

Alder: Scourge or Opportunity?

Applying the PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee has put together an example of how the Principles of Forest Stewardship* can be applied to the challenges presented by red alder. Although the six principles are intended to be applied with an integrated approach, the following is an example how one could be applied.

Principle (6) - Adaptive Practice states: Stewardship requires the practising professional to develop strategies for dealing with risk and uncertainty in forest management decisions. In order to do this well, it is imperative that the practitioner also incorporate an adaptive approach to professional work in order to accommodate anticipated conditions and plan for action in the face of the uncertainty.

In this scenario, a silviculture forester examines the risks presented by alder within a recently established plantation and determines that retaining a percentage of alder on the site will provide an ongoing benefit to soil productivity. The forester also recognizes the future benefits that species diversity will have on the stand for wildlife, biodiversity and even merchantability. The practitioner has applied the principle of adaptive practice.

THIS VIEWPOINT TOPIC—ALDER: SCOURGE OR OPPORTUNITY?—tapped into a wellspring of emotion in our writers. There are authors published in this magazine who have dedicated large parts of their career to *alnus rubra*. And they defend this tree's place in BC's forests with both technical knowledge and heartfelt eloquence. I think all our members will find these professionals' passion inspiring—no matter their opinion on red alder.

This is also the issue where we welcome new members into the profession. If you turn to page 25, you will see a listing of the hard working people who successfully passed the 2011 registration exam. All these members have the opportunity to be inducted into the ABCFP at the Inductees' Recognition Luncheon at Everything to Everyone: The Art of Forestry, the ABCFP's annual conference and AGM in February.

We also bring you highlights from our National Forest Week celebrations. This year, as always, we have our "What the Forest Means to You" art contest winners. New this year, we also have our member photo contest winner, honoured on the cover of this issue, and the winners from our inaugural youth essay contest. Last but not least, the North Island Network of Forest Professionals (NFP) wrested the Battle of the NFPs title from last year's winner—the East Kootenay NFP in Cranbrook—and are back on top. Read more about their amazing program on page 23. 🐿️

* Principles of Stewardship of Forests, Forest Lands, Forest Resources and Forest Ecosystems – draft document (June 1, 2011)