



# Coastal Silviculture Committee

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Despite the grim forest economy and the growing uncertainty regarding global market conditions, BC forests still have a strong future as part of a viable forestry industry. This was one important take-home message from the annual Coastal Silvicultural Committee's winter workshop, held this past February in Nanaimo.

The positive message came from **Doug Konkin**, (Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Environment) who gave a presentation on "The State of Forestry: An Overview of What's New in Silviculture."

"There aren't enough natural resources on this planet to sustain our future as a society under the current global market conditions," he said. "BC forests are our future. Ensuring that we have a coastal marketing strategy that addresses hemlock is important to our industry if BC is going to have an economically viable and sustainable future." Hosted by Vancouver Island University (VIU), the theme of this year's workshop was "The Evolution of Coastal Silviculture: What's New in 2009?" The conference attracted more than 114 silviculture researchers, forest practitioners, and students from VIU, and was chaired by **Paul Barolet** (BC Ministry of Forests and Range [BC MFR]).

**Bill Beese**, Forest Ecologist (Western Forest Products) has 10 years of implementation



Michel de Bellefeuille photo

Bill Beese at Franklin River in TFL 44 with variable retention blocks in the background.

experience with variable retention harvesting in coastal BC and raised many important issues relevant for applying stand-level retention. In his presentation, "Decade of Implementation and Monitoring of Variable Retention: What Have we Learned?" he suggested the following:

- The landscape context determines what is necessary or appropriate for stand-level retention in relation to biodiversity conservation and management goals (e.g., high amounts of landscape reserves may reduce the need for stand-level retention).
- It is not practical, and may not be necessary or desirable, to precisely mimic or emulate natural disturbance patterns. The past should be a guide, not a goal.
- Riparian networks are a governing factor for retention patterns because of their importance for biodiversity.
- Windthrow is a significant challenge for dispersing stand-level retention, making clearcuts with reserves the most viable option for some sites and landscapes.
- Recent research supports an emphasis on group or aggregated retention rather than dispersed retention for maintaining the habitat needs of many species, as well as for harvesting safety and cost-efficiency.
- Monitoring findings suggest that retention can be a "lifeboat" for some organisms, with a positive correlation between patch size and species survival.
- Retention has potential long-term benefits for enhancing structural diversity of future forests.
- Growth impacts on forest regeneration increase with greater dispersion of single trees or small groups.
- The public's visual preferences appear to conflict with ecological goals and operational needs (what looks good isn't always ecologically appropriate).



Michel Vallee photo

Ian Moss addresses the keynote speakers on permanent sample plots and tenure reform.



# hosts Winter Workshop 2009

- The retention system can be done safely across a wide range of forest types and terrain using a variety of logging and silvicultural systems; however, costs are a significant challenge in today's global marketplace.

"If we can't make sustainable forest management work in BC and contribute our share of the global wood fibre supply with all of our advancements and knowledge, then we would be neglecting our global responsibilities," said Beese. "Other less fortunate countries, which may not be managing their ecosystems in a sustainable manner, will fill the global demand for wood fibre."

There were many other well-prepared and professionally delivered presentations that allowed for researchers, practitioners, and the natural resource management community to discuss silviculture in an open forum. Other speakers who presented their findings and results of research applications included the following:

- Interim Seed Transfer Guidelines and Coastal Forest Genetics, **Greg O'Neill** (BC MFR).
- Species Selection Group Update, **Shirley Mah** and **Kevin Astridge** (BC MFR).
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) Resource Stewardship Monitoring Protocol for Timber Objectives (Partial Cutting Pilot Experience on Haida Gwaii), **Ken Zielke** (Symmetree Consulting).
- Managed Stand Monitoring (MSM), draft FREP Protocol, **Stephan Zeglan** (BC MFR).
- Forest Carbon and Silviculture, **Brian Raymer** (BC MFR).
- Strathcona Pilot: Strategic Plan Timber Supply and 2<sup>nd</sup> Growth—Silviculture Component, **John Andres** (BC MFR).
- Coastal Hardwood Management Strategy, **Rick Monachak** (Timber West).

## Silviculturist of the Year

During the conference, **Ron Elder** presented **David Lloyd** with the award, Silviculturist of the Year, on behalf of the Coastal Silviculture Committee. Lloyd is committed to "thinking like a tree," and follows the journey from seed to seedling, through planting, to growing and surviving trees in new-found homes, roots, shoots, and all. He led the way on behalf of his employers, Pelton Reforestation and Pacific Regeneration Technologies (PRT), to build



Michel Vallee photo

During the conference, Ron Elder (left) presented David Lloyd (right) with the award, Silviculturist of the Year, on behalf of the Coastal Silviculture Committee.

knowledge and experience with each of his clients, observing and measuring the results from seasons before. His many well-designed experiments magnified his devotion to the cause. The Committee thanked him for giving his time to better address the challenges of effective reforestation and for weathering the challenges in life that sometimes get in the way of achievements. He has been a true inspiration—an example of what caring and commitment can really do! 🌲

## Acknowledgements

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