



Western Matters

Striking a Sustainable Balance

by Lisa Perrault
Mainland/Islands Region

Things change.

In the early days on this coast, logging was a lifestyle and a bottom line.

The concept of 'forestry' crept in, bringing a sense of value around forest management and sustainability. This change was a difficult one for hard core loggers to swallow along with the associated costs.

Then safety in the woods became a prime target of attention and concern. Issues around the lives and health of the workers in this dangerous industry were laid on the table to raise awareness and create change. Significant investments in safe work practices and support for injured employees were made and became a permanent fact of our business. So did the costs of maintaining the safety and compensation system.

In the last decade, the impact of our forest management practices on the environment has come under intense scrutiny. The provincial Forest Practices Code was a costly attempt to maintain the confidence of our global markets. However,

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one that is the most adaptable to change."
Darwin

forest companies have had to go beyond this. To satisfy customers and the big 'E' environmentalists various types of certification programs have been pursued. WFP has invested in a formal Environmental Management System, which has helped in achieving significant certifications under ISO and CSA.

Today, silviculture and reforestation are unquestioned components of our business. Safety has developed into a core value, which is carefully monitored and advanced.

Environmental protection is developing in the same way. Commitments have been made, progress will be carefully tracked and our performance continually improved.

We are proud of all the improvements, advances and certifications that enhance our business of forest management, but acknowledge that everything must be accounted for in the bottom line.

It is a continual challenge to strike a progressive balance and keep our *business* sustainable.❖

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Machmell's New Super Bridge

by Howie Aikman
Operations Engineer, M/IR

When one thinks of B.C.'s rugged Central Coast it's not hard to conjure up images on a grand scale: magnificent mountains, raging rivers, tall timber... and big bridges?!? In a landscape known for numerous (and often large) river crossings, Oweekeno Contract Forest Operation can now add a second 'super bridge' to its repertoire...an under-trussed bridge of truly epic proportions.

Twenty-two kilometre on the Machmell Mainline marks the location for Oweekeno's latest bridge installation.

Machmell River is a large fish-bearing river confined for much of its length within a deep, steep-walled gorge. This young canyon, less than 10,000 years old, was formed as the river carved its way through deep deposits of volcanic lava rock. With vertical walls in excess of 50 metres, the canyon has effectively isolated 1 million m³ of timber on the north side of the upper Machmell watershed...until now!

With careful planning and the combined efforts of many talented people, access became a reality. A 70 metre (231 foot) single span steel bridge now crosses the spectacular Machmell Canyon.

As with all major bridge installations, a detailed site plan of the crossing was a

The Company Line

Safety Policy – February 2002

The Senior Management of Western Forest Products Limited (WFP) recognizes the necessity of establishing and maintaining safe working conditions and practices for its employees within the Company.

It shall be the responsibility of management to be accountable for the safety on the job of all employees. The highest standards of maintenance and housekeeping will be maintained to ensure a safe working environment. Safe work procedures and instructions will be developed.

Management and supervisors will be responsible for instruction of their crews in safe work practices in the process of achieving company productivity targets.

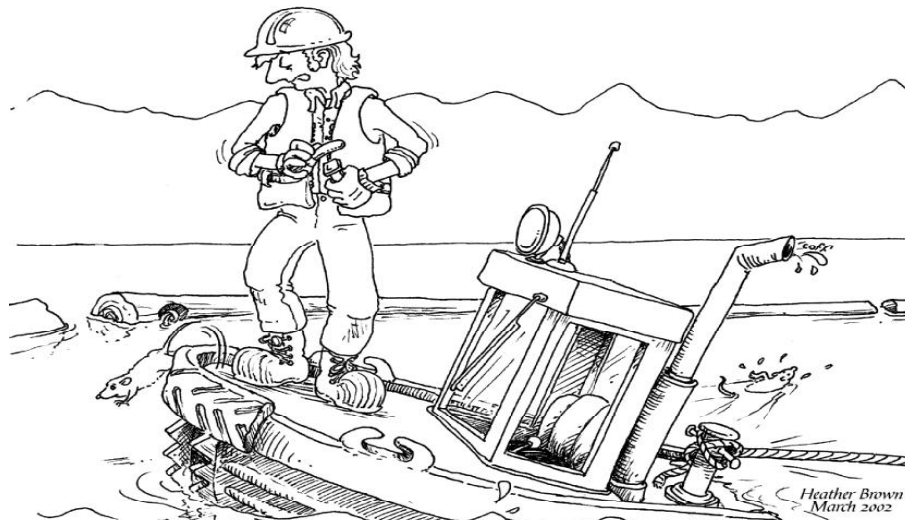
We expect employees to observe safety regulations, safe work practices as instructed and to cooperate in reporting dangers and help in creating a safe working environment.

Let us work and think safety and productivity.

New WFP Newsletter

To achieve efficiencies, continue effective company communication and meet our communication commitments under WFP's Environmental Management System, we have joined our previous two newsletters – *Environment Matters* and *Western Spirit* – under the umbrella of one in-house publication called *Western Matters*.

The new publication will combine elements of both previous newsletters while maintaining a strong corporate focus and share awareness of the broad spectrum of issues that affect our business. *Western Matters* will be published Spring and Fall. Contributions, feedback and suggestions are encouraged at any time! ❖
(see page 8)



“Lewey Da Loser Says... If you work on or near the water, play it safe, always have your life jacket on.”

Safety – on Stress

Stress is our physical, emotional and mental response to change, challenges and circumstances. Daily work pressures, family demands, financial difficulties, and even happy events can contribute to stress levels.

Stress isn't all bad. It helps us get motivated! But excessive stress can cause health problems and affect our ability to work safely. Workplace accidents can happen if we are anxious about problems at work or off the job.

We can't escape stress, but we can learn to handle it better and minimize its harmful effects.

Try these tips for developing greater resistance to stress:

- If a problem does not affect your safety or survival NOW...let it go. Deal with it later when you can give it proper attention.
- Don't worry about problems you can't fix.
- Solve the problems you can by facing them head on.
- Ask for help if you need it
- Think positively.
- Make sure you get enough rest and have time for some fun.

Head Office Changes

Over the last six months some difficult decisions and changes have been made. As a major cost saving measure, our Head Office location in Vancouver was dismantled.

Staff and other resources were reassigned to several locations including smaller premises at the Royal Centre in downtown Vancouver, available offices at Doman's Silvertree Mill and Mainland/Islands Regional office in Campbell River.

These changes have created many challenges for all staff directly and indirectly affected. Congratulations on seeing this phase of our transition successfully achieved.❖

'Super Bridge' continued from page 1...

critical first step; "Oops...it's too small" just won't cut it!

Considering the unique lava rock formations associated with the canyon walls, a detailed foundation stability assessment was also required. With a final "thumbs up" from the geotechnical engineers, project momentum began to grow.

"truly epic proportions"

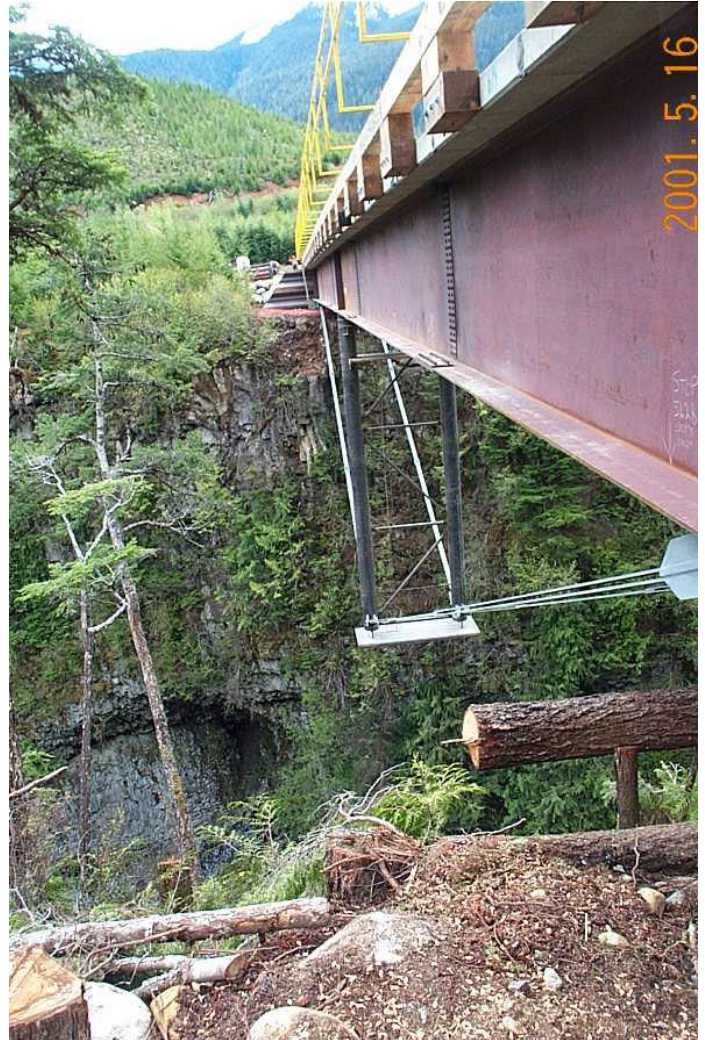
Experienced bridge contractors from around the province were invited to an on-site viewing in mid-October. Ruskin Construction Ltd. of Prince George, B.C. was the successful bidder, with a unique under-trussed bridge proposal designed by All-Span Engineering and Construction Ltd. of Vancouver, B.C. To assist in the launch of this enormous crossing and provide some economy of scale, two smaller bridges (30.5m and 15.2m), also destined for Oweekeno, were included in the tender. The fun was about to begin.

With steel bridge components now under manufacture, the daunting task of organizing barge delivery for tonnes of steel, concrete grouting and other necessary materials lay ahead. Minor delays in Vancouver came and went and by late March 2001 the bridges had arrived at Rivers Inlet. From this point, all materials were off-loaded for a 12km truck haul, re-watered and barged another 32km up Oweekeno Lake to Machmell Camp. A final off-load and 22km truck haul delivered the bridge components to the job site. (And we thought getting the camp groceries in was something!)

Assembly of the superstructure began in earnest in late April and within two weeks the bridge was ready for launch. Ensuring the precise placement of a very large (and very expensive!) bridge is, to say the least, a challenge but the Ruskin crew made it look easy by using a launch nose and tower configuration.

The physics is simple (picture a playground teeter-totter)... as the bridge/nose (teeter-totter) assembly is pushed out over the canyon edge (the fulcrum), the mass of the much heavier woods-end bridge (the big kid!) would ensure the lighter woods-end nose (the little kid!) remained well suspended.

To accomplish this, the woods-end of the bridge girder assembly was lengthened by attaching the two shorter bridges end-to-end forming an arched extension (nose) that would guide the bridge onto its woods-end footings. Above the camp-end footings, a crossbeam array (tower) was designed to carry the bridge girder assembly and, acting like a gun sight, ensure the bridge was delivered at correct elevation and



"the final push looked far too easy"

lateral alignment. A series of rollers positioned along the length of the superstructure helped to facilitate movement and maintain alignment during the launch.

After weeks of prepping, the final push looked far too easy. An EX300 excavator eased the huge span across in only two days! With elbow room in short supply at the woods-end approach, it was necessary to dismantle the launch nose section-by-section as the superstructure worked its way across the gorge. Installation of the king post, decking and other details followed and on May 23, 2001, 'North Machmell #2' was in place and ready for service!❖

Some people look around and see problems.
Other people look around and see solutions.

Environment Matters

Environmental Performance – 2001

by Jason Zimmermann

Past ISO 14001 audits have found that the Environmental Department's communication of the WFP Environmental Programs, Objectives and Targets needs improvement. With this in mind, the following short summary will communicate our corporate commitments and review our performance as a company (including contractors) in 2001:

Objectives

What is the underlining intent of Westerns ISO certification? Our Company intent or *objective* is to protect the water, soil and air, and to conduct our forest management activities such that the ecosystems in which we work maintain their natural condition and productivity.

Programs

WFP has eight environmental programs. These programs are documented actions to show the public how we intend to achieve our commitments, known as *environmental objectives and targets*. These include Training, Waste Reduction, Log Quality, Fertilization, Salmon Enhancement, Camp Decommissioning and, Log Sort and Camp Improvement Programs.

Targets

To measure our progress towards our corporate objectives, annual (in most cases) targets are set for operations, regions and the company as a whole. Below is a list of many of our targets and a summary of how we did in 2001.

<u>Target</u>	<u>2001 result</u>
7% or less site degradation	4.5%
10 or less accidental fires	3
1% or less trim waste	0.49%
15m ³ /ha of avoidable waste	13.2m ³
Plant within 2 years of harvesting	1.5 yrs.
Annually release 750,000 salmon fry	1.5 million
Reduce the number of reportable spills	same as last year❖

The HazMat – A Revisit

by Jason Zimmermann

After four years of unaltered existence, the Western Forest Products (WFP) Petroleum & Hazardous Waste Management Standard (HazMat) has been overhauled. The goal was to clarify operating requirements, address past audit findings and reduce repetition between the various Environmental Management System (EMS) documents. Highlights of the recent changes include:

Propane and Oxy/Acetylene

Two new sections have been added. The section titled Propane, provides guidelines as to propane tank placement, signage and design, and reminds us that every effort should be made not to store forklifts indoors. Detailed diagrams summarize the substantial amount of information. The Oxy/Acetylene section includes safety issues regarding personal protective gear and oxygen handling.

Waste Manifesting

Those who are familiar with shipping goods covered under the *Special Waste Regulation or Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)* know that today's documentation can be just plain scary. The Waste Management section provides basic guidelines concerning registration as a generator of waste, what copies of the Special Waste Manifest must be retained and potential sources of information.

When goods are being transported out of operations it is always good to document what is leaving, how much and who is transporting it. In many cases, this information is the Bill of Lading or other manifest documents. Keep copies for at least two years. Remember, people will be handling these goods down the line. Make sure products are securely packaged and adequately labeled.

Fire Extinguishers

For most applications, a ULC rating of '3A 10 BC' is the norm. Look at the fine print on your extinguishers, review their rating and make sure inspection tags are present.

Distribution of the HazMat will begin in late March 2002. If you have a manual, but don't receive an update by the end of April, contact the Corporate Environment Department (environment@westernforest.com, phone 604-286-3767).❖

FIRE SEASON STARTS
April 1st

**Make sure fire equipment
and weather stations
are in place**

Get Ready! EMS Audit Locations 2002

Winter Harbour	Plumper Harbour	Jordan River
Mahatta Contract	Port Eliza	Port McNeill
Andy's Bay Sort	Kendrick Arm	James Bay
Yeo Island	Gold River Forest Operation	Systems
	Corporate Office	

Sockeye Side

Channel *by Patrick Donaghy and Alma Van't Schip*

The Rivers Inlet sockeye runs were historically some of the largest on the Pacific coast. In the last couple of decades these runs have been continuously diminishing. Many felt that the decline in the fish population was the cause of the hungry bear problem around Oweekeno Village necessitating a number being shot due to safety concerns. Of even greater concern to the Oweekeno community was the loss of the food fish, which was integral to their way of life. Without a doubt, the collapse of the Rivers Inlet runs was of huge significance.

To help save these valuable runs, W.F.P., through funding from FRBC and assistance from the Oweekeno First Nation, undertook the Xausmdas (pronounced ho-sum-das) Sockeye Spawning Channel Project. This involved the excavation of a large 3.2km channel whose width averaged 4m. Two buried 900mm pipes and a large water intake, which diverts flow from the Machmell River, provide the water. The intake was constructed by personnel from Port McNeill Operations under the guidance of Master Mechanic Grant Anderson. Neechanz Logging was a large asset in accomplishing this project, contributing camp facilities and personnel support.

Logs and root wads were placed to provide



protection from overhead predators. Ponds and riffles were incorporated to provide quiet areas for the spawning salmon and rearing habitat. Gravel beds were engineered to enhance spawning and rearing habitat.

Two of the key construction team members were Kirk Walker, a WFP excavator operator who specializes in Watershed Restoration, and Sonny Bernard who provided manual support to the heavy machinery. Kirk and Sonny's practical operational knowledge was a valuable resource for the consultants when determining the optimal means of achieving design goals.

Government agencies allowed log salvage from the shoreline of Oweekeno Lake. Logs were then strategically placed in the channel to provide superior habitat for spawning adults and fry. Mike Ramsey of

the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection provided expert biological guidance, which helped direct the design criteria for the engineers from Northwest Hydraulics.

The grand opening was held October 4, 2001, with the highlight being the blessing by Hereditary Chief Ted Walkus of the Oweekeno First Nation. This notable cooperative achievement has already showed success with the habitat already in use by various species of juvenile salmonids. In December, adult coho and sockeye were observed and spawning was evident. Remains of spawned out carcasses along the banks of the channel indicated bear and eagle activity.

This new habitat is a vital step to rehabilitating salmon stocks in the area and enhancing local biodiversity. ❖

FRBC Progress

For the past eight years Forest Renewal B.C. has been a major program for Forest Enhancement and Watershed Restoration in WFP operations. The program has been financed through extra stumpage payments, which have totaled more than \$90 million to the end of 2001. The company has spent \$80.5 million on FRBC Programs in all its operating areas.

Accomplishments have been impressive, especially improvements to our second growth forests and watersheds. More than 6,500 hectares of spacing were done to produce larger more valuable timber. A total of 5,200 ha of pruning were accomplished to improve wood quality. More than 18,500 ha of young hemlock and cedar forests have been fertilized to increase growth and almost 4,000 ha of brushing completed to protect planted trees from weeds. About 400 ha of tree planting on difficult restoration sites was also done.

Watershed restoration programs comprised almost half of the field activities with 1,100 km of road deactivated and stabilized, 56 km of stream habitat enhanced for fish production and more than 82 ha of riparian rehabilitation work completed for wildlife and fish resources. We treated and stabilized 36 major coastal watersheds affected by past logging and natural events. Several salmon spawning and rearing channels were built to create new habitat for fish and other wildlife species.

A new, more modest program called Forest Investment will be implemented in 2002. Ken Hall, our Manager of Environmental Programs and Certification Audits, and WFP Regional Foresters led the implementation team for FRBC and did an excellent job in managing this large and diverse program. Well done!

by Bill Dumont, Chief Forester

Spirit

First Nations Partnerships

KITASOO REALIZE A DREAM

*by Corby Lamb, Area Manager
Mainland/Islands Region*

In 1993, WFP was invited to the community of Klemtu by Chief Percy Starr in order to explore opportunities to work together in the Kitsoo Traditional Territory.

Klemtu is a small community, population 335, located on Swindle Island, approximately 20 minutes by air from Bella Bella. WFP operations in Kitsoo Territory include Roderick and Pooley Islands and in future will move further north to include Green Inlet and Swanson Bay. Chief Starr has stressed how critically important it is to have a mutually beneficial relationship between the Kitsoo and WFP; providing employment and other business opportunities for the Kitsoo people.

As this relationship developed, one subject was discussed at almost every meeting; the Kitsoo's wish to construct a Big House or Community Longhouse that will be large enough to hold the entire village, along with any guests invited to special events. In the early years, there were no plans or funding available to undertake such a project. This has all changed quickly, however, under Chief Starr's guidance.

The first order of business was to acquire the funding and materials required to construct such a facility. Materials ranged from simple items to the huge beams needed to hold up the massive roof.

Larry Greba, the Kitsoo's Fisheries Consultant, provided assistance in finding the necessary funding for the project. Brad Kerry, who constructed most of the new housing in Klemtu, as



New Big House in Klemtu

well as the new school, was put in charge of transferring the vision into a working design.

In order to assist in obtaining funding, the Kitsoo had to ensure that an adequate number of logs were available for the framing, roof beams and frontal pole. The site where the building would sit also required substantial preparation.

To accomplish these tasks, the Kitsoo turned to their forestry partners for assistance. Western was asked to provide the logs needed for the project. Vic Woods, WFP's past Vice President met with Chief Starr in Klemtu and confirmed WFP's commitment to this monumental community project.

The list of logs that were needed for construction ranged from smaller fir to be cut into rafters, several large (35" top) high-grade red cedar for support and frontal poles and two massive fir roof beams measuring 70

feet in length with a 48" top diameter. Finding these logs was the responsibility of Corby Lamb, Area Manager for the Central Coast Operations.

For the cedar, Corby went to Micky Brown, Manager of the Port McNeill Operation. All cedar logs from WFP's West Coast Operations are re-hauled to Port McNeill for towing to Howe Sound. Once the logs were located they were moved, at no charge, to Klemtu by North Arm Navigation on their barge to the Mid Coast.

Most of the cedar logs were readily available through WFP's Northern Vancouver Island Operations. The smaller fir logs for rafters came from WFP's Squamish Contractor. They were taken to a specialty sawmill in Squamish to be cut into beams 40 ft. x 24" x 24". However, finding and shipping the giant Douglas-fir logs for the large roof beams presented quite a challenge.

The only place these large beams could be located was Oweekeno Lake. WFP's contractor, Neechanz Logging had begun development of a cut block in the Neechanz drainage. After walking through the stand, it was determined that there were five possible candidate trees. The next challenge was to fall them while inflicting little or no damage and to get them to the lake for the trip to the ocean. All this was successfully





Photos: The Oweekeno (previous page, bottom) make a gift of the great Douglas-fir logs to the Kitasoo Chiefs (above) in a Ancient Blessing Ceremony at Oweekeno Lake.

accomplished in less than a month although there still remained a very important ceremony that needed to take place.

The logs that came from the Oweekeno Traditional Territory had to be gifted by the Oweekeno to the Kitasoo with a blessing and official hand-over. The geographical distance between Klemtu and Oweekeno and arranging for the participation of Traditional Chiefs from both Nations was yet another challenge to be overcome. WFP's Turbo Beaver aircraft flew the Kitasoo Chiefs to Oweekeno Village for the Ancient Blessing Ceremony, an event unique in living memory for both villages.

Upon the Kitasoo Chiefs' arrival, the Oweekeno community hosted a luncheon and then everyone went off to the lake for the ceremony. It was a beautiful sunny day and the whole event was a great success.

After the ceremony, the logs were taken to the ocean by Trans Lake Services where the Oweekeno community seine boat hooked onto them for the tow to Klemtu; a tow of approximately 48 hours. Once the logs arrived at Klemtu, the next job was to transport them approximately half a kilometre through the village to the building site. All went well under the supervision of Brad Kerry.

Construction has now been underway for the past 18 months. The building is at the lock-up stage and most of the poles are carved. Only one log was deemed unacceptable due to a fracture and Micky managed to find another on short notice.

Several times in the past months, Corby Lamb has visited the site and the carving sheds where the poles are being carved. He thinks that to say the structure is spectacular is an understatement. The Official Opening Ceremony is scheduled for mid-May. Hundreds of residents and invited guests will descend on Klemtu to witness the realization of the Kitasoo Nation's dream. ❖

Business Connection

A Difficult and Successful Year

by Bill Dumont, Chief Forester

In spite of numerous shutdowns and production setbacks, 2001 was an average year in terms of timber production for WFP. A total of 3.1 million m³ of logs were produced covering about 83% of the company's Allowable Annual Cut. Harvesting was focussed in Nootka and North Island Regions as well as Oweekeno and other Mainland/Islands operations.

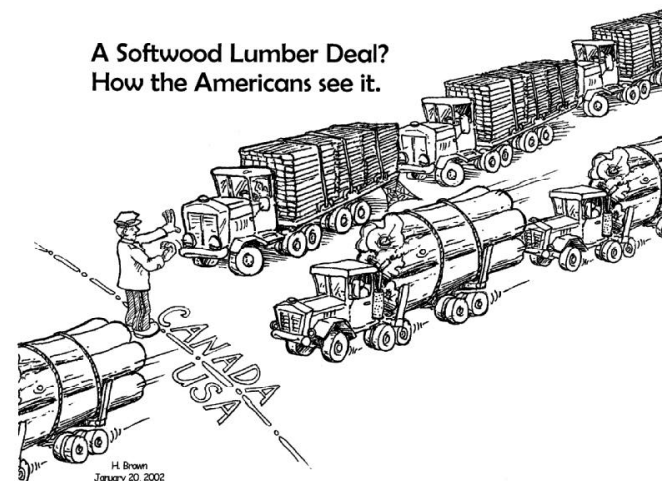
We logged about 4,250 hectares of which 90% was old growth timber and 40% of the area was logged using clearcutting with reserves. Heli-logging was completed on 360 ha for about 9% of the total area logged. Road construction crews were busy and built 345 km of new roads with 90 km of rebuild and 94 bridges and culverts constructed. During the year we maintained about 3,600 km of road.

More than 4.5 million trees were planted on 4,400 ha of logged areas. Brushing and weeding was completed on 2,400 ha about half of which were done with mechanical methods. Total second growth forests in 2,600 ha were fertilized, 480 ha spaced and 390 ha pruned during the year.

Many community and company volunteers produced and released more than 1.5 million salmon fry from the company's four hatcheries in Sewell Inlet and on the North Island. We had more than 300,000 visitors to the company's 45 recreation sites and forestlands during the year.

With the recent break down of the Softwood Lumber Agreement and other restrictions continuing to inhibit operations it is uncertain whether the company will achieve a similar operating capacity in 2002. ❖

A Softwood Lumber Deal? How the Americans see it.



Letters

To the Editor:

...I believe the key to economic survival as individuals and as a company is to recognize the tremendous potential we have in people to generate ideas and thoughts that will reduce our costs, build value in our products and allow us to out-compete others in the market place. This can only be achieved through communication systems and programs within the company. To this end I tip my hat to the first issue of *Western Matters*.

Don Jones
Resident Engineer,
Holberg Forest Operations

Published in Vancouver Sun –
December 2001

Dear Vancouver (& Urban BC),

You seem shocked by BC's current economic downturn. Your griping grows louder each day with the necessary cutbacks and cost increases we face. Did you ever consider that you are largely responsible?

Following a decade of red tape and protectionist policies by an NDP government voted in by the urban vote, BC's resource sectors have ground to a near halt. Forestry, BC's economic backbone, is drowning in red ink and faces a mountain of restrictive legislation. Mining has all but been

thrown out. Oil and Gas continue to be a fraction of its estimated potential. Development, investment and resource communities have been crumbling for a decade, yet you've been to blind to see it.

Perhaps this downturn will help instill a recognition that the resource sectors in BC deserve. I applaud Premier Gordon Campbell and his team for taking the initiative to revive these vital segments of our economy. Meanwhile, my heart goes out to the dozens of resource-dependent communities celebrating a sombre holiday season this year.

Regards,
Steven Hansen
Courtenay
(WFP Assistant Forester)

The Last Word - This Time it's Berni Zimmermann's...

As a result of the failed softwood negotiations between Canada and the United States, Doman Industries has announced closure of three mills for an indefinite period. The Company's other four sawmills are currently operating mostly for exports to Europe, Japan and other Asian markets. These mills may also have to take down time due to negative impacts of the softwood lumber dispute.

Given the current state of the forest industry and the debilitating impacts of American duties, Doman Industries has written to the Prime Minister of Canada. The Company has requested that the federal government follow through on previous commitments to provide financial assistance to the forest sector.

These recent events have raised many questions and concerns for all of us about the future. While there are many possibilities for changes for WFP, no final decisions have been made. I will endeavour to keep all WFP staff informed as the process unfolds.

In the meantime, we need to get back to basics and stay focussed. We must look after our tenures, our assets and our people. Let's put our wealth of experience to work and get through this together.

Next time the last word can be yours!

Many thanks to all contributors to this first issue: Howie Aikman, Patrick Donaghy, Alma Van't Schip, Don Jones, Sandy Rose, Bill Dumont, Jason Zimmermann, Ken Hall, Corby Lamb, Steve Hansen, Heather Brown, Kathy Wood, Berni Zimmerman.

Western Matters will be published Spring and Fall.
We welcome your contributions on our company's activities and any other relevant news,
plus humor, quotes, photos, cartoons and poetry.
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