



Ministry of
Forests and Range

Forest Service News

A proud tradition of service since 1912



The Noble Legacy—94 continuous years of service... and counting!

Submitted by Nikki Rivette, Regional Fire Management Specialist, RSI

In 1915 the Noble family unknowingly started its epic adventure with the BC Forest Service. William Edgar Noble (1937 Archive photo at: http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-241389/cgi-bin/text2html/.visual/img_txt/dir_34/na_07050.txt) began the streak, which continues today with Air Attack Officer Ross Noble. William received his Ranger certificate in 1920 and spent most of his 29 year BCFS career as a Ranger at Birch Island.

Only two months after William's retirement in April 1944 his son John Oliver Noble started as a Dispatcher at Birch Island. In grand FS tradition, John graduated from Ranger School in 1947. He supervised the Kamloops

Cruising crew until 1954, moved to Kelowna as a Deputy Ranger and then to Barrier as a Ranger in 1955. John spent the final 22 years of his career as a Ranger in Ashcroft where he earned his nickname "Dry Belt John."

By John's retirement in April 1980, his brother and two sons had followed his Forest Service footsteps: brother Bill in 1962, son Bruce in 1972 and son Ross in 1974!

William (Bill) Elmar Noble worked 26 fire seasons as Lookout Man at Tum Tum lookout when not wintering on a farm in Squam Bay near Barrier. "Mountain Man" was Bill's handle on the CB Radio.

He was quite a wood worker and photographer—lots of time on the lookout to take pictures! William (Bruce) Noble began his Public Service career with Parks Branch in 1971 cutting trails in Wells Gray Park. The following spring Bruce started with a Forest Service Inventory Crew and for two summers

he inventoried many parts of the province. After 4 years on forestry crews out of Williams Lake, he worked as an Assistant Ranger in Southbank and Blue River. Bruce took to the skies as an air attack officer (AAO) in 1981, and soared for 26 years in the Provincial Air Tanker program! He retired in 2007 as Acting Manager of Operations following 10 years as Superintendent.

While Bruce has happily retired to wood working, fishing and traveling, his brother Ross still firebombs from the AAO seat. Starting in 1974 Charles (Ross) Noble fought fire on Initial Attack crews while exploring non-FS careers. He received his Diploma in Forest Technology at Selkirk College in 1979 and joined the fulltime FS family. Ross worked the 80's in Silviculture, but felt something was missing until 1990 when he found his life calling as an Air Attack Officer. Now the only time he sets foot in a cut block is for the annual huckleberry harvest! If we are lucky Ross will fly until 2015 and cap a continuous century of Noble family service!



John Noble (sitting) sons Ross (left) and Bruce (right)

Forest Service News Advisory Group Vision:

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

2nd Generation Pflanz in the Forest Service

Submitted by Jasmine Pflanz, GIS Analyst, Chilcotin FD



Pflanz Family: Otto, Jasmine, Celeste, Cheryl and Logan

Talchako FSR construction inspection/
plantation thinning (Dec/83)

Growing up as an FS Brat in Bella Coola, and then starting my FS career in Alexis Creek, I have had the opportunity to meet many FS staff that are now scattered across the province. At nearly every meeting I have attended over my 6 years in the FS, I have been approached by somebody who knows my Father, Otto Pflanz—but the day that he attended a meeting and was asked if he was “Jasmine’s Dad”

was the day I stopped being just an FS Brat.

My Dad started his 27 year Forest Service career in the Midcoast Forest District, Bella Coola in 1982 as RO of Engineering. My Sundays were spent driving the various Forest Service roads with my family, exploring the valley. Next we moved to the Campbell River District in 1986, when he took a job to be their RO of Engineering. Again Sundays were spent travelling the Forest Service roads of the district. We moved back to Bella Coola and the Midcoast Forest District in 1990 where Dad became an Operations Manager. This worked for me, since I was old enough to babysit, and there were lots of young families working at

the Midcoast District Office. I was able to make some good money to put toward my education. I also spent two summers as part of a forestry crew, working on silviculture and recreation projects.

My Dad moved up to become the District Manager of Midcoast in 1997, and in 2001 took a position as District Manager of the Queen Charlotte Islands. In 2002, he became the District Manager of the new Central Cariboo Forest District. After a short stint as an Area Manager with the Ministry of Transportation, he came back to the Forest Service in the Coast Forest Region in 2005, as the Manager responsible for implementing the Coastal Land Use Plans. My Dad’s final position with the Forest Service has been with BC Timber Sales as the Timber Sales Manager in the Cariboo – Chilcotin, where he has been since 2007 and is retiring as of April 2010.

I have been with the Chilcotin Forest District, in Alexis Creek for nearly 6 years as a GIS analyst. Over those years I have had many opportunities to participate in Forest Service initiatives and events. I am really enjoying the variety of projects, and people I get to work with. Since being in the Chilcotin, I have learned a lot about the ranching business. Now that I have my own family and ranch, we are spending Sundays travelling the Forest Service roads of the Chilcotin.

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Information Bulletin

February 9, 2010

In 2012 the BC Forest Service will celebrate 100 years and to mark this event a web site has been launched. The site hosts a collection of images, stories, biographies and timelines that begin the process of documenting the history of the BC Forest Service.

Located at <http://www.bcfs100.ca> the site is an interactive experience where current and past staff and the public can browse and also have the opportunity to submit their own material. Dozens of stories, photographs and biographies have already been received from past staff or their family members. They tell of the progress and innovation that is part of the Forest Service's culture and of the feeling of family that it is renowned for.

In these current times of change it is encouraging to see in these stories and biographies that the Forest Service has faced similar challenges before and has come out of them with a renewed direction to manage the forest and range resources for the benefit of British Columbians.

A group of dedicated staff and volunteers designed and developed the web site. The site links together people, technology, places and stories to make an interesting, educational and entertaining experience. New content is being added all the time and will continue right through the centenary year.

The BC Forest Service Centenary Society is spearheading several other projects that will be completed for 2012. The Society has over 80 members to date, including current and retired members of the Forest Service, who have joined forces to capture and celebrate the rich and fascinating history of this proud organization.

If you have historical stories or photographs you are encouraged to submit them for use on the web site. A guide to help you is provided at: <http://www.bcfs100.ca/bscripts/submission-guidelines.asp>

Contact for more information:

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President – BC Forest Service Centenary Society

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BC Forest Service Centenary Society

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The British Columbia Forest Service was created in 1912 and will celebrate its centenary in 2012.

The BC Forest Service Centenary Society was created in 2008 to help coordinate centenary projects on behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range.

The goals of the Society are to capture the rich history of the BC Forest Service and document it so that knowledge can be transferred to current and future employees, students and the public.

Projects include:

- historical book
- DVD
- interactive web site
- special events
- ceremonies
- oral histories
- theme papers.

For more information or to join the Society please visit our web site at:

www.bcfs100.ca



Glacier National Park celebrates 100 years

US national park centennial has a Canadian connection

In Montana, Glacier National Park's selection of fourteen 2010 Centennial images includes an image captured by a Canadian (& BCFS employee) from a BC park.

Centennial 1910 - 2010 (link)

Submitted by Dan Hicks, Stewardship Technician, Chilcotin FD

Run, Walk, Crawl, Bike Announcement – 12th Anniversary!

Submitted by: Richard Dominy, Data Integrity Specialist, BC Timber Sales - Victoria

The 12th Annual Event of Forest Service staff plans for the 2010 Run, Walk, Crawl, Bike to Work "summer solstice" is scheduled for June 21, 2010.

What is required from districts, TSO's, regional offices and headquarters divisions is to confirm their contact(s) for the upcoming year.

As there has been considerable change in headquarters branches and divisions, this may take some time to develop an updated list for this event, if you are interested in filling that role please contact me directly.

A contact list from last year exists, so have your local contact check the global distribution listing

@ **For Runwalk** and contact me Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca so I can make any changes required to the list. This will also help you determine if your office has a contact and who the last contact was.

Your cooperation in planning this event is crucial to its success.

The link (which may be subject to change) to the Run - Walk – Crawl – Bike to work site is at the following URL: http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/Health/challenge_index.htm

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Fundraiser Hits the Roof!!

Submitted by Ailsa Siemens, Records Clerk/Receptionist, Squamish FD

The 2009 Squamish Forest District staff Christmas party included a wide variety of auction items and services, which were donated by the staff and bid on during the annual charity fundraiser.

The items varied from a rock climbing adventure, to fly-fishing lessons, Mediterranean dinner for four, hand-knitted gloves and toque, even a "gently used" board game!

The night's "grand" total of \$864 quickly became \$1064 when the dust settled as the staff's generosity shone through.

The money raised was graciously accepted by Community Christmas Care, Squamish Food Bank Society and Squamish Community Foundation.

2009 Coast Forest Region Award of Excellence

Submitted by Geoff Klassen, Tenures Forester, Coast FR and

Judy Campbell, Performance Management Coordinator – Squamish FD

Each year the Coast Forest Region recognizes individuals that demonstrate excellence in Leadership, Wellness, Partnership, Continuous Improvement, Client Service and Professional Development. The 2009 Award of Excellence went to two outstanding individuals – Elizabeth de Munck, Office Service Supervisor, Campbell River Forest District and Craig Wickland, Silviculture Forester, Coast Forest Region.



Paul Nuttall and Co-Award Recipient Elizabeth de Munck

Elizabeth de Munck demonstrates outstanding and exceptional performance in her role as Office Service Supervisor for the Campbell River Forest District. To say she is motivated and a value to our organization is an understatement. Elizabeth is one of our successful Pacific Leader Scholarship participants. She has been working toward a Business Management Degree, which includes studies in program management, supervision and staffing, communication, engagement and performance management.

Client service is very important to Elizabeth. A recent example of her client service involved creating a focus group meeting with her staff and key internal clients to strategize service delivery in light of budget and staffing reductions.

The discussions involved probing and understanding client needs (both internal and external) and pursuing options and recommendations for operational consideration, which still deliver effective and efficient client service.

Elizabeth extensively researched the background on stress and the workplace, managing stress and gathering related information to share with staff to assist them with their day-to-day work. This year's Workforce Engagement Survey score for Stress and Workload was the district's greatest improvement. Elizabeth's work on this topic was instrumental to this success.

Elizabeth researched successful elements of recognition and reward and devised a peer-to-peer recognition opportunity for the district that has been successfully adopted by the staff. It is called Rec-Ignition. This has given staff a great opportunity to recognize and acknowledge each other's accomplishments. Elizabeth has also worked with other agencies in assisting them with their recognition programs. Labour and Citizen's Services will be adopting her concept for provincial implementation, and with her advice and recommendation, is developing a generic product that can be customized for individual organizational needs.

Craig Wickland moved from Chilliwack to the Coast Forest Region in 2005 to work as the Silviculture Forester in the Stewardship Department. Craig is currently a successful applicant under the mentorship program and has developed into an outstanding leader. He is a highly effective and respected Public Service Employee.

Since moving to Nanaimo, Craig's leadership and innovation has proven him as an enormous asset to the Coast Forest Region. He is the chair of the Coast Regional Implementation Team (CRIT) Silviculture Working Group and has steered a high-performing group of industry and government professionals in resolving complex resource management issues. This is no easy task, but with his strong skills, Craig manages to organize various silviculture workshops and provide leadership as a policy and legislative expert related to silviculture and silviculture systems.



Co-Award Recipient Craig Wickland and Jim Gowriluk

Cont. Craig Wickland - Coast Award Recipient

The CRIT working group has produced FRPA messaging and RESULTS guidance for reporting high retention systems on the coast. The group has recently submitted to CRIT another discussion paper for high retention silvicultural systems for coastal ecosystems—a first of its kind. Craig's accountability and dedication to these projects is endless and highly regarded amongst his peers.

The work he leads and supports with coastal licensees, district Forest Service employees and other provincial agencies demonstrates that he fully understands partnerships, client services, professional development and continuous improvement in the work he undertakes in the coastal stewardship realm. Craig continues to go above and beyond in his day to day work and has proven to be a great leader in the silviculture field.

Congratulations Elizabeth and Craig – 2009 Award of Excellence Recipients – A Job Well Done!

Life-long Learner

Submitted by Andrew Ashford, District Manager, North Island - Central Coast FD



Karen Schwalm, Geomatics Technician of the North Island - Central Coast Forest District has been recognized by the ABCFP for achieving the highest mark in the province on her RFT Exam and has been asked to make the valedictorian address to fellow inductees at the upcoming AGM.

Quite the honour! What makes this so special is that Karen is in a non-required RFT position and that she voluntarily joined the ABCFP and studied for this professional designation as a developmental learning and so that her skill set could remain relevant within the Ministry of Forests and Range.

She is a life-long learner and a credit to our organization!

[A LIST OF ALL SUCCESSFUL RFT EXAMINEES](#)

Always up to the Challenge

Submitted by Kerri Howse, Stewardship Officer, Central Cariboo Forest District

Mark Sloan, RPF Stewardship Forester of the Central Cariboo Forest District in Williams Lake has been recognized for his achievement in earning the highest mark for the 2009 RPF exam. He will be giving his valedictorian speech at the 2010 AGM in Kelowna.

Mark was hired to the Ministry of Forests and Range through a two year internship program in 2008. He spent his first year in Campbell River before coming to the Cariboo in May of 2009.

Mark has always embraced challenges. After spending his early years “exploring the rocky beaches and traipsing through deep humid forests” of Salt Spring Island, he first attended UBC and then Yale University to earn his Masters Degree in Forestry. Various research projects have taken him across North America in ambitious pursuit of both his academic and social interests.

We are happy to have Mark as part of our team, and so very proud of this latest achievement.

Now that the challenge of the RPF Exam is past, Mark is beginning a new chapter in his life, as he, with his wife Meg, embark upon the ultimate challenge of raising a family. Their first baby is expected this summer. Congratulations Mark! [A LIST OF ALL SUCCESSFUL RPF EXAMINEES](#)



MOPS (Mock Overdue Person Scenario)

Submitted by Grant Johannesen, Forest Technician, Cariboo-Chilcotin BCTS

On February 18, 2010 the Quesnel Joint Occupational Safety and Health (JOSH) Committee conducted a mock safety drill. The idea to conduct the drill was brought forward by Budd Carter and Marie Nestel, both Forest Technicians for the Quesnel Forest District.

Gerry Grant, Quesnel District Manager approved and supported the initiation of the drill.

A small Emergency Response (ER) planning team was formed. Two members of the team signed out to the field on a snowmobile with a check in time, which they intentionally missed. When they became overdue the Receptionist attempted to contact them according to protocol without success. She then notified the supervisor of the team's overdue status, who in turn notified the operations manager and district manager within minutes. A rescue team of two trained and experienced snowmobilers was activated. They coordinated preparation activities and the search was launched in just over 30 minutes after they were notified. The two employees (who were not aware they were involved in a drill) set out to the last known location of the missing employees. Once the rescue team had departed the compound, in order to reduce unnecessary stress to employees, those directly involved were notified in person that they were involved in a drill, and an announcement was made to the entire office via the PA system. The rescue team remained unaware that they were involved in a drill and continued the search. They located the missing team within 15 minutes of unloading their snowmobiles.



Left to right:
Budd Carter, – Missing Person;
Ken Edwards, – Rescuer;
Marie Nestel, – Missing Person; and
Todd Madill, – Rescuer

Members of the ER planning team monitored the scenario via portable radio, computer sign out system (SOSS), and in person (unbeknownst to the rest of the staff) and were prepared to intervene at any time.

We, the MFR “family,” are genuinely concerned for each others’ safety and well being. This test of our safety program and procedures exposed our deep

rooted, array of emotions that ran high during this exercise (stress, adrenalin, concern, compassion and dedication).

A debrief session was held the following morning to review the drill and to get feedback from those directly involved.

The individuals directly involved with this scenario performed competently and achieved a successful outcome.

Acknowledgement and Recognition goes to:

- Ken Edwards, LIM Technician and Todd Madill, C&E Technician (Rescue Team)
- Budd Carter, Forest Technician and Marie Nestel, Forest Technician (Missing Persons) and Lee Naeth, Forest Technician, JOSH Co-Chair & Grant Johannesen, BCTS Forest Technician, JOSH member-(ER planning team)
- Susan Taylor Reception Clerk
- Gord Wall, Supervisor
- Darlene Gardner, Operations Manager

Thank you to Dannielle Kitt, Manager, Administration Operations, BC Timber Sales Headquarters, for suggesting that this article be submitted to the FS News and to Jessica White, Office Assistant, for her assistance with editing/developing the article. Thanks to Tom Jackson, Safety Initiatives Manager, for supporting/promoting the safety article.

Pursuing a Dream!

Submitted by: Leanne Colombo, Resource Technician, Rocky Mountain FD

One of our own, Sonja Leverkus, Range Agrologist in Fort Nelson, is currently pursuing her masters in fire ecology at Oklahoma State University (OSU). The following is excerpts from a feature on Sonja written by Paula Smithheiser, Undergraduate Assistant, International Ag Programs. The full feature and photos can be found on the OSU website: <http://internationalagprograms2.dasnr.okstate.edu/internationalstudents/International%20Student%20Individual%20Pages/Feb%2012%20-%20Sonja/Sonja%20Leverkus.htm>

International Ag Programs would like to introduce Sonja Leverkus. Sonja is a recent addition to Oklahoma State from British Columbia, Canada. She has undergraduate degrees in both environmental biology and French, and hopes to one day work with the United Nations' Fire Ecology Team to preserve forests and rangelands around the world.

When Sonja was young, her parents raised red and black Angus and Simmental cattle in "southern Alberta where the Canadian prairies meet the Rocky Mountains in the Porcupine Hills right next to the Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump." Being on a ranch far from town was very challenging when Sonja started school, so the family (and the cattle) moved to the Rocky Mountains of eastern British Columbia. Sonja grew up riding horses, hiking, hunting and doing other outdoor activities. Rowing and other outdoor sports have always been passions of Sonja's. After obtaining her first bachelor's degree, Sonja was a professional rower and coached other teams on many levels. She also competes in logging sports, including sawing trees, throwing axes and other lumberjack contests.

Sonja works for the provincial government as a Range Agrologist and Tenures Forester in Fort Nelson. She and her coworkers are in charge of around 11 million hectares (almost 30 million acres), which is 11 percent of the land area of British Columbia. She is a member of the BC Prescribed Fire Council and chairs the North East Prescribed Fire Council. Her work with the Council, and at her job, means that from May to October the best place to find her is in the middle of a fire.

"Use of prescribed fire to preserve rangeland is critical to the structure and function of the boreal forest and rangeland," Sonja says. To get a Master's degree and learn more about managing wilderness areas has been



a plan of hers for many years. Sonja became acquainted with Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf and his work with pyric herbivory (a control method that combines animal grazing and fire) and came all the way to sunny Oklahoma to study with him. "I know that this is the right place with the best people surrounding me to become a better scientist and resulting positive global citizen."

The people truly are the most important part of your experience somewhere. Sonja's favourite part about Oklahoma

so far is getting to know new people, especially her office-mates, who always keep things interesting. Oklahomans in general, she says, are polite and kind, and the entire NREM department is friendly.

Sonja hasn't been in Oklahoma for very long, but already has a number of memories. In April of 2009, Sonja visited OSU as a prospective student. During her visit, she witnessed the beauty of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in northeast Oklahoma and the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge in the southwest. Sonja also loves telling her friends and family in Canada that she wore shorts in January. She also participated in the Stillwater Martin Luther King, Jr. March, attended the International Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, attended a Cowgirl basketball game (the atmosphere and the cheerleaders were her favourite parts of the exciting game), and expanded her culinary horizons with Buffalo Wild Wings. In short, Sonja is exploring every part of the unique Oklahoma culture.

Sonja would like to acknowledge the wonderful support system at home in British Columbia of friends, family, and coworkers who believe in her and made her dream of studying at OSU possible.

Coming to Victoria!

Submitted by Jim Maxwell, Executive Director, Field Operations

The major World Championship associated with all Scottish Highland Games is coming to Victoria!

The world's top Scottish Highland Games athletes are coming to Victoria to challenge for the title of World Heavy Events Champion! Caber tossing, putting the stone, throwing the hammer—these will be highlights at the 2010 World Heavy Event Championship held at the 147th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival on May 22 and 23, 2010. Athletes from Scotland, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Belgium, and Poland will be here to compete for this prestigious title—average height of the athletes is 6 feet 2 inches and 300 pounds!

The Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival, the longest running cultural event in the province, will be held at Topaz Park over the May long weekend and will feature this world championship along with many other Scottish and Celtic arts, culture, sport, music and athletic activities. Pipebands, highland dancing, sheepdog herding, whisky tasting school, falconry, haggis hurling, tug of war, kilts mile athletics and Celtic rock bands are all part of this two- day event, which is expected to attract up to 15,000 spectators.

More information is available at www.victoriahighlandgames.com. This is a family oriented event with lots of entertainment and activities for the kids (children under 12 are free).

The current president and treasurer of the Victoria Highland Games Association, who are hosting these events, are Forest Service employees Jim Maxwell and Mary Myers from Field Operations and Corporate Services Divisions based in Victoria. Both accredit their experience working in the Forest Service as extremely beneficial to undertaking the leadership and organization required to successfully manage such a major event.



Word Search

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



MFR Staff Participate in the Ride to Conquer Cancer

Submitted by Ron Planden, Vegetation Inventory Field Operations, Forest Analysis & Inventory Branch

In our lives we have all had the opportunity to experience or are involved in something profound. Things that have moved you far more than you imagined it would. That opportunity came my way last year when I signed up for the inaugural Ride to Conquer Cancer Benefiting the BC Cancer Foundation. Now I am not the fastest rider nor do I have a fancy bike, but I do love to ride and it has been my main source for exercise for the last ten years so it only made sense to me to find a way to use this for a good cause. It was also incentive to help me recover from a nasty cycling accident sustained while on vacation the previous fall (older bodies don't bounce well on pavement—another story for another time).

The 2009 Ride to Conquer Cancer was a two day, 260 km fully supported ride from Surrey to Seattle (and all indications are that a similar route will be taken for 2010). The ride took us through White Rock, Blaine, Birch Bay, Bellingham and ended in Mt. Vernon on the first day and onto Seattle the second. The course marshals made sure that no one was left behind and someone would always come along to check on your progress. Every 20 or so kilometres there was a feeding station and lunch was in a park beside a lake—what more could anyone ask for? The route was easy enough for novice riders with enough challenge for avid to serious cyclist. Just riding in a large group can be challenge enough. Arriving in Mt. Vernon we were met by groups of volunteers cheering each rider in. Our home for the night was one of the 950+ tents that had been set up for us. All our gear was there waiting for pick up. We

were well fed and watered and had the ability to get a hot shower and even a massage if you were willing to wait in line. The event site had everything from pub facilities to a general store (mostly ride memorabilia) to several bike repair stations. The bottom line for the two day event was all you had to do was ride.

The 1701 riders were able to raise \$6.9 million. The money raised from the ride helps the BC Cancer Foundation directly. The Foundation and the BC Cancer Agency provide comprehensive cancer care for everyone in BC and the Yukon and includes cancer prevention, screening and early detection, diagnosis, treatment, patient and family support services. This year alone an estimated 171,000 new cases of cancer and 75,300 deaths will occur in Canada. This ride offers many the opportunities to help and to make a difference in this battle. It would be nice to be able to say that the 2010 ride was The Ride That Conquered Cancer.

Yes I have signed up again and so have other ministry staff. We will be working hard training and preparing for what will be another epic ride. This year's ride will take place June 19 and 20. For more information on The Ride to Conquer Cancer please feel free to contact me. Ron Planden (ron.planden@gov.bc.ca) or visit the Ride to Conquer web site http://va10.conquercancer.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=va10_homepage

Cancer can be beaten one kilometre at a time.

Food Dominoes?

Submitted by Brian DeBoice, Forest Tech for South Zone Field Team, Okanagan Shuswap FD

Here at the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District we have a long standing tradition of supporting provincial, local community and individual charitable organizations and causes both financially and through volunteer hours. One of those organizations is the local Salvation Army and as a long time volunteer with that group I recently had the privilege of making a financial contribution to them on behalf of our staff and management through our social committee, but back in November when I delivered the cheque I noticed a surprising void in the food bank shelves. The boxes of mac and cheese and cans of tuna and salmon that had once filled the shelves were all but gone. With the major community wide food drive still some 7 weeks away there had to be a way to help with the situation. Fellow staff already supports the Salvation Army by manning the kettles at Christmas and by donating all the proceeds from our Christmas in house silent auction, but I knew we could and should do more.

Cont. Food Dominoes...

The “Corner to Corner Food Drive Challenge” would do just that. Field Operations Division on one side of the office with their DM in his corner office and BCTS staff on the other side of the office and our TSM in his corner office—the setting was perfect for the challenge. If you have ever been to our office you would know there is no fence or white line down the middle so Field Ops Div. verses BCTS would be fun. After getting 100 percent support from the two managers the challenge was put out to staff and immediately the mac and cheese and canned fish began to arrive. Starting outside our respecting manager’s office doors, a chain of food was started. It turns out that when you remove the caps from those lovely cubicle dividers they make a great safe place to line up the boxes and cans. The race was on to see which side could reach the middle of the office first.

Response was great and Field Ops Div. had jumped out to an early lead. I knew this would not do, so it was time to up the BCTS anti and I challenged my TSM. If he would put up one box of mac and cheese for every goal scored by his beloved Canucks I would in turn put one up for every goal scored by our local Junior A team—five time national champion Vernon Vipers. Word got out about the challenge and soon one of our planning foresters, another Canuck fan, stepped up to the challenge. Yet another planning forester supported the cause by putting up a box for each of his son’s team’s goals and an additional 3 boxes when his son got a shutout. Not to be out done, two Toronto supporters joined the fun by

adding a box for each Leaf goal, 3 for each win and an additional 5 boxes for a shutout. GO LEAFS GO!

At month’s end our challenge had added 263 boxes of mac and cheese to the overall total of nearly 700 boxes of mac and cheese and over 250 cans of fish and we had propelled BCTS to victory over Field Ops Div. Staff were not restricted to just those items and many more additional food items came in.

With almost 700 boxes of mac and cheese in our possession I had yet another fun idea. A quick email to our social committee just before lunch one day soon found several members gathered together building a domino line that stretched from one corner office to the other and beyond. With the boxes all lined up in the aisles and around several corners the countdown alerted other staff of the event.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 go and 45 seconds later, each and every box had toppled in perfect form. While it was not a world record it certainly was a great ending to a fun and successful event, and the 35 banana boxes of food were greatly accepted by the local Salvation Army food bank.

With plans to go bigger and better this year perhaps a new world record will be set. Stay tuned.

“VIEW IT HERE ON TREE TUBE”

2nd Generation Forest Service Member?

Are you a 2nd generation Forest Service member, or maybe a 3rd?

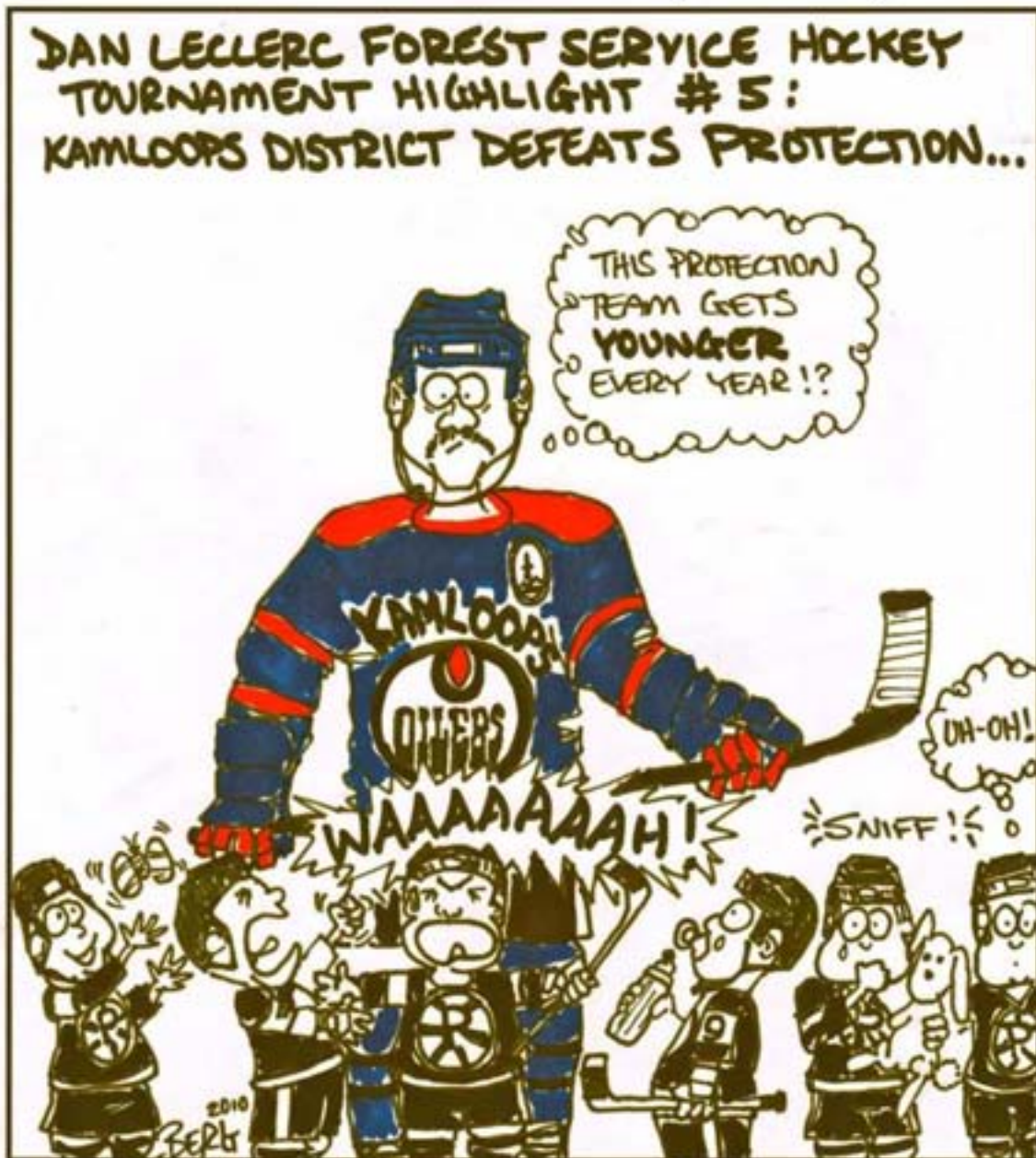
If you are, or know of someone who is, we would like to feature your story in the Forest Service News.

Please submit your suggested story to ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca.



BERG'S EYE VIEW

by Shane Berg



Forest Service News Readers!

Time to get out and snap some photos! The Forest Service 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.



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.
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 JUNE 18.

March Edition Photo Contest Winners!



Category Scenic: West Coast Sunset taken Southern Vancouver Island
By Bill Luscombe, Revenue Business Analysis Forester, Coast Forest Region



Category Wildlife: Grey Jay taken in the Bridge Lake area
By Cindy Moore, Regional Appraisal Administrator, Revenue Section



Category Workplace: All hands on deck” to bring in a huge crop of Douglas-fir cones at the Bowser seed orchard. Pictured Is Tree Improvement Branch Director Brian Barber helping in the annual fall harvest.
By David Reid, R.P.F., Manager, Seed Production, Tree Improvement Branch

DEADLINE FOR JUNE PHOTO CONTEST IS JUNE 18.

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



Category Recreation: The pilot is Graham Gibson, son of Ally Gibson. The chopper Co. Is E&B Helicopters out of Campbell River. Submitted by Blake Williams, Strait of Georgia, BCTS

Fishing licence ..\$28.35

Helicopter licence.. \$47,000

Getting to use a helicopter to go fishing ..Priceless

Forest Service News is a quarterly newsletter for all Forest Service employees and former FS employees.

Sonia Donison is providing administrative and coordination support for the newsletter. Questions or comments about Forest Service News should be directed to Sonia at 250-953-3859 or via [email](#).

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of Forest Service 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 June articles is June 18.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

