ISSN 0706-9413

INFORMATION FORESTRY

Environment Canada
Canadian Forestry Service

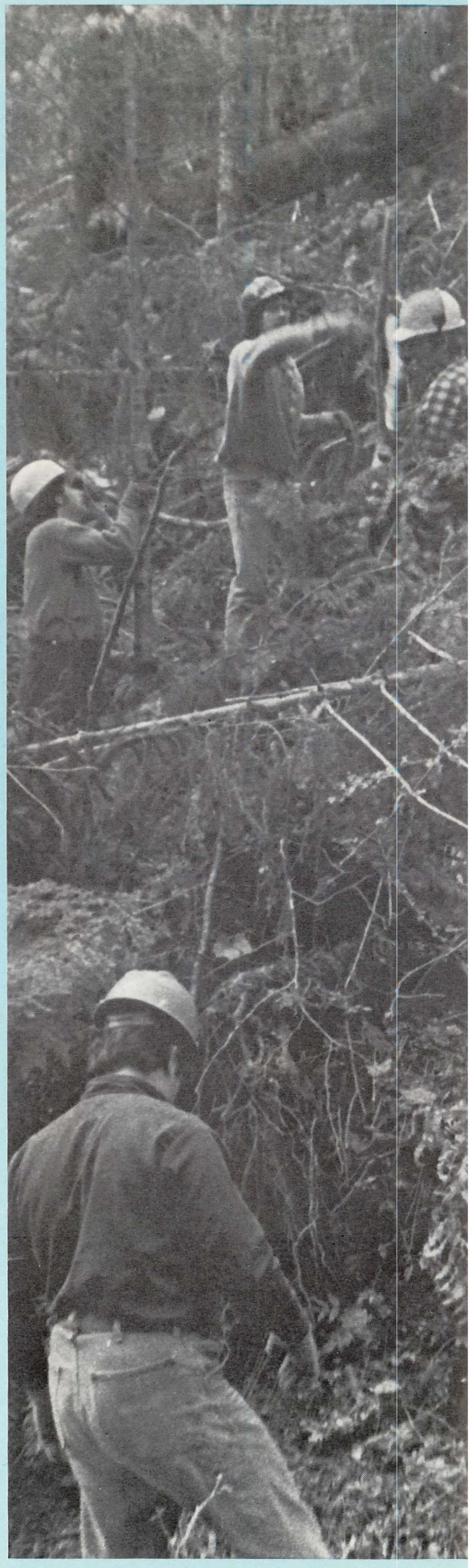
Environnement Canada
Service canadien des forêts

Pacific Forest Research Centre

Vol. 10, No. 2, 1983

See story on page 4.

Job Stimulation Program
A SUCCESS



EBAP spells SUCCESS in British Columbia.

Actually, the acronym really stands for Employment Bridging Assistance Program—and its nothing short of a success story for the two federal and two provincial government departments who sponsored this program aimed at creating job opportunities in intensive forest management projects during the difficult period of high unemployment.

In the spring of 1982, the unemployment rate across Canada in the forest sector stood at a record high of 34,5%, with the logging sector being the hardest hit. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, the federal government decided to apply Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act which allows people on Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) to be employed on economically productive projects and to receive a supplementary wage benefit. This section of the act had been implemented only once before in a small project in Prince Edward Island.

Across Canada, up to $140 million in U.I. benefits were allocated to the forestry sector, with the Canadian Forestry Service (CFS), contributing an additional $34,5 million to cover overhead and administrative costs. Additionally, certain provinces also contributed to the program.

In British Columbia, $24 million was committed from the U.I. fund of Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. The CFS earmarked more than $7 million to cover operating costs, which by the end of the fiscal year 1982-83 was increased to over $12 million. Additionally, the provincial government of British Columbia, through the Ministries of Labour and Forests, contributed $10 million to the program.

EBAP was designed to create immediate job opportunities in the forestry sector and to allow forestry-dependent communities to retain their skilled workers, maintain their forestry payroll and sustain the communities' social and economic vigor. A complimentary program on federal native lands was also created and by the end of March 1983, 36 projects employing 524 workers for a value of $3 251 687 were approved.

How It Works

EBAP projects are sponsored by a company engaged in the forest industry or by some sponsor capable of implementing an acceptable project. To qualify, projects must not compete with or duplicate existing forest management and protection activities, and priority is given to those which create the most jobs and contribute the most towards forest renewal.

Participation in the program is voluntary. A worker must be receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits. This, along with the subsidy from British Columbia, brings the weekly wage to a maximum of $300 per week plus a substantial benefit package.

Participants have ranged from carpenters to painters to unemployed forestry workers. They have more than a layoff notice in common—they'd rather be swinging a shovel or wielding a chainsaw than staying home and collecting unemployment insurance cheques.

EBAP was officially launched in British Columbia in June 1982 when the first

11 projects creating a total of 117 jobs were approved. The program had some growing pains initially, but the questions such as "does the labour code apply?", "who is the employer?", "what about Workers' Compensation?", etc., were quickly resolved.

By the end of March 1983, almost 6 000 people working an average of 14 weeks each on some 570 projects had participated in EBAP. Almost $38 million had been spent by both levels of government in British Columbia. Several months into the program, it became apparent the money committed by the CFS was insufficient to keep it rolling. The original allotment of $7,6 million was increased by more than $4 million, bringing the total CFS commitment to $12 million—almost half of the money set aside by the CFS for the entire country.

The money contributed by the CFS for operating costs covers such expenses as renting vehicles, power saws and other equipment, as well as the purchase of gas, supplies, safety equipment including on-site fire equipment, third party insurance and a "top-up" for foremen or supervisors.

Most of the projects approved under EBAP are in the small communities hardest hit by unemployment such as the Northwest, Vancouver Island and Nelson districts. While over 50% of the projects are in the intensive forestry practice of juvenile spacing, other projects include opening areas for silviculture work by creating or improving forest roads, insect and disease control, brushing and weeding in established plantations and site preparation for future plantations.

Dean Mills, Job Creation Officer with the CFS and EBAP Coordinator in the Pacific and Yukon Region, says the quality of work on the EBAP projects is generally first class.

"Not only that, people are learning new skills and a whole new work force is gaining experience in intensive forest management practices."

An Example

Mr. Mills cites the Municipality of North Cowichan (some 80 km north of Victoria) as an excellent example of a project sponsor that has combined the training of unskilled workers with good forestry practices while taking advantage of the EBAP program. At any one time, the Municipality has up to 70 workers on various projects.

Just prior to the inception of EBAP, the municipality had developed a five-year forest management plan for the 10 000 acre forest they repossessed back in the 1930s in lieu of unpaid taxes. Sometime in the 1940s, the municipal council made a commitment to preserve the forest for the benefit of the community and to subdivide some of it into 10 woodlots for revenue.

David Haley, the forester who was hired by the Municipality to implement the five-year plan, looks upon the timing of EBAP as most fortuitous.

"The EBAP program has allowed us to conduct the very first bit of forest management ever done on this forest since the Municipality took it over 50 years ago and we are most pleased with the quality and quantity of work," said Mr. Haley.

Crews have been working on pruning, spacing, forest assessment, stand tending, fireproofing and thinning.

"It has allowed us to accelerate our five-year plan to accomplish much more work to date than we had originally conceived under the plan," says **Chuck Backman**, who has been hired to assist Haley with the job creation programs.

Some Kudos

Ross Macdonald, Director of the Canadian Forestry Service in the Pacific and Yukon Region, is more than gratified by the support EBAP has received from local government officials, industry heads, unions, and the general public.

"We have received correspondence and comments in support of EBAP which typically include the following opinions," said Mr. Macdonald.

"Projects in our village are not simply 'making work for work's sake'; they are projects of lasting value to the whole community. . . The participants are proud of their accomplishments. In many cases, they're even learning new skills or improving rusty ones."

— Angus Davis
Mayor, Village of Fraser Lake

"The member companies of the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia are unanimous in their recognition and appreciation of the Employment Bridging Assistance Program, and the vital role which it has played to date in providing employment for forest industry workers and maintaining community stability in areas which depend on the forestry industry."

— D.A. Lanskail
President and Chief Executive Officer, Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia

" . . . we consider the EBAP program an unqualified success and strongly recommend that it be maintained through 1983. The program continues to produce excellent results in forestry activities and, more important, it provides the incentive for an unemployed individual to be involved in meaningful work."

— W.G. Burch, R.P.F.
Vice President
Timberlands and Forestry
B.C. Forest Products Ltd.

Some signs of economic recovery in the forest industry are becoming apparent. However, both the federal and provincial government departments sponsoring EBAP are aware it will be some time before the impact will be felt by the laid-off worker.

In terms of continuation of EBAP, CFS now has sufficient funds to support extensions of ongoing projects up to June 30, 1983 and are seeking additional funds to carry the program to the end of the year. ●

Water bombers to be purchased

Environment Minister **John Roberts** announced federal government plans to spend up to $147 million over the next four years to purchase 20 CL-215 water bombers.

The aircraft are to be built by Canadair in Montreal and will be purchased through a cooperative supply agreement with the provinces. Under the terms of such an agreement, the federal government would purchase four aircraft for use in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and up to 16 planes on a one-to-one matching basis with the provinces. Consultations are underway with the provinces to finalize arrangements for their participation in the water bomber purchase program.

Over the past two years since Cabinet approved the **Forest Sector Strategy for Canada**, federal support and funding for the forest sector has increased significantly in the areas of human resources; research and development; forest renewal; job creation under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act (see story on page 2); administration of the forest resource development agreements; and forest fire suppression.

In making the announcement, Mr. Roberts said the government's contribution to a national fleet of water bombers will go a long way towards forestry protection, which is a key element of the federal forestry strategy.

Mr. Roberts noted that, over the last five years, forest fires have burned on the average three and one-half times more forest land than was harvested by the forest products industry. "The water bombers will constitute a national fleet to meet peak fire season needs when provincial fire-fighting resources are fully committed," said Mr. Roberts. "That's when failure to have enough 'flying fire trucks' results in escaped fires which are the most difficult to contain and where hundreds of millions of dollars of timber are lost," he added.

Mr. Roberts said the water bomber purchase program is an excellent example of federal-provincial cooperation to address a major national need.

In 1982, a federal-provincial Forest Fire Task Force identified a need to bolster the provincial fleets and to provide for added water bombing capability to meet peak fire season needs. ●

Winter moth control program progressing well

Counts taken by Canadian Forestry Service staff last fall and winter indicate the release of parasitic wasps and flies to control the winter moth problem in Victoria is on its way to success.

Dr. Imre Otvos, an entomologist at the Pacific Forest Research Centre who has been active in the monitoring program, is encouraged by the fact that quantities of **both** species of parasites were recovered for the first time in 1982. This means that both parasites are capable of surviving the climatic conditions of Victoria's winter and should continue to multiply and take hold.

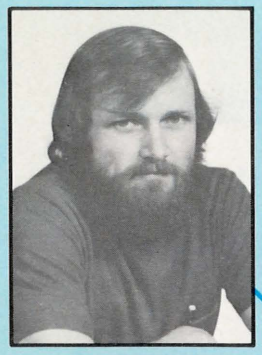
Between 1979 and 1981, natural enemies of the winter moth—a parasitic wasp (*Agrypon flaveolatum*) and a parasitic fly (*Czyzenis albicans*)—were imported from Europe and Nova Scotia and were released at some 33 locations throughout Greater Victoria. More were released last year, totalling about 18 000 flies and 11 000 wasps.

These two natural enemies of the winter moth—a voracious eater of the leaves of fruit and ornamental trees—are "host specific", that is, they attack and feed only on various stages of the winter moth and are harmless to humans or crops.

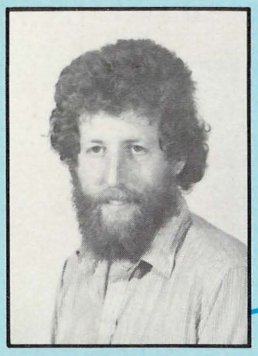
Monitoring activities this year will include visiting all 33 release sites to make visual observations on the presence or absence of the parasites, as well as measuring the density of the number of winter moth larvae and their parasites at selected locations to detect increases or decreases in populations. After feeding is completed next fall, Dr. Otvos and staff will attempt to estimate what percentage of defoliation damage can be attributable to the winter moth and compare these figures with previous years' figures.

Residents of Victoria can expect some relief from the winter moth this Spring; however, it will be another year or two before the problem can be considered to be under control and the program considered a complete success. The program did experience a slight setback when the introduced parasites were, in turn, attacked by native secondary (hyper) parasites, thus reducing the effectiveness of the introduced species. However, this appears to be levelling off at this time. ●

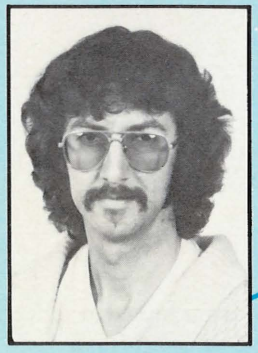
1983 FIDS
Field Assignments



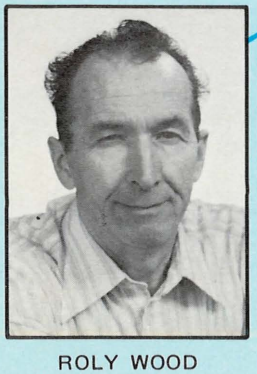
LEO UNGER
Smithers
847-3174



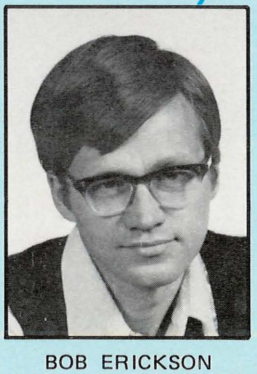
NICK HUMPHREYS
Terrace
635-7660



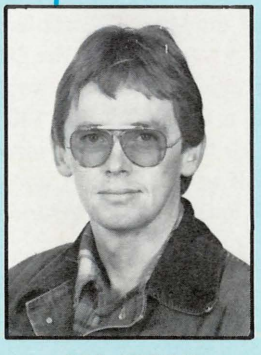
JOHN VALLENTGOED
Comox
339-4722



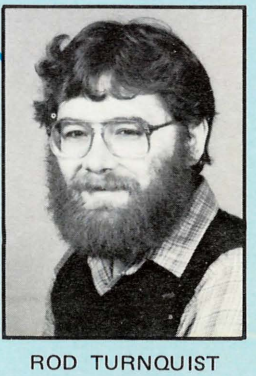
ROLY WOOD
Agassiz
796-2042



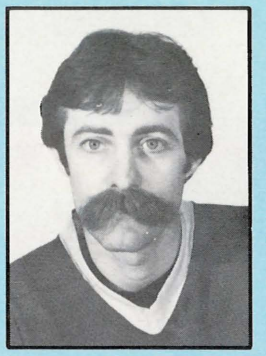
BOB ERICKSON
Kamloops
372-1241



BOB FERRIS
Summerland
494-8742

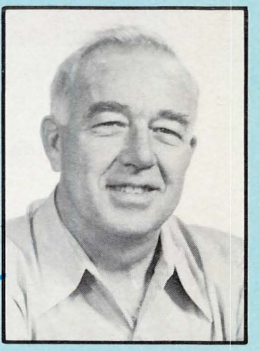


ROD TURNQUIST
New Denver
358-2264

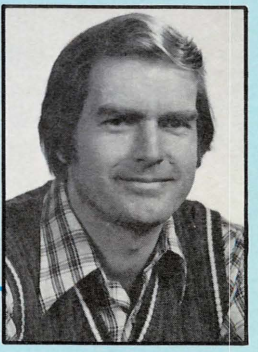


JIM LORANGER
Prince George
963-7238

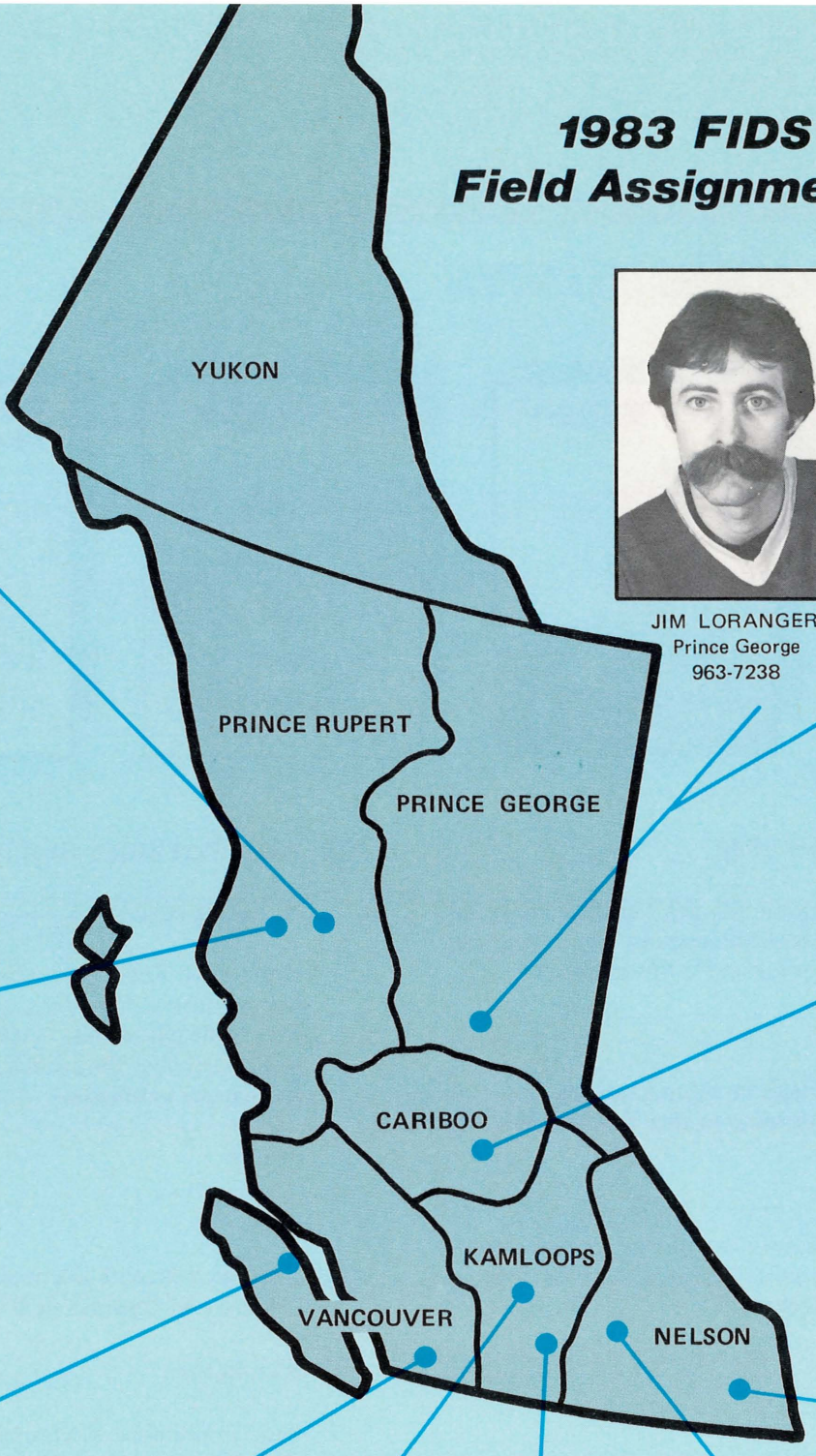
ROD GARBUTT
Prince George
963-7238



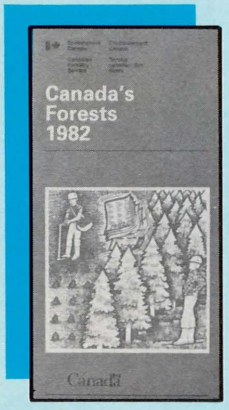
DICK ANDREWS
Williams Lake
392-6067

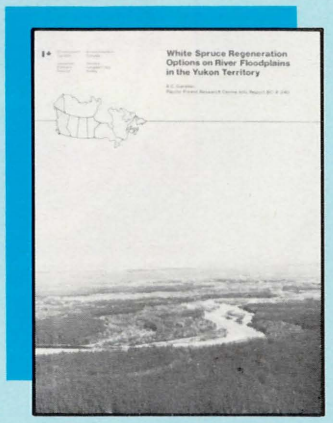


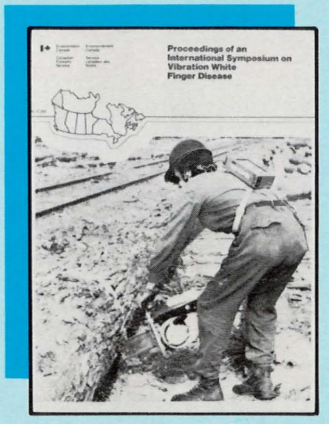
PETER KOOT
Wasa Lake
422-3465



New Publications







Canada's Forests 1982

Statistical information on area classification, wood volume, primary forest production, forest industries, exports, etc., are presented in this brochure.

White Spruce Regeneration Options On River Floodplains in the Yukon Territory

A.C. Gardner

White spruce regeneration options were replicated for two years on two sites. Results of these plantings are detailed in this report.

BC-X-240

Proceedings of An International Symposium On Vibration White Finger Disease

Symposium proceedings of the May 1982 conference held in Vancouver, B.C. and sponsored by the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, University of British Columbia. Experts estimate about 100 000 Canadians are candidates for the disease and surveys have shown more than half of B.C. loggers are afflicted with it. (See article in last issue of Information Forestry.)

BC-X-241

White Pine Blister Rust in British Columbia

Richard S. Hunt

White pine blister rust, which was introduced to North America from Asia, attacks all the soft or five-needle pine species in North America. This 8-page leaflet describes life history, damage, recognition, and control techniques.

FPL 26

Common Insects Damaging Junipers, Cedars and Cypress in British Columbia

R.W. Duncan

Basic descriptions and life histories are provided to aid in the recognition and control of insects commonly found damaging cedars, junipers and cypress.

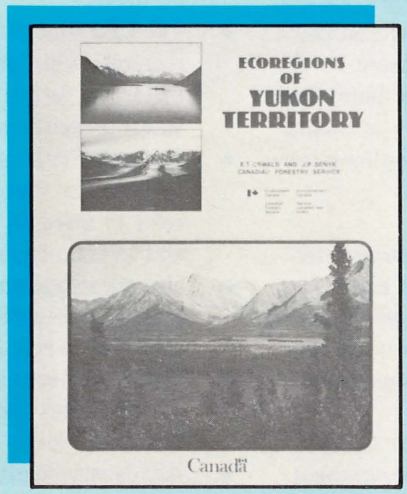
FPL 70

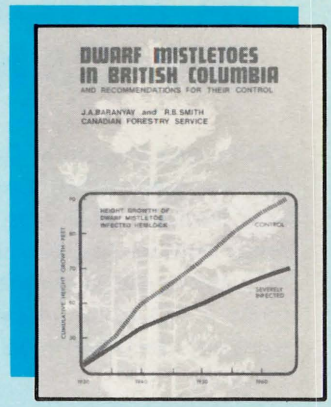
Forest Insect and Disease Survey, Annual Reports 1978 and 1979

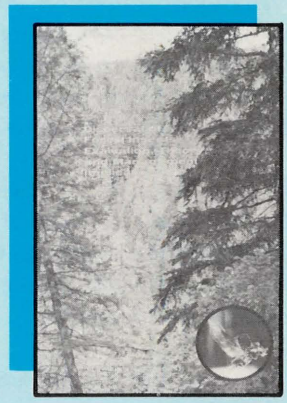
Technical difficulties delayed the production of the 1978 and 1979 annual reports. Those of you who may already have the latest volume, 1981, may wish this copy to complete the series for historical purposes.

Oldies but Goodies

(reprinted due to heavy demand)







Ecoregions of Yukon Territory

E.T. Oswald and J.P. Senyk

This report describes a reconnaissance level biophysical survey of the Yukon Territory which recognizes 22 ecoregions and describes the biophysical data that was collected during the 1975 survey or from literature reviewed. The primary feature used to segregate and describe the ecoregions was the vegetation on different landforms under a regional climate.

BC-X-164

Dwarf Mistletoes in British Columbia and Recommendations for Their Control

J.A. Baranyay and R.B. Smith

Dwarf mistletoes are widespread in British Columbia and cause considerable reduction in yield and quality of lodgepole pine, western hemlock, western larch and Douglas-fir; however, they are the most amenable to control of all agents causing disease in forest stands.

BC-X-72

Proceedings of the Second IUFRO Conference On Dispersal of Forest Insects: Evaluation, Theory and Management Implications

A.A. Berryman and L. Safranyik (Editors)

Limited copies of this August 1979 conference proceedings are available.

Copies of these publications may be obtained by filling out the enclosed card and returning it to the PFRC Information Office.

Special Publication Offer

An Ecological Framework For Environmental Impact Assessment in Canada

Published by Institute for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University in cooperation with Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office.

This publication is the result of two years of intensive investigation by the project team, involving over 150 of the foremost practitioners of environmental assessment. It represents an important advance in the scientific methodology of EIA in Canada.

Available from Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, 13th floor, Fontaine Building, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3.

SCIENCE COUNCIL OF CANADA REPORTS ON 'CANADA'S THREATENED FORESTS'

The Science Council of Canada recently issued a report titled "Canada's Threatened Forests" which says the country's forest resource has been allowed to degenerate to such a dangerous point that today a $23 billion industry is facing economic stagnation requiring long-term solutions.

"The forest industry is the largest net contributor to our balance of trade. But we have been cutting, selling and shipping our timber so recklessly for so long that the industry literally faces stagnation."

In its statement, the Science Council hopes to alert all levels of government, as well as the industry, to the gravity of the situation while setting forth recommendations for action.

Recommendations contained within the report include:

- Upgrade the status of Canadian forestry with a ministry of its own.
- Rebuild the long-term R&D capability of the Canadian Forestry Service (CFS) with annual budget increases of 10%.
- The CFS should assume leadership in research with priorities on basic research, forest production and forest protection.
- Negotiate federal-provincial research agreements that clarify respective roles in research related to forestry and forest management.
- Use these agreements to stimulate greater provincial and industrial investment in research.
- Establish mechanisms to set regional priorities and coordinate the national research effort.
- Aid development of forestry schools through funding and greater interaction.
- Assure greater long-term funding of university research related to forestry.
- The Natural Sciences Engineering Research Council should be encouraged in its Forestry Development Program and should establish a selection committee to award renewable resources management grants in order to stimulate research related to advanced practices in forest management.

The report states that some positive action has already been taken. The Minister of the Environment has announced new funding to support forestry research and development and renewal programs. Federal-provincial renewal and research agreements are being negotiated.

"The Science Council welcomes the initiatives already taken. Much more needs to be done however, before it can be said that Canada's forests are no longer threatened."

Copies of the statement "Canada's Threatened Forests" may be obtained by writing: Science Council of Canada, 100 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5M1. ●

$14 MILLION EXTENSION TO PFRC ANNOUNCED

Environment Minister **John Roberts** was in Victoria May 11 to announce that $14 million will be provided under the Special Recovery Projects Program to expand and upgrade the research facilities at the Pacific Forest Research Centre.

Major features of the new construction will include the provision of increased laboratory space, construction of new greenhouses and the implementation of energy conservation measures that will reduce the centre's operating costs. The architects are already at work on the design and construction is expected to start in the summer of 1984, with completion scheduled for March 1986.

"This will double the floor space we presently have in our main building and I am most encouraged by the government's commitment to upgrading the forest research facilities here," said **Ross Macdonald**, Regional Director of the Canadian Forestry Service, Pacific and Yukon Region.

INFORMATION FORESTRY

Published quarterly by:

Environment Canada
Canadian Forestry Service
Pacific Forest Research Centre
506 West Burnside Road
Victoria, British Columbia
V8Z 1M5

388-3811, local 119

Editor . . . . . Elaine Teske
Design . . . . . John Wiens
Distribution . . . . Blanche Page

Canada