



Newsletter #2

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Seminar Series

We continue to facilitate collaboration between researchers in the region by organizing the Natural Resources Seminar Series. Sybille Haeussler is coordinating the Wednesday noon hour Seminar Series again this year. If you are interested in the Seminar Series, but don't receive notices of upcoming seminars, please send a note to admin@bvcentre.ca, and we will add your name to the distribution list. Upcoming seminars are also described on our website.

Looking Ahead

Our Second Annual General meeting will be held **February 8, 2005**, at the Ironhorse Cafe, 6:30 pm. The agenda and required annual report will be circulated before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

As the BV Research Centre approaches its second anniversary, we would like to present a brief summary of the Centre's activities over the past year and let you know of our plans over the short term.

Membership

Our membership has grown to 71, including four "Supporting Members". The Board is embarking on a membership drive in January. Our goal is to get more members from outside the Bulkley Valley and to recruit members with an interest in new research areas such as mining, tourism and fisheries. Steve Gordon is the lead director for the Membership Drive. If you know someone you think may be interested in joining the Centre, contact ed@bvcentre.ca, and we will ensure that a Director contacts that person with information on what the Centre does.

Research Program

The BV Research Centre has now completed five research projects; reports from these projects are available on our website.

The Centre has eight active research projects:

- Babine Watershed Monitoring Framework
- Processes and Structures of the Ecosystems of the Skeena Islands
- Growth and Yield Implications of Alternative Silvicultural Strategies in Mountain Pine Beetle-Damaged Stands
- Predicted Impacts of Hard Pine Rusts in Lodgepole Pine-Dominated Juvenile Stands in Central BC
- Implications of Landscape Composition and Pattern in Managed Sub-Boreal Forests
- MSMA Impacts on Non-Target Plant Species
- Forest Ecosystem Recovery Following Disturbance
- SORTIE/BC Programming and Training

Strategic Planning

You will have recently received a message requesting your participation in a short web-based survey developed to solicit the views of both members and non-members about the BV Research Centre. The survey results will guide us as we develop our new 5-year strategic plan and begin a membership drive. Of course, your comments are always welcome and you can contact us anytime at info@bvcentre.ca.

Staffing Update

In May, the BV Research Centre hired its first part-time Executive Director, Kevin Kriese. The Executive Director is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Centre, under the direction of the Board. Major responsibilities of the ED are to negotiate contracts for delivery of centre projects, prepare funding proposals, and represent the Centre to potential partners, government, or funders. You can contact Kevin at ed@bvcentre.ca.

The Centre is fortunate to have hired Kirsteen Laing as part-time Administrative Assistant. Her duties include managing the finances, contract administration, and maintaining communications such as the website. You can contact Kirsteen at admin@bvcentre.ca.

Research Proposals

Researchers working with the BV Research Centre have prepared more than 22 funding proposals in the past 6 months. These proposals have largely been in response to calls for proposals from major research funding programs.

The Centre has submitted proposals to:

- Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (administered by the Canadian Forest Service);
- British Columbia Forest Sciences Program;
- Sustainable Forest Management Network; and
- BC Centre for Climate Change.

At the time of writing, the Centre has been asked to submit more detailed proposals for four projects to the Forest Sciences Program, and has been given approval-in-principle for a project with the BC Centre for Climate Change.

The Centre assisted in raising concerns regarding the funding and evaluation process used for the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative. Thanks to our MP, Nathan Cullen, for arranging a meeting with representatives of the Canadian Forest Service, where the concerns with the program were raised.

To date, we have developed proposals in response to published Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and we will continue to do so. However, as the Centre's capacity grows we are embarking on a more directed search for funding to address the recommended research priorities identified by our Research Planning Committee.

If you are interested in more information on funding sources or wish to participate in developing a proposal with the BV Research Centre, please contact Executive Director Kevin Kriese at ed@bvcentre.ca.

Natural Resources Scholarship

This spring, the BV Research Centre took over responsibility for administering the Renewable Resources Scholarship. The Scholarship is made annually to a promising student pursuing post-secondary education in a field related to the conservation and management of renewable natural resources. The Centre has set up a special account to manage the scholarship, so that people can make a donation directly to the fund.

**BV Research Centre Board
of Directors (2004-2005):**

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Our target is to provide a scholarship of a minimum of \$500, preferably \$1000 each year.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact our Administrative Assistant at admin@bvcentre.ca or send a cheque to BV Research Centre, Box 4274, Smithers, B.C., V0J 2N0, Attn: Scholarship.

Extension

Public extension is an important component of the BV Research Centre's mission and during the last year we expanded beyond the seminar series.

Our Skeena Islands project included a field extension day with the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, and Forest Licences.

We also co-sponsored the Climate Change Workshop held in Prince George in mid-November. This meeting focused on delivering the latest information on observed and predicted changes in climate within B.C. and on developing tools that will engage communities in incorporating climate changes into their planning decisions.

The BV Research Centre is well placed both to provide information on climate change impacts in our region and to engage and assist communities in the incorporation of this knowledge into current and future planning decisions.

In Thanks

We thank all of our members for their support over the last year. We greatly appreciate the continued support of our Supporting Members: Canfor, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Pacific Inland Resources, and our newest Sustaining Member, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Sincerely,

BV Research Centre Board of Directors (2004-2005)