

# BC

# Forest PROFESSIONAL

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

**Seeing the Forests  
for their Hoofage and  
Stumpage Values**

**Forest Management:**  
In Consideration of Species at Risk

How to Stay Safe in Bear Country

**Forest Leadership:**  
An Interview with Jeff Mycock, RPF

**National Forest Week:**  
Contest Winners and More



**ON TOPIC**  
Wildlife

# Come February, we'll be looking for you up here

The ABCFP's 69<sup>th</sup> annual forestry conference and AGM, *Changing Landscapes, New Opportunities*, will examine the new challenges and opportunities facing BC's forest sector. Among the challenges speakers will discuss are the BC forest sector competitiveness agenda, engaging the public, and cumulative effects. Featured speakers will share First Nations perspectives on land use planning and building a forest industry, new uses for BC timber and fibre products, and identifying tree species that can adapt to a changing climate.



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## Important to the Future Well-Being of All of BC's Natural Resources

One of the main purposes of the ABCFP is to “advocate for and uphold the principles of stewardship for forests, forest lands, forest resources, and forest ecosystems.”

Professional resource managers should uphold these principles in a way that ensures the appropriate actions happen across BC in a manner which duly considers all resource values. The ABCFP should do whatever it takes to ensure this happens, as per the following:

1. **The timber supply review (TSR) process in BC** has too many mechanisms and inaccurate data involved in the process. As this process sets the stage for forest operations across BC it should be correct, honorable, defensible, and reflect excellence in resource stewardship. It currently falls far short of these basic principles. The ABCFP should advocate for, and engage in, a formal review of the current TSR process; hopefully such a review will lead to positive changes that will accurately reflect the true sustained yield [annual allowable cut (AAC)] of BC.
2. **New forest stewardship plans (FSP)**: Previously, several FSPs covered multiple timber supply areas (TSA), however the new plan covers a significant portion of BC. This is not in the public interest and is contrary to the recent Forest Practices Board (FPB) report on FSPs which recommended that these plans be more user-friendly for the public. One large plan is counter to this recommendation. The ABCFP should ensure future plans reflect the recommendations made in the FPB report.
3. **A comprehensive land use plan for BC** is required, which should consist of three basic parts:
  - A. The current status and spatial description of all of BC's natural resources (a comprehensive resource inventory).

- B. Definitive objectives for these resources (e.g. a specific AAC, animal unit months (AUM) of livestock forage, a long-term goal for protected areas, etc.). These objectives must be developed in collaboration with all resource sectors, including the public and First Nations.
- C. A detailed plan on how the resources described under (A) will be managed to achieve the desired objectives listed under (B). With (A) and (B) in place the only thing left to fight over is step C — how the resources will be managed to meet the stated objectives — a much more proactive and productive process.
4. **Resource policy developments in BC** have been almost wholly reactive to “the flavour of the day” issues. As a result, these policies have always lagged far behind what is needed at the current time. By the time policy changes are implemented, they are out-of-date and hence need to be continually changed. A very reactive, expensive, time-consuming and frustrating process with ongoing, unacceptable harm being experienced by all resources and resource sectors across BC. (It takes from 8-10 years to implement any major policy change, i.e. from the old regime to the *Forest Practices Code* (FPC) and then again to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA).

I hope you will consider the above issues as first priorities for the ABCFP's advocacy efforts.

Thank you,  
**Fred Marshall, RPF, PAg, Cert Arb**

## RE: Wildfire Hazard Mitigation – Blackwell and Gray, Nov-Dec 2016

Thanks Bruce and Bob for another interesting article on a very important subject. Many of us tend to forget in our day-to-day business that managing a forest for consumptive and non-consumptive resources is really difficult after the trees have all been burned up. In other words, maintaining a resilient stand comes FIRST, not as an incidental by-product of forest management.

The devil, as usual, is always in the details. Sometimes opening up a canopy is not the right answer, sometimes opening up a stand will actually be counter-productive, sometimes reducing basal area will result in a horizontal forest (windthrow). But that's why us professional foresters get those big bucks; we get to decide what's best on a site level.

But Bruce and Bob have asked us the really important question; how much is enough, given all the social and economic constraints to treatment, and how should we measure it? Government, industry, and consulting foresters need to get on the same page. We could use some help from the ABCFP; after all, isn't that what THEY get those big bucks for?

**Steve Schmidt, RPF**

## Have a Compliment or Concern? Write us!

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. Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published. Send letters to:

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# Those Three Letters are Important

**Recently I attended a business meeting with some people I was** meeting for the first time. We followed the usual business protocols, shook hands, and exchanged business cards.

Afterwards, when I was back in my office, I was filing their cards away when — for some reason — one of the cards caught my eye and I found myself staring at the three letters after the person's name: RPF. Those same three letters also come after my name on my business card. And I found myself thinking about the meaning and the importance of those letters.

Admittedly, for the average British Columbian, RPF or RFT may not be as immediately recognizable as something like PEng or CPA. But given the importance of forestry to the economy, environment, and the spirit of BC, it's just as significant.

The work and the journey we each undertake to gain the right to have those three letters after our names is immense and time consuming. Each of us should be proud of that accomplishment. BC's *Foresters Act* assigns the right to practise forestry only to those of us who have earned the education and passed the rigours of an articling and exam process administered through the ABCFP. After making it into the profession, we each maintain our right to keep those letters by upholding the responsibilities assigned to us as registered professionals and which are set out in our *Code of Ethics*.

One interest that many of us share in this profession is a love of the outdoors; I know for me that was a major impetus for choosing a career in forestry. My first few years of practice were incredibly fun, spending time in the bush and exploring parts of the back country that I was convinced no one else had ever seen (of course roaring around on ATVs was pretty fun as well). But as the years wore on and I gained more experience and responsibility, my time in the bush decreased — which I still miss some days, while other days my knees are grateful. Importantly though, I found myself making more and more decisions that affected not only the forest management regime for specific forest areas, but also influenced broader land use aspects, like wildlife habitat management.

As many of you may know, this past year I made a career decision to move from the private sector to government. My new role pretty

much means most of my time will now be spent in an office, in meetings, or on the phone. Such is the life of a forest professional as the years go by. But for me, the fact that I'm not spending time in the bush does not mean I'm not practising forestry; it just means the scope and level of influence of my practice has increased.

Senior forest professionals are often called upon to make decisions or sign off on plans and policies that have profound effects on the land base as a whole. When thrust into these roles, it's more important than ever to have those three letters after your name. It showcases to everyone, whether they know me personally or not, the educational background I have, the ethics I follow when conducting myself, and my willingness to be held publicly accountable for the judgements I make. And while a great deal of my new job relies on my leadership, management, and complex problem solving skills, the coupling of those competencies with the experience and forestry context I gained over many years as a Registered Professional Forester is what gives me (and hopefully others) the confidence that I can do this job well.

A sense of community is the other thing I think about when I see those three letters after my name; being part of something bigger than me. A forest professional is part of a community that cuts across all the employer groups. At times those letters remind us of the importance of working as a collective — such as coming together as a profession to advocate around strengthening growth and yield. Other times they serve to remind us of the strength of our teams within our individual workplaces. Big things usually aren't accomplished by working on our own; rather, we achieve our greatest successes when we pull together as a team and rely on each other to play different roles.

Shannon Janzen, RPF, chief forester and vice president for Western Forest Products, summed it up well in the November-December 2016 issue of *BC Forest Professional* when she said, "As a vice president responsible for sustainability, I also rely on more than 80 other forest professionals for their high standard in achieving Western's own *Forest Strategy* requirements in conjunction with BC's complex and stringent environmental laws and regulations."

Regardless of the letters after your name, they are important. They have slightly different meaning for each of us, but it shows we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We should share pride in having that designation and showcasing all it represents. ✖



# Is There a Story to Tell with Our Membership Numbers?

**Over the past six months, members have often asked me how we are doing in terms of membership numbers.** Commonly, this general question is followed by *“Is there an exodus of members from the profession?”* and *“Are people still going into forestry?”* With membership renewal closing in December and the related statistics published in this edition, it is timely to talk about these questions and the overall state of our membership.

When I assumed the CEO role, I wanted answers to the same questions. Digging into the data, one of the first things I learned was the association's membership has remained strong at about 5,300 for the past decade minus a temporary spike around 2009 when it peaked at about 5,700. Looking at our online membership dashboard today, which happens to be the day after the close of the renewal period, it reads 5,321. Phew, first question answered — there is definitely NOT a mass exodus happening. But within this steady state, there are some trends that we need to pay attention to in the long term and begin to develop responses. While we are not in crisis in regard to any of them, they have the potential to alter how we approach the association's business and without thoughtful planning today, could become larger concerns.

One such trend is the change in the number of active members — that is, those registered to practise professional forestry. While not an alarming change, there is an observable decline of about six per cent as a result of increases in retirements and leaves of absence.

Not surprisingly, the association has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of retired members. Today in contrast to 10 years ago, the category has grown from just over 200 to around 500. The annual growth rate has varied; the last three year average was 38 new retired members.

Another smaller sub-category worth watching is the number of members on leave of absence (LOA). Prior to 2009, we received about 140 LOA requests a year. Following the bottom of the economic recession in 2008, there was an increase to about 210 LOA requests in 2010, followed by a peak of 276 in 2011. The number has since dropped. At the outset of this year we had less than 190, for the prior three years the number of annual LOAs hovered slightly

above 200. In summary, we have about 50 additional members on leave from our historic 10-year period. Not a huge number, but concerning. There are many legitimate reasons to request a temporary leave of absence from professional practice; however, there are circumstances where the leave could lead to a risk of unintentional infringement of practice. As a result, we will be changing our internal policy and procedures regarding leaves of absence for the next membership renewal period to help address our concerns for individuals and the profession.

As for the question *“Are people still going into forestry?”* I can emphatically answer yes. Forestry programs across the province were full at the start of this academic year, with wait lists in some cases. Additionally, there are more students from non-accredited forestry and related natural resource programs. This poses a short-term challenge because their education only gets them part way towards the entrance requirements for our profession. We have a number of initiatives planned for 2017 to help alleviate some of the business challenges this can pose for the profession and prospective future enrollees. Five years ago we had 317 enrolled members (FIT, FP, or TFT). Today the number has grown to 478 – which also happens to be slightly higher than the level it was 10 years ago prior to the 2008 economic recession.

Finally, what about resignations and removals? For the five years between 2008 and 2012, removals were approximately 100 per year and have since declined. The most recent three-year average is 32. Resignations have been more sporadic; in the past three years there were about 100 a year, which is an increase of more than 20 members from the 10-year annual average. While the combination of resignations and removals hasn't constituted a significant difference over the past decade, we have been reaching out to some of these former members to better understand their decision not to maintain their designation.

Our membership is strong and I want to see it stay that way. To support this we will continue to refine the value proposition of membership, including increasing communication to members, their employers, and the public about why registered practice exists; reflecting on what's at stake without registered practitioners on BC's land base, and the honour and privilege it is to be protecting the public's interest in such an important natural resource. ☘



## ABCFP Annual General Meeting Set for February 23 in Prince George

The ABCFP's 69<sup>th</sup> AGM will take place on Thursday, February 23 from 1:45 to 2:30 pm as part of the annual forestry conference, *Changing Landscapes, New Opportunities*, in Prince George. All members are invited to attend the AGM portion of the conference free of charge (pre-registration is not required). The AGM will take place at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, 808 Canada Games Way, Prince George. The agenda will include the following items:

- Adoption of minutes of the previous annual general meeting;
- Adoption by resolution of annual report;
- Adoption by resolution of the audited financial statements;
- Appointment by resolution of auditors;
- Appointment by resolution of one (1) or more of the returning officers and scrutineers for the purposes of Bylaw 4.15;
- Reporting of council election results;
- Ratification by resolution of actions taken by council and staff on behalf of the association in the preceding year; and
- Any other business specified in the notice of meeting.

Only registered members, limited license holders, and associate members in good standing may vote at the AGM.

## Pre-Conference Research Symposium

Join us in Prince George on February 22, 2017, for our special pre-conference research symposium, *How Managing for Risk, Wildlife Habitat, and Growth and Yield Impacts Timber Supply*.

While standard even-aged forest management continues to be important in BC, the future is trending towards increasingly complex regimes and greater uncertainty and risk for the timber supply. At the same time, mounting pressure from stakeholder groups, First Nations, and the public are challenging forest professionals to address other values such as wildlife habitat when managing forests. How can forest professionals navigate this tangle of competing demands, priorities, and risks to the timber supply across the land base?

Research can provide the tools and information to help practitioners and managers make integrated decisions that ensure best management practices to address these multiple concerns and objectives.

This symposium creates a dialogue between researchers from FLNRO, NRCAN, and UNBC with forest professionals to highlight the latest research in these areas and to identify additional knowledge gaps and the information needs of the practitioners.

To register, visit our conference website at <https://abcfp.ca/web/ABCFCConference>.

## Congratulations to the 2016 Valedictorians

This year we have valedictorians from the legacy registration process and the new registration process.

Congratulations to everyone. We look forward to seeing you at the 2017 annual forestry conference and AGM in Prince George.

## REFLECTIONS ON ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS: Wildlife

By Anna Shcherbinina, PhD, FIT, and Mike Larock, RPF

Forest professionals have an obligation to manage forests "on sound ecological principles to sustain its ability to provide those values that have been assigned by society" (Bylaw 11.3.1). Wildlife and management of wildlife habitat are some of the values assigned by society. This is evident in forest practices and other legislation, as well as in communities across the province that are concerned about wildlife.

When applying their professional judgement within forest management decisions, forest professionals consider the impact of the advice and decisions on habitat. Professional judgement is guided by legislation, science, consulting with peers and other professionals, and by professional obligations to ensure good stewardship of forest land.

## Submit Your Business and Advisory Resolutions

The deadline to submit a business resolution for the ABCFP 69<sup>th</sup> AGM is Thursday, January 19, 2017 (at least 35 days before the AGM). Advisory resolutions are also being accepted now. You can learn more about resolutions (including the differences between business and advisory resolutions) on the Resolutions Session page of the conference website. The AGM will be held as part of the *Changing Landscapes, New Opportunities* conference in Prince George. Business resolutions will be discussed during the AGM portion on February 23. Advisory resolutions will be discussed during the resolutions session on February 24.

## Early Bird Rates Still Available for 2017 Annual Forestry Conference

Members have until January 16, 2017, to receive the early bird rate for *Changing Landscapes, New Opportunities*, the ABCFP's 2017 annual forestry conference and AGM, February 22-24 at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre.

The 2017 conference focuses on new challenges and opportunities facing BC's forest sector. Among the challenges, speakers will discuss how best to engage the public, genomic research into how trees are adapting to climate change, and managing for cumulative impacts. Featured speakers will address opportunities from working with Aboriginal Peoples, new wood and fibre-based products, and BC's new *Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda*.

Keynote speakers include BC Chief Forester Diane Nicholls, RPF, science broadcaster and writer Jay Ingram, and geneticist Sally Aitken, PhD, from UBC's Faculty of Forestry.

And of course there will be the usual favourites: trade show, Inductee's Luncheon, President's Awards Banquet, and the always popular Icebreaker cocktail reception on opening night.

Visit the conference website for more information at <https://abcfp.ca/web/ABCFCConference>.



# Balancing Wildlife with Environmental Sustainability and Economic Growth



**Welcome back, everyone. Here's to a successful and meaningful 2017 for you all, with a few dashes of adventure thrown in for good measure.**

In this edition, our authors explore the theme *Wildlife*; a subject as diverse as the flora and fauna of British Columbia. Despite being a third-generation Vancouver kid, I grew up learning to fish and hunt with my family during our extensive camping trips that stretched from Vancouver Island to the Peace River Country. Whether it was paddling around lakes in the family canoe or hiking through the woods identifying signs of wildlife, I learned a lot about the value of our forests as a source of food and economic growth, so I hope you enjoy this edition as much as I do.

ABCFP forest stewardship specialist Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio, talks about the balance between species and environmental protection and opportunities for economic development in her article full of useful steps for forest professionals to take when working with species at risk and focal species.

John Prince Research Forest researchers Dexter Hodder, MSc, and Shannon Crowley, MSc, RPBio, take us through the highlights of the research they're conducting on the patterns of American marten occupancy at a landscape level. What they're learning may surprise you.

Have you ever thought about the forests for their hoofage value as well as stumpage values? With moose populations on the decline, Roy Rea, PhD, RPBio; Daniel Aitken; and Kenneth Child explore the virtues of mixed wood management in relation to moose and habitat management in the province. With more on moose, Chris Addison, RPBio, FLNRO director of resource management in the northeast, shares his experience in working to develop the *Peace-Liard Moose Management Plan (PLMMP)* and the five key levers for effective moose management in the Peace.

Anyone working in bear country knows bear safety training is a WorkSafeBC requirement. BC-based wildlife biology consultant Grant MacHutchon, MSc, RPBio provides a refresher on the fundamentals for staying safe around bears while you're out in the field.

As well, we continue our interview series with Chief Foresters' Leadership Team members; this time Jeff Mycock, RPF, chief forester for West Fraser Mills Ltd., steps up to the plate with an insightful look at the challenges facing the forest sector.

We also have a nice little round-up of National Forest Week events and our ever popular NFW art contest winners. You may have also noticed the cover features a beautiful algae bloom, photographed by Sue Huddart, RFT(Ret), our 2016 NFW photo contest winner. And finally, we have a new column in the magazine, *Managing for Climate Change*, which will feature a rotating cast of authors. ❀

## Wildlife and the Principles of Stewardship<sup>1</sup>

By Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio

One of the main tenets of the ABCFP's principles of stewardship is to maintain function, structure, and composition of key ecosystem components over temporal scales and spatial scales. Maintaining ecological integrity requires identification and strategic management of valued ecosystem components (such as focal species) at the site level, the landscape level, and on a global scale.

Forest ecosystems, including wildlife and associated habitats, are in a state of flux with various influencing dynamics always at play (e.g. climate change, natural disturbance, and other impacts to the land base). Stewardship ensures the long term maintenance of ecological integrity and resilience to protect plant communities, wildlife, and associated habitats.

Forest practitioners can ensure they are responsible stewards of forest ecosystems by meeting required responsibilities (legal and other professional obligations). Members must ensure an understanding of laws that apply to regions in which professional forestry is occurring and also other professional obligations, such as ethics and certification commitments. Incorporation of the requisite knowledge and applicable technology is paramount for timely data acquisition in long term planning. No one can hold all the information so frequent communications with colleagues and other natural resource professionals will ensure well-rounded, comprehensive decision making. Monitoring progress and incorporation of adaptive management practices will ensure successful achievement of all goals for the values of the land.

<sup>1</sup> The main document can be seen at [http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Practising\\_in\\_BC/Practising\\_in\\_BC.aspx](http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Practising_in_BC/Practising_in_BC.aspx)



# Managing for Species of Special Management Concern in Forestry Operations

**"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."**

Mahatma Gandhi

## British Columbia is well known for its beauty and biodiversity.

It is well founded that BC — with 95 million hectares of diverse topography — climate and resultant flora and fauna is the most biodiverse area of Canada. Fourteen distinct climates are created by the interaction of three broad continental regions (dry, humid temperate, and polar). There are over 1,100 native species of vertebrates in the province and three-quarters of Canada's mammal species are found in BC<sup>1</sup>.

Among the biodiversity of species, there are two key categories of concern for the forest practitioner to consider in regards to site and regional management decisions: species at risk and focal species.

## Species at Risk

Within BC there are many species and ecosystems at risk from various influences, including direct human activities, changing climates, and other introduced species. The term "species at risk" encompasses extirpated, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable species. BC is one of the two provinces that does not have provincial species at risk legislation but instead relies on provincial and federal laws collectively that govern how at risk populations and associ-

ated habitats are managed. These pieces of provincial legislation include the *Wildlife Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, the *Ecological Reserve Act*, the *Park Act*, and the *Land Act*; and federally the *Species at Risk Act* and *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*.

1. Analyzing opportunities and making recommendations regarding changes to existing or new policy and legislation to address gaps in protection for species at risk, ensuring input from stakeholders and the public is considered prior to making any changes;
2. Exploring and recommending new ways (including incentives and possible project funding) to promote voluntary protection of species at risk; and
3. Developing options for innovative and enduring funding for species at risk stewardship programs.


## Focal Species

Focal species are essential for ecological function, or are indicative of essential habitat components (thus "focused on" by scientists for study). These species may provide an umbrella function for other species or represent large groups of other species, they may be the bio-engine in that they are responsible for the body and function of major ecological processes, and/or they may provide an efficient way to comprehensively represent a higher level goal, such as biodiversity protection. If a focal species becomes a species at risk in an area, it is likely indicative of compromised ecosystem function.

Focal species may include "indicator species," which can be defined as those that directly link to the conditions in a particular habitat. Selection of indicator species may depend on what the species are needed to indicate, such as habitat function, effects from human impacts, or possibly changes from natural disturbance. The species need to be linked to particular habitats or ecosystem types and changes in those habitats and ecosystems. An ideal indicator species should inform management decision making that affects the species, other species, and the habitats in which the species lives<sup>1</sup>.

## Role of the Forest Professional

As per the Association of BC Forest Professionals *Principles of Forest Stewardship*<sup>3</sup>, forest professionals have a responsibility to manage for species at risk and other key ecosystem wildlife such as focal



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ated habitats are managed. These pieces of provincial legislation include the *Wildlife Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, the *Ecological Reserve Act*, the *Park Act*, and the *Land Act*; and federally the *Species at Risk Act* and *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*.

Considering that 94 per cent of the land in BC is Crown land, species protection must strike a balance between protecting the environment and opportunities for economic development. Healthy ecosystems rich with biodiversity are essential to human



Photo: iStock

*Red-legged frog*

species. There are several considerations for the practitioner to incorporate in managing for these species:

1. **Be aware of your obligations:** professional, legal and certification responsibilities.
2. **Use competent expertise to conduct regular awareness training** for staff/contractors on species at risk, focal species, and those species and associated habitats that are potentially impacted by forestry operations.
3. **Become familiar with BC Ecosystem Explorer and how to use the application for your region of activities.** The Endangered Species and Ecosystems in British Columbia<sup>1</sup> website provides links and detailed information for species at risk in BC, creates lists by species group(s), at risk status, and/or forest district for red and blue-listed species in BC, and links to species summaries and relevant publications and references.
4. **Update the BC Conservation Data Center<sup>4</sup> (BC CDC) with field observations** of species occurrences (especially those that are

rare or out of normal range). BC CDC relies on forest field staff for these crucial links to species inventory and species migration.

5. **Plan for long term strategies for climate change that also incorporate wildlife habitat, breeding, and food and forage area consideration.** Stewardship requires strategies to minimize and mitigate risk and uncertainty in forest management. ABCFP offers resources and webinars on climate change impact considerations for members. ☒

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- 4 British Columbia Conservation Data Center. 2016.

# Can Managing Coarse Woody Debris at the Stand-Level Have Implications for Marten Habitat Suitability?

**Unless one has been living under the proverbial rock over the** past two decades, one is aware of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic in BC. A vast percentage of the BC Interior (some 18 million hectares) has been affected by MPB and much of this area has experienced high levels of salvage harvesting. While much effort has been placed on understanding the implications of this for future timber supply and related socio-economic consequences for communities, very little effort has been placed on understanding its implications on habitat supply (especially for those species that are old forest dependent).

American marten (Figure 1) are one such species that can serve as an indicator of the health of a forested landscape. Across their range, marten select forests that have both complex over and understory attributes, typically found in older stands. Most research suggests that marten will not recolonize stands until 40-60 years after harvest. Some recent research from the Prince George timber supply area suggests that up to 85 per cent of ideal marten habitat has already been lost in some trapline areas. Considering there will likely be subsequent harvesting at 70-80 year rotations, the future of marten populations in these areas is uncertain.

At the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF), located in the Fort St. James Forest District, we have been conducting baseline monitoring of meso-carnivore populations for the past four years. Marten, as an indicator of old forests, is one of our focal species. We are exploring patterns of marten occupancy at a landscape level using remote cameras as well as GPS collars. Complimentary to these activities, we are also experimenting with different logging practices during operations that could benefit marten habitat. Our intentions during these operations are to test whether we can accelerate

recolonization of marten and their prey into harvested cutblocks earlier than the reported 40-60 year time span. Specifically, our objective was to make any suitable habitat in a cutblock available to marten (e.g. wildlife tree patches). To achieve this, in addition to dispersed coarse woody debris (CWD) (30-50 m<sup>3</sup>/ha), we constructed continuous CWD corridors (five metres wide by one metre high and between 100 and 200 metres long; Figure 2) connecting source habitat (block edge) to habitat patches in the stand. We monitored the block using remote cameras during summer (one-and-a-half years post-harvest) and with snow tracks during winter (two years post-harvest).

The summer monitoring was completed as a University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) undergraduate thesis and demonstrated that marten used the surrounding forest and the cutblock area (to a lesser degree) but there was no significant selection for the corridors. For marten prey (mice, voles, shrews) there was a significant selection for corridors over other parts of the cutblock and surrounding forest (Figure 3). During winter, data is less robust but showed that any marten tracks in the cutblock were within 50 metres of the CWD corridors (this is also supported by GPS collar data). While these results are preliminary, the trend is encouraging.

Ideally, we were hoping we could get marten back in the stand in 10-20 years (instead of 40-60). To our surprise, we found marten using stands in the first two years after harvest. Although we are still monitoring these corridors, our early results suggest there are practical tools available (at low cost) to mitigate some of the impacts on old forest species such as marten. We recognize that some managers use other types of treatments (e.g. "critter piles") to try and achieve similar goals. However, given the severe impact on marten habitat in the Interior of BC, we suggest it is important to have continuous features in blocks that connect fragmented habitat and make it more accessible to these animals. The management actions of forest professionals (by the very nature of forest harvesting) have the biggest impact on species such as marten in BC; our results suggest they are also the group best situated to help mitigate these impacts. ✕

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*Dexter Hodder, MSc, is the director of research and education at the John Prince Research Forest where he has worked since 2001. He plays an active role in forest management operations and manages the research and education programming. His research interests are wide and include long-term ecological monitoring, field-based education, and exploring ways to integrate community values into forest management planning.*

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*Shannon Crowley, MSc, RPBio, has worked for the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF) as the ecological monitoring coordinator since 2012. He has worked directly in the field of wildlife research and management for over 19 years. He is currently working on the development and implementation of a long-term monitoring strategy in the JPRF for wildlife and their habitat. Most of Shannon's work focuses on the ecology of carnivores.*

*Figure 1: A photo of an American marten from the John Prince Research Forest.*

*Figure 2: A coarse woody debris corridor constructed from forest edge to a wildlife tree patch to provide access for species such as marten.*

*Figure 3: Average number of small mammal visits to camera traps in forest, clearcut and corridor locations in and around a recently harvested clearcut in central British Columbia, with standard error bars.*



Figure 3

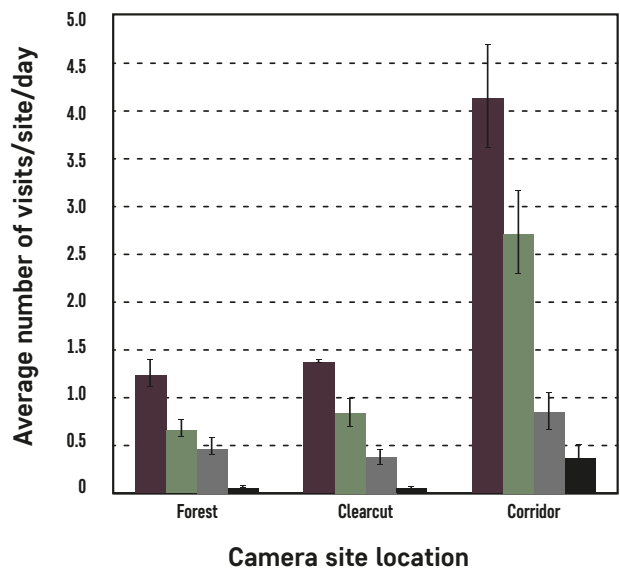


Figure 1

Photo: Dexter Hooder



Figure 2



# Climate Change Vulnerability of BC's Fish and Wildlife Species

As our changing climate increasingly alters temperatures, hydrology, and fire regimes, BC's natural resource managers have good reason to wonder whether wildlife habitat areas, ungulate winter ranges, other set-asides, plans and practices will serve well over time, or whether new approaches are needed. To help address this question, the province introduced a new framework in June 2016 to assess the vulnerability of BC's fish and wildlife in a changing climate.

This framework assesses potential exposure to climatic and other stressors, the sensitivity of a species or ecosystem to those stressors, and the adaptive capacity of the species, to determine relative vulnerability of a species to climate change impacts. It also examines the potential to reduce risk to each species.

The framework is accompanied by an Excel database that assesses the vulnerability of (initially) 63 species selected from keystone species, those of high conservation priority or dependent upon climatically vulnerable habitats. Included are large and small generalist and specialist amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, as well as some ecosystem types.

Results show that species that can use a broader range of ecosystems tend to be less vulnerable, as are those more tolerant of ecosystem alteration. Broad strategies to reduce risk include promoting resilience, combating detrimental change, guiding ecological transformation, and limiting cumulative effects of multiple land-use activities. For examples, see the vulnerability assessment framework on the BC Government website<sup>1</sup>.

While the framework is a good start, much work remains to better understand climate change impacts on species and population at the landscape level, and ramifications for habitat protection. ❄️

BC's diverse ecosystems provide Canada's only home for 25 per cent of our nation's mammals, 30 per cent of its amphibians, 40 per cent of its hardwood tree species<sup>2</sup>, and numerous species at risk. BC resource managers hold a global stewardship responsibility for species and ecosystems found primarily in BC and those whose ranges have contracted towards BC<sup>3</sup>.

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# Staying Safe while Working in Bear Country

People need a good understanding of the principles for staying safe around bears in order to act appropriately and reduce their risk of injury. The main motivations and behaviour of bears that approach people are:

- **Defensive:** The bear perceives you as a threat to itself, its cubs, or its food. A defensive bear typically acts agitated or stressed.
- **Non-defensive:** The bear may be curious, tolerant of people, human food-conditioned, testing its dominance, or predatory. A non-defensive bear generally does not act stressed, rather approaches more focussed and deliberate.

Defensive bears sometimes charge assertively, however these charges usually fall short of contact. These charges are often called a bluff, but the bear is not bluffing. Any bear that charges and makes contact is considered to have attacked. Grizzlies are much more likely than black bears to attack defensively and encounters are most often with defensive bears, so it is useful to distinguish species. Because coastal grizzly bears have closer association with other bears than in the Interior, they tend to tolerate humans at closer distance, therefore are less likely to attack defensively. However, any grizzly bear that feels threatened may attack to defend itself or its cubs.

## Guidelines for staying safe in any bear encounter:

- If the bear isn't aware of your presence, try to move away without getting its attention.
- If it knows you're there, identify yourself as human and move away without running.
- If the bear starts to approach, stand your ground, prepare your deterrent, and determine if the bear is acting defensive or non-defensive.



Photos courtesy of Grant Machutchon

- If it's a **defensive** approach:
  - Try to appear non-threatening and talk in a calm voice.
  - When the bear stops advancing, slowly move away.
  - If the bear keeps advancing, stand your ground and keep talking.
  - If it seems intent on attack, use your deterrent.
  - If you cannot deter an attack, fall on the ground and play dead.
  - When the attack stops, lie still and wait for the bear to leave.
- If it's a **non-defensive** approach:
  - Talk in a firm voice and move out of the bear's path.
  - If it deliberately follows you, stop and stand your ground, shout and act aggressively to intimidate the bear, and use your deterrent.
  - If the bear attacks, fight for your life.

The key to safety is doing what you can to prevent a bear encounter. Learn more about bear signs and behaviour. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings and be especially careful in the early morning and evening. Travel in a group whenever possible, and do what you can to

warn bears of your presence. Carefully manage bear attractants, especially human food and garbage. Finally, carry bear spray and know how to use it.

Bear safety training is a WorkSafeBC requirement for anyone working in bear country and there are two video programs that are valuable education resources. *Staying Safe in Bear Country* features the consensus opinion of experts on bear behaviour and its relevance to human safety and *Working in Bear Country* provides additional information for people working in bear country. These programs are available from Distribution Access. You can visit their website at [www.distributionaccess.com](http://www.distributionaccess.com) or call them toll-free at 1-800-665-4121. ❄️

*Grant Machutchon, Msc, RPBio, is a BC-based wildlife biology consultant who primarily works with bears, particularly in the areas of human and bear interaction management, habitat ecology, and population biology. Grant is also vice-president of the non-profit Safety in Bear Country Society (SBCS). The SBCS have produced four video programs on bear behaviour and its relevance to human safety. Grant regularly gives bear safety presentations and courses to various audiences.*



# Moose Management

In all of North America, there are 28 big game species, 19 of those live in BC, and 13 in the Peace Region alone. Northeastern BC is also home to a significant proportion of BC's moose population; between 50,000 and 80,000. It's not hard to appreciate the importance of ungulate and predator diversity in shaping the region. Treaty 8 First Nations rely on moose for food, and it is a cornerstone of their cultures. At the same time, moose represent half of all licensed game harvest, filling freezers throughout the region and parts of the rest of the province. Whatever the history of this area was, today this is a moose dominated ecology.

However, management in recent decades has focused on licensed harvest of moose, relying on a liberal bull-only harvest with antler restrictions. There are several key management tools that have

meaningful engagement led to bad feelings, mistrust, and a loop of conversations that were frustrating for everyone involved.

As a result, in 2013 we initiated the *Peace-Liard Moose Management Plan* (PLMMP) process in partnership with Treaty 8 First Nations. This process is fundamentally different than how we have done game management planning in the past; firstly because we are considering the management levers that we can use to manage moose better, and secondly because the process is between the province and First Nations first, rather than with a small number of key stakeholders.

After a series of community and technical meetings, an all-nations moose summit with the province, and engagement with stakeholders (including forest licensees), we have identified five key management levers: habitat management, health and monitoring, compliance and enforcement, direct population management, and licensed hunting regulations.

## Habitat Management

Forestry has the greatest role to play in habitat management. The forest industry is essential to growing more moose, and we can do that while ensuring a profitable and sustainable industry. In some cases this may be as simple as flexibility on replanting standards, lessening the use of herbicide to allow for moose browse production, and by managing for sight-lines and roadside timber extraction.

Of course it's not all that simple. The inverse of this story is that increases in moose largely lead to decreases in caribou via the apparent competition model. However, I believe the thoughtful application of principles can allow for the recovery of caribou and abundant moose populations, such as creating a spatial separation between moose and caribou, and treating habitat differently to meet those objectives.

*Chris Addison, RPBio, is the director of resource management, Northeast with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Chris is interested in the most challenging issues concerning natural resource management, especially as it relates to species at risk and wildlife management. He has broad experience with stakeholders and First Nations regarding resource use in BC concerning a broad range of policy decisions, land use agreements, tenure conflicts and problem resolution, wildlife and habitat management, negotiations, and consultation.*

greater influence over moose populations than simple harvest. When my staff and I consult with Treaty 8 communities, we discuss all manner of statutory decisions around wildlife management but not moose management directly. Because we hadn't previously proposed hunting regulation changes, there was essentially no venue to have a meaningful conversation about moose. However, the message was clear that this was a key topic and the lack of





Photo courtesy of: Chris Addison

# in the Peace

## Population Management

Another proposed tool is direct population intervention. Wolf removal is ongoing today for the benefit of caribou in the south Peace as part of the *Peace Northern Caribou Plan* (PNCP). Preliminary indications are we have been more successful than anticipated. Appropriate predator management is likely to continue to be a key action in caribou recovery programs. However, finding an appropriate balance is a great challenge and one of several matters that will need to be addressed.

## Health and Monitoring

In communicating with Treaty 8 communities, we heard they are concerned about the health status of moose. While there are some disease issues we understand well, communities are concerned about potential health effects not considered before, including contamination from glyphosate and from oil and gas activities. We also heard about lumps, worms, and ticks, which have caused concern about whether moose is safe to eat. While we address some of these questions in partnership with communities and universities, we have also developed a monitoring program for ticks, which appear to have increased in prevalence in recent years.

## Compliance and Enforcement

As a result of the PLMMP development, we've put a new spin on the old practice of game checks. I would like to thank our partners in the Conservation Officer Service for delivering six regional game checks at key locations this hunting season. More than just a compliance check, my team and First Nations members attended these events and had conversations with hunters about their expectations and we received a lot of public input into the plan. Increased

## Two valuable apps to explore:

### BCWF Conservation<sup>1</sup>

The BCWF Conservation app "makes it easy for users to take geo-referenced, time-stamped photos or videos and to report issues related to illegal use, or abuse of our natural resources. The app works both in and out of service using the phone's GPS." The app is available through iTunes.

### BC Moose Tracker<sup>2</sup>

The BC Moose Tracker app lets users upload moose sighting information, as well as photos "directly to a province-wide database. The collected data helps monitor moose populations and alert wildlife staff to emerging issues." The app is available through iTunes.

effectiveness of compliance and enforcement actions is seen as a key piece of a successful PLMMP.

## Licensed Hunting Regulations

While we have had many hard conversations during the development of this plan, I doubt anything has been more heated than discussions around hunting regulations. My team and I believe that the major successes in the PLMMP will come from the other levers, though many Treaty 8 people disagree. Given the other pressures on the landscape today and an increasing population of hunters, we will need to revisit local moose hunting regulations. Currently licensed hunters enjoy a very generous 10-week general open season for bull moose and the future state should reflect the importance of this resource to all users. While we haven't determined what this will look like, we know that local people have a great interest in the hunting opportunity.

We manage natural resources for human outcomes. British Columbians care about biodiversity, stand management, jobs, and First Nations rights. The goal of the PLMMP is to address those values more completely with a management planning process unique in the history of BC. By developing an objectives-based plan that considers everyone's interests, I am hopeful we can better satisfy their interests. ☺

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**Disclaimer:** Opinions stated are those of Chris Addison. Government policy is named, but interpreted by Mr. Addison.

# Seeing the Forests for their Hoofage and Stumpage Values

**Few animals symbolize BC wilderness like moose. While the majority of BC's human population does not live within the range of moose, many residents of the province travel to see these magnificent creatures, to observe and photograph them, and in some cases to hunt them. Moose are of critical importance to many First Nations.**

Moose populations in several parts of BC have been in decline since the mid 2000's (Figure 1), with some populations dropping by 50 to 70 per cent<sup>1</sup>. Most people studying moose suspect that the declines are attributable to a concert of factors.

Moose populations are regulated predominantly by predators, parasites and disease, climate, and habitat quality and quantity. Direct human causes such as hunting and vehicle/train collision mortality also have some impact.

Predators can and have been controlled, but current BC provincial policy limits predator control to special circumstances such as controlling specific individuals or packs of wolves where predation is likely preventing the recovery of wildlife populations such as mountain caribou<sup>2</sup>. Because predators such as wolves tend to

target old, young, and sick, rather than healthy, prime breeding moose, moose reproduction and recruitment of calves is generally balanced with losses from predation<sup>3</sup>. In the words of Aldo Leopold, "You cannot love game and hate predators...the land is one organism."

Winter tick infestations have killed and continue to kill moose in areas of Interior BC. Tick infestations are particularly threatening to the young of the year<sup>4</sup>. Ticks can induce anemia and hair loss, which when combined with inclement weather can create severe health challenges for infected moose. There is concern that future climate warming trends may support high tick survival<sup>5</sup>. No other significant parasite or disease issue has been identified in BC moose<sup>6</sup>.

Winter severity influences moose survival<sup>7</sup>, but winters with deep snow and extreme cold have been few and far between where BC moose are concerned. What may be more important to moose is how warm BC winters have become and how such winters affect the ability of moose in winter coats to avoid heat stress. Also freeze/thaw cycles impact snow density and crusting thereby giving an unfair advantage to wolves hunting atop snow crusts that do not support the weight of moose.

Although it may be hard for us to control wolf numbers, tick outbreaks and climate, we can and do influence habitat quality and supply which are critical to maintaining populations of healthy moose across the landscape.

Winter ranges are of critical importance to the survival of moose. The best winter ranges tend to be found at lower elevations, often in valley bottoms, where snow depths tend to be shallow. Unfortunately, valley bottoms in BC have been and continue to be heavily developed with transportation corridors, agriculture, forestry, and many other forms of development, leaving moose with less critical winter habitat. These "epic losses in habitat" that Mike Morris, minister of public safety and solicitor general, refers to in his 2015 report *Getting the Balance Right*<sup>8</sup> may be leaving moose populations with much less winter range than is required for them

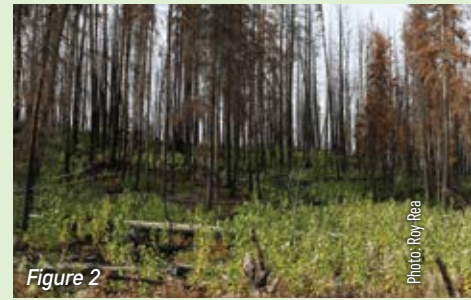


Figure 2

Photo: Roy Rea



Figure 3

Photo: Roy Rea

*Roy V. Rea, PhD, RPBio, is a senior lab instructor at the University of Northern BC where he teaches courses in biology and forestry. He has a PhD in Ecology from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and has been formally studying various aspects of moose ecology for 21 years. Roy is the submissions editor for the Journal Alces, a journal devoted to the biology and management of moose.*

*Dan Aitken is an Instructor in the biology department at the College of New Caledonia, where he's been teaching for more than 30 years. He has published several articles in the Journal Alces — a journal devoted to the biology and management of moose. Dan is also a frequent reviewer of articles submitted to this journal. As well, Dan has presented numerous poster and oral presentations at the annual North American Moose Conference and Workshop.*

*Ken Child, now retired, served as regional wildlife biologist for the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (1973-1992). Ken specialized in management and harvesting strategies for moose in the Omineca. Ken is a contributing author to the Wildlife Management Institute Book: Ecology and Management of the North American Moose, published in 1996. In 2009, Ken received the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award, awarded by the North American Moose Conference and Workshop in Pacatello, Idaho.*



## Managing for Moose

- Leave more mature conifer forest for connectivity and to increase the amount of mature forest edge. Mature forests provide more thermal and protective cover and shallower snow pack which reduces energy costs for moose travelling from one forest patch to another<sup>13</sup>.
- Reduce the amount of roads on the landscape. Where possible, rehabilitate and/or deactivate in-block roads<sup>9</sup>.
- Retain more hardwoods such as willow and birch as browse for moose. Manual brush cutting as opposed to herbicide use allows for short-term conifer release and long term browse production<sup>14</sup>. Immature subalpine fir appears to be an important food source for some Interior moose and should be more widely retained.
- For areas adjacent to or within critical habitat for woodland caribou, modify silvicultural practices in concert with local mountain caribou management strategies<sup>9</sup>.

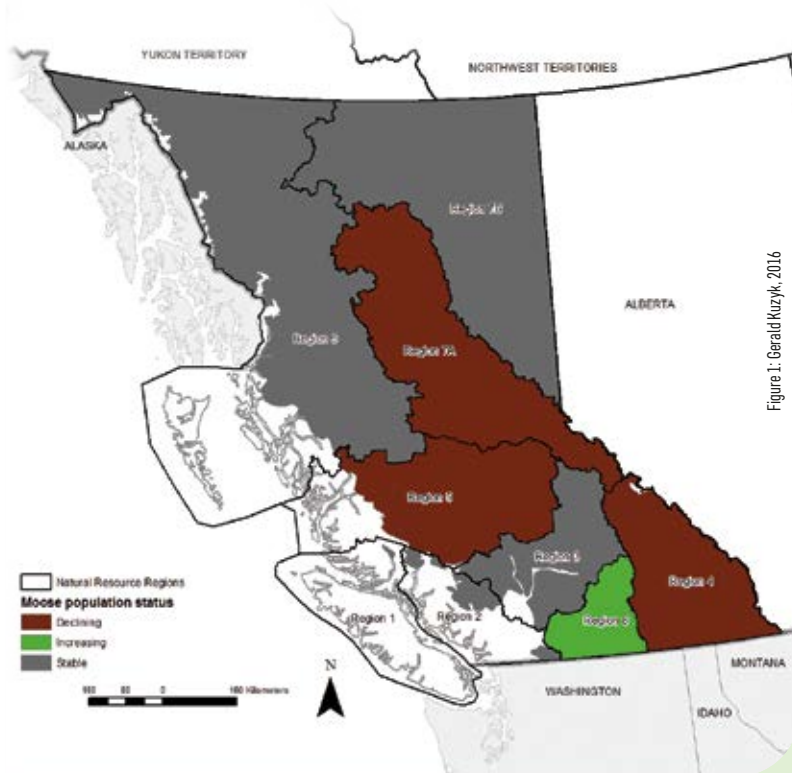


Figure 1: Gerald Kuziyk, 2016

to thrive, let alone increase in numbers. In our discussions of winter range requirements, we must be mindful because moose require high quality ranges in all seasons, not just in winter; protection of winter ranges only goes part of the way<sup>9</sup>. We have seen moose populations decline while efforts to protect ungulate winter ranges have been ongoing.

Generally there is a working assumption that clear-cut logging mimics the effects of forest fire and that forestry is good for moose. This may be true to some degree but not where large cutovers are numerous, nor where little mature forest structure remains post-logging. In addition to the browse created in early seral forests, moose require large amounts of mature forest for thermal and protective cover. Large clearcuts created from salvaged lodgepole pine (and now spruce) beetle-killed stands lacking thermal/protective cover are suboptimal for moose<sup>10</sup>.

Depending on fire intensity, many post-burned habitats promote the growth of aspen, willow, birch, and other deciduous shrubs and trees that serve as year-round foods for moose. A post-burned habitat of dead standing trees carpeted with aspen suckers is not what most conifer plantations look like, or what foresters imagine will help a plantation reach free-to-grow status. Plantations, unlike burns, are managed to minimize hardwood production (e.g. herbicide treatments) and are also characterized by road networks that allow hunters and poachers to access moose habitats which were previously out-of-reach<sup>10</sup>. Put simply, patchworks of relatively young pine and spruce plantations that lack a hardwood component, that are all connected by roads, unlike burns, provide few habitat elements required by moose. Interestingly, recent research points to the importance of subalpine fir in the winter diets of moose in some areas of the Interior (~50 per cent of the diet), so that planting and retaining fir where feasible may benefit moose<sup>11,12</sup>.

In summary, there are many things that can affect moose over which we have little or no control. Fortunately for us, one thing we can and do control — habitat — is of critical importance to moose. Exploring the virtues of mixed wood management, using smaller cuts with fewer roads in a landscape where considerations for what is left behind is as important as what is taken is something we can and must do if moose are to be a serious provincial management objective. Perhaps seeing the commercial forest for its hoofage value as well its stumpage value is a vision that resource managers and society must begin to consider. 🌲

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# Forest Leadership:

## An Interview with Jeff Mycock, RPF

Since the creation of the Chief Foresters' Leadership Team in the summer of 2015, chief foresters across the province have been busy working together on forest sustainability in the context of current resource management challenges.

Part two of our special series features an interview with West Fraser Mills Ltd. Chief Forester Jeff Mycock, RPF. Relatively new to his role as chief forester with West Fraser, Jeff offers an insightful perspective on what being a chief forester means to him.



*Tell us a little bit about yourself. Was forestry something you were naturally drawn to?*

My early childhood was spent on Vancouver Island and my love of the outdoors was kindled by following around behind my Dad camping, hunting, and fishing up and down the Island. My family moved to the Cariboo in 1981 and I spent my remaining childhood years growing up in the small community of Big Lake, near Williams Lake. I developed a deep respect for nature from a young age. I initially was interested in a career as a biologist. My older cousin had similar interests and after observing his difficulty with steady employment, I listened to his advice and pursued a forestry career.

I graduated in 1994 with a technical diploma from Selkirk College in Castlegar. My wife and I moved to Cranbrook for six career-forming years. I returned to the Cariboo in 2000, and started my career with West Fraser in 2001, and in 2015 I moved to Quesnel to work at our corporate office.

*You're fairly new to your role as chief forester. What does the role mean to you?*

The role is a privilege and an honour that I take very seriously. It is a very exciting new chapter in my career. As chief forester, I am focused on timber supply and everything that affects it. The role is very broad and multi-faceted, and requires knowledge across multiple aspects of the forest sector. Strategic leadership and vision are key on issues of sustainability in forest practices, resource stewardship, timber supply, and forest policy development. Providing leadership for new and young forest professionals is also a key aspect of the role.

*What do you feel is the biggest challenge the forest sector is facing right now?*

The issue that keeps me awake at night more than any other is fibre supply. The forest sector relies on a sustainable supply of available timber at a cost we can afford. The impacts of fires and forest health epidemics over the past 15 years cannot be overstated. The effects of these damaging agents, along with the accelerated rate of harvest necessary to salvage economic timber has also increased the focus on the impacts to other resource values. The mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic has challenged us in so many ways. It is a true testament to the innovation and ingenuity of our sector that we are still harvesting some of the MPB timber today. The epidemic has multiple challenges that are coming to bare.

1. Available timber supply is becoming oversubscribed in many MPB impacted timber supply areas (TSA). Competition for logs is pushing log costs out of sync with lumber values, creating unsustainable operating conditions for several companies. Some licensee perspectives are inward focused to maintain business viability post MPB. This is creating challenges where participation in broader collaborative processes are needed.
2. The rate of harvest in MPB areas has created an imbalance of early seral conditions over large areas in some TSAs. This has challenged the ability to balance other resource values in some areas. There is an enhanced focus to protect and maintain other values. Some government initiatives propose restrictions on forest operations based on precautionary principles that limit the opportunity for professional reliance, and insert downward pressure on annual allowable cuts (AAC) beyond timber supply review (TSR) predictions.
3. Despite provincial TSR processes supporting an AAC determination, there are sometimes considerable differences in local public, First Nation, or stakeholder opinion on “available” timber. This can be a significant challenge to access non-MPB timber. Forest companies need to access the full AAC to support their businesses.
4. TSR for TSAs has historically been a strategic exercise with a theoretical timber harvesting land base (THLB). Vegetation resources inventory (VRI) is a strategic inventory to support TSR. This has been a sufficient model in a surplus of mature timber. However, strategic approaches may have inadequacies in TSAs where the AAC is falling below pre-MPB levels and there are deficits of mature timber.

#### ***What does the future of forest leadership look like?***

Forestry on public land is a continuous balancing act for success — maintaining the triple bottom line across social, environmental, and economic values. It is critical that declining AACs are consistent with actual available timber so they can be realized, while demonstrating maintenance of other values to the public, stakeholders, and First Nations.

In order to do this more effectively, we need more investment in enhanced forest inventories (e.g. LiDAR) along with an improved spatial assessment of the Crown land base to explicitly classify THLB among designations for other resource values. This will support a common understanding of how and where other values are being managed on the land base. Once we understand the THLB in a spatially consistent and explicit

way, then we can analyze the real potential to grow and extract timber from that landbase.

We need to advance the transition from density metrics to yield metrics for measuring silviculture performance. This can be more closely related to AAC and we can assess potential yield versus actual and measure our performance toward specific end objectives, and more effectively measure and quantify the value of different treatment regimes.

Social licence requires some significant consideration in several areas of the province. This ultimately demands more structured and improved communication with the public, First Nations, and resource stakeholders. We generally need to work toward improved coordination and communication of landscape level planning processes. Integrated silviculture strategies are a high priority to help inform and support this process. Web-based portals where development plans can be publicly viewed are also a good technological tool.

#### ***Why did you follow the path to accreditation with the ABCFP and become a Registered Professional Forester?***

It only took two years working as a forest technician to realize that I wanted to deepen my forestry education and become a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). There was no accreditation or registration for technicians by the ABCFP at that time. I felt limited in my scope of practice and wanted to remove the ceiling on my career. I admired the practice privilege awarded to RPFs and wanted to be part of it. I decided on the pupil program some years later and became an RPF in 2006.

#### ***From your years of experience working in forestry, what wisdom would you like to impart to young folks entering the forestry sector today?***

Don't expect the world over night. It is well worth your effort to learn the foundational and fundamental aspects of a variety of tasks before moving on to larger duties. This approach will provide you with experiences essential for the needed perspectives that you will come to rely and reflect on throughout your career. Hang in there and keep at it during the tough times. Forestry is a cyclical business that has downturns. The downturns can be challenging but they also make us better and lead to new innovations and opportunities to continually improve our sector. Work hard and stay focused; it will pay off. ☒



## A Round Up of All Things National Forest Week

Across the country, forests were in the spotlight during National Forest Week, which ran September 18-24, 2016. As usual, ABCFP members were among the most committed volunteers, organizing community events, speaking at schools, and generally finding ways to share their passion for forests with other British Columbians.

### **Battle of the Network of Forest Professionals**

Once again, this annual contest to see which Network of Forest Professionals (NFP) can stage the best community event during National Forest Week was hotly contested. But when the dust settled, a new champion wore the crown: Port Alberni.

The Port Alberni NFPs worked with local teachers and school district officials to stage a full-day event at McLean Mill National Historic Site that drew more than 300 Grade 4, 5, and 6 students from local schools. The students arrived via a restored steam engine, then took part in four interactive stations focused on riparian management and ecology, a forestry/ecology nature walk, an old time logging demonstration with a steam donkey, and fire management and suppression. Students also heard presentations on forestry from the chief foresters of TimberWest and Western Forest Products.

The Port Alberni NFP, which included 30 forest professionals and 20 community volunteers, fundraised and found sponsors to help cover the costs and provide lunches and snacks for the students. They also garnered media attention in the Alberni Valley News, as well as a segment on Shaw TV, which you can watch on YouTube by searching for Forestry Week – Shaw TV Port Alberni.

NFPs in Williams Lake, Clearwater, Campbell River, and Fort St. James also ran successful events, several of which drew hundreds of school children for hikes; outdoor education sessions; and lessons on fire management, wildlife, and insects. Other activities included public information booths on forestry issues and ecology, mill tours, professional development seminars, and field trips to community forests.

### **Forestry in the Schools**

Thirty-four ABCFP members volunteered to speak to students during National Forest Week, sharing their insights into forest ecology and the joys of working in forestry. But demand for speakers exceeded our ability to find volunteers since we had requests from 71 schools for speakers.

While many of those requests have been filled, we're always on the lookout for members who are interested in speaking to students in order to offer a science-based perspective on resource management and open students' eyes to the many possible careers in forestry. The ABCFP can help members interested in speaking to students by providing supporting materials such as brochures about careers in forestry or small items for give-aways, such as pencils or NFW stickers. Plus, we have a host of support tools and resources in the students section of our website that members can access.

There is a tremendous variety in the requests, all the way from kindergarten through Grade 12 from schools in the Kootenays, Central Okanagan, Lower Mainland, Gulf Islands, and central and southern Vancouver Island. If you're interested in speaking to a school class, please e-mail Jim Crover, RPF, practice review specialist, at [jcrover@abcfp.ca](mailto:jcrover@abcfp.ca).

### **Photo Contest**

The annual ABCFP National Forest Week photo contest received several stunning photographs from members across the province. The winning photo, which graces the cover of this issue, was submitted by Sue Huddart, RFT(Ret), and features an algae bloom on Scuitto Lake near Kamloops.

First runner up is Jacob Bapty, RPF, Cert Arb, MSFM, with his photo of car camping south of Nimpkish Lake on Vancouver Island. Second runner up is Frank Tiramani, FIT, with his photo of two bear cubs climbing in a grove of aspen trees. And the winner of our first START photo contest is UBC student Jackson Locker. ☘



Clockwise from top left:

*Port Alberni NFP's National Forest Week event had students learning about seedlings at the Mclean Mill Historic Site.*

*Members of the BC Wildfire Service-Vanderhoof Zone staged an impressive demonstration of fire safety and fire management with the Fort St. James NFP, giving children a turn with a pressure hose.*

*The Clearwater NFP organized a tour of Canfor's mill in Vavenby.*

*The Williams Lake NFP event offered students a chance to play Jenga using 2 X 6's.*

*Students at the Fort St. James NFP event learned how an engineer's level is used.*



## National Forest Week

# The Creativity is Strong in These Ones

The ABCFP and Truck Loggers Association's National Forest Week annual art contest drew hundreds of entries in all three age categories. Once again, we asked participants to explore the theme "What does the forest mean to you?"

This year, we also received a number of entries from entire school classes. Obviously, some teachers think that encouraging children to express their feelings about forests and nature through art is a good idea. We couldn't agree more.

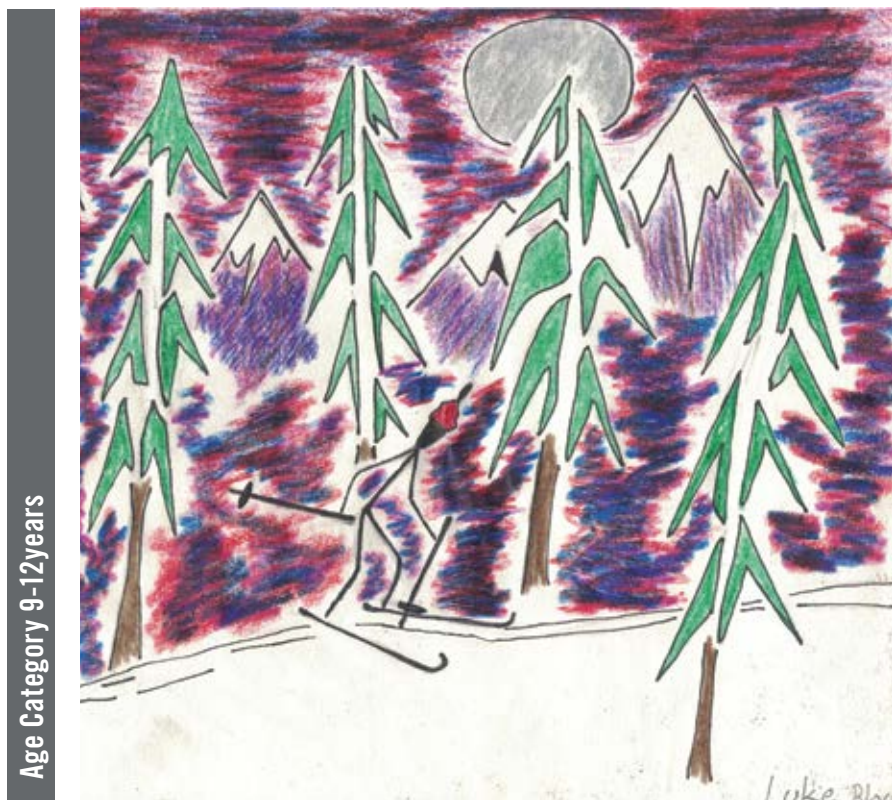
As a result, we were inundated with colourful, thoughtful, and fantastical entries showing all sorts of scenes, including fun

family excursions, trees of all shapes and sizes, pets mingling with wildlife (some imaginary, some real), and more.

It was difficult to select just one winner and two runner ups in each age category but after much deliberation, the judges narrowed down their choices.

In addition to appearing in these pages, all of the selected pictures will appear in *Truck LoggerBC* magazine and on both organizations' websites. The winners in each category will receive \$50 gift cards from Indigo. We thank everyone who entered and congratulate this year's winners and runners up. 🍀

Age Group	Winner	Runners Up
4-5 years	Odetta Muise Bissett, age 5, Queen Charlotte City	Linden Chewter, age 5, Nelson and Elenia Hazelton-Plante, age 5, François Lake
6-8 years	Jordyn Meville, age 7, 100 Mile House	Ayla Block, age 8, Terrace and Sophia Neilsen, age 8, Campbell River
9-12 years	Luke Block, age 10, Terrace	Alexander Alguire, age 10, Campbell River and Alicja Grymuza, age 10, Parksville



Age Category 9-12 years

1 Luke Block, age 10, Terrace



2 Alexander Alguire, age 10, Campbell River



3 Alicja Grymuza, age 10, Parksville



Age Category 6-8 years



4 Jordyn Meville, age 7, 100 Mile House

4



5

5 Ayla Block, age 8, Terrace



6

6 Sophia Neilsen, age 8, Campbell River

Age Category 4-5 years



7 Odetta Muise Bissett, age 5, Queen Charlotte

7



8

8 Linden Chewter, age 5, Nelson



9

9 Elenca Hazelton-Plante, age 5, François Lake

## Protect Your Profession



HUB International is pleased to offer a Professional Liability E&O insurance program designed for members of the **Association of BC Forest Professionals**. Unique coverage includes:

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## Occupational Health and Safety and the Forest Professional

*By Carole Savage, RPF, and Mike Larock, RPF*

As BC Forest Professionals, we practise sound forest stewardship by balancing a variety of, and often competing, interests and forest values. Safety and stewardship are two of the professional practice standards upheld by every forest professional. Simply put, consider how your planning decisions today could affect others in the future. Will your plan have a positive impact on safety or a negative one? There is much to consider and our responsibilities may seem daunting at times.

Under the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, if you have control over an activity in a forestry operation, make sure the activity is planned and carried out in alignment with both the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* and WorkSafeBC. Take retention areas within harvest blocks for instance. Planning includes identifying any activities or conditions where there is a known or reasonably foreseeable risk to people; this must occur prior to work starting and must be documented.

What potential hazards do you see when you're in the field? What is your plan for communicating those hazards to others who will be working in the same area at a later date? It's good to keep in mind that what may not be considered a hazard now could become one in other management phases.

If you're undertaking layout and planning, will the harvesting layout and design improve or reduce safety for workers and the public? How will you know? Talk to the people who will be working on the ground before finalizing plans. Find out what creates and reduces risk in the work you are doing. Ensure that block boundaries and reserve areas don't have a negative impact on worker safety. Contact well-informed individuals before harvesting and debrief with them after, to find out what worked well and what could have worked better. Not only will this information help you improve your working knowledge and skills, but it's an effective continuous improvement process that helps build safer workplaces and stronger teams amongst workers in all phases of harvesting.

Sound forest planning is essential for good forest stewardship and for the safety of everyone.



**Plans change. Make effective communication part of your operation.**

The planning decisions you make today can affect the health and safety of workers tomorrow. Find resources to help prevent accidents and injuries at [worksafebc.com/health-safety](http://worksafebc.com/health-safety).

**WORK SAFE BC**

# 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 [editor@abcfp.ca](mailto:editor@abcfp.ca). The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following member:



## Murray D. Stech

RPF #1928

June 15, 1955 – September 20, 2016

It is with great sadness we announce Murray's passing from cancer at 61 years old. He had recently retired from a 40 year career with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Murray grew up in the small company town of Woodfibre — across from Squamish — but moved to Delta as a teenager. He loved the outdoors and spent many hours fishing, hiking, cycling, and also keeping in shape at the gym. He was an enthusiastic gardener and lovingly tended his fruits and vegetables. He was a quiet man, but had many admirers both at work and in his personal life.

Murray was married to Rosalie, his best friend and partner for over 40 years. They travelled and explored the great outdoors together. He also leaves his two brothers, Daryl (Colleen) and Brian (Dorothy), as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosalie is deeply grateful to all the people who cared for Murray during his final days. We will remember him in his float tube, casting out on a calm sunny day, reeling in the big one.

*Submitted by Rosalie Stech*

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Note: Individuals may have applied for a change to their status since this posting. Check the member directory on the ABCFP website at [member.abcfp.ca/web/ABCFP/Members/directory.aspx](http://member.abcfp.ca/web/ABCFP/Members/directory.aspx) for the most current list of members. You will need to sign in to access this page.

### ABCFP October 2016

#### NEW REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

Clayton Bradley Beier, RPF  
 Christopher Dawson Britton-Foster, RPF  
 Qingcen Cai, RPF  
 Allison Wan-Hui Chen, RPF  
 Judith Mary Cowan, RPF  
 Hans Daegal Erasmus, RPF  
 Matthew Salem MacDonald, RPF  
 Dominique Morin, RPF  
 Tabatha Dawn Nedokus, RPF  
 Brenden Carl Tostenson, RPF  
 Brian Joseph White, RPF  
 Xin Yuan, RPF

#### NEW REGISTERED FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS

Jonathan Edgar Akerman, RFT  
 Alexander Michael Daignault, RFT  
 Mandy Joy Flanagan, RFT  
 Ana Maria Gonzalez, RFT  
 Cole Arthur Alan Gorner, RFT  
 Gordon Michael Heetebrij, RFT

Conor Richard Howard, RFT  
 Carmen Rachel Jeune, RFT  
 Andy Kwan, RFT  
 Megan Anne Kwan, RFT  
 Bryce Mitchell Laven, RFT  
 Saverio Madia, RFT  
 Max Rennie Marshall, RFT  
 Paul Fitzpatrick McNulty, RFT  
 Jordan Jeffrey Pyette, RFT  
 Alexander Edward Soukup, RFT  
 Matthew John Van Den Tillaart, RFT  
 Michael Thomas von Buttler, RFT

#### NEW ACCREDITED TIMBER CRUISER

Duncan Leendert Berend Peeman, ATC

#### NEW FORESTERS IN TRAINING

Paul S. Baker, FIT  
 Shen-Kai Chen, FIT  
 Samantha Helene Gonzalez, FIT  
 Andre Andrew Ho-Lyn, FIT  
 Shuyan Jiang, FIT  
 Lucian Strack Mustain, FIT

Anya Martina Reid, PhD, FIT  
 Shannon Lee Somerville Street, FIT  
 Ian Michael Sunde, FIT

#### NEW TRAINEE FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS

Janet Katharine Mostad, TFT  
 Kimberly Suzanne Reurink, TFT

#### NEW TRAINEE NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL

Jennifer Christine Miller, TNRP

#### TRANSFER FROM TFT TO FIT

Parker Joseph Schachtel, FIT

#### REINSTATEMENT FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Kylie Maria Harrison, RPF

#### DECEASED

Laurence A. Hope, RPF(Ret)  
 C. Raymond Jessee, RPF(Ret)

*Continued following page*

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS CONT.**

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**ABCFP November 2016**

**NEW REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS**

John Patrick Arbour-Nevens, RPF  
Stephanie Madelaine Deevy, RPF  
Jerin Stanley Hobbs, RPF  
Julius Huhs, RPF  
Nives (Nino) Ramadani, RPF  
Sarah Juliane Schneider, RPF

**NEW REGISTERED FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS**

Daniel John Scholey, RFT  
Gary James Tatlock, RFT  
Douglas Daniel Wiggill, RFT

**NEW FORESTERS IN TRAINING**

Nolan Mikhail Buis, FIT  
Lindsay Marie Maguire Hill, FIT  
Daniel P. Huesken, FIT  
Madelyn Cypris MacDonald, FIT  
Kimberley Nicole Mason, FIT  
Laura Elizabeth Young, FIT

**NEW TRAINEE FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS**

Jerimiah Thomas Hubert, TFT  
Jennifer Angela Kropp, TFT  
Kelsey Jane Lemoine, TFT  
Colby Ashton Douglas Mahood, TFT  
Matthew Gaetano Marziali, TFT  
Gregory Douglas Spence, TFT

**TRANSFERRED FROM TFT TO FIT**

Parker Joseph Schachtel, TFT

**REINSTATEMENTS (REGISTERED MEMBERS)**

Arron James Straub, RFT

**REINSTATEMENT FIT FROM LOA**

Boris Sebastian Egli, FIT

**DECEASED**

Murray D. Stech, RPF(Ret)

Susan Aileen Willis

**RESIGNED RFT**

Steven Robert Forrest  
Wayne Allan French  
Frank Peter Heller  
Mark Adrian Jones  
Peter Brent McDonald  
Debbie Maureen Wheeler

**RESIGNED ATE**

Dennis P. Swensson

**RESIGNED RPF RETIRED**

Joanne M. Bowden  
Derek R. Brand  
Michael D. Dunbar  
Michael A. Fenger  
Michael P. Folkema  
Greg B. Hofeld  
Barry John Miller  
John C. Pollack  
Donald G. Purdy

**RESIGNED RFT RETIRED**

Dale Ronald Andall  
Norman Philip Larson  
Douglas Stewart Perrin  
Richard Keith Van Tine

**RESIGNED FIT**

Donna Annette Bailey  
Ashley Francis Bunker  
Constance Nga-Ying Chan  
Patrick Sarsfield Palmer  
Jeffrey John Forbes Walsh

**RESIGNED TFT**

Jordan C. Newman

\* Entitled to practise as an RFT

Marley Dana Chewter, RPF  
Tara D. DeCourcy, RPF  
Jennifer Mary Fraser, RPF  
Dawna L. Harden, RPF  
Geneve Nicole Jasper, RPF  
Jason Scott Pope, RPF  
Dean W. Raven, RPF  
Colleen Ann Ross, RPF  
Grant L. Walton, RPF  
Jennifer Dawn Wright, RPF  
Alvin D. Yanchuk, PhD, RPF

**COMPULSORY REINSTATEMENTS - RPF**

Douglas R. Braybrook, RPF  
Suzanne Cairns, RPF  
R. Bruce Catton, RPF  
Peter Dodic, RPF  
H. Signy Fredrickson, RPF  
Christopher Nowotny, RPF  
Gregory Stephen Thompson, RPF  
Marc A. von der Gonna, RPF  
Wade James Watson, RPF  
Robert G. Windeler, RPF

**REINSTATEMENT RFT**

Cory James Delves, RFT

**REINSTATEMENTS RFT FROM LOA**

Tony Mario Falcao, RFT  
Darren Louis Field, RFT  
Kyle James Miller, RFT  
Anne Margaret Molony, RFT  
Gregory Paul Van Dolah, RFT  
Lisa Helene Waldon, RFT

**COMPULSORY REINSTATEMENTS - RFT**

Krista Anne Dunleavey, RFT  
Murray Wayne Henry, RFT  
Terrence Dale Mackay, RFT  
Sharon Michele Mandrusiak, RFT  
David Amos Maxwell, RFT  
Greg Donald Spence, RFT

**REINSTATEMENTS FIT**

Qinglin Li, PhD, FIT  
Victor Ramirez Nery, FIT

**COMPULSORY REINSTATEMENTS - FIT**

Dillon Bay Chrimes, PhD, FIT

**COMPULSORY REINSTATEMENTS - TFT**

Janel Patricia McNish, TFT

The following people are not entitled to practice professional forestry in BC:

**NEW RETIRED RPF**

Graham C. Archdekin, RPF(Ret)  
Kristin A. Arnett, RPF(Ret)  
Rodney J. Arnold, RPF(Ret)  
David P.C. Brown, RPF(Ret)  
Alison J. Burns, RPF(Ret)  
William W. Carr, RPF(Ret)  
Robert B. Cavill, RPF(Ret)

**ABCFP December 2016**

**NEW REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS**

Taylor Patrick Brown, RPF  
Adam Paul Sullivan, RPF

**NEW REGISTERED FOREST TECHNOLOGISTS**

Beverly Grace Chelsea Hutchinson, RFT  
Dylan Lens, RFT

**NEW FORESTERS IN TRAINING**

Curtis Michael Germaine, FIT  
Danielle D. Kidston, FIT  
Jason C. Stadey, FIT

**REINSTATEMENTS RPF**

Garry E. Merkel, RPF  
Davinder S. Minhas, RPF

**REINSTATEMENTS RPF FROM LOA**

Amy Michelle Beetham, RPF

The following people are not entitled to practise professional forestry in BC:

**CANCELLED SPECIAL PERMIT - LIMITED LICENCE**

Stephen Michael Drosdovech, RFT\*

**RESIGNED RPF**

W. Daniel Barron  
Kevin D. Bertram  
David Wallace Bryant  
Richard D. Burkholder  
Darrin Ryan Finnerty  
Donald A. Gosnell  
J. Russell Hendry  
Graham J. Hues  
Lucie Jerabkova  
Peter A.K. McAuliffe  
John Jason McLeod  
Erik C. Wang

Alan N. Chatterton, RPF(Ret)  
 David A.M. Clark, RPF(Ret)  
 K. David Coates, PhD, RPF(Ret)  
 Daniel W. Donaldson, RPF(Ret)  
 Scott A. Folk, RPF(Ret)  
 Jeffrey J. Fukumoto, RPF(Ret)  
 Vicky V. Grainger, RPF(Ret)  
 Stuart C. Grundison, RPF(Ret)  
 Dorothy Christine Hollstedt, RPF(Ret)  
 Patricia K. Kagawa, RPF(Ret)  
 John B. Koch, RPF(Ret)  
 Arthur A. LaCourciere, RPF(Ret)  
 David P. Lehane, RPF(Ret)  
 Philip LePage, RPF(Ret)  
 Gordon J. LeSergent, RPF(Ret)  
 L. Craig Lodge, RPF(Ret)  
 William B. Luscombe, RPF(Ret)  
 David M. McBeth, RPF(Ret)  
 Robert E. Merta, RPF(Ret)  
 Edward A. Nash, RPF(Ret)  
 Christopher S. Ortner, RPF(Ret)  
 Norman H. Parry, RPF(Ret)  
 Lawrence P. Pedersen, RPF(Ret)  
 Sargent A. Pereverzoff, RPF(Ret)  
 Gerald E. Powell, RPF(Ret)  
 Joanne A. Ramsay, RPF(Ret)  
 Darrell A. Robb, RPF(Ret)  
 Glenn P. Rolph, RPF(Ret)  
 Sherrill Elaine Rutherford, RPF(Ret)  
 Sharon Jean Sims, RPF(Ret)  
 Richard B. Sommer, RPF(Ret)  
 Norma V. Stromberg-Jones, RPF(Ret)  
 William I. Thibeault, RPF(Ret)  
 Dirk A. Trigg, RPF(Ret)  
 John Vander Ende, RPF(Ret)  
 Frank D. Wilmer, RPF(Ret)  
 Douglas J. Witala, RPF(Ret)  
 Dwight R. Yochim, RPF(Ret)

**NEW RETIRED RFT**

Reginald Graham Gardner, RFT(Ret), ATE  
 Denis Gerald Gaudry, RFT(Ret)  
 Barry Jonathan Markin, RFT(Ret)  
 Colin Leigh Merkley, RFT(Ret)  
 Harald Offizier, RFT(Ret)  
 Reynold Conville Schmidt, RFT(Ret)  
 Dan Wilson Smith, RFT(Ret)  
 Glen Edward Philip Spender, RFT(Ret)  
 Joseph Walton Tress, RFT(Ret)  
 Steven Daniel Vatamaniuck, RFT(Ret)  
 Roy George Vidler, RFT(Ret)  
 Gerald Stuart Wellburn, RFT(Ret)

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE (REGISTERED MEMBERS)**

Paul M. Abu, RPF(on LOA)  
 Rayanne Alm, RFT(on LOA)  
 Athena Grace Andritz, RPF(on LOA)  
 Michael Scott Aspeslet, RFT(on LOA)  
 Anthony Drani Baru, RPF(on LOA)  
 John C. Bastone, RPF(on LOA)  
 Joyce A. Beaudry, RPF(on LOA)  
 Gregory E. Belyea, RPF(on LOA)  
 Tara Leigh Bergeson, RPF(on LOA)  
 Sandi L. Best, RPF(on LOA)  
 Balvinder S. Biring, RPF(on LOA)  
 James Fulton Blake, RPF(on LOA)

Karl J.F. Branch, RPF(on LOA)  
 Colleen Broekhuizen, RPF(on LOA)  
 Susann Melissa Brown, RPF(on LOA)  
 Brian P. Broznitsky, RPF(on LOA)  
 Peter E.F. Buck, RPF(on LOA)  
 Cory Martin Byron, RPF(on LOA)  
 Colin Trevor Campbell, RFT(on LOA)  
 Kelly T. Carpenter, RPF(on LOA)  
 Gordon G. Catt, RPF(on LOA)  
 Michael Walter Cawley, RFT(on LOA)  
 Ken Chalmers, RPF(on LOA)  
 Steven Charles Chambers, RPF(on LOA)  
 Jayme Louise Cloet, RPF(on LOA)  
 Laverne A. Cormier, RPF(on LOA)  
 Ruby Deanna Decock, RPF(on LOA)  
 James Newton DeCoffe, RFT(on LOA)  
 Terence Russell Dodge, RPF(on LOA)  
 Craig E. Dorion, RPF(on LOA)  
 Leonard B. Eddy, RPF(on LOA)  
 Stephen J. Edwards, RPF(on LOA)  
 Ronald Ewanyshyn, RFT(on LOA)  
 Craig E. Farnden, RPF(on LOA)  
 Robert G. Foster, RPF(on LOA)  
 James Kirkman Garbutt, RFT(on LOA)  
 Rena Mary Gibson-Protzner, RFT(on LOA)  
 Krysta Giles-Hansen, RPF(on LOA)  
 Mark Timothy Gillis, RPF(on LOA)  
 Danielle Stephanie Gnoyke, RFT(on LOA)  
 Mark D. Greene, RPF(on LOA)  
 Michael Eric Hak, RPF(on LOA)  
 Sharon Anne Henderson, RFT(on LOA)  
 Stephen C. Hewitt, RPF(on LOA)  
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 Cara Helena Pauline Illerbrun, RPF(on LOA)  
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 Matthew John Lamb-Yorski, RFT(on LOA)  
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 Monica Anne Larden, RPF(on LOA)  
 Kevin B. Lavelle, RPF(on LOA)  
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 W. Hugh Lougheed, RPF(on LOA)  
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 Colin Raymond Mahony, RPF(on LOA)  
 Rodney Walter March, RPF(on LOA)  
 Christopher David Mardell, RFT(on LOA)  
 Peter Markovich, RPF(on LOA)  
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 Robert A. McDougall, RPF(on LOA)

Denise L. McGowan, RPF(on LOA)  
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 William Jordy Moore, RFT(on LOA)  
 Darcy W. Moshenko, RPF(on LOA)  
 Aurnir Nelson, RPF(on LOA)  
 Marvin G. Nowlin, RPF(on LOA)  
 Wesley John Ogloff, RFT(on LOA)  
 W. Frederick Oliemans, RPF(on LOA)  
 Leslie Olsen, RFT(on LOA)  
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 Brian Gregory Pate, RFT(on LOA)  
 Raeshelle Marie Pickering, RPF(on LOA)  
 John Everett Pitts, RFT, ATE (on LOA)  
 David Hugh Porter, RFT(on LOA)  
 Dustin Victor Price, RFT(on LOA)  
 Pasi Kalevi Puttonen, PhD, RPF(on LOA)  
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 Shane Ernest Ritter, RFT(on LOA)  
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 Craig Spencer Robinson, RPF(on LOA)  
 Robert Henry Rose, Jr., RFT(on LOA)  
 Stephanie Marie Sambo, RPF(on LOA)  
 Micheal Leonard Scarff, RFT(on LOA)  
 Karen Schening, RPF(on LOA)  
 Alette Marion Seigel, RPF(on LOA)  
 Michael Mathew R. Shook, RPF(on LOA)  
 Alina Janina Skiba, RFT(on LOA)  
 Kathrine Clare Smith, RFT(on LOA)  
 Owen Lee Smith, RPF(on LOA)  
 Liane C. Spillios, RPF(on LOA)  
 Kenneth William Taekema, RFT(on LOA)  
 Stephen Paul Temple, RPF(on LOA)  
 Kathleen M. Thompson, RPF(on LOA)  
 Robert Douglas Thompson, RPF(on LOA)  
 Richard Ernest Toperczer, RPF(on LOA)  
 Owen B. Trumper, RPF(on LOA)  
 Betty A. Van Kerkhof, RPF(on LOA)  
 Cindy Jane Verschoor, RPF(on LOA)  
 John G. Wakelin, RPF(on LOA)  
 David W. Weaver, RPF(on LOA)  
 Grant B. Webber, RPF(on LOA)  
 Brian Westgate, RPF(on LOA)  
 Kenneth Allan Whitehead, RFT(on LOA)  
 Marise Eleanor Wickman, RPF(on LOA)  
 Kelly James Williams, RFT(on LOA)  
 Steven Donald Williams, RFT(on LOA)  
 Sarah Michelle York, RFT(on LOA)  
 Abdel-Azim M.A. Zumrawi, PhD, RPF(on LOA)

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE (ENROLLED MEMBERS)**

Jillian Jane Atmore, FIT(on LOA)  
 Natalie Miriam Clark, FIT(on LOA)  
 Theresa H.C.N. Denton, TFT(on LOA)  
 Samuel Patrick Lennon Field, FIT(on LOA)  
 Amanda Jean Girard, FIT(on LOA)  
 Nicola Erin Isobel Heaps, TFT(on LOA)  
 Mahesh Kumar KC, FIT(on LOA)  
 Darcy Allan Macleod, TFT(on LOA)  
 Amanda Mae Simoes, TFT(on LOA)  
 Shiloh Michael Zayac, FIT(on LOA)



# Discipline Case Digest

**Case:** 2016-03

**Subject Member:** Bryan Fraser, RPF

**Referred to:** Complaints Resolution Committee

**Date of Decision:** August 2016

*The subject member in this complaint requested that the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) include his name in the case digest for publication.*

## The Complainant

In June 2016, the ABCFP president submitted a complaint to the registrar on behalf of the ABCFP regarding several professional concerns relating to Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Bryan Fraser. The complaint allegations were based on concerns arising from a report of the Forest Practices Board with respect to an investigation it had conducted into concerns about the visual impact of logging of several harvested cutblocks on the coast of British Columbia and an alleged lack of accountability for the results. The president's complaint alleged that Mr. Fraser may have contravened the *Foresters Act* and/or the ABCFP's bylaws by signing off on a visual impact assessment (VIA) that failed to meet the required visual quality objective (VQO) for the area, or by subsequently refusing to meet with government officials to discuss their concerns about the possible visual impacts of the cutblocks or to provide certain documents to those officials.

The allegations included questions as to whether Mr. Fraser's actions may have constituted a breach of several sections of Bylaw 11 (code of ethics) and Bylaw 12 (standards of professional practice) regarding competence, due diligence, and adherence to professional principles.

The complaint (including background material) and Mr. Fraser's response were referred to the Complaints Resolution Committee (CRC).

## Discussion and Considerations

The CRC reviewed the complaint, supporting information, and the detailed response provided by Mr. Fraser in order to make a recommendation to the registrar, as per Bylaw 13.16. The purpose of the CRC's review was to make a preliminary assessment and recommendation as to whether there was a sufficient basis to warrant further investigation of the complaint, or whether there were insufficient grounds to support further investigation.

The CRC's consideration was focused on two main points:

1. Did Mr. Fraser have regard for existing legislation, regulation, and policy in the process of signing off the assessments?
2. Was Mr. Fraser's conduct consistent with professional principles in regard to the meeting and document requests from government officials?

Based on the information provided, the CRC was of the view that the evaluation of visual quality effectiveness for these cutblocks was not straightforward, recognizing the complexity that existed given the legislation, provincial policy and guidelines at the time of Mr. Fraser's assessments.

It was the CRC's assessment that Mr. Fraser showed significant consideration both for the applicable legislation and for the modelling of visual impacts for the cutblocks in question, recognizing that the original block design was developed prior to his term of employment, and recognizing further that certain district manager policies were put into place at a later date and were not available at the time of Mr. Fraser's assessments. There also appeared to be significant inter-organizational challenges (e.g. government/employer) that created a complex working environment for Mr. Fraser,

given a member's ethical obligation not to disclose confidential information of the employer without the employer's consent. The CRC had regard to Mr. Fraser's evidence of efforts he made to engage in professional dialogue with government officials while still meeting confidentiality requirements. Given the challenging circumstances presented, the CRC did not find Mr. Fraser's conduct to be inconsistent with professional principles, or to raise concerns within the ABCFP's investigative mandate.

## Decision

As a result of this review, it was the CRC's assessment that there were insufficient grounds to support further investigation. They referred the matter back to the registrar with the recommendation that the case should be dismissed. The registrar accepted this recommendation and the complaint is now closed.

## Summary

A number of important observations arose from this case with respect to the evaluation of professional due diligence and the process by which complaints are registered with the ABCFP. The following points may be helpful for ABCFP members:

- The ABCFP's investigative mandate is confined to investigating concerns about members' professional conduct and competence, including their compliance with the *Foresters Act* and the professional standards and principles established in the ABCFP's bylaws. Where there is an insufficient basis to satisfy the ABCFP that a member's conduct raises concerns within its investigative mandate, it is not the ABCFP's role to further pursue concerns about other matters that are more appropriately addressed by another agency or in another forum.
- Information arising from concerns raised in the public sphere (e.g. third party agencies or the media) may initially be perceived as shedding an unfavorable light on the subject member — sometimes quite widely. However, through the ABCFP complaint review process, additional information and explanation is often provided in a subject member's response or obtained through further investigation, which may provide additional or different perspectives which should be considered. This is a critical step in the complaint resolution process and in providing a fair and unbiased review of any complaint.
- Forest professionals have to balance their public interest-based ethical duties with the ethical duties they owe to their employer/client, the profession, and other members. This can be difficult at times, and may result in others perceiving a lack of professionalism or an inability to balance the public interest; however, a forest professional has a responsibility to "not disclose confidential information without the consent of the client or employer except as required by law" (Bylaw 11.5.2).
- Under the *Foresters Act*, it is the role and responsibility of the president to bring forward concerns about professional conduct that arise from third party agency reports or other information coming to the ABCFP's attention, where it may be in the public interest for the ABCFP to investigate those concerns. President-initiated complaints of this nature are brought forward on behalf of the ABCFP itself, and are not driven by a complainant in the same way as a typical complaint. This presents challenges in terms of both the timing of lodging the complaint, and the verification of information to support the complaint. This does not change the obligation of the ABCFP members to address issues arising from Bylaws 11.3.4 and 11.4.3.



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**A sharp-shinned hawk, taking advantage of the proximity of a bird feeder to target small birds, in Kamloops.**

*by Ray Zimmerman, RPF(Ret)*

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