



2020 NFW-BC COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

The National Forest Week-BC Coalition (*Coalition*) began 2020 with the intent of continuing to develop the Program of assisting K-12 students and British Columbians in learning about BC forests and celebrating the contribution to our lives. In February, the COVID-19 pandemic was announced and all our plans required modification but within the *Coalition's* intent. We were determined not to down tools for the year.



COVID-19 resulted in 2020 being a different year for celebrating BC forests. The spring K-12 Program was limited due to the closures of most schools, cancellation of field trip plans, teacher uncertainty as to what could/should be done and cancellation of community events. For all intensions, the activities of volunteers and teachers regarding educating students and British Columbians about forests stopped. Even though schools opened in September, the spring constraints affected the K-12 fall program. However, some teachers who normally include forests in their curriculum continued forest education in the classroom but no field trips.

In response, we modified the *Coalition* Program to provide teaching materials designed for the indoor or outdoor classroom instruction within COVID-19 constraints. The objective was to provide teachers with materials, lesson plan ideas, videos, etc. that would keep BC forests present in the education of K-12 students throughout the year and not just NFW per se. The approach was to build on the experiences of *Coalition* volunteers. Examples of [BCNFW teaching resources](#) include:

- Providing teachers with packages of promotional materials to encourage them to use BC forests education as part of their curriculum, where appropriate,
- Increasing the variety of handout materials but within the available *Coalition* budget and protection against future unknowns associated with COVID-19,
- Building a virtual field trip component database on the *Coalition* website that could be used by teachers and volunteers in the classroom. This was and continues to be created by a group of volunteers willing to work collaboratively in developing virtual field trip teaching materials. Some examples to date are:
 - Generating videos that described stops on the traditional field trip tour in the local area,
 - Creating power point presentations on various aspects of forests such as tree identification using the BC Tree Teacher Resource Kit,



TREES of BC

Douglas-fir
(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



Bark
Smooth, grey-brown, with numerous vertical fissures. The bark becomes very thick with age and deeply furrowed, with dark reddish-brown edges.

Leaves
Needles are flat with a pointed tip. The upper surface is bright green, while the lower surface is a pale green. The needles are attached to the stem in a spiral pattern.

Cones
Cones are 5 to 11 centimeters long, starting from a long stem at the base. The cones are made of long, thin, pointed scales, some of which are woody and some are papery.

Habitat
Two varieties of Douglas-fir occur in different environments. The interior variety grows in a habitat in open forests with a significant amount of fire. The coastal variety can grow with Western redcedar, Western hemlock, and Western white pine.

Western redcedar
(*Thuja plicata*)



Bark
Grey, or light-brown, with a thin, scaly, and flaking texture.

Leaves
Scale-like, opposite, sessile, four-sided, flattened to one side, and in the upper part overlapping the lower. Arranged on the twigs in flat, fan-like whorls. Very aromatic.

Cones
Female cones are egg-shaped, 1 centimeter long, with several pairs of scales. Pollen cones are small, 100 reddish.

Habitat
Western redcedar grows best in moist to wet soils, with high humidity. It is resistant to rot and insect damage. It is common in the Pacific Northwest and Douglas-fir. In the north coast, it also grows with Douglas-fir and spruce. These forests usually have a thick layer of ferns, tree ferns, and Pacific holly, with a thick carpet of mosses on the forest floor.

Yellow-cedar
(*Depressio monticola*)



Bark
On young trees, the bark is thin, greyish-brown, and scaly. On older trees, the bark is thick, greyish-brown, and deeply furrowed. The bark is very flaking.

Leaves
Needles are dark, bluish-green, and slender with sharp points. A single needle is attached to the stem at the base. The needles are all at the base of the stem, except for a few upper ones which are near the top.

Cones
Cones are round, 6 to 11 millimeters in diameter, heavy like on the first year and becoming woody in the second. The cones have a thin, dark, cylindrical, ribbed surface.

Habitat
Yellow-cedar is a long-lived tree that grows well on deep, slightly acidic, moist soils. It is common in the Pacific Northwest and Douglas-fir. It also grows with Western redcedar and Western hemlock. It is found in the Pacific Northwest and the north coast, and with Western redcedar and Western hemlock and other plants such as oak, ash, birch, and Vaccinium on the north coast coast.



Produced by the BC National Forest Week Coalition. For more information, please visit bcforests.ca

- Identifying K-12 exercises that can be used in the classroom or forest adjacent to the school,
- Creating a series of 7 posters describing 20 BC conifer trees and 5 posters describing 11 deciduous trees, which have become very popular,
- Posting videos from other sources on the *Coalition* website as an easy access for teachers to use in educating students about BC forests,
- Expanding the number of BC Trees Teacher Resource Kits to meet the demand of teachers and volunteers across the Province, thanks to the assistance of *Forestry Innovation Investment*,
- Continuing the traditional *Coalition* practices, such as:
 - Providing volunteer foresters and biologists to present information in the classroom or nearby forests suitable for teacher delivery of their curriculum,
 - Responding to requests for handout materials; and
 - Providing NFW posters to all *Coalition* Sponsors for their use in promoting NFW in their offices, and
- Advertising NFW through Facebook postings, display and search ads on electronic devices and newspapers.

The *Coalition* is in its eighth year. During this period, the Program has become well-respected and strongly supported by our Sponsors. There have been modifications throughout this period as we learned what worked and what did not. However, it was time to expand and/or be more innovative in the services the *Coalition* provides.

COVID-19 was the stimulus to think about what we could do to continue the support for forest educators. From this perspective, the 2020 *Coalition* Program was a success, not by the number of K-12 students having forest related experiences but including service modifications that not only prepare the *Coalition* to respond to COVID-19 in 2021 but expand their availability to teachers and volunteers for the near future, hopefully beyond the pandemic.

In 2020 the *Coalition* sponsors, shown below, continued to be a cornerstone of forest education and celebration of BC forests. Their support is very much appreciated! The *Coalition* could not function efficiently or effectively without it.





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Legacy Sponsor - 5+ years providing sponsorships

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