

NICOLA SIMILKAMEEN INNOVATIVE FORESTRY SOCIETY

Timber Supply Area 18
Merritt, British Columbia

April 2009

NSIFS Updates

*“The best friend on Earth of man is the tree.
When we use the tree respectfully and economically,
we have one of the greatest resources of the Earth” ~ Frank Lloyd Wright*

The First Foods

The land is beginning to awaken from its seasonal rest and spring is in the air. Very soon traditional foods will become available again. While a lot of people regard these time-honoured foods to be “non-timber resources”, the Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society (NSIFS) is one of the few provincial organizations to incorporate consideration for cultural significance into forestry practices. Nowadays, holistic wisdom is more relevant than ever when it comes to practicing forestry. The celebration of the First Foods ceremony is one way to facilitate the internalization of holistic thought and practice. The Oxford English Dictionary defines ceremony as: an outward rite or observance; a formal act or observance expressive of deference or respect to superiors in rank, or established by custom in social intercourse; a usage of courtesy, politeness, or civility religious or held sacred; the performance of a solemn act according to prescribed form; a solemnity. It is important to remember this as we walk the land in the coming seasons.



“Harmony in the world is not given: rather it has to be nurtured day by day, by all together - ⊕ - that is what the sun repeats to us with every dawn” ~ Eduardo Grillo Fernandez.



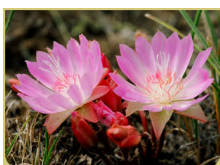
Skem-xist



Sia



N-ty-tyix



Spitlem

NSIFS Communications ~ A year in the life

In April 2008 the Upper Similkameen Indian Band was awarded the NSIFS contract for Communications. From a First Nations perspective, I believe the knowledge I have inherited from elders and mentors influences every part of who I am. This knowledge guides my path in life and nurtures me intellectually, spiritually, physically and mentally. Honouring language and traditional knowledge in a respectful manner is tremendously important to me. As such, when I began this term as the Communications Liaison I started by formally introducing myself to the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA) community in a traditional manner. Upon familiarizing myself with NSIFS members and attending my first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, it became obvious to me that a lot of people working in the forestry industry speak a language comprised of acronyms that I did not understand. It became apparent that in order to truly communicate with people, I would need to do two things. First, define all acronyms. Second, demystify the science associated with forestry management so that people could more easily recognize their connections with the land. To be honest, the May 2008 issue was the first time I had written *any* sort of newsletter and I was not at all sure how to go about it. Fortunately, I have *captik^{wl}* (history and/or knowledge about natural processes internalized and made active through story) to provide the framework. For example, *Skem-xist* (Black bear) the thinker and dreamer, shared vision, innovation, and creativity. *Sia* (Saskatoon) helped to nurture a sense of community, socially and professionally. As well as strengthening a consideration for the health and well being of all organisms that share this land and the consequences of not doing so. *N-ty-tyix* (King Salmon) contributed an aspiration toward commitment to preparation, planning, and a determination to take action. *Spitlem* (Bitterroot) supplied abundant insight to our connection to the land and the importance of tradition, ceremony, custom, and all forms of knowledge. As this contract comes to a close, I would like to thank you for the opportunity. I hope that this newsletter has served to expand a holistic understanding of the delicate place we as human beings hold within the collective web of life. *Wendy Hawkes, NSIFS Communications Liaison*

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity -- in all this vastness -- there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves. It is up to us. It's been said that astronomy is a humbling, and I might add, a character-building experience. To my mind, there is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly and compassionately with one another and to preserve and cherish that pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.
~ Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*

The Timber Supply Review (TSR4)

In order to practice responsible forest management practices, as well as to ascertain targets and monitor the volume of timber being harvested, in 1992 the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) initiated the Timber Supply Review (TSR) process. To ensure the long-term sustainability of our forests, at least once every 5 years, each of the province's 71 forest management units goes through this review process. As a result of this monitoring and analysis the government is able to determine the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) and this establishes how much timber forestry companies will be allotted to harvest. In a cooperative effort NSIFS member organizations are in the process of assembling information that addresses every aspect of harvesting within the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA). This includes gathering together historical information, silviculture strategies, issues and implications of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic, upward and downward pressures on the AAC, growth and yield figures, cultural, heritage, and recreational trail information, to name a few of the types of information included in TSR4. To learn more about the process visit <http://www.nsifs.bc.ca/tsr4.php>.

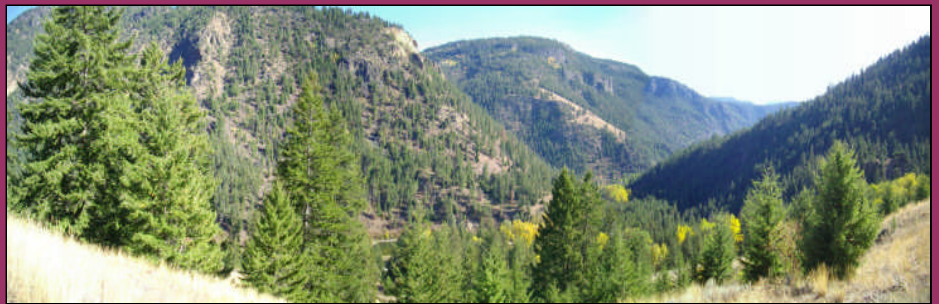
The Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society is pleased to offer this monthly newsletter to the Merritt TSA community at no cost.

Would you like to be included on our subscription list? Contact:

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Did you know?

- ❖ In contrast to both steel or concrete production, less energy is necessary for wood manufacturing and less air and water pollution is produced.
- ❖ With modern milling technology once a tree has been logged we are able to utilize practically every component of a log with virtually no waste in the production of wood products.
- ❖ Many of the items we employ every day are created with wood products. Things such as cake mix and ice cream, medicine and toothpaste, crayons and camera film are all made with wood products.



Opportunities for employment

Forest Protection Officer, Kamloops Fire Centre
closing date April 2, 2009

http://employment.gov.bc.ca/?view_posting=045871

Operations Forester, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.,
Williams Lake BC - closing date April 6, 2009. Visit
http://employment.gov.bc.ca/?view_posting=045871

General Manager, Stuwix Resources Joint Venture,
Merritt BC – closing date April 9, 2009. Visit
http://www.abcfp.ca/job_centre/job_seekers.asp

“Teach your children what we have taught our children ~ that the Earth is our Mother.” ~ Chief Seattle, 1854