



Coastal Silvicultural Committee Winter Workshop 2007

Gathering focusses on “Grass Roots Forestry: Revisiting Fundamentals”

The wide-ranging workshop presentations represented a diversity of viewpoints—those of professional foresters working on the Coast, the forest industry, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Canadian Forest Service.

by Tina Schivatcheva, Extension Specialist, Ecosystem Productivity and Dr. Al Mitchell, Canadian Forest Service

What is new or evolving in the field of silviculture? What can our past experiences teach us when facing today's issues? The Coastal Silvicultural Committee Winter Workshop, held in Victoria on February 13–14, 2007, addressed these and many other silvicultural issues that currently challenge coastal forestry professionals. The wide-ranging workshop presentations represented a diversity of viewpoints—those of professional foresters working on the Coast, the forest industry, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Canadian Forest Service.

In the keynote address, **Ev VanEerden** traced the provincial history of tree seedling development. His talk set the tone for the first panel of workshop presentations, “Seedlings: Off to a good start.” This panel concentrated on genetic gain and improved seed, as well as stock handling and planting. A special panel of nursery representatives highlighted the experience of the PRT, Sylvan Vale, and Arbutus Grove forest nurseries. Later that day, delegates discussed current issues and shared their professional experiences and expertise at a facilitated workshop session. This session involved seven simultaneous stations that covered forest health, fertilization, brushing and weeding, regeneration delay, planting, visual and actual green-up, and site preparation.

On the workshop's second day, several emerging is-

ssues in coastal forestry were highlighted, including:

- climate change and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- climate change and forest management,
- invasive species, and
- status and plans for biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification maps and field guides for the Coast Forest Region.

A presentation on wood quality and stand development modelling focussed on the concerns facing managers of second-growth forests. Another panel of presenters examined hardwood and mixedwood management issues. These talks covered red alder management, mixedwood management in coastal forests, and the proposed amendments to the *Establishment to Free Growing Guidebook*, which involve changing mixedwood management practices and regulation. To round out the event, the workshop's dinner speaker, **Dr. Brian Titus** of the Canadian Forest Service, shared his knowledge of non-timber forest products.

Organizing committee director, **Dr. Al Mitchell** of the Canadian Forest Service, emphasized that this year's grass roots theme was intended to expand the network of forest practitioners on the Coast and to draw out the concerns and experiences of their day-to-day work. The directors of the Coastal Silviculture Committee look forward to building on this theme in the development of future Coastal Silviculture Committee workshops and professional fora. 