



The British Columbia FOREST SERVICE Newsletter

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A Newsletter for Ministry of Forests' Employees

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Seed orchard to help fight pine rust

In 1910 a shipment of rust-infected eastern white pine seedlings from France was introduced to Point Gray and the white pine forests of western North America were never to be the same.

The devastating western blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) rapidly moved through B.C. and into Idaho and surrounding states, killing thousands of hectares of western white pine. U.S. populations seemed to suffer more than those in B.C., apparently due to the higher incidence of *Ribes* species within the white pine forests south of the border. *Ribes*, or gooseberries, are the alternate host of *Cronartium ribicola*, meaning their presence is required for the rust to complete its life cycle.

Blister rust remains the major obstacle to successful regeneration of white pine in the Pacific northwest.

However, U.S. Forest Service researchers at the Intermountain Research Station in Idaho noted that some trees (about one in 5,000) had survived the massive attacks. Further work showed the surviving trees were resistant and that the resistance was genetically based. That meant the survivors could be used to breed resistant progeny for reforestation.

(Resistance, in this case, does not imply immunity to the disease. Rather it refers to measurable reductions in damage, either to individual trees or to stands.)

In the early 1980s, the B.C. Forest Service and the Canadian Forest Service began their own white pine blister rust resistance breeding program. The intent was to develop similarly resistant trees for B.C., based on the belief the American trees would not

thrive in all B.C. conditions. Further investigation has since revealed that the Idaho trees would grow quite well in many areas of southern B.C.

Having established contacts with the U.S. Forest Service, research branch scientists **Alvin Yanchuk** and **Michael Carlson** carefully selected a number of trees from the Idaho stock. A new population was established in B.C. by screening for resistance

within seedling families produced by controlled crosses among field resistant parent trees.

As well, resistant trees are being developed by the CFS at the Burnside laboratory in Victoria. They will be included with the U.S. trees to form the first white pine blister rust resistant orchard in B.C.

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HOME ON THE RANGE



In an era when high technology seems to be running rampant, Fort St. John district staff still rely on one of the oldest modes of transportation. Four men, including Dave Lawson (l) and John Martin, spent most of eight days on horseback to examine the condition of rangeland in remote areas of the district. Story on page 8.

THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE

Directory lists who's who

A new telephone directory produced by the public affairs branch will help make the right connections between government staff responsible for administering the Forest Practices Code and people seeking information.

The booklet lists headquarters, regional and district contact names, phone and fax numbers, and Email addresses. It represents the most accurate information available — but its publishers acknowledge the list is far from current or complete.

“With the reorganization, staff changes and the code’s evolution, it’s difficult to know who is doing what anymore,” said communications coordinator **Pam Bishop**.

Released in early August, the directory is one of three planned editions. The first edition was intended as a “throw-away,” said Bishop, designed as a tool to help update and expand the information.

“Once people see it, they will realize whether they should be in the directory or out of it,” Bishop explained. “We’re hoping to get a lot of feedback so we can make the directory as accurate and up-to-date as possible.”

The first edition lists only Forest Service staff. Subsequent editions, planned for release before year end, will include Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Department of Fisheries and Oceans contacts.

The directory is one of several new publications that help entrench the Forest Practices Code in the Forest Service culture. Others include a series of brochures explaining relationships between the code act, regulations and guidebooks; and operation of the appeals commission and Forest Practices Board.

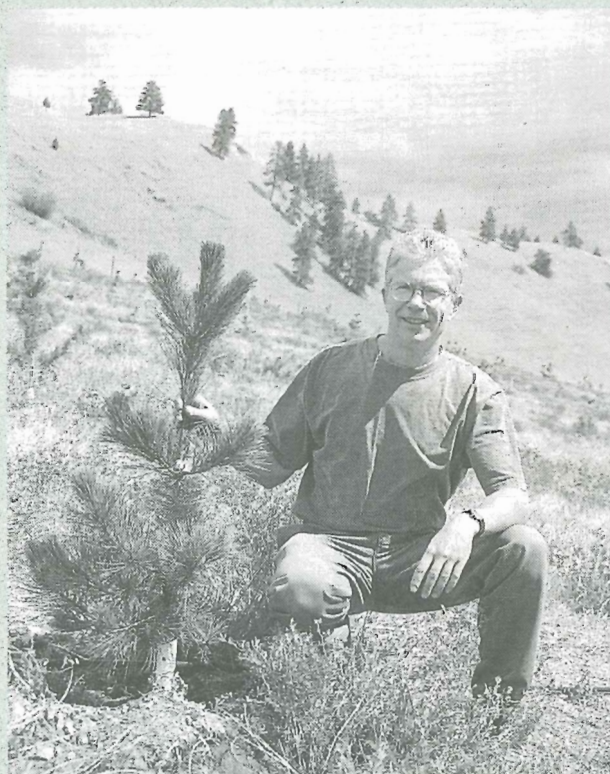
A history of the code will clarify its imple-

mentation process, the transition to full compliance, and the grandparenting of current legislation. As well, 17 fact sheets are in production to provide a quick reference on applications of the code.

Anyone wishing to add or delete information in the directory should contact Bishop at 387-8489, fax 387-8485, or Email pjbishop. Copies are available from the public affairs branch, 387-5255.

White pine

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Chris Walsh displays one of nearly 2,000 rust-resistant white pine trees growing at Kalamalka Seed Orchards.

Approximately 1,900 American trees were recently planted at a new seed orchard site at the Kalamalka Seed Orchards near Vernon. Another 500 trees bred from resistant parents found in B.C. are growing in a transplant bed at another Interior seed orchard. When old enough,

they will be planted among the American trees to allow cross-pollination.

Researchers expect the orchard to be producing seed for B.C. silviculture by 2002.

White pine management will continue to be an evolving process. Fully resistant white pine is not possible, nor desirable, as pests tend to evolve mechanisms to combat genetic resistance. Pruning is known to be effective in controlling infection, so a wise combination of genetics and silviculture will likely be most effective in attaining acceptable survival rates, while mini-

mizing evolutionary pressure on the rust. For more information, contact Yanchuk (387-3338) or Carlson (549-5681), or Chris Walsh, manager of Kalamalka Seed Orchards (549-5669).

— Submitted by Alvin Yanchuk and Chris Walsh

New management team at AIFM

Two Forest Service employees are off to Malaysia as part of a new management team to continue Canada's work with the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management (AIFM).

Tom Niemann, the new Canadian project manager, moved to Kuala Lumpur in June, replacing **Peter Ackhurst**. In addition to his job as project manager, Niemann will provide expert advice on resource planning techniques in the pilot projects.

Boyd Brown, formerly the regional inventory officer in Prince Rupert forest region, has been appointed forest inventory/growth and yield specialist at AIFM. He began an 18-month term at the end of June.

Two other Canadians — **Malcolm Gray**, formerly of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; and **Spiros Papastergiou**, a recent forestry graduate — round out the new team.

In his first month, Niemann has attended a Canada-Malaysia model forest workshop, an international forest fire air pollution conference and an AIFM strategic planning workshop.

Ackhurst returned to the Forest Service after a two-year stint in Malaysia, along with **Dave Toews**, a research hydrologist in Nelson forest region, **Del Meidinger**, a research hydrologist with research branch, and librarian **Thora Clarkson**.

Ackhurst said the experience in Malaysia was invaluable, in terms of assisting ASEAN countries and for the knowledge and global perspective gained.

Funded by the Canadian International Development Association (CIDA), AIFM is designed to assist ASEAN countries to incorporate current forest management techniques. Many of the issues facing ASEAN countries are similar to those in B.C., such as sustainability, biodiversity guidelines and fire management.

AIFM focuses on the transfer of technology, such as GIS and remote sensing, along with sustainability expertise. CIDA appointed the Forest Service as the Canadian agency responsible for project execution.

After three years of the five-year AIFM term, the project is proceeding well, report-

ed **Dave Gilbert**, who supervises the project from Victoria. Computer systems have been set up, libraries upgraded, pilot projects established and databases built.

"We are on target both financially and with respect to goals," Gilbert said. "We have

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Smokey Bear makes a hit in Port McNeill parade



Smokey Bear took time out from his busy schedule to delight young spectators at Port McNeill's annual Filomi Days parade.

Smokey was one of the passengers on a Port McNeill forest district float entered in the July community party. The event is a celebration of local industry, from which it gets its name: FIsing, LOgging and MIning.

Responding to a local newspaper's appeal for community participation, scaling clerk **Brenda Fleeton** took the initiative to decorate a Forest Service truck for the occasion. Fleeton drove the float while young friends rode on it, throwing candy at the crowd and squirting spectators with a hand-pump tank.

Their efforts earned the team (and the district office) a first place ribbon.

Perfect weather graces tourney

Sunny and hot weather, great food, great people and prime conditions on the links characterized Vancouver forest region's 20th annual golf tournament in June.

Hosted by the Squamish forest district, the tourney attracted 35 participants, including retirees, spouses and one wayward golfer from the Lillooet district.

Sunshine Coast District Manager **Greg Hemphill** won low gross score in the men's division, while **Holly Heaghar** of Chilliwack forest district won the women's.

Sandbagger accolades for low net score (golfing below his handicap) go to **Murray Stretch** of Duncan district, who passes on his thanks to Mr. Calloway.

It took a tie-breaker to determine the retiree's low gross score winner. In the end, **Ian Morrison** defeated **Jack Büickert**.

The "most value for your money" prize went to **Viv Watson** and **John Harkema**, who tallied enough strokes to bring the average cost



Happy golfers following the Vancouver region's annual tournament.

per shot down to twenty-seven cents.

Campbell River forest district won the coveted Challenge Cup for competition among the districts. Sunshine Coast forest district placed a close second.

Other notable mentions go to **Dave** "hope you finally found your ball" **Dolson**, **Dave**

"broke my cart" **Minhas**, and **Grant** "towel buddy" **Preston**. A special mention goes to **Preston** for actually golfing at this year's tournament. Next year's event will be hosted by the Sunshine Coast forest district.

— Submitted by **Mark Anderson**, operations manager, Squamish forest district

New SIBC contact person named

Mike Wyeth has been appointed as the primary contact between Forest Service staff and the Silviculture Institute of B.C. (SIBC).

Wyeth, silviculture programs manager with the silviculture branch, will act as liaison officer for people seeking information on the institute or wishing to make a submission to the SIBC board of directors.

New Appointments

After 15 years as district manager at the Port McNeill forest district, **Bill Millward** has accepted new challenges as engineering officer at the Vancouver region office in Nanaimo.

Jerry Kennah is on a three-month secondment from his job as regional staff manager at the Nanaimo office, to acting district manager in Port McNeill.

Farewell to two Forest Service veterans

Horsefly forest district Operations Manager **Mike Ambach** is calling it quits after 35 years.

Ambach first joined the Forest Service as a summer student in 1957. He worked in the old inventory division until 1960, when he became a full-time timber cruiser in Prince George.

During his career, Ambach worked in Hudson Hope, Quesnel, Fort St. John, Aleza Lake, Prince Rupert and Williams

Lake before joining the Horsefly district in 1986.

After 20 years with the Forest Service and a total of 35 years with the B.C. government, **Joan Haldane** also worked her last day on August 4.

Haldane joined the Forest Service in 1975, after working 16 years with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance. Her tenure began as a research assistant/office manager with the now defunct special studies branch, and later moved to the integrated resources branch. When she retired, Haldane was manager of finance and administration for the forestry division services and the range, recreation and forest practices branch.

Friends and colleagues wish her and Ambach well in their retirement.

Guide simplifies effective writing

A new publication is now available to guide Forest Service staff through the often arduous task of drafting replies to letters received by the ministry.

A Writer's Toolkit contains suggestions, insights and examples of how to plan, organize, fine-tune and format a response letter. Two appendices contain several examples of letters, along with the initial query letter, and guidelines on the use of punctuation.

"The book is written in such a way that it is useful to people with and without writing experience," says its author **Courtney Walls**, who holds a bachelor's degree in English and works as a public information officer in the integrated resources policy branch.

The 84-page book is divided into three sections addressing the various stages of drafting a letter:

- the prewriting section helps the writer organize the letter and emphasizes the importance of writing for the specific recipient in terms of technical detail and tone;
- the writing section provides easy-to-follow formulas to help writers compose their letters, tips on creating an outline, and how to format the letter; and
- the post-writing section deals with proofreading and editing for language and conciseness.

The project began several years ago, at a time when responses to letters to the ministry took up to six months to clear approvals. A review of the process revealed the need for writers' guidelines — something that Walls wishes he had when he joined the Forest

Service. "When I started as a letter writer four or five years ago, they put me

Since then, Walls has written thousands of letters on behalf of high-level ministry staff, accumulating expertise that made him an obvious choice to write the guidelines. He joined a team led by **Vern Klassen**, whose task was to speed up the process of responding to letters. (The book is dedicated to the memory of Klassen, who died several years ago of an aneurism.)



in a room and told me to write a letter," he recalls. "It was pretty intimidating."

The Writer's Toolkit — 84 pages of insights, tips and formulas for clearer, more effective writing.

The project was delayed several times by personnel changes at the executive level. But as the book took shape, it became apparent that it would be valuable to all staff whose work involves letter writing.

Since the book was published in June, kudos have been coming from all corners and requests for additional copies keep pouring in. Anyone wanting a copy can contact **Leslie Laird** at 953-3860 or Email LLLAIRD.

New range manual released

The range section has released an update of the range manual, the Forest Service's guide to managing B.C.'s Crown rangelands.

The first major update in three years, the manual replaces the 1992 interim range manual.

The publication has three volumes: the first covers range management; the second addresses resource stewardship; and the third contains information on range use administration.

"The manual has been greatly expanded since the 1992 edition to reflect diverse management objectives," said **Earl Jensen**, senior range administration agrologist.

The update is the product of many hours of work by Forest Service staff at regional and district offices and headquarters, with assistance from other ministries.

Provisions of the Forest Practices Code will be incorporated and released as revised chapters in early 1996.

Dawson Creek keeps ball trophy



Dawson Creek district put its title on the line in the 13th annual invitational beerball tournament. The contest attracted six teams — two from Canfor, one from Louisiana Pacific, another from Fort St. John forest district, and, as the hosts, two from Dawson Creek.

Sizing up the competition, I was inclined to favor the Louisiana Pacific team because they all had ball gloves and the matching T-shirts were intimidating. The Canfor team also appeared strong — one indication being that a couple of them weren't modest about showing off with their hackysack. Fort St. John can be formidable opponents, but they're aging. Members said they were putting on sunscreen, but I smelled BenGay. Our title from last year was at stake, although having two teams gave us a mathematical advantage.

The northern sky remained blue and cloudless throughout the day as all teams played their guaranteed three games. Deciding which teams would advance to the final was difficult. Louisiana Pacific was undefeated and advanced automatically. Based on total runs scored during the day, DC 2 won second place and a shot at the trophy.

With the four eliminated teams relegated to

the kiss and cry section, the finalists took to the field. **Walter Fister** did a marvelous job chucking for Dawson Creek.

With a trophy like this, stiff competition can be expected. One of two Dawson Creek ball teams went to the wire to keep the prize at the district office.

The rules of beerball combine two favorite summer activities: playing baseball and drinking beer. On reaching first base, runners receive a beverage, which must be gone before the runner tags home plate.

I don't know what this says about our team, but we won. The trophy will remain in its rightful home for another year.

*— Submitted by Judy Kucharuk,
resource clerk, Dawson Creek forest district*

B.C.'s value-added wood manufacturing to get boost

A new Forest Service program scheduled for start-up this fall will boost the volume of wood directed to B.C.-based lumber remanufacturers.

Although details are still being worked out, the program will be structured to encourage major licensees to direct about five per cent of their output to makers of value-added products such as window sashes, moldings and furniture components. It will be based on a concept previously known as the "credit system."

B.C.'s independent remanufacturers have maintained that the supply of raw material to their plants needs to be stabilized.

Government and industry representatives have formed a committee to work out details for the new program.

"I anticipate we will have qualified remanufacturers registered by early fall, allowing us to begin a six-month pilot program on October 1," said Nick Crisp, of corporate policy and planning branch.

Crisp will coordinate program implementation and administration of the new program.

"The program will have no workload impacts on region or district offices, since it will be managed entirely from headquarters," Crisp said.

Information packages will be distributed to all Small Business Forest Enterprise Program offices in September. All inquiries should be directed to Crisp at 387-0131 or fax 387-2443.

INVERMERE FOREST DISTRICT

Range carrying capacity studied

Work continues on an Invermere program to catalogue and inventory range resources.

The program, range inventory and plant community association typing, has two key components:

- cataloguing the various plants that make up each distinct plant community in each pasture; and,
- developing a scientific foundation on which to base range resource allocations.

"To my knowledge, there haven't been any comprehensive rangeland inventories done by the Forest Service," said Resource Officer **Gail Berg**.

Without that foundation, planners had little scientific basis on which to decide range

carrying capacity. That meant decisions on the number of livestock allowed and the term of a grazing tenure were based on visu-

A calculation including the known consumption by livestock and wildlife then determines the carrying capacity for the

A calculation will determine the carrying capacity for the area, and enable staff to project how many animals can graze an area for how long.

area, and enables staff to project how many animals can graze an area for how long, while

al monitoring, extrapolation of data from other areas and local knowledge.

The Invermere work will help to justify these allocations. The project involves caging off certain areas within each plant community for at least three years. At the end of the season, staff will sort and measure the year's growth to determine kilograms of production per hectare.

still leaving enough for plants to recover.

So far, work has been completed for three range units, and plans call for three more this summer.

"When we have enough supporting data, we intend to develop a district guide identifying plant community types and carrying capacities," said Berg. Anyone wanting more information can call her at 342-4200.

AIFM team

— Continued from page 3

achieved the goals set for us by CIDA and the ASEAN countries."

"Now, we're moving on to look at the future of the institute and how it will develop to meet the needs of South East Asia in coming years."

One of the options being investigated is to commercialize some of AIFM's activities, broadening its funding base. Gilbert will visit Malaysia this month to attend a meeting on the proposal.

For more information, contact **Kathi Mitchell**, Canadian project administrator, resources inventory branch, at 356-0705 or Email kmmitchell.

— submitted by Peter Ackhurst

Coffee table book chronicles Penticton fire

Penticton author Lorraine Pattison has published a 138-page coffee table book chronicling and commemorating the 1994 Penticton fire.

The full-color publication is full of photos, personal accounts, poems and memories of the challenges and drama that surrounded one of B.C.'s most historic fires.

The author has also included the names of Forest Service staff and others who contributed to the firefighting and community effort.

Pattison has generously offered to provide a

reduced price for Forest Service staff who would like a copy of the book.

Those interested can purchase the book for \$18.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling. A reduced shipping and handling charge is available for bulk orders. Cheques should be made payable to the Garnet Fire Book, and mailed to Pattison at 205 - 1505 Main Street, Penticton, V2A 5G7.

Staff should indicate on their order that they are Forest Service personnel.

Pattison says copies will be available in Coles bookstores in coming months.

Where the buffalo roam

It may sound like a dream vacation to adventurous urbanites, but for four members of the Fort St. John forest district, an eight-day wilderness excursion on horseback was just part of the job.

Motorized ground travel is restricted in many areas of the district, and helicopters are expensive and dependent on the weather. So when District Manager Dave Lawson, Range Officer Ross Green, Zone Technician John

Martin and Regional Range Specialist Bruce Johnson needed to inspect some remote range tenures some 200 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John, they saddled up and led an 11-horse string into the wilds.

"It was pretty tough going," said Green, of the venture that took them to elevations of 1,700 metres. "We were in the saddle from eight in the morning until eight at night. Often, there were no trails, so we had to make our own through muskeg and spruce."



"The bugs weren't bad, though," he added.

The Fort St. John Timber Supply Area spans 4.6 million hectares, making it the sixth largest in the province. Some 130 range tenures support 17,000 cattle and 1,000 horses. Amid it all wanders B.C.'s only free-roaming herd of buffalo.

Green estimates the group covered between 140 and 180 kilometres during the eight-day excursion. However, a run of humorous (in hindsight at least) incidents prevented the routine from getting boring.

Bruce Johnson holds one of the pack horses while Ross Green eyes up the load for balance.

Like the time Lawson sneezed at bedtime, sending the horses charging down the trail with half-dressed cowboys in pursuit. And later when he discovered why his horse was named Weasel, as it led two other horses on a five-kilometre run for home early one morning. Or when Green got dumped off his horse twice within the hour because of a missing bridle. Or when Martin burned his socks in the campfire.

"The range is in pretty good shape, even though there is evidence of bison use everywhere, especially in the alpine," Green said — sort of like the riders, who suffered a few saddle sores but were none the worse for wear.

Insert provides update on Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board is busy implementing its mandate under the Forest Practices Code.

Material inserted in this newsletter shows what the public is learning about the board and how the board is dealing with public complaints under the code.

The board has a problem-solving, not fault finding, approach to complaints. It advocates a fair and reasonable decision-making process and sustainable forest use. It is not an advocate for a complainant.

Feel free to use this information when dealing with the public. For more information, phone 1 800 994-5899.

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