



Newsletter #1 – December 2003

The **Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management** has now been officially in existence for one year and the Board of Directors want to take this opportunity to update our members about the Centre's activities. First and foremost, we'd like to thank all of you who have shown your support for an active and healthy research community in the region by becoming members. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Canfor and MSRM, supporting members and active participants since our inception. As well we have a new supporting member: PIR.

Our website (www.bvcentre.ca) is up and running. Along with background information about the BV Centre, you can find information about completed and ongoing Centre research projects, future natural resources seminars, and upcoming funding proposal deadlines. You can also find governance documents and minutes of meetings of both the Board of Directors and the Research Planning Committee on the website.

The BV Centre has been successful in obtaining funding for 4 projects to date and is proponent or partner on 10 additional proposals that are presently in the review process. We have submitted or are in the process of submitting proposals to the Forest Science Program of Forest Innovation Investment (FII), Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative, Northern Coastal Information and Research Program, National Science and Engineering Research Council, Sustainable Forest Management Network Centre of Excellence, Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative and Vancouver Foundation. Proposals cover a broad range of topics such as ecosystem responses to forest succession, wildlife dynamics in managed stands, alternative silvicultural strategies, forest diseases, and effects of oil and gas development on seabirds.

Completed and on-going BV Centre projects are:

- Strategic research framework for landscape ecology in west-central B.C. (completed)
- Growth prediction of canopy trees in complex structured mixed-species stands. (ongoing)
- Sustainable forest management on alluvial and colluvial fans. (ongoing)
- Modeling stand dynamics in the mixed woods of Quebec's southern boreal forest. (ongoing)

A brief summary of each of these projects appears on the Research page of our website (<http://www.bvcentre.ca/html/research.html>). The Research page will be updated with additional project summaries as proposals are approved. Public



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education/outreach and extension of research results are important objectives of the BV Centre. Reports from completed projects will also be available on the Research page.

Our *Research Planning Committee* has been established and begun work.. The role of the Committee is to recommend research priorities, develop BV Centre proposals, and develop criteria to ensure excellence of proposals and projects. The terms of reference are available on the Research page of our website. The Research Planning Committee consists of individuals with a wide range of expertise representing the industry, academic, government, and consulting communities. Participation in the various aspects of the Committee's work is open to anyone interested. If you would like to get involved in or would like more information about this committee, please contact its coordinator at rpc@bvcentre.ca.

You'll note that one of the roles of the Research Planning Committee is to develop project proposals. However, we encourage BV Centre members to contact the Research Planning Committee or members of the Board to discuss ideas for research projects that you may wish to undertake through the Centre. Proposals must be consistent with our objectives –supporting sustainability of natural resources, ensuring scientific excellence, relating to regional or local issues and extending/demonstrating research results to the public. You may also want to consider the BV Centre as a partner on your project. The role of the Centre as partner can vary with each project and include project review, extension, and/or administration.

Our first AGM will be held on January 26, 2004. We are planning a primarily social event with the necessary AGM business kept to a minimum. The AGM will be your opportunity to elect new Board members so we encourage you to consider standing for election. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Nominations Committee at skeena@bulkley.net.

As with any new organisation, the Centre, through its Board of Directors, has spent a fair amount of time over the last year developing procedures and policies – a necessary task though perhaps not very exciting to the membership. We have taken the time to work through these documents in the interests of transparency and fairness and to ease the transition between successive board members.

As noted above, this is the first BV Centre newsletter being distributed to our members. We realise that most of you receive an excess of e-mail messages and are comfortable with accessing information from websites. On the other hand, some members have been indicating that they feel out-of-touch with the Centre



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because of the lack of updates. As a compromise, unless we hear differently, we will e-mail semi-annual newsletters.

Sincerely,

BV Centre Board of Directors (2003-2004):

Jim Pojar, President

Brian Edmison, Treasurer

Kevin Kriese, Secretary

Tom Buri

Frank Doyle

Irving Fox

Rosemary Fox

Anne Harfenist

Sybille Hauessler

Paul Sanborn

Carl vanderMark

