



The British Columbia

Forest Service

Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 7

A Newsletter for Ministry of Forests' employees

July 1995

THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE

A technician's perspective

The Clearwater forest district has been driving the Forest Practices Code road for two years now, and from my "behind-the-wheel" perspective, it works.

The key to this district's success has been communication, the map to accomplishment. Small victories and site-specific achievements — all or most of which will never be reported — are a ground level validation of the code.

When the practical applications of the code are clearly stated, people implementing those applications generally agree that they work, they are not onerous, and they do what they were intended to do.

This is not to say that all has been perfect. But through communication most issues are being settled in the field with a minimum of fuss, and perhaps more importantly, a minimum of paper work. It appears in this district that the code has given the technicians and machine operators a vested interest and created the environment (literally and metaphorically) that it was designed to create.

The recent release of the guidebooks and the imminent release of others will greatly enhance and further ease implementation of the code, if the books get into the right hands — the hands that get dirty.

It is the silviculture workers who need the guidebooks. They, as much if not more than the general public, want the code to work. A skidder operator does not want to skid through a creek; a faller understands that visual quality objectives may make the job a little less efficient and more demanding; the

*By Bruce Edmundson, forest technician,
Clearwater forest district*

layout technician understands why caribou habitat has to be maintained; the road builder wants to build less environmentally intrusive roads; and everybody understands

the need for riparian zone management.

To them, and to all forest workers, it is another challenge and a welcome part of their job. It gets them involved and gives them responsibility. Rather than mere-

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Dining out with the resource tenures and engineering branch



That's the problem with bureaucrats: they take everything so danged literally. This is what Glenn Moore, construction engineer, (l) and Jim Langridge, manager of timber tenures, resource tenures and engineering branch, thought it meant to throw a lunch party. And that's only part of it. More on page 6.

Merger creates new branch

The Forest Service reorganization has created a new branch in the operations division from what were previously two independent groups.

Nursery services and the tree seed centre, previously part of silviculture branch, have been merged to form the nursery and seed operations branch. **Drew Brazier**, who formerly headed the nursery program, is director of the new branch.

Brazier explained that both nursery services and the tree seed centre are dedicated to the same goal: the artificial regeneration of forests through seedling planting. As well, both services share many of the same clients. The merger will improve and streamline client services, said Brazier.

The branch now includes three nurseries, nursery extension, three nursery service offices, tree seed centre and the Victoria

headquarters, which is located at 1809 Douglas Street, telephone 387-8935, fax 356-0472.

A technician's perspective

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ly following dictates from on high, workers use the code. And the more familiar they become with it, the easier everyone's job will be. The end result will be responsible workers and a healthy, sustainable, environmentally-sound forest industry.

Academic forestry is just that: academic. Theories are as ephemeral as the breath used to expound them.

Practical forestry is theory that has been site tested. The code works. But the ones making it work are the ones in the caulk boots.

Nonetheless, both academics and technicians must keep each other informed. Communication. Any problems, issues, impractical guidelines, or new applications must be field tested by those who operate the machines and lay out the blocks.

Maybe all forestry academics should be required to do 30 days in the field every year, preferably running deflection lines or ribboning riparian zones on 60 degree slopes. Anything that fosters communication helps.

The point is that theories and practice, like guidelines and implementation, are at cross purposes when they do not acknowledge their interdependence. The code functions at that level of cooperation.

Chilliwack "forest fit" team joins Fun Run



Ready to run: (from left to right) Deborah Soutar, John Coles, Kelly Cameron, Stan Smethurst, Holly Meagher, Lucy Stad, Sharon Hadway and Doug Thorton.

A team from the Chilliwack forest district was among the 24,000 participants in this year's Vancouver Sun Run. Entered in the corporate division, all 15 members completed the 10-kilometre route.

Their participation was part of the district's forest fit program, which promotes physical fitness among staff. District staff hope to see more Forest Service participation next year, and even allude to accepting any challenge another district may make.

— Submitted by Holly Meagher, Chilliwack forest district

Golfers brave wind and rain

Despite rain and wind squalls, 66 determined golfers got into the swing of things at the Forest Service headquarters golf tournament and barbeque.

The tournament, held in June at Metchosin Golf and Country Club, pitted 17 teams in a competition for prizes and the coveted trophy.

Brian Murphy and Rob Bowden, both of silviculture practices branch, Joanne Bowden and Rick Clevette of protection branch, collectively known as the "19th Hole Gang," ran away with first place, scoring three under par.

It marked the second win for Murphy and Clevette, who have offered to organize next year's tournament at their home course, the Cowichan Golf and Country Club.

Other winners were:

- Women's longest drive: Penny McDougall, enforcement branch
- Men's longest drive: Graham Browne, resource tenures and engineering branch
- Women's closest to the pin: Joanne Bowden.

- Men's closest to the pin: Gorman Lee, technical and administrative services branch
- Most accurate drive for both men and women: Graham Browne.

The following teams also received honorable mentions:

- The Forest Gumps: Paul Lackhoff, Eileen Harper, Pam Bishop and Karen Brandt of public affairs branch for a great name and outfits to match

- The Hardware Queens: Joyce Sambrooke, Joan McCorry, Wendy Stewart and Candace Patterson for fabulous fire crew suits topped with tiaras
- The Fore Plays: Fred Miller, Charles Goodman, Dave Forget and Penny McDougall for most original team name and placing third.

— Submitted by Diana Lucas and Mike Dodd, tournament organizers (technical and administrative services)

Bear video wins

A Forest Service educational video has won awards in two American competitions.

"Bear Aware," a 29-minute production to inform viewers about the risks of bear attack in B.C., won an award for creative excellence in the U.S. International Film and Video Festival and a bronze award in the World Fest Houston contest.

PanVideo Productions Ltd. of Victoria produced the video as part of a larger educational package for human resources accident prevention, with the support of the public affairs branch. It features several minutes of bears in their natural environment and interviews with bear attack victims.

Golden trade show draws crowd



Golden forest district took advantage of a recent trade fair to promote forestry awareness. Many of the more than 3,000 people who attended took the time to visit the district's booth.

The display included a Touch Your Forest kiosk and an noxious weed exhibit. Volunteers also handed out nearly 1,000 Douglas-fir seedlings and, for the children, educational items such as florescent rulers, Smokey Bear pencils, balloons and posters.

In the above photograph, Recreation Officer John Wilsgard (l) and Tenures Officer Al Pollard show a local trapper how to use the Touch Your Forest kiosk.

— Submitted by Denise English, Golden forest district

Junior Forest Wardens on the move

"Junior Forest Wardens gave me a career," says **Malcolm Cattanach**, field operations supervisor at the Sunshine Coast forest district. "They are the reason for my being where I am today."

Cattanach, who was a Junior Forest Warden (JFW) in North Burnaby as a child, is now returning the favor. He is a leader in a JFW group in Sechelt which he started more than 10 years ago, and sits on the board of directors of the Junior Forest Wardens Association of B.C. His 13-year-old stepson is also involved.

Open to boys and girls aged six to 18, the Junior Forest Wardens program challenges its members to better understand and care for our natural resources. Outdoor recreational activities, including hiking, camping and cross-country skiing, give members the skills they need to feel comfortable in the outdoors.

Other activities, such as salmon enhancement, reforestation and wildlife conservation, also help wardens to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the wise use of our woods, waters, soils and wildlife.

The Junior Forest Wardens grew out of a need to raise public awareness of the dangers and costs of fire.

Established in 1930 as the Junior Fire Wardens, the program broadened its focus in the mid-1940s to include forestry, the environment and outdoor recreation, and became the Junior Forest Wardens. The program was revised again in the 1980s in response to a need for more "learn by doing" projects.

The Junior Forest Wardens left their long-time provincial sponsor, the B.C. Forestry

Association, in 1992 with the aim of expanding throughout the province and diversifying sponsorship. There are currently 23 clubs in B.C., with about 400 members.

Cattanach says it's easy to recruit kids to the

environment and resources, it is also extremely relevant. The two JFW groups in Sechelt, for example, have long waiting lists. The difficulty lies in attracting leaders to start and run JFW clubs. And yet, as in

most volunteer work, the rewards easily outweigh the effort.

"It's a fun program to be involved with," Cattanach says. "And there are good successes, such as keeping kids off the street and out of jail, and having some of our outstanding scholars go on to BCIT and a forestry career."

While anyone can participate, having leaders from the Forest Service and from industry is especially valuable to the program, he adds. Other leaders in his own group include a woodlot licensee, a part-time forest industry worker and a park naturalist. Both the knowledge they bring and

their access to resources contribute to the kids being able to learn and do "amazing things."

WANTED:

Junior warden leaders

If you like kids, forests and making learning fun, the Junior Forest Wardens need YOU! There are no other requirements — whether you are a professional forester or a tree-planter, you can start, lead or just help out in a JFW club in your community.

People interested in forming a club are supplied with a complete user-friendly starter kit and information package. Potential leaders can choose which age groups they would like to work with, depending on their experience or the community's needs.

Most clubs have one regular meeting per week, as well as occasional weekend activities focusing on the four main components of the program: forestry, woodstravel, leadership and ecology.

For more information on becoming a Junior Forest Warden leader, please call 685-7788, fax 685-5373 or write: PO Box 48204, 1055 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1.

JFW program, because it's co-ed and includes a wide range of ages, unlike most other youth clubs. With its emphasis on the

Vancouver region engineer retires

After 33 years, Vancouver forest region engineer **Dennis Smith** has retired from the Forest Service.

In 1962 Smith began his career with the Forest Service as a party chief on the Parsnip Forest Service road, which leads to Mackenzie. He later went on to survey, design and build the road to Gold River, which the Ministry of Transportation and Highways liked so much that they paved it and called it Highway 21.

In 1972 Smith became engineering officer for the Vancouver forest region, a position he held until his recent retirement.

New appointment

Craig Sutherland has been appointed regional staff manager, operations in the Cariboo forest region.

Prior to his appointment, Sutherland was the regional forest sector initiative manager in the Cariboo.

ADM visits remote Takla Landing

It was raining when we left Prince George on a Monday morning for Takla Landing, located some 600 kilometres northwest, in a chartered seven-passenger Piper-Navajo Chieftan.

Don Wright, ADM of policy and planning, who had already travelled half way across the province that morning, was going to hear first hand the concerns of the Takla Indian Band.

On board the plane were Prince George Regional Operations Manager (acting) **Leverne Merkel** and **Barry Vickers**, chief executive officer of the Takla Development Corporation. Vickers, 31, is an economics graduate of Simon Fraser University and a member of the Stoney Creek Band. The corporation, wholly owned by the Takla Band, is involved in logging and lumber manufacturing and has real estate holdings.

"It's a fairly young company," said Vickers. "We have 15 full-time staff and during peak winter logging season we have 40 to 50 employees doing harvesting. We largely employ native people from the village (of Takla Landing)."

Vickers laments the fact that he can't find a native professional forester or accountant. But on the positive side, the Takla people are learning to be heavy equipment operators, bookkeepers and administrators. And 13 band members will soon try treeplanting on a cutblock next to the road leading to the village.

However, the corporation's three-year, 60,000-cubic-metre per year licence to cut just expired, and although negotiations are underway for a new licence, Vickers is anxious about jobs.

* * * *

Twenty minutes later the sun is shining when we pick up Prince George Regional Manager **Al Gorley** and Fort St. James District Manager **Ray Schultz** in Fort St. James. In a moment we're in the air over



Fact finding tour at Takla Lake: (from left to right) Al Gorley, Leverne Merkel, Ray Schultz, Barry Vickers, Don Wright and Owen Prince.

Stuart Lake, pointing out favorite fishing spots and the reddish trees that reveal a beetle attack. Schultz notes that his district, at 3.1 million hectares, is almost as large as Vancouver Island.

We touch down on a gravel airstrip at Lovell Cove 45 minutes later. **Owen Prince**, the district's aboriginal forest advisor, and **Bryon Goertz**, a resource assistant assigned to the zone, are there to drive us to Takla Landing. When we reach the village, we park at a general store built in 1947 on the edge of

Takla Lake. Vickers suggests we walk to see the rest of the village, home to 350 Takla Band members. Another 150 members live off reserve, some in traditional log cabins on remote trap lines. We follow Vickers along a road lined with wild roses which hugs the lakeshore.

During our walk we meet **Greg Woolacott**, a forester and non-native, who is the corporation's woodlands manager. The week previous, he led managers of the major forest

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New scaling manual available

The revenue branch has released a completely updated version of the Provincial Scaling Manual.

At over 700 pages, the new manual was three years in the making. It is the first complete update of the original publication, which was originally produced in the 1970s.

Notable changes include updated scaling policies and procedures, a redefinition of scaling responsibilities, the inclusion of

applicable ministry standards, an appendix of current documentation requirements and instructions on how to complete the forms. Photographs, a glossary and significantly revised and improved content on weight scaling have also been added to the new manual.

For more information or to order a copy, contact **Judy Laton** at revenue branch, 387-8356.

Turning lunch into adventure

For anyone looking for an offbeat lunch experience, check out the resource tenures and engineering branch (at your peril). This summer, the branch is breaking new ground with wacky variations on traditional luncheon themes.

Back in June, branch staff decided they wanted to throw a birthday lunch to celebrate (mourn?) the arrival of Tree Farm Licence Forester **Reg Brick's** fortieth. But booking a table for a dozen or so guests at a local restaurant wouldn't do. They wanted to have an outdoor barbeque-type lunch, the way many of the districts do.

That can be a bit tricky in downtown Victoria, but resourceful staff zeroed in on a small grassy area adjacent to their Government Street offices. Voila.

Then they had to figure out what to do about food. No problem. Chuck, the Hot Diggity Dog hotdog street vendor, was having a slow day at his traditional venue, so he gladly relocated to the party site to serve the hungry guests.

Knowing that Brick was a music fan, staff then set out to find some reasonably priced entertainment. Unfortunately, lousy weather had kept most of the regular buskers home that day. But that was only a temporary setback, for soon the mournful wails of a not-too-distant bagpipe could be heard.

The piper, Jerry, was freezing his kilt off in the Inner Harbor and was easily persuaded to relocate next to the hotdog oven.

Chief Forester **Larry Pedersen** and branch Director **Bob Harding** dropped by to wish Brick a happy fortieth and declare their own great anticipation of that milestone. After singing Happy Birthday to the accompaniment of the pipes, bestowing on Brick gifts of bran flakes and denture cream, and a few other festivities (including a "name that tree" contest, which got tough because their were two trees in the picnic area), everyone went back to work.

But not for long.

Less than a month later, the same resource tenures and engineering branch decided to throw another lunch party, but this time they got more literal. The lunch, held on the loading dock behind the Government Street offices, was to raise money for the branch social committee.

Bake sale? Nah. Fifty-fifty draw? Nope. White elephant sale, raffle, car wash? Dull, dull and dull.

Secretary **Anita Baril** had another idea, and the most surprising thing was everyone's immediate willingness to participate.

Baril proposed that some of the branch's more popular members offer themselves for auction. The successful bidder would buy the right to mash a pie into the volunteer's face.

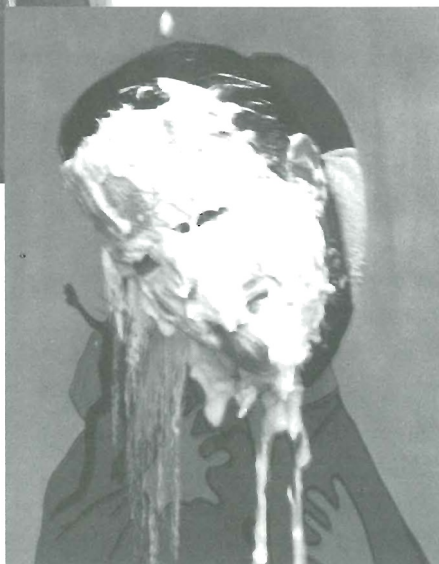
And that's how Director **Bob Harding** and several other either very dedicated or slightly

masochistic members found themselves sticking their heads through a hole cut at shoulder level in a large backdrop. And that's how several other gleeful individuals found themselves on the favorable side of the backdrop, pie in hand . . .

Auctioneer **Charlie Klasen** wheedled a total of \$200 from those in attendance. Half will be donated to charity and the rest will be used for whatever other social events branch staff may discover a yen for.



Resource tenures and engineering branch Director **Bob Harding** treats Draughting Superintendent **Olga Kopriva** to lunch (top), looking a lot happier than he did only moments after someone else returned the favor (right).



New ERA aids code enforcement

The Forest Service has developed a new computer program to fully automate the collection and processing of enforcement activities under the Forest Practices Code. Staff province-wide will use the enforcement action, administrative review and appeal tracking system (ERA) to record all activities related to enforcement of the code. A committee led by the enforcement branch and information systems branch worked with an independent systems contractor on the program.

ERA will enable staff to track suspected or reported code violations, the resulting investigations, confirmed violations, enforcement actions, and reviews and appeals. The program will automatically process the data into relevant statistics, which can be quickly and easily obtained by all staff.

"A comprehensive database of enforcement actions and statistics will be essential for the effective application of the code," explained **John Mallett**, field support and analysis manager with the enforcement branch.

"For example, the system will enable us to track on a daily basis information such as the number of times a particular client has violated the code and the number and type of violations that have occurred."

Any ERA user will be able to produce on-line reports. For example, a district manager could obtain information on enforcement actions in a neighboring district, including the nature of any violation, enforcement actions, and the outcome of any review.

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As with any new legislation, there are at the outset no precedents to guide decision-makers.

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"We need to apply the code fairly, equitably and consistently throughout the province," explained Mallett. "But as with any new legislation, there are at the outset no precedents to guide decision-makers. ERA will make that information — enforcement details, decisions and precedents — available

province-wide as soon as it develops."

The system will also enable Forest Service staff to provide current information to the public on a regular basis, such as the most common violations or a top 10 offenders list.

Headquarters enforcement branch staff will also rely on ERA to fulfil one of their key mandates. By tracking all review and appeals activities, ERA will reveal aspects of the code — ranging from legislation and policy to staff training and practices — that need to be modified or improved.

"For example if we are constantly losing appeals under a particular aspect of the code, we may have to look at amending the legislation," Mallett explained.

The first component of ERA, which deals with enforcement activities, was activated at all Forest Service offices in June. A second component to monitor appeals and reviews will be operational in late July. Training is underway.

Mallett said that further development is underway to interface the new software with other office automation.

For more information on ERA or other enforcement branch activities, contact Mallett at 387-2533; **Jerry Hunter**, enforcement practices forester, at 387-2536; or **Marilyn Seifert**, administrative review and appeals officer, at 387-2534.

SAFETY SLOGAN EARNS AWARD



Mackenzie forest district Service Technician **Linda Moriss** displays the T-shirt she won for submitting a safety slogan to *Safety Smart* magazine. Moriss's winning entry, "Safety is a word that should be heard" and accompanying graphic, earned shirts for both herself and **Dave Hargreaves**, the management representative on the district's occupational health and safety committee.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK:

A chance to tell our story

Fall may seem like a long time away, but planning for this year's Science and Technology Week is well underway.

The October event is designed to promote awareness of science and technology among B.C. youth. Every year, business, industry and government agencies around the province host a range of activities to expose young people to the importance of science

and technology in the workplace and related career opportunities.

Even though the Forest Service relies heavily on science — and is internationally recognized as a leader in its field — staff have rarely capitalized on the event.

The week is an ideal opportunity to expose people of all ages to the role of science in modern forestry, and to the major

contributions Forest Service staff make.

The theme of Science and Technology Week '95 is "Invest In Your Future! Discover . . ."

The event focuses on partnerships among government, Crown corporations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and the private sector to create opportunities for youth to learn through hands-on activities.

The range of possibilities is nearly limitless: organize a mall display, a visit to your office, tours of nearby work-sites; speak to students and teachers at the local schools; arrange guest appearances on local talk shows on the role of science in your work . . .

For more information, contact **Madelaine Halls** at 387-1628, fax 356-0021, or e-mail mhalls@eivc3.ei.gov.bc.ca

Takla Landing

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companies which operate in the area on a similar walk to hear the band's concerns. Like Vickers, Woolacott makes his home in Prince George and drives four and a half hours to Takla Landing as required.

We pass an old Catholic church, and then an even older one built from greying squared-off logs. We cut through the school yard to the band's community centre, an attractive log structure with large windows and a prominent wood carving at the front.

Downstairs about 20 men and women from Takla, including elders and band councillors, gather for an information session and to ask questions of the Forest Service representatives. Vickers asks everyone to introduce themselves. Titles are left out — it is just Don Wright, Forest Service, Victoria; and Al Gorley, Forest Service, Prince George.

A flip-chart at the front of the room details some of the band's concerns and needs. A hand-out describes capital projects like water, sewer, roads and other basic requirements of the community. Vickers explains that power outages are one of the most frustrating problems. Takla Landing depends on electricity for heat and to oper-

ate water and sewer pumps. When the power goes out, the community is thrown into chaos.

Another significant problem is the band's funding: unlike a municipality, they have no tax base. They rely solely on federal funding and income from the corporation to pay for everything from the school to housing for their people, 100 of whom are waiting for homes.

Several elders and band members stand up towards the end of the meeting to speak about their concerns. Some wonder why the band should have to ask for rights to timber they feel is theirs in the first place. Others wanted their traplines protected from harvesting or a share in upcoming silviculture work.

Negotiations are continuing between the Forest Service, the Takla Band and the forest companies in the area. A mediator is to be appointed to work with the parties.

After thanking the band for inviting him, Wright gives a framed wildlife print to **Sandra TeeGee**, band councillor and deputy chief. While much remains to be done, we leave with a better understanding of the Takla Band's concerns and unique circumstances.

— submitted by **Jeff Elder**,
communications officer, Prince George forest region

The B.C. Forest Service Newsletter is published on the third Monday of every month by the B.C. Forest Service, public affairs branch.

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