



Cultural Feature Identification Program
Newsletter
May 2011

This is the first newsletter of the Cultural Feature Identification Program. The newsletter is meant to keep certified surveyors up to date with any information relevant to the CFI program.

HAIDA GWAII LAND USE OBJECTIVES ORDER

On December 16th 2010, the Minister of Natural Resource Operations, Hon. Steve Thompson, signed off on the Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order (LUOO).

<http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/nanaimo/haidagwaii/index.html>

Section 4 of the order states that cultural features including monumental cedar, culturally modified trees, Haida traditional forest and heritage features must be identified through a field assessment prior to undertaking road construction or timber harvesting and that the assessment is to be completed by a person who has been certified by the Council of the Haida Nation.

In mid-June the LUOO takes full legal effect upon the submission and approval of the newly amended Forest Stewardship Plans which have been submitted for public comment by the 4 major licensees operating on Haida Gwaii. This draft FSP can be downloaded at www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TCH/TCH_FSP.htm (BCTS) or the websites of Husby Forest Products Ltd, Teal Jones Group and Taan Forest Products Ltd. All cutblock plans submitted after mid-June will be required to have been surveyed by a certified Cultural Feature Identification surveyor.

SURVEY SUPPLIES

There are some supplies being made available through the CHN's Natural Resource Department for Cultural Feature Identification surveys. These include:

- Yellow all season flagging tape with the following prints: 'Monumental', 'CMT', 'Yew Tree', 'Traditional Forest Feature', and 'Wildlife'
Each roll costs \$1.46 each (not including taxes and shipping to you-although we can probably arrange drop-offs).
- Data cards are also available ~ they are printed on ducksbak waterproof field paper (with the standard 6 hole punch). A complete set is 2 pages (double sided).
Each page costs \$0.49 + tax

Contact Nick Reynolds to order 250-626-5252.

AUDITING PROGRAM

Auditing program will be starting up this month and it is anticipated that both spot check and full audits will be occurring by the summer. While the Land Use Objectives don't take full legal effect until mid-June, quite a few surveys have been completed in accordance with the CHN's CFI standards. The goal is to audit 10% of each surveyor's blocks on an annual basis. Surveyors will be contacted prior to any audits to facilitate the transfer of relevant information. Nick Reynolds will be the acting CFI audit coordinator.



ACCESS TO CULTURALLY SENSITIVE DATA

Any surveys in new development areas require some basic background checks to find out important operational information such as timber types, proximity to coast or known cultural data. The CHN has a spatial database of cultural features including information like:

- thousands of CMTs, both from contractors through licensees or from our own surveys;
- monumental cedars;
- Village sites, seasonal camps;
- Registered Archaeological Sites;
- Ancient trails

Certified surveyors need to have access to this data. At this point there will be a phased approach to accomplish this. Between May and June 2011, requests for cultural data in the form of hardcopy maps can be made to Owen Jones, Manager of Haida Mapping (owen.jones@haidanation.ca, 250-626-6058) in Old Massett. It would be most helpful if you have some sort of overview map of the area in question. A short confidentiality agreement will need to be signed between each surveyor and the CHN.



Left to Right: Stan Swanson, Guy Edgars, Thomas Kitchkeesic, James Stanley and Archie Stocker at a rock shelter in the Blackwater watershed in November 2010.

Sometime in June (hopefully sooner) we will be granting access for certified surveyors to an on-line web mapping service application called Terratruth. This application was developed with Ecotrust Canada in partnership with the Haida Nation, Lil'wat Nation, and the Okanagan National Alliance.

Some features of the application include the ability to view cultural data against Google Earth satellite imagery; image rectification; shapefile upload or creation; third party upload or download shapes to Google Earth. Each surveyor will be given user authentication to access the site- but we'll make sure to schedule a short (1 hour) training session sometime in June to make sure everyone is up to date.

COMMUNICATIONS

Soon the www.haidanation.ca site will have an updated link to the CFI program page. The page will host a number of downloadable documents, such as: the standards manual; digital data cards; a CFI reporting template, and; cheat sheets for field notebooks. The site will also list all those who are certified surveyors are. Stay tuned!



MENTORSHIP, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

This spring the CHN will be hosting 2 mentorship programs in partnership with Taan Forest. The goal is to give hands on experience to conduct Cultural Feature Identification surveys within forestry cutblocks that are actively being planned. The first group will consist of those participants from the November 2011 training course that simply need more hands-on practical experience before challenging the next exam. The second group will consist of Haida youth (17-25) who have an interest in pursuing a career in the forest sector.

It would be great to have some of these youth come out with some certified surveyors who have been already doing this work- let us know if you would be interested in mentoring for a few days in June.

Another training course is being planned for mid-September covering the same course content that was offered last November. The goal if this next program is to have fewer participants (15 max.) over a 3 week period and have 2 teachers per module. If you know of anyone interested please have them call our office to get on the list.

2 examination (written/practical) will be occurring this year- one between July 4th-6th, and another in mid-October.

For the record, the list of certified surveyors is:

- Guy Edgars
- David Zimmerman
- Jaalen Edenshaw
- Jim Sullivan
- Karen Church
- Kylie Harrison
- Phil Bruce
- Ryan Biller
- Rob Stewart
- Sean Brennan
- Stan Swanson
- Cal Lowther
- Nick Reynolds



Left to right: David Zimmerman, Rick Abrahams, Paul Bell and Allan Davidson checking out a test hole near the 3-k bridge along the Mamin river.



Do you have any comments, insights or suggestions about the Cultural Feature Identification program? Do you have any questions about the standards and their implementation? Please call Nick Reynolds at 250-626-5252 or drop by at 504 Naanii st. Old Massett (behind the red firehall) so we can talk!

