

Newsletter

Protecting water and lives for 20 years



For Love
of Water

For Love of
our Work

*FLOW '99
New Denver, BC Aug. 20 - 22*

The FLOW 99 conference

aims to bring together participants interested in protecting drinking water and in building ecologically-sound, diversified economies for BC's forest-dependent communities. Organized by the Slokan Valley Watershed Alliance, the conference coordinating committee also includes forest workers.

Among the speakers and workshop leaders are: Micheal M'Gonigle, U Vic. Law professor and political economist and former Greenpeace Canada chair; Tom Milne, BC Ministry of Forests manager of the Lumby Log Sort Yard; Cheri Burda, forest policy strategist for the David

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PRWUA Joins International Community Forestry Movement

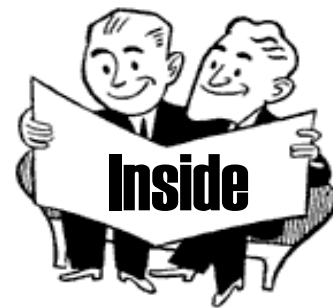
The PRWUA has joined a new international community forestry movement and has signed on to an International Statement on community forestry. This statement is supported by over eighty individuals from eighteen countries.

The "Saanich Statement" was developed by top community forestry experts from around the Asia-Pacific region during an international meeting held last October. The Statement lists key principles necessary to sustain

forests, communities and cultures around the world.

"This declaration sets out the needed actions and policy reforms at the local, national and international levels if we are to sustain the world's forests and the people that depend on them," says Cheri Burda, of the University of Victoria's Eco-Research Chair of Environmental Law and Policy, and FLOW speaker. who has coordinated the project.

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Suzuki Foundation; Dr. Fred Bass, health specialist from the BC Medical Assoc.; Herb Hammond, forester, author, and leading-edge proponent of ecosystem-based forest use; Lisa Matthaus, forest policy analyst for the Sierra Club of BC; Merve Wilkinson, legendary Vancouver Island ecoforestry practitioner; Professor Stan Fowe, forest ecologist and former research supervisor for the Canadian



Forestry Service; Marilyn James, appointed spokesperson for the Sinixt Nation; Robert Theobald, author of "Reworking Success" and renowned speaker and consultant; Colleen McCrory, internationally-recognized grassroots environmental organizer and chair of the Valhalla Wilderness Society; Ernie Niemi, Oregon economist and author of The Sky Did Not Fall: The Pacific Northwest's response to Logging Reductions; and Rami Rothkop and Ramona Faust, from the Harrop-Procter group just awarded BC's first community forest license to use ecosystem-based forestry.

The conference will also include a weekend-long arts/crafts/trade fair, two evenings of talented local entertainment, and children's events. A highlight will be the Sierra Club of BC's Rainforest Education Bus, a full size school bus transformed into a live, lush forest interior complete with

all the smells and sounds.

Conference fee: Sliding scale \$60-150 with \$30-50 for conference volunteers. Bursaries available reduce full weekend admission as low as \$15 for those willing to volunteer and who need some financial assistance. Advance registration encouraged and required for bursaries, please. To volunteer or to request bursaries, phone (250) 355-2206. All conference proceeds go to the Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance.

All the member groups of the Watershed Alliance are active in helping produce the FLOW 99 conference. Perry Ridge Water Users role is to assist at the Dance with "REELATIVITY" on Saturday night at the Silverton Memorial Hall. We have also produced the FLOW Web site at www.watertalk.org/flow. We still need volunteers to help at the dance and to supply baked goods. If you can help please call Kathryn at 226-7935 or Lori at 226-7968.

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"This new network will work to support community forestry locally and globally in a similar way to the Forest Stewardship Council's support for ecologically rigorous forest certification", says Dr. Michael M'Gonigle.

As well as linking North and South, the network links many sectors including NGO's, academics, policy makers, foresters, government, consultants, community groups and aboriginal groups.

Cheri Burda and Michael M'Gonigle will speak at the FLOW conference.

For more information contact Don Warthe At 355 2353 or visit the web site at:

www.forestsandcommunities.org

Update:



PRWUA Involved in Consultation Process For BC Regional Standards

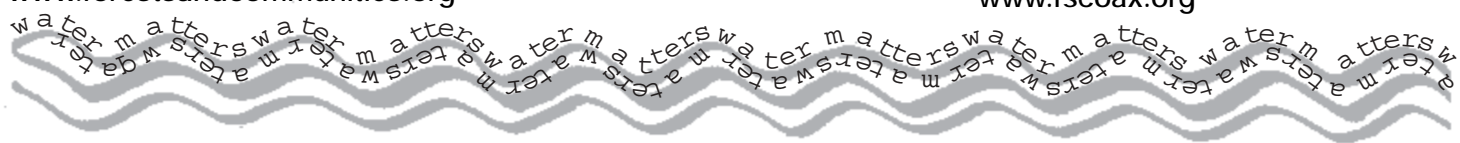
The PRWUA is working with other organizations across BC to develop the standards under which forestry initiatives may be certified. Representatives from environmental, social and economic groups are giving input into these standards.

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international, non-profit, independent organization whose goal is to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable

management of the worlds' forests.

To ensure that no single interest or perspective on forests dominates the decisions of the organization, all FSC decision making bodies world-wide are required to be made up of equal and balanced representation from at least three 'chambers' or interest areas: economic, environmental and social. Readers will find additional information about FSC on the international FSC web site at -

www.fscoax.org





Coulter Bay on Cortes Island

Ecosystem-Based Planning is on the Ground

By the Silva Forest Foundation

The Silva Forest Foundation (SFF) works with communities throughout the province to develop ecosystem-based mapping that maintains the forest, communities, and the economy. With the recent announcement of the Harrop-Procter community forest agreement, ecosystem-based forest use will soon be implemented on the ground.

Using the approaches first developed in the Slocan Valley, SFF worked with Harrop-Procter to develop ecosystem-based mapping for the watersheds behind the two West Arm communities. The Harrop-Procter community has worked very hard to gain the support of as many community members as possible for the ecosystem-based approach.

SFF has also completed ecosystem-based mapping with the Cortes Island community on the coast. The landscape level plan for the whole island has been applied in the preparation of a management plan and development plans for a woodlot managed by the Klahoose First Nation. SFF has also completed landscape level ecosystem-based mapping with the communities of the Slocan Valley, Denman Island, the Robson Valley (east of Prince George), and Yalakom (near Lillooet). Each community's mapping reflects the ecological and social realities of the area and each community uses the mapping and reports in ways unique to the community.

Rami Rothkop and Ramona Faust of Harrop-Procter, and Herb and Susan Hammond of Silva will be speaking at the FLOW conference.

What's In The Courts?

On September 14th in Nelson the government will be continuing its' lawsuit for trespass against the five Perry Ridge residents; Sandie Blaikie, Austin Greengrass, Frank Nixon, Gunther Retterath and Pam Stevenson. They were selected at random during the 1997 protest against the building of the logging road on Perry Ridge prior to any risk assessments. Most of them were not part of any blockade; some didn't even stand in the protest line. The residents are being represented by lawyer Kenyon McGee and aided by two investigators.



The government lost its original injunction against the road protest due to mischaracterization and suppression of technical reports at the time it sought the injunction. It is now asking the court for a new and permanent

injunction.

A separate action appealing the jailing of other defendants on an injunction that had previously been overturned is also proceeding. This is being handled by Marilyn Sandford, an attorney with Peter Ritchie's office in Vancouver.

Though the Perry Ridge Water Users Association is not involved in the court case, it has helped to pressure the government into funding a risk assessment of logging on Perry Ridge. The recently released report acknowledges high or very high risk to life, limb, property and/or water on much of the ridge.



Keep Your Wits About You!

Recently there has been a campaign of misinformation and lies directed against Perry Ridge Water Users Association and its' directors personally, spread by gossip. The reason, we feel, is because PRWUA has been effective in criticizing government plans for Perry Ridge.

The coming months promise to be busy for Perry Ridge. With the



government court case and the government sponsored planning table, (LRUP) winding down in the fall expect plenty of debate.

When in discussion watch out for some common techniques that try to divert your attention from the main issue or to distort the issue. “

These fallacies include ad hominem, the red herring and the straw man.”

Ad hominem (Latin for “to the man”) attacks are those that substitute personal smears for logical arguments.

Red herrings are unrelated issues dragged in to confuse.

Straw man arguments distort opponents' positions or set up entirely false positions, which are then triumphantly knocked down.

(From: *Reasoning Skills: success in 20 Minutes a Day*, by Elizabeth Chesla.)



Web Site News

The Perry Ridge Water User's Association

is on the web at
www.watertalk.org/SVWA

The Watertalk site focusses on the preservation of water quality, quantity and timing of flow. Sections of the site are devoted to the Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance, member groups of the alliance, Reports and more.

Complete details of the FLOW conference are available, and updates are made continually. The SVWA and Perry Ridge newsletters are posted. There are links to sources of newsletter articles and other watershed organisations. The Goat Mountain, Red Mountain and Elliot Anderson Christian Trozzo Residents' Associations now have pages linked to the SVWA page. Stay tuned for the history and background of the SVWA.

The Perry Ridge Water Users' Association has been representing the interests of water users for 20 years through research and education. We advocate for the implementation of an Eco-system based plan for the entire valley. We propose that logging take place only in areas that pose no threat to life, limb, or property. Our goal is to maintain the quality, quantity and timing of flow of water supplies on Perry Ridge.

PERRY RIDGE NEEDS YOUR HELP:

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Both time and money are needed. send donations to:



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