

and compulsory Pre-Harvest Silviculture Prescriptions (PHSPs) must be approved by one of the 2250 Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) who belong to the Association of the Professional Foresters (ABCPF). Controversies over PHSPs and logging practices, particularly road failures, excessive clearcut size and damage to salmon streams have created great controversy and put the forest companies, who have licences on Crown Forests, in a very defensive position. A corporate funded Forest Alliance has been created which attempts to explain and provide facts about corporate forest management. The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the major companies have signed a Forest Accord – a set of guiding principles for forest management.

Ethical issues, biological diversity issues and the need for RPF competence have caused the ABCPF to re-examine its Code of Ethics and discipline procedures. One landmark case over professional forester incompetence has gone to the B.C. Supreme Court.

The NDP Government replaced the Forest Commission with a Committee on Resources and Environment (CORE) with a mandate to rationalise forest land use after consultation with the people and stake holders. The first set of recommendations for Vancouver Island resulted in the biggest demonstrations in B.C.'s history as about 20,000 people, bearing yellow ribbons, protested in March 1994 before the Provincial Legislature in support of the forest industry. Other attempts by CORE to rationalise land use regionally appear to have collapsed in controversy.

The NDP politicians, in response to such controversy by both pro-environmentalist and pro-logging groups, have responded with two initiatives. The first was to draw up a Forest Practice Code – a comprehensive amalgamation of old and new regulations to govern, in great detail, all aspects of forest practices, with tough enforcement and very large fines. The Code will apply to all public lands (96% of all the forest). It is due for legislative approval before the end of 1994.

The second was to propose a new stumpage increase of about \$10/m³, tied to lumber prices which would generate \$600 million annually. Of this, \$400 million would go to a new crown corporation (Forest Renewal B.C.) to be spent on more silviculture, Research and Development and job creation to offset job losses due to logging mechanisation and reduced allowable cuts. This Act should also be legislated in 1994.

The increasing intensity of forest practices, the great increase in forest revenues and the controversies have also had other

effects: a) massive media coverage for forestry issues, b) lots of jobs for foresters, c) a big increase in forest resource management and conservation biology enrolment at the University of B.C. Faculty of Forestry, d) the opening of two new University degree programmes in forestry in Kamloops and Prince George, and e) a complete reorganisation of the B.C. Forest Service.

The spending on silviculture in B.C., which is either "basic" or "intensive", has escalated to about \$420 million/year. The licensees are responsible for all costs of basic to "free growing". The Silviculture Institute of B.C., a private non-profit educational institute operating since 1985, now offers six two-week modules of Advanced Silviculture education for registered professional foresters with five years of field experience. The Forest Practice Code plus other issues have resulted

in a great increase in continuing Forestry Education. Federal contributions to B.C. Forestry will probably decline in Federal/Provincial agreements after 1996, as the Federal Government tries to reduce the massive national debt. The Federal Government has funded nine Model Forests across Canada, where local associations, outside of Government and industry, are given \$5 million each to introduce advanced forest management practices on each forest. B.C. has two Model Forests, one at Prince George and one at Long Beach. National hearings on 'clearcutting' were held in Ottawa this spring by the Renewable Resources Parliamentary Committee. All this change and activity means that most B.C. foresters today are stressed, due to overwork!

Gordon Weetman
University of British Columbia

West Coast forestry, on the move and testing new frontiers

The West Coast has long been seen as the black sheep of forestry in New Zealand, the last bastion of wanton and wasteful destruction.

Yet following the signing of the West Coast Forests Accord in 1986, and the corporatisation of the state's forestry assets in the region, there has been a quiet revolution taking place.

The Accord, signed in 1986 by Government, local authorities, mainstream conservation and environmental groups and the timber industry, was an important turning point. It aimed to achieve a consensus whereby deeply held opposing views might be wed in a restless but genuinely held intent to reach a compromise.

The measure of the Accord's success is often clouded by skirmishes on the fringes that continue to this day. Some proponents to the Accord tend to forget the original intent was to reach a consensus between the differing interests. Unfortunately some of these representatives are now trying to reincarnate their own original agendas. The Accord was never intended to provide a single perfect solution and answer; it aimed at producing a consensus agreement.

The consensus results ranged from:

- preserving all previously proposed reserves under the earlier "Protected Natural Areas Programme" and the creation of Paparoa National Park for the conservation movement, to,
- ensuring an adequate allocation of

indigenous forest to maintain available sawmilling industry into the future, to,

- setting a permanent base of activity for local government to encourage future development and growth in the West Coast region while
- providing a solution to the West Coast "problem" for Central Government.

In 1986 these views were modified to reach an agreement. Today dissatisfaction is being expressed by some individual factions for not achieving their own specific aims, certain extreme elements of the conservation movement because the Accord didn't stop all logging, parts of the timber industry because individual businesses cannot dictate when they feel the exotic resources are adequate to benefit them specifically.

Some would be surprised at the vigour with which a few individuals have devoted their energies to extract the literal from an intent, and convert the written into hearsay. Others however, from both conservation and industry, have continued to uphold the original intent and committed themselves to making the Accord work.

Through the smoke, tentative steps made possible by an uneasy calm in the eye of the storm have begun to yield a series of results. These results have placed indigenous forestry on the threshold of a changed era, an era headed squarely in the centre of the "big picture" set by the intent of the Accord.

Key components of the Accord established in 1986 are outlined below:

- An agreed transition to allow for the timber industry to move from traditional reliance on indigenous forests to a future of exotic resources.
- Approximately 166,000 hectares of indigenous forests immediately gazetted into conservation estate, including the creation of Paparoa National Park. Remaining indigenous production forests comprised only 5% of the total West Coast land area.
- South Westland rimu forests, Okarito and Saltwater, gazetted previously for sustainable management production, were reaffirmed for such use.
- Provision made for the sustainable management of a beech resource allocated expressly for that purpose.
- Unsustainable harvesting agreed to cease in Westland in December 1994, but continue at a low level in Buller until 2006.
- An earlier Government decision to compensate the South Westland people for production forest already placed into National Park status by establishing up to 10,000 hectares of "Special Purpose Species", was reaffirmed.

Having set the scene for dramatic change, the leading role in implementing these concepts into reality was assigned initially to the Forestry Corporation. This responsibility has now been passed on to Timberlands West Coast Limited, the State Owned Enterprise created in 1990 to manage the Crown's remaining indigenous production forests, under the intentions of the Accord. The company has a total resource base of 171,000 hectares, of which 24,000 hectares are stocked exotic plantations.

Probably the greatest challenge the organisation has faced is to try to remain neutral and attempt to stand off from the

arguments, instead concentrating on its efforts to help transform a traditional industry to one capable of facing the future.

Now, in 1994, what were only words and agreed ideas in 1986 have borne results and become reality. The final chapter of extensive indigenous production is closing while the new sustainable management regime opens the door to the future.

Today rimu is becoming appreciated for the precious timber it really is, and is consequently receiving higher returns. Prices are set to continue to increase over the coming years as the availability declines through drastically reduced production.

Currently Timberlands is harvesting approximately 130,000 cubic metres per annum. After December 1994 this will drop to approximately 8-10,000 cubic metres of sustainably managed rimu from South Westland and up to a further 17,000 cubic metres of overcut in Buller.

Improved returns, in conjunction with both the need for low-impact harvesting methods for the sustainable management operations, and the terrain which the remaining production rimu resource exists on, allowed Timberlands the opportunity of reviewing its harvesting methods.

The choice of harvesting by helicopter provided Timberlands with an operation which has proved to be efficient, economic and environmentally beneficial.

The helicopter's daily path across the West Coast skies symbolises the tides of change and transition in the region's timber industry. Utilising the latest technology and sophistication on a traditional resource represents the progression West Coast forestry is achieving, not only on a regional basis, but also on a national scale by being prepared to attempt practices new to the New Zealand industry as a whole. The high volumes of rimu pro-

duction are in their final stages, with the first two sustainably managed forests, in South Westland, having already been brought into production.

South Westland is also well advanced in the implementation of the Special Purpose Species programme, with a total of 1719 hectares already planted in *Acacia melanoxylon* and various cypresses.

The picture of West Coast forestry is colourful, one of general optimism and enthusiasm as both Timberlands and the sawmills position themselves to make the final major changes to a new future of diversity and opportunity, instigated by the feelings and beliefs of a range of people under the auspices of the West Coast Forests Accord.

There are, and will always continue to be, deeply held views at both ends of the scale who are vocal and determined to achieve their desires, but the deep commitment by the majority to move in a positive direction together should ensure positive and rational results will secure the future of West Coast forestry. Its reputation should change from being the black sheep of the industry, but its individuality will remain.

Liz Solari

Local Heritage in the Changing Tropics

The student chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF) at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies is organising a conference entitled Local Heritage in the Changing Tropics. The focus of the conference is on innovative ways in which customary claims and knowledge are being used by groups of 'local peoples' to manage and establish control of their natural resources. The conference is to be held on February 10-12, 1995 in New Haven. The proceedings will be published as part of the Yale School of Forestry Bulletin series.

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