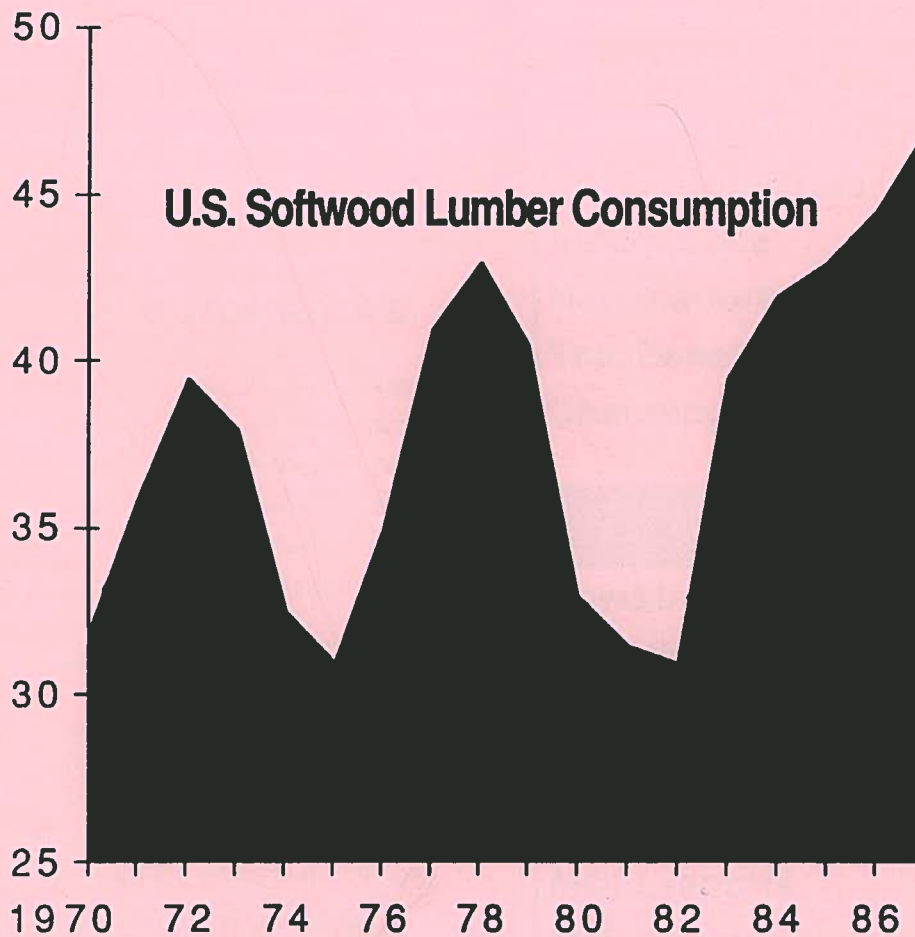




# WSCA Newsletter

Fall 1987



## The new shape of Silviculture funding?

# Western Silvicultural Contractors Association

## Newsletter Fall 1987

### WSCA Executive

President	Carl Loland	964-9543
Chairman & Editor	Dirk Brinkman	521-7771
Treasurer	Tony Harrison	222-1945
Director	Tony Greenfield	885-5539
Newsletter Coordinator	Gordon Murray	877-1403
Technical & Survey Rep.	Doug Hearn	

### Regional Coordinators

Vancouver	Ron Jensen	888-6188
Prince George	Richard Dunn	963-8364
Cariboo	Doug Potkins	243-2361
Prince Rupert	Allan Bahen	846-5738
Kamloops	Ross Styles	376-0830
Nelson	Dave Jenkinson	226-7611

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**WSCA Newsletter**  
**#310—1070 W. Broadway**  
**Vancouver, B.C.**  
**V6H 1E7**  
**736-8660**

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## news briefs...brief news...news brief...brief news

### Nurseries face the Unknown

The government has been talking about pulling out of their long term contracts with private nurseries because these contracts interfere with a free market-place. Nursery growers are expecting only 60% of last years seeding order because foresters will try to depend more on natural regeneration and go to area base contracts (which require fewer seedlings than per tree contracts to cover the same area).

### WSCA AGM Jan. 14 & 15

The 1988 WSCA Annual General Meeting is Thursday Jan. 14th and Friday Jan. 15th. Thursday will be a convention open to the public with the theme:

***Free growing— The new forest policy.***

Friday Jan. 15th will feature Association business and problem solving workshops. Saturday will be available for Regional Chapter meetings and WSCA committee meetings.

### Herbicide Liability

The MOFL has agreed to take on all the liability for accidental herbicide spills and exposures. This relieves application contractors and forest companies from the increasingly difficult task of obtaining expensive insurance coverage against herbicide claims. We'll see if the MOFL-ICBC saves the government more in insurance premiums than it costs them in liability claims.

### Stumpage + Export Tax

In a letter to the editor of the *Sun* Forests & Lands Minister Dave Parker stated that the new forest policy came into effect Oct. 1st, despite the fact that the federal government is still collecting the 15% export tax. He concluded: "The provincial government must now convince the federal government that the measures taken in our new forest policy are more than sufficient to eliminate the softwood lumber tax."

### Adjustment Committee Report

The Silviculture Joint Adjustment Committee has a 1" thick report on human resource issues in the Industry. It is a collection of industry data, contractor and planter surveys, analysis of silviculture outside B.C., and some recommendations. All WSCA members will be getting a copy of this \$50,000 study when it is printed. The next issue of the newsletter will feature the committees recommendations.

### Summer Prices Nosedive

After the 30% increase in the 1987 spring prices most contractors were taken by surprise when summer bids in the P.G. region dropped 30%. Capitalising on a surplus of unemployed planters, some contractors appear to have dropped their bids to try to recover from a poor spring with more work.

### Spring prices same as 86?

Bill Williams, Silviculture Coordinator for P.G. region estimates that the average production for Spring '87 was 20-25% lower than the average production in Spring '86. This suggests there was no real increase in the dollars per day brought in by the planter despite an increase in bid prices of 30%.

eg. 20 cents x 1050 = \$210

26 cents x 800 = \$208

The example shows that a decrease in production of 24% requires a 30% price increase to keep the daily gross revenue brought in by your crew the same.

### Give What Your Paid For

1987's lower production is ascribed to the higher number of inexperienced planters. It was at least in part also a response to the checkers, who, paying more, wanted more. In past years sympathetic checkers have overlooked minor infractions in recognition of a tough price the crew was working with.

### Late Flash

Premier Vander Zalm has announced that all MOFL Nurseries will be privatized. Ministry staff will also be cut 20-30%. It is unclear at press time if the nursery employees represent the staff cuts or if there is an additional 30% cut. Details next issue.



# Editorial

## The Golden Rule

"Those who have the gold, make the rules!"

### Green Gold

Those who have the green gold make the rules.

This was amply illustrated with the new forest policy direction.

The new forest policy is genuinely progressive and is creating great excitement in the silviculture industry. As far away as the Stanford Research department, agendas were changed to anticipate the opportunities created by 100% reforestation accountability for free-growing plantations being placed on the companies. Other provinces are rethinking their forest policy to follow this lead.

Dave Parker is to be congratulated on his bold new direction in government administration of public forest land. All of North America can expect similar legislation in the future.

### Fire, Ready, Aim

"Too much, too fast" is the most common criticism.

The surprise redirection of Forest Policy with little input from the Ministry's staff has left many urgent questions of interpretation unanswered. It did preempt insiders from taking advantage of privileged information. In my discussions with various businesses contemplating a venture in British Columbia, I have often heard that long term investments are not secure because of the volatile political climate. Such an abrupt radical change could further increase the unease of business looking at opportunities in B.C..

### The Gold Changes Hands

While the contractors were nodding off in the viewing crummies, Parker handed the empty gold bag to the lumber companies.

There are no guarantees that the companies will have gold to put in the bag.

It is sure that for the contractor the laws of silviculture will be made by the companies.

Since foresters will also be accountable for how these laws have a direct influence on the price we can expect some changes in the rules.

## The Rules Become More Flexible

Company rule-maker will be:

- Accountable for current and future costs of the project:
  - common-sense flexibility has a higher likelihood to prevail
- In the slash with the contractor and crew:
  - rules can be more practically suited to site specific problems
- accountable for free growing end-results:
  - the balance of priorities will change so that resolving survival and growth related issues (eg. plantable spot) will become intense and resolving non-survival and growth related issues (eg. spacing) will relax.

### Bladder Beware

Victoria's golden rules, while exact, reflected a British sense of fair play. Fair-play is a luxury business cannot always afford. (See cover.)

The risk of non-payment due to a sluggish economy will become a new cost factor in silviculture contracting. Reports and analysis of B.C. licensees' quarterly profits may become a regular feature in the newsletters.

### The Window for Change

There is a biological window for changes in silviculture rules: before new contracts are viewed and after the old contracts are finished. For most of the B.C. interior, the window for change is August to September. (Eg. In 1986 Silviculture Branch decided to stop root trimming in February, after all the contracts had been let. Announcing this new rule outside the window resulted in a partial reversal of the rule plus compensation for untrimmed roots.)

### Through A Glass Darkly

The specific effects of the new forest policy will only be clear when cabinet approves a new version of Forest legislation.

This is clearly going to be outside of the 1987-8 window for change. Spring planting contract commitments are now being made. We can only hope the final legislation has few new surprises.

# WSCA Treasurer's Report

*Tony Harrison*

1987 has been a very successful year so far for the WSCA budget. We now have 70 signed and paid members with a target of 60 for the year. Expenditures thus far are on schedule and the newsletter has brought in the anticipated advertising income. Overall, the Association's 1987 financial picture bears little resemblance to the budgetary roller coaster of last year. With a more stable financial situation the main office was able to facilitate WSCA directors and members having a stronger influence on forest policy.

This is the second year that the Association office has been run by a secretarial service and it has proved to be very efficient and cost effective. The central office is the backbone of a communication network accessible to all members. This network has three components: the **main office**, the **regional coordinators**, and the **newsletter**.

## Main office

The main office has a phone (736-8660) that is answered by a receptionist (living and breathing, not an answering machine). Anything other than messages or basic questions are referred to the office manager, who in turn refers any calls that she is unable to answer to an appropriate member of the executive. All mail correspondence (# 310 — 1070 West Broadway, Vancouver) is collected and sorted. Rough breakdowns of phone calls and mail received are as follows:

### Phone calls

• job enquiries	35 %
• advertisers	30 %
• membership business	25 %
• misc.	10 %

### Mail

• MOFL memos & announcements	35 %
• advertisers	30 %
• newsletter and member business	25 %
• misc.	10 %

All written information received is distributed on a weekly basis in packages sent to the regions, newsletter coordinators, and directors. A more condensed summary is distributed directly to all members through the newsletter, notices and

special packages or announcements (e.g. New Forest Policy, National Forest Strategy). Remember: any letter received by the main office reaches everyone in one week.

## Regional coordinators

The regional coordinators are kept up to date by weekly information packages sent to them from central office. They are elected by the members in their region on or before the annual general meeting and are also members of the central executive. Under the WSCA constitution there must be a minimum of three paid members to define a region.

## Newsletter

The newsletter is sent out four times a year to all silvicultural contractors in B.C. and Alberta along with all district and regional offices of the B.C.F.S., Licensees, V.I.P.s, and paid subscribers. The newsletter is receiving compliments (and subscriptions) from as far away as Ontario.

## Member input and output

All members have access to information through their regional coordinator, the main office, and the newsletter. As well as receiving the output of other members any individual is able to input ideas and direction quickly and effectively by phone or mail. **Your comments will be read by all regions, directors, and newsletter personnel by the following week.** This is an inexpensive means of reporting problems, solutions, events, gripes, ideas, and insights.

A number of contractors in non-planting silviculture activities (surveys, herbicides, site preparation, spacing) have expressed interest in forming chapters of the WSCA specific to their activity. They could then work together on issues specific to their interests. A diversity of interests and involvement can only strengthen the Association in the long run.

The mechanism now exists for silvicultural contractors to positively affect the future of reforestation in Western Canada, so let's use it!

# Job Creation in the Marketplace

*Dirk Brinkman*

## **Federal Directive**

An early 1987 Job Creation directive from Ottawa has eliminated the specific allocation for expenditures in Forestry. All applications are now on a first come first served basis. The national priorities for job creation are now **culture and tourism**.

Silviculture proposals in competition with painting the town hall, parks, etc. will be in for an uneven ride.

One immediate product of this new directive was the elimination of the Canadian Forest Service department that recommended projects.

## **Industry Temptations**

With the forest renewal responsibilities placed squarely on the shoulders of the harvesting industry, the temptation to use job creation to get the job done for free will arise.

This thorny issue must be treated by the new forest policy.

## **The New WSCA Position?**

I propose the following WSCA position: all current silviculture work (up to free growing) on private and crown lands be out of bounds for job creation. Work targeted by the FERDA agreement could also be inelligible.

This would leave some back-log work, disease control, pruning, fertilizing and other activities. This opening position is controversial because foresters and contractors do not agree on the value of job creation programs.

## **Funding Mosaic**

There is a continually shifting funding mosaic in silviculture. The balance has been radically shifted by the new forest policy, so we need to define a new mosaic for silviculture funding.

We need a meeting of WSCA, COFI, MOFL, CEIC and PRWA representatives define the boundaries for various funding sources.

## **Forestry Job Creation Lobby**

The loss of a specific allocation for forestry clearly makes a strong lobby action urgent for

British Columbia. A lot of good work has been done, work that otherwise would not get done. This lobby must be supported by a united forest and silviculture industry.

We have many issues to work out!

If you are interested in developing a WSCA position on job creation money, please contact Tony Harrison or myself.

# More on the Silviculture Branch's 'A' rating

*Dirk Brinkman*

## **Double A Rating**

In the last issue we gave the Silviculture Branch an A-rating for bureaucratic delay. Public Servants in Silviculture Branch and throughout the Regional and District offices deserve the Bureaucracy A-rating, not for the governments delays, but for the incredible work load they have successfully handled in the last five years.

## **Megaworkload**

From 1982 to 1987 the silviculture budget grew from \$88 million to \$235 million.

During this growth period the Silviculture Branch had to follow the changing directions of six ministers. This included getting completely restructured (everybody move desks) twice and down sized (20%) twice.

The new forest policy direction is the largest change in duties they have ever faced. If anyone can effectively audit industry forest renewal accounts they can. They are going to need the good will of the silviculture industry to succeed.



# Free-growing Guarantees

*Dirk Brinkman*

## Are End-results Guaranteed?

One of the most unusual features of the new forest policy direction is its end-results free-growing context for industry's regeneration responsibilities. The Forests Minister, Dave Parker, announced that tenure holders will have to regenerate all logged sites (to a targeted species mix, stocking density, and free growing timetable). In the announcement there was no mechanism to guarantee that companies perform their regeneration duties. Such a mechanism is currently being formulated.

## Why Guarantees?

An effective and simple guarantee mechanism is elusive because of the huge amount of the work that needs to be guaranteed, the uncertainty of regeneration success, and the long timetable of regeneration. The pre-harvest silviculture plan is, it appears, a contractual commitment, but there needs to be some mechanism to enforce it.

### *A Long Wait*

It could be up to sixteen years from the Preharvest Silviculture Prescription (PSP) to free growing. The PSP is drawn up a year before the harvest, this could be followed by up to a four year "wait and see" regeneration lag (acceptable on some sites), ordering seedlings, planting, brushing, fill planting, etc. before you have a free-growing plantation.

### *The rocky road*

Forest product prices are cyclical. There are bound to be hard times ahead for the forest companies. Some analysts predict that within five years 35% of the current harvesting industry will be retired due to a lack of economically harvestable stands. This uncertain future requires a mechanism (which is not affected by the market) to guarantee the regeneration performance of companies.

## Section 52 Inappropriate

In the past, licensees that did not practice good forest management were threatened with the loss of their forest license. That was such a big stick that no Forest Ministry has ever imposed the penalty. The penalty must fit the fault.

## Security Deposits

One obvious solution is some sort of security deposit, a trust fund or a performance bond. The old forest policy required a deposit (10¢ per c-unit) for the right to harvest. The amount could be adjusted to cover the estimated regeneration cost.

### *How Much Security Is Needed?*

The size of the deposit should be adequate to deter neglect. Deposits would have to anticipate that the average plantation success in the province is 76%. Averaging the risk of failure in each timber supply area could establish the initial security deposit requirement. For example, require an initial deposit of 50% of the estimated regeneration cost could apply in areas that have a history of 25% failure on treated sites.

### *Deposits Limit Maximum Regeneration Cost*

If the performance deposit or trust fund is tied to a specific cutting block that would limit the maximum enforceable cost of the total regeneration for that block to the amount of the deposit. This may leave settings with serious silvicultural problems in MOFL's hands and limit the risk of licensees.

### *Variable Security Deposits*

MOFL will be monitoring performance of licensee plantations over time. A variable security deposit adjusted based on license performance averaged over the claim and several years would provide an additional incentive to excell.

## Performance Bonds

The WSCA has recommended performance bonds. Bonds are issued to companies based on their financial stability and performance track record. Surety companies are very conservative and require that a company be reasonably sound.

### Long-term Performance Bond

Performance bonds, such as those used in the construction industry, seldom cover more than three years. Longer periods involve economic and other uncertainties.

### Performance Efficiency

Bonding plantation performance is a kind of "efficiency guarantee." The surety industry might have difficulty providing efficiency guarantees. Expert silviculture judgements are hard to evaluate. Surety companies will guarantee the installation of a pump with manufacturing specs of 30 PSI, but will not guarantee 30 PSI output at the tap. In silviculture the number of variable factors (weather, stock quality, etc., etc.) and the lack of performance data, makes it very difficult to guarantee the free-growing end-result.

## Stocking Performance Bond

Licensees will not only get a final free-growing audit. It will be obvious long before the free-growing audit whether or not there is a plantation on its way to becoming a free-growing plantation. This will be indicated by the stocking survey. Gaurenteeing stocking is a more manageable insurance bond. Planting contractors are supplied bonding for this today.

### Stocking Deposit

Failure to provide stocking at the stocking audit could kick in the deposit, trust fund or performance bond. The Ministry would then have an early response mechanism.

### Stocking Bond for Free-growing Amount

Tying the performance bond to the stocking survey eliminates the problem of "efficiency guarantees" and minimizes judgement disputes. The stocking survey does not consider the performance of the seedlings. The bond could still cover 100% of the anticipated free-growing cost. In this way a performance bond could provide a simple low-cost guarantee for the regeneration performance of the licensees. This would give the public some comfort that the regeneration program would not fluctuate with the lumber prices.

## Policy

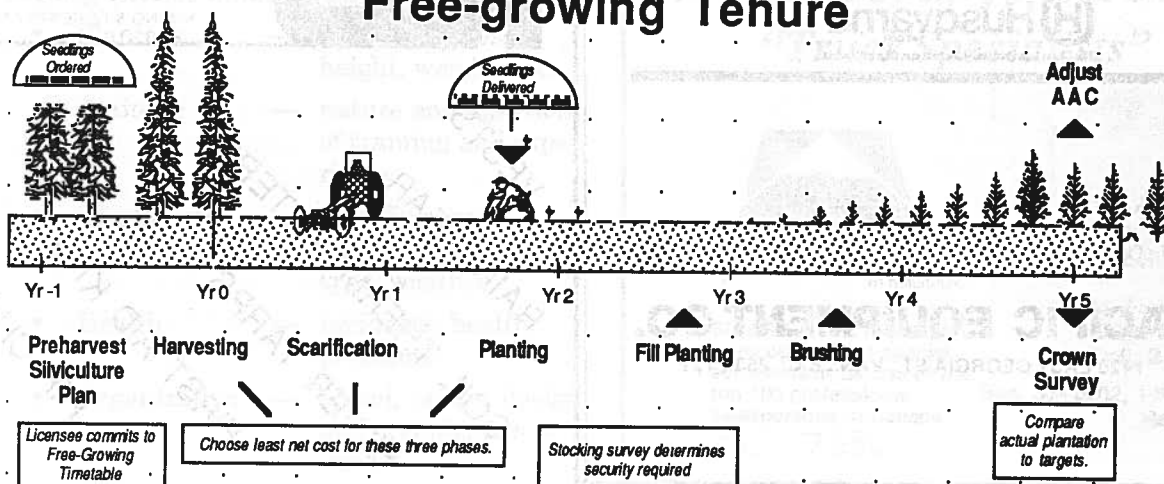
The actual guarantee mechanism is as secret as the new forest policy direction was.

Any mechanism that is built into the forest act will be debated and lobbied in the legislature before becoming law. Just how this audit and gaurentee process works will have a major impact on the contractors and planters. Once law it will be bent to the limit from time to time by some industry players.

### Amadeus

Composing a score which orchastrates the forest industry players this fall to produce "Forests Forever" in one month is one of the most challenging demands that has ever been placed on MOFLs' loyal civil servant. Is there a Mozart in silviculture branch?

## Free-growing Tenure





# Ergonomic Studies Continued

*Dave Jenkinson*

On June 9th, I attended a meeting at Simon Fraser University's Department of Kinesiology to discuss the a research project "Ergonomic/ Human Performance Evaluation of Backlog Reforestation Planting Work." The project is headed by Dr. Thomas Smith whose initial studies were presented at our last AGM and in summary in the Spring 87 newsletter.

This new project will take place over the next several years and will be funded by FRDA. A committee including MOFL and WSCA personnel will review the work periodically.

Under the 1985 joint Federal—B.C. agreement, \$140 million will be spent by 1990 for rehab and planting of 150,000 hectares of backlog sites. Obviously this will translate into a lot of jobs. Yet as Dr. Smith notes:

"Unfortunately, persistent health and safety, ergonomic, and organizational design problems in treeplanting work frequently make the job undesirable, dangerous, and debilitating, leading to a pervasive pattern of uneven planting productivity and quality, work related injury & illness, cumulative trauma and fatigue, occupational stress, burn-out, drop-out, and turnover. "the overriding rationale for this research project is that an understanding of the human performance demands of backlog planting work, enabling development of strategies for resolving some of the problems cited above, is crucial to the ultimate success of the provincial backlog-reforestation program."

The project's specific objectives are to evaluate planting productivity, efficiency and quality on backlog sites as influenced by such factors as:

- Planters — age, sex, fitness, height, weight, etc.
- Training — nature and duration of training and experience
- Site factors — screening, overgrowth, debris, stock type, weather
- Health — accidents, health problems
- Organization — travel, camps, design and organization of work

Studying these factors on-site will lead to recommendation for optimizing productivity, efficiency, quality, and health & safety of backlog planting work.

An interesting sub-objective of the research will be to improve the design and efficiency of current planting equipment, especially tools.

This project is underway now. Planting crews will be monitored throughout the summer and fall and then again beginning next spring.

Dr. Smith is very aware that contractors can't afford to sacrifice production to facilitate his research. He promises (and recent reports confirm) that research personnel will not hinder or slow planters. The researchers will be self-contained as necessary.

I urge all contractors approached to participate in this very valuable study, the results of which will enhance planting productivity and efficiency, as well as planters health and welfare.

## Buying or Leasing New or Used

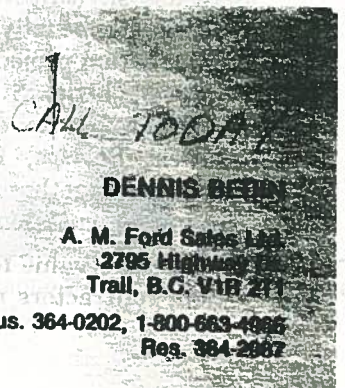
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# TREES - How many is enough?

Carl Loland

As a contracting community our interest is extremely strong when it comes to the following basic questions:

How many seedlings is enough?

How much money is available?

How is the money to be allocated?

Below are four criteria for allocation of funds for silviculture. Each has a different priority and a different cost per established tree. The number of seedlings that can be planted with a set budget will vary for each criterion.

- **Financial return:**  
Maximize the return on each dollar invested in silviculture.
- **Job Creation:**  
Provide the maximum number of jobs or provide jobs in selected locations.
- **Environmental :**  
• Reforest areas that require water control, erosion control, or have wildlife management objectives.
- **Aesthetics:**  
Reforest areas that are highly visible to the public.

As responsible contractors we feel that to choose only one of the above criteria would be folly as most reasonable management plans are a compromise of several options.

Maximizing only financial return will turn public opinion against those who work in the forests. I think that financial return will be the major consideration, but it should not be the only one as advocated by some in the industry.

To use silviculture solely as a job creation tool would also be folly. As contractors we have seen job creation projects waste money while achieving very little. Silviculture can be used for job creation but to achieve credible results, the Forest Service, Companies and Contractors must get together and formulate a better system of implementation.

To ensure value for dollars spent on reforestation, contractors must be the major players in

silviculture job creation projects. We have proven over and over that contracting is the cheapest and most efficient method of silviculture.

Ignoring environmental concerns in the 1980's does not bear contemplating. With all the different pressure groups lobbying for their respective causes, anyone dealing in silviculture treads on dangerous ground. Once deforestation has taken place it is up to us as contractors to voice our opinions on areas of environmental concern and encourage speedy silvicultural operations. Reforesting areas quickly will be minimize environmental impact.

On certain high visibility areas of the province, aesthetics become important. If the public sees no attempt to reforest, why should they believe those of us who say the job is being done but on better growing sites. Not only must the job be done properly, it must also be perceived as having been done properly.

The forest industry (of which we are a part) is still perceived by many people as timberminers who do not institute positive programs but react only to public pressure. This may or may not be true but perception is what counts.

Choosing the mix of criteria will be a political decision and as members of the public we will have some say in that decision. Each criterion has a different cost per established seedling. Because of limited funding, the proportions of the various criteria will affect the number of trees planted.

Some questions we must think about are:

- Do we want fewer, better planted and tended stock or larger numbers less carefully planted, what is the optimum?
- Do we mine large segments of the province and put all our funds in areas with high site index only?
- Do we keep up with current logging and ignore the backlog NSR or sacrifice some reforesting of current logging to reforest some of the better sites of the backlog?

- Do we commit sufficient funds to reforest all current logging and all backlog NSR?
- How are the funds to be obtained, who pays, who is responsible— these questions must be answered in order to do a more effective job with the limited funds available.
- What legacy do WE leave our grand-children?

How much are we replanting now? I'll throw out some numbers from the Prince George Region:

Area logged 1986:	54000 ha.
Est. to require planting:	75%
Ave. annual fire denudation:	23600 ha.
Est. to require planting:	20%
Basic backlog:	50000 ha.

Assuming we restock over the next 5 years, the annual area needing to be planted is:

54000 x .75	= 45000 ha.
23600 x .20	= 4700 ha.
50000 5	= 10000 ha.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= 55200 ha.</b>

At 1300 stems/ha, 72 million trees are required for each of the next five years. The 72 million covers basic silvicultural needs only. At present 72 million seedlings are being planted in the Prince George Region but 18 million are for intensive silviculture under the FRDA agreement. This means a shortfall of 18 million trees for basic silviculture in the region. To avoid adding to the present NSR we must plant 90 million seedlings a year. If similar conditions exist in other regions then the 200 million seedlings planted this year is still a long way from being enough.

As contractors we are in an ideal situation to pass information on to an interested and intelligent segment of the public. Several thousand students, young people, and silvicultural workers pass through our ranks every year. We must educate these people about why they are doing it, what has been done in the past, and what still remains to be done.

We should accentuate the positive aspects such as the tremendous advances over the past ten years in stock quality, stock handling, planting methods and quality control. But despite these improvements we have not yet reached Silviculture Nirvana.

## Steady State

*Dirk Brinkman*

One component of the recently completed Silviculture Program Review was a Steady State review. All the licensee foresters and Timber Supply area managers were asked to report how many hectares they needed to survey, site prep, plant, brush and space to regenerate the average area denuded annually.

Not long after receiving these figures, the MOFL announced the new forest policy. It requires companies to regenerate to their own suggested levels and to pay for it themselves.

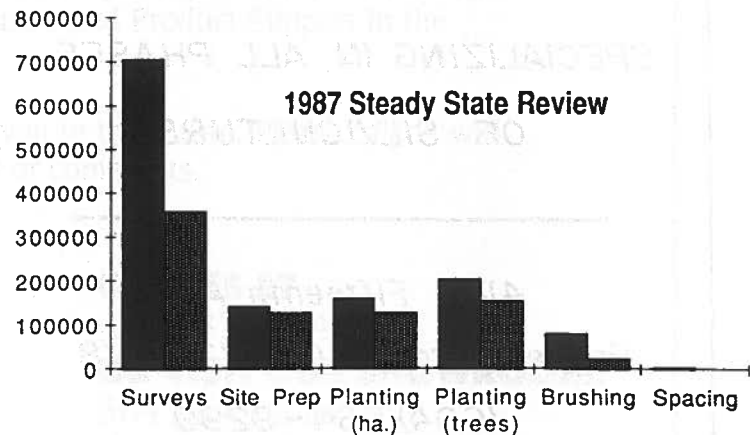
About same time, COFI mounted its "Forests Forever" "Reforestation Forever" public relations campaign, promising an industry commitment to 100% regeneration.

If the same numbers apply when industry pays as when government pays we should see the following increases in the steady state levels:

- Surveys to increase 348,000 hectares.
- Site preparation to increase 14000 ha.
- The planting program to increase 60 million seedlings.
- Brushing to increase 56000 hectares
- Spacing to increase 7000 hectares.

If the new forest policy can enforce these declared levels of silviculture there will be plenty of work for all contractors.

■ 1987 Steady State Plan ■ Currently Funded





# WSCA Regional Chapter Reports

## Vancouver Chapter Report

*Ron Jensen*

Congratulations! due to realistic bids reflecting true costs, the 1987 spring planting season has been the smoothest and most lucrative since the early 1980's. We were lucky with an early start up and very few delays due to being snowed out. Contracts did not become stacked up (as they did last year) but ran more or less one after the other, although earlier than scheduled. We cannot expect the same next spring as mother nature loves her surprises; the margin for risk due to weather should not be relaxed.

Also making our schedules easier this spring was the tendency for the MOFL and industry to wait for late contractors, or those not meeting production quotas, rather than their usual practice of going to the next highest bidder. This may have been due more to budget restrictions than a new attitude toward contractors.

Two major events affected the coastal spring planting this year. First, on Vancouver Island and in Rosedale District MOFL and industry refused bid prices and asked for re-tenders, or even worse, called contractors who had not originally bid to ask if they would do it for less. The results as I know them were that in Gold River the contractor and planters had a very hard time, and in Hope the job in the end cost close to if not more than the original lowest acceptable bid. The company also had a big and costly administrative headache. These kinds of actions will only make the MOFL and industry's quest for lower bids more difficult to attain: better to have a realistic view of the difficulties of a planting site and its other conditions and to try to improve on those difficulties than to alienate contractors.

The second important event was the 'dead root' problem of five million seedlings from Pelton's nursery. They were deemed plantable, then unplantable, then plantable again, without adequate warning to contractors. Contractors were mobilized, or already planting, when word came that the seedlings were not plantable. Plans were cancelled, planters sent home. Then a week later a good proportion of the seedlings were deemed plantable again, and crews had to re-mobilize and, again, schedules had to be juggled. Some of the five million were never

planted due to severe root damage, contracts were cut down in size or cancelled. Contractors who had been planning and spending for a set number of trees suddenly had less revenue to cover their expenses. A lot of these problems could have been avoided had the root damage been spotted earlier, the trees' plantability decided faster, and contractors warned sooner.

All contractors involved should have received compensation for expenses already incurred and for lost opportunity. The MOFL contract does include a falldown clause and some contractors were compensated. Others were disallowed any compensation. Many industry contracts do not include this clause and some companies flatly refused any compensation, while others did compensate for losses. We must work toward better compensation clauses to prevent such uneven responses from the MOFL and industry.

As we're coming into another viewing/bidding season keep in mind that many contractors, for the first time this year, experienced a profit after the owners' salaries. We have finally brought silviculture contracting into the realm of real business: let's not blow it.

## Resolutions from the Coast Regional Chapter meeting

*Reported by Tony Harrison*

### **Resolution 1:**

Training funds be made more readily available to contractors on an individual basis.

### **Resolution 2:**

The WSCA lobby Ministry and Licensees to stop retendering silviculture contracts that have arbitrarily been deemed to costly. This practice has a destabilizing effect on the silviculture industry and does not consider the viewing costs incurred by contractors.

### **Resolution 3:**

The WSCA central office invite more participation from outside agencies to document infractions of the WSCA code of ethics.

## Vancouver Region Report continued...

### Resolution 4:

The WSCA recommend that Licensees include a falldown clause verbatim to MOFL clause 31A.

### Resolution 5:

The falldown clause in Resolution 4 apply to loss of stock for any reason after the contract is signed.

### Resolution 6:

The WSCA lobby the B.C. Government to establish the following short-term silviculture goals:

- 100% reforestation
- Eliminate the NSR backlog by year 2000
- Enhance forest growth to exceed the annual denudation.

# Kootenay Chapter Report

Dave Jenkinson

Although the rain is pouring down in the Kootenays, the weather this Spring & Summer was excellent for both people and seedlings. The weather was a big factor in easing the contractor/planter shortfall many people had predicted for the 87 planting season. Planting began in early April and continued unabated until early July. This extended "planting window" allowed us to get all the trees in the ground with minimum fuss.

The early opening dates for most contracts (up to a month earlier than advertised) meant that some projects passed from one contractor to another. Both the Licensees and the Ministry were flexible and didn't hold the original contractor responsible if they couldn't make it. This is an excellent example of how cooperation can make things work.

This summer there were only 2 million trees to be planted in the Nelson Region. This resulted in much lower prices, with the majority of work going to Lower Mainland contractors who pay by the hour. This is one of the problems we'll be addressing in our upcoming Nelson Chapter meetings.

Some of the other topics we intend to discuss:

1. A full time (during the season) person on the WSCA payroll to:
  - spot check camps and WCB compliance
  - arbitrate payment disputes
  - inform planters & contractors of their rights
  - generally trouble-shoot for members
2. WSCA membership dues being based on a % of gross revenue, in order to pay for a troubleshooter and increase our lobbying power with the government and industry. At present the WSCA budget is tiny compared with other professional associations.

3. Some contractors are paying wages near one-half what most of us pay. Their employees aren't aware that they can expect more for what they do. We need to inform and educate planters in this regard— especially planters who currently have no lines of communication with us.

4. We need to increase the advantages of being a WSCA member. For example: Contractors in our region will be cooperating during the viewing season by providing rides for one another. We will have a seat fee and non-members will pay a higher fee.

5. Wording of quality clauses in the contract should be more specific so contractors know what to expect. For example, the screef clause specifies a foot square screef, but that can be (and is) interpreted many different ways. (Send any recommendations regarding contract changes to WSCA central. The contract committee is alive and well.)

6. The unaccounted for tree penalty has caused grief to many contractors. Faulty traverses and non-representative plot data cause a significant number of undeserved penalties. Even though the majority of penalties are dropped, they still cause unwarranted hardship to contractors whose hands and brains are already full. Perhaps area based contracts will make this a non-issue, but meanwhile contractors should familiarize themselves with their rights regarding re-inspection and new traverses.

Finally, congratulations to us all in pulling off this Spring's planting program that some said couldn't be done. Let's keep working together to ensure a successful future.

# Reports from the Ministry

## Camp Standards for 1988

Brian Storey

In accordance with the original (September 1986) "Memorandum of Understanding" between the Ministry of Forests and Lands and the Ministry of Health, the agreement on minimum standards for silviculture camps was reviewed this August. The agreement was renewed on September 4, 1987, and applies to all types of silviculture camps, not just planting.

Changes include mandatory refrigeration and dry rooms, minimum numbers of showers, privies and hand basins, and supply of potable water to the planting site. Improvements were also made to the kitchen equipment requirements including cleanable surfaces and cupboards for storage of dishes and utensils.

Both ministries agreed that the improvements in camp conditions evident this first year of the standards was more than expected. However, to quote Ministry of Health officials, "there is still a long way to go".

Their major complaints were in the areas of water supply, cleanliness of kitchens, food storage, and reporting of communicable diseases. Some planters are still contracting Giardiasis (Beaver Fever) from drinking water on the planting site or getting sick from dirty water bottles. They also intend to be far stricter on issuing authorization for the use of portable filtration systems. Boiling or hauling water from community water systems is by far the safest method of providing drinking water in camps.

One of the Ministry of Health's greatest concerns is with reporting of communicable diseases. Hospitals reported a significant number of illnesses among planters while camp operators reported only a few. Under B.C. Reg. 4/83 of the Communicable Disease Regulation, the Ministry of Health can and will lay charges against

camp operators who do not report disease outbreaks. The Workers' Compensation Board is also prepared to use its authority in disease prevention on work sites and issue instructions or fines should it be necessary.

Despite these concerns, Ministry of Health officials are pleased with the progress, and the sharp drop in the number of workers in hospitals proves our efforts are having a real effect. They look forward to the day when kitchens and sanitary facilities will be in trailers and restaurant standards will be a reality in our industry.

The following are changed clauses in the 1987 camp standards:

- 3.1.a An adequate supply of potable water shall be provided for drinking and food preparation purposes both at the camp and at the daily worksite.
- 3.4.a. Kitchen ... walls shall be smooth, durable, non-absorbant and maintained in a clean condition.
- 3.4.e Food preparation and dining surfaces shall be finished with a smooth, durable, non-absorbant and maintained in a clean condition.
- 3.7.c. Refrigeration equipment including a thermometer in each unit will be provided.
- 3.8.c. When not in use utensils, dishes, and kitchenware shall be stored in a cupboard to protect from insects, dirt and contamination.

# of persons	# privy seats	# showers	# wash basins
1 - 10	1	1	2
10 - 25	3	2	6
over 25	4	3	9



**Reports from the Ministry of Forests and Lands** continued ...**Silviculture Survey Courses 1987**

The Ministry of Forests and Lands, Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with the six Forest Regions, will be presenting a five-day Silviculture Survey Course throughout the Province in 1987.

**Beginning January 1, 1988, Ministry of Forest Silviculture Survey contracts will specify completion of this course as part of the survey eligibility requirements for a proportion of surveyors on each contract.**

Students should meet the following qualifications:

1. University degree in forestry or equivalent with two years silviculture experience or
2. Technical school forestry diploma with 2 years silviculture experience or
3. Five years (seasons) silviculture experience.

Silviculture experience shall be deemed to include employment in silviculture surveys, planting prescriptions, site preparation assessments, administration of planting, brushing & weeding, and juvenile spacing projects. A substantial part of the experience should be in silviculture surveys.

**Schedule for Silviculture Survey Courses**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Kamloops	Kamloops	Sept 28 - Oct 2
Prince George	Prince George	Oct. 5 - 9
Prince Rupert	Prince Rupert	Oct. 19-23
Nelson	Cranbrook	Oct. 19 - 23
Prince George	Prince George	Oct. 26 - 30
Vancouver	Vancouver	Nov. 2-6

The specific locations and times will be advertised by local colleges and in the Vancouver Sun. For more information on course schedules or content please contact your local college or the MOFL Regional Surveys Coordinator.

**Please note that this is the last year that the Ministry will be subsidizing the course presentation. It is planned that future presentations will be privatized and increased student costs are expected.**

**Performance Bonds**

*Charlie Johnson*

The currently acceptable forms of security for silviculture contracts are:

**Bid Securities**

- cash
- "certified" cheque (and "official" cheque)
- bank (or postal) money order
- bank draft

**Performance Securities**

- cash
- "certified" cheque (and "official" cheque)
- bank draft
- bank (or postal) money order
- Receipt and Agreement Form (FS 500) if properly filled out and accompanied by appropriate documentation
- Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit
- Performance Bond for 50 percent of contract value (Note that for multi-year contracts with a number of "active" and "inactive" periods, a performance bond for 15 percent of total contract value is acceptable).

We trust this will clarify the situation.

**Electronic Bids**

Only **changes** to sealed tenders are permitted by electronic communication such as "fax" or "telex." Such changes should **not** state the original bid price but only the amount by which the bid is to be raised or lowered.

In general, legal documents may not be communicated by "fax" although some types of notices may be acceptable where the communication is important and not the document.

## Reports from the Ministry of Forests and Lands continued...

### Revised Tendering Guidelines for Ministry Contracts

In response to appeals from both contractors and licensees, Silviculture project tendering guidelines have been revised (in consultation with Treasury Board) as summarized in the Table below.

Effective immediately, Ministry and Section 88 contract solicitations may proceed in accordance with these guidelines.

These are interim conditions for Ministry silviculture contracts awarded by 'Select Invitation' method of competition. In the near future more specific procedures will be developed concerning the establishment and use of "select lists" (i.e., "Qualified Contractors" list, from which some parties would be contacted and invited to submit bids/proposals.)

Until such procedures are available, staff are cautioned that repetitive or frequent awards to one or a few contractors can be expected to result in charges of favouritism. Staff should, therefore observe that:

- "Select lists" of eligible contractors should be established through advertising. If Responsibility Centres do not currently have such formal lists established, they should proceed with appropriate advertising as soon as possible. In the meantime, any local, or other known qualified contractors may be invited to submit offers on available projects.
- Parties interested in providing contract services in an activity should, at any time, have the opportunity to have their name placed on a "select list" for subsequent consideration.
- Parties invited to submit offers must be selected from "lists" in an objective and equitable manner. Suggest parties be invited on a rotational basis, bearing in mind both the number of bid opportunities offered as well as the sizes/values of projects associated with such opportunities.

### Revised Project Advertising Requirements

<b>Previous</b>		<b>Revised</b>	
<u>Contract Limit</u>	<u>Min. Solicitation Requirements</u>	<u>Contract Limit</u>	<u>Min. Solicitation Requirements</u>
Less than \$5,000	<b>Direct Award</b> <i>Solicit one bid: negotiate with contractor of choice</i>	Less than \$25,000	<b>Direct Award</b> <i>Solicit one bid: negotiate with contractor of choice</i>
\$5,000-\$25,000	<b>Local Advertising</b> <i>Local newspaper, posted notices</i>	\$25,000-\$150,000	<b>Selective Invitation</b> <i>Solicit written bids from minimum of 3 contractors</i>
over \$25,000	<b>Province-wide Advertising</b> <i>(Vancouver newspaper)</i>	over \$150,000	<b>Province-wide Advertising</b> <i>(Vancouver newspaper)</i>

**Note:** *It is interesting that this announcement, issued on Sept 11, reached many licensees and Ministry offices about the same day as the new forest policy announcement. Naturally, many foresters thought they were looking at some of the details of the new forest policy. Oh well.*

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# The National Forest Sector Strategy

## Arriving at a Strategy

*Dirk Brinkman*

On July 28, 1987 in St. Johns, a final draft of the National Forest Sector Strategy was concluded. Since the beginning of 1985, I have been privileged to participate in four of the six National Forest Sector Forums. These were intense microcosms of all interest groups involved in the forest. The Canadian democratic process sometimes diluted important issues through awkward compromise and sometimes created opportunities for inspired leadership and direction.

I found the independent resolutions of the various interest groups often evolved into a satisfying consensus. All the dynamics of the conflicting opinions could be taken into account. It was both an education and a consensus process.

The silviculture resolutions that I presented met a lot of controversy and disagreement or misunderstanding. After the first session in Halifax in 1985, I set four goals as my priority focus:

1. The level of silviculture activity must increase to be adequate for a sustainable supply of forest resources for all uses.
2. Career opportunities in silviculture must be more year-round, local and satisfying.
3. Job creation in silviculture must not displace the existing contracting industry.
4. An "end-results" free-growing perspective must shape future forest policy.

All four of these goals are reflected as resolutions in the final National Forest Strategy.

The first two did not become resolutions until the last hour of these sessions. Then only thanks to the support from the PEI Contractors Association representative and the sympathy of the industry veterans for our young industry.

The meetings were my first occasion for buying a dress suit and the first time I wore a tie since becoming a contractor. Entering these sessions was not like walking into the BC Minister of Forests office where my role is precast.

Jack Munroe, upon first greeting me in Nova Scotia in 1985 bellowed "does this look like a dog gawned recycled hippie to you?"

*The following excerpts are passages relevant to silviculture from the final draft of the National Forest Sector Strategy.*

## A Commitment to Forest Management

Sustained yield or sustainable development has different meanings for different people, but essentially requires the application of management to provide for a continuity of supply.

What is essential to understand is that sustainable development carries with it an implicit obligation for management, including forest renewal. Management activities require defined objectives in concrete and measurable terms. Clear objectives are the responsibility of the land-owner, the public in the case of Crown Lands. It is also essential to understand that the forest may not be in a condition, in terms of species, age, location and distribution, to provide the benefits desired immediately without considerable manipulation over time.

It is recommended that all elements of the forest sector assist in the development of provincial conservation strategies, endorse these principles where appropriate, and ensure that forest management goals and practices meet requirements for sustainable development.

As a means of its implementation:

It is recommended that the forest sector expand its commitment to forest management, including forest renewal, and work together to define objectives for the management of specific forest areas.

## Wood Supply and Other Benefits

Problems associated with wood supply are local and regional. They are related to access, age-class distribution of the forest, specific requirements of industries and changing economics of the margin for profitable management.

The age-class structure of the Canadian forest never was, and is not now, balanced to meet our needs over time.



Given a clear set of objectives and the determination to undertake the management activities necessary to meet those objectives, the "old forest" can, through allocation, protection and access, be regulated to last longer and the "new forest" can, through intensive silvicultural practices, be brought to optimal growth rates to mitigate problems of missing middle age classes. These processes of harvest, protection, intensive silviculture along with access will be necessary to provide raw materials for industry and a diversity of habitat for wildlife and recreation.

### **Silviculture**

Silviculture is the art and science of growing forest crops. It is the means by which forests are put into a condition to sustain desired benefits. Time is an important factor to consider when determining the intensity of silvicultural practice required to meet management objectives. Given enough time, natural processes working in forest ecosystems will regenerate land after any disturbance and the trend of these processes will be to a stable climax type of forest. The increased demand for forest benefits since WWII has led to large investments in access, plant and equipment. Cost factors such as transportation, energy and labour have become more acute.

**It is recommended that more intensive levels of silviculture be practiced to sustain the levels of benefits now expected from each forest area.**

Expenditures on silviculture have increased many-fold in the last few decades. There is a continuing concern that much more needs to be done. Because of the factor of time, specific requirements of industries, and an ever-changing determination of the economic margin for profitable management, rational decisions on the intensity of silviculture necessary to meet management objectives require a comprehensive and systematic economic wood supply analysis for each region and forest area in Canada. From this analysis, alternative wood supply plans can be developed, and silvicultural requirements determined for each. A number of analyses have been attempted by various agencies in the past, but have been hampered by the lack of reliable growth and yield information, particularly for managed and man-made forests.

**It is recommended that forestry knowledge and techniques continue to be developed to ensure that silvicultural treatments are ecologically sound, cost effective and efficient.**

## **Employment**

The forest sector currently employs almost 300,000 Canadians directly and accounts for a further 475,000 jobs elsewhere in the economy.

For the past 30 years, the volume of timber harvested and processed has roughly doubled, whereas the number of people employed in the industry has remained virtually unchanged.

### **Employment In Silviculture**

Intensification of silviculture work is increasing the scope for employment opportunities in silviculture. The silviculture work force has consisted largely of people who are hired on a part-time basis each spring to plant seedlings. On the other hand, there are some 350 contracting companies that offer not only tree planting services, but also stand tending and other silviculture-related services. Early experience with the quality of the planting performed by contract was disappointing; however, working conditions and contract performance requirements have become more stringent, forcing efficiency improvements, cost reductions, adoption of business methods, and fewer contracting companies. However, the achievement of viable year-round or nearly year-round employment in silviculture remains a challenge.

The silviculture industry is a permanent economic feature and should be considered as such.

**It is recommended that the sector extend the work season where practical and will work towards developing a stable industry to attract people who will elect to make a career in silviculture. Full-time, professional forest workers will make the achievement of acceptable standards of silviculture work more likely.**

**It is recommended that employment creation projects be consistent with forest management objectives. Care should be taken not to displace existing silviculture businesses.**

Employment opportunities could be better expanded through placing more priority on their timber yields and less on the number of trees planted and on reliance on temporary job creation, and through discouraging discretionary budgeting for silviculture programs.

**It is recommended that the forest sector encourage and work towards awarding contracts for silvicultural work on an end-result basis.**

# Forest Industries Safety Association

*Dirk Brinkman*

The Alberta Forest Products Association is organizing an Alberta Forest Industries Safety Association (AFISA)

The number of days lost to accidents in the past nine years exceeds 40,000. These statistics do not adequately describe the amount of human pain and suffering which accidents create.

This association will develop programs and provide services which will assist members to prevent work related accidents. They will be directed at a full cross section of the forest industry with special emphasis on firms with 0-9 employees. These companies often do not have the expertise or personnel to undertake safety programs. Silviculture contractors could do well to note how this program is being planned.

It is estimated that AFISA members can achieve a 10% annual reduction in accident frequencies. Members can collectively anticipate an annual saving of \$1,046,000 in direct benefits (i.e. reduced WCB assessments). A further \$3,138,000 can be achieved by preventing accidents which

cause indirect losses i.e. loss of production and retraining costs etc.

Funding to establish the Association will be obtained from a 1.86% increase in your **gross** WCB assessment. This means that if your rate was \$5.73 per hundred dollars of payroll it will now be **\$5.84** per hundred dollars of payroll.

This seems like a small price to pay for a decrease in lost time accidents and the eventual adjustment in the reforestation rate category now in effect in B.C. I recommend that the WSCA form a committee to pursue safety and prevention and that a long term goal be negotiating a similar arrangement with WCB in British Columbia for the silviculture industry.

In the mean time I intend to support this initiative in Alberta. If a majority support it, Alberta WCB will divert funds into the proposed AFISA.

If you are interested in the program contact:

Arden Rytz, AFPA Exec. Director  
204 - 11710 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5  
Telephone (403) - 452-2841

## B.C.F.A. Announces New Officers

### *New BCFA President*

British Columbia Forestry Association announced the appointment of Mr. R. (Bob) Cavill to the position of President. Mr. Cavill will succeed Mr. W. (Bill) Young who is leaving the association after three years in the presidency.

Mr. Cavill has had considerable experience in the forest sector, including a staff position with the Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association in Kelowna, B.C.

The British Columbia Forestry Association is a non-profit organization involved in forest education and public information programs.

The WSCA salutes Bill Young for being an levelheaded champion of good forest management and a outspoken public advocate of the need for forest renewal during his tenure.

### *BCFA Forestry Education Foundation*

John G. Murray, Vice President of Crestbrook Forest Industries, has been elected Chairman of the British Columbia Forestry Association Education Foundation. Mr. Murray succeeds Grant L. Ainscough, Vice President and Chief Forester of MacMillan Bloedel. Barney Lukas, Director of Public Affairs at Weyerhaeuser, has assumed the position of Vice President.

Murray pledges to continue to administer and build a permanent endowment for the support of programs in forest education. On his appointment, he said "We are concerned to see that coming generations are equipped with the knowledge and understanding to use and manage [our forest resource] wisely."

*Inquiries? Contact:*

Patricia Butts  
BCFA

1430 — 1100 Melville St  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A6  
683-7591

## Mail In

### WSCA Contract Clauses

Our forestry staff have carefully reviewed your recent announcement concerning proposed clauses essential to all silvicultural contracts. (See the announcement and a reply to this letter in the opposite column — Ed.)

Essentially British Columbia will be returning to a silvicultural financing system similar to that which existed less than eight years ago. At that time there was no third party involvement in our silviculture contracts and there was no attempt to include clauses for every conceivable eventuality in a contract. Rather, our relationships at that time were based on mutual trust between the company and the contractor. As well, we normally dealt with a small group of preferred contractors who provided skilled workers for our projects at reasonable prices. It is our sincere hope that we can again return to more stable contractor relationships and frankly we are not interested in replacing the present third party of the Ministry of Forests and Lands with the WSCA.

We noted that there were no clauses proposed regarding those items of concern and interest to the industry such as supply of experienced personnel, unavailability of contractors for specific start-up dates, performance incentives, safety standards, survival performance guaranties, etc.

*W.E. Dumont, R.P.F.*

Manager, Forestry Operations  
Western Forest Products

## Mail Out

### Contract Clauses News Release

Forest companies are responsible for their own reforestation under the new Forest Policy. We anticipate that diverse contracts will be developed in B.C..

The WSCA is drafting a schedule of clauses essential to the success of a silviculture contract. Members will be requested to refuse any work that does not include such provisions.

The following proposed schedule of clauses is intended to stimulate further input:

1. Stock shortfall, initial delivery, stock delays will be .
2. List of contract specifications in writing at time of viewing including:
  - a. Access
  - b. Stock types
  - c. Latitude and dates for start-up
  - d. Production quotas, interim deadlines
  - e. Stock handling requirements
  - f. Checking methods, quality standards
3. Arbitration procedure
4. Camp standards

Contractors are encouraged to make submissions about problems that are characteristic to the industry. Send submissions to the Regional Coordinators.

Forest industry Associations and foresters are encouraged to send their input to the WSCA office.

### Contract Clauses Reply

Mr. Bill Dumont:

Thank you for your prompt input on the proposed WSCA schedule of clauses.

It is not the intent of the WSCA to include clauses for every conceivable eventuality or to replace the Ministry as a third party. The proposed clauses are to clarify the intent of planting contracts creating a better defined relationship between the parties and an equal sharing of risk. These factors will promote mutual trust in situations less ideal than those experienced by Western Forest Products in the past.

Many licensees have already included acceptable versions of three of four suggested clauses in their contracts. The only clause consistently not included is one outlining a means of arbitration.

As for clauses covering concerns of licensees, we will forward your suggestions to C.O.F.I.. All parties can address them at the meeting between contractors and licensees being scheduled for November.

*Tony Harrison, WSCA Treasurer*

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## Mail In

### Job Creation Programs

I agree with Bill Dumont that Federal forestry projects are a viable way to do silvicultural work. The problem is lack of support by B.C.F.S. and C.E.I.C. to develop the concept to its potential.

Most treeplanters seem to enjoy a short work season and then live on U.I.C. for a big part of the year. A lot of local, rural people prefer to work steady. Steady work provides stability to a family and area, and a lot of people do not like to take a government hand out for doing nothing.

Spacing, brushing, and a lot of other work can be done year round. If a man wants to work steady, there is no way he can do it, if he wants to work in the forest. Unless you take up logging. There is a lot of good low elevation forest land that is under-productive because it needs a combination of treatments, also taking into consideration, wildlife values.

Bruce Fraser is in an Ivory Tower when it comes to assuming communication and co-operation are easy to get from the B.C. Forest service.

For the most part, getting innovative, socially positive practices happening in the forest is impossible. It is really hard to be an environmentalist and a logger. Horse logging gets token lip service and support. The cleaner and more selective the job you do the less money you make. Short term thinking reigns supreme. The big reason is, the wood is just undervalued. It costs about the same today to plant a tree as what the Government gets back in stumpage for one cubic metre of mature tree. So that means those trees that are 80-400 years old are not worth very much to the taxpayers and public of B.C.

Bruce Fraser, your B.C.S.F. makes it hard to not have the attitude that its a jungle out there so grab all you can for yourself and don't worry about anything or anyone else.

The Bull of the Woods (Gordon Gibson), said cheap timber to industry would cost the taxpayers of B.C. billions of dollars. I think he was right. B.C. will suffer for it in the future.

You foresters should try working on contract. Your regular pay cheques make you spoiled and unproductive.

Greg Wozny

## Poetry In

Dear Karline and Gordy,  
I have a submission for the newsletter. I hesitated to send you this poem as it's rather sentimental and may damage my macho image, but here it is anyway.  
The newsletter is so good. Really appreciate your efforts.

### Old Timer's Lament

Gary Ogletree

Fresh faces, eager to plant,  
Green as nettle.  
Missing faces, a subtle ache,  
Time has thinned the forest of our youth.

New ones come as the old ones go.  
Learning, tasting earth and sky  
In a new world,  
Canada's precious youth free to grow  
("Believe it or not, you'll miss this after it's over").

Mama's babies, now brothers and sisters in community,  
Taste the wealth the rich may never know.  
Sharing the work, the rest, the play, the laughter,  
They join that special (if unsung) tribe — Treeplanters...  
Babies no more.

New ones come as the old ones go.  
The heart makes connections  
Knowing many paths never cross again,  
Yet grateful  
As new ones come and the old ones go.

## Mail Out

### New Forest Policy

**Dave Parker:**

Congratulations on your extraordinary and precedent setting forest policy.

The new forest policy:

- fulfills the promise made in December '86 to put the export tax back into the renewal of the forests.
- eliminates the paper forest and double jeopardy of Section 88. Now industry foresters are free to apply themselves to getting results in the field.
- commits to a steady state level for current reforestation.  
You are the first Minister of Forests to commit the cabinet to 100% current reforestation. This historic accomplishment will increase the provincial reforestation program to over 250 million seedlings.
- enforces the principle of regenerating all areas that are logged. This will shift logging priorities away from areas that are extremely difficult to regenerate.
- clears up the historic confusion about who is accountable for the success of reforestation. Making the harvesting industry accountable will result in a more cost effective and efficient provincial silviculture program.
- settles the long debated issue of who should pay. Under the new Comparative Value System those who benefit (the province and the forest industry) will pay.
- privatizes section 88 silviculture. The silviculture low-bid lottery of the past will be replaced by a free market environment. Forest companies can secure the services of contractors based on their performance, quality and price. Efficient contractors will be assured of stable relationships with their clients.

- establishes an end-results free-growing framework for reforestation. Giving end-results incentive to the forest industry sets the improvement of plantation performance in British Columbia on the fast track.

Thankyou for all of these important contributions to forest renewal.

Your government's unique and progressive forest act provides leadership for forest policy everywhere.

The transition from the old system to the new is an opportunity to prevent future problems.

The WSCA believes that a performance bond (or similar instrument) is appropriate to enforce the Preharvest Silviculture Prescription.

(If stocking surveys determine that the target prescription is not being fulfilled, the performance bond would finance additional site rehab or fill planting.)

The WSCA looks forward to continuing to cooperate with your ministry to establish the most effective forest policy in the world.

*Dirk Brinkman, Chairman*

*Carl Loland, President*

for all members of our Association.

## More Mail In

### New Forest Policy

Thank you for your letter of September 28, 1987 and your strong support for British Columbia's new forest policy.

I appreciate receiving your analysis of the new policy and your offer of continued cooperation.

*Dave Parker*

Minister of Forests and Lands

# Reforestation: The Thin Benefits

Dirk Brinkman

Reforestation has numerous benefits. Like the ozone, the forests are a vital part of the biosphere. There is a class of global environmental benefits that I like to call the "thin benefits." They affect so many people to such a small degree that it is difficult to quantify them in a localized cost benefit analysis. The thin benefits fuel the urgency to regenerate the forests.

This is the first in a series of articles on thin benefits. The following is summarized from a book by Norman Myers, *The Primary Source: Tropical Forests and Our Future*.

## Forests As A Pollution Sponge

The day may come when we find that a major approach to the carbon dioxide problem lies with, quite simply, planting trees. Man-made forests can soak up immense amounts of excess carbon-dioxide from the atmosphere.

Due to the burning of fossil fuels and forests, increase in the atmospheric carbon dioxide each year is about 2.5 billion tons. At recent rates, the quantity could increase four times as much by

the year 2000 or shortly thereafter.

Growing forests use up carbon dioxide. Were we to embark on a gigantic "soak-up" campaign, we could use, for the sake of illustration, a tree such as leucaena, or giant ipilipil, which grows faster than most other species used in many plantations of the humid tropics. Wood, of course, is not a straight accumulation of carbon. It is a complex mixture of carbon and hydrogen, together with some oxygen and nitrogen.

One hectare of healthy leucaenas can consume around 30 tons of carbon (dry weight) each year, a good deal more than an unusually fast-growing temperature-zone tree, the American sycamore, which consumes only about 7.5 tons. Leucaenas can transfer carbon from the atmosphere and into tree tissue at a net rate of around 3,000 tons of carbon per square kilometer per year until they reach maturity. This means that in order to soak up enough excess carbon dioxide, we would need to think in terms of almost 1.8 million square kilometers, or an area a good deal larger than Alaska. All man-made plantations in the humid tropics now comprise only about 100,000 square kilometers.

## Uneconomic Logging

Uneconomic logging (or below-cost sales of timber rights) is becoming a hot issue in U.S. forest management circles. The sale of timber rights is "below-cost" if the public management agency will have to pay more to regenerate the stand than it receives in harvesting revenues. This practice is being challenged both by a Congress that wants a balanced budget and by environmentalists opposed to "mining" of forest stands that are impossible or unfeasible to renew.

Uneconomic logging has also been common practice in B.C. because reforestation was paid for by the government and was divorced from harvesting revenues. The new forest policy, however, makes the harvesting industry respon-

sible for the cost of regenerating all areas they log. As a result, forest companies should be less likely to harvest areas that are extremely difficult to regenerate.

Forest Minister Dave Parker has assured forest companies that they will not be bankrupted by the new policy. Environmentalists, silviculture workers, and many foresters hope that this does not imply that the MOFL will continue to underwrite uneconomic logging practices. To ensure that there is no more denuding of environmentally sensitive areas, there must be some system to ensure that forest companies do not evade or ignore their new reforestation responsibilities.



# The passing of the seasons

*Dirk Brinkman*

In the spring of 1980 I hired an aggressive Nova Scotian with alert glittering black eyes and wild irreverent newfie humour. After struggling frustatedly on coast for a few weeks he found his stride in the interior and soon became a steady, high quality, high energy planter.

Since then Henry Brownrigg planted many hundreds of thousands of trees with us and several contractors, visited dozens of camps on behalf of the PRWA and inter-actively attended literally hundreds of meetings.

He and I worked closely over the years in our respective roles in the PRWA and WSCA. We often argued—that was Henry's way, he had to challenge and question everything. This spring, before he went to the interior, he and I worked over the Silviculture Joint Committee's planter questionnaire through the night til 6 am. In talking through all the issues related to the problems planters face we came to an acknowledgement of working in the same vision. That opportunity for reconciliation I now treasure.

Henry may be gone but the positions he took on behalf of the planters will remain. In the government, silviculture and forest industry decision making processes he kept planters' interests real and alive. Henry's stand will be there for others to build on.

Often Henry accomplished things sheerly through the strength and stubbornness of his commitment. He was a tireless advocate for planters and for the forest. Planters and contractors both have much to thank him for.

On top of his vital role in the PRWA and its newsletter, a partial list of Henry's industry initiatives and involvement includes: Educating contractors on his camp tours, touring universities to educate treeplanting applicants, CEIC Forestry Advisory Committee, Dr. Smith's ergonomics study, the silviculture camp standards, the PRWA-IWA organizing drive, WCB treeplanting safety study, the planter training standards, the Silviculture Joint Adjustment Committee, the FRDA Advisory Committee.

Whether or not they agreed with his views, everyone admired Henry's courage and determination, especially as he demonstrated it in his fight with cancer.

I'm going to miss him.

**BROWNRIGG**, Henry Joseph, born August 27, 1952 died October 10, 1987.

You shall ask what good are dead leaves and I will tell you they nourish the sore earth.

You shall ask what reason is there for winter and I will tell you to bring about new leaves.

You shall ask why are the leaves so green and I will tell you because they are rich with life.

You shall ask why must summer end and I will tell you so that the leaves can die.

A memorial gathering was held on Salt Spring Island on October 10th. One of the purposes of the wake was to gather stories about Henry for his daughter Katlin. Anyone who knew Henry and has a story about their experiences together can send it to:

Mellisa  
RR #1 Tripp Rd.  
Ganges, B.C.  
V0S 1E0

# WSCA Members

This list of the **paid-up** members of the WSCA will be published in each newsletter. If your name is deleted from the list you may need to attend to the payment of dues.

The list of members names and addresses is available to all members at no cost. This list is also sold to businesses that who wish to advertise their products or services through direct mailings.

(A) Indicates associate member.

## **Vancouver**

Beaverfoot Resources  
Brinkman & Assoc Reforestation  
Cardinal Reforestation  
Cascade Resources Ltd.  
Coast Range Contracting Ltd.  
Emerald Forest Corp. (A)  
Forsite Contracting  
Green Mountain Services  
Highrigger Forest Mgmt.  
Loki Reforestation  
Mountain Reforestation  
Oliver & Giltrap  
Osprey Silviculture Operations  
Skookum Reforestation  
Western Reforestation Co-op  
Whiskeyjack Reforest. Ltd.  
Zanzibar Holdings

## **Kamloops Region**

Nu Growth Industries Ltd. (A)  
Arland Reforestation Services  
Crowpoint Enterprises Ltd.  
Golden Raven Co-op  
Grandy Reforestation  
Hawkeye Reforestation  
Mountain Pacific Forestry  
Southern Okanagan Silviculture

## **Cariboo Region**

Blue Collar Reforestation  
Cottonwood Reforestation  
Lid's Reforestation  
Likeley Reforestation  
Loxton Treeplanting Co.

## **Prince Rupert Region**

Peiskar Contracting  
Roots Reforestation  
Summit Reforestation Ltd.  
Waterside Ventures Ltd.

## **Nelson Region**

Arbolitis (A)  
Cutler Contracting  
Dark Star Forestry Ltd.  
Evergreen Co-op  
Fieldstone Resources Ltd.  
Forestcover Resources Ltd.  
Green Peaks Holding Ltd.  
Jansma Reforestation  
Mart Resources  
Rothkop Contracting Ltd.  
Siltech Reforestation Ltd.  
Skyline Contracting Ltd. (A)  
Talking Tree Forestry  
Wildhorse Valley Treepl. Coop

## **Prince George**

C.A.G. Holdings Inc.  
Celtic Reforestation Ltd.  
Folklore Contracting  
Integrated Silviculture Services  
Kahan Enterprises  
Mountain Top Reforestation  
Mudslide Contracting Ltd.  
Nechako Reforestation Services  
Nomadic Silviculture  
Seneca Enterprises Ltd.  
Serac Reforestation Ltd. (A)  
Shannon Silviculture  
Silvaram Holdings Ltd.  
Sundance Reforestation  
Tawa Reforestation Ent.  
Triple 8 Enterprises  
Twig Contracting Ltd.

## **Alberta**

Next Generation Reforestation (A)  
Tsuga Forestry Contracting

## **Ontario**

Trees for Tomorrow Inc. (A)

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## W.S.C.A. Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$300 \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes subscription)  
Subscription \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \$? \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:

W.S.C.A.  
# 310 — 1070 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E7  
736-8660