

First Nations Woodlands

A newsletter to assist First Nations Forest Managers

How Can You Make the Program Work For You



Phil Smith

“Jobs, jobs and more jobs! That’s the result of the First Nations Woodlands Program,” says Mark Atherton, manager of the program. “Not only on the reserve but off it as well.”

The First Nation Woodlands Program, part of the Canada British Columbia Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development (FRDA II), provides funding to First Nations to improve their forest resources. Except where heavy equipment or specialized services are required all the work is done by local band members.

The silviculture industry is labour intensive and in the past, workers were sometimes paid on

an hourly basis. This created problems when production targets weren’t met and Forestry Canada only paid the agreed upon piece rate. Bands ended up with a deficit.

“We’ve encouraged bands to pay their members on the piece rate system,” says Atherton. “The advantages are that the high achievers earn more and the risk of the band going in the hole is eliminated.”

Quite a few bands have gone one step better and have put the work out to tender among their members. Forestry Canada and the band determine what the work should cost ahead of time and as long as the low bid is realistic the contract is awarded.

The five bands belonging to the Nicola Valley Tribal Council in Merritt have bought into this new entrepreneurial spirit. “Forestry Canada has provided our bands close to \$1 million under this program and the previous FRDA,” according to Phil Smith tribal council forester. “We’ve found that putting the work out to tender is the only way to go.”

Work on reserve land is no different than work on adjoining Crown land. With the Forest Service providing direct award contracts to native businesses, more and more of it is going to contractors who cut their teeth on the First Nations Woodlands Program.

Lyle Leo is a Native forestry technician whose work focuses on bands in the Harrison Lake and Pemberton areas.

Leo was heavily involved in layout and supervision of the Anderson lake project under the First Nations Woodlands Program, part of the Canada-British Columbia Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development: FRDA II.

"I live in Mount Currie, the third largest reserve in B.C. by population. It's 100 miles north of Vancouver - 20 miles north of Whistler in the Pemberton area (Squamish Forest District).

"I'm actually the only employee for a consulting firm called Hayashi Resources. It's owned by Wim Tewinkel, a Registered Professional Forester who has been working in this area for 10 years.

"I've been involved with FRDA II for the last two years, and first started working for Wim three years ago. We do various contracts in silviculture; our main clients are the five or six Native bands in this area. We put out proposals for funding to FRDA II (First Nations Woodlands Program) and so far it has been very successful. We're almost reaching the tail end of a few bands having all their lands managed or having some work done.

"Hayashi Resources started working seven years ago with the bands of Anderson Lake, Mt.

"Native people have to get involved and use what's available, regardless of what may be at risk. That's my personal belief"

Currie, Skookumchuck, Port Douglas, Samahquam, Fountain and Squamish. The Seton band will also be starting up this summer. We'll be doing an inventory on all their forested lands. That's quite a large contract - \$40,000-\$50,000 and I believe they have about five square miles of forests.

"We also have an application for \$100,000 for the Mount Currie band. It's a fairly large project which we will be able to contract with two or three crews on the reserve. We'll be going for the Anderson Lake band again and possibly a couple others.

"The work for the Mount Currie band will be in silviculture. It will cover juvenile tree spacing, pruning and tree planting. We're targeting the thinning of forests. We'll try to get 80 to 90 hectares covered.

"The (First Nations Woodlands) program is working very well. It has started a lot of work on reserves in silviculture and for the forested lands.

"Over the decades, when logging was allowed on reserve land there was a lot of extraction of wood - the log and burn system. In a lot of ways, it damaged the land and there was no replacement.

"Now, through the FRDA II program - how I see it - good regeneration is happening on reserve land harvested through the tenure system. There is also a lot of training going on. What the bands are still lacking are technical people to do the research, to do the work and interpret it, and further the bands' needs. A lot of them would like to further their education in forestry and stay involved. They see it as a good means of employment in the long term.

"With the FRDA II program, we include so many days of training, instructional days, field trips to sawmills and other places that we feel would be educational. We train all the workers and crews up to the standards of Ministry of Forests and WCB regulations.

"Forest management, as it's understood now, is tending of a forest after being harvested until it's merchantable again - tending of crop trees. Relating to earlier native uses, that type of forestry wasn't practised then.

"A (native) family in this area would basically own a

mountainside for their own uses. They harvested the berries, and whatever other means of support they had from it. The odd season, they would even burn the whole mountainside to renew its crop. The natives now need to learn forest management practices.

"With the government wanting to settle native rights and claims, it's very important that natives get in touch with training their people... With self-government, we need a land base to govern. These programs are offering an excellent start for that.

"Native people have to get involved and use what's available, regardless of what may be at risk. That's my personal belief.

"We train the workers to further their employment once they're done the training. We train them in all areas to have their own contracts. We train them for what the forested land needs...

"More money is needed. If you look at the amount of money available, there's \$7.8 million. You're looking at 196 bands in B.C. There's \$8 million held in Victoria for administration, so basically that's \$35,000 per band for the four-year FRDA II.

"A lot of bands don't have the forested land base or the people to initiate this thing and keep it going. The bands that are involved are very supportive and appreciate it. We know that from the cooperation we get, working



Lyle Leo

with these crews and supplying employment.

"Employment is a big thing up here. Jobs have happened in a big way. A couple of merchants from Pemberton commented on how much

spending has picked up. There's a better atmosphere in dealing with people, earning and spending their own money. Community health is a big thing, too."



Forestry Canada's Dr. Doug Pollard speaks to a class of students from the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology when they visited the Pacific Forestry Centre recently.

This January marked the beginning of a unique new program in forestry management at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. A mobile five day workshop for First Nations People officially became available in band communities across B.C.

The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) is a post-secondary native school with an annual enrollment of 280 - 300 students. Centrally located in Merritt, it is dedicated to the training and education of First Nations People throughout B.C. Some support for the school

Have Workshop, Will Travel

comes from the FRDA II agreement.

Gordon Prest, program development coordinator at NVIT for this workshop, is of Coast Salish ancestry. Prest is excited about the five day workshop program which he describes as a "brand spanking" new initiative. He says that the

decision to start the program began with a request from Forestry Canada.

"In their dealings with various communities throughout B.C., they found that there was a real need for further training in resource management." Forestry

Canada runs the First Nations Woodlands Program, a forestry program on band properties, funded through the FRDA II agreement.

Prest adds, "Indian Reserves are under Federal jurisdiction and there hasn't been that much legislation under the Indian Act to properly

manage forests, so over time the forests have been exploited. The harvesting method on reserves has been to just come in and take out and not reforest. The overall goal of this program is to rehabilitate the forests and bring them up to production.”

The course is designed for band chiefs, councilors, administrators and community members involved with Forestry Canada projects. Forestry Canada and the NVIT believe that an increased awareness of forestry matters in the community is the first step in renewing the forests. Says Prest, “It’s not that they’re going to get all the answers. That will require further training. It’s a start.”

After receiving the request from Forestry Canada to create the program, Prest and the NVIT teachers started their plan of action. “First off, we did a needs assessment. We wanted to find out what was needed out there.” Next a committee was formed and during the summer, representatives from First Nations Communities, Forestry Canada, and NVIT all put forward ideas to create the course.

Once completed, Prest says that the workshop was tested in-house at NVIT with first year natural resource students and then later tested through the fall, as a pilot project in four communities. The four included the Fraser Canyon Tribal Administration at Lytton, the Lillooet Tribal Council, the Williams Lake Band and the

Chilcotin Tribal Council.

“The feedback has been very positive,” smiles Prest proudly. “The word is out there now that this program is here, is alive and available. We have a number of requests right now from communities asking for it to happen.”

NVIT instructors travel to the communities requesting the course. The cost to each community is low, as Forestry Canada picks up 90% of the \$8,700 cost. The remaining 10% is covered by the requesting community, usually in the form of transportation and accommodation. Classes are held for a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 participants. Requests for the course are made to Forestry Canada.

The program topics cover 10 key subject areas and range from native history and why

reserves were created to upcoming land claims decisions. Principal instructor, Frank Trenholm, an authority in resource management, is assisted by representatives from industry, the local community and Forestry Canada. The course includes short lectures, discussion groups and local field trips.

“I see this five day workshop as just the beginning”, explains Prest. “It’s just like dropping a pebble in a pond, all of a sudden they become aware of what’s happening with the resources in the community, and in some cases it may not be good. At the same time they might start looking outside the reserve area to what’s being done elsewhere...It’s not a beginning and end all course. It’s just the beginning.”



Modern tools of forest technology are used in the NVIT classroom

British Columbia Native Bands Awarded Forestry Contracts

Forestry Canada has awarded close to \$300 000 worth of forestry contracts among 17 Indian bands in British Columbia. These monies will be used for a variety of forest management activities on native land throughout the province.

The contracts were announced by federal Minister of Forestry, the Honourable Frank Oberle, whose department administers the \$7.8 million four-year First Nations Woodlands program under the Canada-British Columbia Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development (FRDA II).

In announcing these contracts Minister Oberle said the program is an example of the federal government's commitment to "provide Canada's aboriginal people with increased opportunities for greater training in forest management and employment in forestry on native lands."

"The First Nations Woodlands program has established a federal-native management committee to ensure that the selection of forestry projects will meet the specific needs of British Columbia's native communities," added the Minister.

A seven-member native steering committee - two from



the federal government, one representing the Intertribal Forestry Association and four members from regional native communities - reviews all projects and recommends funding.

The largest contracts approved are:

1) \$52 200 for the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology - to deliver a training course entitled "An Introduction to Natural Resource Technology" to six native bands throughout the province.

2) \$40 246 to the Seton Band, west of Lillooet - to conduct inventories and management plans.

3) \$39 900 to the Kamloops Band - to conduct surveys, range improvements, including seedling to stabilize road sides from erosion, as well as spacing and planting.

4) \$38 240 to the Lower Similkameen Band - for pruning and slash disposal on 49 hectares of land near Keremeos.

5) \$33 175 to the Stone Band and to the Nemaiah Valley Band, southwest of Williams Lake - to conduct beetle surveys on just over 1 400 hectares of land.

6) \$30 000 to the Ohiaht Band, near Bamfield - for spacing on 30 hectares of band property.

7) \$18 148 to the Coldwater Band, near Merritt - for pruning activities on 35 hectares of band property.

An additional \$50 344 was distributed among nine other British Columbia bands to conduct a variety of forest management activities, including spacing, pruning and surveys.

UNDER ATTACK



Each year the forests of British Columbia are damaged by a multitude of insects and disease.

The damage they cause has a negative effect on forest management and the economic potential of our forests.

Experts endeavor to better understand the biology of forest pests, diseases, injuries and animal damage to reduce the effect these agents have on B.C.'s forests.

It's the person in the field, however, who first encounters insect and disease damage, and often without the knowledge or experience to identify what the cause may be.

For more information about forest pests and diseases in British Columbia contact:

**Forestry Canada,
Pacific & Yukon Region
Pacific Forestry Centre
506 West Burnside Road
Victoria, British Columbia
V8Z 1M5**



Forest Insects

Damage typically includes gouting, deformity or chlorosis (a condition marked by yellowing), tunnels in wood, destroyed branch tips, mined or clipped needles.

Based on their eating habits, there are three groups:

Defoliators

Sucking Insects

Woody Tissue Feeders (e.g. Bark beetles)



Forest Diseases

Damage typically includes needle or tip necrosis (localized death of tissue), wood decay and/or staining, deformity and stem/branch cankering. Forest diseases can be divided into six groups based on the part of the tree affected:

Root Diseases

Branch/Stem Cankers and Diebacks

Branch/Stem Rusts

Broom Rusts

Dwarf Mistletoes

Needle Casts, Blights and Rusts



Abiotic Injuries

Disorders caused by non-living agents are termed abiotic. These include nutrient deficiencies, sunscald, ice/snow/hail/frost damage and fume damage.



Animal Damage

Depending on the species involved, damage may include chewed or cut roots, debarking of the main stem or branches, and/or removal of foliage and buds.

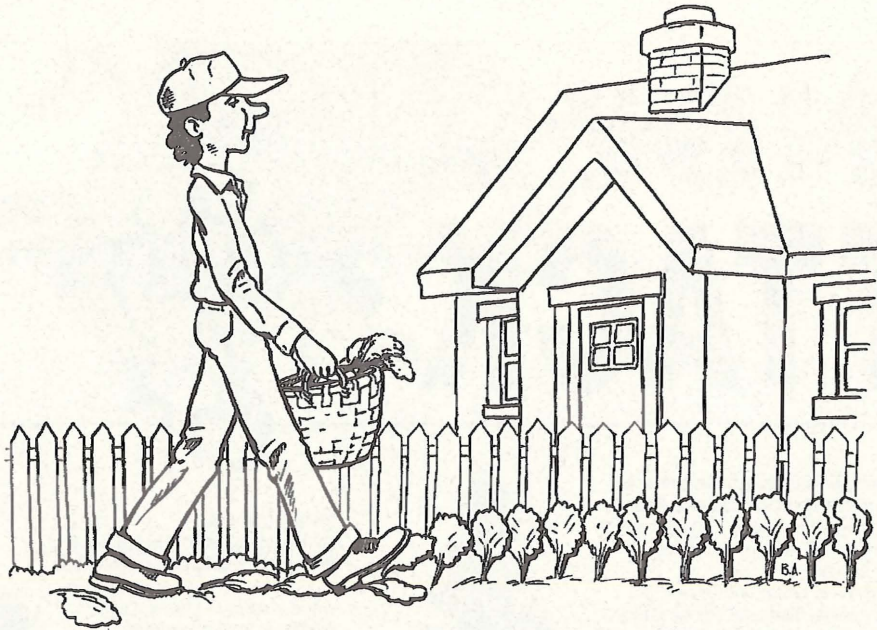


Canada

BC

Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development: FRDA

You don't do this...



So why do this?



**Protect the young trees -
you'll need them tomorrow!**

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Articles from this issue may be reprinted without permission. Contact Dave Haley, Forestry Canada, 363-0707 for further information.

Editors: Dave Haley/Lorraine Blashill

Layout: John Wiens

Contributors: Mark Atherton,
Catherine Shapcott

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