

POPLAR COUNCIL OF CANADA/CONSEIL DU PEUPLIER DU CANADA
2002 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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1. Overview

Status

- Other than Scott Paper Limited little operational poplar work currently under way in British Columbia.
- The closing of the poplar program at WSU will have a negative effect on poplar management in Pacific Northwest including British Columbia.
- Paprican starts a three year study examining the genetics of wood quality in hybrid poplar.

2. Policy and Legislation

Changes

New Results Based Forest Practice Code. A change from regulation-based to results-based forest practices. It still remains to be seen whether these changes actually result in a reduction in administration.

3. Statistics

Natural stands

Unable to acquire estimates of Aspen/Cottonwood inventories

Plantations

There are approx. 1500 ha of intensively managed and 5000-6000 ha of extensively managed hybrid poplar in British Columbia.

Only three licenses in the province can actively manage hardwood plantations.

4. Technical Information

Selection and breeding

- Scott Paper maintaining limited breeding and clone testing program.
- WSU poplar program ends, eliminating much-needed extension and support services.

Harvesting and utilization

Paprican has started a three year program looking at the genetics of wood quality. The study will examine each of the pulping characteristics of hybrid pulp (colour, yield, fibre length, etc.) and try to determine which genes control each of these traits.

5. Industry

Major stakeholders, groups

- Scott Paper Limited is at present the largest buyer of hybrid poplar in BC.
- In the interior of the province there are several mills buying aspen for OSB and pulp.

6. Events

Workshops, seminars, meetings

None planned

7. Reports and Publications

None

8. Key People

Who can be contacted for further information (in addition to the report preparer)

- Cees van Oosten, Consultant 250-758-8230
- Mike Van Ham, Consultant 604-294-9243
- Mike Carlson, Ministry of Forests, 250-260-4767
- Will Carr, Consultant, 604-574-3100