

There Are No Wildlife Tree Patches in Vineyards

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

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

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

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

Taking it Upon Ourselves

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

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

CHRIS BETUZZI, RFT
108 MILE RANCH

THE BEARISTRY CONSULTING LTD.

**Three Professions,
One Professional**

BEN VAN DRIMMELEN RPF, RPBio, LLB
Forester, Biologist, Lawyer

T 250.598.0570 ben@barristers4bears.com 876 Linkless Avenue
Victoria, BC V8S 5C3

BC Forest Professional is published six times a year by the Association of BC Forest Professionals

330-321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8
Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264
E-mail: editor@abcfp.ca Website: www.abcfp.ca

MANAGING EDITOR: Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC
EDITOR: Brenda Martin

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Michelle Mentore

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Colin Buss, RPF; John Cathro, RPF; Frank DeGagne, RPF;
Megan Hanacek, RPF; Kylie Harrison, RPF;
Trina Innes, RPF; Sandy McKellar, Honourary Member;
Lisa Perrault, RFT; Frank Varga, RPF (council rep.);
Alan Vyse, RPF (chair);
Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC (staff liaison)
and Brenda Martin (staff liaison)

DESIGN: Massyn Design

PRINTING: Mitchell Press

DISTRIBUTION: PDQ Post Group

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER: Stephanie Renwick

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

Tel: 250.202.1803 • Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: forest-ads@abcfp.ca

ISSN: 1715-9164

Annual Subscriptions: Canada \$42.40 incl GST

U.S. and international \$80 Canadian funds

Publications mail agreement No: 40020895

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

ABCFP Circulation Department

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



PRESIDENT Jonathan Lok, RFT

VICE-PRESIDENT Rick Brouwer, RPF

PAST PRESIDENT Al Balogh, RPF

LAY COUNCILLORS

Herb Langin, RPBio (Ret); Gordon Prest

COUNCILLORS

Jacques Corstanje, RPF; Ian Emery, RFT; Kathy Howard, RPF;
Valerie LeMay, RPF; Steve Lorimer, RPF; Kerry Rouck, RPF;
Frank Varga, RPF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Sharon Glover, MBA

REGISTRAR Randy Trerise, RPF

DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Mike Larock, RPF

DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Lance Nose

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS

Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC

**MANAGER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND MEMBER RELATIONS**

Brian Robinson, RPF

BC Forest Professional is the professional magazine of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP). Editorial submissions, comments, letters to the editor, articles and photos should be sent to the editor, address above. The opinions expressed in **BC Forest Professional** do not necessarily represent those of the ABCFP, its council or other members. Reprinting and copying of **BC Forest Professional** articles is encouraged. Please include a credit to both the author and **BC Forest Professional**.

Clarifying the ABCFP's Recent Fire Protection Articles

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

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

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

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

MIKE LAROCK, RPF

ABCFP DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP



Put in Your Two Cents

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

Send letters to:

Editor, BC Forest Professional

Association of BC Forest Professionals

330 – 321 Water Street

Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8

Fax: 604.687.3264

editor@abcfp.ca

Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published in **BC Forest Professional**.

Forest Carbon Perspectives

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

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

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

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

ANTHONY BRITNEFF, RPF

VICTORIA

Around the

Clock:

Our Insurance
is Your Advantage





OUR INSURANCE.
YOUR ADVANTAGE.™

Now is a good time to evaluate your risk exposure. When you do, we think it makes sense to work with a professional who can fully serve your risk management needs.

Our Insurance works to Your Advantage on the strength of the best providers in the business. We're backed by vast global resources and solid local relationships.

That's why we're Canada's leading insurance broker for businesses and individuals who demand the best value, coverage and service.

Make sure you're protected around the clock. Make now the time to call us at HUB International.

HUB International | HUB TOS

Jordan Fellner T. 604.293.1481 tos.vanprof@hubinternational.com

www.hubtos.com