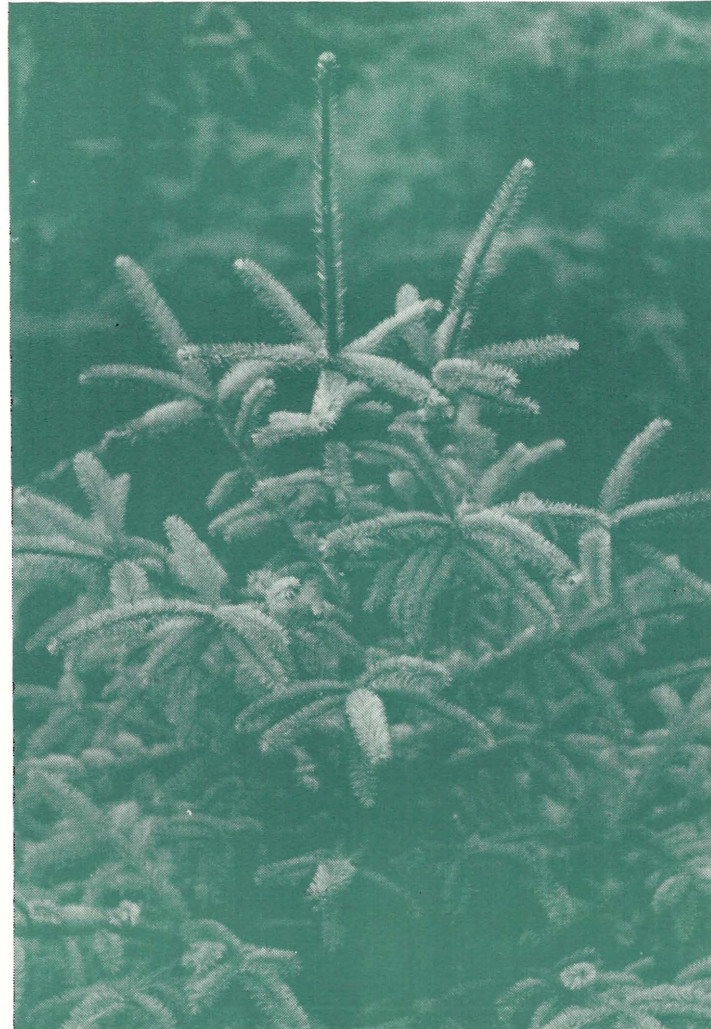


SOUTH MORESBY FOREST REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT



10th Anniversary Program

**October 7-10, 1998
Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii**

A decade of experience developing employment opportunities in long-term forest management, research and education.

Canada 



BC 

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS



SOUTH MORESBY FOREST REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT

Thank you for your interest in the 10th Anniversary of the South Moresby Forest Replacement Account (SMFRA). We hope this program helps you to enjoy the variety of educational events being held on the Islands and that it becomes a souvenir of this historic occasion.

The story of the SMFRA began ten years ago, and must be told by the wide range of people who have made a difference over the years: project staff, island residents, researchers and forest company representatives. They have all shared a vision for the Account, and are all wondering what the future holds.

The SMFRA fund was established to provide employment opportunities in long-term forest management, research and education. The interest bearing Account is jointly funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, with each contributing \$12 million. The program was originally established for an 8-year term, but in September 1994, the B.C. Forest Minister and the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources approved an extension to March 31, 2000. This decision was based on the fact that more time was needed to leave a legacy of forest sector employment and community stability. \$17.9 million has been spent in the first nine years.

The SMFRA has been responsive to local concerns, as it evolved from its original focus on "replacing timber volume" to "resource sustainability," and from "maximizing employment" to "maintaining community stability." The new priorities are evident in the types of projects supported by the Account, which improve forest yields, maintain jobs in forestry, and support community involvement in forest planning processes. The Account is intended to supplement, rather than replace, existing forestry programs. This shift has the full support of Management

Committee members Bronwen Beedle and Elaine Teske. Says Bronwen Beedle, Deputy Chief Forester, British Columbia Ministry of Forests: "I am really pleased with the flexibility of the SMFRA, and its changing direction from one of mainly job creation to one that looks at the future needs of the Islands. I see the SMFRA being a partner in the Islands planning processes, including looking at not only employment stability, but also community stability." Colleague Elaine Teske, Director of Marketing and Operations, Canadian Forest Service feels much the same way and adds: "I have been involved with the SMFRA since its inception, it is my hope that the Account can continue to work with community based initiatives over the next decade and that stability will be restored to the QCI/Haida Gwaii community."

There are currently four key program areas of the SMFRA: silviculture, research and demonstration, inventory, and communications and public information. The latter program also includes funding for community involvement.



Juvenile spacing a young Spruce Hemlock stand on central Graham Island.



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Example of a juvenile spaced and pruned stand on southern Graham Island.

In the first two fiscal years, off-island silviculture and research projects were funded by the SMFRA. Since 1990, all new projects funded through the SMFRA are required to be located on, or developed specifically for, the Queen Charlotte Islands. Projects can be undertaken on any productive lands on the Islands, including the Queen Charlotte Forest District Timber Supply Area, Tree Farm Licenses, private, native, municipal or federal lands. Priority funding is given to those projects and treatments that provide the best combination of increased timber productivity and employment.

In cases where contracts are awarded to off-Island bidders, which is sometimes the case in the competitive field of silviculture, a local crew is often employed. Today, it is estimated that about 80% of the employment generated through the SMFRA's silviculture program is awarded to local residents. Significant additional local employment is also generated through its communications program and the hiring of local research field crews.

¹ Pruning and fertilizing treatments are only conducted on stands that have been previously juvenile spaced.

SILVICULTURE

The silviculture program funds juvenile spacing, pruning and fertilizing of young forests, and accounts for 72% of the funds spent to date. This labour intensive activity generates the most employment of all SMFRA expenditures, at 166 person years over the past decade, with 7,600 hectares being treated. ¹ One of the forest companies that has come to rely on the Account is Western Forest Products, which saw its Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) reduced by almost three quarters after the preservation of Gwaii Haanas. The reduction of TFL 24's land base left the company with relatively young stands.

Murray Watkinson, Regional Forester with Western Forest Products claims that the SMFRA fund has been a big benefit to WFP's Sewell Inlet operation. For example, 210 hectares of TFL 24 are being spaced this year, creating roughly 700 worker days of direct employment for the community of Sandspit. Says Watkinson, "The Fund has lived up to its expectation and helped create local benefits over the past decade and will continue to do so into the future." The silviculture treatments reduce the time it takes for the second growth stands to reach a harvestable piece size, meaning that WFP will be able to harvest those stands sooner than they would without enhanced forestry management. This, claims Watkinson, will provide future stability of employment as well as benefits for his company.

Jean-Marc Cyr has been employed through WFP and SMFRA funded projects for six of his 20 years as a local Sandspit contractor. Says Cyr, "I walk those stands that I have pruned on a regular basis and I am amazed at the response. It is unbelievable, those 25-year-old trees are humongous. There are lots of pluses as I see it." Cyr employs 10-20 silviculture workers for eight to ten months per year, on both enhanced forestry

The SMFRA fund was established to provide employment opportunities in long-term



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work and planting contracts for licensees and the Ministry of Forests. The impending expiry of SMFRA is a concern to Cyr, who fears that if the fund disappears so will his company.

SMFRA funded work brought spacing contractor, Larry Greenhough to the Islands, who says, "It has really been a boon to the Islands. I hope that it stays in place for another ten years. I see it as an important tool in getting through this trough we are currently experiencing in the forest industry. I think that it (the SMFRA) has provided stability in the silviculture workforce even more than in the harvesting sector." The concern is that the current forest industry decline will result in reduced revenue to Forest Renewal BC, which will mean reduced funding for silviculture work.

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION

The next largest expenditure for the SMFRA is its research and demonstration program, with about \$2.1 million expended to date, or 12% of total expenditures. The SMFRA has sponsored some 30 studies and experiments ranging from soil nutrition studies to guidelines for maintaining wildlife diversity in managed coastal forests. One project, which

stands out for its easy access to residents and researchers alike, is the alternative harvesting systems trial in the Hangover and Gregory Creek drainages of Rennell Sound, on the west coast of the Islands. These sites have steep and unstable slopes, considered unsuitable for conventional logging methods. The trial was established to assess



*Alternative harvesting systems trial in Rennell Sound
west coast of Graham Island*

whether or not alternative helicopter yarding proves to be acceptable over time. This could result in a possible increase of the productive forest land base to include helicopter access.

Initiated in 1989/90, the trial consisted of an old-growth control block, a clear-cut area and three levels of timber removal, leaving from 50% to 75% of the stands intact. After seven years, the five

sites have remained stable and productive. Local foresters and engineers use the sites for field studies and as examples of how alternatives to clearcutting can be implemented elsewhere on the Islands. It is an important study area for comparative research, as companies like MacMillan Bloedel begin to move away from clear-cutting in old-growth forests. SMFRA Management Committee member Ron Haralson says, "the alternative harvesting sites are valuable and I would like to see more of them." Haralson participates in the Management Committee as a Gwaii Trust representative and provides a community perspective on the projects funded by the Account.

forest management, research and education.



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INVENTORY

One key to achieving sustainability is maintaining an ongoing forest inventory. Studies are carried out by various individuals and organizations in order to provide a better understanding of the management challenges associated with the archipelago. Substantial investments have been made under this program, averaging about 8% of expenditures to date, or \$1.4 million. The benefit of the SMFRA Account is that it can provide more timely and islands-specific information than would otherwise be possible.

An example of this work, is the endangered and vulnerable plant inventory conducted on the Islands. Pictured here is a yellow daisy called the *Senecio newcombei* (Newcombe's Butterweed), which is prolific here but found nowhere else in the world.



One key to achieving sustainability is maintaining an ongoing forest inventory.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications program regularly funds an Annual Report of the Account's expenditures and an annual guest lecture series, designed to inform the public of SMFRA funded research, demonstration and inventory projects. This program is also used to fund special events

such as this 10th anniversary program, and the 1996 Cedar Symposium (proceedings in press.)

"The Cedar Symposium, has been a highlight for me, in my involvement with the SMFRA" says Greg Wiggins, Program Coordinator. "That event clearly demonstrated to a wide audience the significant negative impact of browsing by introduced deer on second growth red cedar and yellow cypress on the Islands, and the many reasons why we need to be certain that cedar remains a significant part of forests here."

The symposium was open to the public, and brought together representatives from the local community, the Haida, scientific researchers, the Ministry of Forests, and forest tenure holders, to discuss the extent of the problem as well as ways to ensure that these keystone species are consistently and successfully regenerated in second growth forests. Three new research studies funded by the SMFRA are currently underway to address questions arising out of the Symposium.



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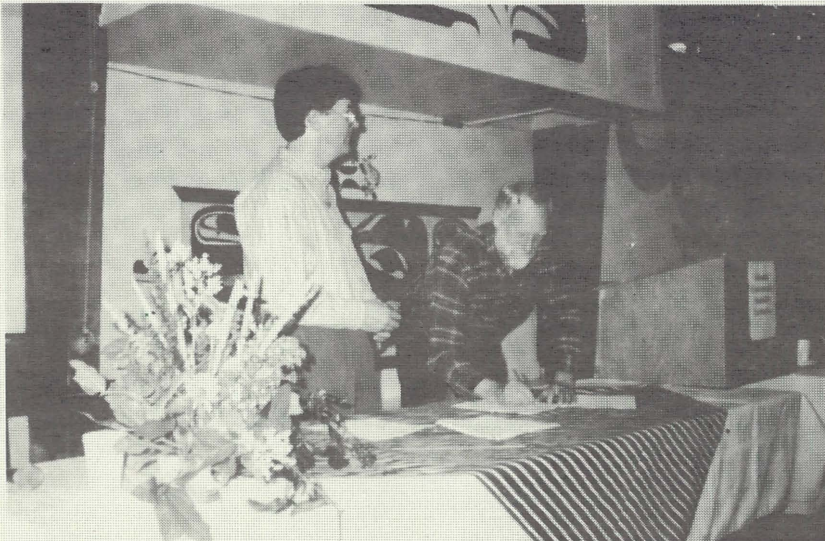
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



As the SMFRA evolved over the past decade, the strategic plan which guides its expenditures had to keep pace. Major revisions were made in 1996 to reflect the increasing desire of communities to get involved in land-use planning, and to strengthen the SMFRA's original mandate to support community sustainability. The new 1997-2000 Plan was inspired in part by the creation of the Queen Charlotte Islands Community Stability Initiative (ICSI) which required operational funding in order to represent communities in strategic level land use planning.

The ICSI was formed in 1995 out of concern over the results of the recent Timber Supply Review and the subsequent setting of the AAC by the Chief Forester. Since that time, the ICSI, the Council of the Haida Nation, the Ministry of Forests and Licensees have been working together to resolve some land and resource management issues, with the financial assistance of SMFRA.

"I wouldn't mind seeing the SMFRA fund community participation in a comprehensive land use plan, the Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP). We would love to participate, but we just can't do it for free. I would also like to see the Fund continue to be used for accurate and up to date inventories of all forest values. And third, I hope to see SMFRA match ICSI in its ten year goal, which is to support local control over the way we log and what we do here with the forest resource to ensure sustainability and community stability."



Dale Lore, ICSI
Representative,
Village of Port
Clements

Dale Lore of ICSI and Forest Minister David Zirnelt sign the ICSI/Ministry of Forests Memorandum of Understanding regarding forestry issues on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii, September 1996.



PROGRAM AGENDA

SMFRA 10th Anniversary Program Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii

Day 1, Wednesday October 7, 1998

10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Management Committee hosts reception in Sandspit.
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Guided Spirit Lake Trail hike and picnic - weather permitting. Inclement weather back-up plan: public open house begins at the Small Hall in Skidegate with children's activities and displays for public viewing presented by the SMFRA, Gwaii Haanas and others.
6:00 pm	Community Forum, Small Hall, Front Street, Skidegate Children's activities and a variety of displays about natural resource management.
6:30 pm	Welcome and Blessing followed by supper.
7:30 pm	Introductions - Bronwen Beedle/Elaine Teske, SMFRA Management Committee.
7:45 pm	Guest speaker Henry Benskin, Director, BC Ministry of Forests Research Branch, addresses the SMFRA's silviculture investments and research discoveries.
8:15 pm	Guest speaker Dr. Jean-Louis Martin, research leader for the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society's deer browse project, presents recent results of deer exclosure studies on Haida Gwaii.
9:00 pm	Moderated Q & A session for both speakers
9:30 pm	Closing comments
9:45 pm	Closing ceremony

Day 2, Thursday October 8, 1998

8:30 am – 4:00 pm	SMFRA Management Committee Meeting.
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Day 3, Friday October 9, 1998

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Student Career Fair to be sponsored by the SMFRA, in cooperation with Gwaii Haanas. Students will get an introduction to careers in forestry, wildlife/conservation management, tourism and other professional specialties.
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Day 4, Saturday October 10, 1998

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Presentation by Dr. Jean Louis Martin in the Village of Masset, Green Church Hall. Sponsored by the SMFRA's 10 th Anniversary Guest Lecture Series ¹ .
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¹ Repeat of October 7th presentation in Skidegate.



GUEST SPEAKER PROFILES

Biography of Henry Benskin, R.P.F.

Henry Benskin graduated from U.B.C. with a Masters in Forestry and has been a professional forester ever since, taking a leadership role in the Council of the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters. He has worked



for the B.C. Forest Service since 1980, in senior management since 1992. His current title is Director of the Research Branch. He was a member of the SMFRA management committee from 1992 to 1997. And, if you don't want to talk about trees, he'll

gladly talk to you about sailing.

For more information, please contact Henry Benskin, by e-mail at **Henry.Benskin@gems5.gov.bc.ca**; or in writing addressed to Director, Ministry of Forests Research Branch, P.O. Box 9519, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9C2.

Biography of Dr. Jean-Louis Martin

Jean-Louis Martin graduated as an Engineer in Agronomy in 1978 and received a Ph.D. in Community Ecology in 1980 from the University of Montpellier, France. Since 1983 JL Martin has held a research position at the Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive in Montpellier, France, an Institute funded by the French National Center for Scientific Research. His main research interest is to understand species diversity in forest and woodland bird communities on islands such as in the Baltic Sea, in the Mediterranean, in the north east of the Pacific and in the Arctic. He also completed a five year project on patterns and processes of geographic variation in forest birds.

Since 1992 his research on islands focuses on the impacts of introduced species on native plant and animal communities. He has developed projects that investigate the interactions between introduced rats and native birds in the Mediterranean and in French Polynesia as well as between black-tailed deer or red squirrel (both introduced) and the ecology of plants and birds on Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). The Haida Gwaii study is currently his main project.

He has a special interest in projects requiring interdisciplinary and international collaboration of both senior scientists and students and for project that provide, beyond the collection of new knowledge, the information needed by land managers for mitigation and other practical purposes.

In winter, JL Martin teaches a course on Conservation Biology at the University of Montpellier where he lives. His preferred mode of transport is his legs and his second home is a little blue tent pitched far from roads and computers.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jean-Louis Martin by e-mail at **martin@cefe.cnrs-mop.fr** or in writing addressed to cefe-cnrs, 1919 Route de Mende, 34293 Montpellier Cedex, France.



Visions

People involved in the SMFRA have stated their desire to see it continue and are open to working with others to further refine the Account's strategic plan. Locally, there is a movement to bring the \$24 million dollar fund home to the people of the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii by converting it to a perpetual endowment fund. If successful, there are residents, researchers, advisors and company foresters willing to help make changes to the Account to ensure a sustainable future starting with sustainability in the forest and community stability throughout the Islands.

When asked "What is your 10 year vision for the future of the SMFRA?" the following responses were received.

"I would suggest that some areas of the SMFRA's silviculture program could be "upsized" while other areas could be "downsized" without negatively impacting the employment generated by the Account today. There is an opportunity for creating a coordinated industry approach to reviewing and prioritizing the SMFRA's silviculture expenditures. One example that comes to mind is well designed experiments on fertilization use for improving forest site growing capacity."

Erin Badesso, Divisional Forester
MacMillan Bloedel
Queen Charlotte Division

for the

"I would like to see SMFRA play a role in funding further research on alternative silviculture systems and supporting market studies for wood products manufactured from second growth Sitka spruce."

Louise DeMontigny,
Ministry of Forests Researcher

"Ten years down the road, I would like to see SMFRA give greater recognition to forest dynamics, so that tree growth is viewed as one forest value which is dependent on the health of other values such as biodiversity, and habitat for rare species. I see this as 'value added' forest research."

Brian Reeder, Ecosystem Management Coordinator,
Gwaii Haanas

"My vision for the future of SMFRA would be to allocate more funding into three main areas: firstly, research to expand our knowledge base on non timber values which are vital to the long-term functioning of healthy ecosystems, secondly operational trials in innovative forest practices such as alternative harvesting systems; and thirdly into the value added manufacturing sector, both operationally and in research, with a core emphasis on deriving more value from less resources."

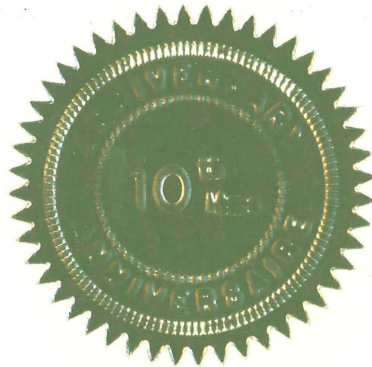
Peter Buck, R.P.F., Systems Forestry Consulting

Future



For more information about the **South Moresby Forest Replacement Account**, please contact:

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Delivers in Partnership with...

First Nations

Council of the Haida Nation

Non-Profit Organizations

Laskeek Bay Conservation Society

Tlell Watershed Society

Queen Charlotte Islands Community Stability Initiative Society (ICSI)

University Partners

University of British Columbia

Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC)

Islands Silviculture, Forestry and Communications Consultants

Government Agencies

Ministry of Forests - Queen Charlotte Forest District, Research Branch, Vancouver Forest Region

Ministry of the Environment, Lands and Parks - Skeena Region, Conservation Data Centre

Canadian Forest Service - Pacific Forestry Centre

Licensees operating in the Queen Charlotte Forest District

MacMillan Bloedel - Queen Charlotte Division, Western Forest Products - Sewell Inlet Operation,

TimberWest Forest Limited - Sandspit Operation; Husby Forest Products.