

**2009 Annual Report from the Board of Directors
March 2010**

Bulkley Valley Research Centre 2009 Board of Directors:

Sybille Haeussler, President
Don Morgan, Vice President, Director of Operations
Anne Harfenist, Secretary
Brian Edmison, Treasurer
Phil Burton
Debbie Cichowski
Rosemary Fox
Brian Fuhr
Jim McCormack
Bob Mitchell
Irene Ronalds
Laurence Turney
Jim Pojar, Past President

Bulkley Valley Research Centre Support Personnel:

Continuing Personnel

Rick Budhwa, Research Program Manager
Kirsteen Laing, Administrative Manager
Amanda Follett, Communications Coordinator
Beth Henderson, Research Assistant
Erica Lilles, Soil & Vegetation Scientist (maternity leave March 2009)
Alana Clason, NSERC Researcher

New Personnel (2009)

Sheldon Haftner, Research Assistant
Ingrid Granlin, Community Outreach Coordinator

2009 – Year in Review:

2009 was indeed a challenging year. Regular sources of funding were reduced, and in some cases eliminated. There was less of an opportunity to perform forestry related research. A major challenge for us in 2009/2010 will continue to be the radically reduced funding available from the provincial government, among other funding sources. However, the recent federal budget announced a dramatic increase in funding available for applied research in colleges and universities, which presents another funding opportunity for the Centre and further research collaboration.

Some of our successes included diversifying our funding sources, establishing new relationships with foundations and environmental non-governmental organizations, and hosting a successful international conference on Skeena salmon habitat research. We also continued to develop new and innovative research projects, such as our Valley Vision project.

One of the greatest strengths of the Centre is its ability to adapt and remain flexible during challenging times. In 2009, the Centre was fiscally responsible and maintained its administrative and research capacity within a positive and dynamic work environment. This is a good achievement, given the fact that other similar not-for-profit research related organizations experienced significant difficulties.

While 2010 will also be challenging, the Centre is well positioned to endure any challenges that may present themselves. We will continue to keep administration costs to a minimum, build new relationships, and diversify our funding sources. The strength of our governance and operational structure has become a leader in the province, and it will continue to guide us forward in the upcoming years.

Scientific Research and Projects: The Centre was involved in 45 projects throughout the year. It was awarded 18 new projects, completed 23 projects, and will be carrying 22 projects forward to 2010. We also submitted numerous other project proposals and letters of intent. Contracts awarded to the Centre in 2009 totaled \$384,785.

Scientific Extension: In 2009, the Centre:

- maintained and updated its website, www.bvcentre.ca
- developed the *Forest Stand Neighbourhood Dynamics Research and Modeling* website, www.bvcentre.ca/sortie-nd
- hosted a public workshop (*Complexity Science and Global Change*, February 2009)
- held a training workshop (*Below the Detection Limit: Problems, Definitions, Data and Solutions*, February 2009)
- held a training course (*Instream Flow Habitat Monitoring*, June 2009)
- hosted a conference (*Skeena Salmon Habitat Conference*, September 2009)
- hosted 12 public biweekly *Research Seminars* in partnership with Northwest Community College
- provided administrative support to the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust (www.babinetrust.ca)
- maintained the Valley Vision website (www.valleyvision.ca) to support coordinated land use planning in the Bulkley Valley
- prepared the following documents (available at www.bvcentre.ca/research/reports)

Research Reports (11):

- *Do Whitebark Pine – Lichen Ecosystems of West Central British Columbia Display Tipping Point Behaviour in Response to Cumulative Stress?*
- *Ecosystems of Central and North Coast and South Central Coast BC*
- *Effects of Prescribed Burning on Aspen Mortality and Vigour (short report)*
- *Effects of Grassland Restoration Treatments on Ungulate Use of Northwest BC Grasslands*
- *Conservation and Restoration of Northwest BC Grasslands*

- *The influence of disturbance type, competition and resource availability on species response to climate change in northwest British Columbia, Canada*
- *Analysis of climate data from Smithers, BC: can we expect an increase in conditions favourable to dothistroma reproduction?*
- *Development of a spatially explicit crown model*
- *Developing indicators of soil productivity, function and biodiversity through soil biotic communities*
- *Northern Goshawks in West-Central British Columbia*
- *Sensitive Ecosystems of the Atlin-Taku Planning Area*

Extension Note (1):

- *Effects of Cumulative Disturbance on Endangered Whitebark Pine – Lichen Woodland Ecosystems of West Central B.C.*

Research Note (1):

- *Threatened Whitebark Ecosystems at their Northern Limits in BC*

Posters (2):

- *Endangered Ecosystems Research in Parks and Protected Areas of West Central British Columbia*
- *Valley Vision Poster*

Conference Proceedings (1):

- *Skeena Salmon Habitat Conference – Proceedings*

Symposium, Seminar, or Conference Presentations (2):

- *Ecological resilience of Whitebark pine - Cladina lichen ecosystems at the northwest limit of the species' range*
- *The role of ecophysiological and phenological processes during regeneration in increasing tree species sensitivity to climate change in British Columbia, Canada and south-east Victoria, Australia*

Other Documents (2):

- *Guidelines for computing summary statistics for data-sets containing non-detects (Guidance Document)*
- *Ruby Creek Special Management Area Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (Expanded Legend)*

In addition to the above more formalized reports there were many Abstracts, Executive Summaries, Progress Reports, and Funder Reports that are not mentioned here but are also available on the website at www.bvcentre.ca/research/reports/.

Communications and Outreach:

- Awarded the Jim Pojar and Irving Fox Awards at the AGM (March 2009)
- Awarded the Volunteer Distinction Award at the AGM (March 2009)
- Produced two newsletters (June 2009, November 2009)
- Held an open house (December 2009).

Research and Funding Diversification: The Centre has worked very hard at diversifying our funding sources as well as our research areas. In 2009, we substantially diversified our funding sources from 13 to 20. We have also engaged other areas of research, such as climate change and fisheries.

Governance & Administration: In 2009 the Centre acquired 23 new members for a total of 123.

Scholarship Program: *The Bulkley Valley Research Centre - Irving Fox Memorial Scholarship for Natural Resources Research and Management* was awarded to Nicole Glover.

Enhancing Community Capacity: The Centre paid \$62,515 for administrative support and \$294,338 to researchers who work in the northwest (QCI to Vanderhoof) and \$103,482 on other local expenditures. Moreover, the Centre has directed many other business opportunities towards local enterprises as a result of our extensive research network and relationships.