

**PAC Meeting  
April 11-12, 2006  
Key Issues**

**Minister's Forest and Range  
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)  
Best Western Richmon Inn  
Meeting Room 167  
7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC**

**PAC Members**

**Attendees:**

Duncan Barnett (via teleconf.)  
Bruno Delesalle  
Dale Drown  
James O'Hanley  
Brian McNaughton  
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair  
Roy Nagel  
Kim Pollock (April 12<sup>th</sup>)  
Ric Slaco  
Peter LaRose

**Affiliation**

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

**Gov't Representatives**

**Attendees:**

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

Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Director, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests and Range  
Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range  
PAC Secretariat, Ministry of Forests and Range

**Presentations:**

Prov. FRPA Implementation Team  
Charlie Western

PFIT Chair, MOFR

Aboriginal Affairs Branch  
Diane Goode  
Dawna Harden

MOFR Manager, Litigation and Policy Analysis  
Manager, Policy & Interim Measures

Mtn Pine Beetle Emergency Response  
Ray Schultz

ADM, Operations Division, MOFR

Range Branch

Doug Fraser  
Francis Njenga

Range Practices Specialist, MOFR  
Range Agrologist, S. Interior Rgn.

Non-Statutory Guidance

Roberta Reader

Consultant

Communication Strategy

Ernie Fraser

Consultant

**Non-Statutory Guidance**

- The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) is only one statute, stakeholders operate under other statutory regimes that exist in the legal realm:
  - Statutory regimes administered by government officials.
  - Self-regulating professions administer statutory regimes.
  - Common law principles of civil liability apply to tenure holders and the government.
  - Common law principles of professional negligence
- The non-legal realm comprises societal expectations and the scientific-technical knowledge that underpins these expectations.
- Both government and licensees/tenure holders must make the “culture shift” that is necessary to ensure success under FRPA.

**ACTION: I. Miller/S. Turcotte to distribute draft report to PAC members.**

## **FREP Range Overview**

- Six values are managed for under FRPA for range:
  - Soils
  - Biodiversity
  - Forage and associated plant communities
  - Fish and fish habitat
  - Water (water quality objectives)
  - Wildlife (also wildlife habitat areas and ungulate winter range objectives)
- Range Effectiveness Evaluations:
  - 2001 – Riparian Evaluations in 4 Forest Districts (2 northern, 2 southern districts)
  - 2004 – Range Use Plans and Residual Cover Evaluation
  - 2005 – High Elevation Range Evaluation
- Various District-level Evaluations have been carried out:
  - 2002 – Midway and Cranbrook
  - 2003 – Rocky Mountain
  - 2003/4 – Muskwa
  - 2005 – Freeman Creek stream evaluation
- PAC BCCA representative thanked Doug Fraser for giving a presentation to the BCCA Land Stewardship Committee.

**ACTION: PAC recommended a more integrated approach for teams carrying out forest evaluations and range evaluations.**

## **FRPA Updates**

### **MOFR Policy Development Process**

- A new process for developing corporate policy has been put in place for MOFR staff. Policy proposals should be submitted through this process if: 1) it will result in a statutory (legislative) or regulatory change; 2) implementation will require additional resources or a significant reallocation of existing resources; and/or 3) the policy will impact multiple programs or business areas.
- The process is anticipated to streamline the process making the system more efficient using an (internal to MOFR) online system for submitting, reviewing and tracking policies. Ministry priorities will be evaluated against the actual policy work underway or contemplated.
- The process has the flexibility to “fast-track” issues through the system when required.

### **Government Action Regulation**

- The ministers of Environment; Forests and Range; and Agriculture and Lands have authorities to take specified GAR actions, and can delegate that authority with direction. The Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts have been delegated the authority for recreation-related GAR actions such as recreation features.
- These ministries have worked collaboratively to develop an “*Administration Guide for Government Actions Regulation*” intended to provide advice to DDMs and support staff on GAR requirements and tests.
- The guide is currently under review, and will be finalized for release in the near future.

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to send final guide to PAC Members.**

### **FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT)**

- PFIT has set up sub-teams:
  - Issues management team
  - Communications/Training (development of brochures, bulletins, etc)
  - Small Tenures/Range/Woodlot team
  - Silviculture
- PFIT is tracking FSPs submitted by licensees (PFIT is tracking BCTS separately)
- A key component of successful FRPA implementation is the public review and comment process for FSPs. A brochure has been developed “Be Heard: Get involved in Forest Stewardship Plan Review” which can be downloaded from the FRPA website at [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/training/frpa/FSP\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/training/frpa/FSP_brochure.pdf)
- PAC Industry (Coastal) representative noted the leadership of PFIT, along with the information and assistance being provided by PFIT is appreciated.

**ACTION: PFIT requested PAC representatives encourage pro-active involvement from members of their various sectors/affiliations.**

**ACTION: PFIT Chair / PAC BCCA representative to discuss solutions re RSP submissions at district level.**

**ACTION: To address review, comment and consultation requirements, PAC recommended creating a “registry” for both Forest Stewardship Plans and Range Stewardship so stakeholders could, via internet access; determine which licensees have submitted FSPs.**

### **Future Forest Ecosystems of BC Initiative**

- Future Forest Ecosystems of B.C. is a Ministry of Forests and Range initiative exploring opportunities to adjust our approach to forest management in response to rapidly changing conditions in our forest ecosystems.
- A symposium and workshops were held in December 2005 to discuss managing the effects of climate change, wildfire events, bark beetle infestations, and other agents of ecological change. For further information, please visit [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future\\_Forests/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/)

**ACTION: PAC requested updates on the Future Forest Ecosystems of BC to standing agenda item so members can be kept current.**

**ACTION: PAC requested the opportunity for review and comment on proposed recommendations that follow from this initiative.**

### **First Nations Consultation Process**

- Government addressed the resource/capacity issues internally; however, First Nations are still experiencing resource/capacity issues that enable timely consultation processes for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
- Government has tabled legislation to enact the \$100-million New Relationship Trust that it is envisioned will help fund long-term capacity-building for First Nations, however, it must support a broad spectrum of tools (both social programs and economic decision-making for land and resource management) amongst all First Nations communities in BC. Please visit [http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/popt/the\\_new\\_relationship.htm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/popt/the_new_relationship.htm) for further information.
- PAC identified need to have resources at the operational levels directed at identifying Cultural Heritage and Archaeological sites “one the ground”.
- PAC First Nations representative suggested that a transition process under FRPA is needed which will provide some mechanism to help small operators and new licensees who may not have experience in managing the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage values

**ACTION: PAC recommended need for the three parties (MOFR staff/licensees/First Nations) to work together to build relationships to ensure the Crown is able to meet its legal obligations.**

**ACTION: PAC members requested an opportunity to give further consideration to these issues with a view to providing some advice or recommendations in future.**

### **Worker's Safety Under FRPA**

- Ralph Archibald reported that work is underway that will result in the development of a product (e.g. industry recognized practices, worker safety guidebook).
- It is anticipated information gained from this analysis (targeted for completion by the end of 2006) will enable development for another two InfoFlip handbooks:
  - Harvesting (including Falling, Yarding, Transporting, Reforestation), and
  - Roads (including Falling, Construction, Maintenance, Deactivation)
- A safety indicator has been included under the FREP program for 2006/07 and will be used to address continuous improvement.
- A Forest Safety Ombudsman has been appointed by the BC Forest Safety Council as part of their new safety initiative. Ministry of Forests representative on the BC Forest Safety Council is Grant Parnell.
- As part of the effort to improve forest safety, government is hiring a dedicated Safety Officer for the Ministry of Forests and Range, a Senior Manager for Safety in the BC Timber Sales Program and a Coroner dedicated for forest safety.
- MOFR and BCTS are developing The Ministry's Forest Safety Action Plan which includes:
  - reviewing regulations and policy from a safety perspective
  - establishing forest safety best practices
  - ensuring business objectives go through a safety lens
  - ensuring compliance and enforcement of legislation and licences
  - raising the profile of forest safety internally and externally
- PAC noted that in October 2003, they had recommended to Minister de Jong that he consider including an Occupational Health and Safety objective or provision under FRPA regulation. PAC members agreed that following the analysis currently underway by MOFR, consideration will be given to restating PAC advice to Minister Coleman.

### **Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan**

- The Government of Canada contributed \$100 million to the Province of British Columbia to help mitigate impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation. The Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response Team will oversee how funds will be distributed.
- MOFR is undertaking further analysis of projections for the next 20 years. PAC identified other concerns that need strategic consideration:
  - First Nations traditional uses for mature pine forests;
  - implications re water supply
  - impacts re salvaged timber/licensee obligation to reforest/range issues – range ingrowth/range restoration, invasive plants, etc. (see <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/index.htm> )
  - impacts of non-harvested MPB affected areas re backcountry recreation
  - linkages with operational issues (e.g. Timber Tenures and Pricing)
  - MOFR Future Forest Initiative linkages – e.g. research report “*How to Manage Understorey Regeneration*” will be out within next few weeks
- Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan (see [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain\\_pine\\_beetle/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/)) was initiated in 2002, has a two-sided approach.
  - 1) Bio-physical forestry actions (both longterm and short term)
  - 2) Socio-economic action plans for communities (both long term and short term)

- The Minister's Community Advisory Group on the Mountain Pine Beetle reviews progress and provides input on the province's beetle action plan. Members include representatives from communities, First Nations, forest industry, scientific community, logging contractors, and the federal government.
- The Minister further tasked the Practices Advisory Council to apprise him of any vulnerabilities (including wildlife, recreation, and other public interests) under FRPA that arise from practices carried in response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

**ACTION: PAC to consider impacts of non-harvested MPB killed trees on Crown land.**

### **FRPA Communication Strategy**

- PAC Communication Strategy Working Group tabled draft document that will provide advice to Minister Coleman 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 to teleconference with the Communication Strategy Working Group to review and finalize report.**