



# THE Forest Sampler British Columbia

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR TIMBER CRUISERS, VEGETATION RESOURCES INVENTORY SPECIALISTS & SCALERS

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the Inaugural issue of the Forest Measurements Registration Board (FMRB) newsletter. With the establishment of the FMRB, the board of the Timber Cruisers Certification Committee and the FMRB agreed that the Timber Cruisers newsletter would be incorporated into a new Newsletter encompassing all the disciplines that the FMRB will be governing – Timber Cruising, Vegetation Resources Inventory Specialists, Scalers and others. We hope you will find all the valuable information you are used to in the Timber Cruisers newsletter as well as information on all of our other disciplines.

Another change to note is that Verne Sundstrom has turned over editing duties of the Newsletter to Matt Makar of the Ministry of Forests and Range. Verne has retired from the FMRB and is now in pursuit of the perfect fish (as well as working hard in the world of consulting). I hope you will find the content of the newsletter up to Verne's high standards, and the board members would like to thank Verne for his contributions to the Newsletter and the Timber Cruisers Certification Committee. Verne was inducted into the ASTTBC as an Honorary Member in recognition of his contributions.

## New Forest Measurements Certification Programs...

Progress is steady, but slower than anticipated, in the development of the NEW certification programs for waste, VRI and scaling. This fall there was a very successful forum to develop the basis for certification in each area. Work continues this fall, with the hope we will be ready to launch early in 2007. Policies will be forwarded to FMRB and from there to ASTTBC Council for approval at the February meeting. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to expand the forest measurements program.

## Name the Newsletter

The FMRB newsletter is looking for a permanent name. The newsletter should have a name that reflects who we are and what we do. "The Forest Sampler" name was chosen through an extensive polling of board members, and while we think this is a representative sample, we do want to bring down the sampling error a bit. There are four names shortlisted for the newsletter, send your selection to [timbercruisers@asttbc.org](mailto:timbercruisers@asttbc.org) to have your name entered to win an as-yet undetermined item of ASTTBC gear. Please send in your submissions by February 9th, 2007.

1. The Forest Sampler
2. Random Samples
3. Tree Lines
4. Forest Measurements BC

## Actions on recommendations from the Cruise Design Workshop 'Working towards better answers'...

Acting on the recommendations from the March 6 and 7, 2006 cruise design workshop 'Working Towards Better Answers', the Ministry of Forests and Range, Revenue Branch has initiated the development of two committees to address cruising related technical issues.

Due to the substantial business differences between the coast and the interior, two committees have been formed: the Coast Cruising Advisory Committee (CCAC) and the Interior Cruising Advisory Committee (ICAC).

The committees are represented by staff from the MOFR, licensees and consultants. Both committees are meeting to hammer out the terms of reference and develop strategic plans with the goal to further assess and implement the recommendations of the cruise design workshop.

If you wish to be on the committee distribution lists please contact keith tudor ([keith.tudor@gov.bc.ca](mailto:keith.tudor@gov.bc.ca)).

December 2006  
Issue # 01

## In this issue:

From the Editor...	1
New Forest Measurement Certification Programs...	1
Name the Newsletter...	1
Actions on recommendations from the Cruise Design Workshop, March 6 - 7 2006...	1
All ATE's must write ATE exam by Dec 31, 2007...	2
Vegetation Resources Inventory Program update...	2
ABC FP – ASTTBC Interaction...	2
Mug Shots...	3
Successful ATE exam candidates...	3
Waste & Residue Surveying Software...	4
Coast Call Grade Net Factor (CGNF) Cruising Standards...	4

## THE Forest Sampler

published by:

**Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia**

10767 – 148th Street  
Surrey, BC V3R 0S4

Telephone: (604) 585-2788  
Facsimile: (604) 585-2790

E-mail: [timbercruisers@asttbc.org](mailto:timbercruisers@asttbc.org)  
Web: [www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org)  
[timbercruisers.asttbc.org](http://timbercruisers.asttbc.org)  
[forestmeasurement.asttbc.org](http://forestmeasurement.asttbc.org)

### 2007 Cruise Seminars...

The following cruise seminars have been tentatively scheduled for 2007.

#### Southern Interior Timber Cruisers Association

Kelowna, May 16 and 17, 2007

For more information contact: Els Armstrong at [els@coastfor.ca](mailto:els@coastfor.ca)

#### Coastal Cruising Supervisor's Task Force

April 24th and 25th in Campbell river  
Contact: Grant Schellenberg, [Grant.Schellenberg@hayes.bc.ca](mailto:Grant.Schellenberg@hayes.bc.ca)

#### Northern Interior Cruising Committee

Tentatively May 2nd and 3rd in PG  
Check NICC website (<http://www.nicc.ca>) for updates

## Vegetation Resources Inventory Program Update...

The VRI program had a very busy year this year. Licences in the province were very active with large sampling projects undertaken in the Prince George Forest District (approximately 137 phase 2 samples), Fort St. James Forest District (125 Phase 2 samples). Other projects included approximately 25 samples in TFL 49, 67 in the Okanagan TSA, 50 samples in the Strathcona TSA, and 90 samples in TFL 46.

The Ministry of Forests undertook a number of projects as well, focusing on areas affected by Mountain Pine Beetle that were not being covered through Licensee Forest Investment Account projects. This included Change Monitoring Sampling in the 100 Mile, Kamloops and Okanagan TSA's, as well as Phase 2 ground sample re-measurements in Kamloops, Merritt and a new phase 2 project in the Lakes TSA. The Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch also assisted Research Branch in the establishment of calibration plots for the MPB Cumulative Mortality Map, which is used as input for the BC Mountain Pine Beetle Model.

There was a definite lack of availability of VRI certified samplers in the province this year. This is partially due to a late start of many projects, but there does appear to be a need for more certified people. The Ministry of Forests and Range attempted to undertake VRI ecology sampling on 3 Change Monitoring projects this year but there were no certified individuals available to undertake the work.

If you are interested in taking VRI Ground sampling training for Ecology or Timber, please contact Chris Mulvihill at... [chris.mulvihill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chris.mulvihill@gov.bc.ca).

The National Forest Inventory Program is in a down year as the initial sample establishments have been completed. New re-measurement protocols are to be tested this fall/spring.

The VRI photo interpretation program included was busy this year with the Northern Interior leading the way. Projects in Fort St John, Mackenzie, and Bulkley in the north were tendered, or soon will be, for approximately 270 BCGS maps. In the south Okanagan is currently underway, and TFL 18, Quesnel, and Kootenay Lake will be tendered soon. This coming year may be the busiest year for Phase I photo interpretation in many years. This interested in obtaining Photo interpretation should contact Laurence Bowdige at [laurence.bowdige@gov.bc.ca](mailto:laurence.bowdige@gov.bc.ca).

The Ministry will be reviewing Change Management submissions over the winter. This is the first year that large phase 2 re-measurement projects have been undertaken. With the experience gained by industry, consultants and the Ministry over the field season the ministry will be working to develop and refine procedures for sample re-measurement and other VRI ground sampling items.

### ASTTBC Working With ABCFP

For well over a decade ASTTBC has worked with timber cruisers to build a professional certification program that would enhance standards of cruising in BC. Throughout the years we have enjoyed the general support of many cruisers, the Ministry of Forests, and several employers. We have come a long way, but there is still a distance to go.

A little over a year ago ASTTBC talked with ABCFP about a possible joint governance model for cruising... this discussion led to a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Because of the heavy work load at ABCFP the MoU did not get off the ground. Early this fall FMRB Chair, Ron Mcreedy, RFT, ATE, ASTTBC President Keith Switzer, ASCT and Executive Director John Leech, ASCT CAE met with the ABCFP Executive. One item on the agenda was what to do about our joint interest in continuing to develop – and expand – certification for forest measurements practitioners. It was agreed we will ramp up efforts to reach a conclusion by year end... Recently John Leech met with ABCFP Registrar, Jerome Marburg, LIB to talk about next steps. It is anticipated we will soon have a good idea of where we will take the program – together. Stay tuned.

Plot	Phase	Boundary	Species	Class	Top (m)	E (m)	Length (m)	Bust (m)	E (m)	X (m)	Y (m)
1	B	MA	LA	A	5	B	105	8	N	X	
2	B	MA	LA	A	6	B	17	7	N	Y	
3	J	FI	LA	A	6	B	52	12	B	U	
4	B	HE	LA	A	B		74	10	N	J	
5	J	FI	S	U	13	U	2				
6	T	HE	LA	A	10	B	73	15	B	U	

## Waste & Residue

Survey software  
For your handheld and PC

- ✓ Data entry
- ✓ Waste & residue compilations
- ✓ Interior and Coastal BC
- ✓ Electronic submissions to MOF

Call Mike or Richard for a demo.  
Phone: 604 984-0832  
Web: [www.enfor.com](http://www.enfor.com)

**enfor consultants ltd.**  
Forest Resource and Engineering Consultants

## WASTE & RESIDUE SURVEYING SOFTWARE

Waste and residue surveying changed significantly in 2006. New government requirements for 'take or pay', new log grades, and the new MOF requirement for electronic submissions are just some of the reasons. One thing that hasn't changed is the need to do survey work efficiently – time is money!

So what's available for waste and residue professionals? Systems like Brenton, Foxpro and the Ranger, once the mainstay for many surveyors, have become outdated and unable to meet the new needs. Many surveyors are finding that to be efficient and remain competitive they need to re-tool.

There is a new generation of user-friendly waste and residue survey software now available for your handheld and PC, for the interior and coast, and it's already proving itself useful and efficient. New packages are available for easy field and office data entry, editing, compilations and electronic submissions to the MOF. Some software also provides waste billing estimates on the fly and .IR file conversions!

The MOF now requires you to submit your survey data electronically. Until now you had to enter your data manually on-line to the Ministry Waste System. But now with the new software, what used to take hours is now possible in minutes, easily and efficiently.

For those wanting handheld data collectors, many are turning to the newer Windows based PDAs already widely used by cruisers and scalers, fast replacing the old standby DOS based Rangers.

Like any business, there is a cost side. Forest companies and the Ministry recognize the need for change and are supportive of the new investments.

Check it out, new waste and residue software and hardware tools are available. Make the most out of your time!

Contributed by **Mike Greig**, RPF, P.Eng  
Enfor Consultants Ltd.

September 21, 2006

Tel: (604) 984-0832 • Email: [mgreig@enfor.com](mailto:mgreig@enfor.com)

## COAST CALL GRADE NET FACTOR (CGNF) CRUISING STANDARDS

*"Reprinted from a memo from the Director of Revenue Branch to the Regional Executive Director of the Coast Forest Region, CC'd to the coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee"*



The purpose of this memo is to advise on a change to the implementation schedule for the Coast CGNF cruising standards.

After consultation with representatives of the Coast industry, we have agreed that dual cruises should be conducted in 2007, to provide bridging data for the Coast Market Pricing system. The new plan is, therefore, as follows.

- All cruises must continue to use the current Coast loss factor cruise standards until December 31, 2006.
- As of January 1, 2007, the new CGNF and the old loss factor cruise standard data must be collected for all cruises. It is expected that dual cruise data will be collected for a period of one year.

Due to the need to collect dual standard cruise data, the current CGNF cruise standards are being reviewed and updated. It is our expectation that any changes to these standards will be minimal. A set of revised CGNF cruise standards and a new dual cruise data submission system will be distributed in the near future.

**Bill Howard**

Director

Revenue Branch

