



Forest Service News Advisory Group Vision:

"True to our proud history, informing the Forest Service family through balanced and timely communication"

Printable version

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Christmas wishes from the Forest Service News Advisory Group!

Another successful FS newsletter year has passed and we would like to express our sincere wishes to you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday season! The best to all of you in the New Year and many years to come!

Peg Ainsley, Shane Berg, Steve Dodge, Richard Dominy, Sonia Donison, Radha Fisher, Ron Racine, Scott Mitchell and Steve Waghorn

Thanks and Good Luck to Greg Hemphill!

District Manager, Greg Hemphill has announced his retirement from the Forest Service after 36 years of dedicated service.

Greg has been a key member of the Forest Service News Advisory Group (FSNAG) and was one of the senior staff who was responsible for the newsletter's revitalization.

Greg has had a varied and distinguished career starting as fire suppression crewman in 1971, followed by a range of positions on the coast culminating with being the popular District Manager of the Sunshine Coast Forest District.

FSNAG wishes to thank Greg for his invaluable contribution and wish him the best in his life outside the FS!

Thank You!



Forest Service News - A Voice for Staff

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The Advisory Group would like to thank Lennie McDonald for her input and views on newsletter articles and the re-creation of the newsletter. Unfortunately, due to other work commitments, Lennie feels she cannot commit the time to the newsletter to be part of the Advisory Group.

We appreciate her enthusiasm and team spirit and will miss her input in future newsletter editions.

We wish Lennie and her family all the best!

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Views on the Provincial Leadership Team Meeting

For several years, around November of each year, Forest Service Senior Managers come together for a “Senior Managers meeting”, to talk about current events, future strategic direction and how the Forest Service is doing. For the past couple of years, numerous non-Senior Managers have been invited to participate in the meeting to gain experience, share their insight and get a taste of what senior management is involved with—it is part of growing our leaders. In 2007, some 45 Forest Service staff from a cross section of positions and locations in our organization, contributed to the now titled “Provincial Leadership Team Meeting.”

According to Paul Nutall, a 12 year member of the Forest Service after leaving industry for our greener pastures, Operations Manager in the Campbell River Forest District, “the agenda was action packed and gained lots of energy from the 200+ attendees.” Nutall concluded that the presentations were timely, informative and thought provoking for a variety of reasons. From working through the Strategic Conversation, to Climate Change, to watching a hilarious talk show that contained some key take away messages about leadership from a variety of viewpoints in the organization (which could perhaps be called “Late Afternoon with Andrew Ashford”!). Nutall appreciated “being part of a group that can come together and have a productive meeting due to the attendees having an over-arching and common focus, that is being part of an organization that cares about itself, the people in it and the resources we are responsible for managing.”

Rob McRory, a 16 year member of the Forest Service, and currently the Tenures Officer in the Kootenay Lake District, really enjoyed the opportunity to network with others from around the province. “I had the opportunity to sit with Tim Sheldan during our "Futuring" exercise and found this to be very enlightening regarding where Tim, as an Executive member, saw the future of the Forest Service. Having Dr. Kurtz and Dale Draper speak with us about Climate Change was very thought provoking and gave me personally a wake up call to encourage carbon footprints where I can.”

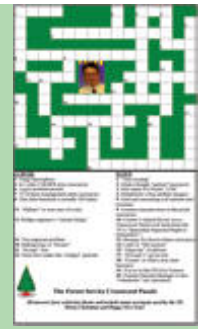
A brand new member of the Forest Service also attended the meeting and the Southern Interior Region’s Regional Management Team meeting the day before. After only 2 months in the Forest Service, Jennifer Fraser, Operations Manager in the Kamloops Forest District, “was very impressed with the level of organization of the website and the “buddy system” that was created to help new attendees. “I was intrigued to see how the Strategic Conversation format was going to be used as a conduit to discuss and increase comfort with the changes that we all see affecting the forest industry today and for the foreseeable future. I appreciated the presentations that were delivered early in the workshop to set the stage for the work that was ahead of all of us. Overall, this was a great two days for me to meet new people, learn about and participate in a different strategic planning exercise and to sit in front of 200+ people and answer the question, “why did I choose to join the Ministry of Forests and Range?”!! And for those of you who weren’t there, the opportunity to work for Shane Berg is not the only reason!”

Forest Service News
 A quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees and former FS employees.

Contact: Sonia Donison is providing administrative and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about Forest Service News should be directed to Sonia at 250-953-3859 or [email](#)

Call for Stories/Ideas
 The success of Forest Service News 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 250-953-3859 or [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 March articles is March 14.**

According to both Nutall and Fraser, “If you get a chance to attend one of these meetings, go for it—it is time well spent!



FS Crossword—how much do you know about the Forest Service?

Let us know how you did.

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Forests for Tomorrow: Reforesting after the “Red Wave”

For several years, a “red wave” of mountain pine beetle attack has swept through British Columbia’s pine-dominated forests. Thanks to the Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program, reforestation and restoration efforts are now replacing spread-control tactics in many forest districts.

FFT is the provincial government’s reforestation initiative. FFT aims to improve the future timber supply and accelerate the recovery of other impacted resource values. The program’s goal is to reduce the amount of Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR) Crown forest land, and address the ratio of area reforested to area either harvested or affected by fire or pests. This means that FFT treats sites where no harvesting has occurred, which is therefore not under licensee obligations.

FFT activities take place in the hardest hit management units. “FFT provides us with a great opportunity to respond to some of the significant stewardship issues created by the beetle epidemic and large wildfires,” says Deputy Chief Forester and FFT Executive Sponsor, Craig Sutherland. “With the 2003 fire areas largely dealt with, our next big priority is to get a handle on the reforestation needs in young beetle-attacked pine forests, where economic opportunities are clearly limited. We’ll then shift our focus to the mature beetle-attacked forests.”

Regional FFT staff, in partnership with the districts, stakeholders and First Nations, strategically plan activities for each management unit. Sites are selected using a GIS-based ranking tool that locates investment opportunities that meet both timber and non-timber objectives. This tool helps decision makers find “win–wins”—those areas where reforestation treatments will benefit the future timber supply and impacted community watersheds, or other environmental or social values. The operational delivery is done by recipient agreement holders.

In 2008–2009, FFT will plant 7 million seedlings and by 2012 the program aims to plant 20 million seedlings. Planning, coordinating and implementing such a large program requires strong leadership and dedicated staff. “We have an excellent team. I’m confident that the framework is in place for ongoing delivery of an efficient and effective program,” says FFT’s manager, John McClarnon.

For more information about Forests for Tomorrow, go to:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/>

Activities	04_05	05_06	06_07	07_08
FRPA s. 108	\$9.8 M	\$1.8 M	\$3 M	\$1.5 M
Surveying	294 ha	76000 ha	86500 ha	70000 ha
Site Preparation	50 ha	480 ha	7,400ha	3500 ha
Planting	17 ha	348 ha	2305 ha	6500 ha
Brushing		1018 ha	286 ha	484 ha
Fertilization		3324 ha	8491	
Backlog / Impeded File Review		433,600 ha	159649 ha	TBD



McClure fire

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BCFS Travels to Athens

Submitted by: Michael Benson
International Development Specialist
Protection Branch



In response to Greece's devastating fire season of 2007, 9 members of the Ministry of Forests and Range were invited to participate in the workshop titled **Wildfire Management and Economic Development**.

The workshop, which ran from December 3-8 in Athens Greece, was sponsored by the philanthropic *Stavros Niarchos Foundation* and was organized through the department of Hellenic studies at Simon Fraser University. In total, 23 persons from government and private sector formed the Canadian contingency. The BCFS team was comprised of personnel from the Protection Program, Forest Practices Branch and the Southern Interior Region:

Brian Simpson: Director, Protection Branch
 Denis Gaudry: Kamloops Fire Center Manager, Protection Program
 Jeff Berry: Aviation Manager, Protection Program
 Stan Harvey: Senior Forest Protection Officer, Protection Program
 Steve Bachop: Superintendent Fire Prevention and Detection, Protection Program
 Peter Jordan: Geomorphologist, Southern Interior Region
 Allan Powelson: Regeneration/Mixed-Wood Specialist, Forest Practices Branch
 Steve Schell: Kamloops Zone Manager, Protection Program

Michael Benson: A/International Development Specialist, Protection Program

Catastrophic losses resulting from the 2007 Greek wildfires included the loss of 76 lives, hundreds of homes and 270 000 hectares of agricultural and forested land, comprising a full 12 percent of Greece's forest. The team of wildfire experts toured the affected fire regions for two days, interacting with personnel who were directly involved in the fire control operations. After meeting with Greek counterparts from a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations, BCFS staff delivered presentations at the Zappeion Hall, focussing on field observations and areas of opportunity in the categories of:

- Wildfire Management Organization, Structure and Policy
- Wildfire Preparedness, Prevention and Response
- Aerial Wildfire Suppression
- Ecological Restoration and Management of Fire Prone Landscapes
- International Cooperation and Reciprocal Agreements



Ministry of Forests and Range staff delivered 19 preliminary recommendations to the *Stavros Niarchos Foundation*. These recommendations focused on how to improve operations in the key areas of the wildfire business cycle (preparedness, suppression and rehabilitation).

The top priority recommended was the development of community wildfire protection plans given the tragic loss of lives and property resulting from the 2007 fire season. BCFS contributions to the workshop were well received and were reflective of the professionalism and long hours put in by BC's team. A report of final recommendations will be completed and forwarded to the host-agency by the New Year. This report will expand on the 19 recommendations and provide a plan for implementation.



BCFS participants reviewing a fire chronology in the Peloponnese region heavily affected by wildfire

Since the early 1990's, BC's Protection Program has participated in international cooperation projects in more than 30 countries around the world. There is considerable interest throughout the world in BC's ability to share technology and expertise with the rest of the global wildfire community.



BCFS staff with Canadian Ambassador to Greece Renata E. Wielgosz.
(Top row: Steve Schell, Brian Simpson, Jeff Berry, Michael Benson, Stan Harvey, Peter Jordan)
(Bottom row: Denis Gaudry, Ambassador Wielgosz, Allan Powelson, Steve Bachop)

Further information regarding BCFS participation in the workshop on Wildfire Management and Economic Development in Athens Greece can be found at: <http://bcwildfire.ca/AboutUs/International/>

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Technology Boosts

Submitted by:

Nancy Elliot, Matthew Braun and Andrew Pantel, Range Branch

Prior to 2004, British Columbia Range staff used paper forms for field data collection. Analyzing data and generating reports required 3 office days for each single day spent in the field. To streamline this process, Range staff began using digital forms, a process which notably reduced the time it took to complete analysis and report writing. Doug Fraser, Range Practices Officer, reports that “In the initial [electronic data collection] project, we were able to reduce our office time by at least 75 percent.” In 2007, conversion of a week’s worth of field data to summary reports required less than 2 hours.

A Personal Desktop Assistant (PDA), Global Positioning System (GPS), and ArcPad mapping software support data collection. Base data layers are downloaded from the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW) image repository and include Spot 5 satellite imagery, contour lines, Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC), and Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) information. Output, in the form of shapefiles, is directly compatible with the ArcMap programs used by Geomatics.

Range staff now use this equipment to fulfill emerging as well as existing needs, such as completing ecosystem inspection forms, noting the location of range improvements and new invasive plants, determining the size of the area inspected, navigating in the field, linking digital pictures with the appropriate inspection form, and recording additional notes. Range staff can also review existing data while in the field, an approach that allows them immediate access to trend information.

Range staff have created and maintain a guide to system operation as agrologists and are located in different areas of BC. The guide addresses topics including: using ArcPad with Rangeland Health forms, acquiring and using underlying spatial data, and addressing PDA challenges. Hands-on training has also proven successful. For example, technologically-adverse staff are taking to the equipment right away once training is provided. Beginning in 2008, other programs will be using electronic tools for data collection and we plan to establish user nodes in each BC Forest District office so staff have the ability to utilize their immediate environment for support.

Several unanticipated benefits have arisen from this new approach. Vanderhoof District Range Officer, Karen Tabe, has stated that “using the technology boosts my navigation abilities, making me feel more confident when spending time in the field.” Field staff are also adapting the technology to better suit their own requirements. Central Cariboo District Range Officer, Chris Armes, uses the mapping component to identify the spatial extent of his monitoring efforts, thereby making subsequent field trips time - and cost-effective.

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Looking to the Future

Recruiting employees for the future is one of the biggest challenges facing the Ministry of Forests and Range. This challenge is being tackled in different ways across the organization and this past summer BC Timber Sales (BCTS) used the Youth Employment Program to hire Jason Jensen in the Port Alberni field team of the Strait of Georgia Business Area. With an interest in pursuing a career in forestry, Jason was exposed to a wide variety of jobs and training opportunities over the summer.



Jason was successful in passing the Wildlife Danger Tree Assessor course and received additional training in Environmental Management Systems and WorkSafeBC procedures. His experience included working along side BCTS staff and contractors in performing silviculture survey work, road/bridge construction, cut block engineering, timber cruising, watershed hydrologic assessments and operational planning. Jason was involved in an especially interesting road building project—the construction of a uniquely engineered 30 foot tall retaining wall up Antler Creek on the south side of Sproat Lake.

Area Forester Blair Pigeon says that “we were able to provide Jason with a number of training opportunities and that, while Jason has not yet completed grade 12, he picked up valuable skills and knowledge that will help him with future employment. Jason was a solid worker and excellent employee.”

“We will hire Jason again next year, if he is available,” says Pigeon. “If not, we will continue our First Nations hiring initiative to find another First Nations youth.” Jason is a member of the Tseshah band in Port Alberni.

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"Berg's Eye View...by Shane Berg"



"I'd like a weaker Canadian dollar, stronger lumber export markets in Japan, a reduction in the softwood lumber tariff, a freeze on sub-prime interest rates in the US to bolster housing starts, cheaper fuel...oh, and a new Xbox 360!"

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The IMG Brochure - Who do you call?

Over the past few years the Workplace Technology Services (WTS) group have been responsible for many technical services such as desktops, file and print, IDIR account management and network services. Many of these activities the Information Management Group (IMG) used to perform in the past. At times it has been difficult for Forests and Range staff to always know who to contact for a service or to have a problem solved.

To assist staff in determining where to turn for services and problem resolution, the IMG has created a brochure to help sort out which services come from where. The IMG brochure can be found on the web at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/IMGBrochure.pdf>. This one page brochure can be printed, folded and carried around for quick reference. The printing and folding instructions are detailed at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/IMGBrochure.htm>

Your best source of information is BASS (Business Application Support Section) fondly referred to as APPHELP! Their URL is <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/bass/>

Essentially, the IMG provides services that support the business applications of the ministry.

These services include:

- Business Analyst staff
- Business Application support
- Training
- Change Management
- Privacy, Information, Records and Litigation Services
- The Project Office
- Data Administration and Records Management
- Web Master Services
- Forms and Document Services
- Production Services, including Voice, Radio, Video Conferencing and Blackberry Services

If you are still unsure who to contact after consulting the IMG brochure, call WTS at 387-7000 or 1-866-660-0811 and if it turns out that the IMG provides the service you are looking for, WTS will direct your call to the proper IMG contact through protocols WTS and IMG have arranged.

You can also get more information on WTS services through their web page at <https://77000.gov.bc.ca> or by e-mail at 77000@gov.bc.ca.

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Learning Organization Goes to Russia



Doug Konkin and Shelley Sullivan—known for their work with Learning Organization practitioners in the Forest Service—attended an international forestry forum (Megaforestais) in St. Petersburg, Russia in October of this year.

An interview with Shelley...

Q: How did this come about?

It started last year when Doug attended the first Megaforestais gathering in Pennsylvania. When asked what he thought about the meeting, he told them they could do much better—if they used some of the learning organization (LO) tools and techniques we use here in the Forest Service. The planning team took him up on the idea and I was asked to work with them to develop an agenda for the St. Petersburg meeting.

Q: What were they looking for from you?

Those invited to attend the meeting included people like the head of the Forest Service in Brazil, the Associate Chief Forester from the United States, the head of the Russian Forest Federation and people from China, Canada and other countries, representing jurisdiction over 67 percent of the world's forests. These folks spend a lot of time in very formal "United Nations" style meetings and they wanted a meeting approach that would be more conducive to conversation and informal discussions—precisely what the LO tools have to offer.

I was planning to just hand over the agenda to them, but they asked for help with facilitation in St. Petersburg because they weren't familiar with the techniques. We initially offered to send two LO practitioners, but they were hesitant because that would mean the support team outnumbered the country representatives. I wish a couple more LO practitioners could have also attended, but I'm hopeful there will be future opportunities.

Q: How did the tools work there?

Unfortunately, not as well as I had hoped or would have liked. The most tricky aspect was the need for simultaneous language translation, which immediately introduces a formality, which doesn't fit well with the LO approach. For example, it's very difficult to break out into small groups to do an interview matrix when you can't move the translation booth around with you. But at the end of the 3 days the delegates were happy and said it was one of the better meetings they had attended. As a practitioner, it was important for me to remember that it's not about my evaluation of the session—it's about them and their response. If they're happy with the results—that's what counts.

This experience provides opportunities for improvements with future plans, which I'll be discussing with the planning team when we conduct the meeting de-brief. For now, I am extremely pleased that the profile of the Forest Service LO community has been extended to the international scene.

Q: So was it still a worthwhile trip?

Oh yes, for a few reasons—the planning team for next year's event, which will be in Brazil, now have a

whole new suite of tools they can use to help them meet their objectives and create the kind of meeting environment and atmosphere they want. There's also a possibility for us to do some work together with the US Forest Service around leadership development, which we'll follow up on. It was also great to see the solid reputation of the BC Forest Service in this international arena, specifically the reaction in the room when Doug shared with them the work on climate change being done in our ministry. Amid day-to-day pressures, we sometimes lose sight of how remarkable this organization is—so it was a good reminder of all the great opportunities available in this organization that I currently have the privilege of working in.

Q: Will you be going to Brazil?

Well—I haven't been invited, but even if I were, there are a number of LO practitioners that I'd recommend go instead of me next time—expanding the opportunity to represent the Forest Service.

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MFR Hosts Russian Federal Forest Agency

Beginning on December 2, the Economics and Trade Branch of the BC Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) hosted a visit by the Russian Federal Forest Agency. The Russian delegation consisted of Mr. Michail Girjaev, Deputy Head, Russian Federal Forest Agency; Ms. Tatyana Nanaeva, Deputy Head of Department for Foreign Cooperation; and Mr. Alexey Ermolenko, Deputy Chief of Department for Forest Management.

The Russian delegates were here to learn as much as they could about various aspects and functions of the BC Ministry of Forests and Range. The visit consisted of presentations by forest management and policy experts in Victoria, a dinner with Deputy Minister Doug Konkin and others, and a tour that included visits to the Forestry Innovation Investment offices, UBC forestry faculty and FPInnovations in Vancouver. The Russian delegates were then taken to the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar, an active logging operation in the Nelson area, Kalesnikoff Lumber Company sawmill and log yard, the Arrow Boundary and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts, and on a helicopter tour of the area. In exchange, Mr. Girjaev also made presentations about forest management in Russia.

While the technical aspects of the visit were beneficial for both the Russian guests and MFR staff (details are on the Economics and Trade Branch internal website: <http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/het/index.htm>) the guests were particularly impressed by the openness and friendliness of the people they met along the various stages of their visit. Wherever they were taken—the guests were greeted in their native language. Forest Service employee Mahrusa Sherstobitoff, First Nations Liaison Forester of the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District, was the Russian-speaking interpreter, who communicated with the visitors—and did an outstanding job.

While touring the Kalesnikoff Lumber Company timber harvesting operation, log yard and sawmill, everyone, including the owner and CEO, logging truck drivers, cable harvesting crew, and scalers practiced their Russian and made the guests feel right at home. The Arrow Boundary Forest District included the Russian tour participants in their Christmas potluck lunch, and treated them to a buffet loaded with everything from borscht and cabbage rolls to local wild game dishes. The Russian guests later commented that they appreciated being included in the Arrow Boundary “family lunch.”

In the end, the Russian guests were very satisfied with their trip. They commented on the wealth of information MFR staff provided, and joked that they hoped they would not encounter any problems when leaving Canada with such valuable and detailed materials. They returned to Moscow on December 9, with new ideas and great plans to incorporate what they learned in BC in the continued restructuring of the Russian Federal Forest Agency.

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FS flexible schedules!

Maureen Tait has this to say about the great opportunity the Forest Service offers for work arrangements that suit everyone.

Pitter, patter...pitter, patter. That familiar sound is that of my twins' footsteps as they approach my door. It is 6:00 am and they are ready for another day. Am I? I have to get up, get them dressed and fed, make lunch, get them to daycare...hey, wait a minute, I don't have to do any of that today! It's Thursday and it's my day off!

How is a Thursday my day off? After my maternity leave ended, I came back to work on a part time basis and I LOVE it. It allows me a great balance of family and work. I am the Compliance and Enforcement Officer in the Fort St. James Forest District, and my part time schedule gives me the balance I need in order to enjoy both my family and my work life.

There has been a lot of discussion recently on how to make the BC Public Service and the Ministry of Forests and Range the employer of choice. Well, offering part time work is one way to achieve this goal. People value their time off, whether it is with family and friends or just doing something they love outside of work. Flexible work schedules are not just the way of the future, they are working well already.

On a recent visit to Fort St. James, Doug Konkin, our Deputy Minister said, "Every job is different, but generally what you accomplish is more important than when you are in the office. Within constraints like productivity, the needs of clients, and the people who depend on you, we should be as flexible as possible in our work arrangements."

What better way to attract and retain talent than to let people know that the ministry is open to part time and flexible work schedules? I know this is a large part of why I will continue to be an actively engaged member of the Ministry of Forests and Range team.

The Twins!



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Project Nicaragua

Project Nicaragua is a non-profit charity that focuses on health and sanitation in Central America's poorest country. The project was spearheaded by Lyndsey Rosevear of the Fort Nelson Initial Attack (IA) Base in the Prince George Fire Centre and is now entering its fourth year. From its humble beginnings in 2005 the project has grown with the full support of the Rotaract Club at the University of Calgary and has become a multifaceted operation. Project Nicaragua is dedicated to improving the quality of life for more than 2.5 million people that live below the poverty line in that country. The project provides:

1. "Economical stoves" that burn less firewood and vent harmful smoke out of the house;
2. "Bio-sand water filters" that filter harmful bacteria out of the drinking water;
3. Composting bathrooms that prevent sewage from seeping through the soil and into drinking water;
4. Funding for 13 pre-schools;
5. A visit from a local dentist; and
6. A trip for Calgary Rotaracters to Nicaragua to help with the work.

In 2007, Project Nicaragua was selected from hundreds of other projects as the Rotary International Outstanding Project of the Year. The Co-executive Director,

Lyndsey Rosevear, traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah last summer to receive the award on behalf of the Rotaract Club at the University of Calgary.

The project is run by Lyndsey and her dedicated team of volunteers. Heather Simpson, a Vanderhoof IA crew leader, spent five weeks in October and November in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua working with local entrepreneurs to help achieve many of the projects goals for 2007. Jeff Nitychoruk, from the Fort Nelson IA base has devoted a month in both 2006 and 2007 helping the project grow and to witness first hand the impact the project has in the lives of local Nicaraguans. To date Lyndsey and her team have raised more than \$50,000 and are hoping to raise another \$25,000 for 2008. Please take a few minutes and visit www.givemeanings.com/project/ProjectNicaragua where you can learn more about the great work Lyndsey, Heather and Jeff are doing and to make a tax deductible donation! Even a penny helps!!

For more information please contact Lyndsey at lyndseyrosevear@hotmail.com

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Awards and More Awards

October 3, 2007 The recognition started at the 9th annual Public Sector Information Technology Awards at the Victoria Conference Centre. These awards were created to recognize leadership, innovation and excellence in the use of information technology across BC's Public Service. IMG took two of the five awards, winning in the Team Work and Innovation categories for the LEXIS & TRIM projects respectively. The Economics and Trade Branch was also honoured for the LEXIS project.

October 15, 2007 Then, the Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC), awarded Bronze in the "Internal Business Practices" category to the ministry for GENUS, a project made successful by BCTS and the Information Management Group with Cengea, the GENUS program vendors. The Ministry of Forests and Range was also named a National Finalist in the category of Cross-Jurisdictional Partnerships for LEXIS. The conference, held in Ottawa this year on October 15, is the annual meeting place for IT/IM decision-makers from the federal, provincial, municipal and regional levels of government to share knowledge and experience. LEXIS crosses all those jurisdictions and celebrates the teamwork between the Coast region, the Economics and Trade Branch and the Information Management Group with the federal government.

November 6, 2007 IMG is nominated for a Premier's Award of Excellence, for the TRIM project, and IMG and Economics and Trade are nominated for the LEXIS project.

November 14, 2007 At the Canadian Information Productivity Awards (CIPA) gala in Toronto, the LEXIS team won the Gold Award of Excellence in the Not for Profit – Collaboration category. CIPA also honoured BCTS staff along with IMG and Cengea as a finalist in their celebration of innovation implementation excellence. The CIPA ceremony is a celebration of IT and innovation implementation excellence in all types of organizations across the country. CIPA constitutes the highest form of recognition for the capabilities of an organization and its executives.

December 4, 2007 The LEXIS team was named a Regional Finalist in the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards. The regional awards ceremony for Vancouver Island has not yet been announced.

February 11, 2008 Provincial Finalists for the Premier's Awards will be announced.

About the Projects

LEXIS – The Log Export Information System is the first application to electronically integrate the forest industry, the federal government and the provincial government. It was developed to receive Export

Exemption applications electronically from industry for exporting timber grown on federal or provincial land in British Columbia. The business partners benefit from timely and consistent data and the elimination of redundant paper-based processes.

TRIM – Total Records Information Management is a new electronic records management system in over 70 office locations across the province, involving over 3000 workstations. It is the first ministry in the BC government to integrate physical and electronic records management and begin training all ministry staff in the use of the system. It allows employees to instantly track and file documents.

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Nadina Forest District Receives Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring Award

The Forest Service has a long history of dedication to the management of British Columbia's public forest lands. By evaluating forest practices through resource stewardship monitoring (RSM) and effectiveness evaluations, the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) continues this rewarding tradition.

Broad participation is one of FREP's important accomplishments. To collect monitoring data on the state of the province's forest resources, FREP relies on the expertise and support of district, regional and branch staff, as well as personnel from the Ministry of Environment and other partners. So far, over 200 personnel have received data-collection training.

Correctly collecting and accurately reporting this field data is essential to FREP's credibility. In 2006, executive sponsor, Chief Forester Jim Snetsinger, along with ADM Operations Division, Tim Sheldon, instigated the *Chief Forester and ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring*. This annual award is presented to the district that demonstrates the highest level of contribution and excellence in RSM associated with FREP. Nadina Forest District won the 2006 field season award for their commitment to innovation, quality of work and cross-program involvement.

On October 25, Nadina staff celebrated the recognition by treating Victoria visitors Jim Snetsinger, Peter Fuglem (Executive Director Operations), Diane Medves (Director Forest Practices Branch), and Frank Barber (Effectiveness Evaluations Coordinator, FREP) to a cowboy-themed lunch at the district office. Presenting the award, the Chief Forester remarked, "I believe that FREP is a very important component of our stewardship mandate. It is extremely gratifying to see district staff so engaged in this important field-based work. The efforts of all staff involved in FREP around the province are integral to ensuring the successful implementation of a results-based regime."

"The award attests to the quality of FREP and its commitment to recognize involvement, competency and innovation," said Nadina Stewardship Officer, Agathe Bernard. "My colleagues and I believe that we must be part of the change we want to see in the world. Being part of FREP allows us to enable this change. This recognition of our work tells us we are indeed working to change the world."

FREP's accomplishments to date include: implementing province-wide monitoring for stand-level biodiversity, riparian, water quality, soils and visual quality resource values; completing multiple intensive evaluations; publishing reports; and developing an information management system (FREP IMS) that currently tracks the data collected for stand-level biodiversity and riparian resource values.

For more information on FREP see: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/>



Photo 1 - Award received by George Williams, Assistant Forester of the Neudachukwilt territory. The award recognizes exceptional and proven the Wild (spelling) (spelling) and experience. Since the award is presented, it is held in the province and presented to the district. The award is held in the province and presented to the district. The award is held in the province and presented to the district. The award is held in the province and presented to the district.

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Forest Engineering Award of Excellence

Jim Schwab, PGeo, PEng, RPF, has been nominated for the Forest Engineering Award of Excellence, a joint award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC and the Association of BC Forest Professionals, to recognize his life work—the application of geoscience in the forest sector.

Jim has demonstrated leadership and excellence in his research, extension and consulting work. For over 30 years he has integrated his knowledge of forestry and geoscience to provide sound advice at the operational, policy and legal levels. Knowledge gained from a detailed analysis of over 300 landslides in Rennell Sound, Queen Charlotte Islands in the mid 1970s provided a solid basis for Jim to provide technical advice as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Fish Forest Interaction Program on the Queen Charlotte Islands—a committee that he served on for 8 years. His knowledge continued to increase with a series of research and consulting projects throughout the Prince Rupert Forest Region. As one of the co-authors of *Land Management Handbook 18 – Management of Landslide Prone Terrain*—Jim was a driving force in the creation of an operational training program.

Over the last 20 years, Jim has delivered the course many times throughout the province. While he continuously updated the course, he undertook a major revision this year. Jim was the MFR technical specialist for terrain stability work undertaken by forest licensees under Section 88 and other funding mechanisms. His thorough reviews and feedback to terrain mappers and operational staff were designed to improve quality, increase safety, and lead to fewer environmental impacts. As Jim's reputation grew so did requests for him to undertake forestry-landslide projects in other forest regions, including Belgo Creek in the Okanagan, Donna Creek near MacKenzie and the Silver Creek wildfire near Salmon Arm.

A topic that Jim has been pursuing recently is the issue of landslides that originate upslope of the commercial forest land base. A series of very large landslides originating in alpine areas have significantly impacted the forest land base and forestry infrastructure throughout the province. This work is important because too frequently forest practitioners focus on their development areas, and are unaware of hazards that are becoming more significant as we experience climate change.

Of particular note, is Jim's relentless quest to create and improve meteorologically-based shutdown guidelines for forestry operations to prevent damage or loss of life from landslides. He has supervised several research projects, some of which have been published in international peer-reviewed journals.

Jim has been involved in a series of investigations and court cases regarding landslides associated with forestry activities. He used this knowledge to develop materials for an MFR expert witness course, specifically focusing on improving the standard in data collection, report writing and delivery in court.

Jim has also been instrumental in securing funding for, and collaborating with a large pool of national and international-calibre landslide and forestry experts. Through his guidance and leadership he has attracted these individuals to B.C.'s heartland and the North and has thus contributed to an impressive body of scientific literature.

Jim shares his knowledge with graduate students and has served on graduate student committees at UNBC and SFU, and has provided information for many graduate student projects (including UBC).

Fellow professionals supporting the nomination:

Doug VanDine, PEng, PGeo	Larry Pedersen, RPF
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Jim Snetsinger, RPF	David Coates, PhD, RPF
Howard DeBeck, PEng	Alan Baxter, RPF
Gary Hanson, RPF	Irene Weiland, PGeo
David Wilford, PhD, RPF, PGeo	Jane Lloyd-Smith, RPF
Barry Smith, RPF	Matthias Jakob, PhD, PGeo
Dan Hogan, PGeo	Ron Donnelly, RPF
Matt Sakals, PGeo	Grant Marleau, RFP
Loren Kelly, PEng, RPF	

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BCTS Receives GTEC Bronze for Genus Application

Submitted by: Brian Quinn
Acting Manager – Information Technology and Management
BC Timber Sales

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) staff in conjunction with the Information Management Group (IMG) and Cengea Solutions Inc., vendors of the GENUS forest management application, have recently received notable 3rd party recognition for overcoming major obstacles during implementation over the last 3 years.

The national Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC) awards held recently in Ottawa recognized innovative use of information technology to increase organizational capabilities. This year, the GENUS implementation project won a Bronze medal in the Provincial Government Internal Business Systems category.

The Canadian Information Productivity Awards similarly honoured BCTS staff along with IMG and Cengea Solutions Inc. as a finalist in their celebration of Information Technology and innovation implementation excellence for all organizations nationwide.

Both awards recognize the numerous challenges that all staff overcame in the early days of the formation of BCTS (formed April 1, 2003) and the tremendous collaboration that was required and still is, in achieving the progress that has been made. The awards are a testimony to the efforts of all BCTS staff and our partners in: achieving BCTS' sales goals, successfully meeting all legislative requirements and attaining forest management certification.

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Made you read the entire newsletter—just to get to the crossword [answers...](#)

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[Feedback](#)

You are visitor # 4



Chilliwack Forest District Staff Raise \$900 for Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund

Submitted by:

Kerry Grozier, District Manager

Chilliwack Forest District

Staff in Chilliwack not only had a great Christmas Pot Luck dinner and entertainment extravaganza, but through a silent auction of staff donated items raised \$900 dollars for the Salvation Army's Christmas Food Hamper Drive.

The target was set at \$500 dollars, but due to staff generosity and a few Shirley Temples they almost doubled that amount. No worries, the Red Nose squad was there to drive the naughty home safe and sound.

Looks like we have a new tradition that is not only fun and feels good, but provides needed help to our community.

Kerry Grozier, District Manager and Kevin Chisholm, First Nations Officer, presenting cheque to Salvation Army representative



5th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial

B.C. Forest Service Hockey Tournament & Funspiel

Thursday February 14 through to Saturday February 16, 2008

North Thompson Sportplex - Clearwater, B.C.

Due to the overwhelming success of the event over the years, we are continuing with our Women's Hockey Tournament and Curling Bonspiel to attract as many participants from all over the province into the weekend festivities.

The ice has been booked and our enthusiastic organizing committee has begun planning in earnest.

It is our intent, yet again, to put our fun little town on the map by pulling out all the stops and putting on a great event, with our emphasis being on FUN and camaraderie, both on and off the ice.

If you have not entered your team do so now! Please review the attached invitation for associated entry fees and Headwaters District Contact information to express your interest.

We hope to see you in February 2008!

Mark Taylor
Headwaters Forest District
on behalf of the Tournament Organizing Committee

[INVITATION](#)

"Creative Fundraising"

Submitted by:

Ailsa Siemens

Records Management Clerk

Staff from the Squamish Forest District came up with some creative ways recently to raise funds for charity.

Daily bake sales and a luncheon by donation were held during the Canadian Breast Cancer Society's annual event raising \$450.

Adopting the "dress pink" theme was easy to do. Operations Manager André Germain was a good sport, wearing a pink dress all day, and I spent the day working in my pj's.

A silent auction had some unusual prizes.

"District Manager for the Day" was won by Colette Fauchon, Aboriginal Affairs Officer. Colette thoroughly enjoyed taking over Dave Hails desk, imploring the staff to bring her letters and permits to sign.

André Germain offered up an evening of cocktails and scintillating conversation with himself, bringing about a bidding frenzy amongst the ladies in the office, who are still waiting to collect.

When the dust settled, staff had raised a total of \$700 which was donated to the local Food Bank, Howe Sound Women's Centre and the Squamish Soup Kitchen.



“Cookies for a Cause”

Submitted by:

Margaret Hollands

Correspondence Assistant

The team was lead by Jen Erlendson with Nancy Fairs-Natland, Patti Dunn, Nora Anderson, Joanne Thompson, Arlene Miller, Dorothy Benneke, Don Rorison, Kim M McGarry, Debra L Clifford, Judy Laton, Emily Pridham, Tricia Morris, Jennifer L Mathieu, George Silvestrini, Nicole S. Bilodeau, and myself, Margaret Hollands and we had fun!

The day of the big sale dawned grey and cold with the threat of rain. Luckily the venue was in Library Square, which has a glass roof. Dorothy Benneke from Nanaimo, courtesy of Jim Snidal, sent several kinds of Biscotti flavoured with Cointreau, German Lebkuchen and some organic fruit cookies as an entry for the healthiest cookies. An email generated over \$100 in pre-sales of cookies.

George Silvestrini donated “Fibre Rounds”—appropriately named “cookies,” with a suggested price of \$1, and to our surprise a couple bought one for their cat as a scratching post. We brazenly entered one of our fibre rounds in the healthiest cookie contest as there was nothing in the rules that said the cookies had to be edible. Larry Pedersen, DM, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands stopped by our booth to admire our tree rounds. When he offered \$5 if anyone knew the Latin name of the rounds, Jen quickly came up with the name, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and he had to pay up.

Sales were brisk, as was the chill wind that blew around the sales team. Starbucks donated coffee for all to keep warm. The fruit cookies were a big hit as one lady was delighted to find a cookie for her daughter who had just been diagnosed with a sugar allergy. By the end of the hour, we had nearly sold out with only 3 – 4 packages of cookies and banana loaf slices remaining.

Despite not winning the healthiest cookie contest we were happy as \$300 was raised for the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF) by MFR.

Plans for a new and more exciting sales booth were discussed for next year

In total, the event raised \$3,808.49, and we look forward to your support in 2008!

Invermere Forest District Reunion

Dateline: Invermere, August 2007

Reminiscent of the movie “Field of Dreams,” Invermere Forest District alumni appeared from distant locations to reunite, tell stories and remember the exceptional camaraderie they experienced before this office was closed in 2003.

The event started on Friday, August 10 with an informal gathering at the Lakeside Pub, a favourite haunt of many if not most of the district staff. It is located on the edge of picturesque Lake Windermere just miles from the source of the Columbia River.

For those staff adventurous enough to wish away their fortunes, the gamblers in our group continued on to Kreg Sky’s residence for Poker Night—a long coveted tradition at the district, where many a fortune has been made and lost in the same evening!

The festivities continued on Saturday morning with golfing at the Spur Valley Golf Course. The quality of golf was similar to that of past. Fortunately, friction created by golf balls colliding with coniferous trees did not start any forest fires.

The Rotary Club's annual Loop the Lake Road Race (run/cycle) was held all morning; with several reunion attendee’s participating in the well known event, running varying distances.

Returning staff were encouraged to take a morning Driving Tour of Invermere and area to see the big changes around the valley. Specifically, the area has really changed in just these few short years—the downtown's main street is growing-up, there are way too many highly-priced subdivisions at Castlerock (south on the Westside Road) and Lakeview Meadows (just south of the new Copper Point Golf Course), all the condos finally underway in Athalmer and across from the hospital, Home Hardware’s new store at the Crossroads and our very own Tim Horton's for coffee!

The afternoon unfolded with a BBQ and mixer at Phil and Cindy Burk's acreage and continued into the wee hours. The menu included; Baron of Beef roasts, a baked ham, baked potatoes, corn on the cob and all the condiments (hot dogs and veggie dogs were also provided). Nothing formal was planned for the BBQ, just a lot of jawing and elbow bending! Greg Anderson threw down the gauntlet to defend his Bocce’ championship with his bocce partner, Helen Metcalfe. According to our local statistician and Treasurer Carl Walgren, there were about 100 staff and spouses in attendance, as well as kids, dogs and add-ons.

Everyone was encouraged to bring along old staff pictures for a display/story board, which included photo albums from the district office. Many great memories and laughs were generated by this display of interesting moments and past events.

To cap a successful weekend on Sunday morning, a great wake-up breakfast (including pancakes, bacon and sausages) was served at Diana Cote's residence in town, with over 60 people in attendance. What a great morning in Invermere, a beautiful sunny day and a great way to wrap up a phenomenal weekend.

At the reunion BBQ, an amazing contribution to the Keira benefit, in the true FS spirit of very generous hearts and open wallets was made to the Neal family. To explain, Keira is the daughter of Daphne and Al Neal of Fairmont Hot Springs. Al is a former Forest Service employee who worked at the Invermere Forest District prior to 2003, and is presently working with Greg Anderson, Provincial Ecosystem Restoration Manager as an auxiliary. Keira turned one year old on June 6^h, the day she was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare cancer that is in her right quadriceps muscle. The collection at our reunion contributed \$877 to the Neal family to assist Daphne and Al in helping to offset some of the costs that they are incurring as Keira receives treatment over the next several months.

Gail Berg took a short break from her consulting work in China to attend, making her the farthest traveller. Many "old time" district staff such as Bill Pitt attended the event, presenting an opportunity to retake a photo taken at Bill and Frank Schmidt's retirement party some 20 years ago as many of the same folks were in attendance.

Overall the event was very well attended, the weather was great and a good time was had by all!









North Island Green!

On Saturday September 29, 2007, “Green” forces mobilized on northern Vancouver Island. Marshalling at the Quatse River Hatchery near Port Hardy, 35 North Island-Central Coast (NI-CC) District and BCTS Seaward-tlasta Business Area staff and their families joined forces with other government agencies, local government, forest licensees and community volunteers. In total, a highly motivated team of over 80 people was formed. They came here to carry out their third mission in a hugely successful campaign to clean up decade’s worth of illegal dumping

accumulations from local forestry roads—and it all started here in the FS News...

In June 2006, an article appeared in the newsletter acknowledging Sunshine Coast District staff participation in a local community cleanup in Powell River. Never too proud to capitalize on someone else’s great idea, Scott Mitchell, NI-CC District’s Tenure Officer, made the pitch to District Manager Andrew Ashford and the local management team. Why not organize a North Island cleanup? What better way for the Forest Service to show community leadership and environmental stewardship? And celebrate National Forest Week at the same time!

With five thumbs up from the management team, the call went out for FS staff volunteers. The rest is history! The network quickly extended to local forest licensees, consultants, local government and community members. The results were astounding.

In September 2006, the inaugural cleanup event attracted over 35 FS staff and families who were joined by 20 other volunteers from the broader community. Together, nearly 20 tonnes of garbage was collected from forestry roads around Port McNeill. Free tipping was provided at the landfill and the local “sanitation engineer” provided large collection bins and free haulage. The local Professional Foresters Network sponsored a BBQ lunch for volunteers.

Buoyed by this incredible success, the Green team set its sights on Port Hardy. The second cleanup event occurred in April 2007, with nearly 40 FS staff and families joined by over 50 additional volunteers. The result, nearly 50 tonnes of junk and metal recyclables recovered from the area’s forests.

The most recent cleanup, saw many of the same people return to pick up where they left off in April.

The unseasonably cold and rainy September weather did not dampen the group's spirits. As they enjoyed their hamburgers at the end of the day, the volunteers' pride and sense of accomplishment was apparent. Another 20 tonnes of garbage had been moved to where it ought to be. Many sites that seemed insurmountable only 6 months before were now clean. Signs had posted to acknowledge the group's efforts and discourage future dumping.

Together we've removed 90 tonnes of junk from North Island forests. Through our efforts, we have visibly demonstrated the Forest Service's strong environmental stewardship ethic to local government and community members. Working together side by side has built new relationships between our staff, and staff from other government agencies, forest companies, local government and the general public.

All it took was a common goal, the leadership of our staff.....and the FS News!





Forest Service Provincial Bonspiel

Attention all curlers, wannabe curlers, those who know how much fun curling is, and those that should learn!

Get your social calendars out and book March 7, 8 and 9, 2008, aside for a weekend of great Forest Service Curling fun in Chase, BC.

The organizing committee wishes to invite all Forest Service staff, family members, ex-Forest Service staff, friends and of course, retirees to participate in this fun filled event.

Curling expertise is not a pre-requisite—wanting to have fun and meet great people is!
Everyone leaves with a prize!

Check it out—talk it up with your friends and work mates, block off your calendar and don't delay, contact [Bill Henriksen](#) to register and check out our web site for more details: http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/2008_Curling_Bonspiel/2008_Bonspiel_index.htm.

Curl for Cancer

Submitted by: Kevin Bertram

A team from the Southern Interior Forest Region recently participated in the “Curl for Cancer” fundraising event at the Kamloops Curling Club. The team consisted of:

Heather Griffiths (Kootenay Cow) - Building Vehicle Assets Tech
Betty Corbin-Charman (Baby Huey) - Regional Services Manager RSI
Bruce Tilbury (Frenchie the Maid) - Coordinator Facilities and Assets RSI
Kevin Bertram (Tacky Turista) – C & E Branch Manager

The team came out strong, but due to some inflated issues couldn't finish as well. Fun was had by all and the crowd had a lot of one-liners to direct at the four of us.

Curl for Cancer (CFC) is a fun-filled event where teams of four hit the ice, have fun, and raise pledges in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. More information on the topic can be found at: <http://www.curlforcancer.50megs.com/index.html>

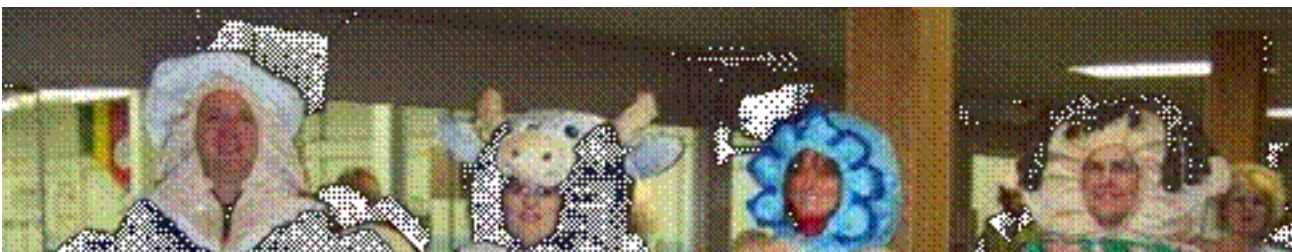
CFC Goals:

1. To raise money for the fight against cancer.
2. To promote curling in general, and the curling club in which CFC is held.

CFC Stipulations:

1. All money raised goes directly to the Canadian Cancer Society.
2. The use of all money raised is decided upon by the Canadian Cancer Society with the largest percentage of money raised going to the local office of the Canadian Cancer Society located in the area where the CFC event is held.

The Kamloops event had teams curling three - four end games, participating in a silent auction, donning costumes and participating in a pumpkin carving contest. There were prizes for top curlers and best costumes. This is the third year that the SIR has participated in the event.







Stanfield Cup

November 2, 3 & 4, 2007, came in with a storm and out with a bone weary sigh and with it the 5th Annual Stanfield Cup Tournament did as well. Held once again in Vanderhoof, the Hockey Heart of the Northern Interior Forest Region, ten teams competed for the vastly coveted Stanfield Cup. Tournament organizers estimating the gathering at about 150 skaters and great fun was had both on and off the ice.

The tournament continued to include a Ladies' Division as well as the traditional Men's Stanfield Cup and Silver Cup Divisions. Teams from around the Region supported this year's event. The Ladies Division featured the Vanderhoof Vipers, Houston Vipers, Fraser Lake Screamin' Beavers and the Mackenzie Stars. Men's Teams included the Dawson Creek Devils, Prince George Glaciers, Nadina Grizzlies, Fort St. James Stars, Protection Bruins and the host team Vanderhoof Forestry Flyers. Sadly Mackenzie and Kalum were unable to attend this year, but vow to return next year to once again vie for the "Cup."

The always exciting Ladies Division had the home team Vanderhoof Vipers edge out the competition in the round robin play crowning them "Stanfield Cup - Ladies Division Champions."

The Men's Division had the Nadina Grizzlies make a startling executive decision to send their starting goaltender back to the farm slaughtering buffalo. Grudgingly deemed a strategically brilliant move by the competition, the Grizzlies ended up defeating the defending champion Protection Bruins in an exciting final. The Silver Cup Division had Fort St. James eking out a victory over Vanderhoof in a well fought battle leaving Prince George and Dawson Creek to round out the Division.

The organizing committee would like to thank all the volunteers and contributors from our office and community as well as all the players, teams and fans that attended and made this tournament a great success.

Hope to see all of you at the next highly popular Forest Service Hockey Tournament, the Dan LeClerc Memorial Hockey Tournament and Funspiel in Clearwater February 2008. If we don't find time to catch up there, then rest assured we will see you all again for the 6th Annual N. I.F.R. Stanfield Cup next November here in Vanderhoof. Until then, keep your head up and your stick on the ice.

Ladies Division Winners Vanderhoof Vipers



Men's Division Winners Nadina Grizzlies



Silver Cup Division Winners Fort St. James Stars



This past November 17-19, 2006 saw the fourth rendition of the Vanderhoof...anfield Cup Tournament, with historic Legend and Lore dating back to 1974

Williams Lake Celebrates National Forestry Week

A group of enthusiastic employees combined their efforts to organize a one-day event at the new Tourism Discovery Centre in Williams Lake. This centre is a new addition to our city and one that showcases wood products so this was a perfect location for the event.



Invitations were sent out to all grade 4 classes in the school district and the response was exceptional. We hosted 134 students, teachers and 4 home school students.

The centre was a hub of activity as students were split into six groups as they exited the bus. Team leaders were on hand to deliver the students to their first stop. Each activity was only ten minutes and then students would rotate to the next stop. Team leaders, time keepers and presenters were provided with little rest as buses were coming and going for a five hour period.

A variety of activities were offered, which included:

1. An interactive mapping game where students were provided with a game piece that was a shaped eraser they could take home. The purpose of the game was to follow a hiking path through the forest with instructional stops along the way highlighting a variety of forest habitat, activities and directional questions.

This activity was one of the highlights of the day for the students.

2. Wood Products – where can you find them? This activity showcased a variety of products where at least one ingredient included some form of wood product. Students were shocked to discover one of their favourite food groups included cellulose.
3. Tree identification – branches, cones and bark were investigated at this stop. Students discovered what kind of trees grow in the forests where they live in the Cariboo Chilcotin.
4. Tree ring counting – students looked like investigators as they held up their magnifying glass to count tree rings. They had a difficult time imagining what the tree ring would look

like on the 600+ year old tree located in the centre of the Discovery Centre.

5. Smokey the Bear, initial attack and protection activities were the highlight of this stop. Demonstrations included how to build a safe camp fire, fire fighting equipment and the initial attack truck.

6. Pests, disease, fungi and more made up the forest health display. Students were delighted to discover these items placed around the tree roots of the large 600 year old cedar tree. Students completed an activity that allowed them to search for the answers that were located around the tree roots.

The event was open to the public and a free BBQ was offered. This drew approximately another 75 people to the display and made it a community event.

Overall this day was extremely successful and evaluations indicate that we should continue with the same concept next year and possibly extend it to a two day period.

Thank you to BCTS Cariboo-Chilcotin, Field Services Central Cariboo, Cariboo Fire Centre, West Fraser Forest Products and Tolko Industries Ltd. for their participation in this event.





Lauren Taylor presenting her board game
Students

Home School



Submission Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the newsletter is to strengthen communication across the Forest Service as well as with past employees. The success of the Forest Service *News* depends on staff stories and ideas.

Content Categories

The newsletter Advisory Group needs to ensure that certain areas are covered—not in every edition, but aiming to cover all of them over the course of a year.

Which of these content categories fits your story?

Events (FS calendar and upcoming events, stories after events)

People profiles

Forest Service **History**

Places/location profiles

Organizational **Direction/strategy**

Business, including innovation

Employee/team **Recognition**

Limits

We target 12 stories per edition.

It needs to be kept printer friendly, clean and easy to read.

A story length of **400 words** or less also keeps the newsletter readable in a brief amount of time. Some stories may require a longer format and will be considered on an individual basis. The key is to keep it interesting and provide a personal FS employee connection.

A photo to accompany your story would be great. Because of website delivery of the newsletter, photos in jpg format are best.

Please send three or four of your best pics and the advisory group will make the final selection of one photo per story.

Sometimes we receive stories that need some **editing**. Any changes will be sent back to the originator for approval. A story that needs substantial editing may have to wait for another edition, depending upon time constraints and circumstances.

There may be occasions where a story is deemed unsuitable for the newsletter as submitted—not well written, doesn't fit the purpose of the newsletter or another reason. In such situations, the advisory group will work with the submitter to help re-focus a story.

Deadlines

Story ideas should be sent to the feedback form prior to drafting the article.

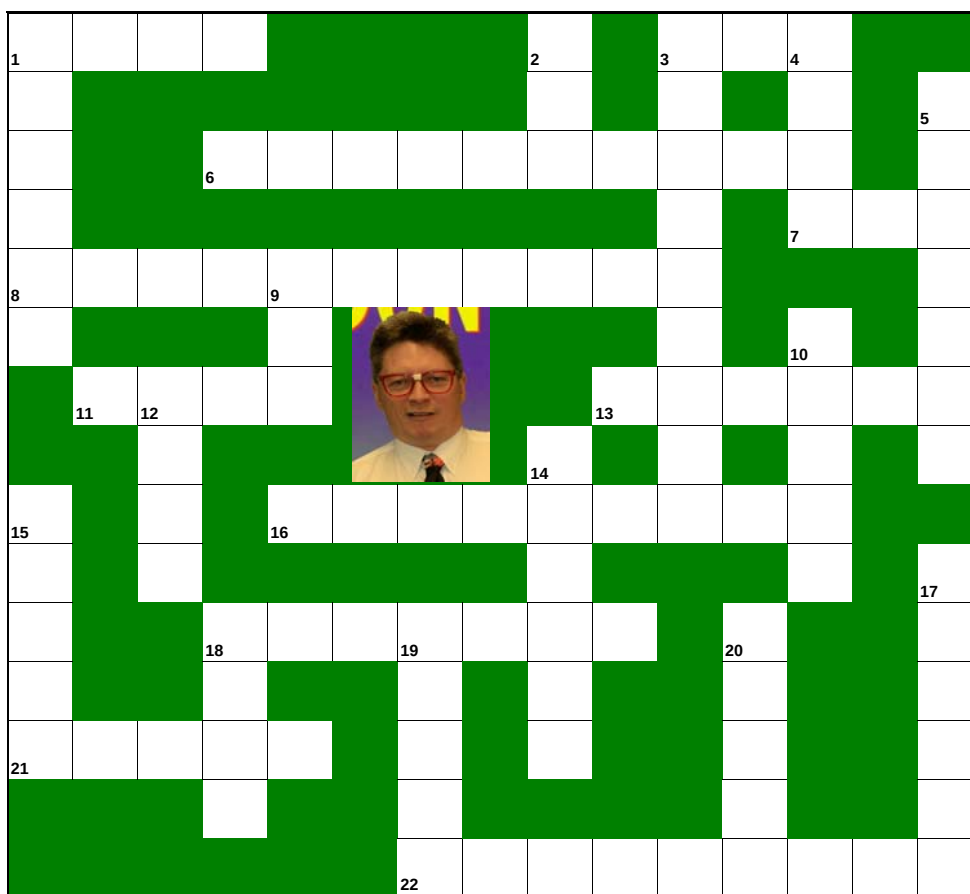
Submissions are required no later than two weeks prior to the production of the next quarterly edition: Production target dates are: **March 31, June 30, Sept 30, Dec. 22**

We'd appreciate your completing the **reader polls** to help us continuously improve this employee-driven newsletter.

Your final story checklist:

- ☐ Is the content relevant and appropriate?
- ☐ Have the facts been checked and verified?
- ☐ Is there a "personal" angle?
- ☐ Is the length within the guideline? (400 words)
- ☐ Grammar and spelling checked?
- ☐ Is there a photo to include?

Thanks for your consideration of the above guidelines—keep those stories and ideas coming!



ACROSS

1. Fungi Sporophore
3. It's what 3 DOWN does (acronym)
6. A geo-rectified picture
7. 37 of these management units (acronym)
8. This false hemlock is actually Df (latin)
11. "Helmet" or year zero of a tree
13. Bridge engineer's "stream lining"
16. Tree pigment problem
18. Making logs or "bronco"
21. "Syrupy" tree
22. Xmas kiss under this "midget" parasite



DOWN

1. "Tree awning"
2. Gladys Knight "partner"(acronym)
3. New name for former "LIM"
4. Dick&Jane's dog satellite imagery
5. Grid unit measuring soil nutrient and moisture
9. Cruisers measure trees at this point (acronym)
10. Cruiser's optical device was a Vancouver based rock band from the 70's ("Spaceship Superstar/Night to Remember")
12. Strategy for forest critters (acronym)
14. Limb or "HQ section"
15. "Opposite" of phloem
17. "Howard's" goose tree
18. "Cereal" or what a tree stem becomes
19. You're in this FD if in Terrace
20. Popular Quesnel Manager is also "Gunsmoke" city (pictured)

The Forest Service Crossword Puzzle

*All answers have a forestry theme and include many acronyms used by the FS.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*















"I'd like a weaker Canadian dollar, stronger lumber export markets in Japan, a reduction in the softwood lumber tariff, a freeze on sub-prime interest rates in the US to bolster housing starts, cheaper fuel...oh, and a new Xbox 360!"







Photo 1: Peter Fuglem (Executive Director, Operations), Jim Snetsinger (Chief Forester), Josh Pressey (District Operations Manager, and Agathe Bernard (Stewardship Forester)



Photo 2 – Award carved by George Williams, Ahousaht Nation of the Nuuchahnulth territory.

The Bear signifies strength and power. The Wolf signifies family and togetherness. Raven, the transformer, represents creation, prestige, and knowledge. The moon is held as the protector and guardian of the Earth. Above all, frog depicts communication and the transference of knowledge and power because of its ability to live both in the water and on land





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