

# Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2007



**Honourable Rich Coleman**  
**Minister of Forests and Range**

## Minister's Message

Most of British Columbia's 95 million hectares are publicly owned and I take great pride that these forest and range lands are managed to the highest level of sustainability. To help us maintain these high standards, we rely on key cornerstones of policy such as the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), created with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

Because this Act is relatively new, I believe it requires the support of strong-minded and visionary individuals to ensure that it stays on track to achieve its stated aims. The Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) is a driver of that process and provides critical advice to ensure that FRPA is reviewed and evaluated appropriately.

However, reviewing FRPA in isolation of other initiatives would result in an incomplete picture. The PAC's mandate is broader and I've encouraged them to examine other forest management matters that may influence forest practices in British Columbia.

The Council made significant headway in 2007. They developed a strategic framework for activities, highlighted the issue of worker safety and the need to effectively address invasive plants. They also examined the effectiveness of the Act in the areas of professional reliance and interface issues with range, agro forestry and non-timber forest products.

I take the Council's advice and recommendations seriously. For example, PAC recommended we address the issue of individuals causing environmental damage by activities such as reckless driving of ATVs through sensitive range lands and wetlands. Last year, we responded by passing a new law making these activities illegal. Their opinions carry weight.

I am pleased to present this third annual report which summarizes the Council's activities and accomplishments in 2007. I appreciate their time and dedication to their role and their commitment to ensuring we continue, on behalf of all British Columbians, to act as guardians for the invaluable forest and range resources that our province possesses.

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

The Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) was established by the Minister of Forests and Range to provide advice on legislation, policies and implementation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and its associated regulations. In 2007, PAC developed a *Strategic Framework* document which updated its mandate and terms of reference, established its guiding principles, and clarified its strategic focus.

PAC's focus is to provide a high-level strategic oversight of the FRPA framework and how it is implemented, and its practical effectiveness. PAC provides a continuous monitoring role, offering advice on FRPA implementation particularly where issues arise from the way the legislation is constructed.

PAC believes that FRPA must succeed in the following fundamental areas and therefore is focussing its activities and advice in each of these areas:

- *Public/sector support* – public trust and support for FRPA where PAC has some advantage in monitoring this given the many sectors represented by PAC members;
- *Implementation* – timely and smooth FRPA implementation;
- *Monitoring and evaluation* – FRPA evolves and continuously improves over time;
- *Efficiency* – FRPA's goal to reduce costs and administrative burdens are realized;
- *Land stewardship* – FRPA at least achieves levels of land stewardship attained under the Code, with likelihood that even higher standards can be attained; and
- *Professional reliance* – FRPA is reliant on professionals providing sound advice.

To support these fundamental areas of success, PAC has developed key indicators to guide its strategic focus which are described in the *Strategic Framework* document.

PAC strives to stay abreast of these initiatives and other external factors that may influence FRPA implementation such as worker safety, legal obligations to First Nations, stumpage rates, B.C.'s international market position, and the softwood lumber agreement.

PAC meets regularly and stays informed on issues arising during FRPA implementation. Our meetings continue to strive to ensure the best available information is provided from a variety of perspectives. As representatives from diverse sectors, we apply our collective knowledge and endeavour to provide clear, informed and balanced recommendations and advice to the Minister.

## **Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council:**

### **Current Membership (2007):**

**Duncan Barnett**, BC Cattlemen's Association

**Bruno Delesalle**, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

**Peter LaRose**, Council of Tourism Associations of British Columbia

**Corinne Lonsdale**, Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Natural Resource Committee

**Brian McNaughton**, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations

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

**Rick Publicover**, Central Interior Logging Association

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

**Kim Pollock**, United Steelworkers of Canada

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

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

## **Minister's Forest and Range Practices Council: – 2007:**

### **Meetings:**

In 2007, the PAC held three two-day meetings, including a field tour, and also met four times via teleconference.

### **PAC Briefings – 2007:**

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

- FRPA legislation updates including proposals to strengthen environmental protection provisions related to damage caused by members of the public, and streamlining remediation orders to address public safety and environmental concerns;
- FRPA transition issues including transition from forest development plans (FDPs) under the Forest Practices Code to forest stewardship plans (FSPs) under FRPA;
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) update;
- Worker safety under FRPA including a FREP safety report;
- First Nations update based on recent Sappier and Gray court decision;
- Invasive plant legislative framework under FRPA and other legislation as well as supporting working groups, committees, and guidebook;
- Range/forestry interface issues and range management updates;
- Agro-forestry initiatives including ways to integrate management for timber and forage for cattle under FRPA;
- Non-timber forest products including research studies undertaken at Royal Roads University;
- Provincial Forest Genetics Strategy from the Program Manager of Forest Genetics Council;
- Mountain pine beetle (MPB) initiatives under the Canada-BC MPB program;
- MPB federal direction from the Director General of the Pacific Forestry Centre;
- MPB emergency response update from the Assistant Deputy Minister, MFR;

## PAC Briefings – 2007 (Continued)

- Resource Road Act Initiative that is seeking to streamline the resource road access and management process;
- Compliance and enforcement activities under FRPA;
- Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative implementation update where options for maintaining and enhancing the resilience of B.C.'s forest ecosystems are being assessed;
- Professional reliance update from the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) with focus on how it supports the FRPA framework.

A field tour in the Cariboo enabled PAC to be briefed on and examine:

- Forest and range practices, including challenges associated with MPB-attacked stands, such as use of shelterwood silvicultural systems, incremental silviculture in MPB-killed pine stands, old growth management areas, and practices in woodlots and community forests; and
- Range/forestry interface issues, including those associated with the MPB epidemic, such as encroachment burning, natural range barriers, fencing issues associated with dead pine, and grass seeding.

## PAC Recommendations and Accomplishments – 2007:

PAC activities and accomplishments included:

- Strategic framework: the development of a PAC *Strategic Framework* document that updates PAC's mandate and strategic focus over the next two years. The *Strategic Framework* also clarifies the PAC Planning Framework, provides guiding principles for PAC's conduct, describes fundamental areas where FRPA needs to succeed, identifies key relationships with other groups where collaboration is key, provides indicators that support its strategic focus that should be monitored, and revises PAC's Terms of Reference;
- Legislative review: review of proposed FRPA legislative amendments and the preparation of a letter of support to the Minister for proposals to: (i) strengthen environmental protection provisions to address damage caused by individual members of the public; and (ii) streamline remediation order procedures to ensure public safety and environmental issues are addressed;
- Worker safety: The above letter also provided PAC's advice that the Minister continue to support every initiative and activity that will effectively improve worker safety in the forest sector. PAC also reviewed the draft FREP safety report entitled *Worker Safety Impacts Associated with Legislation, Policy, Planning and Implementation of Forest Harvesting Activities in BC*;
- Agroforestry: request that the Minister be made aware of the need for a policy analysis of how agroforestry fits in the land base under FRPA, and under the Forests for Tomorrow strategy;

PAC reported to the Minister on a number of priority topics including:

- FRPA culture shift: PAC is continuing to monitor the culture shift from a prescriptive regime under the Code to a results-based model under FRPA and may be providing further communication on this in future;
- Worker safety: all members of PAC share a common interest in worker safety, but no consensus has been reached regarding whether there should be a safety objective under FRPA. Worker safety continues to be a high priority for PAC, and further analysis is underway;
- Professional reliance: PAC continues to give consideration to issues around professional reliance and some recommendations for next steps may follow;

- Mountain pine beetle: PAC continues to assess how FRPA works in the mountain pine beetle infested areas, and related FSP transition issues, and may offer recommendations in the future on these important topics;
- Agroforestry and non-timber forest products (NTFPs): PAC has asked for further analysis to see if FRPA provides flexibility to enable added benefits from agroforestry and NTFPs, and may wish to provide advice in future;
- Invasive plants: PAC has requested that there be an executive level champion within MFR that addresses invasive plants with other inter-agency Assistant Deputy Ministers;
- Other policy issues: While PAC's focus has been on FRPA, PAC feels it may be more effective if it expands its scope to consider other high level policy issues, and asked the Minister if he agreed with this direction. The Minister responded and agreed that he should be able to bring other non-FRPA issues to PAC as a priority topic for advice.

## **PAC Priorities – 2008:**

PAC has identified the following high priority issues for 2008, including some matters that were brought to their attention by Minister Coleman:

- Coastal issues: such as the need to modernize forest operations as the coast industry moves to harvesting second growth;
- Northwest strategy: such as the need for additional investment to improve roads so logging trucks can operate safely;
- Forest operations: to help ensure that industry is cost-competitive given global markets;
- Mountain pine beetle: to explore forest and range opportunities both in the immediate and post MPB timeframes given the impacts of the epidemic on communities and the environment;
- Professional reliance under FRPA: to have PAC stay focused on the professional reliance issue and culture shift to a results-based model and provide advice around these topic areas;
- Ungulate winter range/mountain caribou: a need for PAC to provide advice on this high priority file particularly given the media attention it receives;
- Agroforestry/NTFPs: as these products provide opportunities on the land base and can link to climate change initiatives such as bioenergy;
- Bioenergy: the need for MFR to explore options to modernize its regulations to foster sustainable use of bioenergy; and
- Worker safety: need for PAC to provide further comments or advice in consideration of analysis work that is currently underway such as recent FREP safety report.

Consistent with the Minister's request, PAC feels it will be important to also do the following:

- FRPA effectiveness: continue to monitor the overall effectiveness of FRPA using the fundamental areas of success and key indicators developed in PAC's *Strategic Framework* document; and
- Range/forestry interface issues: continue to review issues such as forage management concerns arising from FRPA legislation and implementation activities.

*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.



**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 Master's 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, RPF**

**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.



**Rick Publicover, RPF**

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

Rick is a professional forester with a varied career spanning thirty years - working for a consulting firm, a major forest company, as a forestry consultant, the BC Council on Substance Abuse and currently as the executive director for the CILA (since April 2007). Rick is active on many forest initiatives and participates on many boards including the BC Forest Safety Council, Forest and Resource Expo, Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd. and BC Council on Substance Abuse.



**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, Vice-President & 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, RPF**

**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.