

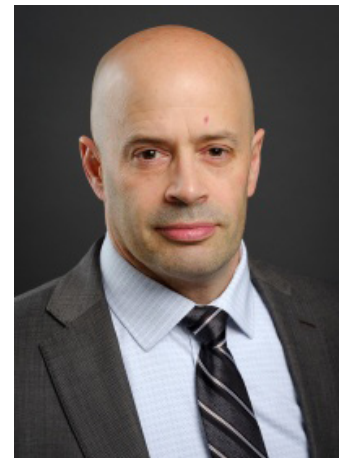


FLNRORD roles related to COVID-19 Pandemic

Submitted by: Rick Manwaring, Associate Deputy Minister

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the great work of this ministry and make sure everyone is aware of some of the roles FLNRORD was asked to lead related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This article will briefly highlight the Cross Border COVID-19 Compliance efforts of our team and partners, and I hope to follow up in a subsequent DIRT with an article on our lead role in the Industrial Camp Compliance (Temporary and Domestic Foreign Worker and Tree Planting) efforts under the pandemic.

While governments work on the pandemic continues and our contributions may further evolve, the fall DIRT seems like a great way to share some of the specific activities of the past months.



US/BC Border COVID Compliance Checkpoints

In late March, FLNRORD was asked by government to help keep British Columbian's safe from the spread of COVID that may come through our provincial borders and with the set up of provincially staffed border checkpoints.

In response to this request, a multi ministry Unified Command Structure was envisioned to lead the effort. Under the leadership of Incident Commander (IC) Steve Schell and Deputy IC Mike Toews FLNRORD were tasked to set up and coordinate the effective and safe deployment of staff and resources to address the BC Provincial Health Officer's (PHO) Orders, and Government of Canada Order (Mandatory Self Isolation) in regard to travellers returning to BC.

continued Page 3...

Advisory Group Vision:

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

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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.



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The Dirt Contents, September 2020

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FLNRORD - COVID-19 Pandemic continued...

FLNRORD will often use the Incident Command system to address cross jurisdictional incidents, such as wildfires, flooding, drought and landslides. Deploying an Incident Management Team (IMT) for a pandemic and to manage cross border compliance with a Provincial Health Order would prove to be a new and challenging experience for the over 200 veteran ministry staff who would eventually work on this IMT.

Under the Unified Command team, Natural Resource Officers (NRO) and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Conservation Officers (CO) were dispatched to staff checkpoints at 17 US/BC land border crossings for a total of **10** weeks. Staff from FLNRORD and a number of other ministries also set up a checkpoint at YVR International Airport. Supporting these staff to deliver these duties on the border required a strong IMT to handle the daily logistics, planning, operations and communications. Having never supported a pandemic/border initiative during a pandemic, the IMT were challenged to be innovative to get the job done day in and day out. During the term of the effort, **42, 991** land travellers and **37,013** air travellers crossed into BC and through our government COVID check points.

Steve Schell comment: “This unique situation provided the opportunity for our staff and those from other ministries to safely work together in a coordinated effort under the Incident Command System (ICS), to do our part in reducing the spread of the COVID 19 virus.”

Mike Toews comment: “I’ve always been amazed with our staff’s willingness and ability to tackle provincially significant issues such as the COVID 19 pandemic. This was truly a coordinated effort across government and one that makes me proud to be a public servant.”

It should be noted that staff safety is our top priority with all aspects of our COVID-19 response work. I am very proud of the speed of our response in setting up these checkpoints and the number of people from TEAMS who stepped in to drive the efforts of the IMT. The willingness to step up and help, the professionalism and ability to jump in at a moment’s notice by our ministry were key to BC’s efforts to keep our citizens safe during the pandemic.

I want to thank everyone involved for their efforts, including ministry staff and supervisors who kept core business moving as their colleagues helped directly at the border and on the IMT.

I also want to acknowledge our government partners; in particular, the staying power of EMBC who played an amazing and inexhaustible role in coordinating the overall COVID response, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for their highway and crossing signage and support, and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Conservation Officer Service who didn’t hesitate to partner and staff borders with our own Natural Resource Officers.

Become a Part of The Dirt Advisory Group!

Wouldn’t you like to be part of this exciting team? If so, we would love to hear from you.

The Dirt newsletter advisory group members represents a number of locations around the ministry, but always looking for new recruits to add to our team.

The Advisory Group represents the overall balance of interests from across the ministry. Members of *The Dirt* Advisory Group have:

- ☐ High level of interest in the newsletter;
- ☐ Passion for enhanced communication across the ministry and to retirees;
- ☐ Ability to provide a corporate perspective;
- ☐ Ability to objectively look at story content ideas and story plans, and provide guidance as appropriate;
- ☐ Ability to recognize good story ideas;
- ☐ Able to commit approximately four (4) - six (6) hours per “quarterly” edition; and
- ☐ Editorial or communications experience would be helpful, but not considered as mandatory.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested you can contact FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca directly.

Diversity and Inclusion

Submitted by: Paul Rasmussen, Assistant Deputy Minister, South Area and
Matt Jennings, Communications Coordinator, South Area



The stories of continued racial discrimination and harassment that have emerged around the world this year are heartbreaking. While these incidents have served to highlight race discrimination, they also speak to issues around inclusion. As public servants, we are bound to the idea of trying to understand how each British Columbian is experiencing our policies, services and programs. We are long overdue for a frank, honest and transparent discussion about the issues affecting diverse voices and people. It may be tempting to think this is an American problem, but the reality is, it is a problem in Canada too.

My name is Paul Rasmussen, and I am now the Executive Lead for Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. I am also Assistant Deputy Minister for the South Area. I am thankful to live on the unceded territory of the

Ktunaxa Nation (the ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa). I was born in Calgary, Alberta (Treaty 7 territories of the Blackfoot, Sarcee and Stony (Nakoda) First Nations). I am a settler; my parents are from Denmark and Iceland. I can't understand what it's like to walk the world as a person of colour, but I'm taking responsibility for where I'm at in my diversity and inclusion "learning journey," and I'm listening.

I believe it is important to be transparent about my own background and learning journey. You may find it inappropriate that a white male is leading the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) initiative. I am aware that being a white male in our society has presented me with much personal privilege. I would like to use this privilege to help remove barriers for people with less privilege, and to create space for voices that aren't always heard but need to be.

To support this, we're working to improve the resources available within our ministry, which you can find [here](#). One tool that I appreciate is the [Conscious Competence Ladder](#). This ladder highlights two factors that affect our thinking as we learn a new skill: **consciousness (awareness) and skill level (competence)**. In D&I, we might think of the ultimate skill as behaving inclusively. To get there, we need to be open to learning about our gaps in awareness and work to address them.

The province is currently developing a plan on moving Diversity and Inclusion to the forefront, so look for more communication on this in the coming months, as well as an update on where I am in my learning. My current actions include taking a deeper dive on resources like this [blog post on why words matter, with a focus on inclusion](#). I hope you will join me in looking at the Conscious Competence ladder, reflecting honestly about where you are and making a commitment to moving up the ladder with me. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring an inclusive workplace.

Have a Story idea?

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Embracing Canada as our New Country

Submitted by: Barry James, Msc RPBio, Resource Manager, Mackenzie Natural Resource District



My family has been in Canada for nearly a year now, but we only actually saw Canada halfway through our stay! Before that, it was covered in snow and we didn't see green for about six months.

We came from settler stock in South Africa and now we are settlers again! Amongst my ancestors are diamond diggers from Cornwall, Irish potato famine refugees, 1820 settlers from England, who were dumped on a windswept beach in Algoa Bay and expected to get on with it, a famous Boer leader, Louis Trichardt, and a French Mauritian thrown into the mix. My wife's family were from England, Scotland and France, via Mauritius. Our families have been in South Africa for as long as 400 years, so Africa has been our home for many generations.

After many years of strife and conflict, South Africa had a miraculous and peaceful transition from Apartheid and in 1994 I remember standing in a long, peaceful voting queue with people of all colours—tears of

relief flowing down my cheeks. The first few years under President Nelson Mandela went well. We had the goodwill of the world and huge hopes for the future. South Africa won the 1995 rugby World Cup and black and white people embraced in the streets. But then, after Mandela, the dream started to disintegrate. Corruption levels began to accelerate, the economy started to implode, unemployment increased and crime escalated.

My wife, Danielle, and I worked for ourselves as environmental consultants and were finding it harder and harder to make a living. Opportunities for our two young sons were becoming increasingly limited, and crime was at an all-time high—we lived behind security walls, with alarm systems, panic buttons and armed response.

In early 2016 we were in the final stages of writing a book on Southern African indigenous wood and, early one morning, I walked into the kitchen and told Danielle that we were going to move to Canada. Once she had got over the initial shock, she agreed that we needed to leave. Both of us are kayakers and outdoor people and one of my dreams has always been to paddle the lakes and enjoy the Canadian wilderness, so Canada was the obvious choice.

Easier said than done! Although I qualified for both the Federal Express Entry System and a BC Provincial Nomination, our age was against us in terms of getting

enough points to get in without a job, but getting a job from outside the country was a tough assignment. Most people that I spoke to said that, as South Africans, we should focus on BC and so I took their advice, but also applied for a few jobs in Nunavut, Alberta, the Yukon and NWT. To cut a very long story short, the process tested our resolve and our resilience like almost nothing before, in addition to exhausting our financial resources. I applied for nearly 100 jobs in Canada, 33 of them with FLNRORD. I was short-listed eight times and interviewed six times, before I was offered the job as Resource Manager in Mackenzie. During the long process, Gerry MacDougall introduced me to Garth Wiggill, a fellow South African, who gave me a lot of useful advice and encouragement. As it turned out, after being offered the job, there were still many hoops to jump through and by the time all of the immigration paperwork was complete, it was nearly six months before we finally landed in Vancouver.

We arrived in early November and felt like deer in the headlights. John Huybers kindly fetched us at the Prince George airport and hosted us for two nights. He took us to buy warm clothing, held our hands through the process of buying a car and gave us lots of practical advice and help, including emergency equipment for the car. We laughed every time we got into his car, as I always walked around to the driver's

continued...

Embracing Canada continued...

side, instead of the passenger side. It started to snow while we were there. I had fractured my ankle a month before leaving South Africa, so Danielle had to drive us from Prince George to Mackenzie, in a 'strange' car, on the 'wrong' side of the road, in the snow!

Straight from a sub-tropical summer to a 6-month northern winter was quite a shock to the system. We had been living at the beach and enjoying the sun and waves on a daily basis, and our oldest son, David, had been doing regular surf lifesaving duty. Both boys were always in the water—swimming training, junior lifesaving, snorkeling, bodyboarding, scuba diving, sailing, or simply enjoying the warm water. Suddenly we were scraping piles of snow off our car, dressing for the cold, struggling with short days, living with artificial heat, driving on the wrong side of the road, finding strange electrical plugs, water taps that worked differently, new accents, new terminology, different money, hundreds of acronyms at work, and a school system that was worlds apart from our own. We all shed many tears pining for home and our youngest, Timothy, said to me one day "Dad, it's all just white here and I never hear any birds or insects."

Slowly, we've started becoming Canadian. David and Timothy started snowboarding after a couple of lessons at Powder King and took to it like fish to water. Danielle and I didn't try skiing because of my fractured ankle and she hurt her knee while ice skating in the first week. Ryan Bichon got us ice fishing in the depth of winter and took us to Kennedy Siding to see our first caribou. I took a snowmobile course at work and Rick Stock took David to help groom the cross-country ski tracks and let him drive the snowmobile. Slowly we started to see animals and birds—moose, fox, coyote, a wolf, black bears, bald eagles, loons—all firsts for us. And then, at last, we started to see green, and began discovering new plants.

We realised we were changing when we started to think of any temperature above zero as warm and even went for a swim in Morfee Lake a few days after it thawed! Now we are in the process of accumulating a flotilla of boats and are planning our first canoe trip, although I must say that the transition from a racing kayak to a

canoe is quite an adjustment. I was never a great fisherman, but we've set out a few times and achieved a few modest catches, with me as the canoe motor. We acquired some old mountain bikes to tide us over until our container arrives with our own bikes and we've had some fun rides on forest tracks. Recently, Danielle and the boys went for a ride around town late one evening and she pointed out that what they were doing would be impossible in South Africa—not only because the sun was still shining so late, but because they were safe from muggers.

We are really grateful for the opportunity that Canada has given us. I am really happy to be working for an organisation like FLNRORD and work in a friendly office. I am slowly starting to understand the systems and the many acronyms, although I have a sneaking suspicion that they regularly invent new ones just to keep me on my toes.



Get the Know How and Become a FireSmart® Educator!

Submitted by: Gaganjot Lidhran, Communications Assistant, BC Wildfire Service - Kamloops Fire Centre

BCWS staff play an active role in being [FireSmart](#) Educators to not only ourselves but also the general public and stakeholders.

As the Canadian standard recognized by all provinces and territories, the science behind FireSmart is indisputable. FireSmart principles are cost-effective, easy to follow and reduce the probability of home ignition and losses as a result of wildfire.

More British Columbians are living in areas at risk of wildfire and recognize the devastating effects wildfires can have when they advance on infrastructure and homes in forested communities. It is imperative that we educate ourselves and our stakeholders on how to prepare for wildfires.

We can take simple, actionable steps such as promoting and taking the [FireSmart 101 Online Course](#), touring the website and reviewing [FireSmart Graphics and Posters](#) such as the [FireSmart Structure Ignition Zone Poster](#). By taking small steps we empower ourselves and our neighbourhoods with the knowledge to protect ourselves and our homes!

Mitigating wildfire risk is a shared responsibility and FireSmart is the best way to share in that process. Take some time to learn more about FireSmart BC, follow us on social media and help spread FireSmart and the power to build wildfire resiliency in your local communities.

So, what are you waiting for? Get FireSmarting Now! Learn more: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

Follow FireSmart on social media



@FireSmartBC



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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?
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Bear mauling during an archaeological field assessment near Williston Lake

Submitted by: Lucas Towstego (Archaeology Branch) & Kyle Belanger (Circle CRM Group)

Like others in the forestry industry, archaeologists spend much of their season assessing blocks in remote areas. Wildlife encounters are inevitable and usually innocent; However, sometimes they can become too close for comfort. Last fall, my co-worker Duncan and I had a serious encounter with a black bear while working near Mackenzie.

I've worked in the BC interior for six years conducting ground surveys of forestry blocks for archaeological potential. On this day, we had finished the survey and were heading back to the truck. We were moving along the northern project boundary, climbing over some deadfall. I stopped to check our location and heard several huffing sounds from behind a bush about 5-10m away. I recognized the sound, warned Duncan that there was a bear, and stepped backward. By then,



the bear had emerged from the bush and was charging me. I held my shovel in the hand nearest to my bear spray and there was no time to adjust. I grabbed my shovel with both hands as the bear was coming down on top of me, directing the shaft into its mouth to deflect a bite. This was effective but left me unable to defend against its front paws; which it used to claw my head. Duncan was too far back to be of any physical assistance. He began shouting at the bear, prompting me to shout as well (I was mainly just repeating profanities before that!). I also gave the bear a forceful shove using the shovel. This was enough for it to abandon its attack. The entire incident occurred within a span of about 10 seconds.

After the attack, we drew our bear sprays and made noise while Duncan administered first aid. We had to avoid the shortest route, as the bear had gone that way, so we cut south and then east to our truck; doubling our distance but putting us further from the bear.

What followed was a harrowing 1.5 km walk. I was bleeding heavily, and we were on high alert; I also had to stop several times as I was feeling dizzy. Thankfully, we made it back to the truck without incident.

We left the area, making calls to family and coworkers on the way. My first text was to my wife, then I informed my supervisor. We arrived at the Hospital three hours after the attack. I received medical aid for my various injuries, receiving 40 stitches.

A few takeaways.

1. Be prepared: have Emergency Response Plans in place; we also received extensive emergency training through our employer, including bear aware and first aid.
2. Having a level-headed response was important; we relied on our training and experience to make the right decisions.
3. We always work in pairs, but sometimes it "makes sense" to separate for short times; had this been the case at the time of the attack, it would have ended very differently. Never work alone.

I want to praise Duncan, without whom I would've never made it out of there. His calm response to the situation saved the day.

If you work in remote areas, learn more about bear safety here:

- BCFSC Bear Safety: www.bcfsc.org/bear_safety.html

For a fuller account, please see the article in the Forestry Safety News:

- http://www.bcfsc.org/files/ForestSafetyNewsletter_2020June.pdf



Carnivores can be a source of fascination, but also risk, for people living near them. As people develop more areas, it is more important than ever for people and carnivores to be able to share space.

We used 41 years of data from more than 2,500 grizzly bears across western North America to understand the factors that promote successful coexistence.

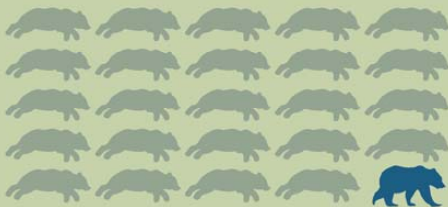


In risky areas near people, some bears become successful “coexisters” by becoming nocturnal. Bears generally need to be at least 75% nocturnal to sufficiently reduce conflicts with people and increase their own survival.



Young bears generally survive poorly near people. Overall, bears living near people do not produce enough offspring to offset these deaths.

For every bear that grows into a successful coexister, nearly 30 other bears will die prematurely.



“Coexistence landscapes” only persist due to immigration of new bears from connected wilderness areas.

INFOGRAPHIC BY FUSE CONSULTING



As more people learn to live with carnivores, carnivores likewise adapt to live with people. Connected wilderness areas are critical to the sustained coexistence between people and carnivores, and efforts to reduce attractants and human presence at night can help reduce conflict in these landscapes.

Lamb et al. 2020. The Ecology of Human-Carnivore Coexistence. PNAS.
Contact: Clayton Lamb, ctlamb@ualberta.ca

Masked in Paper Products

Submitted by: Amali De Silva-Mitchell, Senior Timber Pricing Accountant, Coast



Masks, from wood, pulp and ceramic have been worn since ancient times for spiritual purposes, for concealment, for health and for entertainment such as at the annual Venice Masquerade Ball in Venice, Italy or at the Rio Carnival in Brazil.

With COVID-19, paper masks made of the Cedar pulp manufactured on the Coast of British Columbia became highly sought-after. Within months, we were presented with an enormous selection of masks at the shops, although the medical masks were in short supply. Homemade masks became prevalent when the immediate source of any masks went in to short supply. Their Royal

Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were publicly photographed wearing a large scarf around the nose and mouth that reached down fully, to the chest.

People have been experimenting with a variety of face coverings, invented from a variety of originating materials. The membership of the Timber Pricing Branch had not invented their own masks. So, I went online and found a few. Please see the links below. By the way, for winter, the easiest is the turtle-neck shirt or sweater pulled up or a top cut out cotton tuk, pulled over the head, in cotton. No one has suggested a paper tube cut out for the eyes that sits on your shoulders or a brown paper bag, this would be something to perfect. A large newspaper cone with eye slots, or a paper mache mask cut out could be a hit for Halloween. A pillowcase will give a medieval look, and a tablecloth or sheet with eye notches would be full cover (having tried this out once at University) to the toes and be very effective. Breathability and comfort are key, so take care with plastic products such as cut out plastic freezer bags.

All is Good in terms of the Looks so, Happy Experimenting and Have Fun!

- [Canadian Red Cross Protocol: How to use a mask - utube](#)
- [How to make a face mask](#)
- [Utube How to make a mask videos](#)
- [COVID-19 - Air Travellers required to wear masks](#)



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!

Healthy Forests - Healthy Future: BCTS Delivers its Billionth Tree Seedling

Submitted by: Christi Howes, BCTS Communications and Engagement Specialist



This spring, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) delivered its billionth tree seedling for government-funded planting initiatives within the Province to reforest

harvested areas and areas affected by natural disasters such as fire and pest damage to ensure future productivity. With the delivery of the billionth tree, BCTS has supported the reforestation of over 600,000 hectares.

BCTS manages more than 90 million quality seedlings a year from a mix of over 20 different native tree species seed to help maintain ecosystem processes, resilience and diverse habitats. This includes the management and storage of seedlings grown for Forests for Tomorrow and the Forest Carbon Initiative, two reforestation programs that increase forest resiliency to a changing climate, help keep carbon out of the atmosphere and store more carbon in BC's forests.

In addition to coordinating the production and distribution of seedlings, BCTS plants over 55 million seedlings a year through cost effective, competitively awarded provincial contracts. Annually, BCTS spends over \$40 million on

silviculture activities and replants 100 per cent of harvested sites to ensure prompt reforestation. BCTS awarded over 50 planting contracts to BC independent contractors this year. A big thank you to all those involved in the 2020 tree planting season for their extraordinary efforts despite the concerns and social-distancing challenges COVID-19 created. BCTS experienced its largest planting season ever this spring with no COVID cases and planted 45.8 million seedlings under its reforestation program, plus an additional 49 million seedlings for Forest for Tomorrow and Forest Carbon Initiative.

Healthy trees make for healthy forests. BCTS consistently achieves sustainable forest management certification on 100 per cent of their operations and works to maintain a balance between a healthy environment and economic sustainability, while also generating economic opportunities for forestry and bioenergy production. Our sustainable forest management practices include maintaining and enhancing the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the present and the future. A variety of inventories, surveys and assessments are completed by certified resource professionals for every BCTS proposed development area. Examples of this work are forest inventories, wildlife habitat assessments, fish stream

assessments, terrain stability assessments and cultural heritage surveys.

BCTS' timber sales managers and program staff are responsible for forest planning and management activities. Adapting provincial forestry practices and incorporating and building upon Indigenous knowledge in the use and management of BC's natural resources are an important part of the work being done to stay resilient to the impacts of climate change, preserve old-growth forests and support forest workers and rural communities throughout BC.

BCTS takes very seriously the government's commitment of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and are uniquely positioned to build mutually beneficial business relations and partnerships such as collaborative management agreements and disposition agreements. All plans are subject to consultation with First Nations and public review and comment prior to their approval and eventual harvest.

The vast majority of BCTS' activities such as development planning, road construction, tree planting and road deactivation are contracted to the private sector. Each year, BCTS competitively awards over \$140 million in contracts to forest sector companies and local contractors throughout British Columbia and generates approximately \$800 million in annual Gross domestic product (GDP) for the province.

1939 Department of Lands Annual Seedling Report

Submitted by: Dan Turner, RPF, Resource Practices Branch

According to the 1939 Department of Lands Annual Report, 0.9 million seedlings were planted prior to 1939 and 1.1 million seedlings were planted in 1939.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

HON. A. W. GRAY, Minister.

H. CATHCART, Deputy Minister.

E. C. MANNING, Chief Forester.

REPORT

OF

THE FOREST BRANCH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST

1939



PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by CHARLES F. HANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1940.

See more on this story at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/mr/annual/ar_1931-39/annual_1939.pdf

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We hope you enjoy reading about the past!

■ Indicates 1939 photography.

REFORESTATION.

Nurseries.—The Green Timbers nursery attained its full capacity this year, when 650 seed-beds were sown and 6,000,000 trees brought through their first growing season. The cold, backward weather during the latter part of May and the month of June retarded growth to such an extent that germination did not get fully under way until early in July. Thereafter growing conditions were most favourable and, by the end of the season, the seedlings had reached normal size. In addition, approximately 1,200,000 trees were weeded and cultivated during their second season, ready for planting in the spring of 1940.

At Campbell River the development of the new nursery went forward rapidly. The land was ditched, levelled, and cultivated preparatory to the sowing of seed-beds in the spring of 1940. Improvements consisted of the construction of a 20,000-gallon reservoir and the installation of pipe for the sprinkling system.

Planting.—The planting programme was the largest ever conducted, and 1,014,300 trees were planted on 1,118 acres at various points on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. This brings the total to date, for the number of trees and acres planted, to 1,923,200 and 2,309 respectively.

The ownership status of the reforestation projects to date is as follows:—

Status.	PREVIOUSLY PLANTED.		1939 PROJECTS.		TOTALS TO DATE.	
	Trees (in Thousands).	Acres.	Trees (in Thousands).	Acres.	Trees (in Thousands).	Acres.
Crown lands—						
Experimental	528.6	473.1	72.6	28.6	601.2	501.7
Production	287.5	605.0	816.6	948.0	1,104.1	1,553.0
Private companies	55.8	76.3	99.4	116.0	155.2	192.3
Community forests	37.0	37.0	5.0	5.0	42.0	42.0
Private planting (including farm wood-lots)	Nil	Nil	20.7	20.0	20.7	20.0
Totals	908.9	1,191.4	1,014.3	1,117.6	1,923.2	2,309.0

Fish Passage Culvert Replacement project

Submitted by: Dave Hamilton, Operations Technician, BC Timber Sales - Strait of Georgia
and Christi Howes, Communications and Engagement Specialist, BCTS



**Loveland Bay Road –
culvert crossing**



**Blocked culvert and road
destruction**



**Sediment input
downstream**



Barrier nets - dam

A collapsed wood culvert that passes under Loveland Bay Road in Snowden forest, outside Campbell River, was identified for removal and replacement this July following a fish passage assessment conducted by MC Wright and Associates under the Provincial Fish Passage Program. The replacement project was a joint effort between the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI), and spearheaded by Strait of Georgia, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) staff. Not only was the culvert effecting the safety of public transit on the road it travelled under, sediment from its deteriorating embankments was travelling into the stream that feeds into the John Hart Community Watershed and was creating a barrier to local Cutthroat and Rainbow trout.

The old culvert caused the aggrading of organic materials. Aggradation is a geological term for the increase in land elevation, typically in a river system, due to sediment deposits. Aggradation occurs when the supply of sediment is greater than the amount of material the river can transport. The project required replacement of the culvert and excavating the stream on either side to bring its elevation back in line to increase water flow and create a more hospitable environment for fish.

Before work began, a sediment drainage management plan was developed to protect spawning and rearing habitat downstream of the work site. Oil booms were installed to protect against any inadvertent fuel spills. Barrier nets were placed up and downstream of the worksite to isolate it from fish. Using traps and an electro-shocker, fish within the barrier nets were captured and released downstream of the construction. To keep the work site dry without dewatering the stream below, a coffer dam was constructed upstream, which diverted the stream into a double-walled pipeline that ran through the work site and back into the channel downstream. Any seepage that occurred within the work zone was pumped into the forest.

The streambed was excavated, and the soil hauled to spoil sites on either side of the project. Due to the poor quality of the excavated material, none of the soil was able to be re-used. “Over five thousand metres of material was moved out. We had to use shovel mats to prevent the excavator and trucks from sinking,” said Dave Hamilton an Operations Technician for BCTS, Strait of Georgia. “Luckily, we were able to get below the clay material and find firm bedding for the culvert.”

As part of embedding the new 2,700mm diameter x 36.0m-long aluminized steel culvert, specified-backfill was compacted along the bottom to simulate the stream’s natural fish habitat and encourage spawning. The material used was

continued...

Fish Passage Culvert continued...



Original road crossing has been removed and culvert installation begins



Road fill and riprap are added



Culvert embedment process



Instream work: aggraded material removed, new material added to reshape the channel

similar in shape and substance to what was in the original streambed and the channel's natural u-shape was reconstructed with water flowing down the channel's centre.

Continuous communication between the excavator operator and the professional biologist is needed to create a functional stream. On either side of the culvert, 100 m upstream and downstream, the aggraded material was removed to the spoil sites. New streambed material and riprap— a term used to describe human-placed rock or other materials used to armour streambeds against scour and water or ice erosion—was added to the reshape stream channel. Vegetation, such as ferns and devils club, that was removed to permit the excavation of the stream was saved and replaced in and around the stream.

Once the culvert embedment and channel reconstruction was completed, the new stream channel was washed using a water truck and hoses until the water was flowing clear. The sediment laden water was collected in a sump and pumped up into the forest where it is filtered naturally by the vegetation before re-entering the stream.

Riprap was also placed at the embankment surface to control road sediment run-off and all exposed soils were grass seeded or covered with vegetation salvaged during removal of the old culvert. Lastly, to ensure greater public safety, reflective steel posts were installed along the new section of road, a main access to Loveland Bay Provincial Campsite. Post-construction, downstream water quality will be monitored throughout the next year to ensure the culvert and re-constructed stream maintain their functionality.

“The main ingredient of a successful project is a skilled and motivated team,” says Hamilton. “Thanks to FLNRORD Coastal Operations Engineering, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, A-Tlegay Fisheries Society, M.C. Wright and Associates Ltd., Night Train Contracting Inc., Simon Stubbs Consulting Ltd., Armtec, StoneCroft Engineering and A. Wood Bulldozing for their contributions to the success of the project.”



The finished product: Downstream view after channel restoration



Reflective steel posts to delineate the road

BCWS adapting to COVID-19

Submitted by: Carolyn Bartos, Communications Specialist, BC Wildfire Service - Northwest Fire Centre



The safety and well-being of staff has always been the number one priority for the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS). A global pandemic has made approaches to firefighting more difficult but safety measures to minimize the risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus while ensuring effective emergency response are proving successful.

In March, BCWS established a Business Adaptation and Continuity team to anticipate and mitigate as many virus-related risks as possible before the wildfire season began. This group created and adapted guiding documents that were fast-tracked for approval and implementation. Some early measures were:

- moving planned face-to-face meetings to virtual formats and cancelling out-of-province work trips;
- setting up stations for hand-sanitizing and providing gloves;
- sending all face masks in BCWS possession to the province to help address shortages for healthcare workers;
- restricting access to communal areas in all workplaces and modifying workstations to accommodate social distancing;
- implementing work-from-home protocols for all staff aside from fire response personnel who are required



- to be on site;
- prohibiting all Category 2 and 3 open fires provincewide to lower potential for human-caused wildfires and minimize smoke; and
- offering easy access to a self-assessment survey for new and returning staff to determine the safest ways to onboard staff.

Typically, auxiliary employees who return to BCWS in the spring take part in field and classroom training, along with testing for firefighters. Due to measures prohibiting large gatherings; however, the annual bootcamp was cancelled and training took place at a zone level. This proved to be beneficial for crew integrity and all staff still received required training in a timely manner.

The BCWS and its supporting contractors are an essential service, responsible for responding to wildfires and other incidents as required. As a result, throughout the spring the adaptation team worked closely with the Provincial Health Office to expedite the decision-making process for new protocols such as:

- vehicle and aviation safety protocols;
- best practices for handling physical documentation and equipment;
- protocols to maximize safety in shared spaces such as fire camps;

- and
- guidelines for crew interactions with the public, including having a designated crew member for vehicle fueling and grocery shopping.

As the province moved into phase two and three of its restart plan, staff started to return to their office workspace, a reintegration plan is being strictly followed for the health and safety of all staff members. The BCWS reintegration process is guided by directions from the Public Service Agency and the Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), along with BCWS' guiding principles.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the mental health of personnel has been a priority for management. Keeping staff informed of decisions being made at the executive level has been at the forefront throughout this process and has been happening consistently since March. Making sure people have access to information and support is of utmost importance and these supports will continue. Many lessons have been learned and will be assessed for future fire seasons. Understanding the safety perimeters around COVID-19 has been a season-long task.

A new fish & wildlife data system is on the way!

Submitted by: Tammy Dekens, CSM, Project Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Business Innovation, Information, Innovation, and Technology Division



Do you struggle with making the data you collect in the field available to others? Are you tired of using outdated data systems to access and analyze species inventory data?

BiodiversityHub BC (or “BioHub BC”) will replace several existing information systems used for fish and wildlife data, including SPI/WSI and the fish data systems. It will become the Province’s official source of data related to terrestrial and aquatic species and habitat information.

This is the next technical project under the Species & Ecosystems Information Systems Modernization (SEISM) capital project. SEISM is a five-year initiative to support sustainable management of species and ecosystems in BC through investments in more accessible, reliable, and integrated data and information; and is a joint initiative of ENV and FLNRORD Ministries.

The new BioHub BC system is being designed to support the key functions and features required for accurate data collection, storage, management, analysis and reporting. A total of 66 ENV and FLNRORD Ministry stakeholders were interviewed to collect requirements for the new system. This engagement in early 2020 revealed 116 desirable features to support inventory/monitoring methods across all aquatic and terrestrial groups, including mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial arthropods, fungi and plants, freshwater fish, and freshwater invertebrates.

This new system will be designed to assist with data collection and data management, and will provide the following benefits:

- A single source for terrestrial and aquatic species, and habitat inventory data;
- A modern system which utilizes new technologies and tools to meets users’ needs;
- A flexible system which can respond to changing needs of staff and program areas;
- A user-friendly data collection interface for government and non-government entities;
- Support for data sharing with external stakeholders to improve accountability and transparency;
- Province-wide data standards for species attributes and metadata;
- Support for automated quality assurance and quality control processes;
- Robust system security for secure datasets; and
- Comprehensive and intuitive spatial search capabilities.

Under the leadership of our Product Owner, Robin Munro, the project team is working with an experienced and knowledgeable vendor development team to review and design the creation of the features and functions for the new system. We will be engaging with stakeholders again soon, to provide input and validation of system features and functions during the build of this important new system. If you haven’t been involved to date and would like more information, please contact [Robin Munro](#) or visit our [BioHub BC project page](#).

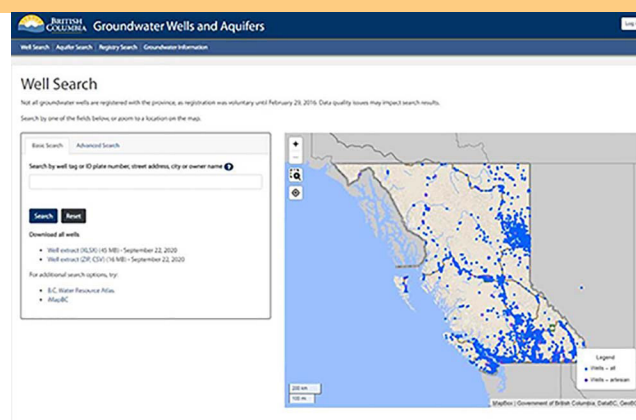
The latest on the Water Information Services Project (WISP)

Submitted by: Rebecca Mersereau, Strategic Initiatives and Business Innovation Branch

In the spring of 2018, over a hundred FLNRO and ENV staff from all regions of the province who work in a variety of water management roles participated in workshops to identify their challenges with data and information systems. Since that time, the WISP Steering Committee and Project Team have been actively scoping and funding technical projects designed to address the highest priority needs of water staff. Significant investments have been approved for the three challenges we heard were the most urgent:

- a corporate prototype of a tool to support efficient and informed water allocation decisions is being built internally for the regions without access to existing tools (it's nicknamed WALLY). A business case to decide to implement WALLY or the existing water tools provincially is being drafted;
- a procurement process for a replacement system for EMS was recently initiated, to improve the ease of uploading, accessing, and analyzing environmental water quality data (the proposed name is the Environmental Water Quality System (EnWQS)); and
- several enhancements have been made to eLicensing to streamline processing of water-related applications, including incorporating functionality for short-term use approval and changes-in-and-about-a-stream applications (WSA S. 10 & 11s).

Photo caption: the GWELLS database for entering and retrieving well-related information



Other WISP technical projects that have been completed or are underway include:

- integration of dam and dike data management systems into eLicensing to improve the security and accessibility of data, and to automate workflows for dam safety officers and dike inspectors (in progress);
- Aquarius software enhancements to improve access to hydrometric data (in progress);
- release of [GWELLS](#) – a new information system to improve the ease of submitting and retrieving well-related (substantially completed); and
- purchase of FEFLOW software to support groundwater characterization work (completed).

With just 18 months left in the WISP mandate and funding envelope, we are striving to address the remaining priorities identified by water management staff through the 2018 workshops and subsequent dialogue. These priorities include:

- an information system to store and facilitate analysis of data related to environmental flow needs,
- improving the reliability of data management and display for water reserves and notations, and
- eLicensing enhancements to facilitate electronic bulk communications to water licensees (e.g. to advise them of voluntary or required actions).

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in ensuring WISP results in meaningful improvements for staff involved in managing the Province's water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Contact Noel Carawan-Hubin, the WISP Project Manager, with questions or input related to WISP or any of the technical projects discussed above:

Noel.CarawanHubin@gov.bc.ca.

Science and Policy Integration: Insights from the Science Policy talks

Submitted by: Luisa Ramirez (Mitacs Canadian Science Policy Fellow)

I joined FLNRORD as a Mitacs Canadian Science Policy Fellow in September 2019. My job consisted in implementing the science policy strategy to better integrate research in the decision-making process. My actions included:

- 1- Building an e-learning course in Policy Development Fundamentals for Researchers;
- 2- Delivering a workshop on the Theory of Change model,
- 3- Improving communication within the Research Program, and
- 4- Organizing Science-Policy forums with bi-monthly guest presentations.



The Science-Policy forums have been a great opportunity to learn from researchers, policy staff, managers, and decision-makers about challenges and opportunities for science and policy integration. Here are some insights and reflections drawn from the guest presentations:

- 1. Differences between Researchers and Decision-makers:** These differences bring communication challenges, but also opportunities for collaborations. Effective communication must acknowledge and address these differences by implementing strategies to facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborations. It's important to create multiple opportunities to bring together researchers, managers, and policy and operational staff. For example, the Science-Policy forums were very successful in creating a bridge between these groups.
- 2. Relevance of Science for Policy development:** It is important to align the research questions with the policy priorities and needs. This can be facilitated by effectively engaging the stakeholders throughout the life of a research project in order to generate scientific information that achieves management and policy objectives.
- 3. Collaborations:** Opportunities such as working groups and workshops improve communication and knowledge exchange. These collaborations play a pivotal role in integrating science into policy.

Please check out our [intranet website](#) for more information on the strategy and for access to the recorded presentations. And feel free to contact the Research Management Lead for questions: Francesco.Cortini@gov.bc.ca.

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!

BCTS' FTELP Celebrates its Fifth Year

Submitted by: Rachel Witt, BCTS Coordinator of Business Excellence



Cohort E, from left to right:
Raegan Patrick, Brianna Dumas,
Thomas Weiszbeck, Scott Seaman,
Danielle Main, Adrienne Pierre.

BC Timber Sales' (BCTS) Forest Technologist Entry Level Program (FTELP) is a two-year, on the job training program for Forest Technology Diploma program graduates, followed by at least two years of full-time regular employment with BCTS in northern BC.

The program, now in its fifth year, produces about six new fully qualified Forest Technologists for BCTS' northern operations each year. Since its start in 2016, FTELP has helped 13 young forest techs obtain their Registered Forest Technologist and Registered Professional Forester designations from the ABCFP, and today all are currently fully qualified and Forest Technologists and Practices Foresters for BCTS.

Located in Mackenzie, the program attracts young people to the north supports them in establishing relationships with BCTS, the broader ministry and the local community. Some of the FTELP participants have also become members of the Mackenzie volunteer fire department, search and rescue and other community groups.

BC Timber Sales was pleased to have the FTELP recognized as a 2019 Premier's Awards Regional finalist for Organizational Excellence. Since the recession and forest industry consolidation, BCTS has had recruitment and retention challenges, particularly in the north. Together with the PSA, BCTS tried numerous standard and targeted recruitment initiatives and strategies to attract qualified staff. None proved successful at drawing or retaining people with the

required education, professional designations and work experience.

A new approach was required, and a task team formed. Planning for the FTELP began in 2014. The task team switched the strategy from recruiting from a shrinking pool of existing forest sector workers to recruiting from college graduates with little to no experience and give them on-the-job training, followed by at least two years of full-time regular employment with BCTS in northern BC. But there were no staff resources, no job profiles, no program curriculum, no work plans, no participants, no facility space to house 12 participants and 6 staff, no office or field equipment, no place to store the field equipment.

Over the next two years, the team obtained approvals and resources and built the program from the ground up. The first cohort arrived in Mackenzie in June 2016. Five years later it is still going strong. "I'm extremely grateful for the amount of knowledge and support that there is within the FTELP and within BCTS," says Victoria Dyduch a former FTELP participant. "It's awesome to learn from a variety of people with expertise in such diverse backgrounds. I am excited to continue learning and developing my skills in the program."

The FTELP offers participants the opportunity to build on their strong educational foundation by gaining practical hands-on experience as forest technologists in an operational environment. The curriculum includes: Cut-block and road design, TSL preparation and

continued...

BCTS' FTELP Celebrates its Fifth Year continued...

monitoring, check cruising, silviculture activities including planting and surveys, appraisal preparation, contract preparation and monitoring, GIS training, forest health, safety and Indigenous Peoples awareness training. Applications for the FTELP are accepted in October of each year. For more information, go to: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/job-seekers/featured-careers/ftelp

Note: Applications for the next FTELP cohort are being accepted from September 28 to October 30, 2020. Do you know someone who:

- Will have graduated within 2 years of June 2021 from an ABCFP-accredited Forest Technology or Forestry program;
- Will be eligible for immediate enrolment as an ABCFP Trainee Forest Technologist or Forester-In-Training;
- Is enthusiastic about experiencing all that northern BC has to offer?

Have them contact Rachel Witt at Rachel.Witt@gov.bc.ca for more information on applying to the FTELP and how to succeed in our interview process!

Research Program – Brief Summary of Achievements – South Area

Submitted by: Francesco Cortini PhD RPF, Research Management Lead

The **South Area** includes: Cariboo, Thompson/Okanagan and Kootenay/Boundary regions, where the Research Program is represented by **19 research scientists** that conducted **46 research projects** during the fiscal year 2019/20. These projects fall under the Research Program's portfolios as follows:

Timber – **14** projects;

Species and Habitat – **11** projects;

Ecosystem Health and Disturbance – **10** projects;

Water – **6** projects; and

Ecosystem Stewardship – **4** projects.

The research scientists from the South Area also worked on **13** additional research projects funded outside the program.

Research from the **Cariboo region** advanced our knowledge on topics such as: silvicultural systems to maintain caribou and mule deer winter habitat; post-wildfire regeneration; silviculture treatments to address Douglas-fir regeneration on frost prone sites; 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: whitebark pine harvest retention, efficacy of root disease treatment, long-term soil productivity effects on timber growth, limber pine distribution and health, whitebark pine disease resistance screening and long-term forest health monitoring, development of a draft BEC guide for the Boundary-Okanagan-Southern Arrow area that is being distributed for client review prior to publication later this fiscal.

continued...

Research Program –South Area continued...

A good example of the work from the Cariboo region is a 25-year uniform shelterwood systems trial (EP 1104.01) to test overstorey tree retention levels required to naturally regenerate Douglas-fir on frost prone sites in the dry, warm Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBSdw) biogeoclimatic subzone.

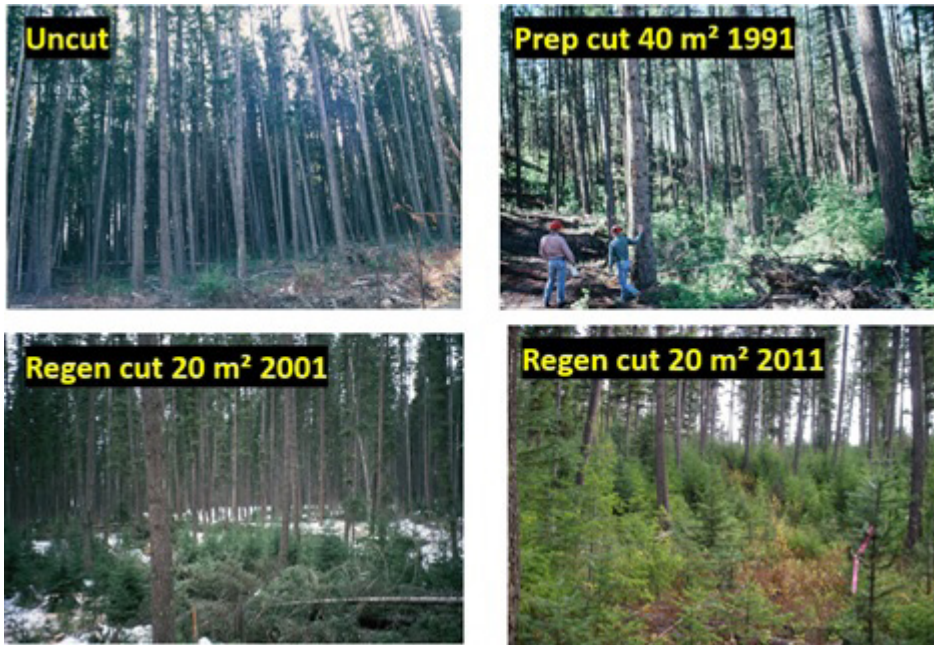


Figure 1. Beedy Creek stand structure and regeneration from 1990 to 2011.

Use of the uniform shelterwood silvicultural system in the SBSdw allowed to regenerate Douglas-fir on frost-prone sites. Frost can be alleviated by overstorey density as low as 15 m²/ha and overtime it can be affected by the developing shrub layer composed mostly of young trees. Similar to the natural regeneration plots, the planted trees grew better as basal area retention dropped, primarily due to increased light and other resources. If required on some sites, seedlings could be planted to increase densities in partial cuts, but survival could be impacted by shading and competition. When a shelterwood overlaps with a grazing tenure, cattle can damage both planted and natural seedlings when they are small. Harvesting killed and damaged planted trees, but this can be moderated by planting location (i.e., not on trails), clear operator instructions, regeneration size and volume cut. The final technical report will be available in early 2021.

In the **Thompson/Okanagan region** the Forest Health group successfully completed the control program for western spruce budworm, using the biological insecticide B.t.k. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*). A total of 9,027 hectares were treated over 7 blocks in the Kamloops and Merritt TSAs. The spray treatment was conducted in June when larvae were at peak 4th instar and the efficacy sampling was conducted in July. Prior to treatment, average larval density was 246 larvae per m² foliage and by the final post-spray assessment average larval density was 63 larvae per m² foliage. The percent larval mortality ranged from 61% to 87% which is a very good result for a biological insecticide. This treatment significantly reduced the area population. Direct control of budworm using B.t.k is just one facet of the Forest Health Program's integrated defoliator management strategy. The program also conducts annual monitoring of numerous native defoliators to elicit population trends and predict outbreaks. Long-term research in the region has characterized the outbreak dynamics of budworm and those stand structures that are most susceptible to damage. The Forest Health program is now promoting more proactive management by treating budworm populations at the incipient stage of an outbreak.

continued...

Research Program –South Area continued...



Figure 2. Defoliation from Western spruce budworm (A); Western spruce budworm spray program (B); and Western spruce budworm larva (C).

The **Kootenay/Boundary region** has been investigating BC's rarest cone-bearing tree: limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*). In Canada the range of limber pine is restricted to BC southeast and southwestern Alberta. In BC, it can be found sporadically on the east side of the Rocky Mountain Trench from the US Border north to the Kicking Horse Canyon – Fields area. It is poorly mapped, thus comprehensive knowledge of population occurrences is lacking. In 2014, the federal committee on the status of endangered wildlife in Canada declared limber pine as imminently and severely threatened throughout its range by white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle, and climate change. Limber pine is not commercially harvested in BC, but it is a valuable food source for bears, small mammals and birds.



Figure 3. Survey of limber pine above Columbia Lake.

In 2012, the first Provincial survey of limber pine forest health occurred near Columbia Lake (Canal Flats, BC). A transect assessment of 100 trees indicated 0% infection by blister rust or mountain pine beetles. Only a single tree was dead. Returning to the site in 2014, trees were tagged in order to establish a permanent monitoring transect. No trees were found to be infected until 2019, when a single canker was detected. Thus, this population is doing very well health-wise. This contrasts with the findings from Alberta where 43% of trees surveyed were infected with blister rust according to Parks Canada. In 2020, FLNRORD and Parks Canada began a collaboration to map and monitor limber pine. The Research Program funded a predictive map and a crew has installed long-term permanent forest health monitoring transects. This project improves our understanding of limber pine distribution and health in BC.

BC MooseTracker App

Moose are an iconic part of BC landscapes. They are a popular source of sustenance and recreational hunting for BC residents and non-residents alike, and they are critical to the culture and sustenance of many Indigenous communities. Maintaining accurate information on moose populations is a key part of safeguarding this culturally and ecologically important species.

To supplement traditional aerial surveys, the BC government released the BC MooseTracker App in 2016. This free to download citizen-science tool enables hunters to contribute their valuable observations on the number, sex and location of moose they encounter into a central database. With enough participation, provincial biologists can harness these collective observations to detect changes in moose populations.



So far, the utility of BC MooseTracker data is limited by low user participation. **In order for biologists to observe trends in the moose data, many more hunters need to use the app.**

Only **3.2%** of B.C.'s 40,000 moose hunters have used the app.

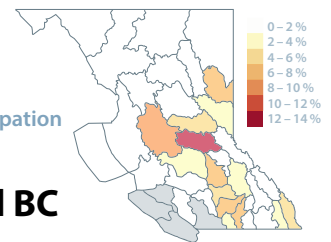


Users observed a moose every **4.6 hours** on average.



Most participation came from hunters in **Central BC**

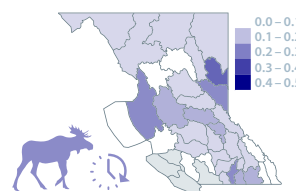
HUNTER PARTICIPATION



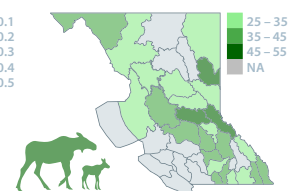
The app has useful features for hunters, including the most recent Hunting and Trapping synopsis and a way to track your observations over the years.

Results from 2016 to 2019 shown below reflect low participation and therefore low confidence in the data. More participation is necessary to improve the accuracy of the data being collected and to make it useful for management purposes.

MOOSE PER HOUR



CALF:COW RATIO



With additional participation, the BC MooseTracker App could allow biologists to leverage the knowledge of hunters and improve understanding of trends in moose populations at low cost.

Are you a moose hunter interested in participating? You can download the app for free through iTunes or the Google Play store.

Compatibility: iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch, iOS 7.0 or later and Android devices.



For more information, please contact: moosetracker@gov.bc.ca or visit: www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/moosetracker

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.

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)

The DIRT Prize Inventory



Fruit infusers/water bottles
Blue or Green



Drybag for phone or tablet



Portable power bank



Golf Towel – dark blue



Pocket magnetic flashlight –
colours as shown

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 4, 2020

Workplace Category - 'social distancing' meeting held at Kalamalka Forestry Center (Vernon) shortly after the Covid crisis started. It worked: no-one got Covid-19.

Photo taken by: Ward Strong, PhD, Research Scientist, Pest Resistance in Trees



Scenic Category - The picture is of Boya lake during a fix wing fire patrol flight over the Cassiar fire zone.

Photo taken by: Glen Parry, Wildfire Assitant, Northwest Fire Centre



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Kimm Magill-Hofmann](#) 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 December 4, 2020.

[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)