

# **Conditions of Use Policy: ABCFP Discussion Forum**

**July 2008**

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) expects all discussion forum participants to follow the conditions of use and general online forum etiquette outlined in this policy. Failure to do so will result in removal from the ABCFP Discussion Forum.

### **ABCFP Discussion Forum Purpose**

The purpose of the ABCFP Discussion Forum is to provide an opportunity for subscribers to exchange information and participate in discussions about the association and the forestry profession, forestry, forest management, ecosystem management and other closely related topics.

### **Subscriber Types**

**Full Members:** Full membership is restricted to ABCFP members and staff. They can exchange information and participate freely in discussions on all forum boards.

**Non-Members:** Non-members have access to the Welcome and Public Discussion areas of the forum only.

### **Disclaimer**

The ABCFP does not accept any responsibility for the opinions and information posted on this online forum. The association disclaims all warranties with regard to information posted, whether posted by the association or any third party. This disclaimer includes all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness. In no event shall the association be liable for any special, indirect or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data or profits, arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of any information posted to this discussion forum.

In addition, the posting party grants the association and users of this listserv the nonexclusive right and license to display, copy, publish, distribute, transmit, print and use such information or other material.

### **Online Forum Conditions of Use**

By joining the association's discussion forum, you agree that you have read and will abide by the following conditions of use:

1. Keep discussions to topics suited to this audience (see forum purpose).
2. Do not post defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive or illegal messages.
3. Do not post petitions, chain letters or propaganda.
4. Do not use the online forum to promote or sell commercial products.
5. Use caution when discussing commercial products or services. Information posted on this list is available for all to see and comments are subject to libel and competition laws.
6. Do not post messages that encourage or facilitate participants to arrive at any agreement that either expressly leads to or implies price fixing, a boycott of another's business or other conduct intended to illegally restrict free trade.
7. Do not post any information or other material protected by copyright without the permission of the copyright owner. By posting materials, the posting party warrants and represents that **he or she** owns the copyright with respect to such material or has received permission from the copyright owner.

8. Do not personally attack others. The discussion on this forum is meant to stimulate intelligent conversation and encourage constructive debate.

The association does not actively monitor the forum for inappropriate postings and does not undertake editorial control of postings. However, in the event that any inappropriate posting is brought to the association's attention, the association will take whatever action it deems necessary to address the matter. The association reserves the right to terminate access to any user who does not abide by these conditions of use.

### **General Discussion Forum Etiquette**

By following these etiquette guidelines, users of the association's discussion forum will find the experience more productive and enjoyable:

1. Use an accurate and descriptive subject line. Be specific. Be precise. This allows members to respond more appropriately to your posting and makes it easier for members to search topics.
2. Keep your message short, to the point and meaningful.
3. Write thoughtfully. Bring fresh knowledge and ideas to the table. New ideas can stimulate discussion. Trivial or inane comments will kill discussion.
4. Write clearly and logically. Don't forget to proofread your message before you hit "post."
5. Be prudent with speculation.
6. Be cautious with humour and sarcasm.
7. Use appropriate full citations when quoting other people's material.
8. Keep the tone of your message respectful, civil, disciplined and professional. Remember, you are interacting with people and hundreds will read your message.
9. Don't be critical of people's queries posted to this forum.
10. Before starting a new topic, ensure the topic you want to address doesn't already exist. If a topic has already been discussed reply to the existing topic rather than starting a new one.
11. When you reply to a message and change the thread of the discussion, don't forget to change the subject line.
12. Differentiate between public and private messages. Is your message something you want the rest of the world to see? Only post a public message to the entire board when it contains information that everyone can benefit from. Send private messages such as "Thanks for the information" or "Me, too" only to the individual(s) involved in the discussion, not to the entire board.
13. Do not post administrative messages (such as "remove me from the forum"). Instead, you can delete your account under by clicking on Profile and under Actions choose: delete this account.
14. Do not post private messages from others to the forum without their prior consent.
15. Let others have their say just as you may. Stay calm. Silence will end an objectionable exchange on the forum more quickly than angry or petty remarks.
16. Ensure your computer is equipped with up-to-date virus protection software to prevent the spread of computer viruses when downloading attachments.

**Unsubscribing**

You may unsubscribe from the discussion forum at any time by clicking on Profile, on the main navigation toolbar, and under the Actions menu on the left choose: delete this account.

**Questions or Comments**

If you experience any difficulties or have any questions about the association's discussion forum, contact the administrator at [webmaster@abcfp.ca](mailto:webmaster@abcfp.ca).