

Bringing the Classroom to the Forest



GREENMAX RESOURCES AND THE PORT ALBERNI SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD70) have teamed up to provide an educational opportunity not traditionally offered to grade nine students.

David McBride, RPF, and Shawn Flynn, RPF, ATC, have worked closely with the students' teacher, Ryan Dvorak, and as a result a

significant component of the students' grade nine curriculum has been taught at Woodlot 1479. The goal is to encourage students to enjoy learning through a different medium and to give them exposure to the skills needed to find employment.

The latest project was learning the process and business of manufacturing maple syrup in the Port Alberni Valley. This included identifying the trees, tapping and sap collection as well as syrup production.

The students have also been actively involved in the planning for, and development of, an outdoor learning centre. They have learned about the salvage of blowdown timber and have been involved in milling this wood for the building. They will also be involved in its construction in next year's class.

This is one of five pilot projects the Ministry of Education is running in partnership with local organizations and school districts. These project-based learning partnerships were selected through request for proposals put out to the school districts throughout BC in 2007.

Forestry Team in Action

Beaver River Hydroelectric Projects

Selkirk Power Company Ltd. recently completed an environmental assessment for the Beaver River Hydroelectric Projects, which are two small hydro projects (\$120 million capital cost) near Golden, BC. The assessment required two years of field work and scientific analysis and is currently under final review by federal and provincial permitting agencies. Eric Miller, RPF, RPBio, was responsible for coordinating the assessment and organizing a team of independent local scientists to complete the inventory work and determine the impact ratings. Dave Karassowitsch, RPF, and Mike Walsh, PEng, also worked closely throughout the completion of the studies and helped coordinate the field assessments and all the hydrology monitoring. Final approval of the projects is anticipated for winter 2010. Selkirk Power has been working closely with both the First Nations and the local communities, collecting input that has helped to configure and plan the projects. To date over 50 public meetings have been carried out to provide opportunities for community input and education about long-term energy issues and renewable energy technology

Project Team

D'Eon Consulting: Rob D'Eon, PhD, RPBio, RPF

Masse Environmental Consulting: Sylvie Masse, MSc, RPBio

Poisson Consulting: Joe Thorley, PhD, RPBio

Other Consultants: Jakob Dulisse, RPBio; Lisa Larson, MSc; Steve Ogle

Selkirk Power Company Ltd.: Kent Dehnel, PEng; Kurt Dehnel; Doug Hurst; Dave

Karassowitsch, RPF; Scott Matheson, CA; Eric Miller, RPF, RPBio; Mike Walsh, PEng



Project Funding

Selkirk Power Company Ltd.

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