

**PAC Meeting
January 17-18, 2006
Key Issues**

**Minister's Forest and Range
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)**

**Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel
Lockheed Room
3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC**

PAC Members

Attendees:

Duncan Barnett
Bruno Delesalle
Dale Drown
James O'Hanley
Corinne Lonsdale (Jan. 18th)
Brian McNaughton
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair
Roy Nagel
Kim Pollock
Ric Slaco

Affiliation

Land Stewardship Committee, British Columbia Cattlemen's Assn.
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Guide Outfitters, COTA
(Weyerhaeuser) Major Licensees (Interior)
Union of BC Municipalities
Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
First Nations Summit
Central Interior Logging Association
United Steelworkers Association
INTERFOR) Major Licensees (Coast)

Gov't Representatives

Attendees:

Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair
Ralph Archibald
Ian Miller
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat

Ministry of Forests and Range
Director, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests and Range
Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range
Ministry of Forests and Range

Special Guest:

Honourable Rich Coleman

Minister of Forests and Range

Presentations by:

Trish Balcaen
Charlie Western (via Teleconference)
Robb Darrell
Diane Goode
Tim Sheldan
David Borth
Peter Bradford
Ernie Fraser

Executive Director, Forest Policy Implementation, MOFR
Provincial FRPA Implementation Team Chair, MOFR
Director Aboriginal Affairs Branch, MOFR
Manager, Litigation & Policy Analysis, Aboriginal Affairs Br. MOFR
ADM, Operations Division, MOFR
Director, Range Branch, MOFR
FRPA Resource Evaluation Program, Forest Practices Br., MOFR
Communication Strategy, Contractor

Honourable Rich Coleman's Meeting with Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council PAC)

Honourable Rich Coleman met with members of PAC to discuss the PAC Report and Recommendations to Minister dated January 9, 2006, which raised some key issues to his attention.

Minister Coleman thanked PAC for confirming their on-going participation on the Council and continuing to provide advice and recommendations on forest and range practices as government moves forward with implementing FRPA.

Workers Safety - Presentation: Trish Balcaen, MOF Safety Initiatives

- Regulation and legislation review with a safety lens - Report finalized and expected to be out by end of January, focused on business areas under MOFR and WorkSafe BC Regulation
- BC Forest Safety Council has created a certification program that will require all operators and companies to meet standards and have safety programs
- BC Forest Safety Council will fund the appointment of an ombudsman to deal with workplace safety issues between contractors and companies with licences to harvest timber.
- Resource Roads Act - development underway - legislation expected in 2007
- Trish advised she has a personal interest in worker safety and is working with the Ministry of Skills and Labour to support training initiatives for workers.
- Some safety monitoring will be incorporated into FREP program
- MOFR staff analysis work is still underway, access to accurate data identified as challenge.

ACTION: MOFR Forest Practices Branch staff to do analysis on impacts of forest practices on workers safety and provide update at April PAC meeting.

Off Road Vehicles

- Solutions for a Sustainable Future: Final Recommendations for Registration, Licencing and Management of Off-Road Vehicles in BC - see website <http://www.orvcoalitionbc.org/>
- Best Management Practices for Motorized Recreation on BC's Grasslands - see website <http://www.bcgrasslands.org/conservationcampaigns/bmp.htm>

FRPA Update

- Proposal for amendment to FRPA Section 30 Free Growing will proceed to Cabinet.
- New MOFR Policy Secretariat has been put in place to coordinate proposals for new policy or amendments to policy. This is designed to produce stronger policy prior to the drafting process and ensure integrated policy process across MOFR business areas.

Oil and Gas Legislation

Legislation for the Oil and Gas sector, presently under the Forest Practices Code of BC Act was not included under Forest and Range Practices Act. The Oil and Gas Commission is developing their own results-based regime, proposing a professional reliance model similar to FRPA. For further information please see OGR11 Discussion Paper: http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/Oil%6Gas/reg_discussion_paper.pdf.

Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT)

- PFIT includes government/industry/stakeholder members that are working collaboratively to ensure success for FRPA implementation. PFIT members are tracking status for FSPs and addressing issues as required.
- An Administration Guide for Government Actions Regulation - Interim Guide is being developed on behalf of the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team.

First Nations Consultation Process

- Robb Darrell and Diane Goode, Aboriginal Affairs Branch, MOFR provided detailed presentation to PAC members on the First Nations consultation requirements specific to the forestry sector.

ACTION: PAC will analyze how FN obligations are being managed under FRPA and determine a subsequent course of action based on those discussions.

Range Issues

- *Ministry of Forests Act* amendments in process that will change the name of the Act to *Ministry of Forests and Range Act* and identify a government objective to promote a "vigorous, efficient and world competitive ranching sector".
- Ministry of Forests and Range and Ministry of Environment are working together to review grazing leases in Parks, including intent to undertake industry consultation.
- A paper entitled *Mountain Pine Beetle Impacts, Mitigation and Opportunities - A Discussion Paper - BC Cattlemen's Association* contains ranching related issues and potential mitigative actions.
- Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee has undertaken specific efforts to increase funding for all agencies responsible for invasive plant management and provides coordination of government resources.
- Range InfoFlip was produced following recommendation by PAC and will be useful resource for training.
- An inventory on Natural Range Barriers in Northern Interior has been produced. Plan underway to provide inventory of Natural Range Barriers in Southern Interior.
- MOFR studying options around road deactivation issues. Concern regarding responsibility and funding to manage roads need to be in place for roads that are not deactivated.

ACTION: PAC to send letters of appreciation to key MOFR staff thanking them for their work on the Range InfoFlip and generated this excellent product.

FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP)

- The FRPA Resource Evaluation Program was set up to assess the effectiveness of FRPA and FRPA regulations in achieving stewardship objectives and determine the objectives set by government are met. The program is also mandated to identify FRPA implementation issues related to forest policies, practices and legislation and implement continuous improvement of forest management in BC.
- PAC plays an important overview role for the FREP program by providing:
 - Overall program guidance and advice
 - Guidance on the program's evaluation and monitoring priorities
 - Advocates for adequate resources to achieve the program's objectives
 - Helps ensure the results of the monitoring and evaluation activities are properly incorporated into the continuous improvement cycle for forest management.

ACTION: FREP is considering how to monitor and evaluate forest worker safety and will report back at April PAC Meeting.

FRPA Communication Strategy

- PAC is continuing consideration and discussion on this initiative to provide advice on a strategy to communicate within BC, inter-provincially and internationally on issues that are linked to FRPA. This initiative was originally a directive from Minister de Jong and is currently supported by Minister Coleman.

ACTION: PAC Communication Strategy Working Group to review and draft recommendation / rationale and report back at April PAC Meeting.