

Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Forests, Mines and Lands

Minister's Message

I would like to thank the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council for their on-going advice to me and ministry staff regarding the legislation, policy and the implementation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations.

In March 2009, I met with PAC and specifically asked PAC to review the discussion paper "***GROWING OPPORTUNITIES – A New Vision for Silviculture in British Columbia***" and offer their thoughts on a strategic approach for silviculture for B.C.'s forests and range. PAC provided some excellent higher-level advice around achieving long term success to improve and diversify the values and products that we derive from BC forests.

The restoration of mountain pine beetle-attached forests is a key issue for B.C.'s Interior communities, and PAC members continue to ensure this remains a high priority for government.

PAC members remain interested in a broad range of areas including forest worker safety, environment, agro-forestry and non-timber forest products. I look forward to receiving further recommendations and advice from them, as government focuses on identifying new innovative opportunities to ensure economic growth for our province.

Message from Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) Co-Chairs Jim Snetsinger and Garry Merkel:

The Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) presents advice and/or recommendations to the Minister on issues related to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and regulations. PAC discussions cover a diverse range of topics, such as forest worker safety, how activities performed by other agencies affect our forest and range values, how the professional reliance model is working under FRPA, as well as many other current forestry issues.

During 2009, as requested by Minister Bell, PAC placed significant emphasis on the discussion paper ***"GROWING OPPORTUNITIES – A New Vision for Silviculture in British Columbia."*** Following considerable deliberations and a field tour, PAC agreed that a strategic approach to silviculture would be necessary to achieve a long term sustainable forest that supports all resource values. Further, PAC stressed the need to ensure forest health and ecosystem resilience are over-riding priorities.

In 2009, PAC continued to stress forest worker safety as an important issue for all stakeholders, and partly as a result of PAC's efforts, a "safety culture" has grown and is being actively supported across the Ministry of Forests and Range, and within other agencies and the BC Forest Safety Council.

As Co-Chairs, we wish to thank all our PAC members for the passion they bring to the table, and the wisdom they offer to help ensure our provincial forests are managed sustainably for the future.

Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council:

Membership (2009):

Randy Chan, Tolko Industries Ltd, representing major forest licensees (Interior)
Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia
Shannon Janzen, Western Forest Products Inc., representing major forest licensees, (Coast)
Peter LaRose, Council of Tourism Associations of British Columbia
Vacant, Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Natural Resource Committee
Mike McConnell, BC Cattlemen's Association
Brian McNaughton, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations
Garry Merkel, (Co-Chair), First Nations Summit Task Group
Kim Pollock, United Steelworkers
Roy Nagel, Central Interior Logging Association
Jim Snetsinger (Co-Chair), Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range

Minister's Forest and Range Practices Council: – 2009:

Meetings:

In 2009, PAC held one 1-day meeting, two 2-day meetings and met twice via teleconference.

PAC Briefings – 2009:

PAC members were briefed and had discussions about various initiatives over the year, including:

- Minister's Priorities: Minister Bell met with PAC and discussed his top priorities, and specifically requested PAC to review the Silviculture Discussion Paper and provide their advice and/or recommendations for a strategic approach to silviculture in BC
- Legislation / Regulations: PAC reviewed Forest Planning and Practices Regulation amendments that supported the Forests for Tomorrow Program; proposed amendments to the Range Planning and Practices Regulation.
- Forest Worker Safety: PAC was briefed on the Ministry of Forests and Range's implementation of a broad range of safety initiatives, and its collaboration with other agencies who are involved in promoting safety (B.C. Forest Safety Council, WorkSafe BC) and ministries (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Oil and Gas Commission) regarding policies and practices.
- Range – PAC discussed implementation issues to increase understanding around Range Stewardship Plans.
- The *Oil and Gas Activities Act* (OGAA): PAC was briefed on how OGAA will work in coordination with FRPA.
- Climate Change and Forest Carbon: PAC was updated at their March 12-13, 2009 meeting on the Climate Action Secretariat and government's goal to achieve zero net deforestation by 2015. PAC was advised that the Climate Action Plan had been moved under the Ministry of Environment as their mandate is across natural resource agencies.
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP):
 - MFR staff provided updates on activities on the following FRPA values:
 - Cultural Heritage Resources (CHR) - How to use CHR Assessments under FRPA Framework
 - Water Quality Monitoring.
 - Three new FREP Reports were made available on-line to stakeholders, including:
(see website <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/reports.htm>)
 - FREP Report 14 title: Tree Species Composition and Diversity in British Columbia
 - FREP Report 17 title: Resource Stewardship Monitoring: Stand-level Biodiversity Analysis of 2005/2006 Field Season Data by Biogeoclimatic Zone
 - FREP Report 18 title: A Review of FSP Results and Strategies for the Cultural Heritage Resource Value and associated Action Plan.

PAC Recommendations and Accomplishments – 2009:

PAC activities and accomplishments included:

- PAC received an update from Minister Bell in January on the analysis ministry staff was undertaking regarding the most appropriate way to address forest worker safety within the Ministry of Forests and Range.
- PAC members continued to monitor forest worker safety initiatives throughout the year. Some examples of work underway include:
 - Improving signage on forest roads across the province - Signage standards have been integrated into the Ministry of Forests and Range Engineering Manual.
 - Working to standardize radio protocols throughout the province.
 - Increasing information to the public – Road Safety Committees are establishing a variety of ways to communicate information at the local level.
- PAC recommended government implement a provincial strategy for silviculture, with strategic planning frameworks that include a clear vision, principles and over-arching objectives.

PAC Priorities – 2009:

During its deliberations in 2009, PAC identified the following topics that they wish to follow up on in 2010:

- Silviculture, commercial forest reserves, short rotation and fibre plantations
- FRPA Implementation— What is happening on the ground?
- Landscape level objectives and results for sustainable forest management
- Professional reliance

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

PAC Members' Biographies:



Randy Chan, RPF, VP & General Manager, Tolko Industries

Affiliation: Industry, Interior Representative

Randy has been practicing forestry in the BC Interior since 1971 and is currently Vice-President and General Manager of Environment and Forestry with Tolko Industries Ltd. Randy was past president of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP). The ABCFP awarded Randy as Professional Forester of the Year in 1990; Volunteer of the Year in 1999 and Distinguished Forest Professional in 2008. Randy is also an honorary member of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C.



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.



Shannon Janzen, Western Forest Products Inc.

Affiliation: Industry, Coast Representative

Shannon has been practising forestry in BC since 1998 and is currently the Manager of Strategic Planning with Western Forest Products Inc. Previous to this position, she worked in operational forestry in the interior and on the coast. She also spent over three years with the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative as their Ecosystem Based Management Implementation Manager and received the ABCFP's Professional Forester of the Year award in 2008 for her efforts on this file.



Peter LaRose

Affiliation: Council of Tourism Associations (COTA)

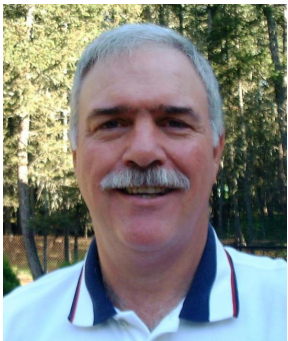
Peter has several years of public policy and program development experience in such diverse areas as international trade, natural resources, energy, and technology. With a background in federal, provincial and local government as well as the private sector, he brings a balanced and consensus-driven approach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



Mike McConnell, PAg.

Affiliation: BC Cattlemen's Association

Following graduation from UBC, Mike moved to the Peace River to work as a Land Inspector with the Dept. of Lands, Forests and Water Resources in Fort St. John. After several years, Mike left to work as an agriculture lender with the Farm Credit Corp. in Dawson Creek. Returning to the provincial government, Mike spent the next 17 years as a range agrologist with the Ministry of Forests and Range in Dawson Creek. He and his wife Judy run a 150 head cow-calf operation that uses Crown grazing in the Bear Mountain Grazing Reserve. Mike is president of the Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association, a director to the BC Cattlemen's Association and member of their Land Stewardship Committee.



Brian McNaughton, RPF

Affiliation: Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

Brian is 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.



Kim Pollock

Affiliation: United Steelworkers

Kim is a Canadian national research representative for the United Steelworkers. Previously, he spent 12 years as Director of Public Policy and Environment for the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada, 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.



Jim Snetsinger

Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range

Jim was appointed B.C.'s Chief Forester on November 8, 2004. Since joining the B.C. Forest Service in 1986, Jim has 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 B.C. for a short period in 2002.

New representative yet to be appointed

Affiliation: Union of BC Municipalities