



## Workshop speakers

Presentations at the workshop included: "The Importance of NTFPs/Assessing the Resources" by Wendy Cocksedge and Tim Brigham; "NTFPs in the East Kootenays" by Thomas Hobby; "Compatible Management and NTFPs" by Brian Titus; and "Integrating Funal NTFPs with Forest Planning" by Richard Winder.

The workshop raised several ethical issues surrounding sustainable harvests, protocols, First Nations, provincial tenures, markets, and practices involving NTFPs. As NTFP harvesting has escalated during the past five years, so has the interest in NTFPs; however, solid information about the sector is scant and research is in its infancy. Increasingly, frequent damage to plantations and unsustainable practices underscore the rising need for new collaborative approaches, and new tools to assess the social, economic, and environmental impacts of this emerging industry.

The abstracts may be found at [http://www.forrex.org/events/docs/NTFP\\_Abtracts.pdf](http://www.forrex.org/events/docs/NTFP_Abtracts.pdf)

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# NTFPs are understated forest values

by Dean Mills, Pacific Forestry Centre and Tina Schivatcheva, Ecosystem Productivity Extension Specialist

Interest in Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) is growing. One challenge facing the industry is a general lack of reliable information about both the business and the science behind NTFP products. Other questions being asked are: What are the opportunities? Can we increase forest values? Who can get involved? What should be known?

As a business, NTFPs are complex, involving social, economic, and environmental values and protocols such as traditional First Nations' knowledge. Bringing together various partners and stakeholders (scientists and the public), Royal Roads University, FORREX, McGregor Model Forest, and the Canadian Forest Service organized and delivered an NTFP seminar and workshop last December in Victoria at the Pacific Forestry Centre. The event included five major speakers (see sidebar), two demonstrations, feedback from Provincial enforcement on southern

Vancouver Island, posters, and two tables of sample products.

Speakers highlighted the importance of NTFPs, especially at the community level. Much discussion revolved around the emerging NTFP industry in the East Kootenays and the challenges that come with the need for an inventory of existing resources. Issues surrounding compatible management for timber and NTFP values attracted considerable interest, as did the topic of integrating fungal NTFPs with forest management and planning. Practitioners conveyed two important perspectives: irresponsible harvesting of NTFPs can cause serious damage to forest ecosystems; and modern technology can help small woodlot owners by developing planning tools that include NTFPs in the decision-making framework.

This NTFP event successfully stimulated discussions on several field-oriented and immediate problems facing this emerging sector. 🌲