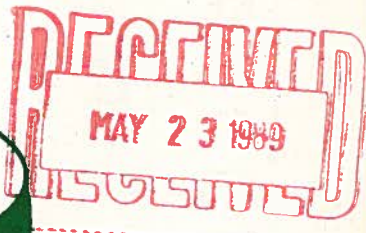
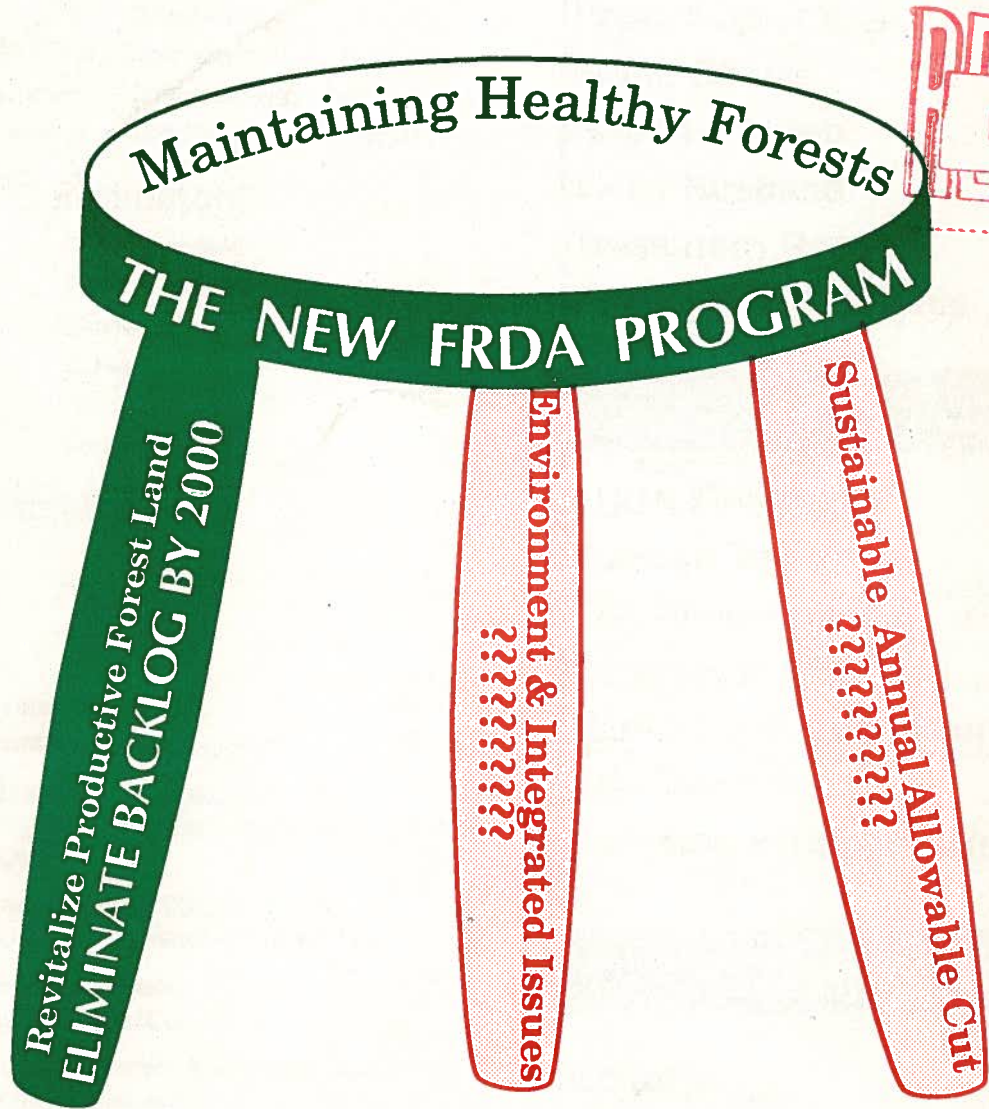


WSCA

Spring 1989

NEWSLETTER



**TWO STRATEGIC LEGS
MISSING FROM THE
NEW FRDA PROGRAM**

Plus:

AGM
REPORT

Western Silviculture Contractors Association

Newsletter Spring 1989

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Editorial

A modest beginning in Nelson

Recently, the Nelson Chapter of the WSCA made a start at informing the public and gathering support for FRDA II. They took out an advertisement declaring the value of FRDA to the local community. They also managed to draw the attention of the local paper to the issue of FRDA Renewal.

Let's get this message out

We all need to make similar initiatives and do even more in our own area of the province. Regular newspaper, television and radio coverage of FRDA activities should be sought. Forests Canada (formerly CFS) has produced videos, slides, and leaflets outlining the FRDA activity in each region of the province. They are available by writing to

Forests Canada
Box 4115 Station A
Victoria BC V8X-3X4

(The WSCA office also has a copy of the video that members may borrow.) You can use these materials to give presentations to municipal councils, service groups, etc. Let's get on it!

Write to the politicians

Urge cabinet ministers (Federal and provincial), MP's and MLA's to support the continuation of FRDA funding. Write or phone them and express your views. (Their addresses are on the back cover.)

Talk to other contractors

Tell other contractors that it is in their interest to join the campaign for FRDA renewal. The WSCA is asking the Silviculture Branch for a list of all known contractors so we can send them a FRDA package prepared by the WSCA. It contains background information as well as form letters to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and other key politicians. A similar package has been sent to the WSCA Regional Coordinators for distribution to all WSCA members. We suggest that you give copies of the letters to each of your employees. If you are not a member of the WSCA you can obtain a package by contacting:

Ross Styles
Box 2035 Station A
Kamloops, BC V2B 3H0
(604)-376-0830

The Budget

By the time you receive this newsletter the budget will have been tabled and the intentions of the federal government on FRDA will be clearer. The B.C. Agreement is not up for renewal until March 1990 so it still important that you write your MLA, write MP, write Frank Oberle, and write the Prime Minister. We need public pressure and a high profile to ensure we get a good agreement.

Ross Styles
Executive Director, WSCA

Nelson Daily News

No Action on New FRDA

Steve Thornton

Note: This article is reprinted from the Nelson Daily News with the permission of the author.

The Nelson area economy will suffer if there's no renewal of a federal-provincial agreement by next spring, say three local experts.

The five-year, \$300 million Forest Resource Development Agreement signed in Ottawa and Victoria in 1985 will expire in March 1990, and if it isn't replaced with something, almost 700 local jobs will be lost, according to Rami Rothkop, president of Rothkop Contracting Ltd. He said 683 seasonal jobs were created in the Nelson Region by the FRDA agreement in 1988.

Both the federal and provincial government need to be prompted to sign a second FRDA, and soon, say Rothkop, Dave Jenkinson of Evergreen Treeplanting Co-op, and Bruce Fraser, a reforestation specialist with the provincial forests ministry. FRDA is a cost-sharing agreement between the province and the federal government, and is responsible for millions of dollars being spent on silviculture.

Rothkop Contracting and Evergreen are both treeplanting firms, and they did a total of almost \$3.5 million in business and employed 240 people last year. Almost half of the work they did was paid for by FRDA. They say there are about 10 treeplanting contractors in the Nelson area, and they'll all be hurt badly if there's no new agreement.

But while the two governments appear willing to sign either an extension agreement or a new FRDA, no-one seems anxious to get it done, and there isn't any time to waste, say Rothkop and Jenkinson. That's because silviculture is an on-going process—after trees are planted, they have to be tended, and before they can be planted, the site has

to be prepared. So unless there's some solid indication that funding will continue for the next few years, next spring's planting may not take place, because trees planted without the assurance of FRDA funding to take care of them may not yield a healthy crop.

Trees that have been planted already will suffer without FRDA money to pay for their upkeep, said Rothkop.

According to Fraser, the "main thrust" of FRDA "is to reforest the Backlog," and that work includes preparing sites, growing the seedlings, planting, and then tending the planted trees. There are employment benefits for the local economy all through that cycle, he said - and nursery workers at Harrop and equipment suppliers in Nelson are two examples, but there are more. There's even 'a very substantial silviculture research program' in place, designed to improve the crop, that provides jobs for local people. Some research projects that started several years ago with FRDA money would continue for several years to come. Without that second agreement, those projects will be cancelled, and the work already done will be wasted, said Fraser.

The Nelson region silviculture budget was \$22 million in 1988, and of that, \$10 million was FRDA money. "FRDA is very close to half of the whole silviculture program" in British Columbia, said Fraser. And, said Jenkinson, "a very high percentage" of the money goes into wages, because silviculture is labour-intensive work. He said about \$15 million was paid out in wages in the Nelson region last year and about \$7 million of that came from FRDA.

"We want people to understand that a very large portion of what is spent is directly related to FRDA," said Jenkinson, "and if it's not there, that work

won't be done." He said his company went from doing about \$400,000 in business to about \$2.5 million with the FRDA money in place. "And we're local," he emphasized.

Fraser pointed out that Nelson receives an unduly large economic benefit from the silviculture industry because it's home base for "a lot of forestry workers and a lot of contractors." Both Rothkop and Jenkinson agreed there are more silviculture workers here, on a per capita basis, than elsewhere in the province. Treeplanters from Nelson work all over the province, they say, and then come back here with their money.

About 1,000 of them could be unemployed without a second FRDA agreement, said Rothkop. FRDA 2, if it's worth the \$600 million that some people suggest, would offer employment to a significantly greater number of workers than the first agreement, worth \$300 million, did.

There's another aspect to FRDA that all three were anxious to point out: the harm done to the forest resource by poor silviculture practices. "The backlog (of un replanted land) is huge," said Rothkop. Provincially, it's "the size of Vancouver Island." As that backlog is left unplanted, "the whole forest economy diminishes."

But over the past ten years there's been "an incredible increase in activity in silviculture", said Fraser. "There's a tremendous amount of momentum that has built up over the past 10 years," and that momentum should be continued.

Jenkinson and Rothkop urged local citizens to contact Kootenay West MP Bob Brisco and Nelson-Creston MLA Howard Dirks to tell them the FRDA agreement is important, and that a second agreement must be put in place soon.

WSCA Call for a Judicial Inquiry

Dirk Brinkman

On January 14, 1989 at our Annual General Meeting of our Association the members present passed a resolution calling for a **judicial inquiry into the management of B.C.'s Forest Resource.**

While we appreciate that consideration is being given to public review through the public hearings which you will be holding, our members feel that the magnitude of the commitment to convert the remaining two thirds of the licensed forest land into TFLs should be examined judicially outside of the Ministry of Forests.

The forests are under pressure from many user groups; pipelines, hydro, wilderness advocates, environmentalists, watersheds, fisheries, wildlife protection, outfitters, tourism, loggers, pulp companies, lumber companies, etc.

The management of our forests are at a crossroad. We have declining forest productivity (acid rain, soil degradation), a shrinking forest land base (NSR, poor spruce plantations, stagnant overstocked), as well as increasing user pressure on the diminishing resource; Government decisions need to emerge from the broadest possible review process to prevent more polarized forest politics in our future.

There are many questions that require a public review:

- Do we reduce rotation age in a PSYU without a public hearing/explanation?
- Do we net down the NSR in a PSYU without a hearing/explanation?
- Do we presume that native land claims are a Federal matter and ignore their influence on a long-range forest tenure planning?
- Is the best economic return from the forest land base the current logging license agreement?
- How can integrated forest management become a reality through the tenure system?
- What are other resource management models that integrate all users? (Eg. TFL could include rights to hunting licences, trapping, fishing licences, camping, hiking, canoeing, mountain climbing; coupled with the responsibility to manage the resources to improve or maintain them with periodic Government audits & inventories.)
- What are current trends within B.C.'s economy in employment? Or government revenue?
- What is the appropriate level of silviculture investment to sustain the development of our economy?

- What mechanism can stimulate intensive forestry investment by the private sector at a level that would sustain development?
- What does the public think the Federal Provincial Agreement should be — one billion dollars?
- Is Kenneth Dyes' expressed concern for the inadequate management of Canada's most valuable renewable resource an expression of the public view?

These and many more questions compel us to request a judicial inquiry.

We are proud of what we are doing, and what we have accomplished towards regenerating our forest resource in concert with your Ministry.

The funding secured through your Ministry, FRDA and the commitments of Industry (legislate through your initiatives) must find a public forum to express this pride of achievement.

We will do what we can to bring silviculture to more responsible and professional performance levels. With increased public support, more can be accomplished. This support can best be gathered by a judicial inquiry.

Thank you again for the new 1987 Forest Legislation and the well crafted Silviculture Regulations.

We look forward to your response.

Converting Forest Licenses to TFLs

Ministry of Forests

Here's the step-by-step process required for those who want to convert forest licences to tree farm licences.

- Step 1: Forest licensees submit letters-of-intent.
- Step 2: The B.C. Forest Service (BCFS) will:
 - review all letters of intent
 - set priorities by timber supply area
 - schedule, according to the priorities set, the submission of a comprehensive TFL application.
- Step 3: The scheduled forest licensee submits the application.

- Step 4: The BCFS and other agencies review the application.
- Step 5: The BCFS announces and advertises a public hearing on the application.
- Step 6: The public hearing is held and submissions are made.
- Step 7: The BCFS evaluates the application and, after considering the public's views, makes its recommendations,
- Step 8: If approval is recommended, the application and proposal goes to the provincial cabinet for final approval.
- Step 9: The cabinet must give its approval-in-principle.

- Step 10: The forest licensee gets a registered professional forester to prepare the tree farm licence management & working plan.
- Step 11: The management & working plan is submitted to other resource agencies for review & made available to the public.
- Step 12: The BCFS considers these comments and makes its recommendations to the BCFS chief forester.
- Step 13: The BCFS chief forester approves or requests modification of the management and working plan.
- Step 14: The Minister of Forests and the licensee enter into a tree farm licence agreement.

Presentations to the TFL Hearings

Summit Reforestation

Allan Bahen

I am a partner in Summit Reforestation Ltd., a reforestation contractor and Summit Nursery Ltd., a private forest seedling nursery. Both of these businesses are located in Telkwa, B.C. Our area of operations extends from Prince Rupert to Fraser Lake and includes the Mackenzie Timber Supply area (T.S.A.).

Our nursery was established in 1984 after Successfully tendering to supply the Ministry of Forests 2.5 million container seedlings annually for 5 years. At that time the ministry stated they wanted to encourage the establishment of private nurseries in the north. Unfortunately the bidding process used to award new seedling contracts favoured existing southern nurseries and our future growth prospects appeared bleak. In 1986 we seriously considered relocating our nursery to the Lower Mainland.

Prior to 1947, forestry practice in British Columbia was essentially timber extraction with minimal efforts given to reforestation. The resource seemed inexhaustible and forests grew back naturally anyway. Gradually, over time, The need to replant logged areas became apparent. Forest renewal efforts have rapidly accelerated in recent years with emphasis on meeting basic silviculture responsibilities to attain "free to grow" status on fresh logging and through the joint Federal-Provincial FDRA agreement, attack the backlog of old not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) sites.

Funding for this process has been an ongoing struggle. Provincial government

reforestation support has always been subject to political and budget priorities. We have witnessed in the past, the establishment of special forest funds and the subsequent future stripping of these funds for other purposes. We are ensuring that basic silvicultural requirements are being met, but what concerns me most as a silvicultural contractor is the future status of all our newly created plantations that once attaining "free to grow" status become a Ministry responsibility. A sufficient number of trees are being planted, but how do we ensure their long term survival to reach harvestable size? Government revenue from our resource driven economy is depleted through normal government expenditures. Insufficient monies are left over to adequately fund the plantation maintenance or intensive silviculture efforts.

The first major step was accomplished in the Fall of 1987 with the passage of Bill 70. The costs and responsibilities for basic silviculture (reforestation) were shifted from the government to the licensees. The result will be better and more cost effective forest management. The effects of this change on our business was immediate and dramatic. Suddenly licensees were free to deal where and with whom they wanted. At our nursery in the past 2 years we have doubled our capital investment and sowing for 1989 will exceed 8 million container seedlings. With greater licensee T.F.L. responsibilities future expansion is inevitable to meet the demand from forest licensees eager to spend their reforestation dollars locally. Summit Reforestation plants

approximately 8 million trees annually and almost half of this is in multi-year grow and plant contracts with licensees. This change in forest policy has given our business long term stability. Between the two companies we employ 7 full time and 220 seasonal employees.

The economy of B.C. is resource driven and to maintain employment in the north, forest renewal through greater licensee responsibility is essential. Present incentives on volume based tenure are insufficient to encourage intensive management. All benefits derived presently accrue to the Crown. The roll-over of present volume based tenures to Tree Farm Licenses will result in better forest management practices, greater utilization of the timber and long term security of timber supply and employment. As a silviculture contractor I come into contact with many different forest companies and ideologies. Some of the best stewardship I have seen is presently being practiced by the large integrated corporations that people love to hate. They have efficiencies in a joint sawlog-pulp and paper operation that allow them to survive the different cyclical markets and be very competitive in the global markets. They also are much more visionary in their long term planning than a smaller business can be.

As a small player in this field and as a professional forester, I wholeheartedly support the move by the provincial government to encourage better forest management and practice through conversion of tenure to area based Tree Farm Licenses.

NORTHERN MIXEDWOOD '89

FORT ST. JOHN, B.C. CANADA

September 12-14, 1989

"Innovations & Techniques to Manage
Mixedwood Stands in Boreal Forest Regions"

Contact Northern Lights College

(604) 785-6981

Presentations to the TFL Hearings...

TFL's & Forest Renewal

Dirk Brinkman

Background

I am making this presentation as the president of the Western Silvicultural Contractors Association on behalf of its 80 member contractors who plant over 75% of the province's trees and conduct a large percentage of the other silvicultural activities in the province.

Our Concern is Forest Renewal

I represent those of us who have elected to work as stewards under contract to renew the forests.

Judicial Inquiry

Our members, at our January annual general meeting, called for a Judicial Inquiry into B.C.'s Forest Policy. While this motion was carried, it was not unanimous.

WSCA Position Complex

The position of the diverse group of silviculture contractors in the WSCA is complex.

Our whole livelihood is derived from the forest.

Our main employers are now the Forest Industry whose applications are here under public review.

Our industry, however, depends on the public's environmentally oriented stewardship ethic of support that creates and maintains the legislation that commits provincial or industry funding for silviculture.

The WSCA Position

TFL Position

The WSCA supports the area-based tenure of TFL's as the healthiest basis for sound forest renewal with the provision that a number of problems in our current forest policy are addressed.

We do not support the conversion of the forest licences to TFL's without addressing some of these issues.

Judicial Hearing

Nor do we view this fifteen minute window as an adequate vent for airing public land use issues and accordingly, the WSCA has called for Judicial Hearings.

The WSCA selected a Judicial Inquiry because many of the issues relating to resource management are land use and environmental impact issues, not because we perceived criminal activity in the forest that requires a subpoena to call witnesses under oath.

The land use conflict issues have to be resolved beyond the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Forests.

WSCA Experience

Problems and Policy

What follows is some of our experiences related to TFL's and the new forest policy. For some of the problems and issues we perceive, we include some policy recommendations or future strategies.

New Forest Policy

The new forest policy which requires that all areas logged must be reforested to a free-growing standard as a cost to the harvester has rightly been called the birth of silviculture in B.C..

We herald this as a new era for our silviculture industry.

Deal Direct With Industry

It permits us to deal one on one with our clients; putting in place a level of accountability for high quality services which can be rewarded with security of tenure for a contractor.

Creates Employment

It adds over 50 million trees to the program and over 200,000 person days of employment per year.

Silviculture Regulations

The Silviculture Regulations, some areas of which are still being drafted, provides for the public reporting of all

Preharvest Silviculture Prescriptions that commits the licensee.

It prescribes for a sound level of audit and gives District Managers great authority to impose severe consequences for failing to perform according to the committed prescription.

Integration of Phases

The new forest policy permits the integration of the separate phases of forest renewal to optimize efficiency and plantation performance while utilizing natural regeneration to the max..

The Development of the Silviculture Industry

The development of the Silviculture Industry through the previous stages was essential to prepare for delivering free-growing plantations on all areas logged.

Our industry is very pleased with the timely development of this new forest policy.

It addresses most of the historic problems in the forest renewal and harnesses many opportunities.

The WSCA Business Perspective

TFL's Silviculture Business

From a business perspective, our Silviculture Industry strongly supports the TFL system.

The long term tenure of a TFL allows the forest licensee to make long term commitments to their silviculture contractor.

This has public benefits through pride of achievement and familiarity. The highest quality most microsite sensitive planting delivered at the most reasonable cost that our company performs is on TFL's with clients with whom we have developed long term co-operative working relationships.

TFL's Compared to Forest Licences

It has been our experience that TFL holders compared to forest licensees tend to display a higher level of responsible stewardship than forest licences.

This is natural—both pride of achievement and public opinion about the appropriateness of continuing the forest tenure depends on the perception of stewardship.

Timber licence holders, in contrast, more commonly subcontract out their forest management. Foresters are moving to different settings and display less familiarity with the weather, biology and quirks of their areas. Lack of familiarity will reduce forest renewal success.

WSCA Recommended Policy Changes

Our members however do not support the conversion of Forest Land to these TFL's without further change to forest policy.

Corporate Behaviour

The behaviour exhibited by corporations varies both relative to each other and relative to the economics of the times.

What may seem outrageous in retrospect may have been exemplary at the time.

Within our experience, both TFL holders and Timber Licence holders have greater differences in their level of concern for forest renewal within each group than they do between them. There are poor and good operators in both camps.

Code Of Behaviour

If an evaluation of a corporations manifest commitment to a high code of ethics in the areas of the community business relations, reforestation, utilization and the environment—including global impact issues—were a critical part of the prerequisites for awarding a TFL, our members would have a greater

confidence in the transfer.

We also support consideration for smaller local TFLs and community watershed TFLs as logical solutions for some management areas.

Government discretionary budgets -> Industry market budgets

While the problem of discretionary political budgets have been overcome with the new forest policy, the new risk is that silviculture funding will be tied to U.S. housing starts and other forest product market influences. Our members have often experienced the highly diluted effects of good intentions in Victoria. Our concern with the new forest policy is that the forest industry will be as responsible as they can afford to be and plead for sympathetic administration to overlook their obligations.

Trust Fund

The very similar Forest Management Agreements in Saskatchewan protect the forest renewal budgets from the ups and downs of the forest industry by committing funds, at the time of logging, into a trust fund.

While this concern for industries ability to fund silviculture during hard times applies to both TFLs and Forest Licences, TFL's appear to create a more appropriate opportunity to set up such a long term trust fund as a part of the long term tenure agreement.

FRDA

In 1985, the first serious commitment to begin the work of forest renewal on the legacy of 3.7 million hectares of Not Sufficiently Restocked Forestland commenced with the 50-50 shared Federal Provincial Forestry Agreement, or FRDA, for 300 million dollars over five years.

Vancouver Region

By 1988, all of Vancouver Regions good and medium NSR sites, as well as some of the interior good and medium sites, have been satisfactorily restocked.

This program created over 600,000 person-days of employment per year, primarily for outlying forest communi-

ties, and contributed enormously to the development of a viable professional silviculture industry in B.C..

Expires in March 1990

This first FRDA expires in March 1990. That means that effectively, this is the last spring-summer during which any work will be conducted under FRDA.

Eliminate the Backlog by 2000

You, Dave Parker, as Minister of Forests have committed your government to eliminate all the NSR good and medium backlog sites by the year two thousand.

Bill VanderZalm, has committed his preparedness to raise the FRDA agreement to one billion dollars—the amount needed to eliminate the backlog by the year 2000.

Frank Oberle, your Federal counterpart, has echoed the challenge and also declared he is prepared to seek to persuade the federal cabinet of the value and importance of the goal of eliminating the good and medium backlog sites by the end of this century.

Nursery Program

If they are going to gear-up for an expanded planting program in April 1990, the nursery growers must have a commitment now to begin growing for the Next FRDA's expanded program.

Productive Forest Tree Farm Land

In order to sustain the long term supply from BC's productive forest land base for the proposed TFL's — the FRDA II program to stock all Not Sufficiently Restocked good and medium forest land must first be in place.

Plantation Performance

At the moment the silviculture regulations do not prescribe how fast a plantation should grow.

A free-growing target date is set—the seedling height, diameter and vigour at the time that it is made to be free of competition are not defined.

This is primarily because there is not enough data on early plantation per-

TFL's & Forest Renewal cont...

formance to establish concrete targets for each forest site type.

For developing these targets, the massive collection of performance data on past plantations is now underway.

There should be a provision in the harvesting licence to prepare the industry to carry the cost of meeting mean average targets for plantation performance at free-growing age when these targets are set.

The trade off for any additional costs to the harvester can be the incentive to permit Licensee whose plantations exceed the target standards to add the increased growth and performance reflected on that plantations area, to their Annual Allowable Cut.

Fall-down

We are presently in the final phase of liquidating the old growth timber that predominates in B.C..

The Government has predicted a "Fall-down" effect, or decline in AAC, will follow after the old-growth has been cut.

Sustainable development

The eighties witnessed the emergence of a clear focus on sustainable development— development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

The predicted fall-down in harvest and sustainable development are incompatible.

While the harvest in B.C. has increased at an average rate of 2% per year over the last forty years.; it is now predicted to fall by 30%.

Strategic Planning

Tree-farm licences must include strategic planning to prevent the kind of fall-down of communities that follow from a liquidation harvest pattern on TFLs like Port Renfrew.

Intensive silviculture

Intensive Silviculture - brushing, site rehabilitation, thinning, commercial thinning, fertilizing, pruning— can all be practiced on the younger age class forest stands to improve their health and growth and thus sustain an even flow of forest products from any TFL area.

Forest Licences vs. Tree Farm Licences

Ministry of Forests

Similarities

- Both tree farm licences and timber supply areas are managed for sustained yield.
- Other resource uses must be considered on all licences.
- Both licences include reviews by other resource agencies and the public.
- The province owns the land, regardless of any licence issued.
- Both tenures confer the rights to occupy the land under licence for forest management purposes. Neither confer any other rights to the land.
- Both tenures require the same operational planning process, including the referrals of plans to other resource agencies and requirements for public review.
- Both tenures require the achievement of basic silviculture and forest protection standards.
- The same stumpage appraisal system for timber charges is used for both tenures.

Differences

- A tree farm licence includes the right to harvest timber according to approved plans and the obligation to carry out all phases of forest management on a specific area. This includes reforestation, stand improvement, stand protection, inventory, planning, access construction and harvesting.
- A forest licence applies only to a portion of a timber supply area. There may be several licensees within one timber supply area.
- Its basic intent is to achieve the orderly harvest of timber in a timber supply area and the timely reforestation of harvested areas.
- A tree farm licence specifies a fixed geographic area. A forest licence does not apply to a specific area within which the company is the only major operator.

Forest licence harvesting continually shifts within a timber supply area.

- Tree farm licences have a 25-year term, replaceable every 10 years.
- Forest licences have a 15-year term, replaceable every 5 years.
- A tree farm licensee is responsible for preparing a strategic plan for the management of the tree farm licence for approval by the BCFS. This plan includes a proposed allowable annual cut, which must be approved by the chief forester.
- In forest licences, the BCFS is responsible for preparing the Strategic Plan for the timber supply area and for setting the allowable annual cut for both the timber supply area and each forest tenure.
- Allowable annual cuts on tree farm licences can increase when the licensee can use previously unusable wood due to technological or access advances; or, increased wood production by improved forest management.
- The Forest Act does not allow increases in the allowable annual cut of forest licences. Any increase in the allowable annual cut on a timber supply area will go to new licences.
- The tree farm licensee must carry out inventory of forest and recreation resources, and other resources to approved standards set by the BCFS.
- The BCFS is responsible for the inventory of forest, range and forest recreation resources on crown lands outside of tree farm licences.
- The tree farm licensee is responsible for tending and protecting the growing stock on the tree farm licence from reforestation to the harvest stages.
- The obligation under forest licences stops after harvested areas have been reforested to a free-growing stage.

Presentations to the TFL Hearings...

In order to reverse the thirty percent fall down predicted for our AAC a massive intensive forestry program for maintaining our forests health must be mounted.

Funding

At present there is no mechanism for funding intensive silviculture in B.C. that is adequate to turn around the fall-down and continue to increase the AAC.

To date FRDA II is being looked to to carry most of this forest community ghost town insurance cost.

Some companies applying for TFLs have committed to levels of corporate investment in intensive forest stands.

On the Mackenzie TFL, Fletcher Challenge has committed to 22 million dollars worth of intensive forestry.

A mechanism could be set up through the FRDA agreement where Tree Farm Licensees commitments to intensive silviculture are matched by the province and the federal government to intensively farm the areas set aside for forest harvesting.

TFL's must be subject to the criteria of sustainable development.

Long term employment

A massive intensive program would provide local year-round jobs for the silviculture worker and stabilize our industry abating one the chronic seasonal and nomadic problems in our industry.

This would stabilize the forest based communities who are facing a fall-down in forest industry employment opportunities.

Utilization -100%

We have spent years climbing over a large volume of mill quality slash left behind.

The justification has been that the logging contractor cannot afford to haul this wood out of the bush.

Companies that are building billion dollar pulp mills based on a sustainable supply from limited TFL area, and a province that is benefiting from billions of dollars in export revenues on a

shrinking forest land base, cannot afford to allow any of the value on a clear-cut site to be abandoned by a logging contractor whose skidding and hauling cost are only a small part of the investment in the logs being left.

TFL's provide a critical opportunity to protect provincial and industry investment in regulations that support full utilization skidding and hauling costs with stumpage off-sets for smaller or lower value wood.

Ecological Renewal

Ecological forest renewal is emerging as a theme that will soon become defined in concrete measurable terms. This will set new standards for silviculture work. The ecological integrity of a mature forest system includes the symbiotic interdependency with many other living organisms. It is increasingly obvious that there are a lot of unexpected benefits from the preservation and regeneration of this intricate web of forest life.

Plantations

Public criticism of monoculture plantations has behind it the image of complex rainforest being replaced by rubber plantations. This is far from the truth in silviculture in B.C..

B.C. is definitely Canada's leading forest renewal practitioner.

Biogeoclimatically specific prescriptions include mixing species for appropriate microsites.

Mycrorhysii

Clearly, however there are opportunities for regenerating support species along with the trees. Mycorrhysii inoculation in the nurseries represents a sample of initiatives in this direction.

Forest Renewal

Forest renewal of the future is going to be more intricate, problematic and costly.

The Ministry of Forests should be developing a strategic plan for such a future and the TFL's must be prepared for the kind of forest management that included ecological forest renewal.

Clearly, that long term future and public direction of forest management will exclude clear-cutting in the montane, herbicides in the forests, slash burning and involve many other changes and cost increases.

Can the market bear them.

Preservation of Old Growth

The Ministry must identify old growth stands for every forest type and set aside enough reserves to assure that the wealth of information locked in their intricate biology is preserved before allocating TFLs.

Global

The eighties was a decade of the environment.

The nineties will be a decade during which we focus on our species position within the ecosystem.

Forest harvesting and the continual depletion of the forest land base for other uses does have an effect on the global environment. The massive forests of British Columbia influence weather patterns, absorb pollution, acts as a giant air scrubber or cleaner, filters vast quantities of water, and builds the world soil bank.

These global values have to be quantified and integrated into B.C.'s forest policy.

Integrated Forest Management

Area Based Tenure, such as a tree-farm licence, offers an opportunity for the integrated management of all forest land users.

This opportunity is not presently developed within the TFL.

The responsibility to maintain the productivity of traplines, the game population, fish populations and waterways aesthetics through the collection of revenues for all users in exchange for the management responsibilities for those users is a model for resource management that should be developed through the TFLs.

Presentations to the TFL Hearings...

TFL's & Forest Renewal cont... Arland Reforestation

Ross Styles

Unique Wilderness Cost

B.C. has some of the most unique wilderness and forestland in the world.

Many of these wilderness areas deserve to be set aside for recreational and ecological reasons.

Due diligence identifying these areas and their other values has to precede the issue of a tree-farm licence.

It is obvious that long term tenure on forest land has high value.

The province has compensated the TFL holder for the loss of capital and management investments arising from the cancellation of the TFL on South Moresby.

Before the MOF converts land to a TFL it must confirm that no similar public cost lies in the future.

Extinction of Species

The diversity of species and species habitat must remain a priority, also within forest management policy. The smallest population and habitat size that will support a species have not yet been established. It is probable that very large areas are needed for many species.

In Conclusion

Strong Legislation

Only sound legislation and strong firm leadership will preserve the public interests within a tenure system.

The government as the representatives of the people are the long term tenure holders. Forest policy must ensure that forest renewal and other costs are not being created for future generations.

Closing Position

In conclusion, the members of the WSCA do not support the conversion of the TFL's without changes which address our concerns.

The province's Silviculture Program sometimes draws criticism and fails to find full support. Such reactions may have been appropriate during the province's fledgling efforts at silviculture, but they are inappropriate in the face of current silvicultural practices in British Columbia.

Any overhanging doubt about the quality and worth of our silvicultural effort needs to be dispelled along with any fears that licensees will not continue the high quality of work set by the Ministry in the past.

Here in British Columbia, our art and practice of silviculture has made enormous strides in recent years. Every single year since I started contracting in 1983, improvements have been made. We now work under high levels of control and very strict standards. We have seen dramatic improvements in the quality of seedlings, stock handling procedures, and planting quality inspection.

Of the seedlings my firm planted for Weyerhaeuser on their Kamloops TFL during the past two spring planting seasons (about 3/4 million seedlings), the follow-up survival plots, done during August, reveals survival rates surpassing 90%.

As forest companies assume the cost of reforestation, the public can expect that these companies will become increasingly active in ensuring that dollars spent on silviculture get effective results.

Under the new regulations, any company that harvests timber on tenured lands must carry out a plan to reforest the harvested area. There are considerable risks for the company that fails to do so, from members of the public, from the news media, and from the Ministry... through its right to reduce allowable cut.

The Ministry's new silviculture regulations are both strict and detailed. They clearly define the job to be done. Companies must plan the areas they cut... and see that a free growing forest results. They are accountable for managing the rotation on the lands they hold. This will create lots of work for silvicultural contractors and the people they employ. We are grateful for it.

In recent years the contracting community has matured significantly—there is now a large number of seasoned, proficient contractors in this province. Their knowledge and expertise has kept abreast of increasingly higher standards in silviculture. They are an integral part of "State-of-the-Art Silviculture" as it is now practiced in this province. Problems of the past have been immensely diminished.

The Silviculture Branch is to be commended for bringing the province's silviculture program rapidly forward to its current high level of effectiveness.

The new silviculture regulations create a strict working environment. Combined with vigilance in holding companies accountable for meeting their reforestation responsibilities, they should ensure that state-of-the-art silviculture continues, as the major responsibility for delivery shifts from the Ministry to tenured companies.

However, any expansion of TFL's must take into account the possibility that parcels of land shifted into TFL's may, at some future date, become subject to demands for removal arising from native land claims, recreational users, environmental preservation groups or other concerned citizen groups. The recovery of lands to satisfy these demands could prove to be very expensive for the taxpayers of the province... as experience in the Queen Charlotte Islands is beginning to reveal.

Rothkop Contracting

Romi Rothkop

I have spent the past nine years of my life driving up thousands of B.C. logging roads and seeing many cut blocks, and I feel I have a good overview of the state of our forest lands.

I read through the proposed changes in land tenure and have some reservations about increasing the tree farm license base in B.C.. Granting 25 year licenses to a group of large multi-national companies is not a great idea. Even if these licenses are managed perfectly (which they won't be) 25 years is too long a time. Our priorities may change in that period. If government needs to get out of these agreements for reasons as yet unforeseen, we could see numerous South Morseby-like scenarios that will cost the taxpayers.

The current Annual Allowable Cut is unsustainable at the present level of intensive silviculture. Signing more 25 year agreements will put pressure on the Ministry to keep the A.A.C. too high. The problem isn't how land is allocated, but the failure to follow through on regulations that are already in place. Changing over to TFLs will not alter the priorities of licensees, nor will it improve current questionable logging practices that are coming under closer scrutiny from an increasingly aware and dubious public. I question the wisdom of giving longer tenure to a group that, in many cases, has not proven itself responsible or willing to plan for the generations ahead.

I also believe that watershed areas should be excluded from TFL proposals, especially in areas that have competent and concerned local forest management specialists. If logging is to be done at all in these sensitive areas, it should be planned and managed on a local level or at least with meaningful local input.

The silviculture guidelines that the Ministry has laid out for TFL applicants are commendable. If all regulations are followed, the program will be very successful. Unfortunately, the record to date is not encouraging. Al-

though many areas are restocked and are growing well, I have seen many others (including areas in current TFLs) that were neglected for so long that no one seems to know how to deal with them. I am not convinced, even though licensees will be legally responsible for all phases of silviculture, that these phases will be carried out effectively.

The government is heavily dependent on revenue generated by the forest sector. Even though silviculture is now recognised as an economic necessity, it seems to be low on the priority list of corporate funding. Licensees have only put token amounts of their record profits of the last few years back into forest renewal.

The system will be dependent on audits by the Ministry of Forests and the staff that implements them. The privatization trend of the last few years has disrupted continuity at all levels of the Forest Service as many qualified and competent people have left. I encourage the Ministry to realize the importance of their obligations and to realize that they are losing many good people because of privatization.

In closing, I feel that the idea of expanding the TFLs is good in theory, but experience tells me that it may be dangerous in practice. I have seen some local TFLs that are not currently being managed as a truly sustainable resource. I also add my voice to the call for an enquiry into the management of the Provincial forests. The logical time for such an enquiry is before we shift the tenure structure, not after.

Ironically, longer tenure and more stability for the forest industry would create better business opportunities for my company. I feel that this is overshadowed by the potentially adverse long term effects. We must confront the fundamental problems of the way business is conducted in the forests before we implement such a major shift in land tenure.

Bugbusters

Fred Diedrichsen

I am a professional forester and one of the partners in Bugbusters Pest Management.

We are silviculture contractors based in Prince George, pursuing regeneration surveys, site preparation, planting, brushing, and juvenile spacing.

Over the last three years we have completed contracts for 18 Licensees and 27 Ministry Districts throughout British Columbia.

Our employees have spent twenty-three thousand man-days reforesting our Province.

We have been successful in generating income for ourselves and for the 84 businesses in town with whom we have accounts.

Silviculture has become big business; we are only one of 25 companies in town whose welfare depends upon the farming of our forests.

We believe that with the stability of the area based tenure by TFL's, there will be an increase in silvicultural efforts by the Licensees.

This will mean more money spent on silviculture, more income for more company, greater security for my family.

To reach this end, we support the Ministry of Forest's concept to award Tree Farm Licences to deserving applicants.

We urge the Minister to proceed with the processing of TFL applications as soon as possible.

Silviculture Changes

Peter Ackhurst, Director Silviculture Branch

I would like to talk to you today about some of the recent changes and trends in the silviculture business in the Province of British Columbia. I will also talk to you about Forest Service contract administration and am happy to discuss the next FRDA agreement but doubt have anything to add to B. Marrstack.

In the Province today you are seeing major changes in the silviculture business. There is a fundamental shift in how we delivering silviculture programs in this province. Bill 70, which was the silviculture amendment to the Forest Act passed in late 1987, plus the new Silviculture Regulations of April, 1988, have brought about this shift of emphasis.

The role of the Forest Service and industry has changed significantly. Two pieces of information will illustrate this shift:

1. In 1987 we planted 200 million trees in the province. In 1990 we will be planting close to 300 million trees. The majority of the increase in sowing requests comes from appraisal trees which are the industry responsible trees.
2. Industry will be the major planter of trees in the province. Up to now, the majority of trees planted followed Forest Service standards, criteria and forms to be filled in. Our projections say that industry will pay for and plant to their own standards and criteria and use forms of their own making for 200 million trees by 1992. Our branch projections show that industry will plant in 1989 14 million appraisal trees, 1990, 120 million appraisal trees, and by 1992, 200 million appraisal trees.

The Forest Service, on the other hand, will be going in the opposite direction. In the past the Forest Service administered the entire 200 million trees planted. Within 5 years the Forest Service will plant, in our own programs, approximately 80 million trees. This will be made up of Small Business Forest Enterprise Program - 34 million

trees, catastrophic losses - 10 million trees, and FRDA Programs - 50 million trees.

You can arrive at your own conclusions on how this will affect your business. But it will clearly change.

The changes are definitely better for silviculture and forest management in the province. There are many positive effects to these changes in the form of efficient delivery of the program.

There is a strong move toward larger stock types. The Forest Act and the Silviculture Regulations now require industry and the Forest Service to produce a free-growing stand by a specified time at industry's own cost. Larger stock types will hopefully beat the brush competition and produce a faster growing tree to a free-growing standard. This shift will also affect your industry.

With these major changes in mind, let's look at changes in Forest Service contract administration:

New Contract Format

The Silviculture Branch has been working for some time on improving the contracting format for silviculture contracts of all types. We have recently brought out the first of these new contracts for planting. Once the series is complete they will all follow a similar format where a standard contract document is the same for all types of contracts and is attached to a Schedule A which is specific to the type of work being done. Only the Schedule B and Schedule C will change from project to project; the rest of the document will be standard.

Changes in the Planting Contract

The new planting contract, issued this year, has some significant changes from previous contracts. Ministry staff will no longer supervise planting contracts while the work is being done to the extent that has been known in the past. Initial inspections at the start of each project will help contractors under-

stand the standards required for each planting unit. From then on the contractors basically on his own until he completes the payment area and requests inspection from the Ministry. At that time Ministry staff will inspect the area and complete payment certificates. Of course, at any time Ministry staff may inspect operations, but it is not until the contractor has declared the area to be completed that final payment inspections will be done. This represents a significant change from both the Ministry's side and the contractor's side. As he will now be responsible for doing his own inspections and ensuring planting quality meets the standard required. The new procedures should go a long way to improving contractor responsibility and professionalism.

Another major change is a new method of calculating payment. The old 85% clause has been changed from a method of calculating payment to a minimum cut-off point at which contract cancellation would occur. Payment itself is calculated on the basis of a pre-determined formula which reduces payment at an increasing rate as planting quality decreases. Under this new system planting quality over 96.2% will receive 100% payment. Below 92.6% planting quality payment will decrease at an increasing rate until it goes to 0% at about 70% planting quality. It is our hope that this new system will both be fair and encourage contractors to provide the highest planting quality.

Collusion on Contracts

During the 1988 field season there were a number of incidents where contractor collusion on silviculture contract bidding was discovered. After several complaints the Ministry's Financial Branch approached Silviculture Branch with a proposal to institute a large non-refundable bid deposit. After negotiations, that requirement was avoided. However, the problem of contractor collusion must be solved. Your organization presented us with a proposal a few days ago which we have not yet had time to review. Some of its

suggestions, at least on the surface appear feasible while others would create excessive administrative problems or be discriminatory to smaller operators. Some of our smallest contractors are also our best and we do not want to set up procedures which would restrict or inhibit their ability to continue in the contracting business. We will be continuing to monitor the situation and review possible solutions to the collusion problem during the next few months.

Tree Stashing

Another problem that has plagued the industry this past planting season is tree stashing. In these days of high seedling costs and even higher public visibility, the problem is even more serious than in the past.

Last season we issued instructions to the districts that contractors caught stashing trees should be reported to the police and have their contracts canceled. Some of these provisions have been worked into the new planting contract, along with financial penalties for minor incidents of tree stashing. The WSCA's Discipline and Ethics Committee has responded to several complaints of tree stashing. We hope the WSCA will continue to increase pressure against contractors who are found to be stashing trees. We are currently preparing a brief for our Executive outlining the problem and requesting additional tools to help us in our fight against unethical practices in the silviculture contract business.

Camp Standards

It was unfortunate that the Ministry of Forests had to take steps to improve conditions in field camps, however as we approach the fourth year of camp standards being included in planting contracts, they appear to be quite successful. The Ministry of Health has indicated they are happy with the standards and the equipment available in

most silviculture camps. There is still a long way to go with implementation of the standards and improving the knowledge of those living and working in the camps. The new requirement in this year's standards of having trained camp cooks should go a long way to solving the remaining problems.

One of our concerns is that with a decreasing number of government-funded contracts in future years that camp standards will become far more difficult to enforce. We look to the WSCA to take a strong stance in this regard and deal only with licensees who ensure that camp standards are maintained. Despite the loss of direct Ministry control on contract conditions the Ministry will continue to be concerned with camp standards and will advise the Ministry of Health if problems in licensee camps are brought to our attention.

Labour Standards

For years many contractors ignored the existence of the Employment Standards Act. With the increasing public profile of the silviculture industry this is no longer possible. It is time that all silviculture contractors recognized the existence of the Employment Standards Act and the rights of the workers they employ.

At the same time, parts of this legislation may not be beneficial to either the contractors or the workers. Specifically, the provisions for overtime may not fit piece-work systems such as tree planting. After a review and discussion with Employment Standards Branch personnel, Silviculture Branch may support the exemption of the silviculture contracting industry, specifically tree planting, from the overtime requirements in the Employment Standards Act. We do not, however, agree to classify forest workers as agricultural workers as the reduced minimum hourly wage would not be appropriate for this type of difficult and hazardous work.

Decreased Ministry Presence in Contracting

The new Forest Legislation will result in a decrease of direct government influence in silviculture contracting. By next year half of the trees planted will be done under the appraisal system without direct Ministry control on standards or procedures. Within a few years the Ministry's planting will be reduced to approximately 80 million trees per year. Obviously, the strong guiding control that the Ministry has had in silviculture contracting over the past 20 years will be dramatically decreased. Licensees will be at their liberty to apply whatever standards or conditions they see fit and that they can get the contractors to agree to.

Many of these changes will be innovative and improve the success and quality of silvicultural operations on licensee land. We are concerned, however, that not all licensees will put the required thought and planning into the changes they institute in their silvicultural contracting procedures. Some of these may lead unsuspecting contractors into a Catch 22 situation where they are required to do work to a standard which is unachievable. It will be up to the WSCA and contractors themselves to watch for these problems and deal with them as they come up. There is an opportunity for the WSCA to take a strong leadership role in this area and help their members avoid situations which could create serious financial and legal difficulties. The Silviculture Branch will continue to develop new contracts and new inspection systems and procedures. These, of course, are free for any licensee or contractor to adopt.

The Silviculture Branch welcomes your comments on the directions we are taking. The last thing I would like to talk about is the next FRDA agreement but I would prefer to answer questions.

Beyond the "Green Ghetto"

Frank Oberle, Federal Minister of Forests

Roundabout this time of year, federal politicians, especially federal politicians from British Columbia, look for excuses to escape from the harsh winter of central Canada.

The nicest thing I can say about winter in Ottawa is that the bureaucrats who live there generally deserve it.

As Acting Minister of Forestry, I feel very much on my own home turf.

I also feel comfortable with the fit between forestry and my other portfolio, Science and Technology, and I welcome the opportunity to share with you a few of my thoughts.

As you all know, we have just come through an election and it's refreshing to have ones life back to its normal state of organized confusion.

I did not come here intent on giving you a post-mortem of the election - tempting as it may be.

That we can be pleased with the outcome if for no other reason than the free trade agreement.

I can tell you that the agreement provides for us in B.C. the best prospect and opportunity we have ever had to redress some of the grievances which, in the past, gave rise to our strong feelings of alienation from the rest of Canada.

The agreement provides as well the best chance we have ever had in the West, to develop a more diversified, future-oriented economy. Another thing about which I was most pleased in the election is that forestry was for once a major issue.

In my area in central B.C. and the north, it literally, apart from free trade of course, became the major issue and acronyms like FRDA's and MOU's became household words.

This was a far cry from my previous experience when trees received little or no mention in the context of any political discussions.

I always found that strange considering that close to 50% of all economic activity in our province is in some way related to our forest resources.

I wonder why all of a sudden, people are so conscious about this issue.

Well, principally I assume it has to do with the fact that the countervail duty action launched by the U.S. shocked us out of our complacent belief that we are always entitled to that share of the American market for softwood lumber we need to keep our industry alive and healthy.

But, more importantly, I think British Columbians finally came to grips with the fact that the greatest threat to our forest industry may not be foreign competition or trade actions, but shortages in the supply of fibre.

Now some of us have been saying this for some time—in 1983 I published a report entitled the "Green Ghetto" which predicted serious shortages of wood supply in some B.C. forest regions within 15 to 20 years.

But now, finally, it has become a public issue.

You know, my report also concluded that without a change of public attitude our forests in B.C. will disappear, as they have in other parts of our country.

Now some people, in particular some of our senior bureaucrats in Ottawa see nothing wrong in that.

Forestry—they used to say—is an unsophisticated rural occupation unbecoming of a nation like Canada in search of a more modern image.

350 cities and towns.

They did in fairness promote the protection of our forests for recreational uses, as wildlife sanctuaries, and they see forests as a major part of our ecosystem.

Thankfully most of that generation of mandarins have departed Ottawa and their attitudes have gone the way of the dinosaur.

Let me quote to you what John A. MacDonald, our first Prime Minister, said a hundred years ago:

"The sight of immense masses of timber passing my windows every morning constantly suggests to my mind the necessity of looking into the future of this great trade. We are recklessly

destroying the timber and there is scarcely a chance of replacing it."

You must consider that the loads he was referring to, were drawn by horses - I wonder what he would have said had he been able to observe the new techniques with which we are pillaging our forests today.

Five years ago when I wrote my report we were cutting on an annual basis 157 million cubic metres/830,000 ha. nationally—adding to the backlog N.S.R. by almost 200,000 hectares per year.

In addition, fires were destroying (and continue to destroy) an amount equal to the annual harvest.

This annual reduction in our forests of almost one million hectares would produce a strip a mile wide from coast to coast.

Today we have a national backlog of 24.9 million hectares (includes areas of unsurveyed lands).

Equivalent to eight times the size of Vancouver Island.

B.C. produces roughly one half of the total softwood harvest and has a significant inventory of part of this backlog.

I am encouraged by Dave Parker's commitment to have all backlog of N.S.R. removed by the year 2000.

With more than 500,000 hectares still in the inventory you will be very busy.

Well, I don't wish to dwell too much on the past either because I think we can agree that things have changed, and are changing. Public attitudes are changing; and politicians, because of the nature of the beast, must adhere to the incontrovertible law of public opinion.

Politicians—particularly the successful ones—believe that the public is always right no matter how ill-informed their opinion.

This is why successful and responsible public representatives do take the time to share their views with the public from time to time, in an attempt to educate the public as well.

But a tragic fact about modern politics is that the public has become most dis-

trustful of politicians and the political process, even cynical.

I won't bore you with what I think the reason for that might be.

Suffice it to say that the only effective way to get our message to the public is through constituencies of well informed people who are opinion leaders and enjoy the confidence and respect of their fellow citizens.

That is why I was so pleased to receive your invitation to discuss the issues which concern us.

You, after all, have a personal stake in what happens to our forests - and the fact that you have formed an association of silviculturalists is a manifestation of the changes in attitudes that have occurred.

But let's be careful, let's not become too comfortable resting on our laurels.

I think you would be the first to agree that at best we have only taken some very tentative steps toward the creation of a forest farming industry.

I mean you must know that planting seedlings in the ground and preparing a few sites, is hardly a substitute for intensive forest management.

Let me give you some idea of what our major competitors in the U.S. and the Scandinavian countries are doing.

In Canada, we have somewhere in the order of one on-site field forester for every 450,000 hectares of forest land while our competitors in the U.S. and Sweden can boast of one for every 15,000 hectares.

In Sweden, they conduct much more intensive forest management - spending two and a half times as much as we do in Canada on sustaining and enhancing the resource.

In Northern Europe, they spend twice as much on intensive forest management (\$8-10 per cubic metre harvested) while in Canada we spend only \$4-5 per cubic metre. Both Sweden and Finland, in fact, have legislation requiring that all harvested lands be regenerated; Sweden stipulates that it must be regenerated within three years of harvesting.

In terms of research and development, both in product development and science related activities to improve, renew, and protect the forests, the

Swedes and Americans spend on the average 2% of sales to our 0.6%. We spend 0.6% = 240 million, they spend 2.5% = 1.2 billion, a difference of 960 million. Now, in fairness, we have some time left, particularly in B.C. and Alberta, to commit to that sort of intensity in the management of the resource.

After all, we still have significant acreages of highly productive forest land populated with virgin stands that must be integrated in an overall regime, some of it over-mature where the priority remains access but for the vast majority of our land reserve time continues to run out.

You know even in the Prince George forest district I am told that we are down to a 60 year supply of timber for the industry in its present form, or configuration.

Two things bother me about that: first, it takes the seedlings you are planting (those that survive) 80 years to mature; second, we are committing the industry to a state of stagnation with no room to expand.

This, however, need only be a worry if we fail to see the potential for growth in a much more diversified forest product industry.

Here too we may draw some lessons from our competitors.

I mean: who pays for the cost of the kind of intensive forest management practice in Sweden that I have mentioned.

While it may be true that governments in those countries return a greater portion of what they take directly or indirectly from the harvest of their trees, to maintenance of the forest, in the main it is the private sector that pays the bill.

One company in the U.S. (Weyerhaeuser) spent \$60 million (U.S.\$) in 1987 on research and development.

In the same year, Forestry Canada allocated from its entire budget approximately \$80 million for research and development in all of Canada. What a comparison! One company spending almost as much as our entire government.

Let's acknowledge that most of the timber in the U.S. is privately owned, so obviously they have the added incentive because they benefit more directly from such investments.

But there is still a question about how they can afford these costs and still compete with us as effectively as they do.

Two things come to mind. First, as far as governments are concerned, the investment we make in farming our forest is not only a current expense it's an investment in our future.

Forest farming or silviculture is seen by them as a wealth creating industry by itself.

After all you pay income tax I assume, and your employees don't draw U.I.C. and of course, you contribute to the economy in many other ways; you need machinery and equipment, pick-ups and gas; you sustain the nurseries; some of you may even own and manage them.

You know, I discovered that the FRDA sub-agreement between the federal and provincial governments has generated 1,600 person-years of employment in the province of B.C., over 400 of which were in the Prince George region. That represents a significant boost to the economy.

As well, in the Prince George region alone, 52 million seedlings have been planted on 38,000 hectares.

But we should look at it only as a beginning.

The second reason for the competitive advantage of Scandinavians and Americans is perhaps more important.

They upgrade and add significantly more value to their products before they take them to market.

Therein lies, at least in part, the answer and the solution to our problems.

First and foremost, we need attitudinal changes, this time by corporate management.

That may require incentives governments can provide through the Income Tax Act, through the allocation of fibre, or any other instruments we have at our disposal to encourage the formation of new business and companies - smaller businesses - perhaps run by people who can still see the forest from the trees, who will produce new products in a finished form.

As far as investment capital is concerned there appears to be no shortage. Last year alone, the private sector in

Beyond the Green Ghetto continued...

Canada committed over \$6.5 billion in new plants and equipment.

Unfortunately, very little of it was spend on plants or equipment to produce finished consumer products for markets around the world.

That's too bad because anyone who has experience in the business knows that most of these new mills and expanded facilities will have a tough time the first few years during which the market must absorb their products.

The bust times in the lumber pulp industries are not just tough on the companies, their shareholders, and employees; they are also tough for taxpayers who forego the tax revenue that a more diversified industrial structure should produce.

Now I know that in the main I am speaking to the converted here and to some of you it's just so much more talk.

But talk is the medium between thought and action.

Despite the fact that politicians are seen usually by the general public to use talk as a substitute for both.

I am here to tell you that at least from the prospective of the federal government things are changing and we are willing to be judged by our actions.

When we assumed our first mandate 5 years ago we began immediately to rebuild what was left of the Canadian Forestry Service.

Through this revolutionary new idea—cooperative federalism—we developed a working relationship with the provinces, that is beginning to pay, as I said earlier, handsome dividends.

The first generation of federal-provincial forestry agreements committed the federal government, through its new Minister of State for Forestry, four times more than any previous effort.

As you know, we are spending in addition to our regular commitment \$300 million over 5 years in B.C. alone—a period which expires on March 31, 1990.

But we have done much more than that even though the FRDA is the most visible and tangible result of our new forest strategy.

The new awareness of the importance of our forests—not only to our economic but our social well-being—is not only reflected around the cabinet table but is now most evident in our Science and Technology policy.

Our university funding agencies are attaching criteria to the grants which encourage research targeted at the enhancement, renewal and protection of our forests.

We are investing more in the training of technical and professional skills and we intend to be much more active in partnership with the industry in market research and development.

Having said all this, I have given you an indication of the new national policy affecting our resource sector.

It is built on our traditional strengths.

It is designed to revitalize our traditional resource based industries through encouragement of even larger investments in technology to improve efficiency.

This policy is also designed to lessen, over time, our dependence on these industries at least in their present form and configuration.

In the forest industry this means a much more comprehensive approach to the management and conversion of our trees.

This means a shift to a much more sophisticated and comprehensive custodial enterprise.

It means a shift toward a much more diversified refined product line to be produced by our industries.

What that means for you—I should not have to draw you a picture—is that silviculture will become an important new dimension of our forest sector activities.

It will be a highly lucrative and job-intensive year round activity including: commercial thinning of the vast acreages of over-populated stands, weeding of the newly planted stocks, spraying and fertilizing.

It will include the creation of more private sector woodlots, permitting us to restock areas that have been converted to marginal agricultural land.

It will include significant efforts to

improve techniques to protect our forests from the ravages of fire, insects and disease. And you are best positioned to get a share of all these activities.

Exciting? you bet!

But I must caution you again, the job will not be done alone by just one of the stakeholders be it the federal-provincial governments or the industry.

It must become a concerted effort: a partnership or strategic alliance of all those who derive benefit from the use and preservation of this most valuable of assets we have as a nation.

I have told you of some things we have done or are doing in the federal government.

The Canadian Forestry Service has been upgraded to a full line department called "Forestry Canada." We will provide leadership. Naturally to deliver on our commitment we will continue to work closely with the provinces who are after all the owners of the resource and have the principle responsibility of its custodianship.

Whether that is through a new generation of forest resource development agreements or any other method has yet to be decided.

Suffice it to say that the present agreement has worked well and as Conservatives we are usually not inclined to fix what works well.

That's not to say that improvements are not necessary and that we should not attach any conditions to our contribution to a future agreement.

I know you would agree that the resources contributed from the federal coffers must be spent in accordance with the priorities I have spelled out. And of course they must be incremental to the work that is expected from the provinces in the normal course of managing the forests.

We have good cause for optimism about the future of our industry.

As you know the forestry portfolio has been assigned to me only on an acting basis, and I can assure you of the cooperation of whoever will become the full-time Minister. As for myself, if I ever find myself in need of a fine, exciting job in a vibrant industry I'll come home and get into silviculture contracting.

FRDA Research & Development

Roberta Parish

The Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA) has dedicated nine percent (\$27 million) of the Agreement to extension, demonstration, research and development (E,D,R&D). Of these funds, \$14 million is available over the five year term of the Agreement for the cost-shared E,D,R&D program. The Ministry of Forests, Research Branch, administers the cost-shared E,D,R&D program based on recommendations from three regional technical advisory committees. The technical advisory committees include representatives from the provincial and federal governments, industry and universities. They make sure that research is undertaken on important local, regional and provincial problems. Each regional committee has an extension specialist contracted to get information out to foresters and forestry technicians responsible for the FRDA operational program. Although silviculturists are the main audience, supervisors of forestry workers will find much of the information useful.

The extension specialists deliver information in two ways. One is through documents (reports, memos and operational summaries), and the other is through personal contact — courses, seminars, workshops and field training sessions. These events are listed in the Forestry Continuing Education Calendar which, along with other cost-shared documents, is available from Research Branch

Ministry of Forests
31 Bastion Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7

Research topics that may be of interest to forestry workers include mechanical site preparation, timing of planting, stock quality and seedling handling. Mechanical site preparation research is on-going in the interior of the province. This site preparation research has focussed on its effectiveness in warming and aerating soils. Tests of different machines on different sited determine

the appropriate combination. The best planting spot varies for different machines and sites. On mounds, seedling roots must have access to moisture and nutrients, usually in the organic matter. This can be achieved by deep planting or by long-rooted seedlings. Bob McMinn and Lowell Paul are working through a federal contract to develop a planting tool for a seedling with a 23 cm root.

Planters usually plant on the hinge of trenches but in cold, dry areas, planting in the trench may prevent frost damage. Exposed mineral soil re-radiates energy at night providing a warm microsite. This certainly should not be tried in wet sites because seedlings, especially spruce, need lots of oxygen for the roots and can drown if roots are immersed in standing water.

Information from mechanical site preparation trials is available from a number of FRDA reports and in the mechanical site preparation handbook. Summaries emphasizing operational solutions will be available by April 1989, and there are 10-15 one-day field training sessions in the Prince George area scheduled for the summer. For information on field training, contact Dave Wilford (847-7428) in Smithers or Lorne Bedford (387-8901) in Victoria.

Research on appropriate timing of summer planting in the southern interior & fall planting on the coast followed from reports of inconsistent survival of species planted, especially, on high elevation sites. Several small-scale trials look at lifting date and length of time of field storage prior to planting. From the trials researchers found that at high elevations, frosts may hit a plantation at any time in the planting season. Site preparation or microsite selection may be helpful in high risk areas. In the Lillooet transition zone, Dave Spittlehouse is trying to identify soil moisture & temperature patterns that provide the best planting time.

There are many stock quality projects located throughout the province. In the north, research is on-going on the effects of nursery cultural practices on the cold hardiness of planted seedlings. In the south and coast, stock quality testing have been made directly to growers at their annual meetings and several workshops are planned to help foresters responsible for ordering stock evaluate seedlings.

The next step in this series is to improve seedling handling and planting performance. Research on planters and planting ergonomics was reported in Screef in October 1989. A video on seedling handling is available from Brian Storey, Silviculture Branch, Victoria (387-8903). The video provides information on the three major sources of injury to seedlings; excessive heat, lack of moisture, and rough handling. Its purpose is to inform seedling handlers, from the nursery to the planting site of their importance in determining seedling survival and growth. A pamphlet summarizing the information in the video will go out with planting contract bids in the spring.

One topic of interest to many forestry workers is integrated resource use. There are many research projects throughout the province; e.g. the impact of Vision R on moose browse and small animal habitat, or the Carnation Creek study investigating the impacts of Vision R on a whole watershed, including fish and fish forage.

In conclusion, FRDA has provided numerous benefits to forestry by funding research for important reforestation problems and by extending research results to field practitioners. There remains a need to continue and expand forestry research and extension. In the next Agreement inclusion of research and education for silviculture workers should be a high priority.

Privatization of the Forests

Vicky Husband

Note: *The exact text of Vicky's presentation to the AGM is not available, but her talk was based on the following brief she presented to the TFL hearings on behalf of the Sierra Club.*

When the Legislative Assembly created the Office of the Ministry of Forests (MOF), certain obligations and duties were imposed on the Minister. He is by law, obliged, among other things, to do the following:

"manage, protect and conserve the forest and range resources of the Crown having regard to the immediate and long term economic and social benefits they may confer on the province" (section 4 (b) of the Ministry of Forests Act of 1979 R.S. Chapter.272)

Before any decisions are made affecting the future of our forests and who controls them and the proposed massive privatization I have some serious questions. I question whether the Ministry of Forests can any longer be trusted to represent and protect the public interest in our forests?

Forest Management

Is our present system of management of our forest lands by MOF and the B.C. government adequate?

Are we practicing long term sustained yield of our forest lands? Or are we overcutting our prime timber now? What about the fall-down?

Biological Diversity, Parks, Wilderness, Wildlife, Ecological Sustainability

Have we set aside large and diverse enough intact forest ecosystems to maintain biological diversity?

How are we conserving the other uses and resources of the old growth forest?

Do we have a Parks System Plan in place? Does it include enough representative examples of our ancient forest ecosystems?

Should we be cutting forests on lands where it is clear that it is not sustainable?

What are the hidden environmental

costs of the present forest practices? . . . soil erosion, road building, habitat destruction, air and water contamination . . .

Corporate Concentration, Jobs and Community Stability

Are we happy with the concentration of control of our forest lands in the hands of a few multinationals? Do we want more concentration?

Do we get a fair return from our forest resources or would real free enterprise with fair competition and an open log market bring greater benefits to British Columbians?

How does our employment rate and level of value added products compare to the other wood producing provinces and the United States? (statistics enclosed)

What about corporate concentration and community stability?

Forest Management

It is clear to me and to most British Columbians that there is a problem in the management of our forests and as our magnificent ancient forests are reduced to remnants there is increasing conflict over uses of the forest other than clearcut logging. In other words who speaks for the grizzly, the bald eagle, the mountain caribou or the cougar? Who speaks for the small business loggers, small manufacturers, communities and their desire for sustainable development and a stable future?

Our Forests are not Forever regardless of what the glossy industry advertisements tell us. Our ancient forests on the coast are almost gone. Flying over southern Vancouver Island it is very clear how little is left. It is no surprise to most of us that BCFP/Fletcher Challenge is laying off 420 people mostly in TFL 46. The surprise is that they are admitting that our forests are being overcut.

The history is that there were strange doings in the formation of then TFL 22 and 27 (now TFL 46). Comments by C.D. Orchard who was B.C.'s Chief Forester in 1954,

"(BCFP) . . . proposed what I considered a dangerous overcut. In other words a timber grab and legalized liquidation; or rather liquidation with government blessing and documentary approval."

Then Forest Minister Sommers went to jail for accepting bribes to create this TFL but the TFL was never rescinded. Today there is severe conflict in TFL 46 at Sulphur Pass in Clayquot Sound over lack of public consultation, land use planning, current forestry practices and overcutting.

How many other TFLs and TSAs face similar problems?

John Cuthbert, Chief Forester still claims that we are practising long term sustained yield of our forests.

Quoting the Forest and Range Resource Analysis 1984 "British Columbia's forests are commonly thought to be managed under a policy of constant production over time. This is not true."

Long term sustained yield is estimated by the Chief Forester to be around 59 million cubic metres a year. However this is based on our present forest inventory which is recognized to be inadequate and could be out by 30% on the coast and perhaps more in the Interior. In 1987 90.6 million cubic metres were cut.

Much has been said about the management and mismanagement of our TSAs and TFLs. I do not feel that the public interest has been served in many instances, here are a few examples:

- TFL 1 and the Nass where it was found that there were no enforceable provisions in the Management and Working Plan especially with regard to reforestation.
- The Ewing Report which looked at the Prince George East TSA overcut found that the language of the Management and Working Plans was too vague.
- TFL 39 and the excessive waste, the public had to disclose the situation.
- Who authorized the subsidized

clearcutting in the west Chilcotin? ...1,000 acres a day the official reason is the beetle kill. But does that give license to not consider sustainability, wildlife habitat, probable changes in the microclimate, soil erosion, problems with reforestation?

- Soil erosion is costing us 80 million dollars a year and is growing (FRDA report 025).
- Who authorized clearcutting in the area of Kyuquot on Vancouver Island's west coast, which is resulting in mass wasting and erosion and is clearly not sustainable?
- You claim that the companies are now responsible for reforestation, but you didn't tell the public that the major companies can still deduct reforestation as a cost allowance against stumpage payments.

Corporate Concentration, Jobs, Community Stability

Corporate concentration is a fact of life in B.C. As of 1985-86, four interlocking multi-national companies controlled 93.2 percent of the allocated public forests (both TFLs and TSAs), and 81.4 percent of the provincial cut from all lands. Is more concentration in the public interest?

Expanding the TFL system would simply solidify their hold on the province, giving them full control over almost all the productive forest land. Let's not forget that this is often the most productive land for other uses, fish and wildlife habitat, parks, wilderness and tourism.

We are looking at massive layoffs of forestry workers now and in the future because of improper management of our forest land base. In the last ten years in one TFL alone TFL 44 MacMillan Bloedel have increased profits by 150% increased their cut by 21% and decreased their employment by 25%.

What about communities who are preparing a Sustainable Development Plan, such as Tofino or Clayoquot Sound? Will this have any impact on the MOF and the forest companies agenda? Communities are asking for a say in any resource decision making that will affect the future stability of their community.

Biological Diversity, Parks, Wilderness, Wildlife, Ecological Sustainability

I understood Mr. Parker that you said the public misunderstood the TFL rollover process that we were not giving away the land just the trees!

I have two comments, what we give away we have to buy back if we want it in the future, witness South Moresby. And we are narrowing all our options for the future use of that land. Secondly, forests are not just 2x4's with needles but a complex ecosystem. What real consideration is being given to how this ecosystem works and what should be protected? Why is it MOF policy to totally liquidate all old growth forests?

I have questioned the MOF about what policies you have for protection, conservation and research and even adequate inventory of old growth forests. I have found that there is no old growth policy but in fact only "liquidation of the old growth forest" put more bluntly the MOF is working on the calculated extermination of our ancient forests! Is this in the public interest? Along with the so-called "decadent" forests we are liquidating fish and wildlife habitat, productive salmon rivers, watersheds, possibilities for tourism and outdoor recreation, clean air, clean water, just settlement of Indian land claims and the rights of our children and grandchildren and so much more. Further privatization of our forests will just exacerbate these problems and conflicts.

There is constant talk of embracing the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development. As long as the Ministry of Forests controls 86 % of the land base primarily to clearcut timber, all other uses are secondary. (only 1% of the MOF budget goes to "Integrated Resource Management" which shows the level of commitment). Protection of the environment which means maintaining the bio-diversity of our province and not turning all our big old ancient forests into plantations of matchsticks should also be the responsibility of the MOF, as the lead agency who controls the land base. The MOF must be held accountable for mismanagement of our forests for not considering uses other than timber in any meaningful way.

Are 186,000 ha. of protected old growth

forest on the coast enough to maintain biological diversity? In 1987, for comparison, 270,000 ha. of old growth was cut in B.C.

The Ministry of Environment is seriously understaffed and underfunded and too often their objections to forest cutting plans are considered an impediment to progress. For example the Wildlife Branch has only 14 people province wide to examine the impacts on wildlife habitat of proposed cutting plans. In 1987 this meant that one person was responsible for 40,000 acres, obviously an impossibility. What about the wildlife and plant species that are dependent on the old growth forest for their survival?

All this has a considerable bearing on the proposed TFL rollovers. For example, before it was proposed the Mackenzie TFL hearing was going ahead with no requirement for environmental assessment, MOE had two weeks to prepare a brief of an area twice the size of Vancouver Island! Furthermore there was no existing fish and wildlife inventory for the area and my information is that a proper assessment would take at least one year to prepare and would require adequate staff and resources. The situation was the same with the Parks Branch, Ecological Reserves and assessment of any other uses of the area. It is clear that the MOF was concerned only with the timber exploitation.

What incentive is there for multi-nationals to manage their holdings for anything other than timber production and profit? Can we expect anything else? Again who is looking after the public interest? When was the last time there were any charges laid for destruction of wildlife habitat? I can find no evidence of charges. There is no legislation to protect wildlife, no Wildlife Habitat Act.

The long term implications of this kind of policy, turning over control of our resources, including parks and recreation proposals, fish and wildlife concerns, to multinationals is just not managing public resources for the public.

What about access to information? I was told many weeks ago that by the time of the hearings on the south coast that there would be a map available showing the proposed TFL rollover

Privatization of the Forests continued...

areas. I am now told that it will not be released because it would be misleading! It is obvious that the top executives in the MOF did not want the public to know how much land was involved! The MOF does not want an informed public?

Even though Peter Pearse in his Royal Commission suggested that areas of conflict, of high wilderness and critical wildlife value be removed from the AAC calculation so that they could be solved in a reasonable way, this was never done. Why not? Now we have a pile-up of critical areas. We are dealing today with proposals of 15 - 20 years ago. As the forest land base diminishes these conflicts become more difficult to solve. Whose fault is it that they were not solved in the past in a rational fashion?

The issues to be solved before we proceed with any massive privatization scheme are:

Settlement of land use conflicts, completion of our parks system, identification and protection of critical forest areas and wildlife habitat, a proper old growth forest inventory, justice and settlement of native land claims.

Conclusion

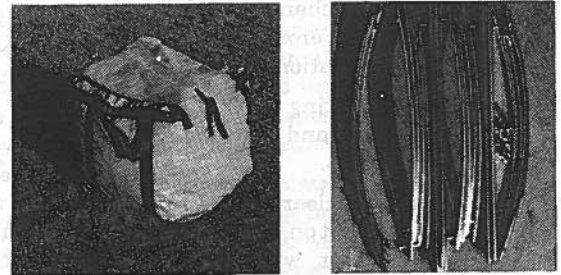
Who is managing OUR forests for the future? Who is looking after the shop for the public? Why is the government trying to give away all our best forest land to the multinationals?

Recommendations

- 1) The immediate establishment of a Royal Commission to look into Forest Management and Land Use in B.C. before any further disposition of public forest lands. The Commissioner or Commissioners must be independent of government or forest industry. The inquiry must be independent and thorough and there must be provision for subpoenaed witnesses and intervention funding. The purpose of this Commission would be to recommend a new Forest Practises Act, a new Land Use Act and a Wildlife Habitat Act and ensure the maintenance of biological diversity.
- 2) Removal of control of our Crown Lands from the Ministry of Forests and a new Ministry of Conversation be formed so that all land uses can be considered more at arms length from single industrial users and true protection of the environment and to ensure an ecologically sustainable future as recommended in the World Commission on Environment and Development.
- 3) Access to Information Act so the public can be informed and some legislated provision to ensure meaningful public involvement in decision making.

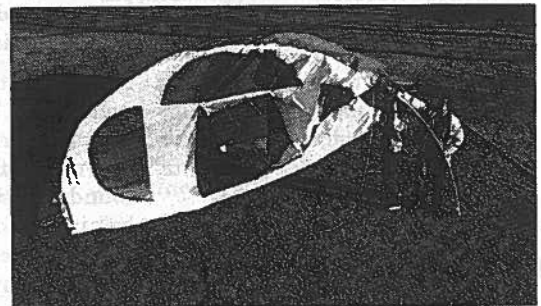
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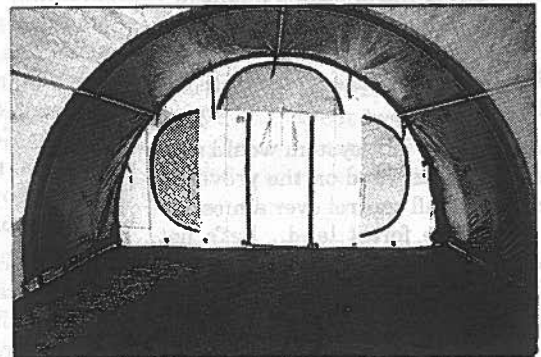
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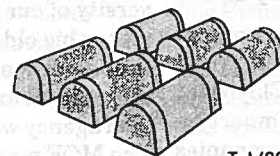
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Treasurer's Report 1989 AGM

Tony Harrison, WSCA Treasurer

Ifeel it is appropriate to start the Treasurer's report with a quick financial history of my three terms. I hope this will give you all a better perspective for our budget planning.

In February 1986 I took the mighty helm of the WSCA. There were 8 paid members, \$800 in the bank and an outstanding debt of \$2,000 to Brinkman and Associates accumulated by a lack of communication between directors. This, accompanied with a general apathy, hostility, and infighting amongst contractors, painted a less than optimistic picture for the future of the WSCA.

The solution to this dismal problem was set out by the 8 contractors in attendance of the AGM that year. This was to restructure into regions with regional coordinators interacting on local problems and concerns, then communicating through a central secretarial service which produced a newsletter and organized an AGM. To attract more members, dues were slashed to \$100 per year payable July 15 of each year. This replaced a dues structure that was in relation to the members gross receipts, a range of \$600 to \$2,000 at a time of year that many contractors had no cash flow.

September 15 of that year I had to personally lend the WSCA \$450 to keep afloat. This had transpired from an acute lack of response to invoices for dues sent out on July 15.

Then in November at the last moment, like some spaghetti western, the bugle sounded. Bob Flitton, then the Deputy Minister of Forests announced that all planting contracts for 1987 were on hold because of unacceptable increases in the bid prices. The appointed regional Coordinators flew to Vancouver and along with the Executive explained the increase and came out with a shopping list of Industry changes and implementation dates.

Dues poured in. All of a sudden there was a record 40 members and the Biltmore was packed.

1987 saw membership soar to 80 with a

gross revenue of \$24,000. This was accomplished by the tireless efforts of a few directors and regional people, a more positive economic climate in the industry and the central office's hard-hitting invoicing of the membership.

1988 saw the membership drop to 68 and the gross revenue increase to \$34,000 with the help of dues being increased to \$300, a more profitable AGM at the Pan Pacific, new income from suppliers and the sale of mailing lists. There was also more effort from too few, some apathy, a building hostility, the beginning of infighting amongst contractors and more invoicing.

Which brings us to the financial statements (see attached statements).

Recommendations

Three changes are needed to save the Association from stagnation:

1. a full time paid manager or executive director
2. a wider and more diverse membership
3. a newsletter that stands on its own feet financially and without overwhelming burden on Dirk Brinkman for its content and existence.

At last year's AGM there was a lobby from the Kootenay region for a full time manager position to be created. The motion was defeated for two reasons. The first and most important for that time was that the added cost of the manager was to be paid from substantial increase in dues. This has proved in the past only to limit membership to those who do not seek immediate visible benefit for a more substantial financial commitment. The second reason which was not debated so openly was "who would fill the position and were they qualified?"

This year Ross Styles of Arland Silviculture retired from his teaching career and expressed interest in becoming more involved with the WSCA. He is a strong candidate for the manager job.

Financing the extra cost of the manager lies not in increasing the dues but by

broadening the membership. Membership can only be increased by offering more services created by a paid position. We now have enough surplus and a solid enough base to hire a part time manager, until the membership increases to support a full time position (see proposed budget column in the financial statements).

According to Silviculture Branch there are 850 silvicultural contractors in British Columbia. The WSCA must have at least 200 of this number to adequately represent the industry. This would increase the revenue from dues alone by \$42,000 which would pay a manager plus expenses.

A reasonable quality newsletter can be produced for \$3,000 per issue. It should be contracted out with a director overseeing the content and soliciting editorial content from members. In the last three years there have been three issues published per year but four planned. Three issues are a workable number — after AGM issue (spring), after spring season issue (summer/fall), after fall viewing/pre-AGM (winter). More current information (Silviculture Branch memos, news articles and relevant letters from members and industry) should be mailed to "members only" on a monthly basis.

Summary

To avoid the industry regressing to the fragmented, hostile climate of pre-1986, silvicultural contractors must realize that to isolate by not participating in their industry association accomplishes little more than promoting an unstable market place. Gripes about the executive or members and how they perform as corporate entities, what interests they represent, and what ethics they possess should be dealt with through an organized body and not by pointless back-stabbing and isolation.

Let's not wait for another crisis to unite the wolf pack. The strength gained from group cooperation and its impact in the future of the industry should be apparent without having to sound another bugle at the last moment.

Balance Sheet
As At December 31, 1988

	1988	1987
Assets		
Cash	12,255	6,284
Accounts Receivable	2,850	500
Prepaid Expenses	1,725	777
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	\$16,830	\$7,561
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	3,385	2,952
Deferred Revenue (Note)	—	1,075
Total Liabilities	\$3,385	\$3,027
Member's Equity		
Surplus	13,445	3,534
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$16,830	\$7,561

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 1988

Proposed 1989 Actual 1988 Actual 1987

Revenue			
Membership Dues	30,000	21,565	16,038
Newsletter: Subscription	-	1,425	1,285
Advertisements	-	2,000	2,815
Annual General Meeting Fees	4,000	4,690	2,710
Trade Booth Fees	3,000	3,385	925
Miscellaneous	1,000	915	337
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$38,000	\$33,980	\$24,110
Expenditures			
Accounting, Audit and Legal	1,400	1,307	1,000
Advertising	500	409	-
Bank Charges	150	114	106
Insurance	300	300	130
Meetings	6,500	6,497	4,653
Newsletter	6,000	3,828	4,781
Office	11,000	10,440	9,027
Telephone	1,200	1,184	1,371
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,050	\$24,069	\$21,068
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Revenue in Excess of Expenditures	\$10,950	\$9,911	\$3,042
	=====	=====	=====

Association AGM Proceedings

Ross Styles

The AGM was held January 14, 1989 at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

Business

Labour Relations

After reviewing the article Contract Labour Relations (WSCA Newsletter, Winter 1989, page 4), a resolution was adopted that requires the association to proceed with an application to the Ministry of Labour, Employment Standards Branch, for a variance with regard to ESB overtime provisions.

The application is to request exemption from overtime payment, in favour of straight piecework rates, for up to 60 hours per week. The application is to clearly specify that no exemption for the required 32 hour rest period in any 7 day work period is being sought. The rest break requirement is to continue to apply.

The issues surrounding problems relating to unaccounted for trees were discussed. It was resolved that the WSCA request that the MOF let a consulting contract to review the process by which unaccounted trees are calculated in a planting contract.

Elections

The following directors were elected: Chris Akehurst, Dirk Brinkman, Tony Harrison, Doug Hearn, Lynne Norton, Ross Styles. (Subsequent to his being hired as Executive Director, Ross Styles resigned and was replaced by the runner-up, Max O'Brien.)

Allan Bahen, Carl Loland, and Harold Stevens were elected to constitute an Ethics Committee.

Ethics

Based upon recommendations from the Ethics Committee, the membership of Folklore Enterprises was reinstated, the membership of Russo Reforestation was lifted, and Coast Forest Management was ruled ineligible for membership for one year.

On-going concerns about stashing were reviewed and it was resolved that the Ethics Committee treat employee and employer stashing with the same guidelines as the Ministry of Forests' outlines.

Membership

It was resolved that Regional Coordinators pursue an aggressive membership drive to reinstate former members and urge payment of overdue dues, and contact all known silvicultural contractors regarding the benefits of membership.

Based on recommendations in the Treasurer's Report, it was resolved that the Executive be enabled to appoint a paid manager for the Association.

Reports

The budget was adopted as presented.

Dan Lousier presented a progress report on his task to develop a standard employment agreement and sought the assistance of contractors in completing his questionnaire promptly.

Ross Styles reported that a policy booklet is to be printed by mid summer, and major changes to the association's constitution and bylaws will come before next year's AGM.

Carl Loland reported on proposed changes to WCB regulations and noted that the time period for input is short.

Industry Issues

It was resolved that the Association express its irritation at being overlooked as a target audience for FRDA Technology Transfer Program.

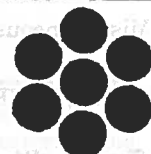
It was resolved that the WSCA initiate the formation of a committee comprised of MOF, industry associations, PRWA, Forestry Canada, and the WSCA.

It was resolved that the WSCA call for a judicial inquiry into the management of B.C.'s forest resources, and that there be a moratorium on the rollover, expansion or creation of new TFLs until the call for a judicial inquiry has been dealt with. (Note: the vote for a moratorium was a squeaker.) Also, it was resolved that the WSCA endorse the use of grazing to control plantation competition whenever practical and encourage funding of this as a silvicultural treatment.

D. Brinkman's report and recommendations re collusion were discussed (WSCA Newsletter, Winter 1989), and moved to Regional Coordinators to be discussed and voted upon.



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WSCA Regional Chapter Reports

Nelson Region

Dennis Graham

The meeting was held at the Heritage Inn to provide an update on various discussions and reports that took place at the AGM. The standard Planters Agreement was well received, it was emphasized that the questionnaire from W.F.S. Enterprises Ltd. be completed and returned A.S.A.P.

Employment Standards Branch concerns were discussed, along with pertinent information discussed Saturday, January 14 at the AGM.

New W.C.B. regulations were also discussed along the same lines as above. Dressing station requirements clarified as per Paul Stevenson's interpretation on Jan.14.

A discussion was initiated re: Dirk's letter to Peter Ackhurst 2-1-89, and the recommendations tabled at the AGM since we had agreed to take this back to our respective chapters for a vote and to report the outcome to the executive. During the discussion of the recommendations it became apparent that the way Westar Revelstoke bid requests were revised and subsequently dealt with needed to be addressed by the WSCA executive. Since there is some concern amongst members re: the above. Consequently it was decided that a vote at this time would be premature.

It was reported that the WSCA is calling for a judicial inquiry into the management of B.C. Forest Resources.

The WSCA is also calling for a moratorium on:

- A. Roll over of other forms of tenure into T.F.L.'s.
- B. Expansion of T.F.L.'s.
- C. Creation of new T.F.L.'s.

Until the judicial inquiry into the management of B.C.'s forest resources issue has been dealt with.

The meeting ended with Dave Jenkinson resigning his position as coordinator due to other commitments. Dennis Graham was elected to that position.

Prince Rupert

E. Hughes

A recent meeting was held by our chapter in which issues from the AGM were discussed. Contractors not in our association were informed of changes and proposals for the future. The major concern to everyone was the WSCA view on collusion. It was felt that any major issues or changes put forward should be discussed at regional levels prior to our AGM. This would enable a proper vote at the AGM instead of most people being unaware of these proposals. Concern was expressed at our lack of communication in our region towards each other and also from the directors.

We had hoped to have another meeting in March to further discuss the collusion issue. This would have enabled any new contractors to join our association and express their views.

At this time we have received correspondence from our executives to respond to the collusion issue.

It is hoped the outcome of this correspondence will be further reviewed and then voted on.

Prince George

Michael Wells

Thirteen members and three non-members attended a brief meeting on February 23, 1989. The proceedings of the January AGM were reviewed, with discussion on overtime and the employee contract taking precedence. The next meeting will be held April 6, at which time the results of Dan Lousier's efforts and some feedback from the Labour Relations Board and our executive will enable all to adequately address the overtime issue. A membership drive is underway.

Kamloops Region

Ross Styles

At the meeting of the Kamloops Chapter selected items from the WSCA office mailings were distributed and significant content was highlighted by Ross Styles for discussion among the members.

For the benefit of members who did not attend the AGM, Ross Styles provided a brief summary of the proceedings.

The Newsletter article (Winter 1989 pp 24-25) regarding collusion was read by the members and discussed. The eight recommendations were voted upon. All failed to find support with the exception of the recommendation concerning MOF Awareness and Reporting, and even in this case, there was a strong note of caution sounded because most shared the opinion that lots of the viewing trail talk about colluding is little more than flippant jesting arising from the sheer boredom of bouncing from site to site, day after day, with people who do the viewing circuit regularly.

There was general agreement among members that they had seen little evidence of collusion within the areas where they submit tenders. They also agreed that the recommendations stand as a package and need to be approved or disapproved as such. As a package, they propose a radical restructuring of the tendering process, and therefore they require considerable thought and discussion by the whole contracting community.

Jennifer Lauriault was elected to serve as regional Coordinator for the year with the assistance of Bob McAtamney.

There was a general agreement that the next meeting should be held in early August.

Cariboo Region

Dennis Loxton

The Cariboo Region enjoyed a very successful tree planting season in 1988.

The Treeplanters, Contractors and Foresters conducted themselves in an efficient and professional manner and planted almost 22,000,000 seedlings.

Because of favourable weather, good stock & high planting standard, we expect the survival rate to be excellent.

The tax payers should be very pleased with the bargain bid price of approximately 27 cent average per seedling.

The B.C.F.S. lost a good man when the Cariboo Planting Quality Specialist, Floyd Tugman, retired. However he was quickly snapped up by a licensee, who sent him back to work as a checker, for a lot more money.

The Cariboo Licensees should be complimented on the high quality of their Broadcast Burns, and special recognition should go to "Pyro" George White, for a job well done.

The Cariboo Sheep Breeders completed their 5th consecutive year of successful vegetation management trials in 1988, involving approx. 2,000 of the cutest young ewes I've seen in a long time.

In conclusion I believe that silviculture in the Cariboo is "looking good" and showing every indication of getting even better in 1989.

Coast Region

Tony Greenfield

The Powell River Forest District tendered 5 contracts in January for Spring 89 planting. The low bids on all 5 jobs fall into the "totally ridiculous" category. Imagine, if you will, planting fir - bare - root up to 70 cms. tall for a bid of 19.93 cents/tree?

The low bids are one issue here, but another feature is rearing its head—collusion! I called Powell River to get the tender results and was told that because there were up to 20 bids, and because the district office is so understaffed they could only tell me the successful bidder and his price.

On delving into the further, I learned that "collusion is strongly suspected" with regard to these tenders and that a procedure had been established to handle this particular situation, i.e. a procedure within the district office, as opposed to a Forest Service policy.

The phone-in procedure was to only give out the lowest bid, or if the low bidder had already dropped out, the price at which the job was awarded. If you were at the public tender opening, or if you walked into the Powell River Office you could still get the complete list of bids.

This procedure evidently addressed

two problems a) short staffing b) attempting to cut down on communication between possible colluding parties.

With regard to the latter, this could only be partially successful as the tenders were available to anyone willing to make a trip to Powell River, and the information could be passed to any number of parties by one person who had the complete list of tenders. The practice known as "cascading" is suspected on one contract and other contracts were dropped by the low bidder.

The circumstantial evidence of collusion in this case is about as clear as it ever gets - but note it is circumstantial! The bids at Powell River apparently show that different company names were used to submit bids when the phone number and the address with consecutive social ins. numbers (chance?).

In light of this case, all WSCA members are advised to answer the recent circular and questionnaire concerning ways to handle this problem. No doubt we will all have different perspectives on the best way to proceed.



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Ministry of Forests Reports

Silviculture Review Sustained Yield

J.R. Cuthbert, Chief Forester P.W. Ackhurst

Note: This is a response to a letter from Dirk Brinkman concerning the state of the Silviculture Review.

The Review primarily was initiated to answer two basic questions: (a) how much basic silviculture was required? and, (b) who should be responsible? When these questions were dealt with in the September '87 policy announcements, the focus of the review was substantially changed in the hope that it would address issues related to incremental silviculture. However, as the review progressed it became apparent that there were many technical problems as well as a lack of consensus on the conclusions. Because of this, and because the original purpose of the Review was fulfilled, it was decided that no report would be published.

I agree with you that there is a need for public discussion on the present and future states of our forests. I take strong exception, however, with your inference that I have "rejected public input". The Incremental Task Force I created provided opportunities for public input. Some very recent examples of opportunities for public knowledge and discussion are the release of the 1988 Backlog NSR Report, the FRDA II Grocery List Discussion Document, and the Incremental Silviculture Task Force Report. I would also point out that the public receives a full report at ten year intervals through publication of the Forest and Range Resource Analysis, as required by legislation. The next one is due by 1994. Most of the information gathered through the Silviculture Review has been made public or is now outdated.

We are continuing to address the issues. The Ministry is funding research work into the economics of silviculture through the Forest Economics and Policy Analysis (FEPA) group at UBC. It is through work done by them that I am still expecting to address the matter of alternative silviculture strategies. On the matter of growth and yield, we are anticipating the publication of managed stand yield tables in 1989.

Note: This is a response to Dirk Brinkman's letter to the M.O.F. on July 13, 1988.

I apologize for the lengthy delay in replying to your letter, but I was awaiting a response from Timber Harvesting Branch in regard to your questions about the annual harvesting rate.

The reference in your letter to 91 million cubic metres as being the provincial harvest includes cut from private and federal lands. In 1987/88 the harvest from Crown lands was approximately 80 million cubic metres or about 5 million cubic metres above our average provincial goal of 75 million cubic metres. Much of this 5 million metres resulted from accelerated cutting on forest tenures that are not regulated by annual cut control, such as timber sale licenses, fire and pest salvages licenses, licenses-to-cut, and other major tenures. Therefore, one has to be careful when drawing conclusions with respect to provincial cut versus AAC.

Projecting the provincial harvest from Crown land in 1989 and 1990 is, at best, tenuous as it will depend to some extent on market conditions, weather, and the extent and seriousness of fire and pest damage. However, barring unforeseen events, we expect the harvest from Crown lands to range between 75 million and 80 million cubic metres per year.

Extrapolating from the above, therefore, it is apparent that the reforestation industry is not at risk of suffering from vastly reduced numbers of trees to plant. Our estimates of 250-300 million seedlings required annually stands.

Training Video

Brian D. Storey

Please find attached a free copy of the above-noted video. It is intended as a training tool for people working in the reforestation industry. Nursery workers, truck drivers, warehouse workers, cold storage workers, tree planters and field technicians may all benefit from the information provided in the video. We request that you add this copy to your library of training materials and use it in stock handling.

The video was produced by the Ministry of Forests, Silviculture Branch, under funding by FRDA. It includes a Notice to Users included inside the tape case which provides a synopsis of the script and suggestions on methods of viewing. Also included is a draft copy of a pamphlet which should be copied and distributed to viewers. The pamphlet expands on and reinforces the video message.

For more information or additional copies contact the undersigned.

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- W.S.C.A. NEWSLETTER / Western Silviculture Contractors Association
- FOREST PLANNING IN CANADA / Woodlands Planning Publications

Stashing

R.G. Trenaman

An incident has recently occurred in this Forest District where a member of the public discovered and reported on a quantity of abandoned tree seedlings. Subsequent investigation by Ministry staff revealed that 38 garbage bags of PSB-313 spruce seedlings, for a total quantity of approximately 14,000 seedlings, had been dumped in an old cut-block near Pitoney Lake.

Unfortunately, there was no evidence present at the dump site to indicate the originating contract site or planting crew which may have been involved. Without such evidence, we are unable to proceed with legal action against anyone, and in fact are unable to say with any certainty which nursery grew the seedlings involved. We are reasonably certain that the seedlings were from a summer planting operation, and may have come from a project in the Willow River or Bowron River area.

We are forwarding this letter to you only as a notification that such an incident has occurred, and so that you can be aware that such incidents may occur again in the future. Every one who is involved in carrying out tree planting programs must be vigilant in monitoring for this type of wastage and subsequent financial loss in the future, so that offending individuals or parties can be severely dealt with.

Pesticide Use

Jack Biickert

This is an introductory letter from the B.C. Ministry of Forests to let you know that a project is now underway to design a strategy for the exchange of information about the risks and benefits of pesticide use in provincial forest management programs. The primary reason for this exercise is to design a method which enhances the flow of information between the Ministry and the public regarding the risks and benefits of proposed pesticide applications in forestry programs. For effective two-way communication the Ministry recognizes that the public must review the process at the earliest possible date. For this reason, your views and opinions are being requested. Although the Ministry is interested in any comments you may have, we are particularly interested in your comments/positions regarding the following main themes:

- A) Your perceptions regarding the human health and environmental risks associated with the application of pesticides (pesticides refer to both insecticides and herbicides).
- B) Your perceptions regarding the benefits associated with pesticide applications;
- C) Your information source(s) regarding risks and benefits.

- D) What kinds of additional information you would like to obtain on risks and benefits.
- E) Your thoughts on how the comparison between risks and benefits ought to be made.

The Ministry has contracted the professional services of an independent firm, namely Deloitte, Haskins and Sells (DHS) to carry out this project. They will contact you in the next few weeks to arrange for a meeting at your convenience. We hope that you can find the time to discuss your views and ideas with DHS.

The results of this study will be made available to you and other individuals and groups as soon as the study has been completed.

Should you have any questions regarding this study, please contact any of the following:

Bob DeBoo, Protection Branch, Victoria, 387-8740

Jean Desnoyers, Resource Officer, Penticton District Office, 492-8721

Jacob Boateng, Silviculture Branch, Victoria, 387-8922

Paul Pashnik, District Manager, Port Alberni District Office, 724-9205

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Contractor Self-Checking

Doug Hearn

I am writing in response to the idea put forward by Peter Ackhurst and Robin Brown at the AGM regarding the shifting of payment plot responsibility to the planting contractor.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with the concept of the contractor "checking" his own planting quality—I maintain he is probably performing this for his own benefit now—there are other considerations.

I want to address two areas of concern.

Financial

The contractor, in my opinion, has a full load of responsibilities with crew organization, field storage for planting efficiency, camp organization, crew administration as well as the present level of quality monitoring. Our experience for the last ten years has shown that beyond the initial stages of planting quality plot inspections the contractor or his foreman have not had the time to dedicate to doing the plots with the checker. This leads me to assume that another person must be hired to complete this function if only as a part time

role. This of course would indicate an overall reduction in costs, bear in mind the verification inspection by Ministry staff would still take place. My conclusion is that financial savings would be minor if not insignificant in light of the other considerations.

The Checker

Too often the role of the checker is defined as the completion of FS704 plots to the exclusion of all other duties. A short list of functions we see as necessary to the success of a plantation:

1. Seedlot area delineation
2. Traverse of units not completely planted
3. Establishment of survival lines
4. Establishment of plantation and seedlot corner posts - necessary for subsequent survival checks
5. Monitoring of refrigerated storage
6. Monitoring of stock handling and transport
7. Monitoring of field storage
8. Monitoring of slurring practises
9. Ensuring proper distribution of seedlots

10. Adjudication of stock quality
11. Minor amendments to boundaries
12. Weather data for planting reports
13. Pay Certificate completion
14. Completion of planting report
15. Map and label changes to reflect plantation

While this is not a complete list of duties that are completed by the checker it reinforces the point regarding the checker role.

Objectivity

My greatest concern with regards to shifting the duties of the checker to the planting contractor is the loss of an objective viewpoint on the planting site. Do we really believe a contractor will give himself a \$100 fine for stock handling infractions? While my experience as a checker has given me the opportunity to work with contractors who would do an excellent job of self-monitoring I have also met those who leave questions in my mind.

As I feel that the financial savings are illusory at best, the loss of objectivity on site makes the proposal a regressive step for plantation management.

Vancouver Tropical Rainforest Action

We are a non-profit group formed in January 1989 to halt the rapid destruction of the world's tropical rainforests.

We work in conjunction with the movement emerging world-wide to save this vital part of our planet's eco-system.

THE NEED FOR ACTION IS URGENT.

Our program begins with education:

A series of public awareness events are being planned.

A letter-of-the-month program has been started.

An international awareness/organizing tour is being planned.

A Newsletter will soon be published and an info booth is visiting area malls.

You can make a difference. Choose your own degree of involvement. Write one letter a month, letters do affect change. Take a more active role if you can.

Get on our contact list. A formal membership drive begins soon.

Write to Michael Wilson

Main Points:

Very concerned about proposed Xingu River Dams in Brazil and World Bank Funding.

Approximately 1575 square miles of Native Lands, involving at least five major Native Reserves and indigenous areas will be inundated by the first major complex planned—the Altamira Hydroelectric Complex.

Massive devastation of tropical forests and indigenous people's lands and livelihoods is for the purpose of generating energy for heavily subsidized industrial uses.

Alternative energy investments could avoid the most socially and environmentally destructive of these projects.

The great expense of this project will compound Brazil's debt crisis.

Use Canada's vote at the World Bank to oppose loans for the Altamira Hydroelectric Project.

Continue to oppose funding by Multilateral Development Banks of all environmentally destructive projects.

Address letters to:

Honourable Michael Wilson, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

You can send copies to your M.P. and Brian Mulroney, Joseph Clark, John Turner and Ed Broadbent

Foreign:

Mr. Barber J. Conable Jr., President, World Bank, 1818 H Street N.W., Washington D.C. 20433, U.S.A.

Exmo. Sr. Jose Sarney, Presidente da Republica, Palacio do Planalto, 70,000 Brasilia DF, Brazil

Indian Forestry Can't Wait

F.L.C. Reed

This letter is written with a sense of futility because the recommendation I am going to make has been raised numerous times since 1980. Nevertheless, with your Indian Affairs budget now approaching \$3 billion annually, and skyrocketing, some new initiatives are imperative.

Proper forestry on present Indian lands alone would generate thousands of jobs in silviculture, as well as the subsequent benefits when timber and non-timber values are utilized. I am convinced there is no other program which even begins to match Indian forestry for positive social and economic impact on the Indian people.

More importantly, land claim settlements may result in millions of hectares of additional forest lands being placed in the hands of Indian Bands across Canada. A large share of this is in fragile northern territory, where the potential is great for environmental mismanagement. Stewardship training is an urgent matter.

In addition, land claims will probably see the large scale transfer of licensed timber lands away from forest companies who are now supporting scores of forest based communities. Can you see the potential for major dislocation if preparatory steps are not taken now?

In short, there is not only a very exciting prospect for enhancing Indian employment and income, but there is also a downside risk if suitable numbers of Indian people are not trained in resource management.

My recommendation, therefore, is that the federal government move immediately to formulate policies and programs for a bold and visionary program to move along two fronts:

1. To mount a technical and professional training program in forest land management.
2. To budget for a major improvement in Indian land forestry, over and above the timid programs now scattered about in various agencies.

Why do I believe this is a sound approach? In 1980-83 I was the ADM in charge of the Canadian Forestry Service. Repeated attempts to move this

program through the Social Envelope and through Indian Affairs was blocked by entrenched bureaucrats.

Eventually I was able to get some funds into northern Saskatchewan and later into the FRDA agreements. These projects have been very successful. I was in Meadow Lake recently when the first class of graduates from the Indian Forestry Institute were honoured in a public ceremony. I contributed to the initial start-up of this Meadow Lake institute, am still on their Advisory Board, and was proud to be their guest.

Of course it will work. And the investment will pay off handsomely, not just in employment but also in lower welfare and other social costs.

Finally, I assisted Frank Oberle in preparing his "Green Ghetto" statement on forest priorities in the early 1980's. You will recall his effective advocacy of forestry in the Prince Albert caucus meetings in the spring of 1984. Nine essential forestry elements then found their way into the platform, among them Indian forestry.

I rest my case. Indian forestry can't wait.

Minister of Indian Affairs Response

Bill McKnight

To undertake the two programs you suggest, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), in cooperation with the Canadian Forestry Service, is currently examining ways to increase the proportion of funding that could be allotted to Indian forestry initiatives within the context of future Federal-Provincial Forestry Agreements (FRDAs).

As you note, past funding for Indian forestry activities was on a residual and ad hoc basis. Until such time as a specific strategy for Indian forestry is in place and adequately funded, the best way to ensure essential funding on a sustained basis is through the FRDA, which you so successfully pioneered.

I hope that in the future, both my colleague, the Minister of State (Forestry and Mines), and I may call upon you to express your support of Indian forestry.

Your interest and views in this matter are greatly appreciated.

PC Party Platform: Indian Lands Forestry Program

Establish an Indian Lands Forestry Program to help Indian Bands create thousands of permanent jobs managing the vast forest resources on their lands.

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Stashing

Chris Akehurst

One of the lasting impressions of the 1988 planting season was the number of 'stashing' incidents that came to light. While giving our industry a bad public image it was no doubt time that the problem came out into the open and was thoroughly aired.

The problem of stashing has, of course, been with us since tree planting began. The temptation to cheat by stashing is inherent in the piece-work system. From the planters perspective the temptation is obvious, though it has been compounded by a supervisory pressure to plant more and often by an inadequate price/tree. All too often the contractor, while not condoning stashing, has not done his utmost to stamp it out. There have also been the unscrupulous contractors who have engaged in the large scale dumping of trees.

The first incident of the 1988 season occurred in the Powell River District in March/April. Some disgruntled planters took Ministry officials, at the end of a contract, to several areas where there were stashed trees. They claimed that they had been encouraged to do this by the contractor. The contractor denied this and it became a case of the planters' word versus the contractor's word. Because of this, the Ministry (Victoria) felt unable to proceed with legal action. However, since the planters were on an hourly rate it seemed that they would have had no incentive to stash.

This incident, though, did send a major shock through the Ministry and they cracked down, threatening immediate cancellation of the contract if they found any stashed trees. This was something of an over-reaction but it definitely got the attention of the field workers. The whole affair came to a head in the Clearwater District in May/June/July when at least four different contractors were found to have stashed trees in their blocks. The Fall viewing circuit was ripe with rumours as to how much was going on, who was doing it, who was being charged, did the contractor know etc etc!! Trying to elicit the truth from all the rumours has proved beyond the scope of this article - suffice to say that the problem, albeit of a

different degree in each case, was found to be widespread.

Finally in the late Summer/early Fall two other major stashing incidents were uncovered. In the Boundary District several garbage bags full of trees were found dumped in the Kettle River. Painstaking investigative work by Ministry personnel using the nursery tags in each bundle traced the seedlots to one contractor and two separate contracts. Once again, though, the Ministry (Victoria) did not feel it had sufficient case to prosecute. The WSCA when presented with the evidence did revoke the membership of the offending contractor. Another similar incident occurred in the Prince George region where garbage bags with 14,000 seedlings were found dumped in an old cut-block near Pitoney Lake. Unfortunately there was no evidence available to indicate the original contract site or planting crew and no further action was taken.

Where do we go from here and what can we do about it? As far as I can see there are 3 distinct categories of stashing;

- 1) The major incident such as Pitoney Lake or the Kettle River where a contractor is obviously involved in dumping large quantities of seedlings.
- 2) Cases where stashing is rampant on a crew and the contractor kind of turns a blind eye to it or does not sufficiently police his crew.
- 3) The isolated one or two planter incident in which a bundle or two of trees is dumped.

The third category is probably the most prevalent in the industry and the hardest to detect - much less eradicate. Many of the cases that turned up in the summer were of this third type, and some contractors felt particularly upset that they were being treated as harshly as other contractors whose incidents were much more serious. In their final contract proposals for the 1989 season the Ministry did seem to acknowledge this, backing down from their original idea of immediate termination to a heavy fine situation. This proposal only comes into effect when the contractor himself is not involved. The Ministry recommends a fine \$100 for amounts less than 1 bundle, \$250 for a full bundle, \$500 for less than 1 box and \$1,000 for more than

one box. Termination will be considered for more serious cases or where there are repeated offences. If the contractor is involved there will be immediate termination.

What can be done to clean up this problem?

- 1) Area-based contracts as opposed to tree-based contracts would remove the incentive to stash. Where applicable we should expect to see and even lobby for more area-located contracts.
- 2) Educate our crews better about the seriousness of the offence and enforce our own penalties.
- 3) A decent price/tree and camp situation reduces the temptation.
- 4) We should be more vigilant in checking planters whose totals are suspicious (e.g. hip-chain areas etc).
- 5) Firing a stasher should be mandatory and has an immediate impact on the rest of the crew.
- 6) Check the referrals of your prospective employees - too often we do not do this and merely inherit other contractors' problem employees.

The WSCA refuses membership to any contractors who have been involved in contractor stashing - but this penalty is of little or no deterrent to those contractors. We would like the Ministry and/or companies to enforce much more vigorous actions against contractors who stash. This last season there were 2 incidents in which it seemed that a good case could be made against a contractor but nothing was done - the contractors in question merely had their status lowered from an A to a B rating. Criminal action against those responsible should have been pursued, or at least some serious bidding restrictions applied. It does nothing but breed cynicism when cases like this go by with only minimal action. The Ministry would like the WSCA to deal with its own, but the WSCA does not have the power to do much - its sanctions being of little or no deterrent value.

In conclusion I would suggest that now the problem has been brought into the open we must undertake as much as possible to clean up our own house. A good honest working environment (attitude) that comes from the top will go a

long way to change the climate of the business. We do, however, need Company and Ministry help in weeding out the unscrupulous contractors who seem to flout the rules yet keep on bidding year in year out.

Postscript

The WSCA voted to instruct that the Ethics Committee treat employees and contractor stashing with the same guidelines as the MOF rules.

MOF Contract Clauses:

4.8 Stashed Trees

This payment reduction should be applied where small numbers of trees are concerned and the Contractor does not appear to be involved. The amount of the payment reduction may be up to one thousand dollars for each occurrence. We recommend that one hundred dollars be used for amounts of less than a bundle, two hundred fifty dollars for a full bundle, five hundred dollars for less than a box and one thousand dollars for more than a box. For more serious cases or where there are repeated occurrences termination should be considered (see part 5.2).

5.2 Stashed Trees

Termination for this reason requires considerable judgement. The contract clearly states that the Contractor is responsible for the actions of his employees, agents or subcontractors. In strict terms this clause could be invoked for any number of stashed trees. The Ministry's intent, however, is to recover damages through payment reductions (clause 4.8) when the stashing was done by an individual planter without the Contractor's knowledge or approval, and reserve termination for severe cases where the Contractor was likely involved, has turned a blind eye to the stashing, or where he has not taken steps to prevent a recurrence. The Ministry is not required to prove who did the stashing in order to take action as the Contractor is ultimately responsible for the care of seedlings in his custody. See part 4.8 for an explanation of payment reductions.

Retractions and Apologies

Osprey Silviculture Ltd.

In the Winter 1989 edition of the WSCA Newsletter we published an article relating to the awarding of a contract to Osprey Silviculture Operations and the supervision of the contract which was entitled "A Case of Collusion?".

The article was published before we were in receipt of Osprey Silviculture Operation's response to the allegations made in the article.

In addition, the WSCA Ethics Committee Review found no basis to take any action against Osprey Silviculture Operations or its principal Greg Witt and we should not have published the article and hereby retract it.

We apologize to the parties named in the article for any harm done to them as a result of the article being published.

Whonnock Industries Ltd.

A letter was printed in the WSCA Newsletter, Winter 1989 to the effect that many planting contractors have had problems in obtaining payment from Whonnock Industries Ltd. We now recognize that there is no foundation for that statement, and we regret that it was published. We express our regret to Whonnock Industries Ltd. for any embarrassment caused by that publication.

Ethics Committee

Osprey Silviculture

There was a meeting of the WSCA Ethics Committee January 13th, 1989 in which the allegations regarding the awarding of the Edeb Lake Contract (1987) were discussed.

Based on the available information, the Committee found no conclusive evidence to prove breach of WSCA ethics by Osprey Silviculture. Consequently no action is being taken by the WSCA against Osprey.

The Ethics Committee did find sloppy procedures by Coast Forest Management in their awarding of the contract. As a result, Coast Forest Management is declared ineligible for membership in the WSCA for one year.

Russo Reforestation

After a review of the stashing incident in the Boundary Forest District by the Ethics Committee, the WSCA Executive has made the decision to terminate your membership in the Association. You will be eligible to apply for Associate Membership status after one year from this date.

Coast Forest

After a review by the Ethics Committee, the WSCA Executive has concluded that Coast Forest Management Ltd. showed a lack of professionalism in awarding contracts for the 1987 season.

It has been deemed that Coast Forest Management will be ineligible for membership with the WSCA for one year from this date.

Bruce Hawkenson

The WSCA Executive and the Ethics Committee has decided that you were not in conflict with the Association's Code of Ethics. The resolution was passed well after you accepted the contract with Lignum. We feel you dealt with the situation honourably, when you offered your resignation to the Association.

We do not accept your resignation. We regard that your membership has been in good standing during the past year and encourage you to join again in 1989.

I hope in the future these problems will not arise, or be dealt with sooner.

Mail In/Out

Sheepish Solution

At the WSCAAGM the members passed a resolution endorsing the use of sheep as a valid silvicultural brushing and weeding technique.

This matter came forward as a resolution because the Ministry of Forests has discontinued funding for controlled browsing by sheep while at the same time B.C. has extensive brush problems on the established plantations.

Sheep provide a cheaper alternative for brush control than pesticides, as well as creating the obvious socio-economic benefits of a secondary industry.

Our members very strongly support funding operational brush control through professionally supervised properly regulated sheep grazing and herding.

The quality of brush suppression (and any plantation damage) can be measured and paid for in accordance with current manual brushing and weeding quality standards.

This program can save MOF many silviculture brushing dollars, save more hectares of plantations, fertilize those plantations and create a vital industry.

Dirk Brinkman

Sheepish Problem

My concern using sheep for brush control are the following:

Sheep are not discriminating grazers, they will graze on almost anything. They have to be well managed or we will lose many of the native flowers and shrubs in a short period of time. I am concerned about good sheep management because this industry is relatively new in this country and will have considerable competition from Australia and other sheep farming countries. The sheep business will be a marginal business thus good management will be difficult to enforce.

Christian Walli, RPF

Welcome to the Executive Director

Thank you for having accepted the position of executive director. One of your main tasks is to increase the membership and the associate membership.

Could you design a membership certificate and an associate membership certificate?

Could you also draft rough letters introducing the WSCA to associate member groups. These groups would be:

- A. Suppliers
- B. Service Companies e.g. Insurance Companies, Banks etc.

The letters to "A" and "B" would look different. It is important to let them know they can have a membership certificate since it signals immediately that they are familiar with our industry.

Assemble a package of background material: Code of Ethics, Newsletter, Policy Statement (1987), etc.

Finally, the big one, a brochure flyer describing all of the WSCA contributions to the industry, the whole phenomenon of creating our future.

I look forward to working with you.

Dirk Brinkman

Native Forestry Group

The WSCA would be happy to become an associate member of your organization, the Native Forestry Group, and we welcome your group as an associate member of the WSCA. If you accept, we suggest doing this by simply recording an exchange of membership.

Ross Styles

Ross Styles Accepts Challenge

I am pleased to be able to accept an appointment as Executive Director of the WSCA, and to have the time available to carry on this work.

As you state in your letter, increasing the WSCA membership is certainly to be one of my main priorities, and your suggestions for doing so are appropriate. A start on them will be made immediately.

Besides broadening the membership, two other priorities seem important to me; lobbying for FRDA II, and planning and organizing the AGM including an expanded set of workshops and presentations. I propose to approach these priorities so that effort spent on one will benefit the others.

In coming weeks, an effort will be made to draw attention to the need for FRDA II, to rally support for it, and to encourage members of the contracting community to start pressing politicians for action in support of FRDA II.

The work brought on stream by FRDA I created opportunities for a number of new silvicultural contractors to arrive on the scene, and the provincial government's privatization program has broadened the scope of the work being performed by contractors: there are more contractors performing a greater range of activities. Efforts will be made to identify these contractors, to make them aware of our Association, to encourage them to push for FRDA II, become members and attend the AGM.

I look forward to serving the WSCA and to working with you, the other directors and the association's membership.

Ross Styles

Mail Out/In

Overtime Exemption Application

At the WSCA Annual General Meeting the members passed a resolution to make the following request of Employment Standards Branch:

exemption from the requirement to pay over time (either time and one half or double time) for

- a) up to a sixty hour week and
- b) during general holidays

for the reforestation sector of our industry.

WSCA members endorsed a request for this exemption while emphasizing that this request does not include a request for an exemption from the requirement to provide a 32 hour rest period every seven days.

The PRWA have expressed concern that this request may make working long hours without a weekly rest period be perceived as being legal.

Many WSCA members also have a similar concern that this extension not become a licence to inappropriately push workers in this industry to even greater extremes.

It will be quiet important to the effectiveness and appropriateness of this exception to ensure that ESB Regional Officer are alert to contractors who do not provide weekly 32 hour rest periods.

This request furthermore, is limited to the reforestation sector where the biological urgency of getting trees in the

ground during a short season creates special working circumstances.

In this context, it is understood that this request could be allowed to extend to wherever there is a similar biological urgency in silviculture, such as arises occasionally in pest and fire management.

This exemption request emphatically does not include any work involving powersaws, (spacing, thinning, brushing and weeding, slashing, residual falling, etc.) power-screefers, (scalping and site preparation) or work with any similar high vibration and hazardous tool, no matter what the biological urgency. Overtime pay should remain an economic restraint in any work involving the risk of life threatening injuries.

Reforestation takes place throughout the year within our diverse ecosystems, therefore this request for an exemption is for any time of the year.

The bulk of the reforestation season is complete in late-August early-September. Contractors make commitments to a new season in October. It would be appropriate to arrange a meeting between the WSCA executive, the PRWA executive, MOF Silviculture Branch representatives and ESB Regional Officers in September to review the effectiveness and appropriateness of this exemption and determine if it should stand for the next year.

Dirk Brinkman

Overtime Variance Reply

I am unable to approve your request for an overtime variance for employees planting trees. The legislation does not permit me to provide an exclusion from the overtime rate. Section 31 allows the Director to vary the overtime provision where less than five days per week are worked or the hours of work are averaged over a longer period than a week. In this situation, overtime still applies to those hours worked beyond the average of forty hours per week.

The management staff of the Branch are meeting soon to discuss the overtime issue as it applies to piece rate, commission or other incentive payment plans. I will contact you at that time to advise you further regarding the application of overtime calculations to the piece rate system.

The process of excluding tree planters from Part 3 (Hours of Work, Overtime) of the Act will require an in depth review with all interested parties. The process of amending the legislation would follow if it was deemed appropriate to exclude this employment category from the overtime provisions of the Act.

G.R. Barnes, Director of Employment Standards



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