

Date: April 30, 2024

Topic: "Integrating ecological values within forest management planning in Alberta"

Co-Presenters: Richard Briand and Laura Trout



Richard Briand is Alberta born and raised. He has worked in the province for his entire career. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1991 and is a Registered Professional Forester. After graduation, Richard began his forestry career working for an Edmonton based consulting firm. After 9½ years consulting, he moved to Slave Lake to take a position with West Fraser Mills. Richard advanced through a variety of planning, operational and management roles with West Fraser in Slave Lake and Hinton. In 2018, Richard became the Chief Forester for West Fraser's Alberta operations. He represents West Fraser on several provincial and national associations and research organizations. He currently resides in Spruce Grove.



Laura Trout has dedicated her life to the study of wildlife both terrestrial and aquatic. While her origins are in marine science having received an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from the University of Guelph, she has been working in the world of forestry for nearly 10 years. Her master's thesis was appropriately focused on species at risk in Canada. As Senior Biologist for West Fraser, she encounters everything from common species of management importance to rare or endangered species throughout western Canada. Her work involves both site-specific management questions and broader landscape ecology, with the aim of integrating non-timber values within sustainable timber management practices. She represents West Fraser on provincial and national boards and is currently serving as a co-lead to West Fraser's Biodiversity Community of Practice.