The B.C. Forest Service

No. 27 A newsletter for employees of the Ministry of Forests December, 1988

Season's Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm and best wishes to each of you and your families for this holiday season and the coming New Year.

We've been through an extremely busy and successful year together and I would like to thank you for your individual contributions and dedicated teamwork.

Thank you for facing the challenges of 1988. I am confident that 1989 will be even more rewarding and exciting.

Dave Parker
Minister

Young forests help reduce 'greenhouse effect'

Global warming, or the "greenhouse effect", is what occurs when gases such as carbon dioxide, mostly from burning fossil fuels, block the escape of heat from the earth's atmosphere.

This heat remains and causes temperatures to increase.

Nobody knows for certain when or how much temperatures will increase.

Some scientists believe greenhouse effects are being felt right now, says Dave Spittlehouse, climatologist, research branch.

Predictions are that global temperatures may rise slightly near the equator, and as much as six degrees Celcius in the Arctic.

Vigorous forests can play a role in reducing the impacts of the greenhouse effect.

What happens in our forests can affect the earth's temperature.

And the earth's temperature can affect our forests.

To understand how this occurs, think of the forest as inhaling and exhaling.

Growing plants take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and put oxygen back in.

Thus, young, growing forests make a deposit into the oxygen bank account, says **Phil Comeau**, research branch.

On the other hand, old forests do not make any net contribution of oxygen.

The amount of carbon dioxide they take out of the air is roughly equal to the carbon dioxide they put back into the air through decomposing debris.

What happens to the carbon dioxide inhaled by young forests?

Apparently it is tied up in plant material and in growing new wood.

Tree species present in young forests are often more productive than climax species, due to better developed crowns and more leaves.

The harvesting and commercial thinning of young forests can lead to increases in the net removal of wood fibre. This in turn raises the amount of carbon which is tied up in wood products.

This benefits atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, if the products are not used for fuel.

Scientific literature shows that forestry practices, particularly the establishment of young forests, have led to a net reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide released from our forests in North America and Europe since 1890, Comeau says.

Forest management practices in B.C. aim for prompt re-establishment of new forests following harvest.

This contrasts sharply with the conversion of vast areas of tropical rainforest to agricultural or non-forest uses in the southern hemisphere.

Benefits of young forests: see page 3

Ackhurst appointed silviculture director

Peter Ackhurst has been appointed director of the silviculture branch, after a year as acting director.

He brings more than two decades of forestry experience to the position and has been with the BCFS since 1980.

Peter received his B.Sc. in forestry/silviculture from the University of British Columbia in 1966.

After graduating, he worked several years in the B.C. forest private sector.

In 1969 he travelled to Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania and joined the Ministry of Natural Resources (CUSO).

He spent 1972 in Santiago, Chile with the United Nations (FAO), then returned to the B.C. forest sector.

In 1980 he became staff manager for the Vancouver forest region.

Information sharing

The presses are hot and rolling at public affairs branch, where a wide range of new publications are making forestry technology and techniques easy to access.

Here is an update.

You can learn how to become your own small-scale forest manager with a new guidebook, *Managing Your Woodland: A Non-Forester's Guide to Small-Scale Forestry in British Columbia.*

The handbook was co-published by Forestry Canada and the BCFS.

It provides basic information on the processes involved in forest land management, useful to small-scale private forest land owners, woodlot licencees and Indian bands.

The guidebook is specific to B.C., where small-scale operations are different in many ways, due to a diversity in landscape and forest environments and due to specific BCFS policies and standards.

A pilot project brochure, now completed, lets motorists get on the road to find out, with a self-guided interpretation of forestry.

Quesnel to Barkerville is an easy-to-follow highway guide that lets visitors see the forest, not just the trees.

Using the brochure, travellers can retrace the route followed by early gold-seekers and become aquainted with the history of forestry in "gold rush country."

The forest comes to life on the tour.

Instead of passing the trees by, particular stands can be identified historically, as well as by specie.

The guide also includes information useful for understanding the forest and its history.

Trees found in the Quesnel-Barkerville corridor are distinguished from one another, and a short glossary of forest management terms are defined.

Cross calendars off your 1989 shopping list. All ministry staff will receive a copy of the FRDA calendar, recently completed.

Copies have also been distributed to ministry clients and are available through all of our offices.

Publications in the works:

- How does the BCFS manage forests?
  A question that many non-foresters might ask, will be answered comprehensively, but briefly, in the new booklet *Forestry Practices in B.C.*
  The 18-chapter booklet does more than answer questions. It invites you into the forest scene to "smell the damp wood" or to experience the preparation of a planting site — helicopters, misty skies and all;
- As a pilot project, a fact sheet will profile the Queen Charlotte Islands district in comparison to the rest of the province;
- Rapattack, much more than just an interesting word, will be the subject of a new brochure intended to accompany a new video *Hit Hard, Hit Fast* which promotes B.C.-developed equipment and technology;
- A new brochure about clearcutting will present and discuss some of the issues surrounding this harvesting method;
- Six new brochures will outline FRDA accomplishments in each of the forest regions. The publication date is set for early January.
- A general public information brochure focusing on who we are, what we do and where to find us in the Ministry of Forests, is also being developed.
- The *Integrated Resource Management of Provincial Forests* brochure is also being updated.

The following research and FRDA reports and handbooks have been published recently:

- Land Management Report #29: *Mass Wasting on the Queen Charlotte Islands: A Regional Inventory*
- Land Management Handbook #15: *A Field Guide for Identification and Interpretation of Ecosystems of the Rocky Mountain Trench, Prince George Forest Region*
- Land Management Handbook #16: *A Field Guide for Identification and Interpretation of Seral Aspen Ecosystems of the BWBScl, Prince George Forest Region*
- FRDA Report 009: *Early Growth of Four Species Planted at Three Spacings on Vancouver Island;*
- FRDA Report 0011: *The Effects of Fertilization on the Early Growth of Planted Seedlings: A Problem Analysis;*
- Research Note No. 102: *Dose-response Models for Stand Thinning with the "Ezject" Herbicide Injection System.*

Seed planted silviculture newsletter born

Being competitive means being up-to-date.

That's why commercial growers are pleased with a new silviculture branch newsletter, entitled *Seed and Seedling Extension Topics.*

It keeps them up-to-date on new and controversial technology which can affect their production.

Commercial grower **Hans Stoffelsma**, Arbutus Grove Nursery, Sidney, said he thinks the newsletter "is good for communication."

The newsletter is an "added feature to extension services" for growers.

But it is a necessity for extension services staff, because the number of nurseries administered by the program has risen from nine in 1980, when the first private seedling contracts were made, to 40 in 1988.

Today, 240 million seedlings are grown annually under the nursery program.

Numbers like this make it difficult for silviculture branch staff to share technical information with all growers in person.

The newsletter will be a vehicle to carry on the dialogue of seed and seedling production between ministry, licensee and commercial nurseries and seed orchards in the province.

It will develop and provide technical recommendations on growing environments, nutrition, cultural methods and pest control.

Glenn Matthews, agrologist, edits the new newsletter, first published in August, 1988.

For more information contact the Silviculture Branch, 31 Bastion Square, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3E7.

Pins and posters are coming soon

Would you like to wear a *Thuja plicata* Donn on your lapel? Sounds exotic.

In everyday terms, its known as western redcedar, the official tree of B.C.

Pins and posters depicting this elegant conifer, are being developed by the public affairs branch. The pins should be available this month, and the posters in January 1989.

For more information contact **Doug Adderley**, manager, special projects and information services, public affairs branch, at 387-5255.

Benefits of young forests

Ministry researchers getting warmer on greenhouse effect

What effects will global climatic changes have on forestry in B.C.?

There are still many unanswered questions.

It's kind of a chicken and egg thing," says **Dave Spittlehouse,** research branch. Some of the questions have yet to be asked.

Although not all of the specifics have been worked out, rising temperatures could have an effect on what and where certain tree species will grow.

For example, **Denis Lavender**, from the University of British Columbia, has suggested that the chilling requirements of Douglas-fir buds at lower elevations may not be met, due to warmer winters on the coast.

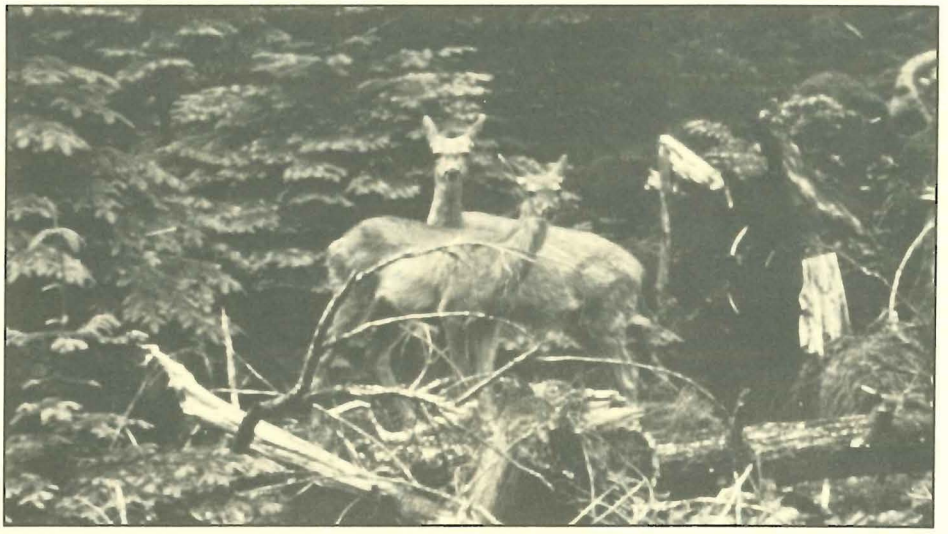
This would result in the buds not breaking their winter dormancy, and the trees would not develop new foliage.

Discussion is continuing in this broad and interesting area of research.

A brainstorming session held in Vancouver, October 13, was attended by a wide spectrum of forestry representatives.

Spittlehouse attended the meeting and is hopeful a report will soon be released.

The next step is to develop strategies for addressing global climatic issues in terms of B.C. forestry management.



People call it 'second-growth' but our wildlife call it home

Young forests that grow after harvesting, fire, and other disturbances, provide valuable habitat for many wildlife species throughout the province.

While, for some animal species, old growth has unique values that are not duplicated in younger forests, young stands are not 'biological deserts'.

"Just because old growth is prettier, it's not necessarily better for all wildlife," says **Brian Nyberg**, manager, wildlife habitat research.

In the dry forests of the east Kootenays and the Cariboo-Chilcotin, and in the northern boreal forests, wildlife depend on young forests. They have been part of the landscape for thousands of years.

Browsing species such as moose and elk, thrive in areas with a mix of forest types and age classes.

The young forest provides them with low-growing shrubs. Yet they prefer old-growth forests in winter, because the larger canopies keep snow off the ground.

Birds and small mammals find excellent habitats in young forests. But old-growth forests provide more hollows in the trees for species such as the pileated woodpecker.

On Vancouver Island, where concerns are most intense about the importance of old-growth forests for wildlife, many species find their most productive or preferred habitats in young growth, Nyberg said.

However, generalizations cannot be made about how the growth of forests affects wildlife. Hundreds of species are affected.

The process is dynamic and variable. Not "good" or "bad."

Second-growth is not an exact term.

"All our original forests have been recycled many times by fire, windthrow, aging, or other factors," says Nyberg.

"Perhaps if we — foresters, ecologists and others — used the more accurate term 'young-growth' or 'young forests,' people would more easily accept the fact that forests that regenerate after harvesting are not inherently any better or any worse than other successional stages. They are just different."

Participation par excellence in National Forest Week '88

No tool in existence could measure the force of BCFS staff who supported, organized and participated in National Forest Week '88.

It was the largest celebration to date — making B.C. the most active and organized NFW province in Canada.

In one way or another, 105 B.C. communities were involved.

Dedicated ministry staff helped gain this national recognition by organizing or participating in NFW '88 activities in the following communities:

Armstrong, Blue River, Campbell River, Castlegar, Clearwater, Fort St. James, Gold Bridge, Grand Forks, Hagensborg, Horsefly, Invermere, Kamloops, Ladysmith, Lillooet, Lytton, Maple Ridge, Merritt, Nanaimo, Nelson, Parksville, Pavilion, Port McNeill, Powell River, Qualicum, Queen Charlotte City, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Sechelt, Seton Portage, Shalalth, Smithers, Stewart, Squamish, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Vavenby and Williams Lake.

No doubt BCFS staff in many more communities donated their time and expertise.

School activities were well-received and forestry field/mill tours were highly rated.

Duncan, the 1988 B.C. forestry capital, hands a bright torch over to Lillooet, which has been chosen forestry capital 1989.

Women's needs assessed

It's 1988, going into 1989, and we are no longer surprised by statistics that raise issues about women and work.

The task now for the steering committee of women's programs in the ministry, is to make these issues addressable.

Committee members have been working to ensure that 1988/89 is a progressive year for women's programs in the ministry.

The current action plan has been endorsed by the deputy minister and action has been taken on a number of items:

- Recently, memos were distributed to each branch/region to initiate the re-organization of the steering committee, and to re-affirm branch/regional representation;
- A needs assessment has been distributed at random to identify the status, concerns and interests of women in the ministry and to evaluate the ministry's women's programs;
- Input is also being sought from employees who would like to participate in the workshop, **Taking Charge of Your Career**, for personal interest or as potential facilitators. This course has received a positive response in the past.

Information on other initiatives that parallel the women's secretariat, such as job sharing policy and the establishment of a mentoring network, should be available soon.

If you would like any more information on the activities of the women's steering committee or the 1988/89 action plan, please call **Charlene Levis**, 387-8764.

Difficult managers hard to change

Why do some managers violate many rules of good management?

Essentially, these managers lack 'people skills' and are unable to translate learning into action.

Why some managers fail:

- Some managers fail because they are insensitive to others. They are unable to understand things from other people's perspectives.
- Some managers fail because they have cold, arrogant personalities and lack the ability to have trust and to build a team.
- Some managers fail to make employees feel important as individuals.

Tips: To change rigid managers;

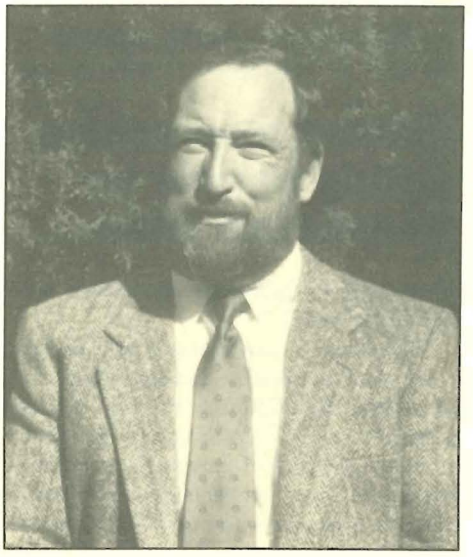
- Modify the climate in the office. Place more emphasis on human relations.
- Attend listening training sessions. When managers improve their listening skills, they tend to be more open to ideas and less rigid.
- Perceive yourself as a coach, not a quarterback. This approach lets you be powerful without needing to dominate.
- See yourself as developer, not a hero who must solve every problem yourself.

— *Communication Briefings*

Books to Read:

- *Networking: The Great New Way for Women to Get Ahead*, 1980, Mary Scott Welch;
- *Sweet Success: How to Understand the Men in Your Business Life—And Win With Your Own Rules*, 1986 K. Stechert;
- *The Plateauing Trap: How to Avoid it in Your Career and Your Life*, J. Bardwick, 1986;

— submitted by **Charlene Levis**, human resources branch



Gerry Buydens

Busy guy gets award

Gerry Buydens, special projects engineer, was in Whistler on October 14 to receive a Professional Service Award from The Association of Professional Engineers of B.C.

This particular award is given to APEBC members who have made a substantial contribution of service to the association or to technical and learned societies and organizations.

Although Buydens jokes about getting the award because he is a "good guy", his background and contribution to his profession speaks for itself.

In 1973 Gerry became a professional engineer in B.C. and has been a strong contributor in local and provincial affairs of the association ever since.

Gerry has been with the ministry five years, as special projects engineer, technical and administrative services branch.

He has been with the B.C. government, and a member of the Professional Employees Association since 1973.

Where can I get forestry education in B.C.?

Formal education and training in forestry is available at six institutions in the province:

- Simon Fraser University: Masters in Resources Management;
- University of British Columbia four-year programs: B.S.F. in forest resource management or forest harvesting; B.Sc. in forest sciences or wood science and industry. Also available are M.Sc., M.A.Sc., M.F. and Ph.D. in areas of forest and wood sciences;
- Two-year technology diplomas can be earned at B.C. Institute of Technology, Burnaby; College of New Caledonia, Prince George; Malaspina College, Nanaimo; and Selkirk College, Castlegar;
- B.C. Institute of Technology also offers a post-diploma certificate in natural resources management with general, nursery and vegetation options;
- A forest crew person course dealing with hands-on silviculture work is also available through B.C. Institute of Technology.

— source, B.C. Forestry Association

'Aspen revolution' draws new people in Peace River

In the last two years, the skills and knowledge of four employees at the Dawson Creek forest district have been transferred to the private sector.

The "aspen revolution" in the Peace River area is having a positive effect on local economies, hence the need for new people.

The former staff members and where they are now;

- **Doug Swaffield**, operations manager, is now log procurement manager for Louisiana Pacific Panel Products.
- **Wayne Thorp**, resource officer silviculture, is now wood resource manager for Peace River Pulp.
- **Danny Way**, forest technician, is now wood procurement technician for Louisiana Pacific.
- **Berry Heinen**, resource officer engineering, is now development manager for Peace River Pulp.

We wish them every success.

— submitted by Dawson Creek forest district

East meets west in Prince George amalgamation

Two districts, housed in three buildings, will soon be under one roof.

The recently amalgamated Prince George east and west forest districts will soon get a new two-storey, 2,080-square-metre office building.

Construction starts immediately and is scheduled for completion in March 1989.

For now, one mailing address and one phone number are being used (1600-3rd Ave., Prince George, V2L 3G6, Phone 565-6295).

How large will the new district be? Here are some facts:

- more than 3.3 million hectares;
- 35 million trees will be planted annually in this district;
- the district's allowable annual cut will exceed six million cubic metres; and,
- more than 100 full-time equivalents will be employed.

— submitted by **Maury Drage**, correspondent, Prince George forest district

Safety main ingredient in $2,000 suggestion award

A concern for the safety of others is what inspired **David Hames**, fire preparedness supervisor, to create a "better way".

He designed an external mixing hopper, to introduce and mix jelling agents with gas.

"It really scared me to see people hanging over the gas," Hames said.

The jellied gas is used in helicopter aerial-drip torches for prescribed burning as well as fire control.

The benefits of his invention include:

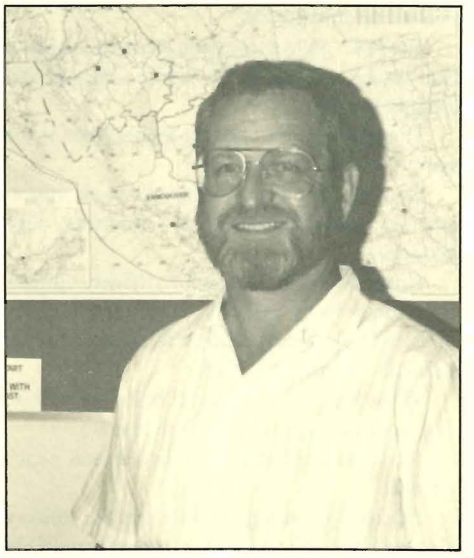
- Improved personal safety;
- Less down time on burns due to poor mixtures and equipment failure resulting in costly escaped wildfire;
- Compatibility between all aerial-drip torches; and,
- no need for mixing crews.

The new hopper is more sophisticated than the current method of hand mixing with a canoe paddle over an open barrel.

It eliminates lumpy mixtures, which result in plugged lines.

Hames also notes that "mixing highly volatile gas in an open barrel on a warm day is inviting disaster."

Hames made his prototype while working as a resource officer, protection, in the Chilliwack forest district. He submitted his idea to the suggestion awards program in January 1988 and was notified of his award as quickly as May, much to his surprise.



David Hames

To anyone who thinks they have an idea, Hames says, just go ahead and give it a try.

Congratulations David!

Managers moving up-and around

Five new district managers have been appointed in the Kootenay Lake, Morice, Revelstoke, Squamish and North Coast forest districts.

They are:

- Kootenay Lake: **Allen Bradley**, 38, operations manager, Kootenay Lake forest district. A University of Toronto forest economics graduate, he joined the BCFS in 1970.
- Morice: **Allen Gorley**, 33, regional protection officer, Smithers. He is a graduate of the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters' pupil program and has 15 years of diversified forest operations experience. He is currently chairman, Skeena Section, Canadian Institute of Forestry.
- Revelstoke: **Dave Raven**, 35, operations superintendent, Chilliwack forest district. He joined the B.C. Forest Service in 1976 after getting his degree from the University of British Columbia. He worked at Revelstoke as an assistant ranger and in the Prince Rupert region in Smithers as timber co-ordinator.
- Squamish: **Paul Kuster**, 37, operations superintendent and acting district manager, Revelstoke forest district. A graduate of the B.C. Institute of Technology and the BCFS Training School, he has been with the BCFS since 1972.
- North Coast: **Gary Adolph**, 39, formerly valuation officer, Prince Rupert regional office. A University of Toronto graduate with a bachelor of science degree in forestry, he joined the B.C. Forest Service inventory division in 1972.

District managers have in recent years become particularly important to the forest service because decision-making has been decentralized to the district level to provide more responsive service to clients.

Tree selection and care

Finding the perfect Christmas tree will be easier if you know what to look for at the local tree-lot or cutting site.

The B.C.-grown trees you are most likely to find include Douglas-fir, white spruce and lodgepole pine.

The criteria for choosing a good tree is the same for all these species.

Density, the amount of foliage, is an important consideration for most Christmas tree shoppers.

Doug Konkin, resource officer, timber, Invermere forest district, says that a good density is when the branch whorls are no more than 10 centimetres apart.

What's a whorl? Several branches radiating from the stem at the same level.

The distance between whorls is one year's growth.

So slow-growing trees produce the thickest foliage. And this makes the trunk less visible.

The form and taper of the tree are also important.

Normally Douglas-fir and spruce are cone-shaped, pine are teardrop-shaped.

High-quality trees are shaped more regularly, and are trimmed of all barren branches below the first whorl.

Before you make a final selection, perform a quick freshness test.

Take the needles between your thumb and forefinger and give them a bend. The farther they bend, the fresher the tree. Breakage indicates poorer quality.

You can also check for freshness by lifting the tree up off the ground and dropping it. If the needles fall off then, they will probably fall off in your home as well.

Some firs, balsam and Scots pine, have the best needle-holding capacity, while Douglas-fir, red pine and lodgepole pine are rated as good. Spruce has a poor needle-holding capacity.

Once you've found a quality tree that meets your personal tastes, here's how to keep it fresh and safe.

- Don't shock your Christmas tree: warm it slowly in the basement or cooler room before setting it up;
- Make a fresh cut one inch from the bottom of the stem. This lets the tree absorb water more efficiently;
- Feed your tree one to three litres of water each day. If the water level drops too low, another fresh cut should be made. Otherwise the stem can seal up and will not absorb water.

Range review gets top priority at IRB

Reviewing the range program is a high priority project, now underway at the integrated resources branch.

"Inherently, the system is okay," says **Ray Addison**, range manager. But we need to look at the way range is being managed to see if changes are necessary.

Districts and regions will receive questionnaires from integrated resources branch. They will provide detailed information about the range sub-program.

One of the first tasks is to define what the range program is accomplishing today and to identify related staff and funding demands.

Regional range officers will be leading work groups to address specific topics. If you are asked to provide information, or participate, your cooperation can help distribute the workload throughout the ministry.

100 per cent human

All the 45 forest fires this year in the Dawson Creek forest district were caused by humans.

Despite an extensive public awareness campaign, there were nine more fires than in 1987.

The Peace River communities, aware of the current trend of human-caused fires, are reporting and taking initial action on these fires in record numbers.

This year's season has been unusually long with 25-degree temperatures and good winds during October.

The district even had an 'extreme hazard' posting on October 19.

There is now snow on the ground, but the drought codes for the district are high — a condition that could lead to another bad fire season, unless there are some warm winter days or spring rains in 1989.

'Kickback' like motorcycle wheelie

The warmth of a wood stove or fireplace is always appreciated on winter evenings.

However, to keep safe while you build up the woodpile, you should be aware of the danger of chainsaw 'kickback'.

'Kickback' is the term used to describe the violent backward whip of the entire chainsaw unit.

This motor-driven reaction is comparable to a motorcycle doing a wheelie — the bike rotates around the stalled rear tire. With a chainsaw, if the chain cutter cannot rotate around the bar, then the whole unit will pivot in the opposite direction.

Safety tips:

- The most important rule: maintain sight of the tip of the bar whenever the chain is rotating. Never let it hit wood or any other solid object.
- If you have to bury the tip in wood to crosscut a large log, fully extend your left elbow so you are braced if the saw should kickback.
- Use 'safety type' chain. This will help reduce the energy of the kick, if a kickback occurs. Keep it sharp.
- Maintain proper depth guage setting and always cut at full speed.
- Use as short a guide bar as reasonable. This will make it easier to keep sight of the tip. A shorter bar will also develop less energy in a kickback, and you will have less weight to carry.

WARNING: No saw chain to date will totally eliminate kickback!

— From the *Safety Net*

Acid rain control depends on public

Will acid rain be a problem to us in B.C.?

The effects of acid rain are more pronounced in eastern Canada because of the larger population and concentration of industries.

Environment Canada has determined there is a threat from acid rain in western Canada, but it is a less serious one.

Lower acidic levels in the west are attributed to less industrialization, soils more resistant to acidification and eastward-moving weather patterns.

At present, there is optimism that acid rain can be controlled in the west, as long as there is sufficient public concern for environmental quality.

— Source: B.C. Forestry Association

All I want for Christmas is . . .

Just for fun, we have put together a list of Christmas wishes from BCFS staff. Some items or ideas may be similar to your own. Others are quite original.

In any case, they help us focus on the possibilities at home and at work as we approach the holiday season.

Wheels and saddles are in the starry eyes of staff who like to get around.

Brad Ward's voice is passionate when he wishes for the car of his dreams: a Porsche 930 turbo.

"I'm what you call a dreamer", says Brad, resource assistant, silviculture and protection, Williams Lake forest district.

Why is this particular car so high on his list?

"Oh heh," says Brad. "Just the look, . . . and the feel."

A brand new Porsche 911 Targa would be a fine wish-come-true for **Jim Mellett**, network communications analyst, information systems branch. Santa might have some problems getting it down his chimney though.

Some people like to get around in cars, others on horseback, like **Gary Langevan**, operations manager, Fort St. John forest district. He wishes for an old BCFS saddle, even though he knows they are as scarce as "hen's teeth".

Gary recently received his 25-year-pin, so the saddle has some nostalgic value for him.

A new saddle is also what **Bonnie McCallion**, office assistant, Bulkley forest district, would like for Christmas.

"Santa could ride in on it," she says. An Australian stock saddle is the one she has in mind.

Vanderhoof staffers are fervently hoping that this year there really will be a Santa Claus. That is . . . one who will come through on the long promised new district office building. Here's hoping!

Going somewhere warm and sunny and need some company? Give **Leslie Dunagan** a call.

"I would like more than 15 seconds of Club Med," for Christmas, says Leslie, file clerk, Port Alberni forest district.

"we wish you were here and we want to move"

"Something that I've always wanted, is a platinum wedding band," says **Carol Stewart**, leave and benefits clerk, human resources branch. "That would be heaven."

Carol has an allergic reaction to gold. But a plain platinum band cost $1,000, when she was married 16 years ago.

Under six inches of snow, **Steve Armitage**, Atlin field office supervisor, says he wants to go "anyplace" warm.

There aren't many wishers as decisive as **John Menning**, Horsefly forest district manager.

First of all, he wants to have a budget out by March. Second, he wishes that there were no restrictions on FTEs.

"That would make me personally, very happy," John says.

From everyone still left in the Queen Charlottes: "We wish you were here, and we want to move." Of course they are just kidding, but some of them have trouble remembering what a "store" is.

Trudy Goold, Kamloops forest district silviculturist, has an unusual wish for a fairy to come in and clean her office.

Apparently the fairy will have no trouble locating Trudy's office.

There are three phases to the Christmas wish of **Don Russell**, range officer, Prince Rupert forest region.

"How about a white Christmas, an early spring and a 6/49 win," Don says.

A tall order comes from **Frank Pendl**, forest sciences officer, Vancouver forest region.

He wishes to monitor what happens to individual trees, from seedling stage, right through to harvesting.

Lucky **Denise Mason**, graphic illustrator, technical and administrative services branch, says she doesn't usually have to wish for anything at Christmas.

"Santa always knows what I want," she said. And this year, Denise will get her wish at the end of December: a trip to Mazatlan, Mexico.

Santa might need some help to negotiate the Christmas list of **Dave Woodgate**, resource officer, timber, Duncan forest district.

First of all he wants a staff organization chart with all the boxes filled in.

He would also like to see each forest district office run as a true profit centre.

Dave also wishes that ministry PROFS and FAX machines were linked together.

Sue McDonald, manager, finance and administration, Prince George district, rarely asks for anything material at Christmas.

Her wish, is simply, more time to spend with her family and friends.

The Lillooet forest district really thought about what they wanted;

A new Atco trailer for the new office; a contract for BCFS hockey players for their spring tournament (since they no longer have any); next year's budget prior to the end of the fiscal year; and a another chance at managing a renewable resource.

They wanted it— they got it

Sunshine Coast is now, officially, the new, more descriptive name of the former Powell River forest district.

The name change request was made by **Barry Mountain**, district manager.

The district extends north from Gibsons to the Homathko River's upper drainage.

Included within the district are Sunshine Coast centres, such as Sechelt, Madeira Park, Powell River, Lund, and Lasqueti, Texada, Cortes, Read, Maurelle, and Stuart islands.

— submitted by **Barry Mountain**, district manager, Sunshine Coast forest district

New news-getters

A warm welcome to new correspondents **David Hails**, Mid-Coast forest district, and **Craig Hooper**, Vanderhoof forest district.

David and Craig have shown enthusiasm and concern for getting news out to people in their home districts.

If you would like to be a correspondent or have any suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Crowd just wants good fun

We can't show you the huge crowd of 190 people who attended Octoberfest '88 at the Wee Ponderosa in Victoria.

Like **Jeremy Janzen**, information systems branch data administrator, most staff were just too busy having fun to stop and take pictures.

But here's who went home with prizes:

Gorman Lee, technical and administrative services branch, was light enough on his feet to win one of the dance prizes as was **James Tepoorten**, information systems branch contractor, and **Natalie Reinfelder**, formerly of the real estate services branch.

Door prizes went to **Rick Miller**, timber harvesting branch; **Diana Turley** and **Mary Orme**, technical and administrative services branch; **Wendy Brookes**, **Joanne Young**, and **Gordon Hryhoruk**, information systems branch; **Sheral Petersen**, financial services branch; **Janis Eskelson**, formerly, integrated resources branch.

The prize for best costume was won by **Jillian George**, timber harvesting branch.

Although the turnout for Octoberfest was excellent, other events organized by the social committee — the spring dance and the summer golf tournament — were cancelled due to lack of interest.

Committee member **Joan McCorry** says unless more interest is shown in other events, no plans will be made in 1989 until the next Octoberfest.

Your support can be shown at the Christmas Funspiel, December 3, at the Victoria Curling Club.

For information contact **Cathy Praud** at 387-6566 or **Bep Deblois** at 387-8315.

Bonspiel all-nighter

Curl around the clock at the Prince George region bonspiel being held in Vanderhoof, January 20-22.

All BCFS employees, spouses, retirees and ex-employees are welcome.

But there is a 32-rink limit, which means that "first money" is "first in". The cost is $100 per rink.

Send entries to **Neil Robertson** by January 13, Box 190, Vanderhoof, VOJ 3AO. For accomodation information phone 567-6363.

Tournament peaks at 10th hole

The weather was indecisive during the the 1988 Nelson Forest Region Golf Tournament, held September 17 at the Nelson Golf Club.

All 46 golfers, however, knew exactly what they wanted: good fun!

Because nine holes don't always make a tournament, an extended 10th hole, with its unusual games and antics, provided golfers with entertainment. And if they were inclined to be embarrassed, they were rewarded for it.

This year, a team of three men competed against a team of three women in a cross-dressing contest.

Two members of each team were blindfolded. They then had to dress the remaining team member in clothes usually worn by the other sex.

Apparently **Reg Davis**, district planner, needed more practice wearing women's clothes.

The results of the "brutal," "ball-hunting" tournament:

- Men's low net winner was **Terry Peter**, regional staff manager;
- Men's low gross prize went to **Ross Tozer**;
- Women's low net winner was **Barb Severyn**, personnel assistant, Ministry of Transportation and Highways; and,
- Women's low gross winner was **Marion Gorsline**, personnel clerk.

— submitted by **Gerry Ward**, Nelson forest region

Thinking ahead

If you're not yet thinking about the coming New Year, we'd like to invite you to do so.

Are there any any special, funny, or hopeful resolutions that you may be making? Share them in the next issue of the newsletter for fun, or to help yourself from getting back up on to the fence.

We welcome your contributions and comments. Please send them to the editor. Attention: **Ben Pires**, FAX # 387-8485 or phone 387-8489. **Happy New Year.**

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Phone: 387-5255 • FAXCOM: 387-8485

Submissions are encouraged. Please send your comments, suggestions and contributions to **Ben J. Pires**, Manager, Publications and Writing Services, Public Affairs Branch, Ministry of Forests, 1450 Government St., Victoria V8W 3E7.

Correspondents
Branches:
Audit Services: **Ian Birch**; Financial Services: *nil*; Human Resources: **Audrey Cowman**; Industry Development and Marketing: **Tom Niemann**; Information Systems: *nil;* Integrated Resources: **Sandy Currie**; Inventory: **Jack McLellan**; Protection: **John Parminter**; Public Affairs: **Ben Pires**; Research: **Art Scott**; Silviculture: **Ralph Huber**; Technical and Administrative Services: **Nell Chapman**; Timber Harvesting: *nil;* Valuation: *nil*.

Forests Regions:
Cariboo: *nil;* Kamloops: **Heather Gell**; Nelson: **Dale Anderson**; Prince George: **Esther Soles**; Prince Rupert: **Dave Francis**; Vancouver: **Jerry VanderBurch**.

Forests Districts:
100 Mile House: *nil;* Arrow: **Ted Evans**; Boundary: **Karen Pullman**; Bulkley: *nil*; Campbell River: **John Tisdale**; Cassiar: *nil*; Chilcotin: *nil*; Chilliwack: **Nan Vye**; Clearwater: **Ian Brown**; Cranbrook: **Tom Volkers**; Dawson Creek: *nil*; Duncan: **Tom Walker**; Fort Nelson: **Herb Spence**; Fort St. James: *nil*; Fort St. John: **Pat Doonan**; Golden: **Larry Price**; Horsefly: *nil*; Invermere: **Richard Dominy**; Kalum: *nil*; Kamloops: **Tim Sheldan**; Kispiox: **Brian Atherton**; Kootenay Lake: **Steve Flett**; Lakes: *nil*; Lillooet: **Bev Rennie**; Mackenzie: *nil;* Maple Ridge: **Doug Eastman**; McBride: *nil*; Merritt: *nil*; Mid-Coast: **David Halls**; Morice: **Rod DeBoice**; North Coast: *nil*; Penticton: *nil*; Port Alberni: **Ernie Beadle**; Port McNeill: **Reg Brick**; Powell River: **Lena Grant**; Prince George East: **Maury Drage**; Prince George West: **Del Blackstock**; Queen Charlotte Islands: **Ben Hansen**; Quesnel: *nil*; Revelstoke: **Bill Mitchell**; Salmon Arm: **Harry Drage**; Sechelt: **Oliver Thomas**; Squamish: **Allsa Siemens**; Vanderhoof: **Craig Hooper**; Vernon: *nil;* Williams Lake: *nil;*