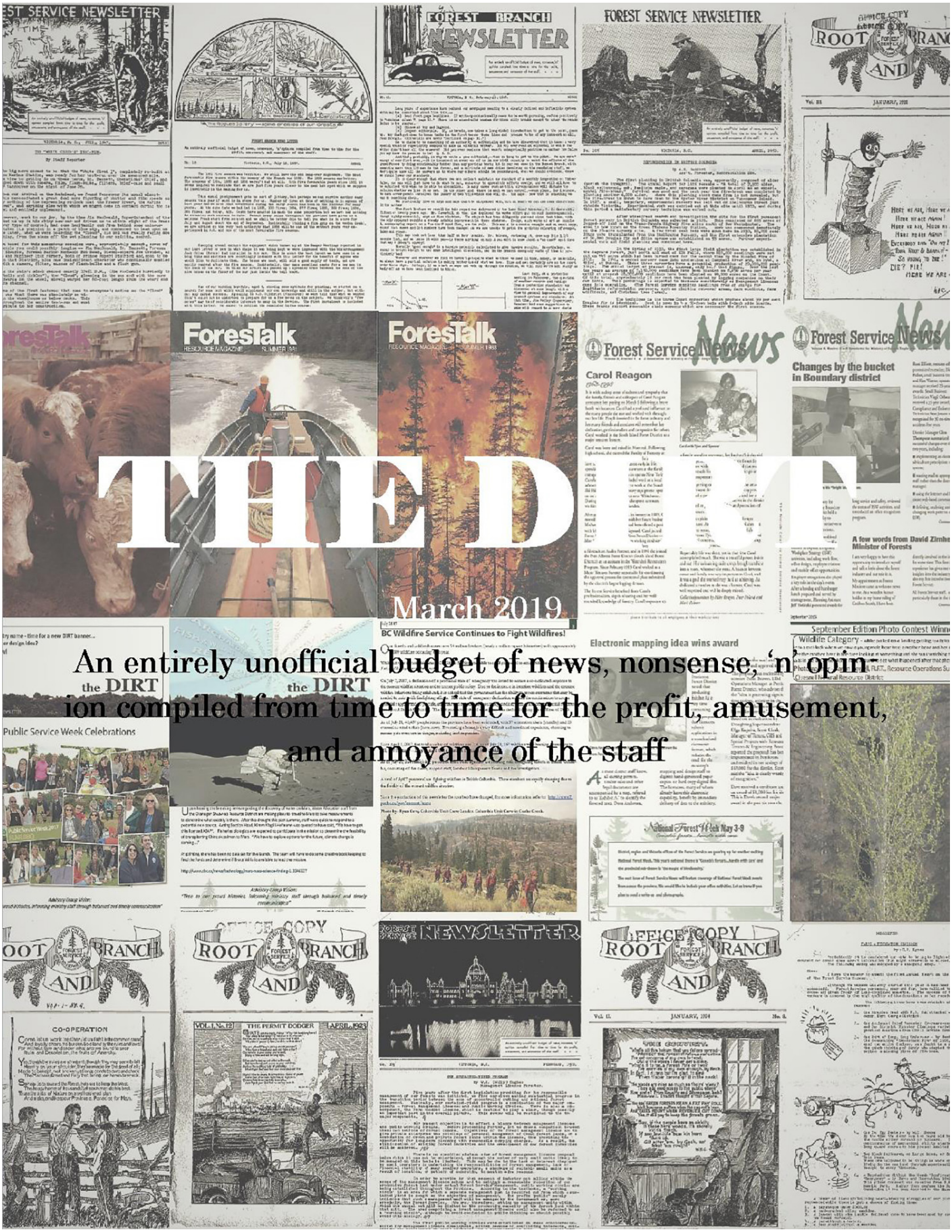

Advisory Group Vision:

"True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication"

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The Dirt Facebook

To join "*The Dirt*" facebook page, simply go to the link provided and ask to join the group. You must let us know where you worked/work within the ministry. https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/

Issues of "*The Dirt*" will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees and is intended to provide up-to-date information on the organization. Add your story to *The Dirt* facebook account. "Participating in social media means contributing content or comment. When doing so, we trust you to be professional, personable, and relevant." Social media guidelines.

Submit an Article to *The Dirt* and receive a Notebook or Fruit Infused Water Bottle

The Dirt Contents, March 2019

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History of The Dirt

Submitted by: Ryan Chandler, Co-op-Program Assistant, Skeena Region

In May 1922, the first issue of 'The Root and Branch' was issued to all Forest Service employees across the province. Littered with poems and cartoon illustrations, the newsletter's writing style appeared to be 'written by foresters for foresters'. Early editions of the newsletter clearly demonstrated the contributors' appreciation for comedy and wit, or maybe just a disregard for formality.

Moving into the 1930s, the more formally named 'Forest Service Letter' became longer and drier. Many of the newsletters from this decade focused on top management restructuring, ranger reports, and forest surveys. Not very engaging for a co-op student to skim through 90 years later, to say the least. However, in the late '30s, the Forest Service Letter adopted a slogan that would introduce each issue until the late 1960s; "An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n'opinion, compiled from time to time by anybody who has the time, for the profit, amusement and annoyance of the staff." Even though this phrase is not displayed on current issues, it is still taken to heart and somewhat applied to aspects of 'The Dirt'.

Skipping past the '40s and into the '50s, it was clear that the 'Forest Service Letter' either recruited someone or outsourced their cartoon work. As the comics grew in complexity, illustrators branched out in what appeared to be one of the first instances of Photoshop in the Canadian Government. In the mid-1950s, there were two government agencies practicing Photoshop: The Soviet Union removing unwanted political figures from photographs and The BC Forestry placing the heads of the Deputy Ministers on Santa's reindeer.

In 2012, 'The Forest Service Newsletter' changed its name to 'The Dirt'. Paying homage to the once great 'Root and Branch', 'The Dirt' still ensures to include annoying wildlife poems and articles that focus on the personal experience of Ministry staff. Although the graphic design of the newsletter may be brought into question, the content is as quality as ever. This newsletter is 97 years old and doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

You can find archived ministry newsletters dating all the way back to 1922 at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HEX/external/!publish/Web/News_Letters/

Don't forget about the - Reunion of the former "Clearwater" Forest District office

PAST and Present employees of the former "Clearwater District" office

We will be holding a reunion at the Clearwater ski hill on Saturday, May 19, 2019 "May long weekend"

Camping on site is available.

Pot luck dinner at 6:30pm.

Games, slideshow and stories from the past are welcome.

All past and present employees are welcome to attend.

Let's enjoy!

Please contact dean.rebinsky@gov.bc.ca or Mark.D.Taylor@gov.bc.ca if you plan on attending.

Jesse Brent Olsen
RPF(Ret) #1073
May 4, 1952 – January 26, 2019

Submitted by: Dean Rebinsky, RFT #0770, BCTS
Kevin Gustafson, Water Stewardship Officer

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Brent Olsen. Brent passed away suddenly at home following one last perfect day of ice fishing with friends. Brent leaves behind his loving wife Karen, his children Jeff (Vanessa), Brian (Kathalina), Emily and Eric, and seven wonderful grandchildren.

Brent was born in Cardston, Alberta, but grew up on his family's farm in Levitt, Alberta. In 1974, Brent graduated with a BSc from the first forestry program offered by the University of Alberta. Brent began his career as a Registered Professional Forester for the BC Forest Service in Victoria, BC. It was there he met the love of his life, Karen. Brent and Karen moved to Kamloops shortly after their marriage, where he started work as the Silviculture Officer in the Kamloops Forest District office. After 40 years of continuous service, Brent retired in the spring of 2014.

Anyone who knew Brent also knew his passion for the outdoors. Asked why he didn't retire as soon as he was able to, Brent would simply say, "Because I am having too much fun!" Never able to resist a day in the field, he considered himself fortunate to have a career in forestry. He led many reforestation initiatives and programs within the District, and possessed an intimate and thorough knowledge of the area where he worked and played. Brent, involved with Scouts Canada for over 30 years, loved to share his enthusiasm of the outdoors with youth. He spent many years taking school classes on nature walks where he was affectionately known as "Mr. Forestry Man." He was also an avid bird watcher, nature photographer, and was absolutely passionate about fishing.

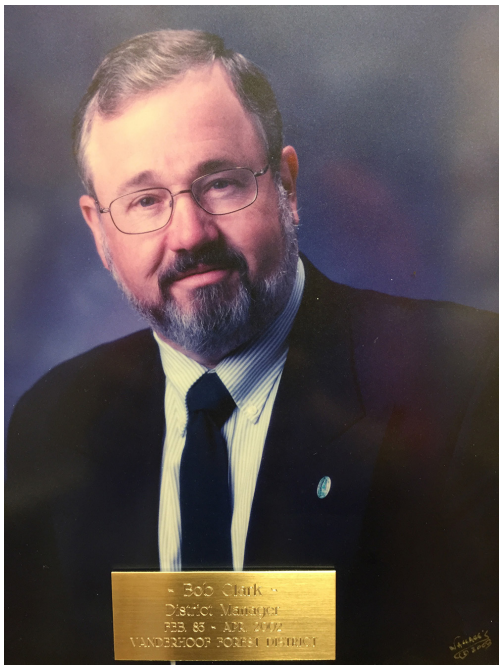
To say that Brent touched and inspired many lives would be an understatement. A great leader, mentor, and friend to so many, Brent will be deeply missed.

Interested in reading past newsletters?

You can find archived ministry newsletters dating all the way back to 1922 at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HEX/external/!publish/Web/News_Letters/

We hope you enjoy reading about the past!



In Memory of Bob Clark

Submitted by: Lori Borth, Resource Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Robert Goldwin Clark (Bob) of Vanderhoof passed away on March 11, 2019 due to complications of a tragic car accident last year, which also took the life of his beloved wife, June. Bob was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan on February 4th, 1951 to Matilda and Goldwin Clark. He moved to Princeton with his family at a young age, and spent his adult life living in Vanderhoof, working for the Ministry of Forests.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, his wife June and brother in law, Patrick. He is survived by his sister, Patricia, children Jami (Jamie) and Dave (Andrea) and grandson, Remi.

Bob started his career as a dispatcher with the BC Forest Service in 1972. Bob then became an assistant ranger and then a bird dog officer in Kamloops. Bob moved on as the Operations Manager in Dawson Creek. In 1985 Bob became the District Manager in the Vanderhoof Forest District until 2002 when he was appointed as the Provincial Bark Beetle Coordinator until 2006.

Vanderhoof staff remembers Bob as a dedicated public servant and strong leader who clearly saw the forests for more than the trees. Bob was a supporter of the community, stakeholders, licensees and First Nations interests and instilled these values into his staff. The Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan was regarded as very important to Bob. Bob was not afraid to take a stance to ensure all values were considered and incorporated.

One of the first large provincial initiatives that Bob lead was a study of District workloads. Bob took diligence and pride in that Districts had ample resources to manage the land and do a job well. Bob insisted on high performance and accountability from his staff and that we spend time assisting other Districts and mentoring for the future. Bob was proud of the Vanderhoof District and the staff and was very comfortable in providing recognition where warranted and course correction when needed.

Bob loved to spend his time outdoors hunting and fishing with his faithful dogs. He cared deeply about family and friends, and was always very involved in bettering his community and the environment. The lasting memories of Bob will continue to be with us as we continue our important work in the BC Public Service.

Remembering Jayne Wynrib

Submitted by: Chantelle Abanilla, Manager, Business Applications, Forest Tenures Branch

A bright light has been dimmed too early from the world. On January 29, 2019, Jayne Wynrib passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family after losing her battle with ovarian cancer. For those of you who were fortunate enough to have had the pleasure of working with Jayne, know that she truly was an exceptional woman with a kind heart and gentle soul who was well liked and respected by her friends and colleagues and will forever be missed.

Jayne loved her husband. She spent her spare time with her many cats, gardening, renovating her home, kayaking and riding her motorcycle.

Jayne (nee Tomlin) started her career in the Forest Service, Cariboo District office as a clerk with the Mechanical Services section in the late 1970's. Jayne went on to further her education and attended the Cariboo College in Kamloops where she received her Drafting Program Certificate. She returned to the public service in 1982, where she was hired as an auxiliary Technical Assistant back in the Cariboo District Drafting Office. Jayne was never afraid to take on a challenge and later on in 1982, she was a part of the Engineering Roads upgrade project. In 1983, Jayne transferred to the Timber Harvesting Branch in Victoria. Jayne was responsible for updating the Cartographic Manual of Drafting Standards and that role eventually transformed into a role where she was responsible for the computer applications and contracts with the Forest Automated Mapping Program. Jayne rounded out her career as the Team Lead for the Resource Registry and Research Branch within GeoBC, as a key data steward for forest tenure data in the province.

Throughout her career, Jayne's passion and dedication to her work, her colleagues, and serving her clients was unparalleled. Her significant contributions to the public service were many and we would like to take a moment to reflect and honor her esteemed career.

Results of the Provincial Fossil Vote

Submitted by: Elisabeth Deom, Senior Stewardship Officer, Paleontology, Heritage Branch

The results of the fossil voting process are in and the winner is the elasmosaur - a marine reptile that roamed BC's ancient seas some 80 Million years ago. 46% of the votes went to the elasmosaur; its closest competitor the ichthyosaur, another marine reptile, received 15% of the votes. Voting results and information about the fossil candidates are available on our website: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/fossil-management/designating-a-provincial-fossil

The elasmosaur is significant for BC. The first complete specimen recorded in the province came from Courtenay; it was found along the Puntledge River. Its discovery in 1988 by local fossil enthusiasts exemplifies the incredible contribution amateur paleontologists or citizen scientists make to the science of paleontology.

Shortly after its discovery, the elasmosaur was excavated and is displayed at the Courtenay & District Museum and Palaeontology Centre on Vancouver Island. The discovery and organized scientific excavation spurred the creation of the local paleontological society and later, the establishment of the BC Paleontological Alliance (BCPA) which regroups amateur and professional paleontologists.

My thanks go to the BCPA for initiating the provincial fossil process several years ago and for their continued efforts in advancing the science of paleontology, and in communicating and promoting good collection and stewardship practices.

The process to add the elasmosaur to the group of official provincial emblems is not done. An amendment to the Provincial Symbols and Honours Act is required before it can be used as an official provincial emblem. Next steps for this process are underway.

When asked what the voting results mean for the museum, my colleague Deborah Griffiths, Executive Director at the museum, says "this vote means a great deal to the Museum and Palaeontology Centre's program growth and to its focus on palaeontology and natural history in general. Mike Trask and his daughter discovered the elasmosaur in 1988. Since that time, museum staff and board have learned through public response that balancing natural and cultural history interpretation includes everyone. Interpreting palaeontology brings a diverse audience interested in discovery—it increases public engagement and lifts the enjoyment level".

I value the collaborative work with museums throughout the province and look forward to working closely with folks at the Courtenay & District Museum to implement changes to fossil management in BC resulting from applying the Fossil Management Framework across natural resource ministries. Changes include fossil impact assessments pre-industrial activities, protection of significant fossil sites and local community involvement in their management.

Moose Hide Campaign Gathering – Fort St. John

Submitted by: Diamir Luehr (de Scally), First Nations Relations Advisor, Northeast Region

On February 13, 2019, over 30 public servants stood in solidarity to end violence against women and children at the Beaton Building in Fort St. John. In coordination with the Provincial Day of Gathering and Fasting, our Moose Hide Campaign event was a time and place for people to gather, to remember, and to support each other while hearing the first-hand experiences of courageous local Indigenous women. For many of those in the room, this was likely the first time they heard the first hand stories of those who have been impacted by violence against Indigenous women. It was a moving experience that emphasized the importance of the Moose Hide Campaign. Those that attended the event were also fortunate enough to learn about moose hide from Cindy Allen, a Treaty 8 member and Senior First Nations Relations Analyst. Cindy has shared her personal reflection on the event below.

"I was very pleased to be able to share my knowledge and understanding of the significance of moose and moose hide to Indigenous peoples in the north with my colleagues at FLNRORD. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have used moose and moose hide as a source of food and to make clothing, shelter, boats and tools as part of their daily lives. Men and women each had their roles in harvesting moose and tanning moose hides. I shared my personal collection of moose hide items with staff including a moose hide jacket, a beaded babybelt, purses, slippers, crafts and tanned hides. I also shared a step-by-step guide on tanning a moose hide in the traditional way of the Yellowknives Dene, a Treaty 8 Nation from the NWT. The tanning of a moose hide is a skill learned from elders that takes many weeks to do and is a valuable source of traditional knowledge for Indigenous peoples. I understand that our Moose Hide Campaign event held by FLNRORD and MIRR was the first time that local Indigenous members and an elder agreed to attend and participate. I was very pleased to be part of this and to help promote reconciliation with local Treaty 8 members and staff."

Events like the Moose Hide Campaign gathering are important and valuable ways to bring people together and support reconciliation. It was wonderful to see so many staff members from the Beaton Building participate.

Ensure you have the latest transformation buzz and subscribe to the NRTS newsletter by sending an email to nrpp@gov.bc.ca.

You can view previous NRTS newsletters here.

2nd Generation Ministry Member?

Are you a 2nd generation ministry member, or maybe a 3rd?
If you are, or know of someone who is, we would like to feature your story in *The Dirt*.
Please submit your suggested story to
FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca.

A New Home on the Range

Submitted by: Nicholas Johnson; Team Lead, Communications and Engagement for the Information, Innovation and Technology Division

Home, home on the range, where an iPad can now help cattle graze. Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word, about how new technology saves… time and effort among Range staff. Ok, ok, that last part didn't roll off of the tongue too easily, but that shouldn't deflect from this big news: MyRangeBC is now up and live!

You're not familiar with MyRangeBC? Pull up a chair, we'll fill you in!

MyRangeBC is a mobile and web-based application that digitizes the process for Range Use Plans (RUPs). Through a secure, single sign-on process (SSO) using BCeID, agreement holders can:

- Create a Range Use Plan (RUP).
- Use tools to assist with preparing an RUP.
    - Including an animal unit month (AUM) calculator for grazing schedules.
- Submit minor and mandatory amendments.
- View real-time status of RUPs and related amendments.
- Exchange secure messages with Range staff.
- Print RUPs or sections of one.
- Electronically sign RUPs.

The previous system was paper-based and considerable time and effort was spent on the process. There is over 34.9 million hectares of Crown rangeland currently under grazing and hay cutting agreements (that's over 65,000,000 football fields and over a third of all of BC!) so digitizing RUPs is going to save a ton of time for agreement holders and range staff.

Making administrative tasks more efficient will allow for users to leverage their energies elsewhere, on other priorities of the land they're working on.

The Range Branch is also working on future benefits: livestock movement reporting, adding range developments (mapping and authorizations) and stewardship data to this current setup. A benefit of the latter would be especially helpful during wildfire season. Currently, it's time consuming to confirm what cattle are grazing where and what land is free to move them to. Digitizing this information will mean decisions can be made quicker with less risk to animals and land.

Ranchers were involved with the early prototypes, they helped shape what MyRangeBC, and the strong leadership support was essential. A shout-out goes to Perry Grilz, Director of the Range Branch and long-time champion of this project and Lisa Moore, the project owner, for their incredible leadership. We can't leave out the development team who worked countless hours to ensure each click, scroll and button worked properly.

Now that you're familiar with the MyRangeBC application you can hopefully see it's delivering great value today and looks to continue to deliver value and innovation in the future to all of those who are home, home on the range.

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For more information email MyRangeBC@gov.bc.ca.

Searching for grouse nests on Haida Gwaii

Submitted by: Berry Wijdeven, SAR Biologist, West Coast Region

The news that birds nest in trees won`t come as a shock to most people but it did come as a surprise to the research team studying Haida Gwaii Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*). Sooty grouse aren't supposed to nest in trees. They are ground nesters just like all the members in their extended family, which includes dusky grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and even ptarmigan. Their nests consist of shallow depressions on the ground, lined with some plant material. It isn't much to look at but evolutionarily it seems to be working.

The Sooty Grouse research team which includes Louise Waterhouse and Melissa Todd of Coast Area Research, FLNRORD, and Frank Doyle of Wildlife Dynamics came to join me on Haida Gwaii to try and figure out why the local grouse population appeared to have declined. Sooty Grouse are an important prey item of the Haida Gwaii Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*), an Endangered Species at Risk of management concern. To get some answers, we put radio collars on 170 grouse in order to track the birds' movement patterns, seasonal habitat use and causes of mortality. After the first research season, and discovery of both depredated nests and nests in unusual locations, we honed in on the fact that what was happening at those nest sites might be of crucial importance to understand population dynamics. Now it was "just" a matter of locating more nests.

In theory this is fairly simple. When the radio signal from a female grouse indicates she hasn't moved for a few days, it's a good bet she is nesting. Follow the radio signal until it becomes really strong and the grouse will be close. Very close. That doesn't mean, however, that the nest is now easy to locate. The grouse and the nest are well camouflaged, often hidden amid dense vegetation. And the birds won't budge from the nest unless you physically touch them, which is the last thing you want to do to a nesting grouse.

Over time, however, working with the local field crews, we became pretty good at finding the nests, locating them generally within a few minutes after arriving on site. Until the day we didn't. After walking in on a potential nest location, the field crew carefully, intensively surveyed the forest floor, this time coming up empty despite the strong radio signal. Sure, there had been previous instances where the nest was so well hidden that it had taken a sustained search. But they had always found the nest.

It wasn't until one of the crew members looked up into the forest canopy that he found himself eye to eye with a suspicious grouse staring down at him. Well, this was different; a tree nesting grouse. This was something never before reported—Ever. What an interesting anomaly! Except for the fact that it wasn't an anomaly; as the study continued we found other grouse nesting in trees, using large mossy, limbs as platforms or snuggled in the fork of the branches at the tree bole. They weren't just nesting in trees but also on tall tree stumps, cliffs, suspended logs, the tops of giant root wads, and wood waste piles. If grouse are supposed to nest exclusively on the ground that news has evidently not travelled to Haida Gwaii. The research team is currently analyzing the data hoping to figure out why the birds have adopted this newly discovered behaviour. Is it to evade predators? To get away from the wet understory? Hopefully the data will tell. For now, the research team treasures their experiences studying this species. And they say grouse are boring.…

One Marsh is Worth Millions of Dollars in Stormwater Management

Submitted by: Karen Wipond, Conservation Lands Specialist, Wildlife and Habitat Branch

Research at Buttertubs Marsh has demonstrated the conservation land's immense financial value for stormwater control. The study was part of a pioneering effort in five Canadian communities by the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) to better understand the stormwater management values of natural lands and water systems.

Buttertubs Marsh is a 17-hectare wetland located two kilometres from downtown Nanaimo. Its shallow waters and mix of vegetation like cattail, hummocks, willow and pond lily provide important habitat for many at-risk species including herons, purple martins, trumpeter swans, turkey vultures, short-eared owl and painted turtles. Owned by The Nature Trust of BC, the site is leased to and cooperatively managed with FLNRORD through the West Coast Conservation Land Management Program. Ducks Unlimited Canada has also done habitat restoration work in the former agricultural area that in total includes 55 hectares of floodplain.

Through hydrological analyses and structured scenario modelling, scientists found that Buttertubs Marsh currently provides stormwater storage and flood-regulation benefits comparable to engineered infrastructures that would cost $4 million to build. When different climate change scenarios were considered, the value increased to $8 million.

Thomas Reid, manager of the West Coast Conservation Land Management Program, was involved with the research, and he says that when a dollar figure finally emerged, "It was a bit of a 'Holy cow!' moment for us. It's a pretty overwhelming number." It's commonly known that protected lands and habitats can provide many important ecosystem services in the face of drought, wildfire, flooding and other extreme conditions. However, Reid says, "This study demonstrated what a lot of us have long believed and tried to communicate—but did it with solid science and economic analysis."

On the MNAI website, study co-author Michelle Molnar noted that the value of natural wetlands actually increases over time because they "tend to be more flexible, cost-effective and easier to adaptively manage." Unlike pipes, for example, ponds and creeks can flex and compress as needed. Furthermore, there are no up-front or long-term replacement costs, and no depreciation over time. "The full value of the natural assets is likely much higher," wrote Molnar. https://mnai.ca/natural-asset-management-is-proving-its-value-in-the-field/

The City of Nanaimo's environmental planner, Rob Lawrance, lightheartedly told the *Nanaimo News Bulletin* that, during important decisions on infrastructure, the City's finance staff previously "wouldn't even let me in the room." However, he said, the study has changed attitudes, and not only in Nanaimo. "It's just not conventionally considered as part of financing or accounting practice, but there are other communities that are starting to look at this now." https://www.bclocalnews.com/news/nanaimo-adds-up-the-value-of-natural-infrastructure/

continued...

One Marsh is Worth Millions of Dollars in Stormwater Management continued...

"The fact that the research was taken seriously by Nanaimo's municipal engineering department has been validating and encouraging," comments Reid. The municipality already invests in Buttertubs Marsh, but Reid hopes that this commitment could soon become permanently incorporated into the municipality's annual budgeting for infrastructure and asset management.

The full MNAI Report on Buttertubs Marsh can be found here: https://mnai.ca/media/2018/07/MNAI_Nanaimo-Final.pdf
For more information on the FLNRORD Conservation Lands Program, see:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/habitat/conservation-lands/

Worker Safety Check-In Project

Submitted by: Tedi Bezna, Client Relations Coordinator, Information, Innovation and Technology Division

The Worker Safety Check-In (WSCI) Project is making strides in its implementation across the province! Worker Safety Check-In is the new province-wide safety monitoring solution for all FLNRORD field workers, using the BC Wildfire Service Fire Centre dispatch staff and SafetyLine software for safety check-ins and emergency response.

WSCI project team members have been travelling throughout the province providing training and support to FLNRORD field staff, and three of the six Fire Centre Regions are currently live and using the solution with great success! Coastal, Kamloops, and Prince George regions are currently using the new solution for their check-ins, and the Southeast region is currently undergoing their training and preparation. Cariboo and Northeast regions will be onboarded at the end of this year's fire season, with the entire province fully utilizing the solution by the end of 2019.

As a part of the WSCI Project, the dispatch systems in all six Fire Centres around the province have been updated by the radio communications team with the latest version of the dispatch application, along with the latest audio routing. The upgrade of these systems allows us to better utilize our current infrastructure and provides the radio communications team with flexibility to set up a new dispatch station anywhere in the province. The capabilities of these systems gives the ministry countless opportunities to enhance and ensure safety of all personnel much more efficiently.

If you have any questions regarding the Worker Safety Check-In Project, feel free to reach out to WSCIProjectTeam@gov.bc.ca or visit the WSCI SharePoint Site.

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

Don't forget about the Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/

A New Public Provincial Mushroom Picking Reference Map

Submitted by: Jonathan Murkin, Senior Authorizations Technologist, Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District

After a wildfire occurs in an area, wild mushrooms are often the first signs of life to return. Commonly, many of the first mushrooms to appear are fire morels which are highly sought after by many private and commercial mushroom pickers. As morels have a short growing period and are considered a delicacy in restaurants worldwide, harvesting them is a multimillion-dollar industry.

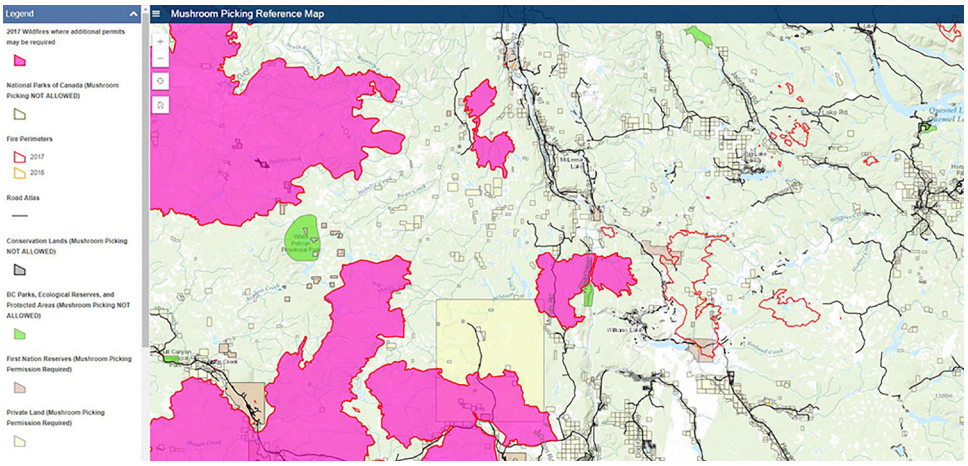
With the expansive wildfire activity that occurred in 2017, our Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District (DOS) office was expecting a higher than average number of mushroom pickers looking for information regarding local wildfires for the 2018 picking season. At the time, the DOS mushroom picking information dated back to the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park wildfire and hadn't been updated since. Seeing this, we reached out to the other districts in our area to see if there were any opportunities to collaborate on updating our information. We learned that a new provincial mushroom picking website and printable resources were being developed at a provincial level.

One of the challenges of mushroom picking is to ensure that picking doesn't occur in areas where it is restricted (e.g. national parks) or without permission in areas such as private land or First Nation reserve lands. After the fires of 2017, new areas were also introduced within the Caribou where mushroom picking was seasonally restricted or where permits through local First Nations would be required. The new provincial mushroom picking website linked to iMap and the Explore Tool as spatial resources for the public, but we proposed that a more comprehensive spatial tool would be a great addition to the provincial resources. We envisioned a new map that would be easy to use while also showing the most relevant information without having to add it manually. With this in mind, we developed an ArcGIS Online provincial mushroom picking map that shows the most recent fire boundaries, restricted areas, seasonal closure areas and where special permits are required across the province. This new map has been posted publically and has been added to the provincial mushroom picking website. The map will be updated each winter with the most recent fire boundaries as well with any new areas where mushroom picking is restricted or a permit is required. If there are any new areas within the province that should be added to the map, please email jonathan.murkin@gov.bc.ca.

We hope that our interactive map will be a powerful tool that will help mushroom pickers continue to benefit from this unique resource while also respecting the environment, First Nations and stakeholders across the province. Links to the interactive mushroom picking reference map and information website are below:

Map: https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/SimpleViewer/index.html?appid=73bb4f9638384fb7aa25e3717dfe380d

Provincial information website: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/crown-land/crown-land-uses/mushroom-picking



Selkirk District Stewardship Team Wins "2018 Chief Forester & ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Stewardship Monitoring"

Authors: Kristine Sacenieks and Diane Millar (submitted by: D. Millar, Resource Technician)

The Selkirk District Stewardship Program was awarded the, **"2018 Chief Forester & ADM of Operations Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring,"** at the FREP 2019 Continuous Improvement session in Victoria on January 29, 2019.

In 2010, Arrow-Boundary, Columbia (Revelstoke-Golden), and Kootenay Lake Districts, were amalgamated into one, becoming the Selkirk Resource District. Therefore, the Selkirk District now covers 5 TSA's. It is comprised of remote, mountainous geography, and several large lakes with ferry crossings, all of which make traveling an adventure in itself!
The 2018 field season was the one for the record books. Not only did we maintain status quo for the mandatory FREP sampling assessments for Stand Level Biodiversity, Riparian, Water Quality, and Visual Quality, but the district also committed to completing Stand Development Monitoring (SDM) Version 2.0 in the Kootenay Lake and Golden TSA's. This required completing an additional 60 samples! It was a significant workload increase and required a commitment from the entire team, with 'all hands on deck.' It also entailed substantial expense in time and money. The Team spent $5,000/week on travel and 45 days in hotels throughout the summer. In spite of the many hours and kilometres of driving, we had no reported injuries or near misses. Everyone arrived home safe.

Prior to SDM field sampling, the Team consulted with the SDM Resource Value Team Lead, Forest Health Researchers, and Inventory staff to ensure our sampling efforts will produce results that are meaningful and can be incorporated into the upcoming Timber Supply Reviews for Kootenay Lake and Golden.

Once we confirmed our target population, (Pli leading >40% in the ICH, 15-50 years old) it was already quite late into the field season. The first day on the ground was June 26th and the last November 1st. Although we were beaten out by weather we managed to complete 53 of the 60 samples we committed to; and we will finish the remaining ones in 2019.

The Selkirk Stewardship Team is grateful for the recognition and would like to thank the following folks for their efforts –Barry Snowdon, FREP SDM lead, Michael Murray, Regional Forest Pathologist, Rhian Davies, Timber Supply Geomatics Forester, Wes VanCamp, Co-op from Selkirk College, Chris Mulvihill, Inventory Forester, and the endorsement of our Manager and Expense Authority, Kurt Huettmeyer.

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest Dirt, please contact Michelle Larstone, provide her with your email and she will add you to the retiree's email distribution list.

You can contact Michelle directly at Michelle.Larstone@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our Facebook page!

Species and Ecosystems Information Systems Modernization

Submitted by: Tedi Bezna, Client Relationship Coordinator

We are excited to introduce the Species and Ecosystems Information Systems Modernization Initiative (SEISM), a five-year initiative to improve species and ecosystems management in BC through investments in more accessible, reliable, and integrated data and information.

SEISM is being implemented in response to the significant challenges that of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) staff currently face with many outdated information systems. Many are not user-friendly, others are redundant with other systems, and most do not provide the flexibility or the tools needed by provincial staff to support their work. These challenges contribute to data silos and significant loss of valuable data about our natural resources, as more and more of the data collected is not captured by corporate information systems.

The first SEISM technical sub-project to be funded is the Invasive Species Project, which is led by the FLNRORD Range Branch. Through this project, a new information system will be built to replace the Invasive Alien Plant Program application and capture information about all invasive species (not just plants) to help with species monitoring and tracking treatments. One goal is to make it much easier to enter and capture data from the field, including for non-profit organizations and other stakeholders outside of provincial staff.

The SEISM initiative is pursuing a modernized and more integrated approach to sharing and using ecosystems and inventory information. SEISM will be actioned through technical projects that enhance, update, or replace outdated or siloed information systems currently used to manage species and ecosystems. In addition to playing a lead role in identifying and prioritizing the needs of operations staff, business areas will also contribute to the design of technological tools, to ensure the tools meet the needs and expectations of those using them.

SEISM is a joint initiative of FLNRORD and ENV, and has approximately $6 million in capital funding from the Office of the Chief Information Officer. A cross-ministry nine-member Steering Committee is charged with overseeing project investments and an eight-member Project Team supports the day-to-day management of the initiative.

The SEISM Project Team will be visiting all eight natural resource regions in the province during the spring of 2019 to learn first-hand about the needs of staff and discuss opportunities to address them. For more information about SEISM or to ensure you receive an invitation to a regional workshop, contact Tammy Dekens, SEISM Project Manager: 250 413-7232 or Tammy.Dekens@gov.bc.ca.

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

Don't forget about the Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/

Interested in reading past newsletters?

You can find archived ministry newsletters dating all the way back to 1922 at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HEX/external/!publish/Web/News_Letters/

We hope you enjoy reading about the past!

Up for the Challenge

Submitted by: Cait Miles, Senior Writer, BC Wildfire Service

When confronted with 2,000+ wildfires each year, the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) needs wildfire fighters who are up for the challenge. Long hours, extreme conditions and plenty of hard work are a definite in this job, but so are making strong, lifelong connections with fellow fire crew members.

Sound like something you or someone you know might be interested in? Well here's how the BCWS wildfire fighter hiring process works.

The three-phase process begins with between 1000 to 1500 wildfire fighter applications being received each year for available positions ranging from 100 for a low year, to over 200 for a high turnover year. Candidates use preferred qualifications outlined on the BCWS website to demonstrate their skills, fitness level, academic achievements and forestry experience using detailed examples.

With a focus on continuous improvement, the BCWS has recently expanded these preferred qualifications. This expansion includes volunteer fire fighter, small engine mechanics and trades experience. The purpose being to broaden the scope of skills and experiences deemed applicable to wildfire fighting, allowing more prospective applicants to apply.

The second phase is designed to test candidates physical and verbal communications skills, with a 20-metre shuttle run fitness test and an interview consisting of behavioural competencies, situational and technical questions relating to fire fighting.

Top scoring candidates in the interview and fitness assessment phase then attend the New Recruit Boot Camp (NRBC). This one-week long boot camp teaches courses such as wilderness survival, fire line communications, incident command system, burning off and backfiring.

Hannah Swift, a 2017/2018 Initial Attack Crew Member, describes her experience at boot camp as "a great opportunity to engage with experienced BCWS staff and new recruits in a supportive, yet challenging learning environment". Hannah said that NRBC not only provided her with "practical skills and knowledge required to succeed in a real fire environment, but also lasting friendships and connections with like-minded people".

continued...

Up for the Challenge continued

Successful boot camp candidates are then offered a position on one of the fire crews in the province, where they can expect to work from May until August, with the chance of being offered an extension depending on the fire conditions and activity.

With first hand experience, Hannah recommends wildfire fighting to those who might be interested in applying. "The genuine comradery, dynamic challenges and meaningful opportunities are hard to beat" she said with a smile across her face!

Ryan Chandler, Communications and Community Engagement Co-op Student

As someone who has lived in Abbotsford for the last 21 years, moving to Smithers was a big adjustment. Before arriving on February 11th, I had no idea that Smithers was a ski town! I was stoked knowing the hill was only 30 minutes away from my basement suite. So, on my second weekend here, I bought all new ski gear head-to-toe. Well to make a long story short, I got 10 minutes of use on my skis before crashing and losing one of them. The 1.5-hour walk down the mountain gave me some time to recollect and think of what I could have done differently. With three feet of powder on the ground, one of those thoughts was about snowshoes. Tired and grumpy, I arrive at the bottom of the hill, only to realize I went down the wrong side of the mountain to the chairlift. Skipping ahead to taking off my boots in my truck, I was certain this week couldn't get any worse. Jumping forward to today, I am not driving that truck anymore… or any vehicle. But even after all this, I still love Smithers. Working for FLNRORD has given me a new appreciation for the environment and the people who work to protect it. Whether it be the biologists tracking caribou or the land use planners negotiating with First Nations communities, everyone has gone out of their way to help me adjust to the North.

I am a Communications and Community Engagement Co-op student working with Skeena Regional Initiatives. Taking on any project/assignment that is thrown at me, I find myself laughing at all the permanent employees who still need to complete the mandatory online-training that I finished on my first day. My greatest takeaway from FLNRORD is that the career I choose down the road must allow me to travel and see the world (preferably somewhere warm). However, if the place is a cold as Smithers, it would need to have a brewery.

JOLT? Don't you mean JALT?

Submitted by: Justine Hunse, Communications Officer, South Area

If you work in regional operations, you may have heard the new acronym 'JOLT' floating around lately. In short, JOLT (Joint Operational Leadership Team) is an evolution of JALT (Joint Area Leadership Team).

The longer explanation is that recent changes in our organizational structure have brought about the shift from JALT to JOLT. It's worth taking a moment to gain a sense of what this seemingly subtle change is and what it means for our work—after all, two-thirds of our ministry staff fall under the JOLT umbrella (or 3500+ of us around BC).

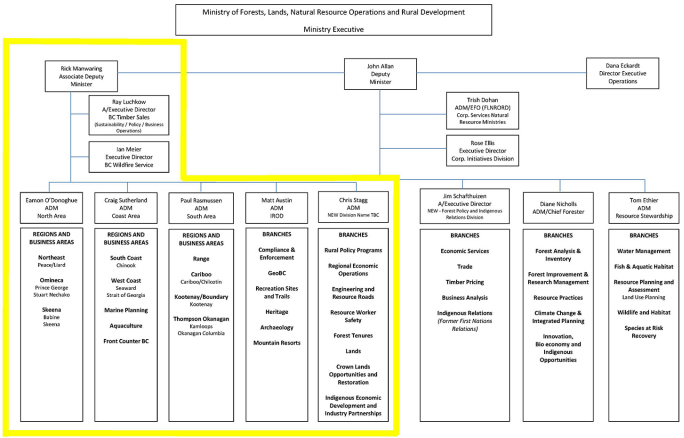
In recent months, the organizational shifts of Integrated Resource Operations Division (IROD) and BC Timber Sales as well as the creation of a new division under Chris Stagg (name TBC) completed the aggregation of what is now Operations under Associate Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring. Operations led by the newly formed JOLT and includes:

- BC Timber Sales – A/Executive Director Ray Luchkow (as of Feb 2019)
- New division name TBC – ADM Chris Stagg (as of Feb 2019)
- IROD (Integrated Resource Operations Division) ADM Matt Austin (as of Nov 2018)
- BCWS (BC Wildfire Service) – A/Executive Director Ian Meier
- North Area - ADM Eamon O'Donoghue
- Coast Area – ADM Craig Sutherland
- South Area – ADM Paul Rasmussen

This positive change sets Operations up for more of the following types of opportunities:

- Increased work flow integration between divisions;
- A continued focus on people development and strengthening of our culture;
- Greater engagement in policy development and readiness for implementation;
- Innovation and continuous improvement of the processes of the land manager;
- Improved procedure and guidance to maximize decision making at the program level;
- Increased alignment of capacity and priorities; and
- Collaborative leadership.

The yellow box below depicts the new Operations component of FLNRORD. Follow link to org chart: https://gww.nrs.gov.bc.ca/flnrord/files/flnrord/media/organization_charts/ministry_exec.pdf



So, what's next regarding our ministry's recent structural changes? As Deputy Minister John Allan stressed during the February 28 all staff call, "I want to emphasize that the big changes have now been done… what's next, in a nutshell, is continuing to streamline and focus on our business… what we need to do is connect the dots on the land base." To this, Associate Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring added, "Our intention when we put this together was not to be overly prescriptive… what we hope to see next is for the teams to think about how we can approach the opportunities with this new organizational model". Our newly integrated teams have begun to put those wheels in motion and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of their work at JOLT.

Curious to learn more? Click here to watch the February 28 all staff call.

Dan LeClerc Tournament Results

Submitted by: Jessica M. Gunn, RPF, Area Forester, BC Timber Sales - Clearwater Field Team

Well the 16th Annual Dan LeClerc tournament has come to an end. This year had a whopping 12 teams participating in the tournament in the beautiful Clearwater. Teams ranged from Smithers down to Castlegar and everywhere in between. There were others interested as well and I'm sorry it had to get capped at 12.

Friday started early in the afternoon to get everybody in to play their first game that night, it was also the pizza social for everyone to catch up on the previous year's antics and escapades. Buzzing noises filled the arena early Saturday morning with hockey smells filling the air.

Saturday night had a live band at the local bar and many talents were seen that night as people took to the stage to perform their best moves and sing along.

Sunday morning the dreaded finals took place.

- The Pylons vs BCTS Okanagan was an interesting game minus one goalie. Substitute the tooter shooter in net and we have a game again with BCTS Okanagan taking the win.
- Game 2 of the day saw the battle of Williams Lake happen – Cariboo Cluster Pucks vs Williams Lake District/BCTS with Cluster Pucks coming out on top.
- Game 3 was battled out between Kamloops Axemen and Southeast Fire Center with Southeast Fire Center coming out victorious.
- Game 4 was a battle down to the wire between Penticton Fire Center (Yes I know it is a zone but they grew for the tournament) and Cascades. In the dying minute of a 1 goal game a penalty shot was awarded to Penticton. This could tie it up for all the glory… But that didn't' happen and Cascades pulls out the win.
- Game 5 battle of the Fire centers – Kamloops vs Prince George. Another rumble in the Sportsplex, which saw Kamloops come out on top of PG.
- The finals (Game 6 or 24) of the day saw Cariboo Fire Center Originals(CFCO) vs Northwest Fire Center (NWFC) from Smithers. The game was tight for the first period but the NWFC ended up taking the cup in the end. It was a great game by both teams showing some great competitive skills.

I'm looking forward to a break next year and hope to enjoy some fun in the sun in Penticton for the 17th Annual Dan LeClerc tournament. Hope to see you all there again!

NOTICE

48th ANNUAL

ALEXIS CREEK BC TRAPSHOOT

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE LONGEST RUNNING FOREST SERVICE EVENT!

It'll be a BLAST!

When: May 25th 2019

Where: Alexis Creek Rifle Range

Why: To carry on a great Forest Service tradition!

How: in Teams of 5 or individually

Events:

- *T-Shirt design contest – You could be famous – entries by April 4th-contact Brian Rosengren for more details (250) 394-4710*
- *Dinner Saturday evening*
  - *Beans, Salads and fixins' provided - Bring your own meat*
  - *Cost included for shooters*
  - *$5.00ea for additional adults $3.00 for kids*
- *Breakfast - Saturday (by donation, proceeds to A.C. Rod & Gun Club Range), Concession available - Saturday*
- *Practice rounds until 10:30am Saturday (or completion)*
- *Main Event > 25 shots, 15 trap – 10 skeet, best team score*
- *Annie Oakley - $5.00ea/round 1st round proceeds to Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Fund; 2nd round 50/50*
- *.22 Shoots – Ladies: $5.00 Kids: Free*

◆ T-Shirts: Included with entry (extras $20.00 ea) ◆

◆ Cost: $34.00/Shooter $170.00/Team BEFORE May 24th (Team registration form must be completed no money in advance required)

****Cost Increases to $39.00/Shooter $195.00/Team after May 24th, 2019****

◆ Entry includes one box of shells/entry. Additional shells $10.00/box, $5.00 for practice round if you have your own shells(for clay targets).◆

◆ Free Camping available on site Friday and Saturday ◆

>>>> Visiting team door prize donations welcome <<<<

For information contact: Brian Rosengren (250) 394-4710,
Harold Stolar (250) 398-4400 or Jason Kerley (250) 398-4689

48th ANNUAL BC ALEXIS CREEK TRAP SHOOT ENTRY FORM

TRAPSHOOT REGISTRATION FORM

The Dirt Photographers!

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

Categories

Photos 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: FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca
- The contest is open to all ministry employees and retirees.
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of 5 images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos; please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

Prize Inventory

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send The Dirt Advisory Group your ideas!

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 the ministry and category fit;
- The winner of the "Best" image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo (see Prizes available);
- 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 ministry 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 dpi and preferably in a JPG format and sent to FLNRNews@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 is to be included – category or image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter or potential other sources (The Dirt Facebook account)

For further information, contact:
FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS JUNE 21, 2019.

March Edition Photo Contest Winners

Wildlife Category - Mile202 road; Alaska highway area. The way the snow fell on the bushes, caught my eye as it looked like a caribou/deer.
Photo taken by: Johnson Ginger, RFT, Engineering Specialist–BCTS, Northeast Region

Have a photo for the next "Photo Contest?" Review the contest guidelines and send to *The Dirt* Advisory Group!

Scenic/Workplace Category - Farwell Canyon often on way to BCTS's Gaspard operating area. Those who work out of Williams Lake know it well! This photo was taken in October and was one of my first times seeing just how beautiful the Chilcotin river is!

Photo taken by: Emily Campbell, Forest Technician - Planning, BC Timber Sales
Cariboo/Chilcotin Business Area

Photographers, please contact the Advisory Group to claim your prize or contact Sonia Donison directly.

BERG'S EYE VIEW by Shane Berg

The Dirt is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former employees.

Sonia Donison is providing management, coordination and production for the newsletter. Questions or comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sonia at 778 974-5834 or via email.

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of the newsletter 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 778 974-5834 or via email about their idea or ideas for an article prior to writing the story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition (March, June, September, December). Article deadlines for the next edition is June 21, 2019.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES