



Interest

By Paul Barolet, RPF,
on behalf of the CRIT
Silviculture Working Group

Professional Networking under FRPA

PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE IS A KEY PRINCIPLE OF the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and is providing opportunities for forest professionals to work cooperatively towards the successful implementation of FRPA and sustainable forestry practices. On the coast, one of the ways in which professionals are working together and networking is through the Coast Region Implementation Team (CRIT).

What is CRIT?

On the coast, the CRIT has been an effective body for resolving FRPA implementation issues. CRIT is a team of professionals, co-chaired by the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Coast Forest Products Association, with representatives on it from industry (Canadian Forest Products Association [CFPA] and non-CFPA) and government. The CRIT team is tasked with ensuring FRPA is successfully implemented and is linked to several other working groups, including the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team and the coastal District Implementation Teams.

Current CRIT issues

The most important issue the CRIT has been dealing with to date is the development, review and approval of Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP). The efforts of the CRIT in this area have been focused on coordinating FRPA training sessions, delivering several key FSP workshops and promoting respectful dialogue between professionals to resolve conflict. The CRIT has also developed guidance for applying FRPA's Government Action Regulation.

The CRIT has also been asked to review issues associated with partial cutting trends on the coast, which include minimum opening sizes for a suitable regeneration environment, species shifts to shade tolerant regeneration, approaches to forest health and profile management with high-retention levels associated with multi-layered stocking standards. Because partial cutting issues are complex, they will require forest professionals to invest a large amount of their time

to reach a resolution. The CRIT has formed the Silviculture Working Group (CSWG) to research and closely consider partial cutting trends. Once all the necessary information has been collected, CSWG will forward its findings and recommendations to the CRIT.

What is the CRIT Silviculture Working Group?

The CSWG deals with issues identified by CRIT such as FRPA-related stocking standards and silvicultural systems. In 2006, the CSWG released a discussion paper entitled: *Silvicultural System and Partial Cut Harvesting Issues in the Coast Forest Region*. It has also developed monitoring protocols that will allow industry and government members to carry out joint field assessments against this discussion paper. Monitoring was carried out in several districts this past winter with more planned for this year.

If you prescribe silvicultural systems with high retention levels, the CSWG may pay you a visit over the next year. The CSWG may be available on request to provide an assessment or a third-party opinion to licensees. The CSWG is also planning to develop a discussion paper on stocking standards this fall to help guide practising professionals.

Observed partial cutting trends are reported annually back to the CRIT for further consideration. However, based on recent silvicultural system monitoring, the CSWG has indicated to CRIT that there are inconsistencies in the application of silviculture systems. When prescribing and executing silvicultural systems to meet non-timber objectives, professionals must be mindful that they are implementing sustainable forest management practices with both short-term and long-term economic opportunities. It is important to distinguish harvest systems that are a one-time economic timber extraction from sustainable silvicultural systems designed for repeated harvest entries over time. When considering the public trust in the profession, transparency is a key element in this regard.

In response to the increased number of higher retention systems and the need to develop new approaches for coastal partial cut stocking standards, the CSWG with the support of CRIT, is also planning a two- or three-day collaborative silvicultural system workshop. The target audience is prescribing and reviewing foresters, forest engineers and FSP holders. All forest professionals planning to use complex silvicultural systems are encouraged to attend this training.

Closing thoughts

Naturally, no forestry process is complete without due consideration for professional reliance. The monitoring observations and recommendations of CSWG are communicated back to the prescribing forester, licensee and district manager. Therefore, it seems logical that where issues are identified, they are addressed; and where innovation is identified, it is shared. This is truly a self-regulating approach among forest professionals and no different than any other professional reliance model that is linked to a monitoring and adaptive processes.

Forest professionals are encouraged to bring operational plan and practice issues to the attention of your nearest CRIT or CSWG member. The current members of CSWG are Graham Hues, RPF, Western Forests Products; Joe LeBlanc, RPF, International Forest Products; Rick Monchak, RPF, Timber West; Shannon Pearce, FP, Triumph Timber; and government staff including: Paul Barolet, RPF, Port McNeill; Jack Sweeten, RPF, Chilliwack; Scott Dunn, RPF, Campbell River; Craig Wickland, RPF, Nanaimo; and Roderick Negrave, PhD, RPF, Nanaimo.

We look forward to hearing from prescribing foresters in the Coast Forest Region and engaging in respectful and professional dialogue. Visit our website for more information about the team's activities and for our contact information:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/Stewardship/CRIT/index.htm