Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands

News

Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

Greetings of the Season!

Christmas Message – Karina Brino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines and Mineral Resources Division

I am honoured to have the opportunity to be in touch at this special time of the year. The last couple of months have been, to say the least, rather active for the B.C. Public Service and for those of us who are part of the realignment, the holidays offer the perfect opportunity to take a step back and reflect on everything we have already accomplished since October 25th.

Frankly, I am amazed by how much we have achieved in such a short time. I am extremely impressed by the level of professionalism of the staff in this ministry; throughout all of the uncertainty, we have kept our cool and pushed on with the valuable work we do for the people of British Columbia on a daily basis. At the same time, we have embraced the changes and tackled challenges with an inspiring amount of energy and a great deal of vision.

Earlier this month, members of the ministry executive and managers participated in a one-day leadership workshop, during which time we made significant progress on developing a strategic plan for Forests, Mines and Lands. I expect that divisions across the ministry will be using this strategic plan as a springboard when developing new business and work plans for 2011/12, and I am happy to report that I think we have a great starting point to work from.

I am unabashedly proud of all of the work our new ministry has done so far, and I and the rest of the Mines and Mineral Resources Division are looking forward to building stronger working relationships with our colleagues in Forests and Lands in 2011. We still have work to do when it comes to figuring out how we can best collaborate with one another and with staff from sister ministries such as Natural Resource Operations, but I have complete confidence that we will continue to rise to the occasion as a team—the Forests, Mines and Lands team.

I sincerely hope that each and every one of you has a happy, safe and restful holiday season with your families and loved ones.

Feliz Navidad!

News Advisory Group Vision:

"True to our proud history, informing the Forest Service family through balanced and timely communication"

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The more things change, the more they stay the same…

The year 1962 marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the *Forest Act* and established the basic legislative framework for resource management and changes in the legislation affecting the Service. The name of the Department of Lands and Forests was officially changed to Lands, Forests, and Water Resources.

Our first half-century was one of vastly significant change in both technique and concept. As we embark on our third half century, we are again in the position of embracing change. We've shown we have the courage and passion to make change work. Now we need to hold ourselves accountable to work together and keep the "Forest Service" alive in function if not form.

BC Forest Service Centenary

With all the changes to the natural resource ministries there have been some questions as to whether the Forest Service Centenary project is still going ahead. Rest assured it is!

Here's a quote from Mike Apsey, President of the BC Forest Service Centenary Society. "Our 2012 centenary celebrations and projects are proceeding as planned. The recent reorganization of the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands; Ministry of Agriculture (Range); and the creation of the new Ministry of Natural Resource Operations doesn't change our commitment to celebrate the proud past of the BC Forest Service."

The website allows you to browse through past and present employees of the Forest Service, look at the places we've made an impact and read the many interesting stories. You are encouraged to browse the site and submit your own stories.

The society is also looking for Forest Service artifacts to identify, catalogue and publish. These items could include documents, maps, publications, clothing, photographs, equipment, etc. If you have an item and maybe a story to go with it, please contact the society via the website.

For more information on the centenary check out the following website: http://www.bcfs100.ca/bscripts/index.asp

Information Bulletin

News Contents, December 2010

* New! Click on a title to jump to page/*Click on photo's for larger image

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Calling All Photographers

Submitted by Jim Challenger, Centenary Committee

The BC Forest Service Centenary Society is currently working on a book that details the history of the BCFS since its inception in 1912. We have a rich historical photo collection from past years, but to complete the story we need to show photographs of the current Forest Service in action.

If you are a keen photographer, this is your chance to get your photos published in this landmark book. If any of your photographs are selected you will be credited and will receive a free copy of the book, signed by the authors.

Photos should be recent shots from across the province and show Forest Service staff engaged in field work or using current technology. The goal is to create a montage showing the people, places, equipment, practices and issues of today's BC Forest Service.

Please submit digital copies of your photos to BCFS100@gov.bc.ca and put "Photos of Now" in the subject line. Include your contact information and a caption that describes any people's names, what is depicted, and where and when it was taken. Final deadline for submission of photographs is May 1, 2011.

For further information, please contact:

Jim Challenger
BC Forest Service Centenary Society
250-474-2808
jim@rjchallenger.com

Have a Story idea?
Send The *FS News* Advisory Group your ideas!

Community Service and Leadership Displayed

Submitted by: Kathy Leeman, Organizational Development Advisor, Corporate Services

One of our co-workers in the former Northern Interior Forest Region, Colleen Fitzpatrick, lost her son, Darren, as a result of the duties he carried out while stationed in Afghanistan. Colleen and her family decided to set up a memorial fund in lieu of flowers, to support a bursary for students in the area seeking a career in the Canadian Forces. Originally, they thought that the fund would have enough monetary support to give a bursary for a couple of years.

Shawn Rice, Revenue Team Leader, NIR, felt that he would like to give the staff in the office and the community a chance to honour Darren's memory and increase the monetary support for the memorial fund. The goal was to turn it into something perpetual that could live on for years to come. In April, Shawn set in motion his plan for a dinner that included a silent and live auction. He was able to secure auction items from local merchants, major sport organizations (Toronto Blue Jays, Vancouver Canucks, BC Lions, Edmonton Eskimos and Don Cherry's office), and the Canadian government. He also received incredible support from Pat Bell, Minister of the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands, formerly known as the Ministry of Forests and Range, Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

The fund raising dinner was held on June 19, 2010, and was very well supported by the community. I attended the event and can say that it was one of the most touching evenings I have ever been part of. The dinner was fabulous, and the speakers gave moving tributes to Darren and his family. I have to say that there were a few tears in my eyes at the time. In the end, the goal for the night was reached and with the generosity of all who attended, the memorial award exceeded $50,000.

Shawn has been recognized by Dana Hayden, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands and by Peter MacKay, Canadian Defence Minister for his significant time and many other contributions he made to this event. Thank you Shawn!

A Festive Occasion

Columbia Forest District wins 2009 Resource Stewardship Monitoring Award

Submitted by: Thomas Chen, Quality Ctr & Data Mgmt Specialist, Forest Practices and Investment Branch

Left to right: John Cruickshank, Barb Wadey, Diane Millar, Corey Legebokow (MOE), Jim Snetsinger, Kevin Lavelle, Robyn Begley

The 2009 Chief Forester and ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring was presented to the Columbia Forest District on September 15, 2010, by Jim Snetsinger in person and Dave Peterson via video link from Williams Lake. The Revelstoke Timber Supply Area Timber Supply Review Determination Meetings with the Chief Forester were paused for a short time in order to get the two sponsors of the award in the room at the same time, so to speak, to recognize the staff consisting of Diane Millar, Barb Wadey, Robyn Begley, John Cruickshank, Cory Legebokow and Kevin Lavelle for their achievement.

Columbia Forest District joins Nadina, Haida Gwaii and Vanderhoof Districts as previous winners of the much coveted and uniquely carved yellow cedar award created by Ahousaht Nation carver George Williams.

It should be noted that at the award presentation, Jim Snetsinger promised to wear his very best footwear to the photo opportunity the next day at the barbeque. You can see by the photo that he kept his promise!

Some of the accomplishments the Columbia Forest District staff achieved in 2009 included:

- Assisting with development of the Stand Development Monitoring (SDM) Protocol and involved with presentations that demonstrated how the data could be used in the Timber Supply Review process to evaluate how managed stands are growing;
- Continued participation at the branch and regional levels involving data validation, working group meetings and IMS training; and
- Met or exceeded district monitoring targets for a fourth year in a row.

In recognition of the largest sockeye salmon run in nearly 100 years, the Stewardship staff hosted a 'salmon' barbeque where freshly caught and smoked sockeye salmon was served to eagerly awaiting district, regional and Victoria staff in the 'back 40' of the district compound. Hamburgers, chicken burgers, homemade salads and desserts rounded out the 'festive occasion.' The Victoria and Kamloops staff left with happy tummies and the district was left with a brand new trophy!

The Columbia Forest District Stewardship Team remains committed to carrying out the Forest and Range Evaluation Program at the local level including evaluating and reporting out on how well forest and range practices are meeting government objectives and incorporating new and improved ways of collecting this information for the benefit of British Columbians. For more information about the Forest and Range Evaluation Program, please go to: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/index.htm

For the Love of Family!

Submitted by: Ken McLean RFT., C&E Officer, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO)
North Island-Central Coast

The story is about my fiancé, Nadia Skokun, a Planning Forester with BCTS, Seward/Tlasta Operations and what she did to support her mom who has cancer.

In late July, Nadia's parents came out for their annual visit. During the visit her mom informed Nadia that she had been diagnosed with stomach cancer. She has to undergo chemo, which will result in, among other things, the loss of her hair.

Nadia was devastated, confused and understandably upset. She was not sure what she could do as her mom lives in Winnipeg and we live in Port McNeill. She has been a supporter and volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life, so she came up with the idea on how she could support and encourage her mom; she decided to have her head shaved.

On Vancouver Island, there is a Cops for Cancer bike ride called the Tour de Rock, with RCMP, local police and other law enforcement personnel biking from Port Hardy to Victoria, raising money for cancer research. They make a stop in most towns along the way, where there is local fund raising, dinners and auctions.

Nadia decided that this would be a good fit for supporting her mom; having her head shaved and raising money for Cops for Cancer.

She contacted a friend who is riding in the tour and he passed on her idea. Originally they were just going to have a pancake breakfast here in McNeill, but with her idea, they added a head shaving contest. Another person heard about the idea and also had his head shaved alongside her.

She sent an email to all her co-workers in the office and her friends and family, looking for pledge support, and in three weeks, she raised just a little over $3300! The office was 100 percent behind her and some of her co-workers took time off work to support her while she had her head shaved.

Her story and support were recorded on the Tour de Rock Blog and made the Victoria "A" Channel news that night!

While volunteering for National Forest Week, a week later, her students all wanted to know why she had no hair and why she shaved it. The kids were amazed with her story!

I am very proud of her—and so are her Mom and Dad!

Nadia before

Nadia after

Have a Story idea?
Send The *FS News* Advisory Group your ideas!

Temple Grandin in British Columbia

Submitted by: Marc Schuffert, District Range Officer, Skeena Stikine

It started in the summer of 2008 with an idea by Smithers local ranchers and it grew into a major event in Northern BC! Dr. Temple Grandin, who holds a Ph.D. in animal science and currently is a professor at Colorado State University, was named by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of 2010. She is also one of the world's leading experts on autism spectrum disorder, herself being high functioning autistic.

When ranchers approached me with the suggestion to invite Temple Grandin to a presentation on Animal Handling in Northern BC, my first response was "yah, nice dream." Not expecting this dream would ever become reality, I sent an email, thinking that would be the end of it—after all, she is a celebrity, bestselling author of several books and likely has never even heard of Smithers or Northern BC. Can you imagine my surprise, when only a couple days later I had a message on my voice mail from Temple Grandin herself! And from there—the ball started rolling.

Once the first challenge (the timing of the event, yes, two years in advance!) had been addressed, the next question became how to finance it. At first the task seemed overwhelming , but once other ministries (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands at the time) and agencies (e.g. Northern Health, Cattlemen's Association) got involved with organizing the event, potential funding partners were approached and responded favourably.

The seminars, held June 2010 in Prince George and Vanderhoof, became a tremendous success through the cooperation between ministries (Forests and Range, Agriculture and Lands), Regional Cattlemen Associations, Northern Health, School District 57, Clear Sailing Dog Sports and others. Besides a sold out session on "How Dogs Think," a workshop on "Animal Welfare and Livestock Handling" with 200 BC ranchers, she held two sessions on the "Insights on Autism" addressing an audience of 900-plus.

The greatest reward this event brought to the organisers—Brent Barcley (MAL), Chantelle Wilson (NHL), Alex Kulchar (NVCA), Denise McLean (Clear Sailing), Marc Schuffert (MFR), to name just a few, besides having had the opportunity to meet Temple Grandin, was the recognition received from people that attended the presentations and being considered "true community champions" (Autism Society of BC, Northern Branch). Many times over it has been said that hearing and seeing her live has been an invaluable experience.

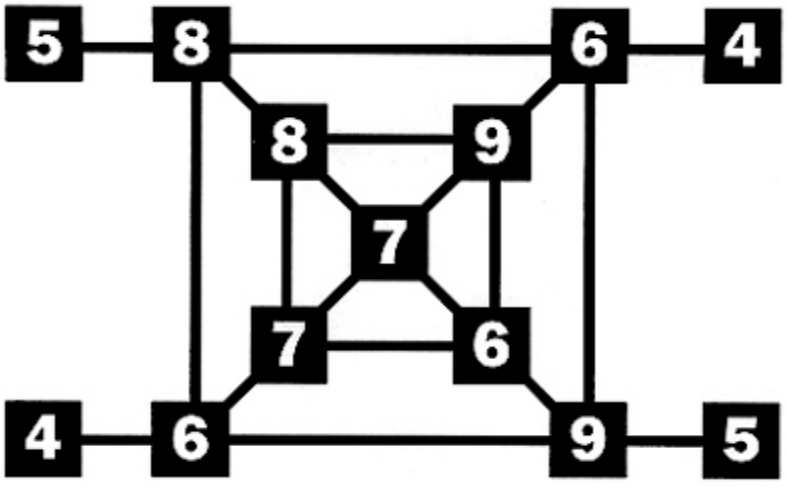
Brain Teesers!

Query: A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? "Brother" is not the answer.

Answer

Start at the center number and collect another four numbers by following the paths shown (and not going backwards). Add the five numbers together. What is the lowest number you can score?

Answer



National Forest and "Range" Week in the Rocky Mountain!

Submitted by: Denis Petryshen, , RPF. Stewardship Supervisor, Rocky Mountain Forest District

We had some beautiful days in the woods, got some exercise and had a lot of fun touring with the kids!

It was an honour to be awarded winner of the battle of the forest professionals—we wear our hats proudly! How fortunate we are to have support from the executive, our Community Forest at our doorstep, professional foresters and technicians that are ready to lead tours and contribute articles for our yearly newspaper supplement update.

Yes, the Rocky Mountain Forest District is different from anywhere else concerning National Forest Week! A number of years ago, with permission from Doug Konkin, our then Deputy Minister, we added an important word to the title to emphasize how extremely valuable the "range" resource is in the East Kootenay.

National Forest and Range Week 2010 was well supported and full of good events. The national theme was "branch out." We had a great time preparing, participating and involving the community and the schools. Three major initiatives were completed to get the NFRW up and running this year: a newspaper supplement; we took school kids and teachers into the Cranbrook Community Forest and we accomplished some slashing of fire hazard trees with a community work bee.

Our local daily newspaper, the *Townsman*, put out our four page Rocky Mountain Forest District update supplement on the Wednesday of that week. There were lots of interesting articles and pictures highlighting our local forest and range issues. One highlight is the "three years at a glance fact sheet." It is a valuable guide to district statistics and clearly shows some interesting trends of activities on the land base, circulation of the newspaper goes to over 20,000 households.

Kootenay Lake Forestry Centre

Submitted by: Neil Bow, Tenures Forester, Selkirk District

Once again a variety of staff from the centre, as well as FS retirees and a guest forest educator put on our annual Forestry Day activities. The target audience was Grade 5 students from all the schools in and around Nelson and one school from Kaslo. We know we have support from above as the day was the only one in the last two weeks where the sun shone bright and hot for the whole day.

Approximately 250 kids were split into 4 main groups and each group went through 8 different activities in a 4 and a half hour timeframe. The activities are all conducted at the beautiful Kokanee Creek Park located between Nelson and Balfour on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. This facility is perfect for the kids to have a whole bunch of fun learning about forestry and wildlife.

The first station involves the kids visiting the Interior Logging Association van for a fantastic presentation by Darcee O'Hearn, our guest forest educator. She gave a brief overview of logging history, current practices and the van contains a myriad of forest products that the kids couldn't believe were made out of the trees around them.

See the rest of the story

South Island Celebrate National Forest Week

Submitted by: Emma Neill, Tenures Forester, South Island District

National Forest Week began in the 1920's as Forest Fire Prevention Week. Renamed in 1967, it has evolved into a celebration of the role forests play in the daily lives of Canadians. This year's theme was Canada's Forests – Branching Out.

In what has become an annual event enjoyed by staff and their families, local licensees and interested members of the public, the South Island District staff hosted a pancake breakfast with Smokey Bear as a special guest.

Guests learned about interface fires and Wildfire Management staff were on hand to discuss what homeowners can do to protect their property. The Forest Service was available with presentations focussing on ATV safety and how to be Bearsmart. Alternative Forest Operations spoke about helicopter logging, and BC Timber Sales and Western Forest Products representatives were available to answer any questions about forest management.

The Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society were on-site with some of their equipment and Cedar Images Chainsaw Carvers from Whiskey Creek carved our annual draw prize. In addition, local artisans were in attendance to display their value-added wood products. There was a kids art contest with lots of prizes and door prizes donated by local suppliers.

Voting for the 'Peoples Choice' photography contest was also underway. Photos were submitted highlighting *Our Forests – What they mean to YOU*.

Chilcotin summer of fire

Click the link below to view a PDF collection of 23 images associated with wildfires in the Alexis Creek vicinity. Label details are contained in the final two pages.

To view the images in full screen, click the "Window" toolbar dropdown, then click Full Screen Mode.

link (if you have trouble viewing all images suggest you download the pdf)

Dan Hicks Alexis Creek
Cariboo-Chilcotin Forest District

LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2010

Submitted by: Tara Wilson, Competitiveness & Transition Strategies, Natural Resource Operations

Every year, employees with 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service are honoured at a ceremony that recognizes their dedication and commitment to the Province of B.C.

The ceremony includes award presentations followed by a buffet dinner and dance for recipients and their spouses at Government House in Victoria.

The ministry had over 200 employees receiving awards this year, one of the largest number of any ministry. Two employees were honoured with an award for 40 years of service: Anthony Britneff from Victoria and Bob Wilson from Terrace.

The ceremony was held over two nights October 6th and 7th and began with a pre-reception at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Rob Johnson attended for his 30 year anniversary. "The event was an amazing success of catching up with friends from the past as well as the present," said Rob. "The band and the bar added to the festivities and I left feeling celebrated, acknowledged and proud to be a public servant for the Province of British Columbia."

Movember

Submitted by: Kimm Magill-Hofmann R.P.F., Tenures Forester, Okanagan Shuswap District

It started as a casual comment at a staff meeting about November being Movember to raise awareness for men's health, in particular, prostate cancer. Movember challenges men to grow a moustache for the month of November. The moustache becomes a "ribbon" for men's health.

Okanagan Shuswap staff jumped to the challenge and it didn't take long before we had a friendly rivalry going with the 100 Mile House office.

Quesnel worked independently and raised $685. It was themed the "Dirty Dozen" with prizes awarded for "The Good", "The Bad" and "The Ugly."

See attached for participants and winners

Happy holidays, everyone!

I know you've all missed me so I'm including a photo of me for your walls. Yes, I know you probably don't recognize me because of the weight I've gained from the holiday festivities (and I'm sensitive about it) and all the jewellery I'm wearing.

A lot has happened since National Forest Week and everyone's so busy that I'm seeing people less often in the hallways and around the water cooler. So, here's a written update on stuff going on since NFW.

Some of you heard I was planning on accompanying the minister on his trade mission to China. However, phytosanitary concerns prevented me from getting a visa. Despite me not being there, the trade mission was hugely successful!

You've probably been wanting to needle me about what's up with the calendar contest and all the gorgeous photos you submitted. Well, I guess I'm a little dense AND slow! But really, I've been busy and it has been so tough to choose. However, the calendar should be complete really soon!

Next year is the International Year of Forests, so I look forward to partying all year long with you and my entire extended family from around the world! Therefore, if you have any celebrations planned, let me know about them and I'll help germinate the ideas.

Have a great holiday season!

Doug Fir (and Connie Fer says hi)

News Readers!

Time to get out and snap some photos! The *News* Advisory Group increasingly requires good quality digital photos for the quarterly newsletter. We acknowledge that there are skilled photographers among Forest Service staff and would like to showcase your photos in each quarterly edition.

Categories

Photo's can consist of:

- Workplace images – individuals or groups / teams in office and field settings; health, wellness and social activities;
- Community involvement;
- Wildlife; or
- Scenic.

Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to:

ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca;

- The contest is open to all Forest Service employees and retirees;
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of five images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos, please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

Prizes and Judging

- There will be an overall 'Best' image in each category.
- Judging will be done by the Advisory Group;
- Images will be judged on composition, clarity, exposure, creativity, relevance to FS *News* and category fit;
- The winner of the 'Best' image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo;
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

Technical Specifications/Requirements

The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

1. All images must have relevance to the Forest Service *News* and be submitted in digital format.
2. All images must be in full colour or black and white.
3. Photo dimensions (image size) should be at 300 dots per inch (DPI) and preferably in a jpg format and sent to *ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca.*
4. Images can be digitally enhanced (i.e., colour / exposure adjusted composite photos are okay), but not digitally altered (i.e. NO "Photo-Shop" images must portray subjects and / or material in photo as they were captured).
5. When submitting images, some descriptive information should also be included – category of image and location, date of photo, name of photographer, photographers office location and phone number.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of Forest Service *News*.

For further information, contact:

Sonia Donison: (250) 953-3859 or
ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS MARCH 18, 2011

December Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Community Category:

Doyle Day (in blue shirt) participated in FS Invasive Plant training and afterwards joined a Tahltan celebration at Glenora, Telegraph Creek. Photographer - Marc Schuffert - Skeena Stikine Forest District

Have a photo for the next "Photo Contest?"
Review the contest guidelines and send your photo's to the *FS News* Advisory Group!

Scenic Category:

Rock Island Lake - Golden Bear Mine Road, Cassiar. Taken while conducting Invasive Plant training for Tahltan's and doing IP control work along Golden Bear Mine Road. Marc Schuffert, Range Officer, Skeena Stikine FD

Workplace Category:

Becher Prairie Range Burning-workplace. Left-right is Jan Schmid (red suit) Tenure Technician , Lianne Lawlor Engineer Technician and Morgan Rankin Range Agrologist (P.Ag.) In Riske Creek area in the CCFD. The ladies were having a break. Photographer - Sherman Mack - Cariboo Chilcotin Forest District

Wildlife Category:

The black bear is fishing in the spawning channel with salmon in the foreground (he didn't get any).
Photographer - Matt Makar - HTS - Kamloops Office

Have a Story idea?
Send The *FS News* Advisory Group your ideas!

From the *News* Advisory Group - we wish you and your families a safe, happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

News is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former employees.

Sonia Donison is providing administrative and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about *News* should be directed to Sonia at 250-953-3859 or via email

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of *News* depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250-953-3859 or via email about their idea or ideas before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline for March articles is March 18.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES