

## NSR Challenge for British Columbia

As BC's Chief Forester, the issues of reforestation and NSR in BC are of great importance to me. From my perspective, the article, "NSR and British Columbia's Reforestation Crisis," (May/June 2011) regarding not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) forests over-estimates the NSR situation in British Columbia.

There is currently about 715,000 ha of NSR in the RESULTS database of which about 240,000 ha is not associated with a forest licensee or BCTS legal obligation to reforest. We estimate that there is the potential for an additional 650,000 ha of NSR arising from mountain pine beetle and 200,000 from other sources such as wildfire for a potential total NSR area (that is not associated with a legal obligation), that is closer to about 1.1 million ha.

I do not believe that the assumptions underpinning the May-June article adequately incorporate factors such as:

- The net down for areas outside the Timber Harvesting Land Base.
- The amount of area that will regenerate naturally and/or have sufficient residual stocking levels.
- The amount of area that will be harvested and carry legal obligations.

Regarding the last point it, is too early to say definitively how much mountain pine beetle-impacted area will ultimately require government reforestation funding because harvesting and regeneration of dead pine stands will continue for the next few years.

Industry and government are focusing harvesting on beetle-attacked and burned stands where we can capture current timber value and reforest in a timely manner. It is also clear that additional harvesting and regeneration will result from bio-energy and other new uses for beetle-killed wood. Past experience has taught us that what may seem uneconomical today can become a much more valuable resource tomorrow.

Reducing the impacts of wildfires and pest infestations is also a key priority of the 'Forests For Tomorrow' (FFT) program under the Land Based Investment Strategy. In areas where it is clear that harvesting will not be an option, FFT is using innovative and cost-effective techniques to survey and reforest productive sites (e.g. 45,000 ha of reforestation through 2010.)

In addition, given the significant area burned by wildfires in 2009 and 2010, the FFT program will be assessing the damage, and identifying the best opportunities, to re-establish sufficient stocking.

It will take a collective effort on the part of forest professionals to address stewardship issues such as reforestation and addressing NSR. In an upcoming issue of the **BC Forest Professional** I will be providing more detailed information related to the determination of Ministry NSR estimates and how we are responding to the NSR challenge.

**JIM SNETSINGER, CHIEF FORESTER  
MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND  
NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS**

## Put in Your Two Cents

The **BC Forest Professional** letters' section is intended primarily for feedback on recent articles and for brief statements about current association, professional or forestry issues. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and encourages readers to keep letters to 300 words. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published in **BC Forest Professional**.



Send letters to:

**Editor, BC Forest Professional  
Association of BC Forest Professionals  
330 - 321 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8**

**E-mail: editor@abcfp.ca  
Fax: 604.687.3264**

**BC Forest Professional** is published six times a year by the Association of BC Forest Professionals

330-321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8  
Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264  
E-mail: editor@abcfp.ca Website: www.abcfp.ca

**MANAGING EDITOR:** Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC  
**EDITOR:** Brenda Martin  
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:** Michelle Mentore

**EDITORIAL BOARD:**  
Colin Buss, RPF; John Cathro, RPF; Frank DeGagne, RPF;  
Kylie Harrison, RPF; Trina Innes, RPF; Lindley Little, RPF;  
Sandy McKellar, Honourary Member;  
Lisa Perrault, RFT; Christine Gelowitz, RPF (council rep.);  
Alan Vyse, RPF (chair); and Brenda Martin (staff liaison)

**DESIGN:** Massyn Design  
**PRINTING:** Mitchell Press  
**DISTRIBUTION:** PDQ Post Group

**ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER:** Brenda Martin  
330-321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8  
Tel: 604.639.8103 • Fax: 604.687.3264  
E-mail: forest-ads@abcfp.ca

**ISSN: 1715-9164**

Annual Subscriptions: Canada \$44.80 incl HST  
U.S. and international \$80 Canadian funds  
Publications mail agreement No: 40020895  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
ABC FP Circulation Department  
330-321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8



**PRESIDENT** Ian Emery, RFT

**VICE-PRESIDENT** Steve Lorimer, RPF

**PAST PRESIDENT** Rick Brouwer, RPF

**LAY COUNCILLORS**

Herb Langin, RPBio (Ret); Gordon Prest

**COUNCILLORS**

Bev Atkins, RFT; Christine Gelowitz, RPF;  
Dan Graham, LLB, RPF; Curtis Nixon, RPF; Mike Pelchat, RPF;  
Carolyn Stevens, RFT; Carl vanderMark, RPF

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** Sharon Glover, MBA

**REGISTRAR** Randy Trerise, RPF

**DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP**  
Mike Larock, RPF

**DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**  
Lance Nose

**DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS**  
Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC

**MANAGER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND MEMBER RELATIONS**  
Brian Robinson, RPF

**BC Forest Professional** is the professional magazine of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP). Editorial submissions, comments, letters to the editor, articles and photos should be sent to the editor, address above. The opinions expressed in **BC Forest Professional** do not necessarily represent those of the ABC FP, its council or other members. Reprinting and copying of **BC Forest Professional** articles is encouraged. Please include a credit to both the author and **BC Forest Professional**.