



Media Release

August 20, 2007

“Who is Doing What” on Mountain Pine Beetle?

Prince George, BC – The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) is pleased to present a new tool to help people figure out who is doing what on the mountain pine beetle issue. A new section has been added to the OBAC website www.ominecacoalition.ca that outlines which public groups (federal, provincial, First Nations, regional, local and academic) have a responsibility, interest, and mandate for response to the social and economic aspects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The ‘Who Does What’ listing currently presents more than 50 public groups, organizations and agencies and offers a brief overview of the work that each does and their contact information.

OBAC General Manager, Elizabeth Andersen states, “OBAC regularly receives calls as do many of the organizations in the listing, from people wanting to know who to call about specific beetle related issues or for more information about what a specific agency does when it comes to dealing with the mountain pine beetle. Our Board determined a few months ago that it would be helpful to create a ‘one stop shop’ information resource for people to go and find out more about the many groups and agencies involved in responding to the socio-economic aspects of the beetle epidemic”. OBAC has worked with several of the organizations that receive inquiries to build the “Who Does What” listing including: FORREX; First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative; 16/97 Economic Alliance; College of New Caledonia; and, BC Ministry of Economic Development. This listing will be updated periodically as additional organizations are identified or as contact and program information changes.

To further assist people to connect with organizations involved with MPB epidemic response, OBAC is pleased to be working with the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (FNMPBI) (www.fnmpbi.com) and the Fraser Basin Council (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca) to host a one-day Forum on October 4, 2007 in Prince George intended to increase awareness of organizations that can support First Nations and non-First Nations groups and agencies in dealing with their beetle related projects and initiatives. The Forum will introduce funding organizations and will also give other beetle related organizations an opportunity to share information about what they do. Many of the organizations in the “Who Does What” listing will be at the forum. Similar Forums will also be held in Williams Lake and Kamloops.

Also, all of the Bioenergy Speaker Series and Dialogue session presentations, speaker bios and the session notes are now available on the OBAC website. The session notes capture the discussion, questions and answers exchanged during the OBAC Bioenergy Speakers Series sessions held in OBAC communities in late June. Further work on development of the Bioenergy chapter of OBAC’s Alternative Energy Strategy will continue this fall. OBAC plans to finalize the Alternative Energy Strategy early in 2008.

For more information, visit our web site or contact us at the numbers below.

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