



Resilient Forests for 2019



The Sjoden family, Woodlot Licensees on their woodlot outside of Houston, BC, where the province was hit the hardest by the 2018 wildfires.

By LISA MARAK

It has been another year of unprecedented wildfires causing devastation to our forests, impacting Woodlot Licences, Community Forests, First Nations, companies with timber licences and communities at large. Many of the 60 woodlot licences impacted by wildfires in 2017 and 2018, were located in the wildland urban interface (WUI), where woodlots mostly reside.

BC's vast forests are a resource in high demand, whether it be for recreation, wildlife, cultural

heritage, viewsapes or logs for mills. Along with the many values our forests provide, BC's economy has depended on the forest industry for decades, especially in rural communities where it has provided jobs for tens of thousands of British Columbians.

The entire province has an invested interest in our forests - provincial, local and First Nations governments, private industry, forest tenure holders such as woodlot licensees and the public. They must now come together to make decisions on how to rehabilitate our forests and make them more resilient to wildfires. There has been considerable discussion on our current

forest management strategies and that changes must be made in order for the economic, social and environmental benefits to continue in our province. In 2018 the Abbott/Chapman report *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia* came out with recommendations on how our forests can be more resilient against catastrophic wildfires.

There is much work to be done. BC's Woodlot holders want to be part of the collaborative effort to uphold their social licence by continuing to provide high quality forest management, particularly in the WUI.

Change – Opportunity Arises Out of It



A small aspen stand in 100 Mile, providing diversity and fire resilience.

The prosperous dread it; the disenfranchised demand it; the new president promises it; the climate does it; uncertainty results from it and opportunity arises out of it. One thing is clear from recent events and that is that a period of rapid change is upon us.

The forest is changing too, and with a natural cycle time of one to three hundred years in the interior, (much longer on the coast), all predictions are off. In this light, how is it possible to make appropriate forest management decisions now? Are forests most valuable to us

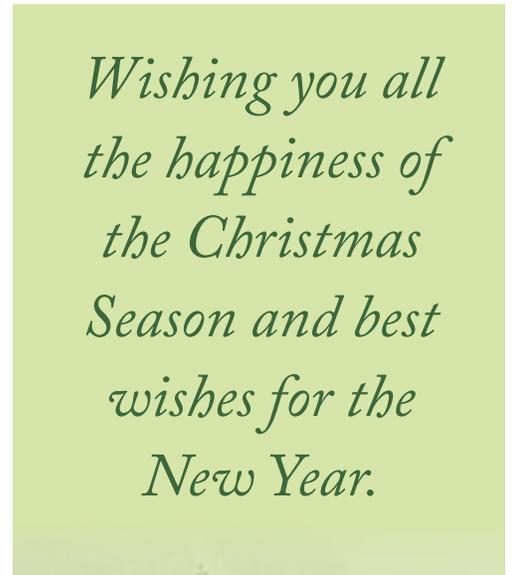
as sources of solid wood, biofuel, habitat, or inspiration maybe, water certainly, or even the most basic of life’s necessities, oxygen itself? We could blithely state “all of the above”, but it is not that easy.

The natural antidote to uncertainty is resilience, and resilience is a product of diversity. This applies to the forest and to the marketplace. Woodlot Licenses are part of the diversity that will help to preserve forest attributes for the future while deriving some tangible benefits now.

– Rod Krimmer



Rod Krimmer milled value added products and custom orders, providing economic diversity in the forest industry



Wishing you all the happiness of the Christmas Season and best wishes for the New Year.



Wim Tewinkle, Mute Raven Studio



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