

Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Honourable Rich Coleman
Minister of Forests and Range

Minister's Message

We have now approached a major milestone in the transition to *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) with the completion of Forest Stewardship Plans for most of the province. This will result in a shift of focus from the planning phase to the operations phase. With that renewed focus, we need to ensure that key goals that guided FRPA are being delivered, including the need to promote industry innovation while upholding the high environmental standards that protect British Columbia's forest and range land, and maintaining and enhancing the level of public acceptance of forest management.

The Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) provides an important sounding board that helps ensure our collective efforts to implement FRPA are effective, continuously improve and achieve FRPA's goals. The Council provides an independent evaluation of FRPA from the perspective of stakeholders and First Nations that complements the role of the Forest Practices Board.

A key role of the Council is to understand and assist many initiatives that are FRPA-related or interface closely with FRPA. The Council has built strong relationships with the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team, the Forest and Range Evaluation Program, and the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative and provides timely comments and advice that helps strengthen these initiatives. The Council continues to examine issues associated with worker safety, First Nations consultation and our response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic as well as other challenges.

I had the pleasure to meet PAC members and thanked them for their efforts to provide advice and recommendations on forest and range practices as we move forward with implementing FRPA. I am pleased to present this second annual report, which summarizes the Council's activities and accomplishments in 2006.

I look forward to their continued advice and assistance to help ensure the sustainable management of our precious forest and rangelands for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Message from Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) Co-Chairs:

The Forest and Range Practices Council (PAC) was appointed by the Minister of Forests and Range to examine and evaluate the implementation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) for its continued improvement. PAC members consider a broad diversity of interests when providing advice to improve forest and range practices that sustain resource values for the benefit of all British Columbians. PAC's focus is to maintain a high-level oversight of the FRPA framework and how it is implemented to meet its strategic goals. In this way, PAC can augment the role of various government agencies that provide technical advice.

In addition to attaining the key goals that guided the development of FRPA, successful FRPA implementation is also predicated on fair and open process that includes:

- Maintaining and improving dialogue between government, forest and range tenure holders, First Nations, stakeholders and the public; and
- Communicating successes and lessons learned so that we continuously improve.

In that regard, PAC members play an important outreach role to the many initiatives, both in and out of government, where dialogue about FRPA implementation is vital. This is accomplished as members converse with the various stakeholder interests that they represent as members of PAC.

PAC is developing strategic direction for its activities so that our efforts are focused on areas where we can contribute most and complement the efforts of other program activities. To do that effectively, PAC works closely with other FRPA-related initiatives to strengthen linkages and cooperatively build on their efforts.

The Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council meets regularly and stays informed on issues arising during FRPA implementation. Our meetings strive to ensure the best available information is provided from a variety of perspectives and in a manner that enables each member of PAC and others with the opportunity to fully present their views. As representatives from diverse sectors, we apply our collective knowledge and strive to provide clear, informed and balanced advice.

Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council:

Current Membership (2006):

Duncan Barnett, BC Cattlemen's Association

Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

Dale Drown, Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

Peter LaRose, Council of Tourism Associations

Corinne Lonsdale, Union of BC Municipalities

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

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: – 2006:

Meetings:

In 2006, the PAC held four two-day meetings including a field tour and also met four times via teleconference.

PAC Briefings – 2006:

PAC members were briefed on various ministry initiatives over the year, including:

- MOFR Policy Secretariat to improve the way in which all forestry legislative and policy initiatives including those related to FRPA are addressed;
- Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) activities including development of a new policy guide for the *Government Actions Regulation*, a brochure on public and First Nations review opportunities related to Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs), tracking submitted FSPs and efforts to complete the transition from the Code;
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) including its purpose to conduct evaluations that support continual improvement of forest and range practices, and its activities such as forage (range) evaluations and the monitoring and evaluation of forest worker safety;
- First Nations consultation requirements specific to the forest sector and linkages with the New Relationship;
- Range issues including those stemming from the mountain pine beetle epidemic (such as loss of range barriers), invasive plants, road deactivation, and the need for an inventory of natural range barriers;
- Workers' safety concerns including the activities of the BC Forest Safety Council, the development by MOFR of a Forest Safety Action Plan, analysis work underway that will likely lead to guidebook products, the inclusion within FREP of a safety indicator to address continuous improvement, and the hiring of new staff to address forest safety;
- Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative that is exploring opportunities to adjust our approach to forest management in response to rapidly changing conditions in our forest ecosystems such as climate change, bark beetle infestations and wildfire events;
- Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Action Plan including the Minister's Community Advisory Group on the MPB that provides input into the plan, the federal MPB funding initiative and partnering opportunities, and links with the Forestry Innovation Investment MPB program;
- Recreation sites where danger trees can pose a hazard particularly in MPB-impacted areas and where the process of log removal needs streamlining;
- Off-Road Vehicle Coalition's recommendations for registration, licensing and management;
- Oil and gas legislative changes underway that are intended to be results-based; and
- Non-statutory guidance that can augment FRPA in delivering forest and range management based on a recently prepared report.

PAC Recommendations and Accomplishments – 2006:

PAC expressed interest in going out in the field to learn how practices are being carried out on the ground to determine for themselves whether the FRPA regime will facilitate the management of MPB related issues. This field tour took place in June 2006 where PAC reviewed issues related to FRPA values. PAC is following up on items identified as requiring further information and discussion including:

- Communication: need for more timely communication on current issues like MPB management to raise public awareness;
- Range/riparian: value of a pilot project to evaluate use of selective falling to provide natural barriers to reduce stream disturbance by cattle; and
- Forage: need to develop approaches that result in harvested areas providing a desirable level of forage for both wildlife and cattle.

PAC activities and accomplishments also included:

- Worker safety: encouraging MOFR to undertake an analysis on impacts of forest practices on worker's safety and provide an update to PAC (that analysis work is in progress), and a commitment by PAC to consider the potential role of an occupational health and safety objective under FRPA;
- Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB): PAC examined vulnerabilities under FRPA, including impacts on resource values, First Nations and public interest, that arise from practices carried out in response to the MPB epidemic. PAC identified concerns that need strategic consideration such as the need to balance forage and timber production in salvage harvesting practices, and the value and impacts of non-harvested MPB killed trees on Crown land;
- MPB catalogue of activities: to better inform PAC discussions, a list of MPB related activities that address each FRPA value was developed;
- Provincial FRPA Implementation Team: PFIT circulated draft guidance and communication documents to PAC so that members could review and provide comment;
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program: PAC members were invited to respond to a FREP survey designed to refine the program's direction, and to respond to resource value priority questions in order to enhance program focus;
- Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative: PAC members requested opportunities to review and comment on proposed recommendations from this initiative, to be regularly updated, and to obtain further information on related issues such as seed supply;
- PAC Strategic Plan: draft document developed that sets out PAC mandate and that provides clarity and focus for PAC activities will be completed in 2007; this may lead to amendments to PAC's terms of reference; and
- PAC review and comment: PAC members provided comment on proposed amendments and numerous policy and information documents.

PAC meetings include discussions on a wide range of issues, and suggestions stemming from such discussions create innovative ideas for further consideration at future meetings, such as:

- FRPA plans: creation of a “registry” for both Forest Stewardship Plans and Range Stewardship Plans so stakeholders could, via internet access, determine which licensees have submitted plans for public review, comment and consultation;
- First Nations: the need for three parties (MOFR staff/licensees/First Nations) to work together to build relationships to ensure the Crown is able to meet its legal obligations;
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program: consideration of a more integrated approach for teams carrying out forest and range evaluations;
- Range: that MOFR support a pilot project to evaluate use of selective falling to provide natural barriers to reduce stream disturbance by cattle;
- Recreation sites: to support the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts’ need to have the authorization and timber mark process streamlined to enable removal of danger trees that pose a hazard to the public from recreation sites in MPB affected areas.

PAC Priorities – 2007:

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. PAC priorities for 2007 include:

- Forest worker safety
- FRPA implementation issues (including undertaking an analysis of how First Nation consultation requirements are being managed under FRPA)
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program
- Management practices for Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) affected areas under FRPA, and linkages between provincial management and the federal MPB initiative
- Agro-forestry/non-timber forest products
- Strategic oversight with focus on the goals that guided the development of FRPA.

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

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.



Peter LaRose

Affiliation: Council of Tourism Associations (COTA)

Peter has several years of public policy and program development experience, in such diverse areas as international trade, natural resources, energy, and technology. With a background in federal, provincial and local government as well as the private sector, he brings a balanced and consensus-driven approach to public policy issues affecting the BC tourism industry. Peter holds a Masters degree in comparative politics from the University of British Columbia.



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.