



the DIRT

FLNR INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre

Submitted by: Dustin Eno, Provincial Fire Information Officer (written September 10)

“Busy” “Multinational” “Entertaining” “Dynamic” all of these would be good words to describe the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre (PWCC) over the last couple months. As the name suggests, the PWCC oversees wildfire responses throughout the province. The PWCC was relocated to a new building in Kamloops in 2010, which also houses the provincial airtanker dispatch centre, aviation management and fire weather forecasting operations.

After a fairly quiet spring, things really took off in July and August. The Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) responded to 33 fires of note, including numerous interface fires (threatening structures)—at one point the entire town of Hudson’s Hope was evacuated due to a wildfire. During the busy months, WMB was assisted by almost 1,200 personnel from across Canada, Alaska and as far away as Australia. In some ways this year was the first real test of the new PWCC building’s ability to cope with a busy fire season, and by all accounts, it’s done very well. And in the field, according to one reliable source, firefighters layed enough 1.5 inch hose to stretch from Vancouver to Saskatchewan.

Rain and cool weather over the Labour Day long weekend slowed fire activity in most areas of the province, but, as we keep reminding the public and the media, the season is not over yet! There may be snow in the north, but in the south hot dry conditions are expected to continue. We have four fires, which are still considered fires of note and there are still evacuation orders and alerts in place. Based on current estimates and mapping, we have burned over 338,000 hectares this season, which surpasses 2010 and sets a new 30-year record for hectares burned. We are, however, nowhere near the all-time record since we started recording, which was set in 1958 with over 855,000 hectares burned. This year is currently sitting in 6th place for the most hectares burned, and to move into 5th place we would need to burn roughly another 4,500 hectares—I’m going to say that’s not likely, but we’ll see.

Advisory Group Vision:

“True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication”

The Dirt Facebook

To join "The Dirt" facebook page, simply go to the link below and ask to join the group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Issues of "The Dirt" will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Sudoku - do you play?

					9		3	5
			3		6		8	
	3					9	1	
			8				9	2
3			5		2			8
8	4				3			
	2	1					7	
	7		9		5			
5	8		4					

Sudoku Solution

Have a Story idea?
Send *The Dirt* Advisory
Group your ideas!

The Dirt Contents, September 2014

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AROUND THE MINISTRY (links)

[Provincial Golf Results](#)

Retirees Receive *The Dirt*!

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest Dirt, please contact Richard Dominy and he will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address. You can contact Richard directly at: Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca.

Problem Vessels and Structures

Submitted by: Ward Trotter, Director, Land Tenures Branch



Deck of Sealand

Problem vessels and structures on Provincial Crown foreshore and Provincial Crown land covered by water has been a topic of interest for many communities that live near fresh and marine water. With rare exceptions all lake and river beds in British Columbia, along with most sea beds are owned by the province; however, the federal government owns or manages a number of harbours, ports and wharf or dock facilities throughout British Columbia.

In recent years, cases of unauthorized vessels or structures that are anchored or moored, sunk, beached or wrecked on Provincial Crown land have been increasing, along with demands on government to take action.

Dealing with problem vessels and structures can be highly complex due to the mix of provincial ownership of land, federal jurisdiction over navigation and shipping and sometimes conflicting federal and provincial laws. What governments do depend on are specific facts of the situation, such as whether the cause of concern is a vessel, wreck or some other type of structure; the nature of the problem; who owns the bed of the waterway in question; and what laws apply in a given situation.

Determining what laws apply can be complicated by the fact that provincial laws or local government bylaws that would be applicable to a structure or vehicle on dry land may not apply to vessels because

they either conflict with federal laws such as the *Canada Shipping Act*, or infringe on the core of the federal government's responsibility for navigation and shipping. Often, there is no simple answer to the question: Who should be dealing with this problem? Usually the answer will depend on the particular facts of each case; often legal advice is necessary to determine the limits of governmental authority. In some cases, there may be unavoidable legal uncertainty regarding how specific laws apply.

Because of these complexities, it is often necessary for all levels of government to work together in a coordinated manner. Solutions can involve one level of government authorizing another level to take action, with resources to solve problems coming from different levels of government as well as local groups. A recent example of a cooperative effort occurred at the Oak Bay Marina in March 2014.

The joint operation involving Oak Bay police, RCMP and Transport Canada targeted abandoned boats and illegal moorings. Despite strong winds on the day in question, an RCMP marine vessel and a barge carrying a backhoe scooped up illegal mooring buoys and towed two abandoned vessels to shore, a half-submerged five-metre motorboat and a slightly larger red sailboat. Follow the Times Colonist link for full story: <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/derelict-boats-removed-from-waters-off-oak-bay-1.937562>

In the past number of years, several resolutions have been endorsed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) seeking coordinated, federal/provincial action to resolve concerns. In response, the provincial government has been working with other agencies on this very complex area of law and land management.

A "Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels" with membership from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Transport Canada-Pacific Region, UBCM and Islands Trust has been working together to discuss issues and opportunities to move the file forward and an inventory has been completed. FLNR, along with

Problem Vessels and Structures continued...

working group members, the Ministry of Justice, Government Communications and Public Engagement recently completed work on two papers (for the public and for staff) that provide information on problem vessels and structures.

The papers deal with the subject of “problem” Vessels or other “problem” Structures, which are anchored, beached, moored, sunk or grounded in waters covering Provincial Aquatic Land. One purpose of the papers is to identify which levels of government can do what in different situations and identify key points of contact for getting problems resolved. Visit the following ministry website for the papers:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/Land_Tenures/problem_vessels.html



Kurtis Isfeld Arrested!

Submitted by: Krista Dunleavy, CFC Deputy Fire Centre Manager

The Cariboo Fire Centre leadership team in Williams Lake was shocked when Fire Centre



Manager Kurtis Isfeld was led out of a meeting in handcuffs and arrested by a uniformed RCMP officer on September 6th.

Send Money or a File!

The team understood why however, when the charges were read to Kurtis:

- Dressing unsuitably at work
- Working long hours
- Rushing into burning buildings
- Eating co-worker's candy supply

Messing with someone's candy is inexcusable!

Kurtis had to raise \$500 bail to be released from jail, but complaining about the treatment of prisoners and the harsh conditions (it was cold outside!) landed him an increased bail amount of \$100 to \$600.

Several enquiries were made on how much was needed to be raised to keep Kurtis in jail, but he was freed after he raised more than \$1200 bail. It was all for a good cause, for the Tour de North Cops for Cancer Bail or Jail fundraiser.



Cariboo's Most Wanted?

<https://www.facebook.com/CopsforCancerBC/photos/pcb.982286351796906/982286021796939/?type=1&theater>

http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR/CopsforCancer_BC/COPS_BC_even_?pg=team&fr_id=16723&team_id=310733#

The New Reality in Wildfire Management

Submitted by: Jordan Turner, Communications Specialist with the Southeast Fire Centre



Photo taken by: Andrew Hill – Sentinel Unit Crew

At a recent Kootenay Interface Steering Team (KIST) meeting, Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) Executive Director Brian Simpson gave a presentation on the current fire management challenge in British Columbia. A major focus of his presentation was to emphasize the need to improve our response capacity and efficiency, but also to work toward building fire resilient communities and landscapes. Without undertaking these steps to prepare for the next major firestorm, the best WMB will be able to do is move people out of the way and wait for the fire to drop down so we can take action. The “New Reality” in the province is that these circumstances are predicted to be increasingly common in the future.

Adding to this burden is the fact that the geographic area WMB needs to pay attention to or protect is constantly expanding. In the not-too-distant past, fires in the northeast of BC were safely allowed to burn-out, and fire would play its natural role. Now due to massive industrial growth in the region, primarily in the oil and gas field, this is no longer a viable option. Several fires in the north are still burning as of this printing, which have already caused the evacuation of hundreds of local citizens and Oil and Gas employees.

These mounting threats to the people of BC have led to a re-evaluation of wildland firefighter job requirements, as well as forcing an increase to

the length of our fire seasons. The focus of our branch has evolved from being a “fire response” agency into one of a “fire management agency,” which proactively seeks solutions to the growing threats of climate change, the pine beetle, and an unprecedented build-up of fuels.

However, management at WMB are not sitting idly and waiting for a significant firestorm to take place. Enlarged capacity, extended auxiliary recalls and increased focus on fuel management and landscape fire management planning are the first steps in strengthening our capabilities in relation to the predicted future and our new reality. Of course, WMB can’t do this alone. We need to shift the focus of larger governments, smaller communities, industries and the general public to better cooperate with our strategic goals and each other in order to help mitigate the wildfire threat.

Although the challenges are numerous, we are always seeking solutions to better protect the people of BC through a variety of outside partnerships. One great example of a community taking some initiative is Port Moody, where a law has been passed ensuring all new homes in the city will be built using FireSmart materials. In a time of rapid population growth and unprecedented urban planning, this is an innovation that can be widely adapted to make a difference in preserving the safety of homes province-wide. The

New Reality in Wildfire Management continued...



Robyn Canty - Initial Attack Crew Leader (This photo was taken at the White Complex fires in the East Kootenay)

conversation about prevention needs to shift to put more responsibility on the home-owner, and for communities to realize that they need to treat this issue as a high priority.

There are several other achievable improvements to our landscape that are within reach so long as the right partnerships allow us to create change. For example, many highways are being expanded throughout BC to combat black ice. These are excellent opportunities to help build and preserve a network of fire breaks using pre-existing infrastructures throughout the province. There has also been a lot of pipeline talk in the last few months. If the project does move forward, it is an opportunity to create a remote and permanent fire break across

much of Western Canada.

The above are just a few examples of the innovations making the rounds on the conference tables at WMB, but many more are in the works. As employees of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, we need to keep ourselves informed and continually prepare to advance our methods of operation, and improve our ability to deliver on our broad fire management mandate to keep one step ahead of this ever-evolving threat.



Jordan Turner, Communications Specialist

National Forest Week

Started in the 1920s, National Forest Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the many benefits we enjoy from our forests. This year, National Forest Week was celebrated September 21-27, 2014.

This year's theme, Sunrise in the Forest, not only speaks to the natural beauty of B.C.'s forests, but the resiliency of the forest sector. Since the downturn of 2009, B.C.'s forest economy has been steadily recovering. From 2009 to 2013, timber harvesting has increased 47%, the value of B.C.'s forest product exports increased by 53% to a total of \$11.6 billion and employment increased by 13% providing 58,000

direct jobs throughout the province.

The provincial National Forest Week coalition has also produced a Tree Identification App. It is available for download at: http://www.abcfp.ca/about_us/events/national_forest_week.asp. The app provides photos and information on every native tree found in B.C., and also allows you to take photos and record notes and GPS the location of your favourite trees!



Ft. St. John Parattack Crew Member Excels in Perth Ontario's 2014 World Record Kilt Run

Submitted by: Robb Bennett, former ministry employee and Daniel Becker, Natural Resource Officer, Northeast Compliance and Enforcement Branch

Beginning in 2010, the village of Perth in Eastern Ontario has hosted an annual 8K foot race in which all participants must wear traditional Scottish attire (<http://perthkilttrun.blogspot.ca/>). The first race attracted well over 1000 runners and, with 1089 finishers, set a new Guinness World Record for "Largest Kilt Race". Subsequent races have attracted even larger numbers of runners (over 2600 in 2014) and similar competitions are now held in Scotland, Australia and the United States.

Ryland Bennett, a smokejumper with the Wildfire Management Branch's Ft. St. John-based Parattack crew, travelled to Perth in June 2014 to spend a short holiday with his parents. He arrived in the area late on the night before the race to be presented with the news that his mother had registered Ryland and herself in the 2014 Kilt Run and had prepared kilts for both of them. Although Ryland had not prepared



+2600 participants crowding Perth's main street at the start of the 2014 World Record 8K Kilt Run.

for a serious athletic competition, he responded with characteristic enthusiasm and participated in the race the following day. His previous experience with competitive foot racing had been in elementary school many years earlier and Ryland had done no training other than the activities Parattack crew members do to stay in shape for the rigours of their demanding work. Despite this handicap (as well as the hot, muggy weather during the race and the participation of considerable numbers of very serious runners)

Ryland finished first in his age class and 24th overall among the 2126 runners who completed the race (<http://runninggoattiming.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Kilt-Run-Overall-by-Chip-5.html>).

Based on his unplanned success in the 2014 Kilt Run, Ryland intends to actually train for next year's race and aim for an even more impressive result.



Ryland nearing finish line



It's about work/ life balance!

Submitted by: Jennifer Martin, RFT, Regional Manager - North East, Compliance and Enforcement Branch



Agricultural settlement began in the BC Peace in 1912 when the first areas were surveyed and opened for homesteading. For Todd Bondaroff, District Manager of the Dawson Creek Natural Resource District, and his family that dream came true in 2004.

Todd was in forest technology at UNBC when on the last day of school he came across a TD Bank table offering a credit card and within one week he had taken out enough cash to purchase a horse, a cowboy hat and a saddle. He phoned his dad and told him he had these things and he needed to be picked up. Todd's father responded "with what? We don't even have a horse trailer!"

Todd went on to work for 10 -11 years at a junior level with consultants and with industry in the East and West Kootenay. He also did some guiding in the fall for three months in the mountains and on the way driving through the Peace this spurred a love for the area. Around that time the softwood lumber dispute was starting, the work was disappearing in forestry and it seemed like a good time to return to school. At UNBC he sought his masters—6 months later Todd began his work on Timber and Range Impacts on Aspen Regeneration. Supported by the South Peace Stockmen's and North Peace Cattlemen; Todd completed a project that turned into a thesis, and resulted in his Masters in Science in Forestry and Forest Ecology. This all helped in getting his first job in the Peace Region with the Ministry of Agriculture where he worked for 6 years. Following he was offered a one year term opportunity as a project manager with Bear Mountain Wind Farm

Project. About that time a really good friend from the Okanagan called him looking for a program to compensate farmers for lost crops due to wildlife damage—Todd's connections with Agriculture and his knowledge afforded him to write a proposal that described a frame-work of how something could work, which ended up becoming a one year contract that a gentleman in Fort St. John and Todd received. From that a position to manage the program was posted and Todd was successful in the competition. The position was based out of Dawson Creek, which involved a significant amount of travel through the province, which Todd happily did for 4 years. FLNR was starting then and Todd was successful with a project manager position. In 2014, the district manager position came up suddenly and Todd was transferred into the position.

Todd's passion for the farming and ranching lifestyle contributed to his desire for settling in the Peace country, along with the abundant opportunities both professionally and personally. In 2004, when Todd began his journey working for the Ministry of Agriculture, he commuted for the first year between Fort St. John and Prince George every Friday and Sunday to be with his family. When finally selling their Prince George home, his wife Kari was able to relocate to Charlie Lake where they had purchased an undeveloped quarter section of land. Homesteading started with bolt cutters and walking the fence line until a good spot for a driveway was found. Life began when Todd, his wife and first daughter Tyler, moved in with their \$800 camper. Once the fencing was complete the two sheep and horse settled in. In those early days sheep were just for fun. As a graduate student for a project on Animal Behavior and Things that Influence that, Todd had gotten his sheep. Sheep were the perfect subject because they are always chasing food. By the end of that first year, the herd grew to 20 sheep, 20 horses and a few dogs. Shortly after, came daughter Rylie and son Wyatt.

During a visit from Todd's father, he stated he too wanted to live that lifestyle. Together for 3 months they searched for property then Todd spoke to a realtor, who was motivated by a 60 of rye, and found what they wanted. Within a week they purchased

Work/ life balance continued...

a half section of land with an old homestead. Todd and his father drew straws to see who would live in the old house—short straw Todd was off to develop again. They built a log house, completed the fencing and cross fencing, and there was enough land there to hay, but they had no tractor or balers. Kari and Todd's father searched for equipment online when Kari found a site that advertised a sale for herd dispersal of sheep. It wasn't long after they arrived home the coyotes figured out sheep had moved in. The problem got so bad that Todd couldn't eat dinner without having the rifle on the dinner table. With the new tractor and baler they sometimes learned the hard way to get things done and occasionally relied on neighbours whom lent a hand. As time passed, with lessons learned, they switched sheep breeds and bought guardian dogs to deal with the coyotes. They were able to put up enough hay a year to feed the animals and even had extra to sell. Kari was able to interest the local business and a restaurant and began selling lamb products. With her teaching job she made connections and with time off during the summer took on the sheep business. Kari has grown the business to selling roughly 200 sheep a year.

Todd credits his government job with affording the work life balance and the reason they can do what they do. Friends with industry jobs don't seem to have the time and space to allow them to have such work life balance opportunities.

As the district manager, the time juggle became harder and sheep farming is now a second job. The family makes an effort to make the most out of weekends and evenings and to having secure plans



for holidays. This year when Todd's father passed away, he was the guy that spent the hours in the seat of that tractor. Todd and Kari devised a plan and were able to continue to complete the work efficiently and effectively—maybe his dad is looking out for them.

Todd gushes with pride when he talks about his children. He describes them as having good work ethics; they are careful and thoughtful and he and Kari are so lucky to have them—they feel fortunate and blessed. The children have an interest and enjoyment in the lifestyle Todd and Kari have built. He wants to ensure that continues and doesn't want to make the farm something they would resent—together they provide space for the fun and enjoyment.

Tyler practices hard in the high school rodeo. All the kids have a horse and are in 4H. They participate in the fair and show off what they accomplished all year; and as a bonus usually take home a few hundred bucks in prize money!

Todd's management style can be described as collaborative. He believes that maintaining work life balance is number one; even if just for your own long term well-being. He wants to know that people enjoy what they are doing and strives to ensure they feel well supported and make sure the path is clear for them to do their job.

The staff comments: "I like the new management." "Leadership in the office is in a better place right now." "The recent changes at a high level are proving a glimmer of hope for real change."

It looks like Todd's homesteading and determination is also reaping rewards in the office.



2014 Southern Interior Silviculture Committee (SISCO) Fall Field Tour

Dealing with Complexity...Managing for Diversity

Submitted by: Guy Newsome, R.P.F., Woodlands Supervisor, BCTS - Williams Lake Field Team



Over the dates of September 9, 10 and 11, 2014, the sunny Cariboo was able to host the SISCO fall field tour based from the Gavin Lake Forestry Camp east of Williams Lake. The event was attended by close to 70 participants from across the province representing government, industry, academia, consultants and contractors.

Day 1 was an optional half day field trip to a species trial established over 30 years ago in the Interior Cedar Hemlock Biogeo Zone near Likely BC by Alan Vyse. The tour was led by Alan Vyse retired researcher and Teresa Newsome and David Rusch from FLNR. The trial compares the growth and development of Lodgepole pine, White spruce and Douglas fir to Western White pine from two seed sources, Idaho Blister Rust resistant and a BC native White pine. The draw for considering White pine is the potential for significantly higher growth rates. As much as Site Index (SI50) of 35 meters while at the same time staying ahead of the Blister Rust cankers.

Day 2 focused on the moister to wet ecosystems, primarily focused on sites located in the Gavin Block of the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest. Sites visited included the Assisted Migration Adaptation Trial where Greg O'Neill presented on the progress to date, and Jack Woods discussed genetics within the seed orchard program. Uniform Shelterwood Trial where Michaela Waterhouse from FLNR and Mauro Calabrese and Sue Woermke from West Fraser Mills discussed the results of over 20 years of research on using different partial harvesting regimes to establish Douglas fir on frost prone sites in SBS subzone. Ken Day from the Research Forest spoke

on the decision process for designing partial cutting systems.

The afternoon included Armillaria research work with Bill Chapman FLNR, a proposed Free Growing Survey guidance change Teresa Newsome has been working on and a trip to a mixed species planting block that was planted under the Forests For Tomorrow program in 2010 led by Nola Daintith FLNR and Nathan Davis consultant, which featured some Western larch that were growing extremely well.

Day 3 focused on drybelt Douglas fir management. Ian Moss and Bryce Bancroft consultants presented work using LIDAR for stand classification on the Research Forest. Michaela Waterhouse and Ken Day presented on 30 years of Mule Winter Range research. Bev Atkins from Wildfire Management Branch discussed fuels and fire risk in uneven aged D-fir stands. Jodi Axelson FLNR presented on pest risks in Interior Douglas fir stands and link of fire stressed trees and bark beetles.

The 1st stop in the afternoon looked at spacing D-fir to set stands up for harvest during the mid-term falldown with consultants Bill Layton and Steve Capling. At the last stop David Rusch presented on the impacts of Elyotroderma in young Lodgepole pine stands and what we can do to recognize and manage for it. Bill Chapman discussed his direct seeding work using D-fir and Lodgepole pine to reforest burnt areas.

The workshop provided a great opportunity to learn while still providing plenty of time for catching up with old and new friends, enjoying a refreshment around the campfire at night. For a majority of the time beyond the reach of cell phones and internet.



PJJ Hemphill Award for Excellence in Engineering

Submitted by: Brian Chow, Chief Engineer, Engineering Branch, Timber Operations & Pricing

The PJJ Hemphill Award for Excellence in Engineering is being presented annually to an individual who has achieved a level of excellence in delivering ministry engineering program (roads and bridges) initiatives and activities. This award is named in honour of Pete Hemphill, who as a former Director of the “original” Ministry of Forests Engineering Branch was himself a leader and innovator that exemplified excellence in engineering. The achievements of the recipient of this distinguished award must have demonstrated tangible contributions to ministry engineering initiatives and activities.



ADM Craig Sutherland and Larry Duke

The selection committee, consisting of engineering peers within the ministry Engineering Program, had the difficult task of selecting a recipient from a list of nine nominees. In review of submissions, there were many worthy to consider, which speaks to the high quality of the individuals who work within the ministry’s engineering (roads and bridges) program. The committee is extremely pleased to announce the 2014 recipient, is Larry Duke, Engineering Officer in the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District.

In the selection process, the field was narrowed to the three highest calibre submissions. The committee would also like to recognize the two runners-up, who made the decision so challenging: Gino Fourier, Coast Engineering Group Leader, and Dave Hamilton, Forest Technologist, BCTS Strait of Georgia.

Larry’s nomination submission demonstrated engineering leadership and excellence. The submission included references to: 2 successful fish passage remediation projects last year leading to 6 more this year; 3 other permanent bridges constructed last year; effective delivery of a large district engineering roads program involving capital, deactivation and maintenance responsibilities; to

work in support of Recreation Sites and Trails; contributions to BC Parks; working long hours to ensure well done, cost effective solutions; being diligent, approaching everything in a professional manner, being self sufficient and self motivated, etc. As one member of the selection committee commented on the various letters of support—“I can only hope that people will say such nice things about me”.

There were a couple of key aspects of the submission for Larry that stood out and made the difference in the selection process—the broadness of the support and his impact on the community beyond his work. The nomination information submitted for Larry demonstrated leadership, innovation, and excellence not only in engineering but in his positive contribution to his isolated community. The committee recognized the difficulties of achieving accomplishments within such a geographically isolated area. The testimonials submitted in support of Larry were broad crossing various business areas including operations, fish passage, forest land acquisitions and also from BC Parks. An excerpt - “Larry’s dedication, not only to the Province, Engineering Branch, and the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District, but also to the Village of Queen Charlotte, has proven to be limitless. Larry’s engineering program provides a blueprint for the other business areas in the district to emulate through his ability to develop, fund and complete a never-ending list of projects while modelling leadership and excellence, while always having a positive attitude and a smile on his face.” Based on the commentary in the testimonials, Larry through his work in engineering has had an influence beyond delivering engineering projects, but expanded into the consideration, development and fostering of positive relationships, leading to greater positive impacts to his community as a whole.

Congratulations Larry for Excellence in Engineering!

The Dirt Photographers!

Time to get out and snap some photos! *The Dirt* Advisory Group increasingly requires good quality digital photos for the quarterly newsletter. We acknowledge that there are skilled photographers among ministry staff and would like to showcase your photos in each quarterly edition.

Categories

Photos can consist of:

- Workplace images – individuals or groups / teams in office and field settings; health, wellness and social activities;
- Community involvement;
- Wildlife; or
- Scenic.

Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to: FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca
- The contest is open to all ministry employees and retirees.
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of five images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos, please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

Prizes and Judging

- There will be an overall 'Best' image in each category;
- Judging will be done by the Advisory Group;
- Images will be judged on composition, clarity, exposure, creativity, relevance to the ministry and category fit;
- The winner of the 'Best' image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo;
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

Technical Specifications/Requirements

The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

1. All images must have relevance to the ministry and be submitted in digital format.
2. All images must be in full colour or black and white.
3. Photo dimensions (image size) should be at 300 dots per inch (DPI) and preferably in a jpg format and sent to FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca
4. Images can be digitally enhanced (i.e., colour / exposure adjusted composite photos are okay), but not digitally altered (i.e. NO "Photo-Shop" images must portray subjects and / or material in photo as they were captured).
5. When submitting images, some descriptive information should also be included – category of image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter.

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS December 10, 2014

View and Select your Prize!!

(embroidery: *The Dirt* - Newsletter Advisory Group)

Prizes

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

September Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Wildlife Category - Ruffed Grouse that was taken on April 17, 2014, along the Blackwater Road near Quesnel. This handsome specimen was strutting his stuff along the road as we drove by.

Photographer - Debbie Wheeler , RFT, Forest Technician - Quesnel Field Team
BCTS Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

Workplace Category Cariboo RMT September Field tour in Quesnel with District staff. Visited Bowron Lake to look at Harvesting impacts on Visual Quality Objectives.

Photographer - Kim Scott, Tenures Forester, Cariboo Region



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?”
Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s
to the *FS News* Advisory Group!

Scenic Category Parksville 2014

Photographer - Robin Howe, Team Lead Web Infrastructure, CSNR



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.



KILT RUN

Perth, Ontario

Daniel Becker, Natural Resource Officer
The Dirt Cartoonist and Advisory Group Member!

The Dirt is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former employees.

Sonia Donison is providing management and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sonia at 250-356-9638 or via [email](#).

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of the newsletter depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250-356-9638 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline for articles is December 10.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES