



Forest Service News

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Strategic planning

The first of several strategic planning sessions is being held in Vancouver, September 11 - 13. The Executive and senior managers will attend.

The agenda is far reaching and if you are anxious to find out how the discussions went, keep your eyes peeled for an information package, prepared during the meeting, that will be sent back with participants and shared with Forest Service staff.

"Sometimes it takes months before information trickles down," said **Shelley Sullivan**, executive coordinator. It will be easier for managers if they have something to take back with them, and it helps set up the expectation that the information will be communicated, she said.

What's on the agenda? Here are some highlights:

- establishing strategic priorities, by division;
- reviews of the Forest Resources Commission Report;
- guest speaker **Sandy Peel**, FRC chairperson;
- roles and responsibilities: a ministry-wide review of key roles and responsibilities that have been delegated to branch, region and district levels. What is the current pattern of delegation and does it reflect an appropriate balance of centralization and decentralization?
- Service Quality in the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service: a presentation by USDA representatives;
- Service Quality in the Forest Service: a presentation by

representatives who recently toured USDA offices;

- guest speaker **Ian McKinnon**, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations;
- Employment Equity and Women's Programs;
- budget themes;
- communications strategies; and,
- Deputy Minister **Bob Plecas** will wrap up the meeting.

The results of this strategic session will also be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

Information systems

EDI is not the kind of fancy, new computer technology that catches your eye as it zips through town.

It's kind of . . . practical, not all that complicated — but will slowly change the way we all do business in the future.

EDI (electronic data interchange) allows companies, organizations and agencies (known as trading partners) to do business with one another by computer instead of by paper.

Consultant **Vern Klassen**, a 22-year data processing expert, is pilot testing the application of EDI for the Forest Service. He says switching from paper to PC will be a slow process — but the benefits will be long term.

To participate in the transportation and automotive industries these days, using EDI is essential. Many banks are starting to do large-customer transactions via EDI. And within government, the Liquor Distribution Branch has completed a pilot and the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations is in the preliminary stage of development.

"If the forest industry is going to compete internationally, it's going to have to get onboard," Klassen said.

He sees an analogy between EDI and the FAX, and predicts that it will become just as attractive to have.

The pilot, near completion, is being conducted with two forest industry companies: Terminal Forest Products in Richmond, and Canadian Forest Products - Englewood Division in Woss.

There are many areas of business that EDI can be applied to from invoicing to ordering. For the pilot, the Major Licensing Silviculture Information System (MLSIS) was tested. Both companies have now submitted their silviculture activity reports by computer.

EDI is going to change the way we work, Klassen says.

"Statistics indicate that 80 per cent of EDI application problems are business issues — not technical problems," he said.

But it will not do away with our jobs — instead, it will enrich our work and create more meaningful opportunities. Training and education are also important aspects.

Once the pilot is wrapped up, the question will be asked: Where do we go from here?

"It's going to move ahead," Klassen said. "Corporate sponsorship is important and the Forest Service is really supportive. They should be congratulated for their foresight and for taking on a leadership role."

For more information please contact **Linda Barnes**, manager, management services systems section, information systems branch, at 387-4436.

Education

Forest management practices are based on constantly changing science and technology.

To keep up, forest managers, professionals, technicians and forest workers need to continue their studies and benefit from the most recent research and available technology.

The lack of a coordinated, cooperative program of continuing studies in B.C. has been recognized for some time — but no institution or organization had the mandate to fill that void — until now.

Throughout the province, the Forestry Continuing Studies Network is starting to take shape. Funded by Forestry Canada and the Forest Service, the network is setting up offices at the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George, Selkirk College in the southern interior, and a coastal location. Further regional centres are proposed at Cariboo College in Kamloops and Northwest Community College in Smithers. An office in the UBC Forestry Faculty will coordinate the regional centres and assist with provincial activities. The Silviculture Institute of B.C. shares office space with the Network, providing one-stop shopping for information on professional forestry education.

Network Director, **Cindy Pearce**, says the next few months are going to be busy:

- a workshop will be held in early November to encourage communication and cooperation amongst the many agencies and organizations involved in forestry education and communication in B.C.;
- advisory committees are being set up for the regional offices;
- program plans will be developed; and,
- provincial and regional calendars of events, and brochures on specific activities should be available in November.

If you would like to get on the mailing list to receive information about local or provincial activities,

contact: **Shirley Sato**, office manager - 822-5874, 270-2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z4

• **UNBC, Prince George:** Interim contact is **Al Todd**, Integrated Silviculture Services Ltd. - 564-9299, 4184 15th Avenue, Prince George, B.C., V2M 1V8 (office to open in October).

• **Selkirk College:** **April Anderson** - 365-7292, Box 1200, Castlegar, B.C. V1N 3J1.

Appointments

Victoria

- **Julius Juhasz** was recently appointed executive director, timber administration — a new section of operations division which incorporates the timber harvesting and valuation administration branches.
- **Bob Harding** will assume the role of acting director, timber harvesting branch until the position can be filled permanently.

Prince Rupert region

- **Larry Pedersen** was appointed regional manager, taking over from
- **Bob Friesen**, who is now director of strategic planning branch.

Prince George region

- **Rod DeBoice** is the new district manager, Mackenzie forest district; formerly operations manager, Morice forest district in Houston.
- **Norbert Kondla** has joined the Forest Service as district manager, Fort St. John forest district; previously a private consultant in Alberta, he has a strong background in integrated resource management.

Go to the top

To overcome some of the difficulties of communicating with a large staff over great distances, a PROFS bulletin board has been created to start two-way dialogue between the Deputy's office and Forest Service staff.

So when you have a thought or suggestion to pass on, or if you are curious about what's going on, access user ID 'deputy'.

Anyone who is unable to do this, can read the bulletins in the Forest

Service News, and respond by Fax (387-6267), E-mail, or mail it to the Deputy's office c/o **Shelly Sullivan**, executive coordinator.

Kalamalka

Residents in Vernon proved to be enthusiastic, warm recipients of 9,500 seedlings that were left on their doorsteps with their *Vernon Daily News* this summer celebrating the newspaper's centennial.

In an appreciative letter to Forest Service staff who made the project work, Managing Editor **John Clarke**, says that some of the trees have become potted plants; some will be live Christmas trees in apartments; and one group of people planted their trees together to grow a hedge.

"They wanted a seedling that had significance for the Vernon district," said **Michael Carlson**, research scientist, Kalamalka research station, who coordinated the project with the help of **John Murphy**, research technician. One-year-old lodgepole pine plug seedlings, grown at the Skimikin Nursery by container grower, **John Watson**, were chosen to go out with the centennial edition of the *Vernon Daily News*. Carlson wrote an article that appeared in the newspaper, including instructions on how to care for the seedlings, information about their ecological characteristics and commercial significance.

Policy manual

Progress is being made in rewriting the ministry's Policy Manual. The projected publication date is December 31.

The initiative was directed by the Executive to address concerns about the lack of policy in a number of areas, unclear and poorly stated policy that created confusion, and lengthy, bureaucratic statements.

If you have any questions please contact **Neil Chapman**, manager, administrative program services, technical and administrative services branch, at 387-5405.

Pacific yew

By now, most of us have heard about the experimental anti-cancer drug taxol derived from the Pacific yew tree.

No one in the province can process the bark to extract taxol yet, so the ministry is allowing the export of yew tree bark to the U.S. where the extraction process is well developed and clinical tests are underway. Wescan Laboratories in Vancouver is now working on a plan for a commercial facility. Once they are up and running, they will have the first option on purchasing B.C. yew bark.

In the meantime, both B.C. and Canadian researchers receive a share of the taxol extracted in the U.S. — a requirement that was written into the export agreement.

"We can only get involved with the forestry research aspects at this time — to make sure that taxol researchers have access to representative samples of yew," said **Alvin Yanchuk**, technical advisor, quantitative genetics, forest sciences research.

Yanchuk says that some people may think the Forest Service is missing an opportunity by not jumping into large-scale support of research on yew and taxol at this time. It is important to note that there is a large network of people world-wide, involved in taxol research — all trying many different things.

"We believe our current role in this area is to be aware of what is going on elsewhere and initiate our own ecological and genetic variation studies of yew," Yanchuk said. "This will provide agencies involved in taxol research with information on B.C. yew as well as the plant material they need."

The Forest Service won't be changing its procedures until more is known about the Pacific yew says **Russ Cozens**, woodlot licence officer, timber harvesting.

"Right now it can only be harvested in areas that have an approved cutting permit and collectors are required to get

approval from licensees," he said.

"What we don't want to see is people wiping it out," he said.

Al Simon, cruising coordinator, Vancouver West region, says that as a result of the interest in Pacific yew, the species is now included in the provincial cruising manual, and collecting data for yew is now mandatory.

"The districts advise me of occurrences and I try to coordinate them and inform Victoria," he said.

Silvicultural Systems Program

The widespread use of clearcutting is a growing public concern — a reflection of the changing views and values about forests and how they are managed in B.C.

In response to these concerns, a major Forest Service initiative is exploring alternatives to clearcutting through the Silvicultural Systems Program.

"Over the next 10 years we will conduct multi-disciplinary research to demonstrate the short- and long-term implications of applying other silvicultural systems (seed tree, shelterwood and selection) over a range of forest ecosystems," said **Bruce Fraser**, acting chair of a working group that is guiding the program.

The objective is to look at the potential application of these systems, in terms of biology, social values and economics.

During 1991/92, \$1.7 million will be spent on more than 60 projects throughout B.C. in cooperation with districts, regions, branches, the University of B.C., Simon Fraser University, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Canada. Funding comes from FRDA II and the Forest Renewal Plan.

A field trip will be held October 1 and 2 for the working group and steering committee so they can get a first-hand look at silvicultural systems. One day will be spent at an operational trial in Boston Bar and another day visiting operational sites in the Vernon forest district.

Two reports related to silvicultural systems are available from silviculture branch:

- *Silvicultural Systems: Their Role in British Columbia's Forest Management*
- *A Stand-level Guide to the Selection of Reproduction Methods for Regenerating Forest Stands in the Vancouver Forest Region* by **K. Klinka**, **R.E. Carter**, 1991.

For more information, contact **Bruce Fraser**, forest practices officer, at 387-1168.

Research copy

You've seen the biogeoclimatic zone map. Now you can read the book: *Ecosystems of British Columbia*, which describes the province's 14 biogeoclimatic zones and also explains how the classification system works.

"It's meant to be a reference manual, with 15 to 20 pages on each zone," said **Del Meidinger**, classification program coordinator, who compiled the document with **Jim Pojar**, forest sciences officer, Prince Rupert region.

The new publication is available free to Forest Service and B.C. Environment staff and there have been many other requests for it. Forest districts have been sent 10 copies each.

It is available to the public through Crown Publications for \$25.00 plus GST, at 546 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C.

Fans of B.C.'s flora won't want to miss the four-part series: *The Vascular Plants of British Columbia*, also being published by forest sciences research branch. They contain keys to genera and species of B.C.'s vascular plants, as well as common names and descriptions of habitat and range. Parts 1 and 2 are available now; Part 3 is going to press; and, Part 4 should be out in six months.

If you want more information about these forest sciences research branch publications, contact **Sandy Cyr**, communications assistant, at 387-6719.

Forest districts

Do you know of any non-profit groups who could use up to \$15,000 to increase public awareness of forestry through a special project like a demonstration forest, workshop or poster?

If so, tell them about Green Gold Grants. It may be just what they are looking for. The deadline for applications is September 20, 1991.

Application forms are available at all B.C. Forest Service offices.

For more information, call toll free: 1-800-663-1713.

Roots

The Lake Cowichan Combined Fire Organization is searching for employees or retirees who may be able to recall and record the group's 32-year history before it is lost.

They are interested in any information you might have, and particularly:

- Why was the organization formed?
- Exactly when was the first meeting?
- Who were the original members?
- Who were the chairpersons? Secretaries?
- How often did they meet?
- What significant events affected the organization?

A group reunion has been suggested, perhaps in 1992, for the 25th anniversary of the Taylor River fire in Port Alberni.

If you have information to give or get, contact **Doug Eastman**, operations manager, Duncan forest district, at 746-5123, (FAX) 748-3614.

Events

The first national conference on enhanced silviculture stewardship is being held November 18 - 20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver.

It's called The Silviculture Conference. Its mandate:

- create a blueprint for doubling the productivity of Canada's working forest by the year 2040,

while enhancing other forest values; and,

- establish the necessary sustainable funding framework to achieve these silviculture stewardship goals.

More than a dozen well-known experts have worked to develop the major theme and programme outline. Keynote speakers include **Frank Oberle**, federal minister of forestry, Canada; **Claude Richmond**, minister of forests, B.C.; **Bud Wildman**, minister of natural resources, Ontario; **Marshall Pecore**, forest manager, Menominee Tribal Enterprises; and, **Monika Stridsman**, managing director, Swedish Forestry Association.

A trade show will feature the latest products and services in seedling production, plantation maintenance and protection, stand tending, harvesting, GIS and computer software — for industrial and woodlot application.

Silviculture branch will host four field trips following the conference on November 21 and 22.

If you would like more information about how to register and participate, contact **Katie Rodgers** or **Laurie Grant** at 683-8254.

Accident prevention

To clear up any misunderstanding about who is certified to carry products regulated under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, please take note:

Fire Suppression Training Series S-281 (BC) DOES NOT meet the training requirements of the act.

The revised (1991) human resources branch Accident Prevention Manual (Section 8) outlines the transportation of dangerous goods training requirements.

Public affairs

It's always nice to know that there are people who will take the extra time and effort to help out a stranger.

A Victoria resident, **Mrs. Ejás Holm**, was delighted recently when she received "two lovely pictures" of **Ejás Lake**, which was named after her in 1928.

She had contacted **Jim Challenger**, manager, visual communications, to see if any photos were available. None were, and that could have been the end of it.

Instead, Challenger contacted **Bob Barnard**, recreation resource officer, Clearwater forest district and told him about the enquiry.

"We have a Forest Service recreation site there," Barnard said. "So we went out, took some pictures, and sent them to her."

Mrs. Holm expressed her sincere appreciation for the photos in a letter to Barnard, saying she had always wanted a good picture of the lake, but her past attempts to get one with a not-so-powerful camera had failed.

News in brief

- Minister applauds South Island Accord's local initiative to resolve land-use decisions — #126
- Forest licences awarded in Robson Valley — #125
- Great day for B.C. and Canada as federal government ends softwood lumber export Memorandum of Understanding with the United States — #124
- Timber harvesting contractors/subcontractors get better job security — #123
- Comments on Forest Resources Commission Report still welcome while Forest Service continues review — #122
- Port Alberni gets special job protection commissioner — #119
- New forest district offices announced: Kamloops — #121; Horsefly — #115; Merritt — #114; Queen Charlotte — #113
- Green Gold Grants Program allocated \$2 million — #112
- Range enhancement funding raised to \$6 million for 1991/92 — #105