

MARCH - APRIL 2010

# BC Forest PROFESSIONAL

**Allegations of  
Professional  
Misconduct**

What is sufficient?

**Special Feature**

2009 Registration Exam



**VIEWPOINT**  
Fire in BC



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## What's NEW for ExpoFor 2010?

Thanks to everyone who completed the ExpoFor survey. In response to your answers and comments, the ExpoFor Standing Host Committee is making changes to improve your experience at ExpoFor 2010 in Kelowna, BC.

**NEW DATE** ExpoFor 2010 will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflicts with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

**NEW FORMAT** ExpoFor 2010 will feature a condensed program so you will only need **one night's accommodation** to attend the full conference if travelling from out of town.

Visit [expoform.ca](http://expoform.ca) and read upcoming issues of **BC Forest Professional** magazine and **The Increment** e-newsletter for more info.

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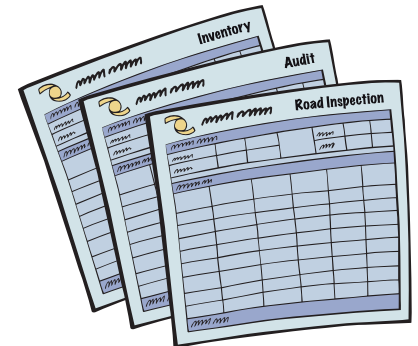


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## There Are No Wildlife Tree Patches in Vineyards

It is encouraging to see professional organizations such as the ABCFP and CAB working collaboratively to provide guidance for managing species-at-risk. Although I heartily agree forest professionals have a key role to play, upon reviewing the Risky Business Viewpoint articles (January-February 2010), I cannot shake the sense that a disproportionate amount of the blame for threatened species has been attributed to the forest industry.

Certainly, I am not arguing that harvesting is without deleterious impacts, or not responsible for habitat degradation. However, because forest professionals have such high professional expectations, I contend that forestry does a much better job than other industries with respect to species-at-risk. This is illustrated by a simple comparison between TSAs. The Fraser and Okanagan TSAs are the two most populous in the province. There are 108 and 155 red-listed plants and animals in each, respectively. Meanwhile, 23 species are red-listed in the Prince George TSA—which has 1.5-times the AAC per unit area than the other two TSAs combined. Clearly, suburban sprawl and vineyards are more detrimental than cutblocks. However, I think we the public have a self-serving bias that is quick to point out what is wrong in the working forest, and even quicker to forget what is wrong in our backyards. The forest industry should not acquiesce to charges of sole culpability. Indeed, whereas other industries have shirked their duties during this recession, as your species-at-risk feature demonstrates—forestry continues to be a source of innovation and pragmatic solutions.

The BC forest industry has world-class standards for adaptive species-at-risk management and a proven track record. Forest professionals and biologists should use their expertise, and clout to assist local governments and planners achieve better standards for protecting threatened species and habitats. The onus should not fall onto one industry—an integrated public approach is required.

**RORY PLUNKETT**  
3RD YEAR FORESTRY STUDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Taking it Upon Ourselves

In the January-February issue of *BC Forest Professional*, Colin Buss, RPF, stated that suppression activities are professional forestry. I agree with this statement one hundred percent. Protection of our forest resource is professional forestry.

It may then surprise Colin Buss, and perhaps even Jon Lok, that over 50% of the regular Wildfire Management Branch staff scattered around the province are in fact either RFTs or RPFs. Although very few of our jobs require either designation, most staff have taken it upon themselves to become members. In fact, in my office of three all of us have RFT designations.

**CHRIS BETUZZI, RFT**  
108 MILE RANCH



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330–321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8

Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: editor@abcfp.ca Website: www.abcfp.ca

**MANAGING EDITOR:** Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC

**EDITOR:** Brenda Martin

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:** Michelle Mentore

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

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## Clarifying the ABCFP's Recent Fire Protection Articles

We received comments regarding the articles on fire protection and awareness written by ABCFP president Jonathan Lok, RFT, and CEO Sharon Glover, MBA. Some of you were concerned that the message in their articles led readers to believe that any forest protection activity was not the practice of professional forestry. This letter is meant to clarify our position.

The practice of professional forestry is, and is not, related to fire fighting, fire prevention and protection. For example, front line fire fighting tasks, such as initial attack, fire line action and mop up, is not the practice of professional forestry. While supervision and planning of fire management is the practice of professional forestry. The answer depends on the functions of the task and not necessarily the name of the job.

The Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) and the ABCFP work together to ensure that professional licensure is applied correctly. The services of a professional practitioner are an important component to the success that the MFR enjoys at many levels in wildfire management. In the same way that planting is important to silviculture, fire fighting is important to wildfire management.

British Columbia's MFR is among the best in the world at fire protection and fire fighting. This is due to the valued services of the men and women who focus on health, safety and fire fighting knowledge and also to the background and experience of forest professionals. Both are essential ingredients to the success of the Wildfire Management Branch protection program.

**MIKE LAROCK, RPF**  
**ABCFP DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP**

## Forest Carbon Perspectives

*Viewpoints – Carbon Sink . . . or Swim* (November/December 2009) provides readers with a range of interesting perspectives on forest carbon. As Holt notes, it is clear from recent IPCC reports that we soon need to implement forestry activities that will:

- Reduce net green-house gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere; and/or
- Increase carbon sequestered in the vegetation and soil carbon sinks.

Raymer and Dymond, Holt, and Rosen offer some potential forestry activities (and inactivity) that will help achieve these objectives. With our forests being a source of GHG emissions rather than a sink and being at increasing risk of disturbance by fire and pests, we have a challenge on our hands!

Forest professionals can champion those forestry activities that will make a difference between now and 2050. Also, they can embrace the opportunities that the Pacific Carbon Trust and the Western Climate Initiative will offer through the provision of high-quality carbon credits from forest offset activities in British Columbia.

**ANTHONY BRITNEFF, RPF**  
**VICTORIA**



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## Put in Your Two Cents

The **BC Forest Professional** letters' section is intended primarily for feedback on recent articles and for brief statements about current association, professional or forestry issues. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and encourages readers to keep letters to 300 words. Anonymous letters are not accepted.

Send letters to:

**Editor, BC Forest Professional**  
**Association of BC Forest Professionals**  
**330 – 321 Water Street**  
**Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8**  
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Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published in **BC Forest Professional**.

# President's Report

By Jonathan Lok, RFT



## Trees Aren't the Only Things That Succumb to Succession...

*"Man's feelings are always purest  
and most glowing in the hour  
of meeting and of farewell."*

Jean Paul Richter

**SUCCESSION IS THE PROCESS OF ECOLOGICAL** change in which a series of natural communities are established and then replaced over time. Apparently it happens to council members too. My year has gone by incredibly fast and it has been an honour to serve you as president of the ABCFP. I wish to thank our membership for allowing me the opportunity to work with staff and council in this capacity. The president is responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the council process and managing council's work to ensure we are consistent with our governance model. The president also leads council in its work with specific emphasis on strategic planning, organization performance monitoring, and setting goals and policies. It sounds simple, but if you ask any of the 61 members who served before me, I am sure that they would agree that the position is challenging at the best of times. That being said, I am certain they would equally agree about how professionally and personally rewarding the experience truly is.

In addition to fulfilling my primary duties and obligations, I committed to focusing my efforts in three areas I felt were of significant importance: 1) providing leadership during challenging times, 2) educating youth about forestry to promote recruitment into our profession, and 3) broadening the traditional definition of forestry to ensure our members are recognized for their full breadth of knowledge in land management.

Everyday, I tried hard, whether in my role as president or as a practising professional, to use an opportunity to promote this agenda. As I reflect back, it is difficult to highlight any specific homeruns; however, I feel there were a significant number of base hits that are my measures of success.

I am encouraged to see our message about recognizing the true breadth of forestry making its way through our membership, to employers, government, academic institutions and students. Our profession must ensure that we are 'practising all the way to the curbs' and that we recognize how broadly the *Foresters Act* applies. I believe this message is a critical component in fulfilling the part of our mandate that addresses ensuring the public's interest in our forests.

Effective delivery of this message ensures that others who operate within the forested land base understand our role and the value we bring. This has the triple benefit of evolving our practice, creating new and exciting employment opportunities for our existing membership, and inspiring and encouraging young people to choose careers in forestry.

Forest land management and the ever-expanding list of social, economic and environmental demands we place on our resources will continue to evolve and set new challenges in front of us. It is this change that has impacted our members' livelihoods, our profession and the sector as a whole over the last two years; however, I believe it is this same change that will provide the foundation for future success in forestry. Our members are highly respected as leaders in natural resource management and we should all be prepared to lead the way to diverse, healthy and sustainable forests. *We cannot lead by doing what we've always done. We must lead by doing what needs to be done.*

I realize that although there can only be one president each year, it is truly a team position. It takes council, staff,

colleagues, family, the membership and even those outside our profession to allow one to be successful in this role.

I would like to thank several people who have made my experience as president particularly rewarding. Sharon Glover and every one of her staff at the ABCFP, your dedication to delivering such a high level of service to our members is truly appreciated and I hope all our members get the opportunity to realize what an excellent a job you all do. Past presidents Randy Trerise, Bob Craven, Paul Knowles and Al Balogh have been great mentors to me and your guidance and support was always timely and appreciated. My fellow council members over the last four years, I've learned so much from each of you (including how to slew foot in a hockey fight – thanks John Hatalcik!) and I can only hope that I've been able to give something back to each of you as well.

I would like to thank my business partners, staff, clients and colleagues for their understanding of my role and commitments with the ABCFP. Perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank my wife for her continuing love and support.

I have a great deal of respect for all those who choose to volunteer and I highly encourage our members to consider running for council, joining a committee or participating with their Network of Forest Professionals. If you can't participate, please support those who do.

I believe 2010 will be an exciting year that brings new opportunity along with its challenges and I am confident that this year's council, committees and staff, with the support of the membership, is up to the task.

I am very excited to see our new president, Rick Brouwer, RPF, already assuming the leadership role with passion and I know we will all be well served by him. Please join me in welcoming our new president—Rick Brouwer, RPF. And Rick—enjoy the ride! 🍌



## CEO's Report

By Sharon Glover, MBA

# Meet the ABCFP Staff

In December 2009, the ABCFP once again surveyed members to find out how well the association is doing in providing services to you—our members. We had a good response rate to the survey and we thank everyone who participated.

The December survey was the third survey (April 2008 and January 2009 were the first two surveys) in the series. We are pleased that we continue to show a gradual improvement in every category over the three surveys. We provided a comment box so members could add comments that weren't constrained by the survey questions. We received hundreds of responses—each one of which was read by the staff. We even received a few comments telling us we were doing a good job—receiving comments like that is always a morale booster!

tance from anywhere in the province which makes it easy for our volunteers who have to attend meetings here. It is a short hop over from the ABCFP office to Victoria when we meet with government officials. In addition, when the ABCFP lease expired in November of 2008, we moved to smaller premises in a less desirable area of Vancouver. The ABCFP office is now located in a small, 100-year old building in Gastown. This move has saved considerable money on rent and utilities. Our forest professionals work mainly out of their home offices (Courtenay, Denman Island,



The majority of comments were well thought out and offered us constructive criticism; however, there was a sizable number of comments that indicated many members do not fully understand the role of staff at the ABCFP. We read many comments that indicated members did not like the fact that the association office is located in Vancouver. Still others felt that the ABCFP has been spending money frivolously.

The ABCFP office is located in Vancouver and, at this point in time, it doesn't make financial sense to move it anywhere else in the province. A Vancouver location means that the office is within easy traveling dis-

Grand Forks, and Kamloops), which saves us money and ensures that they are in touch with forestry issues outside of Vancouver.

During these economically challenging times, the ABCFP has taken many steps to reduce our spending. Like many of our members, ABCFP staff has not had a raise in two years. We opted to not purchase a new boardroom table when we moved (the old one would not fit in the new boardroom) and are instead using tables made of plywood attached to folding legs for all our meetings. We have cut costs in other areas too. An employee on a one-year contract was not renewed for 2010. In addition, we have

eliminated our advertising budget for 2010 after severely restricting it in 2009. Finally, by stopping virtually all face-to-face committee meetings in favour of teleconferences and webconferences, the ABCFP saves a great deal on travel, accommodation and catering costs.

I'd like to introduce you to each department at the ABCFP so I can explain all the work that is done on behalf of members. Some of you might be familiar with this work but I think it will be a surprise to others how much work is produced from our office. Of course, the staff members listed here are simply the leads on their projects. They are ably assisted by their volunteer committees and junior staff. Our top volunteers give hours and hours of their personal time. Without them, the association would not be able to function.



Randy Terise, RPF

Most members are familiar with the registration team lead by our registrar Randy Terise, RPF. Randy was a long time employee of Pope & Talbot Ltd. and has been with us for two years. Randy has extensive experience in managing silviculture programs, timber and road development planning, as well as environmental management, sustainable forestry and safety certification systems. Randy, who works from his home office in Grand Forks, along with Conrad Malilay, Ruxandra Dobrescu and Baljinder Kullar, who all work in the Vancouver office, are responsible for

registering and providing day to day advice to our members in relation to admission, registration and membership policies. Their main responsibilities include: responding to enquiries and assisting people who are interested in joining the ABCFP; evaluating applications and education from non-accredited or foreign schools; organizing and administering the registration exams; supporting the board of examiners; producing policies that guide registration and membership; implementing labour mobility requirements and; maintaining the integrity of the membership database. Randy and Conrad also administer the complaint and discipline processes as well as the *Foresters Act* enforcement work of the ABCFP. The registration team is particularly proud of the work they did in 2009 to revamp of all the policies that guide people from application to membership, implement all of the recommendations of the discipline review task force and, provide support for 400 registration exam writers.

Lance Nose has a business and accounting diploma and has over 25 years of accounting experience, many of which have been in the area of controllership. Lance has been with the association 14 years and leads the finance team which also includes Julia He. Lance and Julia do all the finance and admin work for the ABCFP including processing all payments for things like membership renewal and workshop registration, as well as oversight of the reserve fund. In addition, they are responsible for creating the annual budget and do any reporting on financial matters that are necessary, and maintaining the member affinity program, Forest Club. Lance is also responsible for human resources such as maintaining staff



Lance Nose

records and the benefit program. One of the finance and admin team's biggest accomplishments in 2009 was the completion of the iMIS member management system.

Mike Larock, RPF, works on all professional practice and forest stewardship issues. Mike has been with the association two years. Prior to working for the ABCFP, Mike practised professional forestry for government, industry and consulting in the practice areas of silviculture and planning. As a partner in a private forest land and a woodlot licence tenure, Mike has worked on timber tenure matters. Mike works with our volunteer committees to provide professional practice guidance for members. He is responsible for working with regulators such as the Ministry of Forest and Range (MFR) and WorkSafeBC. The ABCFP enforces the practice of professional forestry and ensures that both RPFs and RFTs get named in various regulations. Mike and his



Mike Larock, RPF



committees also work with other external organizations (MFR, Forest Practices Board, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, and the College of Applied Biology) to ensure that forest professionals have the latest practice guidelines and professional standards. Mike, who works in Courtenay, also has the responsibility of developing our work on stewardship and advocating for good forest stewardship to the provincial government and other organizations. Some of the work Mike completed in 2009 included the publication of: *Supervision of Timber Harvesting Operations; Guidance for Managing Non-Statutory Expectation in Forest Practices; Code of Ethics: Guidelines for Interpretation; Guidance for Professional Quality Field Work* and collaborative documents such as *Guidelines for the Management of Terrain Stability in the Forest Sector*.



Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC

The communications team is led by Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC (Accredited Business Communicator). Amanda has 14 years of experience as a business communicator and recently acquired her master's degree in communications. Amanda, together with Michelle Mentore and Brenda Martin, take care of all communication to members, government, the media and the public. They are responsible for the website, **The Increment** e-newsletter

and **BC Forest Professional** magazine as well as editing and desktop publishing all guidelines, policies and reports; issuing news releases, and developing and teaching the Writing the Best Exam Possible workshop. Amanda is also the staff lead on running ExpoFor. In 2009, the team is particularly proud of the new Faces of Forestry brochure which featured our Aboriginal members.



Brian Robinson, RPF

Brian Robinson, RPF, is the staff lead on all professional development and member relations activities. He has worked in the field in all areas of the province for the MFR, industry, and as a consultant. Brian, along with his volunteer committee, maintains the ABCFP continuing competency program which includes self-assessments, peer reviews and practice reviews. Brian also developed and teaches the ABCFP's two most popular workshops Professional Reliance and Professional Ethics and Obligations. While Brian usually works out of his home office in Kamloops, he spends a great deal of time on the road leading workshops, conducting practice reviews, helping study groups, and holding member meetings. In 2009, Brian, ably assisted by Brenda in communications, adapted the Professional Reliance workshop and turned it into an online course that is now available to members.

My role as the CEO is to take care of the day-to-day running of the association. My main function is to ensure that the staff is working to implement council's strategic direction through solid business planning. I am responsible for government and external relations for the association and I enjoy meeting with ministry executives and my counterparts at forestry industry associations, natural resource associations such as the College of Applied Biology and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, environmental associations, and other regulators. I focus on issues that are of strategic importance to the association and work hard to ensure that members' dollars are spent wisely. I am assisted part time by Wendy Halasz-Corless who, among other tasks, handles all the logistics of the council meetings. In 2009, along with President Jonathan Lok and Lay Councillor Gordon Prest, I have been particularly busy working to build relationships with numerous Aboriginal groups across the province.

The ABCFP staff work incredibly hard and the senior staff members work many hours beyond what they are compensated for each week to ensure members are getting the services they need. We are proud of the work we do and we want to hear if any members are not getting the information they need. Call or e-mail us anytime. 🍁



Sharon Glover, MBA

## Welcome to the New Council

Thank you to the members who let their names stand for the 63<sup>rd</sup> ABCFP council election and to the more than 1,100 members who voted. Ian Emery, RFT, of Campbell River was the successful candidate for vice-president. He, along with Bev Atkins, RFT, of Williams Lake; Christine Gelowitz, RPF, of Victoria; Curtis Nixon, RPF, of Nelson; and Michael Pelchat, RPF, of Quesnel, who were elected as councillors at large in the 63<sup>rd</sup> ABCFP council, took office in February.

## Become the Forest Professional of the Week

One of the goals of the ABCFP is to increase the public awareness of forestry and forest professionals. Putting a face on forestry is an important part of this goal so we are looking for members to be featured as our Forest Professional of the Week on the website. Each week we will add a new forest professional to the student section of our website and will promote the page on Facebook and Twitter. If you are interested in being featured, please e-mail Amanda Brittain, director of communications (abrittain@abcfp.ca). All that is required is answering a few short questions and sending us a photo.

## Plan Your 2010 Professional Development Activities with Online and In-Person Workshops

The ABCFP is pleased to offer two courses online. Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples (presented by Indigenous Corporate Training) and Professional Reliance are currently available on the Workshops page of the ABCFP website. You can also buy the materials from the 2009 versions of Professional Reliance, Writing the Best Exam Possible and Professional Ethics and Obligations workshops on the same Workshops page. The ABCFP will have Professional Ethics and Obligations as well as the Best Exam Possible workshops available online in 2010. We hope that our members will take advantage of the online workshops to save themselves time and money.

Not everyone wants to take an online workshop so Professional Reliance, Professional Ethics and Obligations and Writing the Best Exam possible will be held in Prince George, Campbell River and Kamloops in May. Amanda Brittain, ABC, director of communications, and Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations, will deliver these workshops as well as hold member meetings at the same time. These workshops can be held in other communities if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Brian Robinson, RPF, for more information (brobinson@abcfp.ca).

### Kamloops

Best Exam May 3

Ethics and Obligations May 4-5

Professional Reliance May 5

### Prince George

Best Exam May 25

Ethics and Obligations May 26-27

Professional Reliance May 27

### Campbell River

Professional Reliance May 17

Ethics and Obligations May 18-19

Best Exam May 19

## New Job Centre Section of the ABCFP Website

Now looking for a job or new employee is easier than ever with the newly redesigned Job Centre section of the website. You can find the Job Centre on the far right side of the green menu bar at the top of each page.

Job seekers can go to the Job Opportunities page to view and apply for positions advertised by employers throughout BC and Canada. On the Post Your Resume page, job seekers can send their resumes and descriptions to the association. Descriptions are posted online and interested employers can order resumes for a small administrative fee.

Employers can learn more about how to get the right person for the job on the Hiring Forest Professionals page. They can also send the association their current job openings using the online form available on the Post a Job Opportunity page. If employers want to contact potential employees directly instead of waiting for responses to job advertisements, they can view and order member resumes on the View Resumes page.

The association hopes these changes will make it easier for employers and job seekers to connect with each other and meet each other's needs. Please contact Michelle Mentore (mmentore@abcfp.ca), communications coordinator and webmaster, if you have questions or comments about the ABCFP online job centre.

## New Issue of BC Forest Professional Now Available Online

Our recent survey of members turned up several comments about not wanting to receive paper copies of **BC Forest Professional** magazine as some members prefer to read the magazine online. This option has always been available. Just login to the member's section of the website and go to the Manage your Mailings page. Choose 'Do Not Send' from the dropdown menu under **BC Forest Professional** and click the Submit button at the bottom of the screen.

You can request a reminder email be sent to you when the new issue is posted to the website by emailing Brenda Martin at bmartin@abcfp.ca.

## Now Is the Time to Form Your Study Groups

RPF and RFT exam candidates should be forming study groups now to prepare for the 2010 exams. We encourage RPFs and RFTs to study together. You can register your study group on the website so the ABCFP can provide support when we are in your community. If you would like to arrange a meeting with Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations, please e-mail him at brobinson@abcfp.ca. Brian is also available to meet with any study group by conference call.



Photo: iStockPhoto

## Fire in British Columbia

**AFTER THE 2009 FOREST FIRE SEASON, FIRE FOCUSED DISCUSSION AND** debate is raging across the province. In this issue, we bring you a variety of articles addressing fire fighting, fire prevention and lessons to be learned from another nation.

In the realm of beating back the flames, Donna MacPherson, *et al.* opens this issue with their article, “On the Ground with the BC Forest Service,” where they take us step-by-step through how the wildfire management branch respond to a fire from the initial call to the final embers. Coulson Flying Tankers closes the Viewpoints section with a look at the Mars Martian, the famous BC waterbomber. The statistics for these planes are almost unbelievable; they can drop over 27,000 litres of water every 15 minutes. BC fire fighting infrastructure is in place and well able to defend our province.

Addressing fire prevention, Jackie Hipwell, RFT, talks to Mike Dittaro, RFT, about what the forest professional’s role is in fuel management. Then Greg Anderson, BSc, MSc, and Al Neal, BSc, RFT

discuss prescribed fire and its role in ecosystem restoration and fire prevention. Mechanical mastication in the wildland-urban interface is addressed by Robert Gray, John Przewczek, RPF and Richy Harrod. This fuel treatment option can be used in conjunction with prescribed fire or as a stand-alone tool. Finally, John Davies, RPF, talks about community wildfire protection plans including what’s involved in making them and the impact they are having on BC’s small towns. The key it seems is keeping fire prevention in the public eye between bad fire seasons.

Taking a step back, Michael Feller, PhD, talks about what Australia has learned during their last three bad fire seasons—2003, 2006 and 2009—and how BC can apply what the Australians have learned to our own situation.

We’ve published this issue in the spring so people are involved in fire fighting and prevention in the summer will have time to read it before the season begins again. I hope all our readers are able to find something useful to take away with them. 🍷



Photo: Hans Granander, RPF

# On the Ground with the BC Forest Service

**W** 2009 WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR FOREST FIRES IN BC, WITH 50% more fires burning twice as much area than average. How did the BC wildfire management branch (WMB) respond to these fires? It's best to illustrate the process through the events of an actual fire.

The Bella Coola valley reported a temperature of 41.4°C on July 29. The Buildup Index (BUI) had climbed to 135, the Forest Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) to 95, the Initial Spread Index (ISI) to 15.4, and the Drought Code to 519—fuels were primed, all that was needed was a spark. On the evening of July 31, a lightning storm ripped through the valley, peppering the area with over 200 strikes.

“... the Community Fire Hazard for the Bella Coola Valley indicates a range of interface fire hazard from moderate in the west, high in the central part and extreme in the eastern half of the valley.”

– Bella Coola Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2006.

A member of the public called the forest fire reporting line in Victoria to report a fire on the cliffs of Nuxalk Mountain above Bella Coola on the afternoon of August 1. The WMB Call Centre in Victoria is staffed 24/7 during the heat of the summer by operators trained to glean critical details from callers. Colour of smoke,

size, location of the viewer and other fire details were loaded into a fire report, plotted on a digital map and instantly transferred to one of the six fire centres throughout the province for response.

At the Coastal Fire Centre in Parksville on Vancouver Island, the fire chime was a familiar sound. This was the 1,261 fire report so far that summer and one of 48 fires reported that day. The fire report was acknowledged by the dispatchers and brought to the attention of the regional wildfire coordination officer (RWCO) for a decision to action. This fire would later be known as the Nuxalk fire or VA1261.

“It's hard to say what tells a RWCO that this is the fire to pay extra attention to,” says Brent Anderson, fire operations manager for the Coastal Fire Centre, and the RWCO that day. “It's mostly experience—understanding the local burning conditions, and knowing what to expect in different areas. It's about always looking ahead one to two weeks. We don't very often get surprised by fire activity the only unknown is which day and where. We have a strong team at Coastal and we lean on each other's expertise and perspectives.”

‘What if’ planning is part of the daily routine of a RWCO; by factoring in weather, fire behaviour and the logistical challenges



# Viewpoints

By Donna MacPherson, Brent Anderson, David Flegel, RFT, RPBio, and Brian Simpson

of moving crews and aircraft, personnel and helicopters are pre-positioned with the best available knowledge at the time. Coastal moved quickly to launch helicopters and crews to the fire site.

The Nuxalk fire was burning in ground that was too steep for crews to work in safely. Helicopters were directed to bucket the fire to cool the activity and slow its progress, but the fire continued to grow. Coastal requested air tanker support from the Provincial Air Tanker Centre (PATC).

PATC is located in Kamloops and pre-positions its contracted fixed-wing fleet throughout the province over the summer months, just as fire centres move their resources in response to fire danger. While air activity does not extinguish wildfires, this fleet plays a vital role in slowing the progress of fires to allow ground crews time to deploy and by supporting fire tactics. The air tankers dropped retardant between the fire and the homes at the base of the slope. They returned to renew the retardant lines or lay new lines to assist fire management while avoiding watershed areas. Crews worked the accessible portions of the fire near the homes.

Meanwhile, Coastal was mobilizing resources. Issues of distance, shipping and resource availability were identified and surmounted. It became apparent that this and other fires in the area would require sustained support and a Ministry Zone Operations Centre (MZOC) was created.

The Bella Coola MZOC was the fourth within Coastal that, along with ones in Campbell River, Pemberton and Hope, were managing the fires from the summer's lightning storms that moved through those areas. MZOCs manage radio communications and local operational decisions within a particular area. This allows the fire centre to efficiently coordinate resource movement and manage fire response in areas outside of the MZOC's area of responsibility.

New lightning-caused fires continued to appear in the Bella Coola region. 'Forecountry' fires that impacted interface areas were aggressively attacked and 'backcountry' fires were monitored and cooled as needed to prevent explosive growth. A series of fires in the Stuie area on the eastern end of the Bella Coola valley threatened the local telecommunications tower and a 2,500 hectare fire on Heckman pass closed the only highway into the valley. While these fires were in the Cariboo Fire Centre's jurisdiction, resources were shared between the two fire centres to help.

Fires in the area also threatened two recently established community forests, one owned by the Nuxalk First Nations. Chief Spencer Siwallace, RPF, supported the effort with his own local fire department and provided a number of emergency firefighter trainees to support efforts on other fires.

The Nuxalk fire was now an organized crown fire at the head, jumping from tree top to tree top while smouldering at the base and moving laterally across the steep slopes above the homes, driven by prevailing winds. Crews continued working with fire departments and local personnel to protect homes and build fuel free guards at the base.

Evacuation alerts were upgraded to orders for subdivisions close to two major fires in the valley. Bella Coola enacted an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to help the people affected by the evacuations and the Incident Management Team worked with local agencies to get information about the fires to the people in the valley.

Fire crews and personnel continued to pour into the Bella Coola Valley as requests for additional resources flowed from the Bella

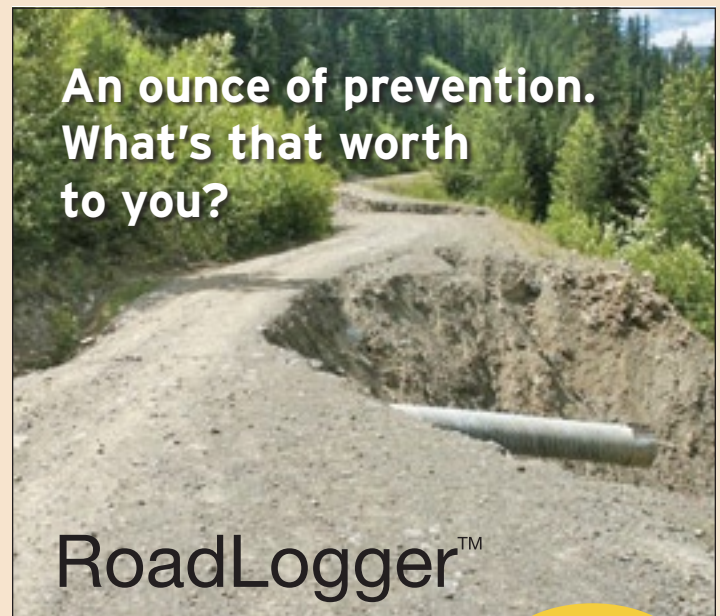
Coola MZOC to the Coastal Fire Centre. If the request could not be filled within the fire centre, Coastal asked for assistance from the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Victoria, which first looked to other fire centres, then beyond BC's borders to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg for help.

Over the course of the fires, crews from BC and Saskatchewan worked in the valley, and the Incident Management Team support staff came from BC, Alberta, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

The WMB has a high number of their regular and auxiliary staff certified for Incident Command System (ICS) positions on fires, but at times of heightened activity more help may be needed. Agreements with other branches of the Ministry of Forests and Range allow for increased resource capacity. These 'partnership' staff joined local residents, WMB personnel from around the province, staff from other provincial ministries and agencies, temporarily hired employees and contract personnel working on the fire. The ICS system allows for easy insertion of additional qualified people with minimal disruption during the ongoing emergency. Staff were also able to train local residents in the S-100 course, to allow them to safely work alongside firefighters on the fireline.

The logistics of caring for this influx of people was considerable. A heli logging camp barge was towed into the harbour to

See BC WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT on Page 27



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## Fuel Management and the Role of Forest Professionals

**ABC FP MEMBERS CAN AND SHOULD HAVE** a role in the protection of human life and property from wildfires. BC forest professionals, following their Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, are qualified to practise forestry, including forest fire prevention, and often practise in situations where there are many interests at play on the land base.

In response to the risks of interface fires, a provincial fuel management working group has been established in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), wildfire management branch; the Union of British Columbia Municipalities; and the First Nations Emergency Services Society.

The ABCFP wants to support and contribute to the efforts of the provincial fuel management working group to reduce the potential for devastating losses due to

### Fuel Reduction Makes a Difference

There were a number of wildfires that occurred in fuel reduction areas this past summer and losses were minimized in these areas.

**Glenrosa Fire near Kelowna:** The fuel treatment area in and around the Gellatly Heritage Park was an ongoing project. Work commenced around 2005 and included removing dead standing trees, thinning stands, pruning individual trees and raking up dead needles. All debris was chipped and removed from the site. All work was conducted by the regional district park staff.

**Alexis Creek Fire near Alexis Creek:** The fuel treatment area was around a subdivision of Alexis Creek that was later threatened by fire. The treatment included removing dead standing trees, thinning stands and pruning individual trees. Debris was piled on site and burned. This fuel treatment work allowed fire suppression crews time to establish a guard that supported burn off operations and helped prevent loss of structures. The work was performed by an MFR wildfire management unit crew, based in Alexis Creek.



Fuel treatment in and around Gellatly Heritage Park minimized the losses caused by the Glenrosa wildfire.

wildfires. Following queries from members about community wildfire protection plans, ABCFP staff interviewed Mike Dittaro, RFT, superintendent of fuel management for MFR, earlier this year. The questions, along with Mike's answers, are shown below:

*Since 2003, how many communities in British Columbia have developed community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) in identified high risk areas of the province?*

Of the 189 local governments in the province 84 have completed or are in the process of completing CWPPs. Twenty of these local governments are regional districts which encompass numerous unincorporated communities. As a result, more than 100 communities have or shortly will have CWPPs developed.

*For those communities where plans have been developed, have the recommendations of the plans been implemented? If they have not been implemented what are the reasons why?*

Fifty-three local governments have initiated and in some cases completed operational fuel treatments. Some of the projects are multi-phase/multi-year. CWPPs identify many other recommendations, in addition

to potential wildland fuels that require treatment, such as access requirements, water supply, building materials, etc.

The Forest Practices Board recently completed a field review of the province's fuel management program and the results are to be published in a special report in 2010. Indications are that the report will include information about lessons learned, barriers to the existing program and recommendations to improve the program.

*The province has developed a Strategic Threat Analysis to identify forest fuels that threaten communities throughout BC. In total 1.73 million hectares have been identified as high risk areas. What proportion of this area has been addressed through current programs and plans?*

It identified 1.73 million hectares at risk—but 685,000 ha as high risk. 37,481 ha have had the fuel complex modified resulting in a reduction of the potential wildfire risk to local government.

*How effective has the Wildfire Act and Regulation been at regulating a high standard of*



# Viewpoints

By Greg Anderson, BSc, MSc and Al Neal, BSc, RFT

## Ecosystem Restoration: A Renewed Interest in Prescribed Fire in BC

**A LACK OF OWNERSHIP OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IN BC** has led to a fragmented approach amongst agencies practising this discipline. The 80s and 90s saw a decline in prescribed fire activity in BC and, as a result, all provincial resource agencies, including the Ministry of Forests and Range, have fewer experienced and trained practitioners available to achieve desired prescribed fire goals. Since 2000, there has been renewed interest in the use of prescribed fire as a tool for environmental stewardship especially with respect to ecosystem restoration activities.

Decades of wildfire suppression combined with this prolonged absence of prescribed fire has had an effect on many of BC's ecosystems, most notably in the dry-forests where it has contributed to the in-growth of trees in previously open forests and the encroachment of trees on to historic grasslands in BC's Interior.

Provincially, this has had a negative affect on ecosystem resiliency, wildfire hazard, forage supply, habitat, timber values, non-timber forest resources and forest susceptibility to insects and disease. Additionally, at risk are loss of First Nations values such as medicinal and culturally important plants, habitat in traditional hunting and trapping areas, protection of archaeological sites from severe wildfire, and traditional knowledge and cultural activities related to managed fire.

To help mitigate these trends and respond to a changing climate, an ecosystem restoration (ER) initiative led by the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) was announced in the fall of 2006. Ecosystem restoration treatments involve applying varying combinations of harvesting, mechanical slashing and/or prescribed burning to key areas. The initial focus is the lower-elevation savannah grasslands, shrublands and open forest areas in the province's Interior which are rich in biological diversity. Adding to the management complexity, these same areas are also highly favoured for agriculture, settlements, community watersheds, cultural activities and recreation.



Hand-lit fires like this one can help manage excessive fuel loads and reduce wildfire risks.

Historically, these areas were part of a mixed-severity fire regime that included low, moderate and high-severity fires that created a landscape mosaic. These 'fire-maintained ecosystems,' represent approximately five percent of British Columbia's land base and have been recognized as a provincial conservation concern (*Taking Nature's Pulse* 2008).

Then in 2008, MFR spearheaded the formation of the British Columbia Prescribed Fire Council. The council is currently composed of representatives from multiple provincial and federal agencies who are charged with leading a more coordinated approach to the application of prescribed fire in the province. The council's terms of reference include:

- Developing standardized training and certification to aid in providing opportunities for practitioners to maintain and improve their skills;
- Educating the public about the objectives and benefits of prescribed fire;
- Supporting coordinated prescribed fire planning and operations; and,
- Supporting improved airshed management to help minimize the potential negative health impacts (primarily arising from smoke) especially in populated areas.

By 2011, the draft provincial ER strategy has set a target of having 12-15,000 ha of restored area moved into a maintenance condition each year (0.025% of the province's forested land base each year) including 10-12,000 ha of judiciously applied pre-

See **ER TREATMENTS** on Page 28

### The Benefits of ER Treatments:

- resilient ecosystems;
- re-establishing First Nations traditional managed fire practices;
- managing excessive fuel loads and continuity to mitigate catastrophic wildfire risks;
- helping to maintain air quality by creating forests that are less vulnerable to wildfire events;
- restoring damaged native open forest and grassland ecosystems, which are habitat to 30% of the province's at-risk species;
- timber harvest values by spacing over-dense, stagnated stands while also providing a potential bioenergy source;
- increasing natural forage to sustain wildlife and livestock and their related industries; and
- increasing resilience of community watersheds to maintain potable water supplies.



## Facing the Flames: What BC Can Learn From Australia's Wildfires

**IN FEBRUARY, 2009, ON THE MOST SEVERE FIRE** danger day in recorded history, 10 major fires burned over 400,000 ha, in southeastern Australia. Several whole towns were destroyed and 173 people died. This was the third bout of severe fire in the last six years. In 2003, fires burned 1.3 million ha in the state of Victoria and in 2006 again more than one million ha burned.

In response, the Victorian government established a royal commission to investigate the fires. The commission's final report is due in July 2010. However, it released an interim report in August 2009. I believe these fires and the commission proceedings have the following messages for BC:

### **Climate Change and the Fire Regime**

Changing climate will alter the fire regime. Climate change models for Canada suggest increasing severity of fire weather. This is moderated in parts of BC by increasing rainfall. However, we might expect short periods of more extreme conditions followed by rainfall perhaps similar to summer 2009. This suggests that it may not be realistic to manage for a fire regime within the known historical range of variation because that historical range occurred under different climatic conditions.

### **Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Burning**

As in BC, there has been a major debate over whether the government has done enough to reduce fuels, particularly through prescribed burning. Victoria has prescribed burned over 100,000 ha per year (more than 10 times greater than BC). Some people advocate burning 400,000 to 500,000 ha per year. A board of inquiry, established after the 2003 fires, did not recommend an increase in burning and neither have Australia's foremost fire ecologists.

The board of inquiry recommended an increase in the effectiveness of burning for fuel reduction by targeting areas close to communities and human facilities. Prescribed burning has become a very divisive issue, as it would in BC, were BC to increase the area burned to the same level as in Victoria. British Columbia should take heed from the board of inquiry and focus on, and expand, burning in critical areas, to minimize potential loss of life and property from fire.

### **Fire Prediction Systems**

The Australian system used to predict fire behaviour (Fire Danger Index or FDI) has been found to be very inadequate. The failure of the FDI system to accurately predict fire



behaviour even in the one forest fuel type for which it was developed has resulted in different systems being developed in an uncoordinated fashion for different fuel types and by different groups throughout Australia.

Canada is much more fortunate in that we have unified Fire Weather Index and Fire Behaviour Prediction systems. However, these systems were generally developed for lower intensity fires, and many of BC's fuel types are not included in the system. If we wish to avoid the piecemeal, uncoordinated approach to fire behaviour prediction that occurs in Australia, we should integrate more of BC's fuel types into the FBP system and improve behaviour prediction, particularly of spotting potential, for higher intensity fires.





Photo: Associated Press

A fire truck moves away from a wall of flame at the Bunyip State Forest near the township of Tonimbuk, Victoria, Australia on February 7, 2009.

### Construction Regulations in Fire-Prone Areas

The Victorian government has recently introduced stringent requirements for houses that are to be built in fire-prone areas. Non-flammable exterior materials, house design features and house location are all addressed. No house can be built without the approval of the state's fire suppression organization. BC should take heed, as around the province there are no standardized regulations for house construction in fire-prone areas. Wooden houses, with firewood stacked beside them, have sprouted back up from the ashes of some of our recent fires. This is only inviting future destruction and imposing future costs on the province.

### Evacuation Versus Stay and Defend

Following severe fires in Victoria in 1983, studies indicated that lives and more houses could be saved if people remained with their houses. This led to the 'stay or go' policy whereby people are given the option of staying with no forced evacuation. This policy was questioned following a large number of fatalities in houses that were burned in 2009. The royal commission found little support for forced evacuation and did not recommend it. Rather, it recommended that people be given more guidance to assist them making a decision on whether or not to leave, based on whether or not their houses are defensible, defensibility depending on the nature of the house, the nearby fuels, fire behaviour, and the capabilities of the house dwellers.

In BC, forced evacuation is the norm. Assessments of house defensibility can be done in BC as well. This might allow some people to stay and defend their houses and minimize losses.

The southeastern Australian fires have resulted in considerable costs and hardships, from which much has been learned. Due to the similarities between BC and southeastern Australia in forest fires and fire management, we might be able to avoid some of the same costs and hardships by learning the same lessons, then acting on what we have learned. 🐼

*Michael Feller, PhD, is a professor emeritus in the UBC Forest Sciences Department who has studied forest fire science and ecology and helped mop up on one of Victoria's 2009 fires.*

## Reducing Fuel Hazards using Mechanical Mastication in the Wildland-Urban Interface

**MACHINE MASTICATION HOLDS PROMISE AS** a fuel treatment option in situations where prescribed fire is not possible due to wildland-urban interface (WUI) concerns but also as a prescribed fire fuelbed preparation treatment.

One of the most expensive elements of fuel hazard reduction in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is the treatment of small diameter trees. Mechanical mastication treats these fuels in place making it a cheaper treatment compared to other options such as manual

the aerial fuelbed by removing aerial fuels and adding them to the surface fuel layer. In most situations, the target stand is thinned resulting in an increase in the canopy base height and a decrease in the canopy bulk density both are critical factors in the initiation and propagation of crown fires (Figure 3). These fuelbed changes are critical in the WUI where a fast travelling crown fire can destroy a lot of property in a very short period of time.

The masticated fuelbed, if left to decom-

elbed, is the chance of prolonged, smoldering combustion at moderate to high temperatures which negatively affects soil biota, structure, and chemical composition. Burn severity studies in masticated fuels show that burn severity decreases with reduced fuelbed depth and increased soil moisture (Busse et al. 2005). Keeping fuelbed depth in mind when masticating can greatly reduce wildfire concerns.

Mastication equipment can also be used to alter surface fuel layers by reducing



Before (left) and after (middle) images of a masticated stand on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in central Washington State. Note the thinned aerial fuel component of the stand as well as the pulverized large fuels in the foreground. A typical masticated fuel bed (right) showing the high variability of particle size.

slashing and pile burning, slashing and chipping or mechanical thinning and removal.

Mastication is the on-site pulverizing or chopping of standing trees and logs into small particles. Unlike chipping, masticated particles are not uniform in size (Figure 1) and trees do not need to be dragged to a chipping machine. Equipment used for mastication treatments over the past several years include the hydro-axe, slashbuster, a rotary brush cutter and ProMac with prime movers including various rubber-tired and tracked machines (Figure 2).

From a fuel management perspective, the goal behind machine mastication is to reduce

pose without prescribed fire, does constitute a burn severity threat before the material decomposes. While there are no studies detailing decomposition rates of masticated fuelbeds, a useful proxy are either moderate loading natural forest fuels or slash fuels. A recent study published by the USDA Forest Service in Montana found that decomposition rates are highly correlated with soil moisture. (A higher moisture content equals a higher decomposition rate.) The author found the lowest rates associated with low elevation, south facing forests with high canopy cover (Keane 2008).

The primary wildfire concern with a masticated fuelbed, similar to a deep duff fu-

the average size of fuel particles, thereby increasing decomposition rates and/or simplifying subsequent prescribed fire operations. Some mastication equipment is useful in grinding/pulverizing surface fuels into much smaller particles.

Mechanical mastication is not new. It has been used extensively in shrub fuel complexes such as chaparral in southern California and mixed hardwood/shrub in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. In the Pacific Northwest, it has been used extensively for powerline and highway right-of-way clean-up. In the mid-80s the equipment was also used in the East



# Viewpoints

By Robert W. Gray, John Przeczek, RPF, and Richy Harrod



Photo: John Przeczek

This hydro-axe is one of the machines used to masticate standing trees and logs into small particles.

Kootenay area of British Columbia to extend the density of treatable post-fire lodgepole pine stands for juvenile spacing.

Machine mastication serves two purposes. As a stand alone treatment, it is particularly good in ecosystems with inherently high decomposition rates such as the warm, moist ecosystems of southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Coast-Interior Transition Zone and the west Kootenays. In dryer ecosystems, it is best used as an initial treatment to prepare a fuelbed for subsequent prescribed burning operations. In this configuration, it can significantly simplify prescribed burn operations. 🐾

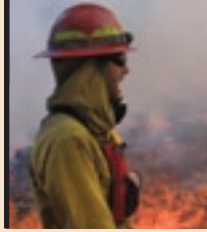
*Robert Gray is a consultant fire ecologist with over 29 years experience in fire history and fire effects research, prescribed fire, fuel management, and wildfire suppression.*

*John Przeczek, RPF, is the co-owner of PRYZM Environmental Ltd. He has worked as a silviculturalist and land reclamation specialist in central and southern BC for the past 30 years and has been actively involved with WUI treatments since 2004.*

*Richy Harrod is the deputy fire management officer for fuels and fire ecology on the Okanogan-Wenatchee national forests in central Washington. Richy has been involved in forest and fire restoration planning and research for nearly 20 years.*

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## Community Wildfire Protection Plans:

# Are They Making a Difference?

SINCE 2004, THE PROVINCE HAS PROVIDED OVER \$35 MILLION TO THE community wildfire protection program (CWPP), which is administered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). To date, over 80 communities have completed a CWPP with more than \$22 million being spent to develop these plans and to implement associated fuel management projects resulting from these reports.

The overall objective stated within the UBCM application is, “to improve community safety and reduce the risk of property damage.” So...after five years and millions of dollars, are CWPPs providing wildfire protection?

### Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Program

CWPP's had their genesis in BC as a recommendation within the Filmon Report, commissioned by the province after the 2003 wildfire. In 2004, the protection branch initiated the CWPP with the program being administered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Priority for funding is given to communities with supporting credible evidence of having a moderate or higher wildfire risk. This is usually provided through professional judgement, wildfire history, and/or the Strategic Threat Analysis data.

The only requirements for being an author of a CWPP are that ‘fire/fuel behaviour expertise is solicited when the plan is prepared,’ appropriate methodologies are followed and an RPF must be involved ‘...if the plan will contain information regarding higher level plans, impact assessment or forest policy.’ It is imperative that the author have at least some wildfire and fuel management experience (regardless of having professional accreditation), otherwise the result may be another academic plan that sits on a shelf. For forest professionals, professional reliance should shine through here with forester's remaining within their scope of practice and not simply jumping on the fire management train due to available funding and lack of work elsewhere.

A properly developed CWPP should contain a landscape level wildfire risk analysis, stand level interface fuel hazard assessments, and community specific recommendations for mitigating the wildfire risk and abating the interface fuel hazard. Additionally, the CWPP should consider a bylaw review that provides recommendations for directing the community towards a more FireSmart condition.

Empirical evidence of the effectiveness of the CWPP and the associated fuel management projects is lacking. Obviously, unlike other forestry related research trials, the testing of CWPPs or fuel breaks will occur at the whim of the fire gods. Or, as is the case for roughly 50% of the fire starts in BC, at the whim of careless humans. One does not develop a CWPP, prescribe fuel treatments, implement them and then immediately test the effectiveness. At least one hopes this doesn't happen.

There have been research trials in the US and Northwest Territories where fuel breaks have been developed and tested. These can be compared to the results of interface fuel treatments; a desired operational outcome of a CWPP. Similarly, there are several cases of US wildfires burning into fuel breaks where the intended effect occurs and fire behaviour is reduced. Finally, there is a plethora of scientific literature regarding the positive impacts of interface fuel treatments. By this rational, any fuel management operations driven by prescriptions developed by forest professionals with operational fire and fuel management experience should reduce fire behaviour within these treated areas.

What is probably indisputable is that the heightened awareness of communities and the leadership of government with regards to wildfire prevention in BC have increased since 2003. However, this awareness does tend to wane between the ‘big’ fire seasons. It is not enough to only pay attention to wildfires during the fire season, or worse, only during extreme seasons. Communities must address the risk year round through developing CWPP, treatment prescriptions, and most importantly, implementing interface fuel treatments. A plan has no impact if it is not implemented.

There are two major impediments when transitioning a CWPP to the operational phase: no implementation strategy or no operational funding. The first impediment can be overcome by working with a forest professional with operational fire and fuel management experience. This is where self-regulating scope of practice should occur, as well as reference checks by the client. With regards to funding, there is likely not a single local government in the province with the budget to undertake fuel management without funding assistance. Therefore, unless provincial and federal operational funding continues, the demise of properly prescribed and implemented fuel treatments will occur and fuel management will be marginalized or disappear altogether. That is until a wildfire destroys homes and it is once again politically motivating to wave the fire flag.

We would do well to maintain this awareness and continue to aggressively pursue wildfire prevention and protection through the development of CWPPs and the implementation of fuel management projects. While public and local government interest may waver, the natural, integral role of wildfire in our ecosystems will not. The fire gods may rest some years but always return...often with a vengeance. 🐻

*John Davies owns Valhalla Consulting and works exclusively in the field of wildfire management. He is a seasoned wildland fire fighter with over 17 years of wildfire and fuel management experience.*

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**FIREFIGHTING CERTAINLY WASN'T WHAT GLENN L. Martin had in mind for the design of the Martin Mars. Originally conceived as a bomber for long range missions and patrols, the production aircraft were redesigned and classified for long-range general transport because of the demonstrated heavy-lift capability of the prototype. The 'Big Four,' as they were affectionately known, established airlift and endurance records which remain valid today and they logged some 87,000 accident-free hours before being retired by the US Navy and sold to Flying Tankers. Mr. Martin would be very pleased to know his original intention**



The Mars Martian can make a drop every 15 minutes.

Photo: Sandy McKellar

# The Mighty Mars Martian

of the Mars in a bomber role came to pass in their second career as waterbombers!

During the fire season, the aircraft are kept in a state of readiness to meet the existing fire hazard conditions. They can be in the air in ten minutes and, based on historical data, each can make a drop every fifteen minutes. Working in tandem, this equates to 27,276 litres every seven minutes and each drop can cover an area of up to 1.6 hectares. It has often been said that the Mars, with a 27,216 kilogram payload of foam, is like a huge wet blanket. The highly experienced Mars pilots, working closely with the Incident Commander, deliver the water or foam right where it is needed.

Each Mars carries 2,270 litres of foam concentrate—enough for 21 drops of a 0.4% solution which is the standard used although it may be decided to use more or less foam as dictated by the incident commander. The Mars are also equipped to deliver Thermo-Gel which when mixed with water forms a light gel by encapsulating the water droplets. This product provides a more even coating of the fuels as well as lasting longer on the ground.

Flying Tankers completed test and evaluation of Class A foam in 1986 and began using it with the Mars as a matter of routine in 1987. It has been estimated that the foam capability of the aircraft increases the efficiency of the Mars by at least 30%. The ability of the machines to drop massive amounts

of foam lends itself particularly well to the suppression of urban/rural interface fires and the Mars have excelled in this regard.

The most frequently asked question regarding the Mars is, "How do they pick up their water?" This part of the flying operation is, perhaps, the most demanding in terms of teamwork among the crew. The captain executes a normal landing, keeps the aircraft 'on the step' and allows the speed to decrease to 70 knots. He then passes engine power to the flight engineer and selects the scoops to the 'down' position. The ram pressure for injecting the water into the tanks is such that the aircraft is taking on water at a rate in excess of a ton per second. To account for this added weight, the flight engineer must advance the throttles to maintain a skimming speed of 60-70 knots to ensure the aircraft remains on the step. Pickup time is, on average, 25 seconds. When the tanks are full, the captain will have the scoops raised, call for takeoff power from the flight engineer and carry out a normal loaded takeoff. Once airborne, the foam concentrate is injected into the water load (normally, 30 US gallons of concentrate into the 7,200 US gallon water load) where it is dispersed and remains inert until the load is dropped. Once dropped, the tumbling action causes expansion which converts the water load into a foam load. This process is repeated for each drop. In other words, this vital team work is carried out, on average, every 15 minutes per aircraft. For a

gel drop, the concentrate is injected during the scooping process to allow even mixing. 🍷

## Single Sortie - One Aircraft:

Flying time - 5.9 hours  
Consecutive drops - 37  
US Gallons - 265,000 (1,000,000 litres)

## Specifications

Manufacturer: Glenn L. Martin Company  
Powerplant: Four Wright Cyclone R3350-24WA engines @ 2500h.p. each (1865 kw)  
Curtiss Electric 4-blade propellers with a blade diameter of 15 ft. 2 in. (5 m)  
Overall Length: 120 ft. (36m)  
Height: 48 ft. (14.63 m)  
Hull Beam: 13.5 ft. (4.12 m) Hull Draft: 5.5 ft. (1.68 m)  
Wing Span: 200 ft. (61 m)  
Gross Weight: 162,000 lbs. (73,483 kg)  
Water/Foam Load: 60,000 lbs. (27,216 kg)  
Cruising Speed to Fire: 190 mph (305 kmh)  
Drop Speed: 138 mph (220 kmh)  
Landing Approach Speed: 115 mph (185 kmh)  
Touchdown Speed: 92 mph (148 kmh)  
Fuel Consumption (Cruise): 420 US gal (1590)  
Fuel Consumption (Operations): 780 US gal (2,955)  
Operations Duration (normal): 5 1/2 hours  
Area Covered, single drop: 3 to 4 acres (1.2 to 1.6 ha)  
Drop Height: 150 to 200 ft. (45m to 61m)  
Full Tank Load: 7,200 US gal (27,276 Litres)

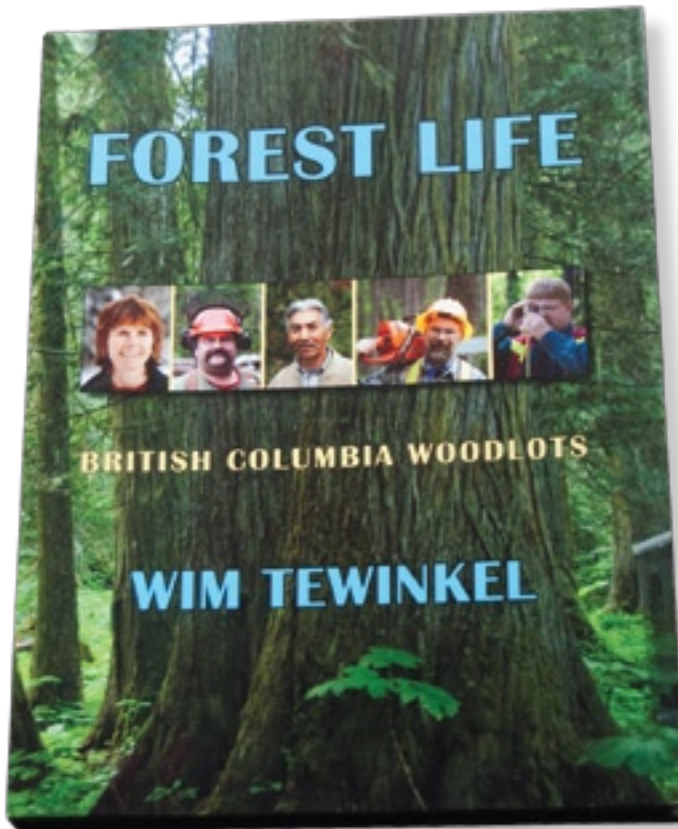
## Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots

Wim Tewinkel

Federation of BC Woodlot Association, 2009

200pp, illustr.

ISBN 9780981265704



**PART OF THE FOREWORD SAYS IT ALL:** “THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AND A few words, this book attempts to capture the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots as well as the spirit and culture of woodlotter and their families.”

The author has succeeded very well in this attempt: abundant, splendid illustrations depict the scope and variety of BC’s forests. Scenes of woodlot activity show the wide range of practices required to realise all the many management opportunities in a woodlot and thumbnail sketches tell something of the self-reliant operators who dedicate their lives to thoughtful, sustainable management of their forest holdings.

I was surprised not to find mention of two notables in the gallery of woodlot owners—Merv Wilkinson and Tom Wright—and wonder at their omission. My only other criticism is the caption above a picture of burned trees which will mislead an uncritical reader. It says, “A forest destroyed by fire.”

When only a stand of trees has been ‘destroyed,’ the forest remains in being.

This is a handsome and valuable addition to BC’s forest literature. 🍌

**RANKING: 4.5 OUT OF 5 CONES**



Reviewed by

Roy Strang, RPF, (Ret)

**FUEL MANAGEMENT** Continued from Page 14

*fire management? Are there any shortcomings in the current legislation?*

From the perspective of wildfire management branch the *Wildfire Act* and Regulation has been a great advancement in standardizing all aspects of wildfire management. Many of the challenges associated with wildfire management do not arise out of issues with the legislation. They arise out of a lack of understanding of the requirement for proactive wildfire prevention on the part of communities, commercial operations (especially non-forestry operations) and the public in general.

*Overall has the provincial government’s response to the wildfire and forest fire management issue been appropriate given the issues that have been identified?*

Yes. It has taken decades to create the fuel management challenges we now face. This challenge will not be solved quickly. It will take cooperation, planning and funding to keep up and enhance the momentum. These challenges will not be resolved by one party alone but through the concerted efforts and participation of homeowners, all levels of government, industry, and First Nations.

While there has been progress in reducing wildfire risks in interface areas many opportunities still exist. The provincial fuels management

working group is taking proactive steps at addressing wildfire risks:

- The MFR Fuel Management Program has been accelerated
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities has been coordinating funding and communications for CWPPs with its members
- The First Nations Emergency Services Society and forest fuels management working group of the First Nations Forestry Council have been very active in working directly with First Nations communities to address wildfire risks.

One area of opportunity for the ABCFP and its members is to provide leadership for the development and implementation of CWPPs. Our members are well-placed to contribute, as private land owners, volunteers or representing the provincial government, the MFR, forest and other tenure holders, municipalities or Aboriginal communities. 🍌

*Jackie Hipwell, RFT is resource associate for professional practice and forest stewardship with the ABCFP. Her forestry background includes a diploma from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and varied forestry employment with government, consultants and industry.*

This article was prepared in consultation with staff from the Ministry of Forests and Range wildfire management branch, who also provided the photos.



# 2009 Exams

By Randy Terise, RPF

## Building a Forest Professional Workforce: The 2009 Registration Exams



**CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE AND PASSED THE 2009** registration exams. These exams were held on Friday October 2, 2009, in 36 locations throughout BC. A total of 399 people wrote the registration exams—104 RPF candidates and 295 RFT candidates.

The ABCFP had an expanded special exam sitting in 11 locations in late November for people who were unable to write the first exam because they were on fire duty during the long 2009 fire season. The ABCFP also administered a second oral exam—the first one was held in 2008—was held in December 2009.

Each year, coordinating of all the exams seems like an colossal task. But three very dedicated ABCFP staff make it happen by coordinating all the moving parts required to set up exams in 47 different locations across the province. At each location we are very fortunate to have volunteer invigilators who do a wonderful job of ensuring the exam is written according to specific rules. The exams are then marked by a dedicated group of about 20 volunteers from the board of examiners (BOE) who marked all the exams.

The BOE understands that exam writing is stressful for most people. With that in mind, they made a special effort to make out tired handwriting and understand choppy essay structure. I can attest to the hard work they put in to make sure every candidate was fairly assessed.

This year we have three valedictorians—two RFTs and one RPF. The highest mark on the 2009 RFT registration exam Part A was earned by Cindy Lee DeRosier, RFT, who scored 92% and on Part A and B was Karen Schwalm, RFT, at 77.4%. The top mark on the RPF registration exam was 85.3% and was scored by Mark S. Sloan, RPF. Congratulations to this year's valedictorians.

The names of the 2009 successful examinees are available on pages 24 and 25. These new RPFs and RFTs will be welcomed into the profession at the Inductees' Luncheon at ExpoFor 2010, the 62<sup>nd</sup> ABCFP forestry conference and annual general meeting. This year, ExpoFor is being held in Kelowna, from April 8-9, 2010. Visit the ExpoFor website for more information on the technical sessions, social events and registration ([www.expofor.ca](http://www.expofor.ca)).

### Registration Exam Statistics

#### 2009 RFT Exam

A total of 295 candidates wrote the RFT registration exam and the overall pass rate was 90%. Most of the exam candidates were eligible for an exemption from Part B of the exam. The pass rate for people who only wrote Part A, 120 people, was 97%. The pass rate for the 36 people who wrote both Part A and Part B was 68%.

RFT Part A Exam Stats				
RFT (Part A)	2009	2008	2007	2006
Pass Rate	97%	98%	82%	79%
Average Mark	66%	73%	65%	63%

RFT Full Exam (Part A and Part B) Stats				
RFT (Part A & B)	2009	2008	2007	2006
Pass Rate	68%	78%	37%	55%
Average Mark	61%	63%	54%	59%

#### 2009 RPF Exam

The overall pass rate for the 104 candidates who wrote the RPF exam was 82%. Candidates had the option of writing a take-home exam. If they chose this option, they were only required to answer seven of the 14 questions on the October 2<sup>nd</sup> exam. The pass rate for candidates who chose to write the take-home exam was 78%.

RPF Exam Stats				
RPF Exam	2009	2008	2007	2006
Pass Rate	71.0%	77.0%	73.4%	68.3%
Average Mark	66.0%	69.1%	67.7%	64.1%

## Successful RFT Examinees

Maximillian Andrew, RFT	James Michael Dickson, RFT	Shane Lee Hendrickson, RFT	Kent Arthur McLeod, RFT	Stephen Wilhelm Schmid, RFT
Leslie Jack Ashton, RFT	Stacy Ian Dingman, RFT	Craig Andrew Herman, RFT	Colin Leigh Merkley, RFT	Karen Elizabeth Schwalm, RFT
Douglas Arvid Bannert, RFT	Michael Joseph Doknjas, RFT	Earl Donald Hills, RFT	Fiore Orlando Milinazzo, RFT	Gary Paul Scriven, RFT
Robyn Brooke Begley, RFT	Steven Ivan Doubinin, RFT	William Edward Hilton, RFT	Diane Elizabeth Millar, TFT*	Kenneth Donald Seegmiller, RFT
Barry Edward Bennett, RFT	Rodney David Drew, RFT	Jason William Hinks, RFT	Wilford Glen Miller, RFT	Raymond Andrew Senger, RFT
Alan Robert Berry, RFT	Christopher Charles Dukelow, RFT	Derek Lee Holtom, RFT	Derek McKinlay Millsop, RFT	Mark Nervy Serediuk, RFT
Stephen Arnold Birrell, RFT	Paul Arthur Dunn, RFT	William P. Horbal, RFT	Robert Mitchell, RFT	Kevin Lars Remme Skarda, RFT
Ronald Douglas Blackert, RFT	Donald Joseph Earles, RFT	Jason Wesley Howard, RFT	Corey Steven Morrison, RFT	Cezary Slugocki, RFT
Jason Scott Blackwell, RFT	Myron George Elkuf, RFT	Jeanine Michelle Hudson, RFT	Mark Jonathan Mortimer, RFT	Barry Gerald Soderstrom, RFT
Leonard Mark Blayney, RFT	Hans Volker Ellinghaus, RFT	Brandy Deanne Hughes, RFT	Andrew Lawrence Muma, RFT	Harry Spahan, RFT
Corey Edward Boilard, RFT	Dean Michael Elzer, RFT	Martin Todd Huston, RFT	Steven Frank Murphy, RFT	Christian Hannes Spangl, RFT
Lyle Marin Joseph Bonthoux, RFT	Devin Ettinger, RFT	Jennifer Lynn Hutt, RFT	Tammy Lynn Myers, RFT	Alanna Elizabeth Stanley, TFT
Louis Edward Bourcet, RFT	Andrew William Ferguson, RFT	Richard Kim Janowsky, RFT	Allen Scott Neal, RFT	Gordon Joseph Stanley, RFT
Allen Dale Brandt, RFT	Scott Leslie Fiddick, RFT	David Robert Johnson, RFT	Michael A. Nelson, RFT	Vadim George Stavrov, RFT
Loren Edward Brandt, RFT	Darren Louis Field, RFT	David Martin Johnson, RFT	Michael Joseph Netzel, RFT	David Allen Steele, RFT
Terry Michael Breen, RFT	Daryl Wayne Flindt, RFT	Donald James Johnson, RFT	Ian Russell Niblett, RFT	Troy Stanley Sterling, RFT
Nathan Andrew Brigden, RFT	Colin Andrew Flynn, RFT	Mark Axel Johnson, RFT	Christopher Taylor Nichol, RFT	Richard Daniel Stevens, RFT
Howard Richard Briscoe, RFT	Edward David Folk, RFT	Gregory J. K. Jones, RFT	Leslie Olsen, RFT	Donald Robin Stewart, RFT
David Alexander Brown, RFT	Gregory John Folks, RFT	Keith Andrew Jones, RFT	George Patrick Ostoforoff, RFT	Owen David Stewart, RFT
John (Jackie) Victor Brown, RFT	Walter David Fookes, RFT	Paul Douglas Jones, RFT	Marcus Paquette, RFT	Timothy Todd Stewart, RFT
Conrad Earl Browne, RFT	Brent Justin Fossett, RFT	Shane Desmond Jordaan, RFT	Frederick Arnold Pattenden, RFT	Harold Bruce Stolar, RFT
Magdalena Anna Buchowska-Pawlak, RFT	W. Warren Fowler, RFT	Russell James Kempston, RFT	Daniel Lloyd Paul, RFT	Nathaniel Strand, RFT
Kathleen Mary Ann Burkart, RFT	Thomas Gordon Foy, RFT	Lloyd R. Kilback, RFT	George Andrew Paul, RFT	Aaron James Straub, RFT
Derek Charles Butcher, RFT	Alvin Joseph Frank, RFT	Randal Trenton Kohlhauser, RFT	Keith Jay Pedersen, RFT	Sharon Anne Strecheniuk, RFT
Aaron Christopher Byng-Hall, RFT	Katherine Ann Fraser, RFT	Miroslav Kosalko, RFT	Michael Paul Pek, RFT	Jason Timothy Stupnikoff, RFT
Hugh Brock Campbell, RFT	Trevor Mark Friesen, RFT	Joseph James Kotai, RFT	Darryl Melvin Person, RFT	Thomas Norman Thompson, RFT
James Jared Carlyle, RFT	Joseph Donald Galandy, RFT	Rodney Eric Kronlachner, RFT	Rod Ernest Peterson, RFT	Glenn Farrel Thomson, RFT
Sinde Jay Carter, RFT	Kristopher Devin Garneau, RFT	Laurence Ernest La Casse, RFT	Tanya Ann Petri, RFT	Machelle Rae Tiernan, RFT
Timothy James Cartmell, RFT	Christoph Paul Gebauer, RFT	Bruce Igor Lagzdins, RFT	Patric John Pictin, RFT	Barry Tomizza, RFT
Rita Joan Casavant, RFT	Charles Grant Gerstmar, RFT	Norman Philip Larson, RFT	Alex John Pierre, RFT	Reginald Melvyn Trapp, RFT
Malcolm William Cattanaach, RFT	Gordon Marshall Gibbs, RFT	Douglas Ian Leblanc, RFT	Matthew John Pilszek, RFT	Tennessee Myles Trent, RFT
Shaun William Chadburn, TFT*	Glen Edward Charles Gibson, RFT	Diane B. Lewthwaite, RFT	Gerard Sterling Pittman, RFT	Joseph Walton Tress, RFT
Shawn Joseph Cheverie, RFT	Rena Mary Gibson-Protzner, RFT	Kelly Aileen-Lynne Lisk, RFT	Martin Plewak, RFT	Marc Paul Trudeau, RFT
Rider Edmonstone Cheyne, RFT	Cheryl Anne Gilbert, RFT	Justin Vernon Lukey, RFT	Dustin Victor Price, RFT	Donald Wayne Tucker, RFT
Teresa Ann Chrapko, RFT	Valerie Helen Golley, RFT	Sherman Stanley Mack, RFT	Mark Allan Price, RFT	Luc C.J. Turgeon, RFT
Nathaniel Winsett Coe, RFT	Mark Todd Graf, RFT	Martin Andrew MacLellan, RFT	Michael Pritchard, RFT	Andrew Charles Turner, RFT
Christopher James Cohoon, RFT	Shawn Todd Graziadei, RFT	Michael Edward Malin, RFT	Leslie Lloyd Quick, RFT	Darryl Steven Valk, RFT
Sean Gary Conlon, RFT	Michael Stephen Green, RFT	Peter Mandjik, RFT	Jesse Mark Rand, RFT	Lorne Keith Walker, RFT
Adam Clynel Cooke, RFT	Victoria Mary Groves, RFT	Sharon Michele Mandrusiak, RFT	Stephanie Lin Renwick, RFT	Aaron Michael Watts, RFT
Edward Leonard Coombes, RFT	Kenneth Theodore Guenter, RFT	Christopher David Mardell, RFT	Marcel Edward Rivard, RFT	Ronald Nicholas Wellmann, RFT
Brian Vincent Cornelis, RFT	Aaron Craig Gunther, RFT	Christopher Charles Martel, RFT	Alice Ann Rogers, RFT	Adam J. Wells, TFT*
John Stuart Currie, RFT	Ronald George Haines, RFT	Malcolm Bradley Martin, RFT	Ronald Brian Rogers, RFT	Rebecca Mary Werner, RFT
Michael Terence Curry, RFT	Connie Robin Haley, RFT	Russell Charles Gordon Martin, RFT	Stephen Michael Rooke, RFT	Sean Keith West, RFT
Colleen Ann Cutthbert, RFT	Gordon Stanley Haley, RFT	James Patrick May, RFT	Anthony Weldon Ross, RFT	David John Wickstrom, RFT
Lisa Marie D'Aloia, RFT	Darrin Halloran, RFT	Robert James McAinsh, RFT	W. Evan Ross, RFT	Errol Stanley Widdis, RFT
Michele Antonio D'Aloia, RFT	Arthur Andrew Hammerton, RFT	William Bruce McDonald, RFT	Paul R. Sackney, RFT	Jason Wiley, RFT
Shaun Michael Da Silva, RFT	Robert Stephen Harrison, RFT	Randy Lee McFarland, RFT	Sheila Dione Sackney, RFT	Laura Diane Wilimovsky, RFT
Jerry Joseph Daoust, RFT	Ronald Arthur Harrison, RFT	John Brian McGuire, RFT	Timothy William Scheitel, RFT	Warren Marvin Wilkinson, RFT
Jason Dwayne Davis, RFT	Iain Douglas Hartley, RFT	Scott George McIlmoyle, RFT	Ailsa Jan Schmid, RFT	Kurt James Williams, RFT
Cindy Lee DeRosier, RFT	Dennis Arthur Heigh, RFT	John Andrew McLeod, RFT	Christoph Hans Schmid, RFT	George Alexander Tyrone Williamson, RFT



Melody Dawn Wilson, RFT  
David Jason Wolfe, RFT  
Curtis Stephen Wullum, RFT  
Mark Robert Wyatt, RFT  
Donald Hayden York, RFT  
Sarah Michelle York, RFT  
Kevin James Zeleny, RFT  
Bradley David Zuk, RFT

\* Has work experience remaining to complete as of October 2, 2009. Section 7.0 of the Registration Policy, allows a candidate to write within 6 months of completing articling/work experience requirement as at the date of the exam. Must meet this requirement before he/she may apply for RFT status.

## Successful RPF Examinees

Trevor Carl Anderson, RPF  
Kelly Andrew Arkell, RPF  
Ian Bradley Becker, RPF  
Jennifer Lynn Bedard, FIT\*  
Jeremy Clifford Edward Beliveau, RPF  
Keith Alan Bell, FIT\*  
Katie Amanda Blewett, RPF  
Mark Winston Brown, RPF  
Michelle Ruth Cleary, RPF  
Richard James Cooper, RPF  
Kimberley Ann DeRose, RPF  
Kenneth M. Epps, RPF  
Stephanie Rachelle Ewen, RPF  
Margaret Lena Fenton, RPF  
Darrin Ryan Finnerty, RPF  
Domenico V. Fiorenza, RPF  
Jason Raymond Fisher, RPF  
James Ivan Foster, RPF  
Randall Graham Fraser, RPF  
Ayrilee Palm Geddert, RPF  
Stacy Lyn Gibbons, FIT\*  
Stacey H. Gould, RPF  
Jeremy D.T. Graham, RPF  
Ian Wade Grindle, RPF  
Darren Andrew Hayes, RPF  
Kristin Stephanie Hendry, RPF  
James Brian Hodgson, RPF  
Jason Otto Hooft, FIT\*  
Cara Helena Pauline Illerbrun, RPF  
Kelly Izzard, RPF  
Wade Jarvis, RPF

Bruce John Johnson, RPF  
Ian Michael Johnson, RPF  
Michael E. Johnson, RPF  
Tyrone Lee Johnston, RPF  
Peter Franz Kerckhoff, RPF  
Janie Katherine Kester, FIT\*  
Theo Paul Jerome Knevel, RPF  
Christopher Jacob Laing, RPF  
Damon Joel N.A. Lawrence,  
RPF

Kimberley Gail Lefebvre, RPF  
Derek Michael Lefler, RPF  
John L. Leidl, RPF  
Cosmin Dumitru Man, RPF  
Eric Todd Manning, RPF  
Shaun Robert Mason, RPF  
Cameron James McIntosh, RPF  
Chipman Brett McKay, RPF  
Patrick Philby McMechan, RPF  
Julien Ménard, RPF  
Anita Marie Messier, RPF  
John Jason Jarvis Millar, RPF  
Nicholas Miller, RPF  
Tanya Onita Milner, RPF  
Colleen Joanne Pedrotti, RPF  
Jonathan Heine Penninga, RPF  
Christopher Aaron Pretty, RPF  
Bruce John Raby, RPF  
Justin Lawrence Rasmussen,  
FIT\*  
Jason Paul Regnier, RPF  
Aliette Marion Seigel, RPF  
Aaron George Ronald Service,  
RPF  
Mark Stritzel Sloan, RPF  
Blair Ian Stewart, RPF  
Demi Marie Swan, RPF  
Andrew Stevenson Tait, RPF  
Catherine Lee Taylor, RPF  
Jonathan James Taylor, RPF  
Terry John Teegee, RPF  
Gregory Stephen Thompson,  
RPF  
Kathleen M. Thompson, RPF  
Miodrag Tkalec, RPF  
Geza Vamos, RPF  
Colin Gerald Vandergaag, RPF  
Jennifer Dawn Walters, RPF  
Philip William Warden, RPF  
Kevin Joseph Webber, RPF

Michael Stefan Wedel, RPF  
Gerald A. Wolfe, RPF  
James Gordon Wolfe, RPF  
Bryce Warren Young, RPF

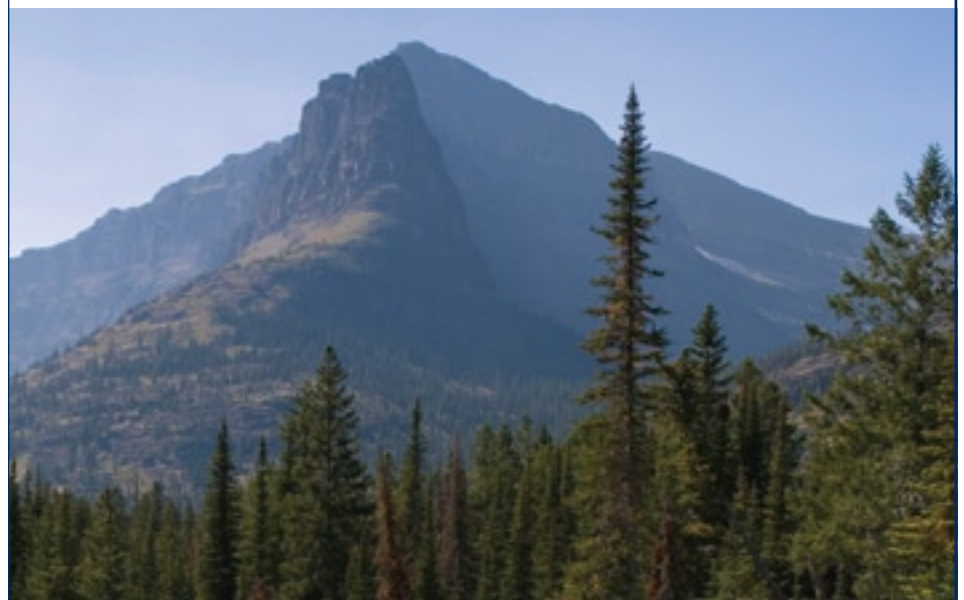
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completing articling/work experience requirement as at the date of the exam. Must meet this requirement before he/she may apply for RPF status.

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### Contact Us

**Brian Hiebert**  
604.643.2917  
bhiebert@davis.ca

**Garry Mancell, RPF**  
604.643.2977  
garry\_mancell@davis.ca

**Angeline S. B. Nyce, RPF**  
604.643.6420  
anyce@davis.ca

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## Allegations of Professional Misconduct: What is Sufficient?

**PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY IS THE LIFEBLOOD THAT SUSTAINS THE** public's trust in any self-governing profession. Forest professionals do not have any divine right to exclusively practice and govern the practice of professional forestry (just as other professionals have no such rights in their fields). The public, through the Legislature, has given these rights to forest professionals. And what the public gives, the public can take away. What keeps the 'Ministry of Professional Conduct' from becoming anything other than some Orwellian nightmare is professional accountability—the notion that a self-governing profession will hold its members accountable for professional misconduct.

There are numerous components to the ABCFP's professional accountability regimen: education, regulation of admittance, standards of practice, communications, and so on. But, inevitably, the true test of professional accountability is found in the scrutiny of alleged misconduct and the imposition of discipline for proven digressions. This is the price that self-governing professions must pay for the exclusive right to practice and govern in their fields.

Accordingly, integrity is vital to a self-governing profession's system of complaint investigation and discipline. While integrity depends upon the rigorousness of the system, it also depends upon clear and well defined procedures. Procedural certainty is important both from the perspective of public confidence in the system, and from the perspective of the professional members subject to the system. If the members of a self-governing profession lose faith in the integrity of complaint investigation and discipline procedures, a loss of public faith will surely follow.

There is some room for improvement in the discipline and investigation procedures that currently govern the ABCFP. For example, uncertainty exists as to when, exactly, the Registrar must proceed with an investigation of alleged misconduct. Assuming a complainant and the member subject are unable to settle the matter among themselves, section 22(6) of the *Foresters Act* requires the Registrar to accept the complaint if:

1. it includes sufficient information for an investigation to proceed; and
2. the allegations, if proven, would involve a breach of the Act, bylaws or resolutions.

The only real control on a potential flood of misconduct investigations is the requirement for "sufficient information."

Unfortunately, neither the *Foresters Act* nor the bylaws define this critical concept or provide much guidance to its application. The difficulty is that this terminology lends itself to a couple of different interpretations, one more literal and one more purposive. A literal interpretation would require just enough information to, literally, allow an investigation to get started—basically, the contact information of the parties together with some allegation that, if true, would constitute professional misconduct. It would not require evidence, or alleged evidence, but merely the information necessary for an investigation to begin a search for evidence.

Under a literal interpretation, the requirement for "sufficient information" would not provide a meaningful threshold, and would not provide the Registrar with much authority to reject a complaint. This approach would expose members to a complaint investigation even if the complainant provided no substance to support the complaint.

A more purposive approach would interpret the phrase "sufficient information" in the context of the Act's requirement for a complaint to include "particulars" (section 22(3)), and require that a complaint provide some evidence, or at least assert the existence of evidence, that would support any allegation that, if true, would constitute misconduct. Unsubstantiated allegations are not good enough under this approach and the Registrar would have some ability to stop any run-away trains before they got too far out of the station.

The latter approach is certainly more consistent with principles of fairness, but arguments exist in favour of both approaches. And the more an interpretation moves away from the literal approach, the more discretion is placed in the hands of the Registrar; the more discretion, the more procedural uncertainty. Accordingly, amendments are needed, ideally, to the *Foresters Act* or, potentially, to the bylaws to clarify the meaning of "sufficient information ... to allow an investigation." Otherwise, the terminology is just not sufficiently precise. 🍷

*Jeff Waatainen is a past adjunct professor of law at UBC, has practiced law in the forest sector for over a dozen years, and currently works as a sole practitioner out of his own firm of Westhaven Forestry Law in Nanaimo.*



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BC WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT Continued from Page 13

provided accommodation as well as a landing site and fuel for the heavy helicopter utilized in the fire effort. This left the jet fuel at the airport available for other helicopters and public airlines. Food was flown or trucked in, for while Highway 20 was still closed to the public, the WMB was able to move material through the smoky mountain pass via convoy. Each logistical challenge was met by the team with the enthusiastic assistance from the community.

"The local community rallied to assist the firefighting effort. The legion cooked 125 meals per day, volunteers did laundry for fire fighters, and local residents provided quads, equipment and GIS mapping. The grocery store reserved it bread supplies for fire fighter lunches" – David Flegel

The tide started to turn about a week later. Work on the fire reduced the fire's danger and the evacuation order was rescinded on August 8. Crews continued to mop up the fires in the valley, allowing the ones with inaccessible areas to consume the fuels within the perimeter of the fire. Rehabilitation of the fire sites got underway to mitigate the damage done by crews and heavy equipment during the firefighting efforts. Post Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Assessments were done by the WMB and a professional team to review slope stability, soil strengths and the possibility of potential movement. The outcome in the Bella Coola Valley was good. No homes were lost and there were no fatalities or major injuries. The Nuxalk fire was declared out on August 20 at 368 hectares in size.

"The BC Forest Service has been fighting fires for over 100 years. While the activity of putting fires out has not changed a great deal, the complexities of land use, identifying values at risk, and balancing fire response with land management planning challenges us to choose the best response under escalating conditions." – Brian Simpson. 🍁

*Donna MacPherson is the Coastal Fire Centre's fire information officer. She has worked with the BC WMB since 1998, has worked as a type 1 information officer since 2003, and is certified as a type 2 plans chief.*

*Brent Anderson is the Coastal Fire Centre's fire operations manager, and has worked for the BC Forest Service since 1979. He is certified as type 1 incident commander, air attack officer, tactics officer and RWCO.*

*David Flegel, RFT, RPBio, works as operations manager in the MFR Bella Coola Field Office. He has lived in Bella Coola for 25 years and has worked for the FS for 14 years and DFO for 11 years in Bella Coola. David's knowledge of the local area, its people, the community and natural resources was invaluable in supporting firefighting efforts.*

*Brian Simpson is the director of the BC WMB in the Ministry of Forests and Range and is a forest technical graduate from BCIT. Brian has 32 years of experience with the BCFS in many different roles and areas of the province of BC. This experience includes 17 years as a senior manager and more recently 4 years as manager fire operations for the province of BC prior to the appointment of director of the wildfire management branch in 2007. Brian has an extensive background in forest management with specific emphasis in fire management including certification as a type 1 incident commander.*

## In Memoriam

It is very important to many members to receive word of the passing of a colleague. Members have the opportunity to publish their memories by sending photos and obituaries to BC Forest Professional. The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

### James A. (Jim) McIntosh D.F.C

RPF(RET) #376  
1920 - 2009

Jim passed away peacefully at home, with family by his bedside, on September 13, 2009. He is survived by Gerry, his wife of 61 years, his daughter Sandra (Jan), his son Graeme, RPF (Cathy), and his 3 grandchildren Aislinn (Frank), Cameron, RPF (Melissa) and Andrew.



Jim was born in Revelstoke where his family worked a farm in the 'Big Eddy' area. In winters he helped run the family trapline up the Columbia River. It was during those years the seeds were planted for his two lifetime sporting passions, bird hunting and fishing.

After schooling, Jim worked on the CPR trains until Canada's involvement in WW II. He enlisted, took pilot training and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in late 1943. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for piloting his heavily damaged bomber back to safety in England after being attacked by a German fighter. A few months later his plane was shot down over Berlin. Jim was captured and spent the remaining months of the war as a POW.

After the war Jim enrolled in forestry at UBC, lived in Fort Camp on the UBC site, married and graduated with the class of '50. He worked in logging camps on Vancouver Island and the Interior, before moving to a job in Alberta. In 1956, he returned to Vancouver to work for the federal Western Forest Products Lab (now Forintek), received his RPF in 1964 and retired in 1984.

Jim was a strong family man and member of his church community and was generous with both his time and good fortune. After retirement, he volunteered at the Seymour Demonstration Forest and he made a scholarship endowment to UBC Forestry. He enjoyed traveling with Gerry, vacationing on their Thetis Island summer home, duck hunting on Beechers Prairie west of Williams Lake, and a good single malt Scotch.

Forestry was in Jim's blood, often a subject of conversation or debate, and he took great pride knowing he was to be part of a three generation RPF family.

### ER TREATMENTS Continued from Page 15

scribed fire annually to help meet the Ministry's ER objectives.

By coupling First Nation's traditional knowledge of managed fire, with historic photography, tree ring analysis and stand reconstruction/ climate models we gain some understanding of the historic conditions that existed under that fire regime. Although the historical information offers insight into a previous resilient forest condition, ER treatment activities are also guided by landscape-level considerations (wildfire hazard, land conversion, fragmentation, species losses, invasive plants and cultural needs) and larger phenomena such as climate change.

In a changing climate, reducing forest vulnerability to future disturbances will be an important aspect of maintaining ecosystem resilience. Management actions that could help forest ecosystems build resilience includes introducing fire into ecosystems where historical fire cycles have been disrupted by past fire exclusion and therefore made more vulnerable to severe future fires (Campbell et al. 2009).

Ultimately, going forward in BC, a quote from the renowned University of California fire ecologist Dr. Harold Biswell (1989) provides some perspective, "Keep in mind that fire is a natural part of the environment, about as important as rain and sunshine...fire has always been here and everything good has evolved with it." 🍂

*Greg Anderson, BSc, MSc, has 34 years of experience with Forest Service in BC and Alberta. The last 15 years he has lead ecosystem restoration activities in the district and now provincially since 2006.*

*Al Neal, BSc, RFT, is leading the provincial strategic planning for the Ministry of Forests and Range's Ecosystem Restoration initiative.*

### nature calls



## Forestry Team in Action

### Recreational Trail Upgrades

Cabin Forestry Services Ltd. has been working on a recreational trail upgrade since June 2009. The objective of this project is to improve the condition of the Highlands Trail, which is presently 110 km long and cuts through most of the ecological zones in the Okanagan Valley—from the grasslands at Cosens Bay (at the north end of Kalamalka Lake), through Lodgepole pine and spruce forests on the Aberdeen plateau, and to alpine meadows of Little White Mountain. It is categorized as a Class B trail and has the potential to become a world class trail; however, many sections of it were in very poor condition and not adequately marked before the upgrade.

The ultimate goal is to make this trail one of the premier trails in the BC interior, while promoting user safety, providing improved access and a sustainable tread, and revealing and protecting the unique ecosystems of the Okanagan Valley.

This project has allowed for the employment of 10 forest workers during difficult times in the forest industry. The team on this project includes RPFs, certified fallers and forest technicians with up to 25 years experience. They report taking a lot of pride in the work and feeling great about leaving a positive legacy in the community.

#### Organizations Involved

Cabin Forestry Services Ltd., Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club

#### Project Funding

Job Opportunities Program, Nation Trails Coalition

#### Contact

Steve Milne, RPF, ATC 250.766.0345



### The Atlantica Bioenergy Task Force Project

The Atlantica Bioenergy Task Force Project is a multi-stakeholder, multi-jurisdictional approach to charting a new course for future bioenergy production in the forestry and energy sectors in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Maine (the Atlantic region). The unique project involved collaborative stakeholder working groups working in areas of biomass inventory, energy and economics, technology and policy development and was comprised of experts from regional government, industry, federal and regional organizations and post-secondary institutions. The task force created a report which set forth key principles and recommendations regarding future bioenergy development, highlighted information gaps in key areas and put forward what they felt were the four best technological options for the current and emerging bioenergy sectors in the region. The report formed the basis of an initiative which culminated with a leaders' summit and a research and development forum that explored how to take the opportunities identified in the report and

turn them into tangible business opportunities in the region.

The project was coordinated by the Forest, Paper and Packaging Practice and Economics group at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) in Vancouver in conjunction with the PwC Halifax office. PwC staff involved in the project included RPFs as well as PwC economists, government and carbon policy experts and outside consultants in the bioenergy technology and biomass fields. The funding for the task force was provided by government and industry in the Atlantic region including electrical utilities companies.

More information and the Atlantica Bioenergy Task Force Project summary report can be found at: [www.atlanticabioenergy.com](http://www.atlanticabioenergy.com)

#### Project Team (Vancouver)

Bruce Eaket, RPF; Shawn Ellsworth, RPF; James Lucas, RPF; Bruce McIntyre, RPF

#### Contact

James Lucas, RPF 604.806.7780 ext. james.g.lucas@ca.pwc.com

## A Moment in Forestry

Submit your moment in forestry to Brenda Martin at: [editor@abcfp.ca](mailto:editor@abcfp.ca)



The Northern Saw-whet Owl, *brooksi* subspecies is found only on Haida Gwaii and is currently listed as threatened. In the fall, the owls migrate from their inland breeding sites to the Haida Gwaii coastline where they remain for the winter and feed on invertebrates in the intertidal. Unlike mainland coastal areas, there are no other species of owl on Haida Gwaii, so the saw-whets can venture into the intertidal without the threat of being picked off by other, larger owls. This owl was photographed during a coastal survey of owl winter habitat. The surveys will help clarify seasonal migration patterns as well as provide information on population size.

*Submitted by Berry Wijdeven,  
Species at Risk Recovery Coordinator, Haida Gwaii*

### CORRECTION

In the last issue of **BC Forest Professional**, we incorrectly identified Randy Waterous as an RPF. Randy is in fact an RFT. We apologise to Randy for this oversight. 🐾



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CELEBRATE

# Spring

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