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# Private Forest Matters



Vancouver Island marmots on private forestland. Photo credit: Rory Hill

## Historic Meeting for Canada's Private Landowners

On November 20th, 2014 PFLA packed our long underwear and hopped a plane to join the Canadian Association of Forest Owners (CAFO) in Ottawa to help educate the federal government about what's happening on private land across Canada to protect endangered species.

The meeting was a historic event because, as far as we're aware, this is the first time in history owners and managers of private land—large and small, west coast to east coast and all stops in between—have come together to present a united voice in Ottawa.

Chicken farmers, bison ranchers, grain growers, cattle and beef producers, maple syrup makers, and log and lumber manufacturers all came together to express common concerns about the impact government regulations can have on the viability and value of their diverse operations.

In total, the group represented managers and owners of about 90 percent of Canada's private land—an estimated 2 million individuals and their families.

The focus of the meeting was to encourage caucus to support CAFO's two-step proposal to distinguish between Crown and private land when designating critical wildlife habitat.

According to CAFO executive director, Chris Lee, the meeting was a success, "Caucus members realized the

tremendous positive reaction they would generate from rural Canada if they adopt our proposal to first identify habitat on public land and then, if needed, on private land with the knowledge and consent of the owner."

### What is the CAFO Two-Step?

The CAFO two-step is a process proposed by the Canadian Association of Forest Owners to amend the Species at Risk Act (SARA) to clearly distinguish between private and public land when identifying and protecting critical habitat.

**Step 1:** Find and protect critical habitat on public land first. CAFO suggests the following order of priorities: parks and protected areas, inaccessible and vacant Crown lands, and finally, Crown lands under management license. If, based on credible information, there is inadequate Crown land available to maintain a viable population of the listed species, proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2:** Engage in consultation with private landowners to determine how to protect critical habitat on private lands with minimal disruption to farming, forest management activities and annual income levels. Note: A decision to designate or protect critical habitat on private land should not lead to automatic prohibitions, but rather, trigger a process of consultation between the recovery team, the federal agency and the landowner(s). [SARA s48(3)]

### Why is the CAFO Two-Step Important?

In the U.S., the Endangered Species Act failed because it lacked incentives for land managers. Without incentives to report and protect creatures, land managers are more likely to “shoot, shovel and shut up.”

#### Our message to the federal

**government is:** landowners are willing partners in species habitat protection. Nobody knows their land better than they do. If you create a situation with incentives for land managers you're going to get a much better outcome.

As a comparison, let's say you're a private landowner and the community decides it needs to use some of your property to build a highway. Commonly, an expropriation process occurs and you receive compensation for the value of your land.

The situation with wildlife habitat is no different. If the broader community decides your land is more important as habitat for a particular species, and requires you to set aside a portion of your land for that species, you should be compensated just like the landowner who set aside land to build a highway.



## Why Fair Timber Pricing is a Top Priority for 2015

Fair timber pricing is a top priority for PFLA in 2015 because not only are we continuing to see negative impacts from harmful and outdated policies, but on-the-ground impacts are getting worse.

In 2014, forest owners lost over 45 million dollars as a result of log export restrictions. That's 45 million dollars directly transferred from the people who grew the trees to the people who bought the trees at a discount.

PFLA members are committed stewards and reliable forest owners. We value the principles of equity, fairness and justice and the role they play in encouraging long-term investment in future crops.

Because we're tired of spending decades to grow the best trees we can, only to be ripped off by an artificially low domestic log market, PFLA's key goals for 2015 include:

- Access to international pricing for forest owners
- Eliminate unnecessary process, delays, uncertainty and administrative costs
- Ensure B.C.'s private forest owners have input into any policy decision
- Support transitional measures necessary to accomplish these broader goals

We're turning up the heat and look forward to cooking up some interesting articles we hope will contribute to enriched discussion, informed debate and positive change for tree growers in B.C.

Here are just a few of the upcoming stories we're working on so far.

### Land of Plenty: Log Supply on the B.C. Coast

A scintillating look at the connection between fibre supply and consumption on the coast of British Columbia, this article aims to debunk long-held assumptions and reiterate the importance of recognizing this is an economic problem, not a fibre supply problem.

In 2013, the coastal harvest was 20.8 million m3 and coastal mills processed 12 million m3. In other words, a huge log surplus exists.

### The Top 5 Lame Excuses For Maintaining N102

With an overwhelming supply of lame excuses, the competition for this article is above average. We'll do our best to narrow the options down to five and look forward to providing readers with a detailed look at just how lame some of the excuses for not rescinding Federal Notice to Exporters 102 are.

### Why Suck and Blow is Bad For British Columbia

Not to be confused with the drinking game, the term suck and blow is a colloquialism used to describe a policy change being advocated by a handful of licensees in B.C. who also own processing facilities.

The current surplus test policy allows owners of processing facilities to block export permit applications; however, if you have a processing facility and you're exporting logs, there's a rule which prohibits you from blocking others for ninety days after you've exported your logs. Suck and blow proponents are advocating for the removal of the ninety-day rule.

This might also be referred to as having your cake and eating it too. We look forward to elaborating on this concept and illustrating just why it's a bad idea for B.C.

### 13 Reasons Why it's Better to Grow a Tree in Washington than B.C.

A tale of two trees, this article traces the details of the life of a tree grown on private forest land in British Columbia, as compared to the life of the same tree species grown from the same seed orchard and harvested just a short distance over the 49th parallel in Washington state.

A poignant tale of growth, strength and adversity the article illustrates how trees grown in Washington receive more respect, higher value, and arguably, a better life.

### Dysfunctional Relationships: What Log and Lumber Prices on the B.C. Coast Can Teach You About Your Own Life

A thoughtful analysis of the relationship between log and lumber prices on the B.C. coast, this article offers readers a rare opportunity to reflect on the significance of maintaining connected relationships in their own lives.

Using graphics to illustrate the disconnect between lumber and log prices, this cutting-edge look argues that the distance, disrespect and disharmony demonstrated by log and lumber prices can have devastating implications for relationships, families and communities.

As always, thanks for your interest and your patience. Please stay tuned as we work hard to pull these articles together.

## Watersheds, Local Government and Managed Forest Land

Increased population growth on Vancouver Island brings with it an increased demand for drinking water. Over the past century, many working forests have become drinking watersheds to meet the growing demand for water in expanding communities.

As landowners continue to manage their land for forest products, a host of provincial and federal regulations are in place to ensure water quality is protected, including:

- Federal Fisheries Act
- Forest Management Regulation
- Water Act
- Drinking Water Protection Act
- Fish Protection Act
- Private Managed Forest Land Regulation

Recently, PFLA participated in a series of meetings with local government representatives from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC).

The meetings are multi-agency, multi-stakeholder events and PFLA's involvement is intended to help local government better understand the Managed Forest Program regulatory model, as well as the practices,

relationships and programs private forest owners have in place to protect water on their land.

Other meeting participants include representatives from:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Managed Forest Council
- Private Forest Landowners Association
- TimberWest
- Island Timberlands
- Ministry of Environment
- Vancouver Island Health Authority

The good news is the meetings are productive. We've seen assumptions and assertions dissolve in the face of facts and information about the level of care and attention that goes into managing and monitoring watersheds on private forestland.

The minutes from the last AVICC meeting in October include support for the development of a small working stakeholder group — with representatives from VIHA, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations, UBCM, AVICC, Private Forest Landowners Association and the Managed Forest Council — to address local or regional concerns as needed.

PFLA is proud of our members' track records and pleased to add this stakeholder group to the already long list of watershed groups our members are involved with, including:

- San Juan Stewardship Roundtable
- Cowichan River Stewardship Roundtable
- Cowichan Watershed Board
- Cowichan VRD Regional Watershed Governance
- Shawnigan Basin Society/Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable
- Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable
- Englishman River Steering Committee
- Regional District of Nanaimo Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program
- Comox Lake Watershed Advisory Group
- Campbell River Technical Watershed Committee

Working with community partnerships is an important step forest owners take to ensure drinking water quality is maintained while communities continue to receive the benefits a renewable forest industry provides local economies.

## Save the Date! 20th PFLA Conference and AGM

This year marks PFLA's 20th anniversary! [Insert applause and celebratory shouting here]. We're excitedly pulling together the details for another great private forestry conference, field tour and AGM. The two-day event is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th, 2015 at the Kingfisher Oceanside Resort in the beautiful Comox Valley.

Please join us to celebrate 20 years of working together to promote responsible forest stewardship on BC's private forestlands.

This is no small accomplishment. We owe a debt of thanks to the dynamic mix of founding members, long-term supporters, individuals, families, forestry workers, advocates and champions of private forestry who dedicated time, energy, enthusiasm, hard work, commitment and vision over the past two decades.

We're busily organizing our stops and lining up conference speakers. This year's field tour promises to be informative and engaging as we explore and review, hands-on, a range of topics relevant to forest owners and operations managers.

The evening banquet is an excellent opportunity to connect with old friends, make new acquaintances and applaud this year's Private Forest Stewardship Award recipient.

The June 4th, 2015 conference agenda includes timely and insightful presentations on topics as diverse as:

- Implications of the William Case for Private Forestland
- Carbon Market Developments
- News from the Canadian Association of Forest Owners (CAFO)

- B.C. Fibre Supply Analysis
- Log Market Information and Insights
- Tips from the Wildfire Management Branch
- Update from the Managed Forest Council

The Kingfisher is offering conference participants a special rate of \$99 per night (based on double occupancy, taxes not included). Please book your accommodations prior to May 2nd, 2015 to ensure you get a room. To reserve your room, contact the Kingfisher Oceanside Resort directly (1-800-663-7929).

Check the PFLA website ([pfla.bc.ca/events](http://pfla.bc.ca/events)) for more detailed schedule information as it becomes available. In the meantime, mark your calendars!

# Stand Tending 101: Planning Your Road Network

Because access is vital to a well-managed woodland, we've borrowed from our favourite resource again to help you think about planning your road network.

A road network system serves many transportation purposes—the extraction of timber, access for silviculture treatments, fire control and recreation. In developing a road network, your objective is to provide for these uses with minimum disturbance to the land base and your pocketbook.

To do so, you'll need to consider a number of forms of access to your property:

- General access via main roads and trails
- New logging roads for the removal of timber:
  - During planned harvests
  - To take advantage of fleeting niche market opportunities
  - To salvage timber killed by blow down or insect attack
- Branch roads for spacing, thinning, and pruning
- Protection roads to water sources

The building standard will vary with each type of access, depending on the type

of vehicle and volume of traffic it will carry, as well as the season of use. Good planning, engineering and construction are key to keeping costs acceptable.

Part of your initial considerations should include the assessment of existing access roads and trails. One of the benefits of working in second growth stands is the presence of old roadbeds, railway grades and skid trails from when the stand was first managed.

In these areas only minor road upgrading, such as widening or spur road development may be required to complete an access network, and you can often acquire enough knowledge to do it yourself. A quick walk or drive around the existing road network with an experienced logging truck driver can be very educational.

Where major road location and construction are required, an experienced contractor or consultant should be called in to ensure the most efficient and safe road system is developed.

## How Do I Plan a Road Network?

Your first task in planning your road network will be to sketch out main routes that provide the best coverage of your woodland and access to particular sites of importance. The purpose of this initial

plan is to locate the road network to cover the whole area, while minimizing the total length of road required.

Begin the process of road location at the drawing board, with aerial photos and a good contour map of the area. Ideally, the road system should be planned for long-term use and be suitable to access stands that are currently immature but will be harvestable at some point in the future.

Your roads, once built, aren't moved easily, so be sure to discuss your plans with an experienced road builder before proceeding. As always, thanks to "A Non-forester's Guide to Small-scale forestry in British Columbia" for the information excerpted above.



# Hometown Meetings Tour

That's right, we're taking this show on the road again for our annual hometown meetings tour. It's a chance for us to sit down, face-to-face, with forest owners across the province and hear firsthand what's important to you. It's also a good opportunity for forest owners to:

- Network with other forest owners
- Keep informed about relevant policy developments
- Provide important feedback to help guide the organization's future efforts

We're still ironing out the details, but we wanted you to know we're heading your way this spring and look forward to the chance to connect, listen and learn, as well as the opportunity to catch you up on what we've been working on this year.

The agenda is a work in progress, but you can look forward to updates on some of the key policy files we keep a watchful eye on.

As always, we're keenly interested in any topics, issues or concerns you'd like to discuss so please let us know ahead of time if there's an item you'd like added to the agenda.

- Victoria | Tues, March 3rd, 5:00 pm
- Nanaimo | Thurs, March 5th, 5:00 pm
- Kelowna | Tues, March 10th, 5:00 pm
- Castlegar | Thurs, March 12th, 11:30 am
- Courtenay | Thurs, March 19th, 5:00 pm
- Galiano | Sat, March 28th, 1:00 pm

For those of you who joined us last year, we're aiming for the same locations, but we don't have confirmation quite yet.

The dates and times are also subject to change so please check the PFLA website ([pfla.bc.ca/events](http://pfla.bc.ca/events)), or contact us directly, for more detailed information.

Also, please let us know if you can make it—email [info@pfla.bc.ca](mailto:info@pfla.bc.ca) or give us a call 250-381-7565.

PFLA members and non-member managed forest owners are welcome.

See you soon!