

FORAGE FIRST

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Peace Country Talent



Original artwork by long time Forage Association member, Nelda Bennett

by Chris Thomson

For those of you who were able to join us at the AGM and Wildlife Seminar, thank you. For those who couldn't make it, see the inside pages for Talon's recap of the afternoon. Also included, in paid up members packages, are 3 hot off the press Forage Facts on wildlife fencing options.

For those who have not yet renewed for 2013, it is that time again! You'll find a membership form enclosed for your convenience. You will also find a poster on upcoming Agri Stability sessions.

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Advisors:

Julie Robinson, BC Ministry of Agriculture	787 3241
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The PRFA is now on Facebook!
Find us by typing in:
Peace River Forage Association of BC

"Like" our page and we will keep you up-to-date on upcoming events, project statuses, news from other forage associations/groups and any other relevant news impacting forage and livestock producers.

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3D Wildlife Fence, Newsletter: Sandra Burton
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Website & Newsletter: Kim Strasky
Wildlife Mitigations Project: Talon Johnson

Visit our website at www.peaceforage.bc.ca

Wildlife Mitigation Extravaganza

Compiled by Talon Johnson

A successful wrap-up to another intriguing research project for our association! Despite the miserable weather, there were 28 people in attendance for the information sharing day held in Taylor, BC at the Taylor Community Church on December 1st 2012!

This event showcased all the work done in the Wildlife Mitigation project since it began in May of 2011. The main objective of this project was to gather information on wildlife mitigation through producer interviews, an extensive literature search and industry experts. All the information will be

compiled on the PRFA of BC's website so that it is accessible to farmers and ranchers.

This event hosted three speakers plus four rotating stations lead by experts in wildlife mitigation. We alternated the day between listening to speakers and attending stations. In conjunction with the experts in our area, we brought up two very knowledgeable and experienced individuals from the east Kootenay's to share the wildlife issues in their areas and what is being done to mitigate damage to agricultural operations.

Speaker 1 - Karen Goodings (PRRD)

Karen has played a key role in the PRRD Wildlife Committee in the Peace Region. This committee has been operating for a number of years and brings together many stakeholders that are affected by wildlife damage. Karen talked to us about what and who got the ball rolling to form the wildlife committee and their accomplishments to date. She discussed the benefits of the stack yard program that was in place in the early 2000's and their attempts to have a similar program presently available to farmers and ranchers. Unfortunately, there has been little interest in the committee of late due to increasing frustration with wildlife problems. This is in part due to the increasing difficulty to receive support from the government.

Speaker 2 - Darrell Smith (MAL)

Darrell has worked for the Ministry of Agriculture since 2007 in Invermere, BC. Half of his workload consists of working on the provincial Agriculture Wildlife Compensation Program. He is in charge of delivering the program across the province and working with Forestry, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) staff on mitigation techniques. Darrell took us through how wildlife impacts their agriculture industry due to the unique geographic location of the Kootenays. He shared their history of wildlife damage and the concept of resident and migratory elk. Darrell is very interested in creating a synergetic relationship with our association and similar forage and livestock groups in their area for future research projects revolving around wildlife.



Above: Darrell Smith showing their unique geographic location and it's challenges

Speaker 3 - Julie Robinson & Talon Johnson

The 3-D fencing project completed in June 2012 turned out to be one of the most exciting wildlife mitigation strategies to hit the Peace in a long time! Due to the projects success and the overwhelming requests for more information from groups throughout BC and AB, we decided to promote this fencing system more. Julie and I compiled a presentation that highlighted the basic set-up of the fence, how each cooperator constructed theirs, the economical benefits compared to other wildlife fences and the overall success of the project. If you want more information regarding the design and economical benefits, check out our website to view multiple forage facts published about it.

Station 1 - Steve Myers

Steve has been heavily involved with predator problems in the Peace for several years. Steve worked with wildlife in government throughout Alberta and British Columbia most of his life. When the BC Cattlemen started their predator loss, control and compensation program Steve worked for them to verify kills and do predator control. We invited Steve to this event to share his experiences hunting and trapping problem wildlife. Steve is now offering his services to farmers and ranchers who are experiencing predator problems. Conservation Officers need to be contacted to verify and document damage before Steve can deal with the problem.

Right: Steve Myers & John Kitt, one of many discussions



Station 2 - Mike Malmberg

Mike is from Fort Steele, BC, where he and his wife own and operate a roadside market garden and bakery. Mike worked as a District Agrologist for the BC Ministry of Agriculture from 1974 until he retired in 2003. According to Mike, wildlife problems have been an issue in the East Kootenay for many decades; particularly in the form of forage crop damage from elk. He shared with us how he worked with farmers and ranchers on many aspects of this problem in the East Kootenay Region since the mid 1970's. Mike has an extensive knowledge of wildlife fencing which he also shared with the groups.

Left: Mike talking to a group about fencing



Station 3 - Darrell Smith & Julie Robinson

Julie and Darrell hosted a station which provided people with the opportunity to ask questions about the Agriculture Wildlife Compensation Program they both have been heavily involved in. They also discussed trespassing and liability issues as information was found regarding these topics in archived Beef in BC articles. The information was compiled by a lawyer named Mary MacGregor.

Right: Walter Fritsche, Andrew Clarke & Arnold Bennett and Julie Robinson in conversation



The Wildlife Mitigation information sharing day was well received by attendees. Following all of the speakers and stations we sat down for a lovely dinner where everyone continued engaging. Following our hot meal we held the association's annual general meeting. Everyone was provided with an update on all the research and development projects started and finished in 2012. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance to make this event a success!

Mark Your Calendar!
You are invited to join
The Peace River Forage Association
on their
Summer Tour 2013
in collaboration with
The Society for Range Management
Thursday, June 20, 2013
departing from Dawson Creek

Watch for further details in the Spring Edition of *Forage First*

Stops will include: Wind Towers, Watersheds,
Hogberg's deciduous range-aspen controlled grazing,
Re-vegetation project, Ducks Unlimited and more!
Plus: Lunch at the Sudeten Hall
Hot supper
Cash Bar

Our thanks to the following for funding our ongoing project:

Re-Vegetation of Disturbed Land by Oil and Gas Activities

- > Peace River Forage Association
- > Encana

- > Peace Region Forage Seed Association
- > Shell Oil

Investment Agriculture Foundation: The major funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In British Columbia, this program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.



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The Peace River Forage Association would like to thank
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PRAD - Peace River Agricultural Development Fund
Agriculture Environment & Wildlife Fund through
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Douglas Lake Equipment
North Peace Applied Research Association
North Peace Veterinary Clinic