



Ministry of
Forests and Range

Forest Service News

A proud tradition of service since 1912



2009 Fire Season

Submitted by Fire Information Officers Kim Steinbart and Alyson Couch
Wildfire Management Branch

The 2009 fire season started early due to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in the spring months. The month of May saw multiple fires of note that threatened communities in both the Cariboo (70 Mile House and Buffalo Creek) and Kamloops (Tyaughton Lake) Fire Centres.

Typical June rains arrived weeks later than usual, and precipitation still remained below seasonal averages. The Tyaughton Lake fire was quite volatile all through the month of June, but activity quieted down for the first two weeks of July. Then,

on July 18th, fires broke out in the Glenrosa and Rose Valley communities of West Kelowna, resulting in huge public and media attention. These two fires, combined with the Terrace Mountain fire, west of Fintry, led to multiple evacuation orders and alerts, however only three structures were lost on the very first day of the Glenrosa fire.

July also saw an abundance of lightning storms leading to other fires of note throughout the province.



Temperatures continued to break record highs, and little precipitation was received in most areas. Campfire bans were put in place for the majority of the province, and a voluntary backcountry restriction was issued. By mid August, while containment percentages were rising on some fires, another band of lightning went through the Kamloops region, temperatures crept up once again, and activity increased to the level it was before the start of the month.

As September began, all personnel were still working hard to contain fires across the Kamloops and Cariboo regions. Only a couple weeks ago, 6 fires still had people out of their homes or ready to leave at a moment's notice, and the largest fire—the Lava Canyon fire—was nearly 55,000 hectares and growing.

With fall finally settling in, we are starting to see some cooler temperatures and more precipitation. As a result, fire activity is slowing and all previous evacuation orders and alerts have been rescinded.

Forest Service News Advisory Group Vision:

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

2009 Fire Season Continued...

Crews continue to work hard across the province, but the reduction in activity means we are one step closer to the end of the season.

So far in 2009, the total number of fires and hectares burned has been well above averages. The cost of direct fire fighting for the season now sits at over \$356 million; this surpasses not only the budget initially allocated to the Wildfire Management Branch and the average of \$112M for this time of the year, but threatens to surpass the highest season on record, which was in 2003.

During the fire season, Wildfire Management Branch resources were used to their full capacity, with both contract crews and newly trained emergency firefighters being utilized as well. Thanks to arrangements with Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), resources were brought in from across the country, including fire crews from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. Personnel from the United States, notably from Alaska and Washington were also brought in to B.C. During the season, 2512 personnel were here from out of province, including over

1800 firefighters. For the first time, we also had 25 fire specialists from the State of Victoria in Australia, along with 6 personnel from New Zealand to aid in fire suppression efforts. The province did send crews to Yukon and Alaska earlier in the season to assist with increased fire activity in those regions.

There have been over 100 notable fires during this season: at least 27 caused evacuation orders and at least a dozen more caused evacuation alerts. Here is a snap shot of some of the most notable 2009 fires in B.C. by fire centre.



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2009 Fire Season Continued...

Kamloops Fire Centre:

- 400 hectare fire at Glenrosa, west Kelowna; three structures were lost.
- 200 hectare fire Rose Valley Dam, west Kelowna; led to multiple evacuations.
- 9277 hectare fire, Terrace Mountain, west of Fintry; multiple communities evacuated.
- 8045 hectare Tyaughton Lake fire, north of Goldbridge; multiple communities evacuated.
- 3696 hectare Mount McLean fire, west of Lillooet; led to evacuations and local state of emergency.
- 1597 hectare fire at Intlpm, between Lytton and Lillooet.
- 2042 Hell Creek fire, in the Yalakom Valley; led to evacuation orders
- 3025 hectare fire at Brookmere, 42 km south of Merritt; led to evacuation order for community of Brookmere.
- 1753 hectare Seton Portage fire, southwest of Lillooet; three structures were lost.
- 7014 hectare fire at Big Dog Mountain, Yalakom Valley.
- 6045 hectare Little Dog Mountain fire, Yalakom Valley.
- 625 hectare Scottie Creek fire, 20 km north of Cache Creek; led to evacuation.

Cariboo Fire Centre:

- 1000 hectare fire at 70 mile house; two homes were lost.
- 15 hectare fire at Buffalo Creek, northeast of 100 mile house; two homes were lost.
- 6618 hectare Kluskus fire, west of Quesnel.
- 66,719 hectare (667 square kilometres) fire at Lava Canyon, in the Chilcotin; largest fire of the season, and led to evacuation orders and alerts.
- 20,925 hectare (209 square kilometres) fire at Kelly Creek, in Edgehills Provincial Park, 20 km southwest of Clinton; two structures were lost.

Coastal Fire Centre:

- 30 hectare Blackcomb Mountain fire; caused an evacuation of the mountain.
- 850 and 823 hectare Pemberton Meadow complex fires; led to evacuation orders and area closures.
- 368 hectare fire at Nuxalk Mountain; evacuated the community of Bella Coola.

Prince George:

- 23,182 hectare fire at Junction of Smith and Liard River; second largest fire of the season, which closed the Alaska Highway and caused the evacuation of 3 small communities.

Number of Fires (as of September 30)

- **By Cause:**
 - 835 caused by people
 - 2197 caused by lightning
 - 27 still under investigation
- **By Fire Centre:**
 - Coastal: 524
 - Northwest: 144
 - Prince George: 316
 - Kamloops: 1029
 - Southeast: 582
 - Cariboo: 464

Total: 3059 Fires



Photo by Dan Hicks, Alexis Creek

Have a Story Idea?

E-mail the FS NEWS your ideas!

And Compared to the 1949 Fire Season...

Worse But Not Bad...was the caption in the 1949 Forest Service Newsletter

The last of this year's weekly fire "Sitreps", issue by Operations and dated for the week ending October 1, showed that throughout the five Districts there were more than twice as many fires this year than in '48 and a 25% increase over the number recorded in 1947. It also showed that there were 23 fires still burning as of October 1. The cost for fire-fighting were up over 100% from 1948.

In order to estimate just how bad, or good, a season we had this year, however, we should remember that in 1948 there were only 803 fires during the whole season and, therefore, the percentages of increase don't, in fact, mean as much as it would first appear. Also, '48 was the wettest and most fire-free season on record, while, according to the books, '49 was just about average for the last 15 years.

For the information of all, the following tables show, by Districts, the number of fires, estimated costs in fire-fighting, and the average cost per fire for the last two years.

1949

District	No. of Fires	Est. Cost	Av. Cost
Vancouver	491	\$11,406	\$24
Prince Rupert	44	642	15
Fort George	158	20,351	129
Kamloops	501	23,855	48
Nelson	486	31,524	65

1948

District	No. of Fires	Est. Cost	Av. Cost
Vancouver	202	\$2,931	\$15
Prince Rupert	56	1,434	26
Fort George	169	26,191	155
Kamloops	187	5,809	31
Nelson	189	3,452	18

Korean Foresters Visit BC

Submitted by Jacques Marc, Visuals (Landscape Forester), Forest Practices Branch

A delegation of Korean foresters recently visited British Columbia to learn about our methods of scenery management. They learned that in BC managing for visual quality around communities, highways and waterways is a routine harvest practice. It was explained that Visual Quality is one of the 11 values managed and protected under FRPA and that it provides BC's tourism industry with a competitive edge.

It was a surprise when I received an email from a Korean Forester inquiring about the BCFS Visual Management System. It was discovered that Sang-Seep Lim, a director from the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), is enrolled in the Forestry PhD program at UBC. His reason for contacting the MFR was to learn about our policies as they relate to visual management and to arrange a meeting between BCFS staff and two senior members of the KFRI. A meeting and fieldtrip were arranged to showcase BC's approach to scenery management. The Korean delegation consisted of Dr. Chan-Woo

Park, the Director of the Green Business Management Division at the KFRI, Dr. Jae-Jun Kim, Senior Researcher of the Green Business Management Division, Mr. Sang-Seop Lim, Director at KFRI and Dr. Yong-Sik Kim, who kindly acted as a translator.

August 24th began with a welcome to the Chilliwack Forest District by Allan Johnsrude, District Manager. I followed with a presentation on visual management in BC highlighting: our public perception research work, inventory of visually sensitive landscapes, Visual Quality Objectives and our legislative regime. Lloyd Davies, Coast Region Landscape Forester, joined the group part way through the morning. In the afternoon, the group travelled along Highway 7 looking at several recently harvested openings that achieved differing levels of visual quality. During the ensuring discussions it was discovered that more than 80% of South Korea's forests were devastated during WW II and the subsequent Korean War. In

Korean Foresters Continued...



Korean delegation at Coquihalla Summit rest stop

Left to right: Dr. Chan-Woo Park, Lloyd Davies, Jacques Marc, Dr. Jae-Jun Kim, Mr. Sang-Seop Lim.

1973, they embarked on an aggressive reforestation effort. The 30-40 year old plantations are very consistent in nature and visually monotonous. The Koreans were interested in learning how to add visual diversity to their forests through logging and at the same time open up traditional views of their natural landscapes.

On day two the group travelled the Coquihalla Highway to look at some recent partial cut harvesting. The Koreans particularly liked the natural looking patchiness and how forest harvesting could open-up mountain views without negatively affecting the scenery. The Koreans were very gracious and thankful that we found the time and made the effort to explain our visual management approach to them.

Mississippi Students Study BC's Ecosystem Restoration

Submitted by Greg Anderson, Mgr, Ecosystem Restoration/Policy & Legislation, Range Branch
(with thanks to Susan Bond)

Three graduate students from the University of Mississippi's Department of Biology were in the East Kootenay in June getting a crash course in ecosystem restoration (ER).

Their internship here was part of a training program in forest restoration ecology funded by the US Department of Agriculture. Besides their restoration research, Ole Miss faculty also wanted to provide the students with a real-life learning experience.

An internet search led to the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program. The first restoration initiative of its kind in BC, the

program is in its 12th year of restoring thousands of hectares of open forests and native grasslands.

"We wanted the students to see a really successful restoration project on a large scale," professor Jason Hoeksema recounted from his office in Oxford, Mississippi. "We started searching around the world and found the Trench Program. "Hoeksema made contact with Greg Anderson, Manager of the Provincial Ecosystem Restoration Program and founding chair of the Trench ER Program.

During their jam-packed East Kootenay visit,

Mississippi Students Continued...

the students were introduced to the nuts and bolts of on-the-ground restoration by foresters, fire ecologists, wildlife biologists, ranchers, agrologists, park rangers, ethnobotanists and, even fire chiefs.

They toured Trench restoration projects on Crown land, in national and provincial parks, on private conservation properties, at resorts, and within municipalities. They learned about ER treatment prescriptions and prescribed fire, listened to stakeholders discuss challenges, helped monitor restoration effects on plant response, and heard how ER contributes to First Nations cultural values and reduces wildfire hazard.

They were particularly impressed by the way government, industry and public groups worked together to achieve restoration goals.

The Trench fire-maintained ecosystem is familiar to the students. Like many of our once open forests in the interior, the upland forests of Mississippi are fire-dependent and have changed dramatically as a result of fire suppression. ER treatments such as thinning and prescribed burning are still at the experimental stage in Mississippi.

Student Anjel Craig nicely summed up their internship by saying, "This has been an unprecedented opportunity to get a look at ground-breaking restoration work that has become a template for the rest of the world."



Ole Miss Graduate students (Jason, Anjel & Erynn) flanked by hosts Al Neal, ER Strategic Planner (far left) and Greg Anderson, Provincial ER Manager (far right). Photo credit: Valley Echo staff

Have a Story Idea?
E-mail the FS NEWS your ideas!

“...and Range, eh?”

The BC Forest Service’s Range Program – Part 2

Submitted by Russ Horton, P.Ag., Range Extension Specialist



Range Branch. District range staff have partnered with the new Range Branch to create a District / Branch delivery model for the Range Program.

Approximately 75 Range Program staff work from 15 district and 8 branch offices provincially. Key clients include the ranching, guide-outfitting and forestry industries, First Nations, ecosystem restoration steering committees, conservation organizations, invasive alien plant committees and the general public.

The Ministry’s Range Program was introduced in the June issue of the *Forest Service News*. Rangeland management has been part of the British Columbia Forest Service (BCFS) since 1912. Today, about one third of the province (~ 34 Million ha) is covered by range tenures administered by the BCFS. Virtually all range tenure holders are dependent partially or wholly on forested rangeland.

Rangeland Management is an applied ecology discipline. Its practice integrates knowledge from sciences like hydrology, soils, botany, ecology and zoology with applied disciplines like forage, forestry, wildlife, and livestock management with socio-economic fields like sociology, economics and extension education. Rangeland Management seeks optimum stewardship of grazing resources for wildlife and livestock and the people and industries that rely on these resources.

The organizational structure of the Range Program within the Forest Service has changed through the decades. Headquarter level organization has varied from a Range Division with an Assistant Deputy Minister to a Program within a Section within a Branch. In October 2005, a Range Branch was created as part of the FS’s Operations Division and located in Kamloops. Regional Range staff were transferred to the new

The BCFS Range Program has a ‘range’ of ‘programs’ including:

- Rangeland Ecology
- Invasive Alien Plant Management
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Rangeland Management Practices
- Legislation and Policy
- First Nations
- Extension Education
- Tenure Administration
- Client Relationships
- Industry, Inter-Agency and Public Communications

In further articles some of the people and stories from these program areas will be highlighted. For example, the Ecosystems Restoration Program’s collaboration with graduate students from Mississippi State University.

The Range Program’s mission:

“To manage Crown rangelands for ecological health, multiple values and uses, and to support British Columbia’s Ranching Sector.”

Your comments and questions are always welcome. Please send them to [David Borth](#), Range Branch Director, or [Russ Horton](#), Range Extension Specialist.

Welcome Brian Hawrys - Newsletter Advisory Member



Brian was born in Ontario, but after travelling the country and living in five different provinces he concluded BC was indeed the Best Place in Canada. Golf, skiing and tennis in one day—Awesome!

He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1977 and worked briefly for BC Lands. Forest Service staff still ask him “Lands” oriented questions. His “Lands” work provided his first exposure to the Sunshine Coast and salmon fishing.

Brian then joined the Forest Service in 1981 during a major ministry reorganization—a good time to jump in. His first position in Powell River was as a Resource Officer, Timber. His “city” wife Norma agreed to a two year “rural” trial. Twenty-eight years later and they are still in Powell River, although their three grown children have all left town.

After years as an Operations Manager covering all business areas, Brian is now the District Manager of the Sunshine Coast Forest District.

Why still in the Sunshine Coast? Great place to work, great country, professional licensees, great timber profile and most importantly, great staff in both the district and region.

Doing Our Best in Keeping Forest Service Roads Safe

Submitted by Wendi Knott, RPF Compliance and Enforcement, of the Peace Forest District

Have you ever driven down a Forest Service Road, enjoying the abundance of wildlife, admiring the breath taking scenery and feeling proud to be part of an organization that manages our sustainable resource—when suddenly another vehicle you had no idea was sharing the same road speeds by. You think “Where are the Enforcement Staff when you need them?”

There is something that all Forest Service staff can do, such as:

- observe the make, model and license plate number or vehicle identification plaque;
- record the information; and
- report your findings to Compliance and Enforcement.

Thanks to complaints received at the Peace Forest District, Forest Official Ken Dahr knew which Forest Service Roads were at high risk and led a team to organize a radar road check. The team consisted of Compliance and Enforcement Officials from the Peace Forest District and Special Investigator Gerry Vanderkwaak.



A radar road check was conducted on the Sunkunka Forest Service Road in October 2007 with Forest Official Dahr issuing six Violation Tickets for speeding. Some of you may be asking “Why bother issuing Violation Tickets when they are not taken seriously?” Well, in April 2009 Forest Official Dahr proved that Violation Tickets are being taken seriously. Three of the six Violation Tickets issued in October were appealed. Once again Forest Official Dahr led a team to defend the tickets in

Court and won the appeal on all three accounts.

The effort Forest Official Dahr and his team put into making a difference on the Forest Service Roads paid off, creating a footprint for future successes. These successes are being shared by Forest Official Dahr and Special Investigator Vanderkwaak through the delivery of sessions across the province on Radar Training and Certification, and Court Preparation.

Congratulations Forest Official Ken Dahr and your team for doing a swell job keeping our Forest Service Roads safe in the Peace!

Strategic Land and Resource Planning Data now in GeoBC Geographic Warehouse

Submitted by Melinda McClung, Coast Regional Geomatics Analyst

Since April 2007, the Strategic Land Policy and Legislation Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) have been leading a project between MAL, GeoBC, the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), and ESRI Canada to consolidate Strategic Land and Resource Planning (SLRP) regional spatial data into the GeoBC Geographic Warehouse (formerly the LRDW). This work has generated excellent results with all five datasets in the scope of the project now available in the warehouse. The datasets captured include:

- SLRP planning boundaries
- Updated landscape unit polygons
- Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) data (legal and non-legal)
- Non-legal planning features (e.g. resource management zones, or RMZs)
- Legal objective features enabled under the Land Act

Through innovative solutions and collaborative effort, numerous issues have been resolved that for several years were consistent barriers to migrating this data to a provincial level. This is a significant milestone, and feedback from all the data user communities (internal and external) has been very positive on how this data is now displayed and organized. The amount of work over almost three years of effort to consolidate and prepare this regional data has been enormous. This project has leveraged over \$250,000 in external FSP/FRPA Data Access Project funding and has actively engaged over 100 staff including managers in regional and headquarters ILMB, GeoBC, MAL, and MFR offices.

This project is scheduled to wrap-up in October 2009, after work in the summer and early fall ensures that all outlying data has been loaded, that supporting documentation is complete, and that required business views and distribution applications are implemented. Beyond October 2009, a formal agreement has been reached between ILMB and MAL through a data stewardship agreement that spells out the two agency responsibilities for how this data will be maintained in the future. To support this agreement, the project team is currently working to finalize the provincial data management procedures that will ensure these important spatial data layers continue to be consistently well managed into the future.

For more information about this project please contact the SLRP Data Management Project Manager Brad Smith at (250) 356-5107 or by email: Brad.Smith@gov.bc.ca. Supporting documents and links to access SLRP spatial planning files will also be housed at: http://ilmbwwwt.gov.bc.ca/slrp/datamgmt_supportdocs.html

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.

Grandson Follows Grandfather's Footsteps!

Submitted by Steve Dodge, Operations Manager, Quesnel FD

How did a 1980 graduate of Construction Technology at the College of New Caledonia end up working for the BC Forest Service (getting close to 30 years)? When asked this question, I don't even hesitate. "My Grandfather, Art (Si) Kent (AKA "Smokey Kent") was an Assistant Ranger in Lytton from 1941 to 1969." My Family and I lived in Boston Bar, Savona and Quesnel during this stretch (1959 to 1969 anyway!), and we visited Lytton often and I was always amazed at how dedicated he was and how much he loved his job." "I think a great deal of the pleasure he got working for the Forest Service was the respect he received from the town's people and his fellow FS employees." "Esprit de corps, wasn't just a saying that spell check didn't recognize, it was a way of life."

"Unfortunately, Si passed away the year before I began my FS career in Fort St. James, but it was the smoke chasing in the old Jeep that my

brother and I "unofficially" accompanied him on the inspections, that we made on the Botanie Lookout access road and the afterhours helicopter rides in the Okanagan 206 that made it a no brainer when I was offered a job with Highways measuring gravel pits or working in Engineering with the FS."

I am particularly proud of the book of remembrance that I inherited from Si, which was apparently the first one to be presented to a person holding below a Ranger's rank. "Reading through the names on the book, it's a real who's who of the old FS with Jack D. Bailey, Cym Williams, Eric Robinson, CD Fennel, John Noble and Albert Kowalski being some of the over 90 fellow employees to sign their name."

"With all of the fire activity in the Fraser canyon this year, an excerpt of a poem written for Si in 1969 by Bob Hewlett from Merritt is especially timely."

Emphatic, persistent, invincible Arthur-
An expert on fire fighting, few will deny;
For twenty-eight years he has faithfully laboured-
His reason for starting—that smoke in his eye.
A hundred odd miles of narrow gauge highway,
And byways a Mexican burro would scare;
But with Art in his tanker patrolling all summer;
A fire seldom started, that he wasn't right there.
That he held the Blue Ribbon for cross country travel,
A rumour persisted; and I wouldn't know.
But I know from Martel right down to Kanaka;
He drove it quite safely, though not always slow.



It is Never too Late...

Submitted by Mike Watson, Woodlands Supervisor, BCTS

In 2000, Health and Wellness came to the Lakes Forest District and a “wellness” room was created. The idea grew and staff donated some private equipment. The room has seen many users over the years and has evolved with equipment being added and replaced over time.

I had been working out for a few years doing the same old thing and staying in relatively good shape. In 2004, Brian Westgate joined the BCTS team as a planner and became my workout partner and everything changed. Brian had a long history of weight training in his younger days. He was a ruthless partner—just what I needed to push me. Our workouts were hard, but fun and we both made progress. We lost fat and gained muscle through regular weight training, healthy eating and some cardio workouts.

We were only able to work out together for 2 years before Brian moved on to other opportunities, but we were both hooked and stayed in touch regarding our training progress. In Dec 2008, we set a goal of participating in our first bodybuilding contest. We paid our fees and registered in the BC Northern Classic

scheduled for June 6, 2009. That gave us 6 months to prepare.

We worked hard, dieted very strictly, practiced our posing with the help of books, YouTube and friends. I had had a coach (Mark Pedersen) who had previously competed. On June 4th Brian flew up from Victoria to Prince George and we drove the rest of the way to Fort St. John. We practiced in every gym we could find including the one we stayed in. On June 6th we stepped on stage (wearing very little I might add) in front of hundreds of people. Emotions were a mixture of fear and accomplishment. Regardless of

how we placed we knew we had achieved our goals. It was one month before my 43rd birthday (Brian was 34) and we did it—we competed and we did well.

So regardless of your age, or your interests, I’m encouraging you to pick a healthy activity, find someone with a similar interest, and set a goal. You’ll be healthier for it, you can achieve more than you may think and always remember that it is never too late!

If you are interested in pursuing/discussing training strategies, you can contact Mike Watson directly.



Chilcotin Forest District Annual Trap Shoot Invite

Submitted by Dan Hicks, Stewardship Technician, Chilcotin Forest

The Chilcotin Forest District extends an open invitation to all BC Ministry of Forests and Range staff to attend the 39th Annual Chilcotin Forest District Trap Shoot, scheduled for May 22, 2010, in Alexis Creek.

What is the trap shoot, the longest running Forest Service social event, all about?

Click on the link below to see photographs, newspaper coverage, and a description of this year’s 38th Annual Chilcotin Forest District Trap Shoot, held May 23rd in Alexis Creek.

To view full screen images of the photos - after opening the link’s PDF file, click the one-page-at-a-time icon on the tool bar (middle, with 4 averted arrows).

[\[Chilcotin Forest District 38th Annual Trap Shoot Photo’s\]](#)



EnviroFor – New Name, New location

Submitted by Alasdair Ring, Ministry Web Master, Information Management Group

Its name and features may have changed over the years, but EnviroFor continues to be an invaluable resource for any MFR/BCTS staff requiring access to current legislation.

For those who may not be familiar with this service, EnviroFor is a research tool that was designed to help ministry staff more easily navigate through statutes, regulations, orders-in-council, bills, guidebooks, policy manuals and other pertinent ministry material.

Previously branded as Quickscribe Online or Forest VIEWS, EnviroFor has undergone a significant transformation over the years. The vast majority of these upgrades have come as a result of consultations with the ministry. Some of the recent enhancements include:

- Quick access to the documents used most frequently;
- Faster, more meaningful search results page;
- Improved point-in-time archives with the ability to link back to view how a section read at a particular point in history;
- Colour-coded amendment flags denoting how, when and where amendments occurred (flags link to old sections);
- Legislation now updated daily so content will be more current than ever before;
- Improved printing capabilities, such as the ability to print entire PDFs, or specific parts and sections. Print quality is also significantly “tighter” resulting in less wasted paper; and
- Easier access to relevant regulations from the Acts.

Note of a few important notices/reminders about this service.

1. **New Access Point:** Please be aware that the way you currently access your EnviroFor service has changed. EnviroFor is now accessible through the Ministry Intranet via the following access point: <https://icw.for.gov.bc.ca/his/folio/>. To view a screenshot of the exact location on the ministry home page click [screenshot](#). Be sure to bookmark the previously mentioned link as your new access point. Those who have bookmarked the old URL will likely not be able to access the site in the coming days and weeks.

2. **Training:** Training seminars are being offered this fall to all ministry staff who are interested. To register a time for your group call (toll free) 1 877 727-6978 or email info@quickscribe.bc.ca. In the meantime, a new video tutorial is now available at: <https://icw.for.gov.bc.ca/his/folio/>. A webinar is also planned for later this fall. A date has not yet been announced, but if you wish to be notified once a time and date has been scheduled please email info@quickscribe.bc.ca and type “webinar” in the subject line.

3. **Email Notification:** You are encouraged to sign up to receive the monthly email EnviroFor Reporter, which provides a summary of recent and upcoming amendments accompanied by industry-related news. To receive this email, click on [sign up now] link on the right side of the screen once you log in. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please call 1-877-727-6978.

Kelly Creek Fire Camp Fireline News - Goshawk Rescue

Submitted by Philip Kabool, District Scaling Supervisor,
100 Mile House FD



Run, Walk, or Crawl to Work - Summer Solstice Event

Submitted by Richard Dominy, Victoria

The 11th Annual Run, Walk, or Crawl to Work fun event has just been concluded.

Thank you to all district, regional and branch offices who participated in the Annual Provincial Run, Walk, or Crawl Challenge held June 22, 2009. The results are:

Location	*Participation (%)			Kilometres			Kilometres/FTE		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Victoria	0	33	20	0	283	333	0	3.0	1.7
Northern Region	29	30	32	1410	2390	2385	2.5	3.3	3.4
Southern Region	42	26	27	5436	5534	4315	6.1	5.0	4.2
Coastal Region	41	31	30	1088	1237	932	3.0	2.6	2.2
All Provincial Totals	37	28	28	8017	9443	7966	4.3	4.0	3.4

* **Note** – Participation percentage is based on the staff participation as a percentage of the total FTE allocation for that specific workgroup.

Top Winners!!

Location	Participants	Kilometres	Kilometres/FTE
Prince George Forest District	84	689	7.5
North Coast Forest District	79	59	4.2
Invermere Wildfire Mgmt Zone	63	280	11.7
Fort Nelson Forest District	60	141	7.0

Farthest Distance: Cariboo Fire Centre - 1462 kilometres—way to go Protection!
 Best Participation: Prince George Forest District – 84%!
 Highest Kilometres/FTE: Invermere Wildfire Management Zone – 11.7!
 Best Regional Turnout: Southern Interior Region – at 4.2 kilometres/FTE.

The intent of this event is to get out and “Participate!”
 Be creative and above all have FUN!!

This event was started by the Invermere Forest District 11 years ago and has grown to a provincial event. The Invermere Forest District no longer exists, but many of us (the staff) are scattered throughout the Forest Service family across the province. We all have a strong belief in this event and will work to keep it alive and strong.

All offices have a similar chance of winning at the “best participation” levels.

The following link tracks the results of the event for 2009.

<http://gwww.for.gov.bc.ca/dpg/Health/provchallenge.htm>.

It also showcases photos, stories and successes of the event. There are some phenomenal stories and photos from past years, for example, crawling through the salal, competing in the dugout canoe, kayaking

and the early morning lake jump.

Make sure you have a look at the photos from the Cariboo Fire Centre.

This next year it would be extremely fun to have full representation from all our offices across the province. As you can see from the results on the web link there has been good participation around the province. Lots of the numbers are up from previous years, especially the numbers from Victoria— which is fantastic.

One new feature is that we have started a distribution list for this event, type in “runwalk” in Outlook to examine if your office or location has a contact. Please forward any updates or additions for this list to Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca.

Congratulations to everyone on their participation, and thanks for your superb efforts!

Let’s look forward to more participation in 2010—remember June 21st is the day—it is summer solstice!

The Forest Service in Port McNeill Really Relays!

Submitted by Scott Mitchell, Woodlands Manager, BCTS
(proud member of the FS Regenerators)

Every June, Canadian Cancer Society volunteers in numerous communities across British Columbia and Canada organize a 12 hour overnight walkathon known as the Relay for Life. Relays are intended to bring communities together to celebrate cancer survivors and remember those who have lost the battle and fight back against this terrible disease.

Pretty much all of us have been personally affected by cancer, whether you are fighting the disease yourself or have a family member or friend who has been

diagnosed. Staff of the North Island – Central Coast Forest District and the BCTS Seaward-tlasta Business Area in Port McNeill are no different. So in the spring of 2007, a group of about 20 employees decided that they would make a difference by entering a team in the North Island Relay for Life in nearby Port Hardy. The Forest Service “Regenerators” were born and have never looked back since! A variety of fundraisers were organized within the office and community, including bake sales, BBQs, ticket raffles as well as individual fundraising. By the time the Relay happened in late June, the Regenerators had raised a whopping \$6000. The fundraising total for the 2007 North Island event surpassed \$60,000 with 25 teams participating.

Between the team building aspects leading up to the event and pulling an “all nighter” together, it became obvious to the members of the Regenerators that we had started something special. So when the Port Hardy organizers indicated their desire to move the event to Port McNeill in 2008, the Regenerators knew what we

had to do—organize the 2008 Relay of course!

A core group of eight Regenerators plus three non Forest Service community members formed an organizing committee in February 2008 and planning for the first Port McNeill Relay began. As the group

soon discovered, planning and implementing an event of this magnitude is no small undertaking. Advertising, logistics, entertainment, sponsorship and volunteer solicitation, registrations, security, first aid, and best of all, lots and lots of food, had to be organized. To the rescue were plenty of additional

Forest Service volunteers and their family members, assisted by local service clubs and community members. At the same time, the Regenerators team was undertaking its fundraising campaign with the

ever popular office bake sales at the forefront of efforts.

We didn’t know what to expect for our first Relay in Port McNeill. At a minimum, we were hoping we could match Port Hardy’s attendance and fundraising total from the previous year. The response we got was overwhelming! On Saturday afternoon over 280 people arrived and set up “camp” for the night at the local

track, joined by plenty of curious onlookers from the community. United in a worthwhile common cause and fuelled by a veritable smorgasbord of delicious food (washed down with several gallons of coffee and hot chocolate), participants literally walked the night away. Before we knew it, morning had arrived; with it a fundraising total—an amazing \$72,000! Organizing the event distracted from the Regenerators team fundraising, but we still contributed a respectable



The original Regenerators at the 2007 Relay in Port Hardy



The 2009 Regenerators

Relays cont...

\$5,000 toward the total.

Accolades were plentiful and many teams were already asking us about the 2009 event. Given the incredible "team" experience and overwhelming result, how could we say no?

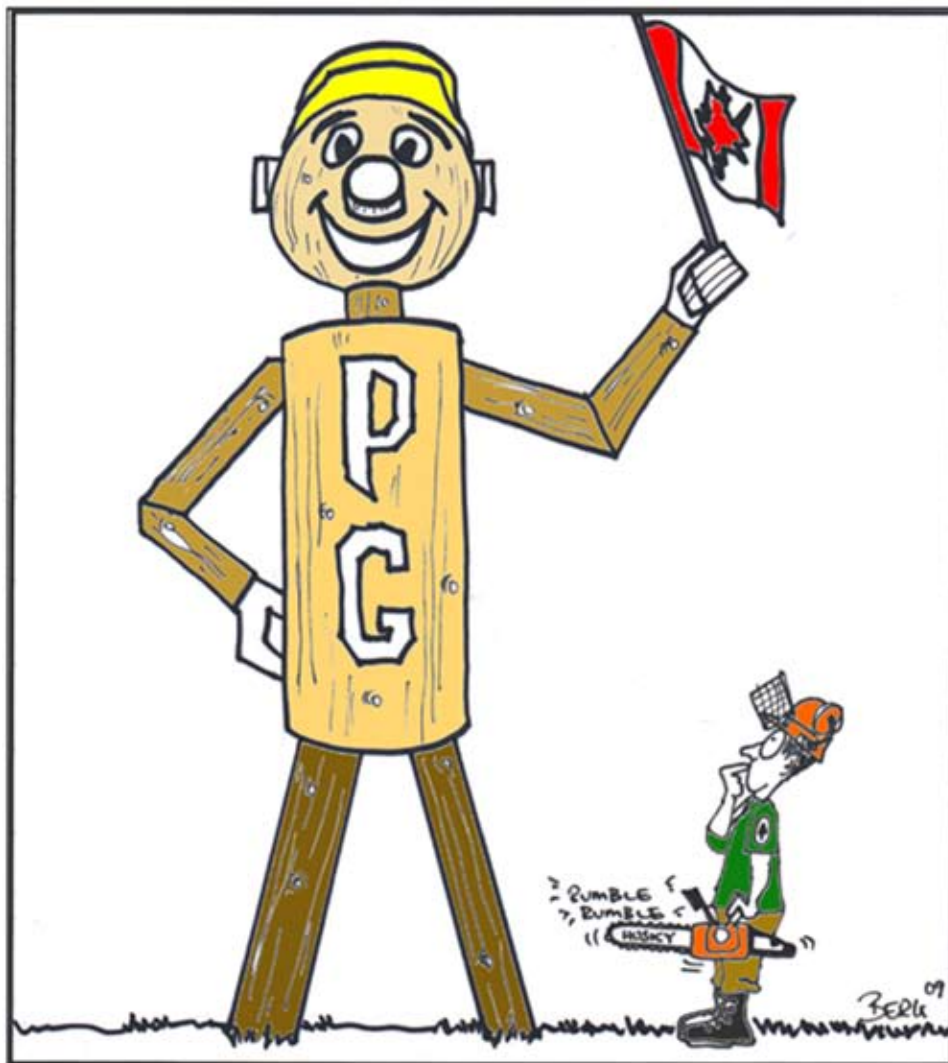
With much of the mystery out of the way, organizing the 2009 Relay in Port McNeill was a relative breeze, which allowed more time for the Regenerators team to rekindle their fundraising efforts! In addition to our now famous bake sales, we held a Frisbee Golf tournament, Street hockey tournament and raffled an autographed Willie Mitchell jersey. The enthusiasm was infectious in the office and our team grew by another 10 members from 2008; we even added a kids' team aptly called the "Seedlings." Our team fundraising total for 2009, a whopping \$7,200!

Attendance was down slightly this year, but enthusiasm ran high and the 2009 event was another great success. Over 250 people participated and we raised another \$45,000 to Help Make Cancer History.

In 2010 the Relay will be moving back to Port Hardy. Our organizing committee will be enjoying a well deserved break, but the Regenerators will be there, strong as ever, adorned in our trademark green and showing our Forest Service pride!

BERG'S EYE VIEW

by Shane Berg



News Item: Forest Districts look for unique sources of local wood for Olympic Podium construction

Celebrating the Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Updates

Torch Prototype Visits 1520 Blanshard, Victoria

On September 16th, 1520 Blanshard Street in Victoria held a Meet and Greet with Deputy Minister Dana Hayden and the 2010 Olympic Torch Prototype. The Organizational Development Branch hosted the event for staff to come and have their photo taken with the Torch Prototype, meet the Deputy and enter the raffle for a 2010 Olympic jacket. The raffle and photo opportunity were by donation and all the funds went to the Loonies for Luge campaign and 'Send your Deputy Down the Track' Challenge. The Loonies for Luge campaign was recently relaunched on the @Work website. Check out our standings and how you can get involved at : <https://www.gov.bc.ca/hr/olympics/luge/tracker.aspx>. The Forest Service News would like to hear about your events and activities for the Loonies for Luge and the 2010 Olympics. Send them to ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca.



Left to Right Top: Shelagh Ryan-McNee, Mark Vieweg, Donna Carswell, Natalia Burns, Deputy Minister Dana Hayden, Margaret Hollands, Tara Wilson Left to Right Bottom: Zen Leveille, Gail Brewer, Raeleen Siu





Left to Right: Greg Bach, Deputy Minister Dana Hayden

Olympic Fast Facts!

Have you checked out the Ministry of Forests and Range [Olympic webpage](#) yet?

Did you know...

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was created on 23 June 1894; the 1st Olympic Games of the modern era opened in Athens on 6 April 1896.
- In the first Olympic Winter Games, 16 nations participated, bringing 258 athletes (11 women, 247 men) to compete in 16 events.

Have an Olympic 2010 Story you would like to share in December's Forest Service News? Send us your ideas to ForestServiceNews@gov.bc.ca.



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

The contest categories are intended to solicit images that reflect each quarterly edition in terms of seasons: March spring, June summer, September fall and December winter.

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 FOR DECEMBER PHOTO'S IS DEC. 4



September Edition Photo Contest Winners!



Category Scenic: Babine Lake, Brian Oke, Timber Pricing Coordinator, RNI



Category Wildlife: In Victoria by Lancer Fan, Database Administrator, IMB



Category Workplace: Slash Burn, 100 Mile House by George Bruckner, BCTS Operations Technician



Category Community: Quesnel Forest District by Krista Dunleavey, A/Operations Manager

Ok, how are you at WORD SEARCH?

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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 December articles is December 11.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES