For employees

MINISTRY OF FORESTS

Forest Service News

Volume 1, Number 2 July 1, 1991

Resource Issues

To address the issues of European environmental concerns and the market shift away from chlorine-based pulp, Deputy Minister **Bob Plecas** and Assistant Deputy Minister **Wes Cheston** took a message to London and Brussels in May that B.C. manages its resources on a sustainable development basis.

"Europeans have a very romantic view of Canada," says **Michael Heit**, senior advisor, resource issues, integrated resources branch.

He said many Europeans think that Canada and B.C. have unregulated resource bases. So, one of the goals of the trip was to show them that B.C. has a sophisticated forestry delivery system, based on research.

In London, Plecas spoke to lumber buyers from Great Britian. In Brussels, the audience was a group of External Affairs commercial officers.

"At that meeting we also discussed the move toward 'Europe 1992'— a stage in the unification of the European common market — and the implications for B.C.," Cheston said.

B.C.'s chlorine-based pulp exports to Europe total more than $4 billion annually.

- **Laura Stringer**, director, public affairs branch, and Heit, are members of a two-year task force recently formed by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association to look at the changing European market.
- In conjunction with Forestry Canada, the Forest Service is getting ready for the Paris Forestry Show, an international conference on forestry, in September.
- The Forest Service will also participate in the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.
- **John Cuthbert** and **Michael Heit** are producing a series of articles for United Kingdom timber trade journals.
- They also convinced the producer of a German television show 'Paradise Despoiled' to come to B.C. and do a second segment.

For more information contact **Michael Heit** at 356-5036.

Strategic planning

This summer, Forest Service employees will be able to provide input on the Forest Resources Commission's report through a number of panel review teams now being set up.

Mike Carlson, regional manager, Cariboo forest region, will chair the regional review committee.

"Both regional and district staff are involved in getting teams together to review the recommendations made in the commission's report," said **Tom Niemann**, senior resource consultant, and chairperson for the steering group coordinating the review of the FRC report. A team will also be set up for headquarters.

"Once the team members are named, all staff will be encouraged to get in touch with them," Niemann said. These comments will help to form the Forest Service's collective response to the commission's recommendations.

Panel review team contacts will be printed in a future issue of the *Forest Service News*.

- A Forest Practices Code discussion paper, now being prepared in response to one of the 108 FRC recommendations, should be available soon.
- A public invitation to review and respond to the report, was extended to July 15.

Corporate culture

A mixed team of Forest Service employees are getting a closer look at how to establish quality culture in government. They are touring U.S. National Forest offices that took part in a five-year pilot project designed to empower employees and managers to cut red tape and promote efficiency under a new set of working conditions.

"We've been given full autonomy to go and talk to people, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot project, and interpret it for our organization," said **Bob Clark**, Vanderhoof district manager, who is chairing the six-member delegation.

They will present their report to the executive at the end of July.

"We are really fortunate to be extended the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service and to spend a whole day with their chief, who believes in the new management philosophy," Clark said.

It is also 'good news' that the group is made up of managers, resource officers and field staff, he says. The other committee members are:

- **Brian Brown**, field operations supervisor, Penticton forest district;
- **Ken Matthews**, resource officer, timber, Port Alberni forest district;
- **Lucy Stad**, forest technician, Kispiox forest district;
- **Alexandra Maas**, manager, finance and administration, Williams Lake forest district; and,
- **Ted Evans**, resource officer, planning, Arrow forest district.

Protection

Fire season

There haven't been too many surprises so far in the 1991 forest fire season, with a total of 594 fires as of June 24 — about 100 more than in 1990.

However, threatening forest fires in the Yukon are keeping protection staff busy meeting the Yukon's requests for B.C. resources. They are also keeping an eye on Fort Nelson and the northwest corner of the province where fire-danger ratings are high to extreme.

"The potential is there for the northern half of the province," said **Colin Effa**, superintendent, operations. Although there have been a number of lightning strikes in the Prince George and Fort St. John neck of the woods, the storms have been wet, according to **Verne Barge**, provincial fire information officer.

On June 24, B.C. crews in the Yukon were still busy. Resources sent, included: a helitanker; two airtanker groups; two air attack officers; three unit crews, a liaison officer; and, five three-person initial attack crews.

Unit crew update

Eighteen employees from timber harvesting, inventory, human resources, silviculture, protection and strategic planning branches, volunteered to be part of an on-call unit crew this summer. They will be trained in fire suppression and mop-up techniques from June 26-28 at Mesachie Lake.

Gary Hartwig, superintendent of fire crews, also says that five of the 10 native unit crews are already trained and on the job in the Kispiox, Vanderhoof, Prince George, Dawson Creek and Merritt forest districts. The other five crews will likely work in the Lillooet, Kalum, Lakes, Mackenzie and Williams Lake districts.

"We've been putting these crews together for three or four years," Hartwig said. "But this year we are able to offer full-time employment — and a variety of work from fire fighting to silviculture."

For more information contact **Gary Hartwig** at 387-5538.

Fire management

If new technology interests you, drop by your local fire control office to see the new methods being used to meet the demands of controlling forest fires in B.C.

For example, satellite images, like the ones we see on television weather forecasts, can now be "played" together to show how cloud systems are moving. And with a little color enhancement of infrared images, cloud-top temperatures can even be compared.

Also being used is a five-day forecast from the Cray 'supercomputer' in Montreal, which covers the northern hemisphere in approximately 100-kilometre grids.

The information is collected each morning and remodeled to suit B.C.'s terrain more closely. It then gives off hourly predictions which include surface temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction.

For eventual smoke-management purposes, the model also predicts winds for six different levels above the ground.

These advances in computer technology give fire control officers a better ability to see and predict where forest fire problems may be developing in the province.

For more information contact **Peter Fuglem**, acting manager, fire management analysis and development, at 387-8733.

Forest Renewal Plan

The Forest Renewal Plan is moving ahead as planned. Regions now have their silviculture budget and FTE allocations and, during July, human resources branch will continue to look at lateral transfers for Forest Service staff to fill as many of the new positions as possible.

In some cases, there have been up to 37 people interested in a lateral transfer for one position, said personnel officer **Cathy Leahy**. In other cases, there may be only three people who are interested.

"The numbers dictate what is required, from suitability interviews to full, internal competitions," she said. Many staff are interested in the Kamloops and Nelson regions. But others, after thinking about the support systems they have in place, opt to stay where they are.

A lot of the campus recruits have already been placed in northern regions, and about two jobs per month will be posted provincially.

- **Brian Storey**, manager, planning and cooperative programs, says the Forest Renewal Plan is going full speed under the silviculture program.

Out of the total $234.5 million FRP silviculture budget, each region has been given its budget, as follows:

- Cariboo: $20.5 million
- Prince George: $43.5 million
- Kamloops: $29 million
- Nelson: $28 million
- Prince Rupert: $25 million
- Vancouver: $31.5 million
- Headquarters: $58 million.

A quarterly report on the Forest Renewal Plan is expected in mid-July, but if you have any questions about FRP, please send them to the *Forest Service News*. If you need more information about the new jobs, contact your regional personnel officer.

Forest science research

Gerry Still, manager, integrated resource management section, is optimistic that Forest Service researchers will develop a beneficial working relationship with U.S. Forest Service representatives who recently spoke about their 'New Perspectives Program' in Victoria.

"The issues they are working on, and the environmental circumstances they are in, are much the same as ours," Still said.

A summary of New Perspectives will be given in an upcoming issue. If you would like more information in the meantime, contact **Gerry Still** at 387-6579.

Land use policy

The Forest Service is setting the stage for initiatives in native forestry, which will come into play during 1991/92 following the release this summer of the final report of the Task Force on Native Forestry.

Native affairs manager, **Peter Levy** has been on that task force since it began and expects that a number of practical recommendations will be made to increase native participation in the forest sector.

Now in the land-use policy branch, native affairs has two main areas: land claims, **Randy Prokop**, manager; and, native programs, **Larry Gilbert**, manager.

"Our small group is designed to provide leadership within the Forest Service on native issues, and provide support to districts and regions," Levy said.

Right now, land claims are high profile and important to all British Columbians, he says. But economic development is just as important — if not more.

"From a native perspective, economic self-sufficiency is a road to self government," Gilbert said. "They are closely connected."

"It may surprise some people, but an important issue for many native leaders is access to employment in the Forest Service," Levy said.

One way this is being done, is through the ongoing native orientation program which began last year.

Also, unit crews will employ 200 native persons full-time this year, providing work in forest fire suppression as well as silviculture projects.

"We want to establish an environment in which forest district staff can become more conversant with native communities," Gilbert said.

"A number of district managers attended task force meetings during 1990/91 and some made presentations, which were well received.

"Their input was important in terms of developing recommendations because they can speak with some experience. They know what has worked, what is needed and what's available," Levy said.

Gilbert believes that it is instructive to draw on what is working well in the districts which are taking the initiative to communicate and work out solutions to increase local native participation in the forest sector.

In Squamish, **Paul Kuster**, district manager, says two staff members in the district spend a lot of time working with local native communities: **Steve DeMelt**, field operations supervisor; and, **Annis Aleck**, forest technician, who, being a native person, provides that perspective.

"For the last two years we have been meeting twice a year with the logging companies and four local bands to talk about job initiatives," Kuster said.

The district has worked out loans to cover security deposits which were an economic barrier to potential native contractors wishing to compete.

Kuster says there is a benefit to developing a source of new native contractors, because with the increasing goals set by the Forest Renewal Plan, there should be lots of work for everyone.

Ron Mould, operations manager, Kispiox forest district, is also assisting native contractors. Several silviculture contracts are underway and local bands have been asked to submit proposals for summer planting contracts.

Although, as Mould says, "we're not doing anything we'd be shot for," more flexibility is needed to enable districts to effectively work with native communities to increase their participation. Because, as he says, "I'm sure we'll be going down this road for a long time."

Forest viewpoints

It's been almost a year since the Nelson region started contributing 'Forest Viewpoints' to the *Nelson Daily News*, covering a wide variety of topics — to name a few:

- integrated resource management;
- National Forest Week;
- the Brundtland Report;
- vegetation management;
- stumpage;
- prescribed fire and smoke management;
- the forest/wildland interface; and,
- forest ecology.

Resource planner **Dale Anderson**, who coordinates the local column, believes there is a benefit to having Forest Service staff involved in writing for local media.

"The content of the articles may be secondary to their willingness to do it and be perceived as open," he said.

Forest Service staff are realizing the need to communicate and to have a better working relationship with the public, Anderson says.

"I'm encouraging the districts to do more. My approach is to empower more individuals. The more people who can do it, the more effective it is," he said.

Anderson doesn't push anyone to write a column — and gives staff as much, or as little, editorial help as they want. He could probably write the columns himself, but says, "that's not the point — to communicate effectively 'out here' we have to be individuals."

For more information contact **Dale Anderson** at 354-6203.

Doing duty

Gary Miltenberger, valuation officer, Prince Rupert forest region, has just accepted a two-year seat on the Pacific Salmon Commission which negotiates Canada's salmon allocations under an International Treaty with the United States.

Miltenberger will sit as an alternate on the commission's northern panel, representing the recreational fishing interests of northwestern B.C.

Although he must take a leave-of-absence without pay in order to participate, Miltenberger is looking forward to the new experience.

Comments

If you have any comments, suggestions or items to submit to the *Forest Service News*, please FAX them to **Ben Pires** at 387-8485.

Forest rangers

The important role played by forest rangers in the development of the town of Smithers, was recognized on May 25 when a new municipal park was named, simply, Ranger Park.

Smithers Mayor **Jim Davidson**, who grew up in the town and even remembered being "snapped off the street to go fight forest fires," explained that "Smithers and the Forest Service have always been an integral part of one another."

— Source: ***The Interior News***

Fire Suppression Olympics

Five Forest Service fire suppression crews and five contract crews competed in a fun but gruelling set of events at the 5th Annual Fire Suppression Olympics held June 13-15 in Lillooet.

This year, numerous sponsors threw their support behind the competitions, and organizers would like to see the games expanded next year to include a variety of crews from all forest regions, other provinces/territories, and the United States.

"If each region held an event they could send their top two teams to the provincial championships," said **John Flanagan**, range resource officer and olympics organizer.

As in 1990, the Lillooet crew came out on top with the best standing for all 11 events. Salmon Arm Rapattack finished second, and the Northern Initial Fire Attack crew out of Bear Lake came in third.

Some of the competitions tested their ability to:

- set up a fire pump and lay hose;
- make camp and prepare an original, edible meal with ration-box ingredients;
- overcome mechanical fire-line problems;
- climb a hill fully loaded with shovels and hoses;
- administer first aid;
- construct heli pads; and,
- communicate accurate fire information.

For more information about next year's event, contact **John Flanagan** or **Bill Lamont**, resource officer, protection, at 256-7531.

Safety

Tender tootsies

Are you one of those people who likes to kick off their shoes in the afternoon when your feet need a break?

No problem, says **Ted England**, loss prevention officer, but if you want to save yourself the aggravation of getting a staple or bulletin board pin stuck in your foot, put your shoes back on when you walk around the office.

Newsletter

The accident prevention section, human resources branch, will once again reprint and distribute the *Safety Net* newsletter produced quarterly by the Ministry of Health. The summer issue, to be mailed soon, covers a wide range of health and safety issues from alcohol use to earthquake preparedness.

Editor **Ken Warren** says he likes the idea of other ministries reprinting the *Safety Net* because "the intent is to get information out that promotes the safety movement."

Although Warren has his finger on the pulse, and can usually anticipate the current issues, readers are encouraged to submit articles or suggest topics they want covered.

Contact the accident prevention section at 356-8017.

Bits and pieces

Climate change

A United States/Canada symposium: The Implications of Climate Change for Pacific Northwest Forest Management, will be held October 23-25 in Seattle. The Forest Service is one of many sponsors.

Early registration is advised. For more information contact the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, FAX 206-685-0790.

Tough question

An article in the June issue of *West* magazine about Canada's top environmental groups, poses a tough question to the Canada Wilderness Committee.

WCWC Director **Paul George** is quoted in the article admitting that a link the committee made, between lung cancer and toxic pollution in Howe Sound, was "bogus." It was "totally prefabricated by us . . . to scare people," he told *Vancouver* magazine.

Contact

The contact for *Guidelines for Free-to-Grow Stocking Standards* is **Mike Wyeth**, silviculturist, 387-8922.

News shorts

For the latest news, check the following news releases:

- Penticton firm to expand - #75
- Timber harvest levels frozen across B.C. - #74
- Kettle Valley Railway plan - #73
- Public deadline for comments on Forest Resources Commission's report extended to July 15 - #72
- Changes to Contractor Clause Regulation improves employment security - #71
- *Annual Report*: 1989-90 was a good fiscal year - #70
- Oversize log shipments curtailed - #69
- Three applications received for Prince Rupert forest licence - #68
- Scholarship to honour forestry worker - #67
- Five Year Forest and Range Resource Program 1991-1996 strives for excellence in forest management - #66
- $160,000 for Osoyoos Trails #65