



Research Program Receives Achievement Award

Submitted by: Shane Berg, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester

The Research Program – of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development of British Columbia has been selected by the Canadian Institute of Forestry/ Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) as the 2019 recipient of the Canadian Forest Management Group Achievement Award.

This Award recognizes the outstanding achievements by teams or groups of managers in the field of natural resource management related activities in Canada. The Research Program's long history of high-quality research to inform forestry policies/practices that support sustainable forest management in British Columbia made it truly deserving of this honor.



Advisory Group Vision:

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

September 2019

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The Dirt Contents, September 2019

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Remembering Rodger Stewart



Rodger was a legendary member of the Cariboo Regional Management Team who passed away suddenly in August 2019.

He was larger than life and had a voice and presence that filled the room. He delivered his programs with unwavering dedication and passion not only to the work he did, but to the staff he supervised and those who supported him in his roles. Rodger was famous for picking up a task and producing a product within days of starting it. He followed every assignment through to the end and was always willing to take on more and share his knowledge. He was fond of taking new directors, managers and supervisors under his wing. Rodger wasn't afraid to reach out to the "new kids on the block" and offer himself as a support for whatever endeavour they were on.

He was a dedicated and proud husband, father and grandfather. Over his career, his passion for his community and the BC Public Service was unmatched by anyone.

Rodger will be greatly missed!



Rugby players about to hold a fun scrimmage in Rodger's honour.



Recreation Youth Crews: Making a Difference

Submitted by: Kelsey Knoll, Recreation Technician, Columbia Shuswap District



RSTBC partners include not-for-profit recreation groups, First Nations, and local governments, among others.

"...the energetic support from the recreation youth crew was a breath of fresh air—they were positive, focused and hardworking. We are very grateful for this opportunity." Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA).

Recreation sites and trails in the Columbia Basin in southeastern BC are getting a helping hand from an enthusiastic group of recreation youth crews. The youth crews are part of a strategic effort to focus recreation site and trail investments on improving the condition of existing sites and trails within the Basin, many of which are facing increasing pressure from high public demand and limited ministry resources.

The Recreation Youth Crew Program was co-developed by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust). Under this partnership, the Trust funding primarily covers wages for the post-secondary students between the ages of 18-25 and materials, while RSTBC oversees the delivery and administration of the program.

The youth crews are maintaining infrastructure at remote user-maintained sites and trails and supporting RSTBC partners in maintaining high-use trails managed under partnership agreements. While enhancing the recreation user experience in the Columbia Basin, participating students are receiving summer employment, skills development, and experience in recreation and natural resource management to help further their education and perhaps even launch their careers.

In the first year of this three to five-year project, 13 students were split into three crews operating in the Kootenay-Boundary, Rocky Mountain, and Columbia-Shuswap Recreation Districts. Work began

on May 21 and will continue until August 30 for a total of 15 weeks of employment. Each crew has a designated leader and three or four crew members working on a wide variety of projects, including trail maintenance, site and trail inspections, data collection, and table, fire ring, outhouse, and sign installations.

Prior to heading out into the field, all youth crew members received basic training on ministry standard operating procedures, occupational first aid, wildfire suppression and safety, trail building and maintenance principles, infrastructure maintenance protocols, and operating chainsaws. Partners, contractors and RSTBC staff provide additional on-the-ground training by sharing their wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience with the students.

I am excited over the success of the youth crews over such a short period of time. "Our community partners have been very happy with the level of commitment of the students. Site operators, local trail societies, and the BC Wildfire Service have all said the youth crews are great to work with—their enthusiasm, hard work, and willingness to learn creates a synergy that spurs everyone involved to reach a common goal."

The recreation youth crews are already playing a valuable role in maintaining safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities in the Columbia Basin, and are proving to be an important asset in the Province's Recreation Sites and Trails Program.

continued...

Recreation Youth Crews continued...



As for the students themselves, they are gaining valuable skills in leadership, problem solving, group dynamics, teamwork, and independence, while earning an income to continue their studies and gaining operational field experience that may one day lead to their dream job with RSTBC or another natural resource management employer.

Aquatic Species at Risk in the Similkameen Watershed

Submitted by: Ryan Whitehouse, Aquatic Ecologist, South Area, Kamloops

Located in British Columbia's beautiful Southern Interior, the Similkameen watershed represents the northwestern extent of the Columbia River watershed. The watershed is home to several rare and at-risk fish species, including the Columbia Sculpin (*Cottus hubbsi*) and the Umatilla Dace (*Rhinichthys umatilla*). In an effort to gain a better understanding of the current status and extent of these species an inventory program was funded through the Province's Land Based Investment Strategy.



The project presented a wonderful opportunity for Provincial Staff to work in partnership with several First Nation Bands and organizations on meaningful and interesting Species at Risk work. All participants learned and honed their fish identification and fish sampling skills together over the course of the project and were treated to some of the province's most impressive scenery. In the end, the project was successful in identifying and sampling several species of interest, including locating one previously undocumented population of Umatilla Dace.

The next stage of the project will involve the development of environmental DNA primers for the Species at Risk, which will allow for less invasive and more comprehensive sampling in the future. Ultimately it is hoped that this improved understanding will contribute to improved management and accelerated recovery of these species in the Similkameen watershed.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the knowledge and hard work provided by all parties. The Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Scw'exmx Tribal Council and Esh-kn-am Cultural Resource Management all contributed valuable knowledge and tireless effort during the sampling and planning. Regional FLNRORD fisheries experts from Penticton and University of British Columbia, provided years of experience and tools vital to the success. Lastly, the FLNRORD First Nations Advisors, who worked diligently to make the proper connections, helped to ensure the success of this collaborative project.

BC Timber Sales: Fostering Community Connections and Building Relationships

Submitted by: Christi Howes



Two cedar welcome figures at A:yelexw Centre for Hope and Healing on Seabird Island now stand next to the doors of the men's and women's recovery homes at the centre. Each figure is approximately four feet high and was carved by inmates at the Mission Correctional Institution. The cedar log used for the carvings was located by BC Timber Sales.

The two figures, a man and a woman, welcome all who enter the male and female recovery homes with open palms. The A:yelexw (Halq'emeylem, meaning "in good health") centre provides a home-like environment to support Indigenous adults 19 years and older overcoming complex addictions and mental health concerns. Support is provided through traditional healing of the spirit, mind and body.

In 2018, during a meeting with former BC Timber Sales Timber Sales Manager Kerry Grozier, Chief Clem Seymour asked if BCTS had access to a cedar log suitable for the carving project. Grozier then connected with Tzeachten First Nation member Matt Wealick, who was able to provide the log from his traditional land.

On April 10, BC Timber Sales staff were invited to attend the ceremonial dedication of the welcoming figures at the centre, and in-coming Timber Sales Manager Stacey Gould received a blanket in recognition of the Chinook business area's involvement. Successfully locating and delivering the cedar log for the artists to carve was a collaborative effort and the result of strong relationship building practices within the community and among the groups involved.

The Seabird Island First Nation is a leader in the province for providing a community-based recovery opportunity, so residents are able to heal without going too far from their families, their culture and their homes. Each of the men's and women's homes at the centre have 13 beds. The Seabird Island Band is only one of three First Nation communities in the province with recovery homes on their land. The program includes mental health and substance use counselling, detox support, fitness and recreation, group sessions, career training, family support and traditional practices like cedar brushing, drumming, sweats and medicine walk. Residents have access to employment support and education at Seabird College, where many work on upgrading. In addition, councillors, physicians, pharmacists and other health care workers are available, most of whom are First Nations.

Seabird Island is located in the Fraser River just east of Agassiz, British Columbia. Most of the island is the Seabird Island Indian Reserve and is the community of the Seabird Island First Nation, a member government and of the Stó:lō Tribal Council. Thanks to all who contributed to the carving project's success.

Submitted by: J. Scott Yaeger, MSc, RPBio, Fisher Conservation Program Lead, Resource Stewardship Division

User-Friendly Approaches to Conserve Fisher Habitat



BC FISHER HABITAT
WORKING GROUP



Forest management has the single largest anthropogenic effect on the sustainability of fisher habitat in British Columbia.

In areas where habitat is modified faster than it can re-grow, research indicates that fisher occupancy declines. Recognizing that opportunities exist during all phases of forest management to make decisions that can positively affect the supply of habitat for fishers, researchers and managers from across BC formed the BC Fisher Habitat Working Group to develop approaches that can help forest managers meet fisher habitat stewardship obligations in their operations.

The Working Group has an explicit goal to Conserve, recruit, and enhance sufficient habitat at all spatial scales to sustain populations of fishers distributed throughout their historical range in British Columbia. To achieve this goal, Working Group biologists have distilled 25 years of BC-specific fisher research into user-friendly tools targeting role-specific decisions made by forestry practitioners and other “habitat influencers” who affect the supply of habitat throughout the province.

With financial support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Peace, the Working Group provides workshops and support to build capacity among habitat influencers throughout BC. We work directly with those who will be using the tools to ensure they are understood and applicable. We developed a user-friendly website [<http://www.bcfisherhabitat.ca/>] to allow for easy access to information and updates and even a six-minute video overview [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odi94Ues20s&t=7s>] to help users get started.



Managing Forest Resources?

Are you using the best available information to help with your decisions? Find tools and help @ WWW.BCfisherhabitat.ca

Featured Items

- Spatial data
- Retention targets
- Field guides
- Training

...and working in fisher habitat?



Whether you are a planner, on a layout crew, or a feller-buncher operator, we have role-specific information to help you identify and decide what to do with fisher habitat.



Contact Rich Weir for more information at: Rich.Weir@gov.bc.ca

We need your help to build solutions that work for both forestry and fishers to curb the decline of this species in British Columbia. By using these voluntary tools in your forest management decisions, we together may be able to reduce the risk of additional regulatory requirement if BC fishers were to become federally listed. So please take a few moments of your time to visit the website, try out our tools, and contact us with your ideas on how we can help better incorporate fisher habitat needs into forestry operations.

For additional information or questions about the Fisher Habitat Working Group, please visit <http://www.bcfisherhabitat.ca/> or contact Scott.Yaeger@gov.bc.ca or Rich.Weir@gov.bc.ca.



Crown Contaminated Sites Program – Recipient of the BC Mine Reclamation Award for Outstanding Reclamation Achievement in 2018 (Metal Mine Category)

Submitted by: David Coburn, A/Director, Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration Branch



On September 18th the BC Technical and Research Committee (TRCR) presented the Crown Contaminated Sites Program (CCSP) with a BC Mine Reclamation Award at the BC Mine Reclamation Symposium in Kimberley, BC.

“The Crown Contaminated Sites Program of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and AECOM Canada Ltd. received the Metal Mining Award for their installation of a water treatment system at the historic Atlin Ruffner mine site, located 28 kilometres northeast of Atlin, BC. This project is recognized “on the merit of conducting detailed closure planning, including comprehensive water quality and water balance modelling, and consideration of the site-specific limiting factors to reclamation,” notes Bailey. “Between the installation of the passive water treatment system and previous reclamation work done at the site, the area can now be used safely by wildlife and the public.”

The award recognized CCSP and its contractor (AECOM) for its remediation work at the Atlin Ruffner Mill and Tailings site, [see link to project description](#). The TRCR awards committee is comprised of members from academia, industry, and government (federal and provincial) and projects are evaluated on established criteria, including, innovative techniques, extent of land remediated, high remedial standards achieved, etc.

More about the CCSP:

- The CCSP is administered by the Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration Branch (ROTE, FLNRORD).
- The CCSP identifies and manages the remediation of contaminated sites to protect human health and the environment.
- It uses a science-based, risk-ranking methodology to confirm and prioritize sites that need remediation based on the risks they pose.
- Remediating contaminated sites on Crown land provides environmental, economic, cultural and social benefits across the province.

The CCSP staff who worked/continue to work on the file are:

- Joanna Runnells (Senior Contaminated Sites Expert)
- Lily Whitehead-Delong (Senior Contaminated Sites Specialist)
- Gregg Stewart (former Manager, CCSP)

The Story of a Stand-up Paddleboard

Submitted by: Kevin Vaughan, FIT, A. Ag, Authorizations Technologist, Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District



The latest thing everybody seems to want for summer water fun is a stand-up paddleboard. So, when I started the summer I didn't have one, nor was I willing to go and fork out the \$1200 for a new one. Ok so I could have purchased an inflatable paddleboard for cheaper, but with my luck it would fall apart on its first use. Then the question quickly became how am I going to get a paddleboard? A quick google search showed alternatives but a website and YouTube videos caught my eye of people building them from scratch—and the story of a stand-up paddleboard began...

First was to watch enough videos and read about people who have made paddleboards, so I have the basic idea and make my own. If you have ever built anything from videos, you know that they are NOT in real time. A five-minute video can take hours or even days. Luckily, one of the websites I found estimated it took him about 80 hours over the course of 2 months from start to finish. I guessed this was a somewhat realistic timeline.

Now I have a plan, build a paddleboard from scratch. A bit of an adventure to say the least. Now I must put a qualifier in here. If you have never built anything from a video or online research, use caution, and this probably isn't the project for you. In the past I have used YouTube videos to build various summer projects, repair lawn equipment and other small engines, wedding projects and just other how to do things. I do not watch 'cute' videos on YouTube, I watch how to or how NOT to (boat launch failure videos are just plain

entertaining), but most of the videos are in the how-to category. Also, in the summer evenings, I annually start a project that is a bit more aggressive, so I can be outside enjoying the warm weather at home, and with no shop or garage, this is about the only time when I can do it and not freeze. Past projects included building a canopy, building a greenhouse and garden, repairing trucks, cars, a lawn tractor and general yard maintenance and repair, all with the help of YouTube videos and the internet... with phone calls to friends or family when I got really stuck.

Enter 'the local shop'. Here is where you go down to almost every shop in town and try to track down things you need. For the paddleboard, the main components are: foam, fiberglass, resin, and paddleboard specific parts, but this is not a complete list. Here is where you also learn which shops in the local area are helpful and which ones aren't. It's a sad reality but looking for epoxy resin in 1.5-gallon containers and the shop can only refer me to the epoxy they have in their fancy little Gorilla glue products display in 100ml containers for about \$12 is not helpful. Then you get the shop that one shop that is really helpful and they order all the things you need and spend some time sourcing it. I'll be back to that shop time and time again.

Ok so when I spent about three weeks getting the foam and shaping it into a paddleboard, it was time to get the items the local shops won't have. So, I go on my favourite shopping website (amazon.ca) and source these, often with help from YouTube videos I watched prior to starting which told

continued...

Stand-Up Paddleboard continued...

me exactly what to search for. Now I needed some more time as good Canadian shipping on amazon gives a month (roughly) for things to get here. While I wait, the shape of the foam gets refined.

In every build project, there seems to be a topic I learn way more than I wanted to. In the paddleboard, it was two-part epoxy. This stuff comes in generally little tubes and I now understand why. It's expensive, the quantity I needed for a paddleboard demands large quantities, so now I have to find a company that supplies it in large quantities and will do what I need it to. Then there's learning how to apply it, how to fiberglass with it and most importantly, what not to do.

Now comes the test and fix phase. Down to the lake,

back home, tweak, wait for it to dry over the weekend, repeat. Often the most fun but also the most frustrating. The main question—why does it not perform as well as it does in my dreams? The sad but true answer—because I built it.

Finally, I painted and styled it. It is done, at least for now. It serves its purpose for my use—a simple stand-up paddleboard to take to the lake and fall off in the water or go for a cruise on. This part comes with joy and excitement, with the main part of the excitement being what should I search next to build? For me, the answer is simple—a stand-up paddleboard paddle and after that I move on to another project. I think for myself, I just like to create things!

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) values a culture that supports, and demonstrates the core value of employee, client and the public safety. We will be positively recognized as safety leaders by employees, clients and the public. In consideration of our mandate we will conduct our business in a manner that proactively prevents incident and injury for ourselves and others.

For more information on the FLNRORD Safety Management System, click on the safety symbol.



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!



Rehabilitation in action: same location over the course of (L to R): 2017, 2018, 2019

Wildfire Rehabilitation: FLNRORD Integration in Action

Submitted by: Kyle Miller (Rehabilitation Coordinator, Cariboo Region)

Justine Hunse (Communications Coordinator, South Area)

What happens after a wildfire is declared out? In short—rehabilitation work begins. FLNRORD staff undertake an array of activities to help the land base recuperate from the impacts of wildfire suppression. For example, streams are often disturbed by heavy equipment, requiring restoration to prevent unnecessary erosion.

Until 2019, the wildfire suppression rehabilitation program fell under the purview of BC Wildfire Service (BCWS). This year, the lead responsibility has begun a shift over to regional operations—a significant change for our ministry.

Instead of an abrupt handover, staff from BCWS and regional operations have been working together to ensure a smooth handover of the reins. Despite a change in lead responsibility, the program's future success will rely heavily on continued coordination between BCWS and regional operations to ensure that FLNRORD's obligations are met.

As part of this overlap, in June 2019, 34 rehabilitation leads from both BCWS and regional operations from across the province got together for a rehabilitation learning session in Williams Lake. Here are some highlights of the day:

- Networking opportunity for rehabilitation staff to build face-to-face connections (this is key for staff to feel supported with a transitioning program);
- Technical presentations from subject matter experts on how to develop local rehabilitation programs; and

- Review of the [Interim Standard Operating Guidelines \(SOG\) for Wildfire Suppression Rehabilitation](#) to provide clear roles/responsibilities (*new for 2019*).

What's next for the wildfire rehabilitation file? On December 3, 2019, personnel currently engaged in rehab across the province will meet at the Provincial Wildfire Training Centre in Merritt to debrief the 2019 field season. Highlighted topics will include:

- A quick summary of successes and challenges from across the Province of British Columbia;
- How to amend the current rehabilitation training program for internal staff and external contractors;
- Further development of educational resources and guidance for staff (possible SOG revisions, incorporate archaeology guidebook for rehabilitation that is currently being developed etc.); and
- Future steps to ensure a successful transition and continue ongoing coordination between BCWS and regional operations.

Feedback from this face-to-face meeting will help identify and build a community of practice that will re-evaluate the rehabilitation SOG and refine the training program and resources for 2020.

[Learn](#) more about the FLNRORD wildfire suppression rehabilitation program.

continued...

Wildfire Rehab continued...



Excavator ensuring that natural drainage patterns are maintained post-wildfire. Canim Lake Wildfire (Cariboo Fire Centre)

34 BCWS and regional operations from across B.C. participate in a wildfire suppression rehabilitation training session, Williams Lake, June 2019



FLNRORD Research Program – Brief Summary of Achievements – South Area

Submitted by: Francesco Cortini PhD RPF, Research Management Lead, Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch

The South Area includes: Cariboo, Thompson/Okanagan and Kootenay/Boundary regions, and the Research Program is represented by 18 research scientists that conducted 45 research projects during the recent fiscal year (2018/19). These projects fall under the Research Program's portfolios as follows: Species and Habitat – 15 projects; Timber – 13 projects; Ecosystem Health and Disturbance – 9 projects; Water – 5 projects; and Ecosystem Stewardship – 3 projects. The research scientists from the South Area also worked on 3 additional research projects funded outside the program.

The Cariboo region provided a strong contribution in advancing our knowledge on topics such as: moose population change; silvicultural systems to maintain caribou and mule deer winter habitat; silviculture treatments for repressed pine stands; and armillaria infections in relation to climate.

The Thompson/Okanagan region enhanced our knowledge on topics such as: forest responses to

anthropogenic disturbance; wildfire management and post wildfire effects on ecosystems; defoliator and bark beetle outbreaks in the Interior Douglas-fir zone; characteristics of BC soils; and large scale interdisciplinary silvicultural systems trials.

Moreover, the Kootenay/Boundary region delivered on topics such as: long-term soil productivity; cutthroat trout population; wolverine demography; grizzly bear demography; whitebark pine resistance; and silvicultural systems to manage Douglas-fir forests for multiple objectives.

A good example of the work from the Cariboo region is a project on mule deer and wildlife use of root rot centres and adjacent non-root rot affected Douglas-fir forests in mule deer winter range. This work compared mule deer and other wildlife usage and was conducted at three separated sites northeast of Williams Lake. Wildlife cameras were one of the main methods used to compare wildlife usage.

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Research Program - South Area continued...

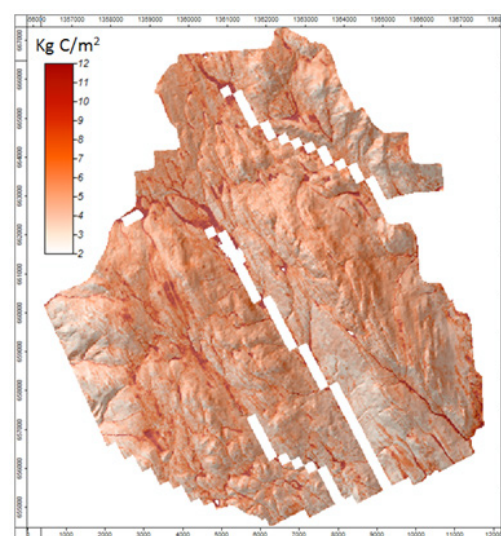
The root rot areas had significantly more shrubs and deciduous trees, and significantly less Crown closure. These differences in tree species and stand structure significantly affected snow depth during the winter months. During the deep snow period mule deer used the root rot centres significantly less than the adjacent healthy mature Douglas-fir stands suggesting that snow depth is the main factor limiting the use of root rot centres by mule deer during the winter.

Images of wolves chasing a cow moose and calf were captured by a motion activated camera at one site.



A successful project from the Thompson/Okanagan region is the on-going work evaluating the total amount and distribution of organic carbon stocks in forest soils through field sample collection, laboratory analysis, LiDAR data interpretation, and application and development of predictive mapping techniques.

Carbon in forest soils can comprise of more than 50% of the total ecosystem carbon; however, these reservoirs can be vulnerable to natural disturbances and management practices. This type of work supports natural resource decision makers and provides opportunities for mitigating climate change through enhanced sequestration of atmospheric carbon in the soil.



Estimated soil carbon distribution at a 100 km² study site near Kamloops.

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is an important ecological species, but it is declining throughout the southern BC range. In 2012, the federal government placed whitebark pine on the endangered list (SARA), thus the conservation of healthy cone-bearing trees is critical for ensuring natural disease-resistant populations regenerate on the landscape. A project in the Kootenay/ Boundary region is investigating survival and growth of whitebark pine.

Whitebark pine trees are occasionally retained during harvesting operations (Figure 3) and ongoing work is investigating survival, growth and health of these residual trees. To-date more than 400 residual trees have been sampled from harvest units across the Kootenay/ Boundary region. The findings from this study will define the best harvesting practices necessary to retain whitebark healthy pines thus enhancing the overall resilience of these ecosystems.



Harvested stand with mature whitebark pine trees in the Kootenay/ Boundary region.

Submitted by: Michelle Larstone, Community Engagement Specialist, North Area



The app was developed and is operated in partnership between:



It's that time of year again when people are gearing up and heading into the bush for moose hunting season. If you're a moose hunter, make sure to download the **BC Moose Tracker** mobile app as part of your preparations. If you aren't a hunter please share this info with any hunters, you know!

By recording moose observations in the app, hunters are providing valuable information that will help us understand what is happening with our moose populations. The more users inputting data, the more reliable information we have too help inform decisions.

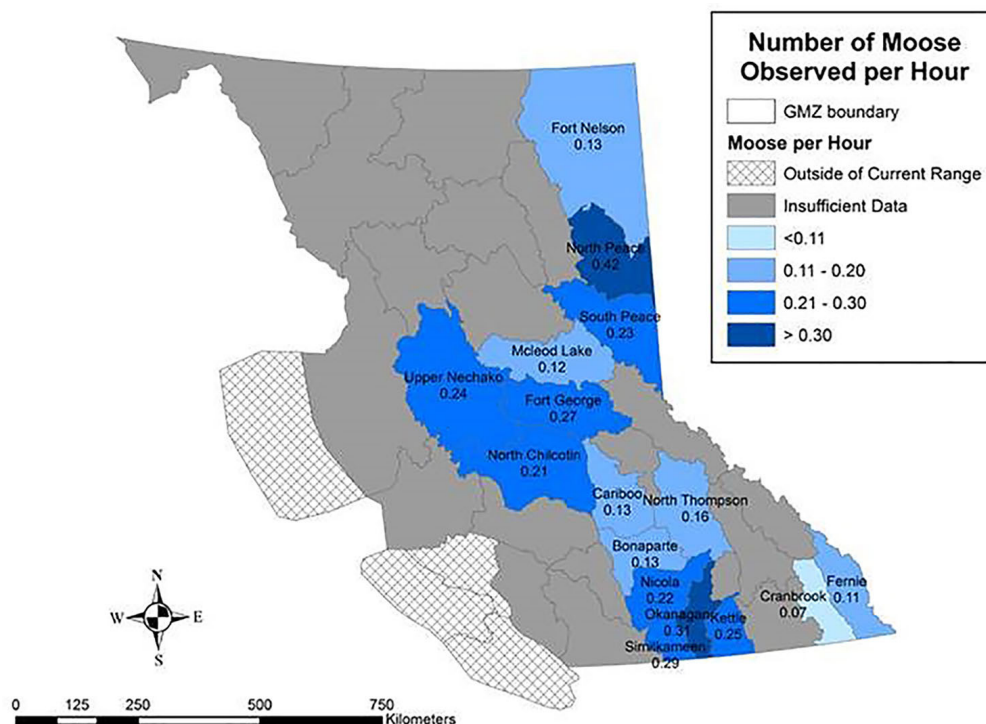
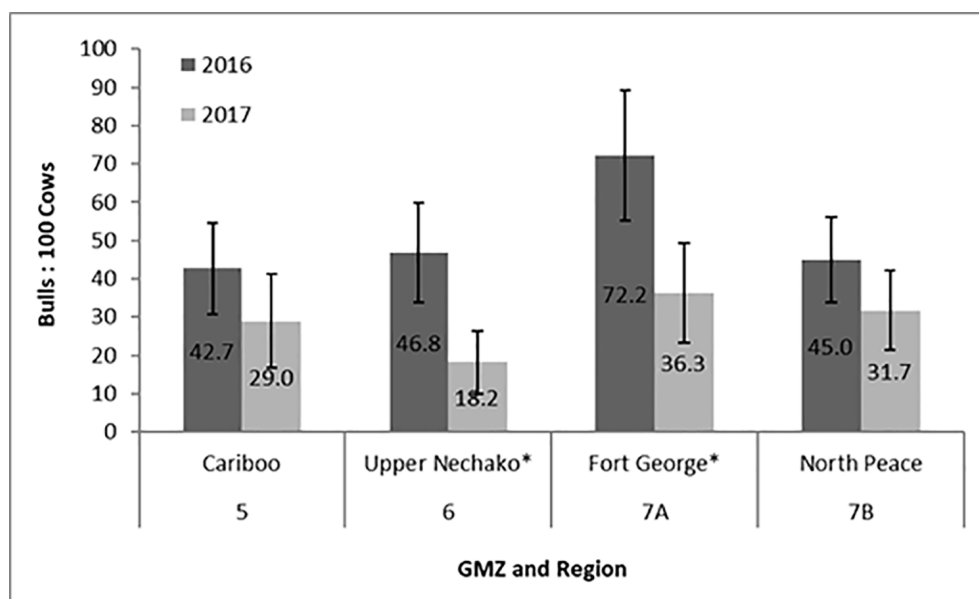
Here's a few things that will help us better understand moose populations:

1. **Download the app for iOS or Android phones and tablets** (links to the downloads are here: www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/moosetracker)
2. **Use the app.** Whenever you're in the field hunting moose, record the number of hours you're out and how many moose you see. We only record data at the Management Unit level, so there's no worry of anyone finding out where your favorite spots are. Even if you're out of cell range, the data will upload to our server when you get back into service.
3. **Tell your friends.** More users = more data, and with more data we get more reliable results. Please share this email with your colleagues and the moose hunters you know.
4. **Ask questions.** If you have any questions about using the app or want to request the summary report from the first few years of the app, please write to moosetracker@gov.bc.ca.

Below are some examples of results from the summary report showing the observations of hunters in the field using the app. It's important to note that the information collected from the app will be different from aerial surveys, but through time the information will allow us to identify trends in population indicators (like bull:cow ratio, calf:cow ratio, and moose seen per hour) that could prompt further investigation. In the map, the greyed-out Game Management Zones (GMZ; these are groups of Management Units) are areas where we did not have enough data from the app to reliably summarize the results (a good reason to get more data!).

continued...

Moose Tracker continued...



Number of bulls observed for every 100 cows by users on the BC Moose Tracker app from Sept – Nov, 2016 and 2017. All GMZs with less than 50 observations in both years were eliminated due to insufficient sample size. Error bars show 90% confidence intervals, starred GMZs had significant differences between years ($\alpha=0.10$).

The Fish & Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development recognizes the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and anglers, hunters, trappers and guides who contribute to the Trust, for making a significant financial contribution to support the BC Moose Tracker App. Without such support, this project would not have been possible.

Fake Ghost Tours

Featuring Shawn O'Hara, Senior Correspondence Analyst, Correspondence Services



Join amateur ghost hunters/identical twin brothers Abdul and Shawn for a 100 per cent accurate history of the Royal BC Museum. What mysteries await in Century Hall? What spirits prowl the shadows of Old Town? What secrets haunt the bathroom by the escalators? This tour will reveal all.

Three shows each night - [October 9 - 12](#)

•6:00 pm

•7:30pm

•9:00pm

Event Details

[Buy Tickets](#)

Royal BC Museum

\$20 per person



BCTS' "Best in the Bush" Relay Team - 2019 at the Campbell River Salmon Festival

Submitted by: Don Hudson, Timber Sales Manager, Campbell River Timber Sales Office,
Strait of Georgia Business Area, BCTS



Two prime Northern Vancouver Island industries are forestry and fishing; and the Campbell River Salmon Festival, or SalmonFest, is a longstanding tribute to both of them. Always the second weekend in August, the festival is now in its 52nd year.

The Campbell River Logger Sports component depicts past and present logging practices through entertaining competitions between lumberjacks and jills, and it is presently one of the largest competitions in Canada in terms of prize money and number of events.

Along with the classic Logger Sports competitions was a four person, four event "Best in the Bush" relay, which targeted amateur competitors. This fun event is intended to encourage new participants to enter the sport, and often sparks some friendly competition between major licensees, contractors, loggers and the like!

For the third year in a row, BC Timber Sales' Strait of Georgia Business Area entered a Best in the Bush team. The Best in the Bush relay consists of four events—stock saw, choker race across the birling pond, double buck cross-cut saw and axe throw. This year's team finished strong, coming in third again in a very tight field (same as last year). Congratulations to BCTS participants Lindley Little, Laura Chessor, Norm Kempe and Don Hudson.

In addition to participating in the weekend's competitions, BCTS sported a community engagement information booth, ably attended by the relay team plus Jeff Hamilton. We were also instrumental again in helping bring a forestry heavy equipment simulator to the festival from Vancouver Island University. The simulator is designed to see if people have the knack for heavy equipment operation in a simulated environment.

The tradition continues!



Recently retired - Jim Voth

Logger Sports in Powell River!

Submitted by: Allan Knapp, Forest Technician, BCTS – TCH, Powell River



Powell River does it again! Another fantastic show, with the largest prize pool in BC, featured local competitors and competitors from across Canada, USA, Germany, and even countries far away like Australia & New Zealand! This competition would not be possible without the contributions from our sponsors like BCTS, local businesses like the Thunder Bay Saw Shop, and the many volunteers that come together to make this event a reality.

In addition to the annual dignitaries that perform our opening ceremony, such as the Mayor of Powell River Dave Formosa, District MP Rachel Blaney, and MLA Nicholas Simmons, Powell River also had the honour of having the honourable Premier John Horgan at the event. The Premier toured through the chainsaw carvings, the food vendors, and even spent some time on the 'mic' with the MC during the competition.



From left to right: Dave Formosa, Nicolas Simmons, Sherri Weibe (PRLS Exec), John Horgan, Allan Knapp (PRLS V.P.), Michelle Sylvester (PRLS Exec), and Tyler Brady (PRLS Pres.)



Technology is evolving, and this event really showed that as the competition was filmed using drone-technology for the ultimate angles you can't see from below. Beyond the delicate technology of a drone, there were saws galore, which were all pitted against one another. The show even had the old versus the new in the form of cross-cut saws being pitted against the chainsaws. The cross-cut saws held their own, even against modified hot-saws that are often 100cc, 140cc, or even greater! In the end the

cross-cut saws were blown out of the water by a V8-chainsaw that was brought out and tore through that log like it was butter. It was logging industry evolution that ended in a powerful display of sheer awesomeness.

continued...

Logger Sports continued...

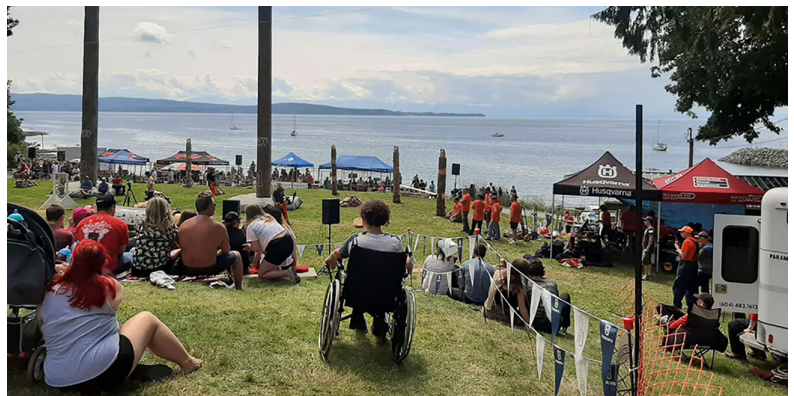
In addition, Powell River's annual logger sports competition also hosts a chainsaw carving competition, which yielded intricate and beautiful carvings that are now displayed throughout the town.



The park smelt of more than just sawdust from Douglas-fir, Western Red cedar, and Western White pine, as this event also brings together local talented food vendors.

If you stop by next year, I would recommend Sassy-Macks icecream ;-)

BCTS and FLNRORD made their presence known by occupying a booth onsite to interact with the public and provide informative materials for members of the public to take home with them. A big thanks to: BCTS's Rosalea Pagani, Eliot King, Jocelyn Cianiello, Megan Laing, Gino Amato, and Mike Romalis. FLNRORD's Sandra Harry, Rainer Gruenhage, Adam Hockin, Tom Rost, and Linda Wightman. C&E's Jordan Pertus.



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!

Have a Story idea?

Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

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

The Dirt Photographers!

Due to the lack of photos received for this edition we will try to resume the contest in the next edition. Any photo submitted for this edition and the December edition will be judged for the next photo contest. Get your photos in no later than December 6, 2019.

You don't want to miss out on a prize!

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.

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 DECEMBER 6, 2019.

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 (June, June, September, December). Article deadlines for the next edition is December 6, 2019.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)