

Forestry Team in Action

Improving Road Safety in Merritt TSA



Two major licensees and the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) combined efforts in the spring of 2009 to improve safety on the Pimainus Forest Service Road (FSR) west of Merritt, BC. Since safety is a priority of all the parties involved, this work was completed despite the dire economic conditions that were prevalent throughout the industry at the time.

In the last two years, the Pimainus plateau area had become heavily infested with mountain pine beetle (MPB). As a result, both Tolko Industries Ltd. and Aspen Planers Ltd. ramped up harvesting in the area in an attempt to salvage some of the timber value. With the increased level of harvesting, the haul traffic also increased to the point where the existing mainline was inadequate to allow safe logging activities. In addition to the industrial use, this FSR is utilized extensively year round by the public to access the many lakes in the area. This public use, in concert with heavy logging traffic, made for numerous close calls and a few accidents. Forest professionals from both companies and the MFR recognized the increasing risk and decided to take action.

The road was widened and resurfaced, additional pullouts were created and dust suppressants were used in high traffic areas. As well, signs were installed at half kilometre intervals and additional right-of-way timber was removed along the road to eliminate the risk of dead pine trees hitting vehicles.

The result has been a safer road with fewer incidents between loggers and the public, despite a significant increase in traffic levels.

Project Team

Aspen Planers Ltd: Rob Scott, RFT
FP Innovations: Darcy Moshenko, RPF
Ministry of Forests & Range: Ken Conway-Brown, RFT
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Canadian Institute of Forestry Cariboo Section

The Cariboo Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry is one of 18 sections representing 2,400 members across Canada. It includes 158 members in 56 communities outside of Vancouver and Vancouver Island. There are 14 dedicated members who serve as volunteers on the section's council.

The Cariboo Section was very active during 2008-2009. Some highlights included the section AGM dinner in Prince George and screening of the movie *The Green Chain*. In September 2008, for National Forest Week, the section organized its annual Walk in the Woods school tours. Thirty-three volunteers were recruited in collaboration with the ABCFP Network of Forest Professionals and 625 students participated. Unfortunately, 900 students were turned away from this event. Thanks to BC's Minister of Forests and Range, the Honourable Pat Bell; Jeff Bennett; Federation of BC Woodlots; Industrial Forestry Services, COFI and employers for their support of the annual school tours.

In November 2008, approximately 145 people attended the Robert Bateman lecture titled "Thinking Like a Mountain". All proceeds of this event went to five local charities.



February 2009 brought the CIF Silver Ring ceremony for University of Northern British Columbia and College of New Caledonia students. It was held in Prince George and 130 students, forest professionals, government representative and other stakeholders attended.

Cariboo Section council has more activities planned for 2010. They strive to raise awareness of the forestry profession in their communities and among other natural resource professionals.

Project Team (Council and Executive)

Lisa Bourdages, TFT; Phil Burton; Francis Donnelly; Chris Elden, RPF; Peter Forsythe, RPF; Steve Henderson, RPF; Leanne Kaupp, RPF; Patrick McMechan, FIT; Ed Morrice, RPF; Stacy Perkins, RPF; Som Pun, RPF; David Radies; Scott Scholefield, RPF; Mike Trepanier, RPF; Alan Vyse, RPF; Tana Woodward

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environmental goods and services. The broadening of tenure rights will allow the sector to look beyond traditional wood products and pursue emerging opportunities in new forest based products such as foodstuffs, medicines, carbon and so on. Many of these new opportunities are well suited to local, small, cottage-style businesses.

Changing the Stumpage System to Reward Investment

The current tenure and stumpage system was designed at a time when BC's forests were considered endless and all we were looking to achieve was to grant harvesting rights and charge stumpage. It really doesn't reward those who manage forests to increase the productivity of the land base or grow better quality trees. In fact, one could argue that the current system penalizes those who try. A positive change would be to incent tenure holders to work hard and encourage investments in land, forests and new forest products. One idea that has been discussed for woodlot licenses is land rent instead of stumpage. Assuming rent remained static then the revenue for growing more volume or better quality trees would accrue directly to the licensee!

In summary, BC's tenure system needs to evolve. The current tenure system is old and tired. It needs to align with and deliver upon the public's expectations around diversifying and rejuvenating BC's forest sector. The public is making it very clear that it wants a greater say and more involvement in forest management decisions, more direct returns of economic and environmental benefits to local communities, more small- and medium-sized milling and manufacturing businesses, and a wider array of forest products from BC's forests. The federation's viewpoint is that any attempts at tenure reform must acknowledge that cumulative contributions of numerous small- and medium-sized tenure holders and businesses are significant, especially to forest dependent, rural communities. 🌱

Brian McNaughton, RPF, is the general manager for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations which is the umbrella organization for the 23 woodlot associations which represents the interests of the more than 840 woodlot licensees and many private forest landowners throughout BC. Brian owns Lone Tree Consulting Ltd., a professional forestry consulting business based in Williams Lake, BC. Prior to becoming a consultant, Brian was with the BC Ministry of Forests and Range for 20 years, including 10 years as district manager of the Williams Lake Forest District and 10 years working in silviculture in the 'old' Cariboo and Nelson forest regions.

In Memoriam

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

Arthur Francis Shortreid

RPF #1023
1950 - 2010

IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS THAT OUR family, friends, relatives and church family announce that Art suddenly went to be with his Lord on March 5th, 2010. We will all miss him greatly.

Art was a wonderful husband to Sue, devoted father to Drew, Ian, Leah and Matt; adoring grandfather to Autumn; brother to Jim and son to Frank and Jean. His warm and supportive heart held love for in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews too numerous to count. Art's life journey involved many health challenges but his positive outlook on life, persevering nature and strong faith were what enabled him to raise his family lovingly and passionately.

Art was born into a forestry tradition and grew up in forest communities. A strong communicator with an infectious enthusiasm for good forestry, he built strong and lasting personal bonds with colleagues industry wide. He earned the respect of his peers as an intelligent, experienced innovator, one who drew on insight and thoughtful study to attain a clear vision of what was right in the difficult balance of economy, environment and community.

Selfless and honorable, Art was extremely fond of sharing his knowledge and experiences with all who had the privilege of spending time with him. A natural teacher with a sense of history and the ability to capture the heart of things, he helped many to lead richer lives. For those of us close to him, perhaps the best way to say it is that he set a great example of how to be a good person.

