The British Columbia
Forest Service
Newsletter

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Chief forester says it's time to relax

Farewell to John Cuthbert.

The forest industry has undergone a dramatic transformation during **John Cuthbert's** nine years as chief forester. In that time, his job became one of the most controversial in the public service.

As the forestry debate intensified and the rate of change increased, Cuthbert was of necessity consumed by his job. Now, he says, it's time to relax a little and pursue the things he's been putting off — hiking, skiing, maybe buy a sailboat, and "see if I can play golf."

Not that his job hasn't been as much a personal mission as a professional one. Cuthbert harbors a deep, personal respect for the forest, and its users.

"Forestry is extremely challenging, and I haven't regretted a minute of it," he says. Looking back on his career, since he joined the Forest Service in 1961 on graduating from the UBC forestry department, Cuthbert marvels at the changes that have occurred. He says not much of what he learned at UBC is still applicable today. "Life was simple in the old days," he says. "Then, people still viewed B.C.'s forests as a timber supply for industry."

As Cuthbert worked his way through the ranks, attitudes changed. Today, the forest with all its diversity is recognized as a complex ecosystem, and the practice of forestry has become a leading edge science.

"The changes since I started are phenomenal. The trend toward ecosystem management is here. We no longer treat the forest as a limitless natural gift. We're dealing with ecological processes and we have to manage it as an ecosystem that produces, among other things, timber for industry.

In the transition toward ecosystem management, Cuthbert has exerted considerable influence.

"I've always encouraged better research and inventories," he says, referring to the 1987 legislation that required reforestation under law, the Timber Supply Review, and his contribution to the Forest Practices Code and Forest Renewal Plan.

The result, Cuthbert believes, is both a forest and a forest industry that are healthier today than they were 10 years ago. He is convinced forestry will continue to make a significant contribution to B.C.'s economy.

"We're doing as well as anybody in the world with adapting to change," he says.

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Forest Service joins RCMP on patrol

The North Coast forest district and the RCMP are developing closer working relations to promote mutual understanding and cooperation in the enforcement of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act.*

District Resource Officer **Alan Rudson** recently joined the RCMP aboard their patrol vessel MV Higgit for a routine patrol of the waters south of Prince Rupert. The exercise was designed to help police gain insight into Forest Service monitoring and enforcement activities.

"The RCMP was interested in learning about what infractions were handled under the *Forest Act*, and about ways they could assist us," said Rudson. During the patrol, Rudson showed the constables areas where licensees are operating and what the Forest Service looks for during inspections.

The district has periodic problems with log theft along the thousands of kilometers of remote shoreline. Staff must respond to reports of suspected log theft and RCMP are sometimes brought in to assist.

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New field guide features plants of coastal B.C.

More than 900 trees, shrubs, wildflowers, mosses and lichens, and other common plants that grow along the west coast are featured in a new, easy-to-use field guide.

Despite its name, *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* includes plants found from Alaska to Oregon. The volume — 528 pages, over 1,100 color photographs and 1,000 line drawings — describes each plant, shows where it is found, and notes its significance and historic use.

"This book is unique because it covers a bio-region that crosses international boundaries," says **Jim Pojar**, forest sciences officer, Prince Rupert region, who co-edited the book with **Andy MacKinnon**, manager of forest ecology research in Victoria.

MacKinnon notes that one of the most fascinating aspects of the book is the ethnobotanical information, describing how various plants have been used over the ages by aboriginal peoples.

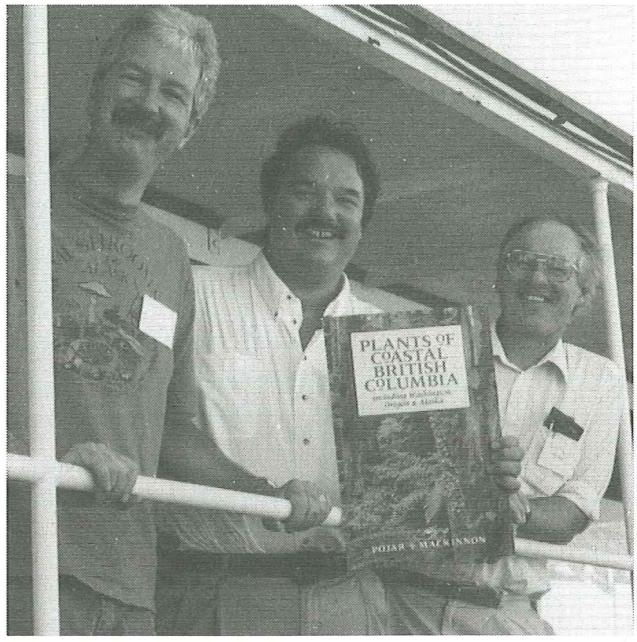
Plants of Coastal British Columbia is the second work for Pojar and MacKinnon. In 1992, they (along with **Ray Coupé**, assistant research ecologist, Cariboo forest region) produced *Plants of Northern British Columbia*, which has since sold over 20,000 copies.

It started, recalls MacKinnon, during his work on the ecosystem classification program in Prince George, when he spent many hours showing people how to identify plants.

"After a number of years, we realized there was need for a good reference," he says.

Since its release in April, *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* has sold out its first press run of 10,000 copies, making it a Canadian best seller. A second run of 15,000 is now in bookstores.

A third volume, featuring plants of the southern interior, is expected in 1995.



Andy MacKinnon (l), Shane Kennedy of Lone Star Publishing (c) and Jim Pojar prepare to leave Victoria Harbor on a cruise to launch their new book.

Chief Forester

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The entire Forest Service deserves credit for the progress, he says. "Everything I did was a team affair with many others in the Forest Service. Staff have been of great assistance to me and I couldn't have survived without them."

Despite his confidence, Cuthbert notes the debate and the evolution in the practice of forestry will continue. "The adage 'the more we learn the more we realize how little we know' holds true for forestry. But that doesn't mean we can stop doing everything until we have perfect knowledge, because we never will have. We will continue to make the best judgements based on the information available."

He is confident his successor and the new generation of foresters are up to the challenge. "I'm very impressed with young foresters today. In fact, all our young staff are very dedicated and knowledgeable," he says.

A key difference in the practice of forestry today is the inundation of social issues. "Forestry was always thought to be a biological science, but it's become a social science as well. There are a lot of opinions about how we should manage the forests, and foresters have to deal with them. You can't ignore the social issues. If you do, you will not be a successful forester."

John Cuthbert will leave the ministry at the end of August. Of the job that consumed him for almost a decade, he says he'll miss most of all the people, the discussions and debates, and a role in addressing the issues of the next decade.

And although he says any future work would be only for interest's sake, he will be watching from the sidelines. "If I saw something that I deeply disagreed with, I'd feel obligated to speak out."

RCMP Cooperation

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The excursion also enabled Rudson to learn from police activities. "I learned about the techniques of conducting interviews as part of an investigation," he said. "I gained an appreciation for what the RCMP do and how they do it, and they learned about what the Forest Service does," Rudson added.

With the creation of the Monitoring and Enforcement Teams in the Forest Service and the imminent Forest Practices Code, agencies like the RCMP will be invaluable in assisting with case preparation and investigations, Rudson noted, predicting further joint inspections for the future.

Vanderhoof district tackles land use planning

Since last October, a group of Vanderhoof area residents has been grappling with one of the most controversial issues of the day.

As one of seven Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) teams active in the Prince George region, their goal is to reach consensus on recommendations to guide land use decisions in the Vanderhoof forest district. Although it has eluded some land use planning groups, facilitator **Janine Elo** is confident they will succeed.

"We have a lot of intelligent thinkers," she says. "They raise good questions, and they have a strong commitment to integrated resource management."

That commitment is the glue that binds the group's 35 members more than anything else. They include loggers, miners, trappers, tourist resort operators, guides and outfitters, business people, government representatives and others. When the LRMP process started in Vanderhoof 11 months ago, they responded to an open invitation to participate.

Elo, an agrologist by profession and Vanderhoof district planner, and **Dave Borth**, a resource officer who is also a professional agrologist, have been facilitating the group.

"B.C. is on the leading edge of consensus-based land use planning," says Borth. "You can see the resource crunch coming and it's good to be involved in trying to resolve it."

The Vanderhoof LRMP initiative is one of 12 underway in forest districts throughout the province. LRMPs take land use planning to the sub-regional level, to try to achieve public consensus on a comprehensive assessment of all resource values. Forest district planning staff often act as facilitators for each LRMP process.

Although the objective of each is the same — to achieve consensus on land uses — districts can adopt various mechanisms tailored to local conditions.

Elo says that has some advantages.

"The members of the Vanderhoof group don't represent a constituency, they represent values," she says. "That means people don't have to take positions representing an interest group."

She also noted that no members promote a single idea to the exclusion of all others.

For all participants, it has been a learning experience as much as anything. The first step was to ensure everyone understood the process itself and the issues. Then each participant was invited to submit interest statements, or a description of their values and priorities.

The group used a local trade show in April to present that information to, and solicit comment from, a wider public audience.

"Through the LRMP program, the public develops an understanding of how the system works, and how local issues fit into the province-wide land planning process," said Elo. "It's opened up a lot of people's eyes about what other sectors would like to see."

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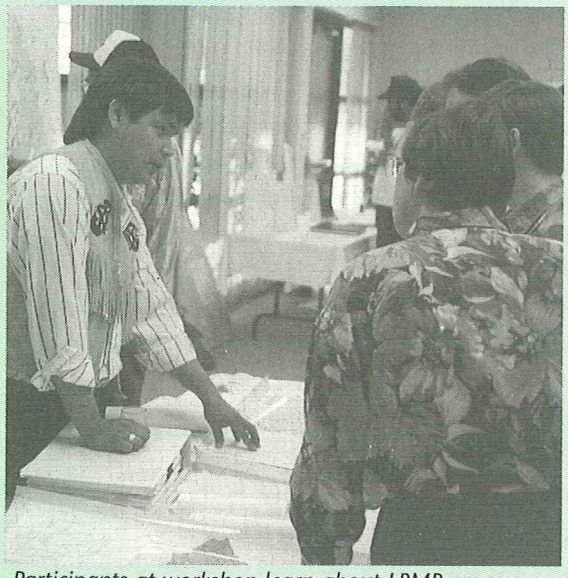
Workshop brings LRMP teams together

Over 100 people from around the province, including members of Land and Resource Management Planning teams, converged in Prince George for a two-day workshop in June.



Participants at workshop learn about LRMP processes throughout the province.

Under the theme "LRMP: Building on Our Experiences," the workshop was designed to generate ideas on how the LRMP process could be improved, provide a better understanding on new developments in the provincial Land Use Strategy, and to promote information sharing among the public, government and First Nations participants.

Derek Thompson, ADM of the Land Use Coordination Office, delivered the keynote address, which focused on profound changes underway in land use planning. Amidst these changes, he said, government needs to clarify relationships, roles and responsibilities.

The workshop also discussed the impact that recent land-use initiatives — the Forest Practices Code, Protected Areas Strategy, Timber Supply Review, CORE, and First Nations treaty negotiations — have on LRMP processes.

Implementation of business plans approved

"Business plans are going to give us more bang for our buck," says **Terry Walker**, regional staff manager, management services, Prince Rupert forest region, "because everyone in the ministry will have a better idea where we're going."

Beginning this fall, each district, region and branch will be developing yearly business plans, outlining the activities that will be undertaken with the resources allocated for the year.

The adoption of business plans is the result of an independent analysis of the ministry's internal planning process, which was completed in March 1993.

After the initial go-ahead from executive in July 1993, Kamloops and Prince Rupert forest regions began the first phase of implementation by developing and refining a business plan process and format. Both regions now have business plans in place for 1994/95.

Based on their success, executive approved implementation of business plans throughout the ministry for 1995/96.

Consistent with ministry, regional, district and program priorities, business plans will ensure accountability for allocated resources and assist in ongoing management during the year. A business plan represents a signed contract, between the district manager and the regional manager, for example, stating the results that will be produced with available staff and financial resources.

"It is a more consistent way to know what we are actually doing with the resources we've got, and what it is costing us to deliver things over time," says **Dale Leitch**, manager of corporate planning, corporate policy and planning branch.

"What the business plan does is simply describe what you are doing with the resources you have been allocated. It is not a budget development tool," says **Jane Spackman**, regional staff manager, management services, Kamloops forest region.

> "It is a more consistent way to know what we are actually doing with the resources we've got, and what it is costing us to deliver things over time."
>
> — *Dale Leitch*

Walker says business plans will make managers' lives easier. The process will involve discussions between a manager and his or her staff, in which they determine what will be done for the resources they have.

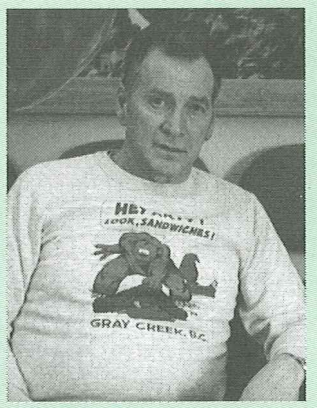
Managers will report quarterly to show how they are doing in relation to the plan. Kamloops and Prince Rupert regions are continuing work to develop formal reporting and monitoring processes.

Both Spackman and Walker agree that the business plans have been a positive development in their regions.

"I'm thoroughly convinced that this is the way the ministry should go, as long as we keep it simple," Walker says.

Headquarters branches will also prepare business plans for 1995/96.

Information on the format and content of the business plan process will be distributed in the fall.



Duncan Cummings

Forty-year veteran says good bye

The Golden forest district's end-of-season barbecue in September will give staff the opportunity to bid farewell to **Duncan Cummings**. Dunc retired in February after more than 40 years with the Forest Service.

Dunc began his career on the Duncan Lookout in Lardeau in 1952. Appointed assistant ranger in Lardeau in 1961, he later served as deputy ranger in Kaslo and Creston, and relief ranger in Vancouver. He became ranger in Mica Creek in 1978.

Reorganization brought Dunc to the Golden district as resource officer, protection, in 1981, and resource officer, recreation, in 1985. Golden district staff will bid Dunc farewell at the end-of-season barbecue, September 18.

Vernon operations manager retires

After 36 years with the Forest Service, **Jake Wlasuk** has retired. Jake began his career in 1958 as a forest assistant with an appraisal crew in Victoria.

After serving as assistant ranger in 100 Mile House and deputy ranger in Vernon, he became ranger of the Likely ranger district in 1975 and of Pemberton in 1978.

Jake returned to Vernon in 1980 as operations manager forestry, the position he held until his retirement on July 29.

Ministry thanks Forest Practices Code team

"My job has been made easy with your amazing dedication," Forest Practices Code project manager **Michael Brownlee** told the audience at Dunsmuir Lodge.

Brownlee's remark sums up the spirit of the June 29 evening, when members of the Code development team gathered to receive well-deserved thanks for their work over the last two years.

During his address, Brownlee quickly recapped the achievements of the last three years: several rounds of public consultation, nine presentations to the Cabinet Committee on Sustainable Development, and completion of 413 proposed rules, 324 sections of the act, and 200 proposed standards . . . .

The project team itself comprised more than 200 people working on the technical content, lead by Vernon forest district Resource Officer **Rick Smith**; seven people involved in drafting the legislation under the direction of **Trevor Swan**, director of compliance and enforcement; and, a management team of 40, including **John Cuthbert** (chair, Forest Practices steering committee) and **Michael Grist** (coordinator, legislation and policy development).

Brownlee also paid homage to the hundreds of people who, although not directly involved in development of the Code, helped carry the normal workloads of those who were.

About 45 people attended the banquet, and received on behalf of all those involved recognition from Forests Minister **Andrew Petter** and Deputy Minister **Gerry Armstrong**, and Environment, Lands and Parks Deputy Minister **Tom Gunton**.

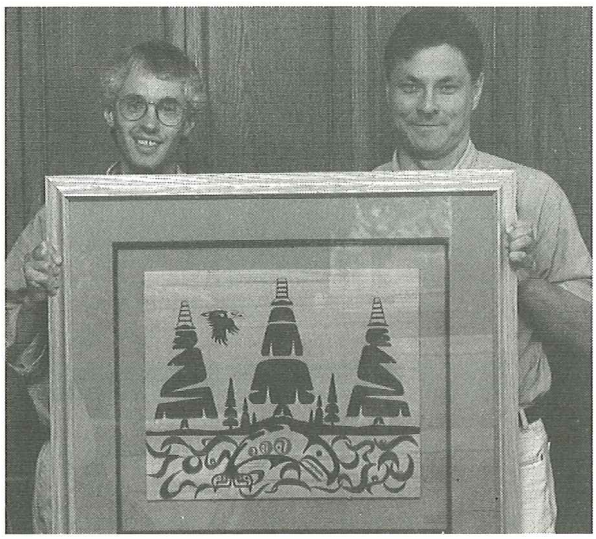
"Your dedication, professionalism and spirit are truly commendable and I salute you," Petter told the audience. He also referred to the public benefits that will be derived from the Code. "We now have the opportunity to really change forest practices for the better in this province."

"I won't even attempt to estimate all the late nights, weekends and holidays devoted to the project," said Armstrong. "Dedication like this is very rare and I am truly grateful."

As a token of appreciation, key members of the code development team received a limited edition print of a painting commissioned for the occasion. Artist **Michael Blackstock**, who is also a professional forester, produced "The Watchmen" to reflect the spirit and intent of the Forest Practices Code.

"I wanted to design a painting that would appeal to your heart, and to your spirit — the reason why you thought it was so important to establish the Code," Blackstock told the audience.

Painting combines professional and cultural interests



Forests Minister Andrew Petter and artist Michael Blackstock display "The Watchmen."

The commission to produce a painting as a tribute to the Forest Practices Code came as a special opportunity for **Michael Blackstock**.

As a professional forester and a status native with the Gitannmax Band near Hazelton, Blackstock can readily identify with the intent of the Code.

"I really believe the Forest Practices Code will improve the way forestry is done," he said, adding it will become "more complementary to the way Natives perceive the forest."

"The painting was a very deep personal challenge, and it was an honor to do something that recognizes the people who worked so hard on the Forest Practices Code," said Blackstock.

Titled "The Watchmen," the painting depicts an eagle, salmon and three large cedar trees. Together these elements represent the forest and its many values.

The cedar trees incorporate the aboriginal symbolism of watchmen, who protect a village. In the painting they are watching over the forest.

Blackstock, who worked as a silviculture information specialist in the silviculture branch until August, began his art career in 1986.

With occasional guidance from his uncle, well-known native artist Walter Harris, Blackstock's career has flourished over the years.

The Watchmen represent his third commissioned painting, and he has produced limited edition prints of five of his works.

Blackstock began a two-year leave of absence in August to pursue a Masters degree in First Nations studies in Prince George.

Vanderhoof LRMP

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But she acknowledges the most difficult stages are yet to come. This fall, the group will be dividing the district into resource management zones and negotiating guidelines for land use decisions in each. Completing a resource analysis, which quantifies how the plan will affect each resource value, will be a challenge.

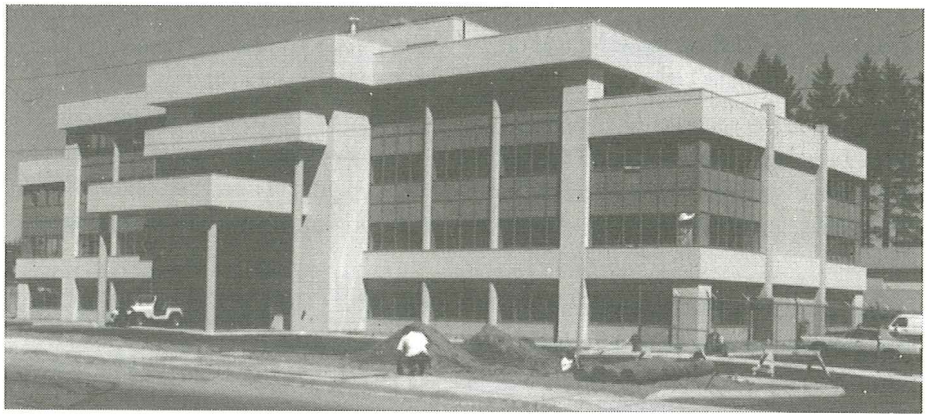
Their final report, which is due next June, will be submitted to the Omineca Peace Inter-agency Management Committee, a regional committee which coordinates programs for the region. The report will comprise recommendations on all factors the group has agreed on. If consensus is not reached, the report will present a number of options, on which the management committee will develop recommendations. The management committee will then submit its recommendations to the Land Use Coordination Office.

Although neither have a background in facilitation, Elo and Borth have found the experience both challenging and rewarding.

"It puts you on edge, thinking about how to handle things and how to put things forward so people are comfortable with them," says Elo. "It's very important for group members to maintain relationships, both with government representatives and with their peers."

Borth echoes her sentiments: "It's difficult being in front of a group with dissimilar interests and you have to keep them on the same track. You go through highs and lows from meeting to meeting depending on how much you accomplished."

Vancouver forest region HQ takes up new home in Nanaimo



New Nanaimo headquarters for Vancouver forest region nears completion.

Both the professional and personal lives of Vancouver forest region headquarters staff will get a little easier on August 29, when the office opens at its new location in Nanaimo.

Regional Staff Manager **Jim Spring** said preparations have gone well, and everything is on track for the scheduled opening. Construction of a brand new 45,000 square-foot facility is expected to be complete by mid-August.

Although day-to-day operations will change very little, Spring noted that staff will benefit at work and away. A survey prior to the decision to relocate determined that over half of the workload originates on Vancouver Island, including some of the region's most controversial issues.

"It will be easier for our experts to get into the field in the busy Island districts, without the inconvenience of ferries and motels," explained Spring.

People's personal time will also increase, he said, with the elimination of what for many is a 60-minute, one-way commute. Some will also benefit from the price differential in the housing markets.

The same factors contributed to the decision to move the office. Spring expects many more Forest Service staff will bid on positions in Nanaimo, without the deterrent of long commutes and high housing costs.

Of the 143 regional positions, half have chosen to remain in the Lower Mainland, working at the Squamish or Chilliwack offices, or with other ministries. Eleven face the happy prospect of retirement.

Recruitment to fill the vacancies continues. "We've been advertising throughout B.C.," said Spring, "and most vacancies are being filled through in-service competitions or transfers." The office will be closed August 25 and 26 during the move.

Call for papers

An international conference on "Multiple Resource Inventory and Monitoring of Tropical Forests" will take place in Malaysia, November 21-24, 1994. Abstracts are required as soon as possible. Registration fee is US$90.

For more information, contact the director, ASEAN Institute of Forest Management (AIFM), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,phone 6-03-442-9251, fax 6-03-442-5115, or email mric@aifm.po.my.

Electronic mobile office system explored

In conjunction with the recently-released Radio and Wireless Communications Report, the technical and administrative services branch is investigating mobile office technology for Forest Service field staff.

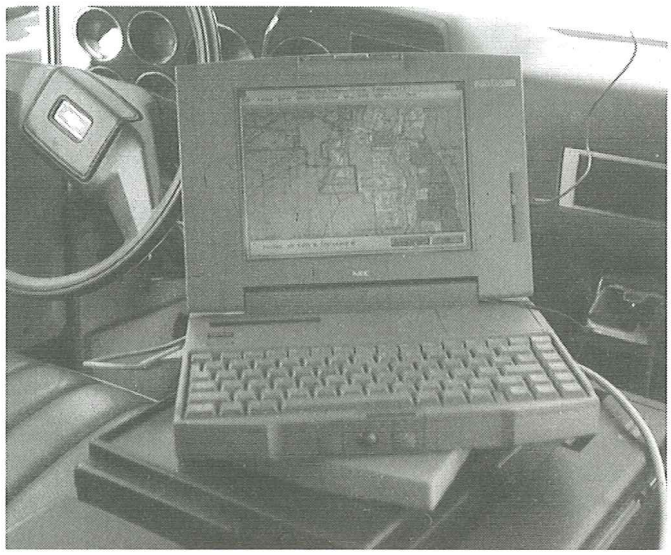
The mobile office concept combines radio communications and computer technology to make full office computer systems and data accessible from mobile units.

"We want to give the people who really count — the field staff — some tools that will help them do their jobs more effectively," says **Dave Wegelin**, program manager, electronic operations.

Mobile office uses a base-station computer and radio transmitter to broadcast digital information to mobile radios and laptop computers.

"The technology will remain largely invisible," Wegelin points out. "Only the benefits will be apparent."

The system will give field personnel access to all electronic systems and data, including word processing, spread sheets, e-mail, map and image data, databases, and on-line policy and legislation documentation.



It could also be combined with GPS to track a vehicle's location and pinpoint fires, cut blocks or other features in isolated areas.

A recent demonstration of the technology in Campbell River generated rave reviews. Campbell River forest district manager **Don Sluggett** sums up the reaction: "It will make things a lot easier for us."

Prototypes of the system are to be tested in several forest districts over the next four to six months.

For further information, contact **Dave Wegelin** at 387-6644, OVID DWEGELIN.

Electronic forms will cut costs

Fast, efficient, and paper-free information flow: that's the aim of an electronic forms project recently started by the Forest Service.

Technical and administrative services branch and the information systems branch are currently developing a plan to evaluate forms management software and electronic mail systems. Benefits include reduced printing and mailing costs, availability of current forms through a central server or local LAN, one-time entry of data that can be used in numerous other applications, and electronic authorizations.

For more information, contact **Pat Megson**, forms management analyst, 387-5494, OVID PMEGSON.

Clearing up confusion on information versus records

What's the difference between a request for information and a request for records? How are they treated differently?

A request for information usually involves a question: Why is the government logging in Avalon Creek? Why didn't I get forest licence A12345?

Requests for information should, whenever possible, be handled by the office receiving the request. If the answer is not available in your branch, region or district office, you can refer the question to public affairs (phone 387-5255 or fax 387-8485).

A request for records is a request to obtain or view copies of documents: I want to see all briefing notes on the decision to log Avalon Creek; or I want to see the proposal for forest licence A12345.

There are two methods for accessing records held by government: through routine channels or by formal request (sometimes referred to as Freedom of Information requests).

Many records can be provided through routine channels, for example: manuals, publications, and news releases or records identified as releasable by responsibility centre managers or branch policy.

Formal requests should be made for more sensitive records. These requests are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Formal requests must be put in writing, and copies must be faxed to the information and privacy section.

If you have any concerns about the release of certain records, call the information and privacy section at 387-1340.

*— Submitted by **Tracey Colins**, program analyst, information and privacy section*

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

A chance to dispell some myths

To most people outside of the Forest Service, forestry conjures images of stumps, loggers clad in grey woolies and chain saws. Half a century ago, the perception would have been accurate.

But today, forestry is a high tech pursuit. From GIS mapping systems to inventory studies and ecosystem classifications, the industry is characterized by high technology and multidisciplinary science.

For people concerned about a "grey woolies" public image, Science and Technology Week presents an opportunity to help set the record straight.

The Ministry of Employment and Investment's annual event is designed to promote technology in B.C., particularly among youth. Its success depends on partnerships among business, educators and government, to provide information on their scientific achievements, challenges and opportunities. A key focus of the week is to promote high tech career opportunities.

From GIS mapping systems to inventory studies and ecosystem classifications, the industry is characterized by high technology and multidisciplinary science.

The Forest Service has been invited to participate, and staff throughout the province are encouraged to take up the cause.

Shopping malls provide ideal venues for displays and community forums. In Victoria, Eaton's Centre Mall will be the site of a high tech display organized by Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre. Companies and government agencies with a technological orientation are invited to participate. (For information, contact **Bob Skene** at 384-2450.)

But the possibilities — public tours of forests facilities, classroom speaking engagements, community cable vision or radio talk show appearances — are limited only by imagination.

Science and Technology Week is scheduled for October 14 to 23, and Forest Service offices are encouraged to participate. We are at the vanguard of many, if not all, forest-related technologies.

For more information, contact **Donna Kosteriva**, Ministry of Employment and Investment, 387-1628, fax 356-0021, or Internet dkosteriva@galaxy.gov.bc.ca.

New manager in Vancouver

Ken Collingwood has been appointed the new manager of the Vancouver forest region. Collingwood took over on June 6, 1994, after serving as Prince George regional manager for four years.

He joined the Forest Service in 1972, working as a forestry crewperson in Squamish, Parksville, and Gold River; special projects supervisor in Duncan; resource officer, silviculture in Port Alberni; and operations superintendent in Campbell River. In 1984, Collingwood moved to the interior as district manager for Merritt.

With his extensive experience on the coast, Collingwood is ready to face some unique challenges as the Vancouver region makes its new home in Nanaimo.

Gorley takes over in Prince George

The job of Prince George regional manager has been awarded to **Al Gorley**, who brings more than 20 years' experience with the Forest Service to the job.

Gorley previously worked as operations superintendent in Bulkley, regional protection officer in Smithers, and since 1988 as district manager of Morice forest district.

District managers appointed

The new manager of the Horsefly forest district is **Bill Young**, who was previously the operations manager, Clearwater forest district.

Doug Konkin has been appointed district manager for 100 Mile House. Prior to this posting, Konklin was regional staff manager, integrated resource management, in the Kamloops forest region.

Mid coast forest district also has a new manager. **Brian Simpson** joined the Forest Service in 1976, and was most recently the operations manager in the Morice forest district.

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