50%.

The CSA has been proud to include PEI's dedicated silviculturalists among its national membership. This cancellation completely destroys the businesses

of PEI's 25-30 silviculture/harvesting contractors, who will lose their capital investments in forest equipment and skilled human resources, both of which would take years to replace.

This first cancellation of a federal provincial forestry agreement, coupled with the announcement that other provincial agreements would not be renewed, has raised alarm throughout Canada's silviculture industry.

Forests remain a primary engine in Canada's economy and are a foundation of the federal tax base. FRDA funding is vital to forestry on private and aboriginal lands, forest research and the development of Canada as the world leader in forest ecosystem management. The \$120 million federal FRDA contribution is a small maintenance cost for the \$20 billion dollar forest industry and Canada's 10% of the worlds remaining forest land base.

The cancellation of PEI's agreement without notice undermines the government's National Forest Sector Strategy, the commitments it made last year at the UNCED Summit, and destroys a silviculture infrastructure that has taken years to develop.

The CSA requests that a one year extension for PEI's FRDA agreement be granted to provide the CCFM (Council of Canadian Forest Ministers) with an opportunity to coordinate a negotiated transition to an improved form of federal funding.

# First Nation concerns about FRDA cancellation

Fred Lowenberger, Co-Chair First Nations Forest Council

Note: This letter was sent to Prime Minister Mulroney.

The BC First Nations Forestry Council is concerned that your government has announced that BC's FRDA II funding will not be renewed.

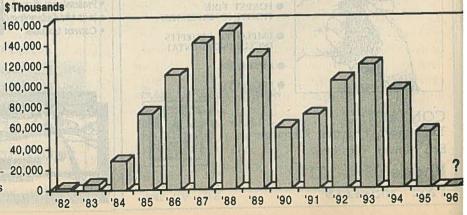
FNFC's mandate is to increase aboriginal participation across the forest sector.
FRDA I and FRDA II have played an important role by funding:

- direct involvement of First Nations in forest management planning
- · silviculture work on reserve lands,
- forest stand enhancement projects which employ native silviculture practitioners,
- training of First Nations people in silviculture.

Cancelling PEI's FRD Agreement signals the start of a process that will, in the end, undermine an important component of the funding for First Nations involvement in forestry in BC. As First Nations people are increasingly involved in renewing and enhancing the forests, sustained funding becomes more important— particularly in BC where one third of Canada's aboriginal people live.

FNFC unanimously requests that the federal role in forestry be re-evaluated in the light of our concerns and that continuing funding equivalent to FRDA II be assured for First Nations people.

# **Total FRDA Funding in Canada**



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# PEI now the only province with no FRDA funding

lan Dennison, PEI Forest Industry Assoc.

Note: This letter was sent to John Crosby, Federal Minister for Atlantic Cooperation Agency (ACOA), May 3, 1993.

One sentence from the recent federal budget has effectively devastated an entire industry on Prince Edward Island:

"The government will not be reviewing the present federalprovincial agreement on economic and regional development in forestry and minerals, recognizing that these are essentially geared to areas of provincial jurisdiction and ones where provincial government and private sector activities have matured to the point where more limited federal government involvement is warranted."

As of March 31, P.E.l. became the only province without a forestry agreement. Other provinces have at least one year, and some have up to four years to adjust to the budgetary decree. Up until the beginning of March, the ACOA office In Charlottetown had assured us of a new 5-year Co-Operation Agreement. Then ACOA head office in Moncton proposed instead a one year extension of our old agreement. That promise was withdrawn the day after the budget.

How can we plan our livelihood and those of our employees, under these conditions? Where is the fairness, when all other provinces have at least a year to make this major transition, and we have nothing?

ACOA has been generous in assisting forest contractors in making major investments in forest equipment, and now seems prepared to walk away from us, when we are stuck with making payments on that equipment, without an agreement to work within.

While the Minister of Finance may be correct in his assessment of the maturity of the forest industry in BC or Alberta, that is wholly unlike our situation here. 90% of their land is Crown land, and forest companies get a break on stumpage paid to the Crown if they fulfill reforestation commitment. Whereas 90% of our land is in small private holdings, and no private owner can be expected to pay reforestation costs exceeding the value of the poor harvest we're trying to replace.

We need some time to adjust to the new federal fiscal decree. Up to 500 jobs, of workers who have been at this work for up to 11 years, hang in the balance. This is not to mention the consequences of abandoning the 18,000,000 seedlings that have been planted over the last 10 years. We have put great efforts into planting them, but someone should weed and thin them, or all the government investment in them will be wasted. Likewise the investments made in training a skilled workforce will be wasted.

We ask you to ensure that PEI's forest industry has at least one year's grace funding, and a chance to pursue other options.

#### The Future of FRDA

Dirk Brinkman, President CSA

Note: This memorandum was sent to CSA and WSCA directors, May 6, 1993.

The PEI FRDA Agreement was cancelled retroactively so no one has had a chance to argue its merits. A Forestry Canada official says that "so far the reaction from PEI is soft. If someone is hurting, the deficit reduction motivated decision-makers are not yet hearing about it."

PEI has \$800,000-900,000 to do a bit of scheduled planting and brushings (six weeks of work maximum), in order to respect some commitments to prioritized obligations that are hard to cancel. There is no administrative money and Forestry Canada offices are to be closed by May 15th.

Other Provincial reactions have been muted because their agreements expire sometime in the future. PEI got the axe during their election. During the constitutional debates, the provinces negotiated to assume the role that Forestry Canada was playing.

The end of these agreements may be inevitable, since they are not perfect vehicles for the delivery of increasingly complex silviculture. Flexibility and more local and endresults accountability has always been needed. However, the end of the Economic Development funding to provincial and territorial forestry programs had a negotiated federal compensation to support the continuation of the initial role of the FRDA's in supporting silviculture, research, tech transfer and communications.

All silviculture contractors must react now, this is the beginning of the end of all FRDA programs.

#### PEI FRDA Human Resource Analysis

Nearly all silviculture activities undertaken in PEI is derived from funding under the FRDA. Approximately 25-30 contractors employ upwards to 300 workersin site preparation, tree planting, stand tending, nursery and harvesting operations.

**Human Resource Development** 

Between 1983-90 considerable efforts were directed towards developing a better-trained silviculture labor force. The PEI Department of Energy and Forestry in cooperation with CEIC initiated two silviculture worker training courses. This lead to the skill development of 175 students of which an estimated 40 percent are still involved in silviculture work for a cost of approximately \$800,000.

#### **Labor Market Conditions**

Canada's unemployment rate for logging is 29% and 38% for forest services i.e. silviculture. Unemployment figures for Prince Edward Island are not available for the forest sector, however, for the Maritimes as a whole the unemployment rate for logging is 52% and 50% for forest services.

# **CSA** goals and principles

Dirk Brinkman, President, CSA

Note: This letter was to George Chisholm, Past President, NSSCA, March 28, 1993.

It may have come as a surprise to some members of the Nova Scotia Silviculture Contractors Association (NSSCA) that your strategic analysis workshop revealed the importance of a strong environmental lobby as vital to the long term health of the sector.

Further to our discussions about the importance of preserving ecosystem reserves, this outlines some of the CSA's guiding principles.

The CSA at its founding meeting, confirmed the importance of focusing public attention on preservation of biodiversity.

At the last Forest Congress at which the principles for "Sustainable Forests: A National Commitment" were drafted, John Smith, Executive Director Policy Development, representing Nova Scotia, argued that he could not commit to a 12% target for forest bioregional reserves because Nova Scotia simply does not have that much undisturbed forest land left.

In the final document, however, it was reiterated that the Federal Government has adopted a goal of increasing protected areas on all land types to 12% of the total area of the country.

Subsequently, at the UNCED in Rio, Canada was the first to sign the international convention on the forests. These are however, still being finalized. They involve a very strong commitment to preserving undisturbed sample ecosystems. These conventions and protocols are being reported in the CIF's Forest Chronicle.

The Provincial governments all signed the principles of the National Forest Accord. The CSA is on the Monitoring Committee of the National Forest Accord to confirm that the provincial governments live up to their commitments. I trust you will analyze the questions that relate to particular areas within this kind of context, and advise the CSA if the Nova Scotia government

is meeting all of the principles it has committed to.

Sustainable Forest Accord is intended to compliment another national accord, "A Protected Area Vision for Canada" whose principles will also help direct the NSSCA.

Over the past two years, the CSA has participated in drafting the Principles For Sustainable Development for the Forests for the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

The following principles apply to your concerns:

#### The Vision statement

Our Vision is of healthy forest ecosystems that meet present and future human needs while sustaining other life forms and ecological processes.

**Ecosystem Integrity** 

All activities on forest land should respect the natural values of the forest environment and recognize the need to protect integrity of forest ecosystems.

#### **Protected Areas**

Protected forest reserves such as ecological areas. natural areas. parks, wildlife reserves, and wilderness areas are essential components of a land use strategy.

#### **Public Land Use & Allocation**

The policies and processes for allocating use of public forests should consider:

- the productive capacity and values of the land base and the ability of the land base to satisfy user needs and aspirations over time;
- the potential for zoning forest land for multiple use, dominant use and protected areas.

The CSA and its member associations are committed to these principles.

Nova Scotia is a region where human intervention has had an extensive impact on the forest landscape. Forest ecosystem preservation must include planning across the whole province.

These commitments do appear to make the preservation of any remaining undisturbed areas a very high priority especially since Nova Scotia has a surplus of fiber on the private and crown lands dedicated to harvest.

The future work of the NSSCA members is going to include the restoration of forest ecosystems, for which these areas will provide important models.

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I trust that this will help guide the NSSCA to develop an appropriate position which balances the heavily harvested forests of Nova Scotia in which your members work, with an appropriate land base of provincial ecosystem reserves.

# Canadian Silviculture Association Association Canadienne Sylvicole

Suite 1005-151 Slater St.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5H3
Ph: (613) 234-2242 Fax: (613) 234-6181

#### **CSA National Executive**

**Guy Fortin** 

Association Entrepreneur Sylvicole Quebec

**Robin Balance** 

New Brunswick Silviculturists Association

Francis Donelly

Northwest Forest Nursery
Owners Association

Iim Verboom

Nova Scotia Silviculture Contractors Association

**Grant Brodeur** 

Ontario Silviculture
Contractors Association

Marcel Arsenault

PEI Silviculture
Contractors Association

Dirk Brinkman

Western Silviculture
Contractors Association

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# **CSA** activities update

Jim Verboom, Vice-Pres. CSA

#### National Silviculture Conference

Being co-sponsored by CSA, CIF and MacLean Hunter.

CSA must have plan of action ready for enactment at the 2nd N.S.C. It will be site of first Annual General Meeting of CSA Elections for all Executive Positions will be held

#### Course Of Action

Dirk to continue on the Executive Organizing Committee Jim Verboom is to plan Annual Meeting of CSA.

CSA Membership Dues

Dues for 1992-93 have been paid by WSCA, PEISCA and NSSCA. Dues are still owed by the other members.

#### **National Certification Committee**

Forestry Canada and CEIC plan to set up a national committee to oversee and/or direct an attempt to encourage national standards for Silviculture Workers. According to a ForCan official, Dirk and Jim have both been nominated to be on it. It remains to be seen what will transpire.

Forestry Canada's Demise

Many rumours point to the end of Forestry Canada as a Federal Ministry on its own. The CSA must act to add its influence to which Department should take over ForCan's work. We prefer Environment Canada at this point.

#### Course Of Action

Dirk to keep updated on developments

All other members of CSA to keep ears open as to developments on this subject and to forward information to Jim.

CSA directors to confer about suitability & timing of trip to Ottawa to:

- · Lobby for allocation of ForCan responsibilities to other departments.
- Find activities the CSA would deliver.
- Pick up computer programs, etc. that could be of use to us.

#### Silviculture Publications

MacLean-Hunter's Silviculture, Journal of the New Forest has stopped printing. This leaves a void on the national stage for a publication that covers issues the practitioners of our trade. The Forestry Chronicle— CIF 's publication— does well at covering items at the technical and professional level, but trouble covering them at a vocational level.

#### Course Of Action

It would be a good time for the CSA to jump in and fill the void (and capture some of the advertising) with a publication aimed at contractors, their staff and field level administration staff of companies and government. Such a publication would also be of interest to harvesting contractors as well as they seek to modify their methods.

# **National Forest Sector Strategy**

J.C. Mercier, Chair, National Forest Strategy Coalition

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to sit on the National Forest Strategy Coalition. Your leadership and commitment will be instrumental to the successful implementation of our mandate.

Communications within the Coalition and with our respective constituents and partners must be treated as a priority, if we are to meet or exceed our commitments and be seen as doing so. It is through communications and concrete actions using instruments developed by us, that we can successfully promote the Strategy, encourage the development of adequate action plans and their implementation, and report, domestically and internationally, on our accomplishments.

I am pleased to report that the Steering Committee has been struck. I expect the Committee to meet two or three times, by teleconference, before the full Coalition meets during the week of June 14, in Hull, Quebec. Please indicate your availability for the June meeting to the Secretariat, as soon as possible.

Mr. John Houghton, member of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, and Mr. Dirk Brinkman, President of the Canadian Silviculture Association, have signed the Canada Forest Accord on behalf of their respective organizations and have now joined us as members of our Coalition.

Two working groups are being formed to deal with our four major tasks. The first group will deal with the implementation package, annual review and communications framework initiatives. The second will deal with the evaluation issue. Both groups will report to the Steering Committee on an ongoing basis. As products are being prepared, all members will be informed and consulted.

As indicated in the minutes of our December 3,1992 meeting, a specified

purpose account has been created within Forestry Canada to hold the funds being contributed for our Coalition initiatives. An agreement confirming this and the funding provided over five years is circulating between the Coalition's government members for their signature. Nongovernment members interested in providing a financial contribution, and also signing the subject agreement, are asked to communicate with myself or our Secretariat.

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to respond to specific action items referred to in our minutes, I would urge you to communicate the results to our Secretariat.

At the request of certain members, André Rousseau of our Secretariat has been making presentations on the Strategy, the Coalition and the approach being promoted to implement the Strategy. Should you wish to benefit from his services, as your organization prepares its action plan, please do not hesitate to contact him at: National Forest Strategy Coalition Secretariat, 19th Floor, Place Vincent Massey, 351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Hull, Quebec, K1A 1G5; (819)997-1107.

Thank you for your commitment and support. I look forward to working with you in this important endeavour.

# **CSA endorses Forest Round Table principles**

Dirk Brinkman, Pres. CSA

Note: This letter was sent to the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy on March 4, 1993.

The Canadian Silviculture Association is pleased to endorse the vision and principles set out in the Forest Round Table Document.

The CSA is now in the process of developing an action plan to cover the contribution it will make in support of these principles.

# Carbon sink silviculture update

Frank Oberle, Federal Minister of Forests

Note This letter was received on lan. 28, 1993. Dirk Brinkman's letter and excerpts from Ms. Murray's proposal were printed in the Fall/ Winter 1992 WSCA Newsletter.

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 9, 1992, concerning Ms. Murray's Carbon Sink Silviculture Proposal.

As I noted in my response to your original letter, Ms. Murray's policy analysis is well thought out, and she has made some interesting suggestions for reducing carbon emissions.

Unfortunately, at this time there are no funds available for new tree planting programs to supplement those now in place. In fact, because of increasing financial constraints within the government, even existing programs are being cut, and there is little likelihood that the situation will change in the near future. I share your concern for the environment, and I assure you that my department is doing everything it can to address the problem of industrial CO2 emissions. However, like other departments, we are being faced with difficult budgetary decisions, and we simply cannot consider major new programs at this time.

Perhaps your best approach would be to contact the principals in one of the Model Forests to discuss the possibility of a collaboration. Planning of research projects within the Model Forest Program is still in the early stages, and it may be possible to get in on the ground floor with the proposal. I wish you success in this venture.

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# **W** Site Preparation Contractors to join WSCA

Ken Sanders, Sanders & Co. Contracting Ltd.

Note: this is taken from Ken's presentation as recorded in the minutes of the 1993 WSCA AGM.

Although I have been a member of the WSCA for the last three years, I have not attended any previous AGMs. I am very pleased with what I have seen at this conference.

I have a mandate to form some sort of Association for Mechanical Site Preparation Contractors by March of this year, I would prefer that our group to become members of the WSCA. In the past, it was felt that the WSCA did not have a lot to offer the MSP contractors, but now we feel that

have a lot to offer the MSP contractors, but now we feel that the situation has changed.

There are many concerns and issues that the silviculture industry and MSP contractors have in common:

Integrity of the Industry

• Environmental Concerns

Future of Forest Industry

Government Policy

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Industry Silviculture Programs

Safety & Training

WCB Regulations— Camp Standards

Native Silviculture Program.

The MSP industry has grown very quickly over the last decade as can be seen by the increase in equipment shown on the graph below.

I have been "elected" as the MSP Contractors' spokesperson, to request the following areas be addressed by the WSCA:

Letter from Board Welcoming M.S.P. Contractors

 Publishing of Articles in Newsletter (Must Meet Existing Criteria)

• Appointment of M.S.P. Director (1 Year Term)

Appointment to Ethics Committee (1 Year Term)

Number of Unita 200 **MSP Equipment** R 155 **Growth in Industry** E 115 P 100 0 88 R 50 T 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992

It is not the intent of the MSP Contractors to fragment the WSCA into chapters and we wouldn't necessarily expect to have an MSP Director this year. I would report back to the MSP group, with a view to electing a Director at next year's AGM, should the WSCA feel that they deserve a seat on the executive at that point.

We would be very careful bringing in new members from the site preparation industry, so as not to hurt the WSCA in any way. I know a group of very creditable contractors with whom I have been working.

WSCA AGM MOTION: THAT the WSCA recognize and adopt, within their group, the MSP Contractors within BC and Alberta; and to give them representation on the Board of Directors. THAT the terms of the Directorship be similar to the other Director's (i.e. to be a one-year term as a Director on the Board). CARRIED

# Site preparation contractors invited to join WSCA

Dirk Brinkman, President WSCA

I am honoured, on behalf of the Board of Directors and a unanimous vote of the members of the WSCA at the AGM, to welcome all new members from the site preparation phase of silviculture.

All silviculture funding is driven by public concern for forest renewal and enhancement. The Silviculture Regulation and federal and provincial budgets are expressions of public trust in our industry's ability to meet their needs.

A strong representation of Western Canada's site preparation contractors standing united with treeplanting, brushing, spacing, survey and sheep browsing contractors, strengthens our ability to build this public trust.

Ken Sanders was elected to the Board of Directors to represent the special issues of your phase in the silviculture continuum. This widens the representation of the Association.

Our WSCA Member's Handbook, which contains our Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Ethics and various policies and procedures, has evolved from the eleven years of the Association's business. The WSCA's business is to represent the common interests of the members throughout the forest industry, government and society.

In the context of the Association, your individual initiatives can find the support of the whole industry, and quickly change your working environment.

I am looking forward to the active involvement of all members strengthening the WSCA.

# WSCA good forum for MSP issues

Marc von der Gonna, Silviculture Branch

Note: This letter was sent to the WSCA, March 18, 1993. Further to our telephone conversation, I would like to congratulate the WSCA on passing a resolution to include site preparation contractors as members of the association. I view this as a positive move and feel that the WSCA should provide a good forum for addressing many issues pertinent to site preparation contracting. I look forward to working with the association more closely in the future.

### MSP contractor rejoins WSCA

A.M. Todd, Integrated Silviculture Services

Note: This letter was sent to the WSCA, March 1, 1993.

In recent weeks the MOF has renewed it urging for MSP contractors to form it own association.

About three years ago I recall that the WSCA wanted take a lead role in broadening its membership and mandate to serve others in the silviculture business, thereby increasing membership base and operating dollars.

I also understand that a relatively new member and MSP contractor, Ken Sanders, has encouraged the WSCA to do more for site prep contractors.

As a defunct member, I wish to renew my participation and support the WSCA at Mr. Sanders urging. I want to add my recommendation to the Board of Directors that the MSP contractors be given greater attention in the business matters of the WSCA starting with support for MSP site degradation training sessions this Spring.

#### **Contract Administration**

Dirk Brinkman, WSCA President

Note: This letter was sent to Brian Storey, Reforestation Specialist, MOF, on January 21, 1993

After reviewing the question of the MOF administration procedures at the WSCA Board of Directors Meeting, Jan 7, the WSCA is requesting that a copy of the Contract Administration Manual be located in the WSCA office, who in keeping it current, will advise the Directors of changes when they take place. Changes that affect our business, will become a part of our communication with the members.

### **Labour Legislation with Respect** to Union Organizing

Dirk Brinkman, WSCA President

As you are no doubt aware, labour legislation with respect to union organizing has become more favourable for the IWA to certify a silviculture contractor.

In 1991, the IWA drafted a proposed Silviculture Master Agreement, which I am putting on file at the WSCA office for anyone who might be interested in seeing a copy.

# Fire insurance too hot to handle

Chris Akehurst, WSCA Director

Note: This letter was sent to Mr. Rick Clevette, Manager of Fire Management, MOF, on March 15, 1993

Following our recent telephone conversation, I am putting in writing some of the questions I posed to you.

- If a (silvicultural) contractor starts a forest fire while working in the bush, is the contractor automatically assumed to be "in occupation" under the Forest Act? If this is so, is the contrator then responsible for all the costs in fighting that fire (i.e. his own costs and any incurred third-party costs)?
- The WSCA insurance policy covers all contractors with a minimum of \$500,000 Fire Fighting Expense. If a contractor (as in Question 1) is responsible for his own costs as well as the third-party costs, does the Ministry require that the contractor have an additional Fire Suppression Policy to cover his own costs?
- Some insurance agents have told me that if a contractor is responsible for starting a fire while working for a Licensee (rather than the Ministry), then that contractor will be covered by our current third-party Fire Fighting Policy for his own costs as well. The argument here is that the contractor has no legal tenure on the land or the trees and is, therefore, automatically a third party. Do you agree with this interpretation?

I am asking these questions because of the experience of one contractor, Bugbusters, on a fire near Prince George last summer. We had assumed that our industry policy covered contractors for our own (or first-party) costs but this was not the case in that instance.

Apparently, insurance is available to cover these first-party costs and some companies are now asking for it. However, it is prohibitively expensive (\$10,000 to \$20,000 a year were the initial quotes we received). Therefore, we would like to get this issue resolved as quickly as possible.

It would be helpful to us if you could also contact our insurance agent, Barton Insurance, and some district managers of the larger Licensees. This would help clarify the issues for all the players.

### **Fire Fighting Response**

Rick Clevette, Fire Protection Branch

Note: This letter was received April 20, 1993

The questions you pose are better asked of a lawyer and for this reason I do not feel qualified to answer.

I have forwarded your letter to our Legal Services department for interpretation and will pass along their response when I receive it.

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# **W CORE Process Update**

Dennis Graham, WSCA Director

The first full meeting of the Kootenay-Boundary roundtable seem to produce the expected alignments of industry and government. With the 'others'

jockeying for representation both at the table and within their respective sectors. Stephen Owen seems up to the chore, but isn't about to be cornered on any issues and hopes that the mediation process will produce the desired

consensus. Our particular sector is shared with other independents who represent Christmas tree farmers, truck loggers, woodlot licenses and forestry consultants. The position the WSCA

eventually occupies is going to require a decision by us as to both active involvement and land use policy.

Land use allocation is on a regional basis. The commission is prepared to fully support regional recommenda-

tions at a government level as long as financial considerations are met(?).

Balkanization of this Region was an

often mentioned concern. Deferral areas are another very contentious issue about which there is going to be a lot of

ongoing debate. Silviculture and habitat improvement are some of the things that can continue while status is being decided. But the environmental groups

are going to be pushing hard for decisions on these areas. There is \$300,000 allocated for CORE sector assistance requests, one of the priorities ate the moment.

Within our sector, I feel strongly the need to define, by name, the difference

between the renewers and the users.
The necessity for this is proving a
difficult concept to get accepted.

There is also the Native position that nothing CORE decides is going to be

valid until land claims are settled. There is a split between the Ktnaxa/

Kinabasket Tribal Council who are in treaty process with the government and the Arrow/Okanagan, who don't

recognize this process but wish to negotiate territory by territory.

# WSCA Kootenay CORE presentation

The WSCA was formed in BC 11 years ago. During this time we have been active lobbying for forest renewal and involved in the direction of policies that encourage renewal. Our constitution contains 14 different policies pertaining to silviculture and forest management. Our members are engaged in reforestation, brushing wand weeding, juvenile spacing, fore management, pruning and surveying. Approximately 75% of all the forest renewal in this province is carried out by our members.

We feel our role is working towards the rehabilitation of the public's forests. BY the nature of the work we do, with our arrival on the heels of harvesting, we are in the position of seeing both the good and the bad. This allows for a more enlightened understanding of both sides of the story. Silviculture contractors and their workers form a constituency of environmentalists working for the industrial forest sector, meeting the public's forest renewal regulations. We want to be sure that the CORE agenda includes decisions that support the on and off season liveli-

hood and lifestyle of all concerned. As a consequence we have yet to arrive at a decision of our sector's position is, or where to sit at this table.

I would like to point out that Kootenay/Boundary has a large proportion of silviculture practitioners as resident. These being people who derive a seasonal income from the Silviculture sector and/or are "small holders' dedicated to a lifestyle closely tied to their local environment and its related ecosystem.

Strong legislation for rehabilitating the forest ecosystem and active forest enhancement programs for the working forest are goals that support the seasonal employment needs of these people. The intensive level of harvesting that has and is taking place in the Kootenays has created and immediate need for extensive rehabilitation of the forests and streams.

The opportunity for industry and the community to adopt and develop the common goal of forestry on a sustainable basis can be realised through the CORE roundtable and we intend to commit to that process.

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# **Carrier Lumber's Chilcotin license**

### **WSCA Carrier Lumber reporting** inaccurate

Dirk Brinkman, WSCA Newsletter Editor

Note: This letter was sent to WSCA Newsletter subscribers on Jan 22, 1993.

This letter is to advise WSCA Newsletter readers that there were inaccuracies in our reporting on Carrier Lumber in the last issue (Fall/Winter 1992).

Carrier's Chilcotin salvage license was not cancelled; it has been suspended while negotiations continue.

The WSCA wants to emphasize that no harm was intended to Carrier Lumber. It has performed all silvicultural obligations on this and other licenses to high standards. Carrier's entrepreneurial an innovative ability to create products out of wood that other mills ignore has our respect.

Glen Wonders, Carrier's silviculture forester agreed to be a speaker at our 1993 WSCA Conference with Mike Wyeth of MOF and Steve Northway of MacMillan Bloedel to explore basic and intensive silviculture issues. Glen will report Carrier's experience with sanitation spacing under the silviculture regulation and some of the conflicts with other values that have arisen.

#### Chilcotin license cancelled

Note: From an MOF News Release, dated March 31, 1993.

A forest license in the Chilcotin was cancelled effective March 31, 1993 because the licensee failed to provide security for the performance of its basic silviculture obligations.

The license was granted to Carrier Lumber in 1983, in response to a mountain pine beetle epidemic, with an AAC of 500,000 cubic metres.

The license has been under suspension since last August and was originally due to be cancelled in January, however this was extended to March 31.

Under a 1987 amendment to the Forest Act, holders of forest license are required to carry out basic silviculture. The Forest Service may require a deposit to secure the performance of these obligations.

The licensee has appealed the regional manager's decision to cancel the license to the BC's chief forester.

"The Forest Service will consider its options for awarding new licenses but will not take any steps which may jeopardize the licensee's appeal," said Forests Minister, Dan Miller.

# Carrier responds to MOF

William Kordyban, Sr.

Note: This is from a media release by Carrier Lumber Ltd.

We object to the MOF characterizing our company as trying to avoid our silviculture obligation in the Chilcotin. Carrier Lumber Ltd. has completed all of its reforestation requirements to standards exceeding the provisions of its license. The dispute between Carrier and MOF is about Carrier's legal obligations. Carrier should be entitled to seek fair treatment without be characterized as the "bad guy."

Carrier Lumber Ltd. is not being treated fairly and equitably by MOF with respect to silviculture issues with its nonrenewable salvage license in the Chilcotin. The unfair treatment arises because the MOF has interpreted the Forest Act in a way that imposes penalties on licensees who harvest stands of low commercial value. The stumpage system grants allowances and deductions for stumpage to licensees harvesting stands of high commercial value which are not available to those harvesting stands of low commercial value.

The requirement to provide silviculture to a "free to grow" stage was imposed on our Chilcotin license after we had spent millions of dollars on an innovative idea to bring the mills to the logs, instead of the other way around. To develop our plan to log large stands of poor quality, beetle infested wood, we established saw mills in Holtry, Anaheim and Tatla. The plan brought 250 jobs to those communities and joint ventures were being undertake with local native bands. However, these all came to an end when Carrier was advised that we had to reforest to a free to grow state at our own expense without any deduction from stumpage payable. Such costs were never figured into our original cost analysis.

The system is extremely unfair. If subsidies are to be given for silviculture cost, they should be available to everyone. We simply want to be treated the same as other licensees. The Forest Act requires that the MOF provide a system of stumpage and royalty that is systematic and equitable. The system we have is anything but equitable and, if it is systematic then it is systematically unfair.

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# W Review of Elements of a Timber Supply Analysis

F.L.C. Reed, Forest Policy Research Professor

Note: These are the general comments from a response to Steve Northway's paper Elements of a Timber Supply Analysis (ETSA) that was originally prepared for the Port Alberni MOF District Office,. The detailed analysis that includes a set of annotations on the text of ETSA is available on request from the WSCA office. The full text of Elements of a Timber Supply Analysis appears in the last issue of the WSCA newsletter.

A Background

First, the pressing issue faced in the district is much broader than the Clayoquot portion of TFL 44. The real challenge is to cope with a worsening timber supply crisis which threatens Port Alberni, thousands of workers and many businesses.

Second, there are two sets of criteria appropriate to silviculture policy and programming in the district. One is standard corporate financial analysis, what is called the economics of the

firm. It is primarily micro-economic in nature. The other set relates to conservation of public forests and to the broader macro-economic framework.

Both sets are valid in their specific context.

Third, there are two types of timber supply analysis: stand level and forest

level. Again, both are valid. In my view, however, we should focus on the forest level impact of intensive silviculture on

harvest scheduling, value and costs, not just on volume impact in a single stand.

Fourth, the key is to have a reasonably good data base. It is not really sensible to talk of intensive forestry in the absence of knowledge about site class, stem density, species mix, etc. My

contacts say that there are plenty of stands in the region which would respond well to intervention at ages of say 30-40 years. I believe there is

enough knowledge at the local level already to confirm that we should move ahead without delay.

Fifth, it is my firm conviction that there are tens of thousands of hectares of undermature forests in the Port Alberni

undermature forests in the Port Alberni district and adjacent ones. If an orderly examination fails to come up with

promising candidate stands in TFL 44, then we should automatically widen the geographic scope of the study to those within say 100 miles of the city.

General analysis

ETSA is generally accurate, as far as it goes. There is little that can be challenged on technical grounds.

However, it is largely irrelevant to the timber supply crisis on Vancouver Island's west side. It does not explore the potential for closing the age class gap by intensive forestry: pre-commercial thinning (PCT), commercial thinning (CT) and fertilizing.

The general comments itemized below speak to the issue of relevance.

- The paper is written from the standpoint of a corporation which has:
  - ample timber for existing manufacturing capacity.
  - no plans to expand, but rather expect to shut down some capacity and use more recycled fibre
  - Their supply has no apparent age class gap, although no statement is made about the timber inventory specifications.
- There is no discussion of the criteria normally considered by a public land manager. For example:
  - Net impact on the provincial treasury of various silviculture programs.
  - Employment and community stability.
  - Sustainable growth in the economy.
- Corporate financial analysis is referred to, but no detail is given on assumptions, method, or results. Nor do we know what corporate objectives are at the forest level.
- 4. Intervention in existing natural stands is only mentioned under "spacing", presumably Juvenile or early spacing.

- 5. No consideration is given to precommercial thinning, commercial thinning and fertilizing, either singly or in combination, in a middle aged natural stand of 30-50 years.
- 6. Would the analysis not be vastly different if the corporate objective were to forestall closure of existing modern mills, or even to increase production to take advantage of higher product prices in expanding markets.

Finally, my comments are not intended to be unduly critical of the author of the paper. I am told that there is little to criticize on technical grounds, although he is excessively conservative for my taste. But I do question the relevancy of the paper for the timber supply crisis at hand.

# Article omits spacing realities

N. MacNab

Note: This letter was received by the WSCA on Jan 14, 1993.

The Fall/Winter 1992 issue of the WSCA Newsletter includes an article by Steve Northway that promotes the M&B lack of interest in spacing. The graph on page 18 citing a meagre 10% volume increase for spaced stands is a sobering reality.

However, when I space stands, the last thing on my mind is future stand volume. What spacers really do is to select the best, healthiest, most suitable tree to let stand and cut the rest to leave as mulch and fertilizer. How is it that this aspect is so conveniently omitted from the article. Also, the hardwoods that are cut when a stand is spaced can cause severe damage to crop trees if left standing.

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# **WSCA Mail Recieved**

# **Forestry Training Advisory Group**

Colene Wood, Manager of Training and Extension, Silviculture Branch

Note: This letter was received by the WSCA on Ian 14, 1993.

The Silviculture Branch supports the efforts of the WSCA to improve the knowledge of silviculture practitioners. The WSCA Newsletter s an excellent vehicle to report on meetings and seminars and to inform the readers of the current status of Forest Service programs.

The Fall/Winter 1992 Newsletter included an article entitled "Forestry Training Advisory Group" that contained several statements that require clarification.

First, Don Whiteside was incorrectly identified as being affiliated with the **BC Forestry Continuing Studies** Network. He is a consultant who provides valuable services to many different agencies involved in forestry. Most recently he was under contract with the Silviculture Branch, coordinating various projects under the Forestry Worker Training Program (FWT).

Second, the formation of a Forestry Training Advisory Group has been considered as one of the options by which the Forest Service, individuals and other agencies can collaborate. The "Interim Operating Plan" which was mailed to you in November, identified a target completion date of Dec. 31, 1992 for establishing proposed terms of reference and membership. The intent has always been to consider this option in the 1993/94 fiscal year, not March 1992, as stated in the article.

We plan to keep the WSCA informed of the progress of various initiatives under the FWT program as well as considering the Association a key participant.

### **Contract payment** provisions

John Cuthbert, Chief Forester

Note: This letter was received by the WSCA on Jan 13, 1993. The 1992 Fall/Winter WSCA Newsletter (page 21) has the WSCA lobbying efforts on double jeopardy.

Thank you for your letter of Oct. 8, 1992, expressing the concerns of some of your members on the quality checking and payment provisions of Industry Outstanding contracts.

In reference to your concern over the inclusion of the clause, "payment is subject to MOF approval," the Ministry has in the past given specific direction to licensees against using such a clause. Given such direction, I would reiterate that it is the Ministry's intention that contracts for work between licensees and contractors shall not be referenced to the MOF in any way. I appreciate and am sympathetic to your concerns, but I also feel that it is the responsibility of your members not to enter into contracts if they are not satisfied with the contract conditions.

Contracts between the MOF and licensees for work funded under the Industry Outstanding program have payment and work quality provisions as specified in Ministry policies and procedures. However, I do not feel that it is the place of the MOF to direct the administration of contracts outside of those in which the Ministry is a direct

As for your suggestion that planting contractors deal directly with the MOF, it is my position that contracts for tree planting on Industry Outstanding areas will continue to be between the licensee and the planting contractor, with no involvement by the Ministry.

Editor's Note: The WSCA is grateful for the \$1400 Silviculture Branch Training and Extension contributed towards workshops at the WSCA AGM. This is a start on training career silviculture practitioners. But it is small indeed compared to the \$50 million being spent through BC 21 to train new entrants into the industry.

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