



Keith Granbois, see page 2

## In This Issue

Shawnigan Lake Watershed Forestry Tour	1
Managed Forest Fundamentals: A Provincial Regulatory Model	2
Out & About with PFLA	2
5 Important Management Planning Tips for Forest Owners	3
PFLA Policy Update	4
Hometown Meetings	4



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## Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable—Forestry Tour

**What do you get when you mix sunshine, amazing autumn colours and a group of thoughtful people? A great day for a forest tour!**

PFLA was pleased to participate in a forestry tour hosted by the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable. With a focus on key values incorporated into forest land management, the tour was an excellent opportunity to connect with a diverse group of engaged people interested in the health of the Shawnigan Lake Watershed.

Foresters, biologists, fish and wildlife specialists, engineers, high school students, regional and provincial government representatives, local residents and Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable members donned hard hats and safety vests and took to the woods to learn about forest management.

McGee Creek was the site for a lively discussion about in-the-field results and silviculture in the 21st century. Harvested in the mid 1990s, McGee Creek was replanted (within a year) with

a mix of Douglas-fir (80%) and white pine (20%). The original Douglas-fir stand had root rot issues at the time of harvest, so they did what nature would have done and replaced the root rot areas with a different species.

Invasive species like scotch broom and gorse pose a challenge for reforestation, and operations forester, Eric Jeklin, was on hand to describe some of the management processes (planting, brushing, treatment) they use to encourage trees to grow as quickly as possible and surpass competing vegetation.

Before heading down the trail, Domenico Iannidinardo explained the scope and scale of the information management systems used to track information across a landscape. Using this data, foresters are able to tell that McGee Creek is intercepting rain and wind, today, much like the original stand was.

A recent forest fire near the Koksilah River provided the backdrop for a conversation about risk management, land manager responsibilities

>> Continued on page 2



Fire specialists were on hand to explain the processes used to manage the 22-hectare Koksilah River forest fire.

## Shawnigan Lake

### Forestry Tour >> Cont'd from page 1

and the interface between private and public land. The 22-hectare forest fire, believed to be caused by recreational vehicles, was first noticed mid-day September 22nd. Crews were still onsite mopping-up when we visited on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Fire specialists explained the processes they used to respond to, manage and clean up the fire, at a cost of roughly three-quarters of a million dollars. The risks associated with forest fires aren't isolated to land and timber values. On southern Vancouver Island, forest fires can quickly spread to threaten the safety of adjacent residences and communities. Tour participants recognized the sense in which forest fire prevention becomes a community responsibility.

Keith Granbois, of R and K Woodlot, invited tour participants for a stroll through Woodlot #0022, to see the differences and similarities in forest management between large landowners and small area managers. The discussion also touched on distinctions between public and private land, as well as the cooperation between area managers. Keith explained: without the ability to sell merchantable timber to larger operators, small woodlots wouldn't be harvesting timber because they wouldn't have access to markets.

Thanks again to our hosts for an informative, thought provoking and collaborative forestry tour, and an extra large dose of appreciation to the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable for their interest, initiative and organizing efforts.

# Managed Forest Fundamentals: A Provincial Regulatory Model

PFLA knows private managed forestry inside and out (sideways, backwards, upside down)—it's our job and we're passionate about it. We've been advocates of sustainable forest management for so long now we forget not everyone is as familiar with the Managed Forest Program as we are (a shame really). In an attempt to rectify the situation, we've put together a series exploring the fundamentals of private managed forestry.

## What is managed forest land?

With roots as far back as the 1940's, managed forest land is a property assessment classification designed to encourage private forest owners to manage their land for long-term forest production. Offering reduced property taxes as an incentive to encourage responsible farm and forest stewardship is a common policy tool used throughout the world. In B.C., forest owners commit to a high standard of forest practices and environmental protections in order to obtain the managed forest classification.

## How does the model work?

As a public policy instrument, the model is essentially a partnership between forest owners and the provincial government. Landowners make investments in land and management activities, and assume the associated risks, while the province offers stability in carrying costs and forest practices regulations. The result: B.C. communities benefit from sustainable forests, healthy ecosystems and increased economic activity.

## Why provincial jurisdiction?

With the shift away from the Forest Land Reserve, and the removal of Schedule "A" private land from tree farm licenses, land use planning and controls transferred from the province to local communities. Forest management, on both Crown and private land, remained a con-

sistent provincial priority. There are a number of reasons why:

- Municipal governments control zoning density and determine development options for land use. Because they focus on local issues their priorities are dynamic and land use rules change regularly.
- Forestry investments involve considerable amounts of time (decades). Policy stability is essential to successful forest management. The managed forest legislation provides a stable operating climate across the province that encourages investment in B.C.'s forests.
- The amount of managed forest land within municipal boundaries is very small (the ability to participate in the Managed Forest Program is restricted to properties that exceed 25 hectares).

## Why does private land have a different regulatory model than Crown land?

The Crown land regulatory model was designed to regulate practices on public land. It incorporates a broader range of values (including public access) than society expects of private property owners. Like farmers, forest owners require flexibility to steward their land responsibly: they need the freedom to conduct management activities without the intensive public consultation that can occur on Crown land operations.

The Private Managed Forest Land Act creates a model that:

- Reflects private property rights.
- Balances environmental values with economic realities and community interests.
- Recognizes private land is a small percentage (5.4%) of B.C.'s land base.

# Out and About with the PFLA

## PFLA Annual General Meeting

Save the Date! We're pumped to announce the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual PFLA Field Tour, Forestry Forum and AGM will be held June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo, B.C. Details are still being ironed out and nailed down, but we wanted to give you plenty of time to mark your calendars. Please stay tuned for more schedule and content information as it happens.

## Islands Agriculture Show

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Islands Agriculture Show is happening February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at Cowichan Exhibition Park. As passionate tree farmers, PFLA is looking forward to setting up our info booth at the event and thrilled to connect with community members, farmers, elected officials and agricultural experts as excited about farming as we are.

## Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival

Fun for the whole family! The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival is happening Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan, B.C.—a chance to celebrate and learn about maple syrup production here on the west coast—tasty treats, tapping demos, maple syrup sampling, workshops, live entertainment, and of course, train rides!

# 5 Important Management Planning Tips for Forest Owners

"What should I do with my woodland?" is one of the most common questions we hear. Forest management is a long-term process. Having a plan for how you'll manage your land is critical. Lucky for us, "Managing Your Woodland: A Non-forester's Guide to Small-scale Forestry in British Columbia" has much wisdom to share on the topic of forest management planning. We've summarized some of it below for your easy reference.

## 1. Start with your personal goals and objectives.

Getting started is always the hardest part of any project. When it comes to planning your forest management activities, your personal goals and objectives will help guide the planning process. Before you can outline your long-term, medium-term and short-term plans you first need to determine what your personal goals and objectives are.

Your goals represent your vision for your land—what you hope to achieve—while your objectives represent the approach you'll take to achieve that vision.

## 2. Ask yourself: "Why do I own my land?"

It may sound like a simple question, but it will help you to focus in on what your goals are. Some other questions to consider include: What are your family's interests? How do your financial and estate planning goals fit in? How much time do you have to spend on your woodland? Do you plan to do the work yourself or hire professional help?

## 3. Learn as much about your land as you can.

Education, education, education! Educating yourself is an important step in helping to identify your goals and objectives. The more you understand about what affects the values associated with your land, the more able you are to take advantage of future opportunities. Remember: how you manage your land today may affect the value of your forest for years to come.

## 4. Ask for help.

If you're feeling overwhelmed or indecisive, ask for help. You can hire a professional forester to help assess your forest and your options (find tips for what to look for when hiring a forestry professional at the bottom of our forest inventory post). Neighbours and other forest owners are also valuable sources of information and inspiration.

## 5. Your goals and objectives will change so be flexible.

There are no right or wrong goals, only your own goals. Recognise that your goals and objectives will change over time as your needs, interests and circumstances change. Some

goals and objectives may be mutually achievable while others may conflict. Don't worry about that—setting goals will help you to clarify and prioritize your interests and activities.

The table below includes specific examples of goals and objectives you might decide on for your woodland. \*

### List of Common Goals and Objectives

Goal	Objective
Investment for future resale. Have a nest egg to fall back on.	Improve the property's appearance and increase the property value. Manage to improve timber values.
Supplement income. Generate revenue to pay for taxes and for other family needs (child's university or retirement). Provide employment for family members or others to become self-sufficient.	Create forest land based business. Manage for timber production, agroforestry, ranching, and/or commercial recreation, tourism and/or education. Sell gravel, lease land. Produce firewood or lumber or fence-posts or Christmas trees or botanical products for own use and/or sale.
Practice conservation and keep the woodland natural.	Manage for biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Restore damaged ecosystems. Survey and document all ecosystems on the property. Reforest denuded areas and marginal land.
Produce high quality timber.	Establish optimal management regimes and practice intensive silviculture from reforestation through to harvest. Create a specific timber profile (species and grade) over the rotation.
Provide a source of water.	Maintain and protect riparian areas, streams, wetlands and lakes and aquifer recharge zones. Maintain forest cover.
Increase wildlife habitat for...(your species preference).	Manage for (specified) forest conditions to create habitat conditions, increase the number of wildlife trees, diversify species composition.
Learn about forestry through practice. Practice a woodlot lifestyle and try your own ideas. Create a legacy for my kids.	Plan and carry out own management activities and involve family members. Take a master woodland manager course. Join a woodlot association. Take part in extension activities and field trips.
Provide outdoor learning and recreational opportunities for family and friends.	Identify and develop facilities (trails, campsites, blinds) for fishing, hiking, camping, cycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting, bird and wildlife watching.
Reduce property and income taxes.	Qualify for managed forest land classification. Learn about tax and estate planning. Set up proper business and tax structure.

\*Source: Managing Your Woodland: A Non-forester's Guide to Small-scale Forestry in British Columbia. 2002. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC, 2nd Edition. Co-published by the Small Woodlands Forestry Program of British Columbia. 300 p.



Grapple skidder moving logs to roadside in a selection harvesting operation on private forest land.

## PFLA Public Policy Update

### Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

PFLA has maintained a watchful eye on the Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities initiative—a non-partisan, volunteer-supported effort organized to offer recommendations for forest lands management in British Columbia. Most recently, PFLA attended the Port Alberni Community Dialogue session where a draft strategic plan, “Restoring BC’s Forest Legacy and Energizing the Forest Sector”, was presented for discussion. The document has the potential to influence public policy and shows an interest in private managed forest land. Specific recommendations include:

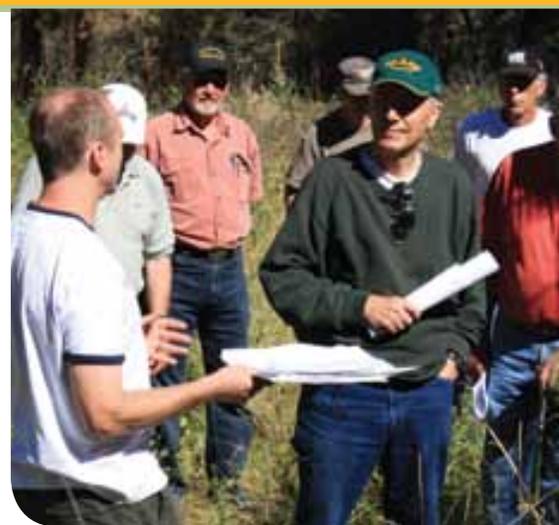
(Page 7) —“Government to enter into a public consultation process and collaboration with land owners that will identify and respond to concerned citizen issues related to the impact of management of Private Managed Forest Lands on the protection of public resources and values.” (Note: we’re pretty sure they mean public resources.)

(Page 17)—“Encouraging Private Managed Forest Land owners to embark on a community communications program to inform concerned citizens of regulatory and non-regulatory practices conducted to protect public resources and values.”

Coincidentally, the Private Managed Forest Land Council also recognizes the value of the second recommendation and has already developed plans to embark on a community communications consultation process in the coming months.

### Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation

PFLA is participating in another round of public consultation with the Ministry of Environment as they review and revise the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR). Public input is now closed, but you can review proposed changes to the regulation online. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



PFLA hometown meetings are a great opportunity to connect with other forest owners in your area.

## Hometown Meetings

Mark your calendars! The ever-popular PFLA hometown meetings are coming soon to a town near you. We’re hitting the road again this spring and look forward to the chance to connect face-to-face with forest owners across the province. This is an excellent opportunity for PFLA to meet with you, in-person, and hear, firsthand, your questions, concerns, feedback and experiences. We’re still pulling together the finer details, but for now, mark your calendars with the following dates:

**Victoria:** Thursday, February 21, 5:00 pm

**Nanaimo:** Thursday, February 28, 5:00 pm

**Courtenay:** Thursday, March 7, 5:00 pm

**Vancouver:** Thursday, March 14, 5:00 pm

**Galiano Island:** Saturday, March 16, 1:00 pm

**Kelowna:** Thursday, March 21, 5:00 pm

**Castlegar:** Thursday, March 28, 11:30 am

We’ll follow up shortly, by email, with a proposed agenda and venue locations. We look forward to seeing you soon! Please let us know if you can make it. Send us an email: [info@pfla.bc.ca](mailto:info@pfla.bc.ca) or give us a call: 250-381-7565.

Members and non-member managed forest owners warmly welcome.

### Visit us online!

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