

Workshop for Russian Foresters, September 1999



In mid-September 1999, five Russian foresters and two interpreters arrived at SFF's school facility in Salmo for seven intense days of training in ecosystem-based landscape and stand level management. The state foresters (equivalent to our Ministry of Forests) are from the Lake Baikal region and other areas in southern Siberia. Each forester has responsibility for large areas of forest.

Instruction was provided by forester Herb Hammond. Highlights of the training included visits to the Ministry of Forests' West Arm Demonstration Forest on Kootenay Lake and to private forests being managed by Reiner Muentner. An unexpected encounter with a skunk, an animal not found in Russia, enlivened the visit with a first-hand presentation of its very effective defence mechanism.

The Russians' visit was organized by Pacific Environment, based in Berkeley, California. Pacific Environment has carried out forestry projects in Russia for many years. Translators Dave Martin and Lisa Tracy worked hard to accurately relay ideas across both language and cultural barriers. SFF chef Shannon Hammond made sure everyone was well fed.