



Shoal Island, see page 4

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A group of independent private forest owners learn about planting, tending and harvesting timber crops from Darrell Frank at the North Cowichan Community Forest.

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Happy Trees, Healthy Forests: PFLA Visits the North Cowichan Community Forest

A big thanks to the Private Managed Forest Land Council (PFMLC) for an informative and enlightening forestry workshop, held September 17, 2011 in the Cowichan Valley.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for PFLA to connect with private Managed Forest owners from around southern Vancouver Island: Shawnigan Lake, Salt Spring Island, Thetis Island, Galiano Island, the Saanich Peninsula and beyond.

First stop: the North Cowichan Community Forest where Darrell Frank shared information, tips, best practices and overall forestry wisdom with workshop participants. Darrell's key message: Have a clear vision for what you want your forest land to look like and hire good, reliable people to do the work.

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PFLA Public Policy Developments Update

The PFLA continues to work diligently with federal, provincial and local governments on an unprecedentedly lengthy list of public policy developments. In fact, PFLA Regulatory Committee members can't recall a time when the association's been consulted (or, more accurately, insisted on being consulted) on so many policy areas at once.

Here are a few highlights from our current public policy activities:

1. Fire Prevention and Cost Sharing Agreements

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Protection Branch is reviewing its operations; particularly, the financial aspects of Fire Prevention Cost Sharing Agreements with BC's forest owners and other land managers.
- The review process is in early stages and the details are unclear, but the core issue is government's concern about spending more money than it collects from program participants.
- A conversation with key stakeholders is in the works, and PFLA is involved and committed to representing the perspective of private forest owners.

2. Off Road Vehicles Act & Regulations

- The government is in the process of regulating off-road vehicles in BC.
- PFLA is engaged in the process with the objectives of:
 - maintaining distinction for private land
 - fighting trespassing, environmental damage, garbage dumping, arson, vandalism, theft and associated problems
 - increasing government's capacity to enforce the law without eroding private property rights

You can find more information about the ORV Vehicle Management Framework at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv/

3. Private Managed Forest Land Act

- Managed Forest (MF) owners on Galiano Island are in the bizarre, and uniquely ugly, position of owning and caring for forest land on a beautiful island where restrictive local government bylaws prevent them from living legally in their forests. Not even one dwelling per parcel, some of which exceed hundreds of acres.
- PFLA has found no other example of this kind of extreme and hostile restriction in BC, Canada, or North America.
- The Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Act is intended to foster stewardship of private forest land by providing regulatory certainty, and maintaining forest management.
- This is a provincial, not local, government priority. The right to reside on MF land is a key component of the PMFL Act.
- In a recent legal challenge, the judge found that the province's intention to protect owners' right to reside on their land is abundantly clear in the PMFL Act; however, the legislation lacks the words necessary to affirm the provincial jurisdiction over forest management in the case of Galiano Island.
- The judge noted the necessity for the province to correct this problem.
- Despite many years of communication from forest owners, this situation has not improved.
- PFLA finds local government interference of this magnitude is extremely restrictive and a strong disincentive to responsible forest stewardship.
- PFLA is working with Galiano MF owners and government. We look forward to seeing government do the right thing: change the wording to make the policy intent of the legislation undeniably clear.

Out and About with the PFLA

UBCM 2011 Convention

We're pleased to report the PFLA information booth at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) trade show was a huge success. The event was an excellent and productive opportunity for PFLA to connect with, and inform, members from all levels of government, and the media, about private managed forest land in B.C.

2011 State of the Island Economic Summit

The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) is holding its 5th annual economic summit, October 18th and 19th, 2011, at the Vancouver Island Convention Centre in downtown Nanaimo, B.C. PFLA looks forward to sharing information about Managed Forests with the over 400 business and community leaders gathering to discuss Vancouver Island's economic future.

Community Dialogue Sessions

Healthy Forests–Healthy Communities has organized a series of public meetings across the province to generate recommendations about forest land management in British Columbia. The PFLA is engaged in this process and committed to representing the perspective of private forest landowners. We'll continue to monitor recommendations, as they emerge, and we encourage Managed Forest owners to participate in the dialogue sessions happening in your communities.

PFLA Public Policy Developments Update Continued

4. Migratory Birds Convention Act – Regulation of Incidental Take

- The federal government was working on a model to regulate the incidental take of migratory birds: options included BMPs and various permits.
- The intention was to provide all Canadian land managers, who come into contact with migratory birds, with a clear and legal process, or permit, to comply with the stated provisions of the Migratory Birds Convention Act.
- In October of 2010, the federal government announced it would no longer work on regulations to permit the incidental take of migratory birds.
- PFLA is working with the Canadian Private Forest Landowners Council (CPFLC), and other forest and land management groups, from across Canada, to advocate for private forest owners on this issue.

5. Species at Risk – BC Species at Risk Task Force

- The provincial government has established a task force to make recommendations regarding the protection of species at risk in BC.
- PFLA is engaged in this process and makes it a priority to help government understand the issue from a private land perspective.
- We are encouraged to report that the task force recognizes private land is separate and distinct from public land, and also acknowledges the need for education and incentives.
- Again, this is an ongoing policy process, and PFLA is in regular communication with government to ensure the perspective of private forest owners is represented.

6. New Water Sustainability Act – Water Act Modernization

- The province is in the process of modernizing the Water Act: a piece of legislation with significant

implications for all landowners; particularly, Managed Forest owners who conduct work in and around streams and stream crossings.

- Historically, PFLA has pro-actively partnered with government to raise awareness and promote the value of responsible streamside management.
- We continue to advocate strongly from the private land perspective.
- PFLA is closely involved in the current legislative review process, and committed to working with government to find a balance between environment, community and commerce.

7. BC Log Export Policy Review

- BC's Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recently initiated another review of log export policy.
- PFLA is engaged in this process and consistently lobbies, both federal and provincial governments, for the right of private forest owners to obtain fair value for our logs.
- Log export restrictions impact the value of our land and our trees. The trees we invest considerable time and resources in to plant, grow and harvest.
- PFLA also strives to add balanced and factual information to public discussion and media coverage surrounding this issue.

Thanks for taking the time to read through the PFLA public policy highlights. While this is an exceptionally busy time for the PFLA Regulatory Committee, we're happy to be engaged with elected officials, ministry staff, managed forest operators, and community members on so many levels.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.



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The workshop was an ideal environment for participants to network, exchange ideas, ask thoughtful questions, and engage in lively discussion on topics as wide-ranging as:

- Long-term forest management planning
- Advance timber marketing
- Harvesting: falling and processing, log sorting and trucking
- Road building (and unbuilding)
- The art and science of culvert design and installation
- Identifying and managing root rot

- Planting, pruning, brushing, weeding
- Fuel management and wildfire prevention
- Managing minor crop species (e.g. White Pine)
- Managing invasive species (Scotch broom)
- And of course, the deer: What to do about the deer?

Thanks to Stuart Macpherson and Phil Blanchard for organizing another successful PMFLC workshop, and thanks again to Darrell Frank for the informative tour.



Participants from the PMFLC forestry workshop take in a lesson on log grading and marketing from TimberWest's Geoff Martin at the Shoal Island log sort.

5 Tips to Help Capture the Best Value From Your Logs

Next up at the Private Managed Forest Land Council (PMFLC) workshop? A trip to TimberWest's Shoal Island log sort – nestled beside the bustling Catalyst pulp mill in majestic Crofton, British Columbia.

Under the thoughtful tutelage of Geoff Martin, a log marketer from TimberWest, workshop participants learned about marketing, manufacturing, sorting and handling logs.

A detour past the "sin bin" quickly revealed just how important it is to take good care of your logs. Ignorance can lead to disrespected, damaged and mistreated logs that nobody wants.

We put together a list of Geoff Martin's **Top 5 Tips to Help Capture the Best Value From Your Logs** (or, how to avoid the "sin bin"):

1. Educate yourself and work with experts. There's a lot to know and learn about harvesting, handling, manufacturing and marketing timber. The more you know the better position you're in to get the best value for your logs.

2. Know where your timber is going before you harvest it. Different markets require different log

lengths. Find your buyer and ask their preferred length before you harvest your timber. Harvesting to match the buyer's preference gets the best value for your logs.

3. Don't leave your logs on the ground for too long. Think of your logs as "spoilable" fresh produce. The longer your logs lie on the ground the greater the chance bugs, water, rot and weather will cause damage and deteriorate the value of your logs.

4. Don't put your red alder trees through a log processor. Processors are efficient, but they easily cause damage to red alder logs. In the end, the damage to the logs decreases their value and negates the efficiency of the processor. A chainsaw is a much better idea for maintaining the value of your red alder logs.

5. Spend the time to love your logs! It takes up to 100 years to grow a marketable tree. That's a lot of time. It makes sense you'd spend some of that time making sure you get the best value for your logs.

Thanks again to Geoff Martin for his time, his knowledge and his passion for logs.

PFLA Community Meetings: Coming Soon to a Town Near You

We're taking this show on the road! The PFLA is excited to announce we're organizing community meetings across the province. The meetings are an invaluable opportunity for PFLA to meet face-to-face with private forest landowners. You can expect an update on PFLA activities, policy development highlights and a representative from the Protection Branch will join us to discuss the provincial government's Wildfire Agreements.

Most importantly, this is a chance for PFLA to listen to your questions, your concerns and your experiences — an opportunity to gather input and suggestions that will help guide and direct the organization's future efforts.

We've run into some scheduling difficulties with our traveling companions. What we know for sure is that meetings are planned for:

- Victoria
- Nanaimo
- Courtenay
- Vancouver
- Castlegar
- Kelowna

We promise to get back to you with the details just as soon as we iron them out.

Thanks for taking the time to read through this edition of the PFLA Private Forest Matters. We hope to see you soon!

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