

Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2005



Honourable Rich Coleman
Minister of Forests and Range

Minister's Message

In November 2002, government introduced the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). The Act represents a new way of regulating forest and range practices and is a fundamental shift from the *Forest Practices Code*. While the Code was the right legislation for its time, it was clear that a new approach was needed; one that would help create jobs and economic growth by promoting industry innovation without compromising the high environmental standards that protect British Columbia's forest and range land.

In developing the FRPA results-based model, it was recommended government create a standing advisory body to reflect broad-based interests to provide sound and rigorous comment on the efficacy of the Act and its regulations. As this idea matched government's desire for independent third-party evaluation of FRPA, the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) was formed.

Since then, PAC members have worked hard to make FRPA and its regulations relevant and effective. Members have developed strong relationships with other FRPA working committees, including the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team and with the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program, which evaluates forest and range practices. The PAC has also shown its value in building relationships with forest and range stakeholders, and its interest in issues which impact forest and range practices, particularly, the mountain pine beetle epidemic and worker safety.

The Council's advice on forest and range practices has proven invaluable as government moved forward with implementing FRPA. Therefore, I am pleased to present this first annual report, which summarizes the PAC's activities and accomplishments to date.

On behalf of all British Columbians, I thank the PAC members for their dedicated efforts to ensure British Columbia's forests are sustainably managed.

Message from PAC Co-Chairs:

Implementing forest and range practices under the FRPA requires a new way of thinking and a new approach to doing business - on the part of resource professionals, licensees and the B.C. Forest Service. This new approach must be built on cooperation and trust that will foster shared learning by all parties, and ultimately result in achieving a higher standard of forest and range management.

Given the culture shift associated with this new model, it will take time for resource professionals to implement strategies and assess their results. The forest sector has demonstrated that it works cooperatively with stakeholders. Tenure holders must now prove they can successfully work with the public, First Nations and stakeholders to achieve the commitments set out in the Forest Stewardship Plans and the requirements set out in the FRPA regulations. Professional associations are being asked to take a leadership role in providing guidance on professional reliance and accountability.

There have been some challenges while we work to implement the results-based regime - as is to be expected when making a change of this magnitude. The ministry's Provincial FRPA Implementation Team is working with all stakeholders to identify issues and solutions to assist in successfully implementing FRPA.

The Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council meets regularly and stays informed on issues arising during implementation. In addition, PAC is focussing increasing attention on developing a more strategic role in considering macro-scale forest management issues in British Columbia. As representatives from diverse sectors, we apply our collective knowledge and offer carefully considered advice on managing these issues.

Minister's Forest and Range Practices Council:

Current Membership (2005):

Duncan Barnett, BC Cattlemen's Association

Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

Dale Drown, Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

David Littlejohn, Council of Tourism Associations

Corinne Lonsdale, Union of BC Municipalities Natural Resource Committee

Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

Garry Merkel (Co-Chair), First Nations Summit Task Group

Roy Nagel, Central Interior Logging Association

James O'Hanley, Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd, representing major licensees (Interior)

Kim Pollock, United Steelworkers of Canada

Ric Slaco, International Forest Products, representing major licensees (Coast)

Jim Snetsinger (Co-Chair), Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range

Minister's Forest and Range Practices Council: – 2005:

Meetings:

In 2005, the PAC held three 2-day meetings and met twice via teleconference as set out below:

- February 3 and 4, 2005 - PAC Meeting
- June 1 and 2, 2005 - PAC Meeting
- June 27, 2005 - PAC Teleconference
- October 18 and 19, 2005 - PAC Meeting
- November 15, 2005 - PAC Teleconference

PAC Activities and Accomplishments – 2005:

The PAC reported to the Minister on the following:

- Environmental Protection: Recreational and Other Public Use of Crown Land;
 - Ways and means of improving the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program;
 - Expanding FRPA evaluations to include all FRPA goals and objectives, not just those being addressed under the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program;
 - Matters relating to FRPA implementation, including additional training needs, an on-going extension program and interpretative guidance to provide those working under FRPA with a better understanding on how to interpret key words or phrases in the legislation;
 - Worker Safety, notably advising that PAC is in the process of gathering more information to assess whether additional safety concerns have been generated as a result of the innovative practices that arise out of FRPA; and
 - Achieving the provincial Crown's policies with respect to the consultation obligations (within FRPA) to First Nations.
- The PAC identified the need to help employees and forestry contractors understand their liabilities and responsibilities and how they should operate under the principles of due diligence. Members of PAC provided review and comment on a draft pocket handbook, which resulted in the publication of the InfoFlip "Due Diligence under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* – What Employees and Forestry Contractors Need to Know".
 - Reviewed and provided comment on draft proposals for amendments to the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.
 - Reviewed and provided comment on draft proposals for amendments to the Government Actions Regulation.
 - The PAC was instrumental in identifying the need for a pocket handbook to assist range tenure holders, employees and contractors, consultants, government staff and guideoutfitters. PAC provided review and comment on the Range InfoFlip that provides pertinent information on Range requirements under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, touches on other relevant legislation, and highlights related information linked to range management.
 - The PAC provided recommendations to both Minister de Jong and Minister Coleman regarding proposed legislation.
 - The PAC provided input on various initiatives, including:
 - professional certification/professional reliance in a results based regime
 - statutory/non-statutory guidance
 - The FRPA Resource Evaluation Program: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/index.html>

PAC Priorities – 2006:

Minister Coleman has requested the PAC continue taking an active role in providing oversight on several key areas and offer advice or recommendations as required:

- Forest worker safety
- FRPA implementation issues
- FRPA Resource Evaluation Program
- FRPA communication strategy
- Management practices for Mountain Pine Beetle affected areas under FRPA

For complete reference on past PAC activities, please visit <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm>

**Both the “Due Diligence under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* – What Employees and Forestry Contractors Need to Know” and the “Range Management in British Columbia under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and other Legislation” InfoFlips can be viewed on the PAC website above.*

PAC Members' Biographies:



Duncan Barnett

Affiliation: BC Cattlemen's Association

Duncan divides his time between operating the family ranch near Williams Lake, B.C., and working as a consultant within the ranching and forest sectors with a focus on aboriginal and range issues.

Duncan is also an elected director of the Cariboo Regional District.



Bruno Delesalle, MSc.

Affiliation: Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

Since May 1999, Bruno has worked with a group of grassland enthusiasts, conservation organizations and ranching interests to establish and develop the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia. Bruno has a wide range of experience in managing conservation and extension programs, as well as ecology, policy, research, consultation and communications work. Bruno actively participates on various boards and committees.



Dale Drown

Affiliation: Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia (GOABC)

Dale has been the General Manager of the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia since 1995. This organization represents nearly 80 per cent of all guide outfitters in the province and wildlife stewardship is its priority. Guide outfitter tenures cover approximately 78 per cent of B.C. Prior to joining GOABC, Dale spent 20 years with governments, political organizations and the media in four different jurisdictions in Canada.

David Littlejohn

Affiliation: BC Lodging & Campgrounds Association and COTA

David received national certification as a professional campground operator and operates both Living Forest Ocean Campground and Bastion City Wildlife Tourism in Nanaimo, B.C. David is involved in promoting B.C. tourism and has a special interest in issues relating to BC Ferries and coastline/marine access as faced by communities such as Prince Rupert and Bella Coola.

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UNAVAILABLE



Corinne Lonsdale

Affiliation: Union of BC Municipalities

Corinne has over 19 years experience as an elected official, including three terms as Mayor of the District of Squamish. Corinne has been re-elected as Councillor for the District of Squamish and has a wide range of knowledge gained from her service on various committees (Advisory Committee of FRBC, MAC on Certification, EOF for the Sea to Sky LRMP, Executive of UBCM, Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee).



Brian McNaughton, RPF

Affiliation: Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

Brian is under contract as General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. The Federation represents 27 woodlot associations whose members consist of about 815 woodlot licence holders as well as numerous private forest landowners throughout B.C. Previously, Brian worked as a public servant with the Ministry of Forests, with 10 years in silviculture and a further 10 years as District Manager, Williams Lake Forest District.



Garry Merkel, RFP

Affiliation: First Nations Summit

Garry is a First Nations professional forester with 35 years experience in the forest sector. In addition, he is an experienced treaty negotiator, active on many regional and provincial initiatives, and has a special interest in community-based land management.



Roy Nagel

Affiliation: Central Interior Logging Association (also representing the Interior Logging Association, the North West Loggers Association, and the Truck Loggers Association)

Roy has been the General Manager for the Central Interior Logging Association since 1997. Previously he was a newspaper editor (Prince George Citizen) for 12 years. Roy has special interests in harvest sector activities and forest safety issues and serves on various committees including the BC Forest Safety Council, Minister's Community Advisory Group on the Mountain Pine Beetle and the Cariboo Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.



James O'Hanley, RPF, Weyerhaeuser Company Limited

Affiliation: Interior Industry

James is a professional forester and has a wide range of experience, having held positions including Field Planner and Planning Forester and Manager, Forestry and Aboriginal Affairs. James has special interests in forest policy development and implementation, and serves as a member on the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team and on the COFI Forestry Committee.



Kim Pollock

Affiliation: United Steelworkers

Kim Pollock is a Canadian national research representative for the United Steelworkers. Previously, he was director of public policy and environment for the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada for 12 years, which merged with Steelworkers in 2004. Kim provides USW officials, activists and members with social and economic research and analysis of forest sector issues and has written extensively on forestry and forest industry issues. Kim grew up in Port Coquitlam, B.C., and graduated with a degree in sociology from the University of B.C. He also worked previously as a newspaper reporter and political aide.



Ric Slaco, RPF, V. Pres. & Chief Forester, Interfor

Affiliation: Industry, Coastal Representative

Ric is a professional forester with over 25 years experience in forest management and resource planning. He has been with Interfor since 1992, previously working for Fletcher Challenge Canada and BC Forest Products. Ric is an active participant in sustainable forestry issues and forest policy matters and serves on several committees including the Forest Investment Council, Forestry Innovation and Investment Strategic Group.



Jim Snetsinger

Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range

Jim was appointed B.C.'s Chief Forester on November 8, 2004. Since joining the BC Forest Service in 1986, Jim held various positions, including Appraisal Officer, Regional Recreation Officer and Operations Manager in the former Morice Forest District, and Regional Staff Manager, Regional Manager, and Regional Executive Director for the Northern Interior Forest Region. He also served as the Regional Director for Land and Water BC for a short period in 2002.