

**PAC Meeting
and Field Tour
June 22-23, 2006
Key Issues**

**Minister's Forest and Range
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)
Morning Meeting
Northern interior Forest Region
5th Floor Boardroom, 1011 Fourth Avenue
Prince George, BC**

PAC Members

Attendees:

Duncan Barnett
Bruno Delesalle
Peter LaRose
Corinne Lonsdale
Brian McNaughton
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair
Roy Nagel
Ric Slaco

Affiliation

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

Gov't Representatives

Attendees:

Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair
Ian Miller
Brian Raymer
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat

Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range
Manager, Integrated Resource Section, Ministry of Forests and Range
A/Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range
PAC Secretariat, Ministry of Forests and Range

Presentations:

Barry Dobbin
Elizabeth Anderson
MaryAnne Arcand
Brady Nelles
John Rex
John Degagne
Karen Tabe
Andrew Pantel
Phil Burton
Bob Hodgkinson
Luc Roberge
Tony Wipfli
Frank Craig
Gary Westfall

Asst. Prov. Bark Beetle Coord., MPB Emergency Response Div.
Ominica Beetle Action Coalition
TruckSafe BC
Ecosystem Biologist, Regional Ops. - Omineca/Peace, MOE
Hydrologist, Northern Interior Region, MOFR
Stewardship Officer, Vanderhoof Forest District, MOFR
Range Officer, Vanderhoof Forest District, MOFR
Range Agrologist, Pr. George Forest District, MOFR
Pacific Forestry Centre
Forest Entomologist, Northern Interior Region, MOFR
Visual Resource Specialist, Northern Interior Region, MOFR
Tenures Forester, Vanderhoof Forest District, MOFR
Traces Archaeological Research and Consulting Ltd.
Regional Manager, Forest Recreation, Northern Interior Region, M TSA

PAC Meeting

Objective: The Minister's Forest Practices Public Advisory Council (PAC) expressed interest in going out into the field to learn how the practices are being carried out on the ground and determine for themselves whether the FRPA regime will facilitate the management of MPB related issues.

- An overview was presented on how the 11 resource values (biodiversity, cultural heritage, forage, fish, recreation, resource features, soils, timber, visual quality, water and wildlife) are managed under FRPA.
- Focus on the management regime for the mountain pine beetle and understanding the linkages between FRPA and the Bark Beetle Regulation. Note: The transition period continues under licensee's Forest Development Plan until the Forest Stewardship Plan is in place
- Forests for Tomorrow Program is looking at various strategies to address reforestation - <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/>
- An overview on how the Mountain Pine Beetle is being managed under FRPA (FRPA Sec. 25-27 provide the opportunity to control MPB through harvesting activities: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frpa/part3.htm#section27>)
- PAC noted that both beetle and invasive plants present similar problems for small scale salvage harvesters, ranchers, and woodlot owners.
Note: *Cutting permits issued under a FDP will continue under Forest Practices Code Act of B.C. rules until completed. Cutting permits issued after the approval of an FSP will be under FRPA. There are many variations of this, but most will likely be determined by the above. FRPA stocking standards may be applied to Code blocks if specified in the FSP.*
- Elizabeth Anderson, Ominica Beetle Action Coalition, discussed how the coalition will focus on community based solutions.
- A presentation by MaryAnne Arcand, TruckSafe BC <http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/index.asp> provided PAC members with an understanding for the issues and concerns around safety issues that impact loggers and haulers.
- Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests and Range presentations highlighted the linkages between wildlife habitat restoration and hydrology issues.

PAC Field Tour

The field stops provided members with an opportunity to view various values as they are managed under FRPA and discuss some of the difficulties experienced in the field.

Stop 1 – Biodiversity and Riparian Monitoring

- Forest/Range Evaluations - FREP staff and licensees worked jointly to carry out the stand level biodiversity evaluations. PAC BCCA representative believed that ranchers would benefit by participating with the Range evaluations, providing context around practices and have the opportunity to take advantage of any “learnings” for future use.
- Wildlife / Cattle Forage - Need to consider both spatial and temporal distribution of forage across the landscape.
- Managed Fires – Past 100 years province has been managing for fire, where previously burned areas would have produced grasslands.
- Natural Barriers – MPB affected areas either logged for salvage or burnt can result in the elimination of some natural barriers.

Stop 2 – Riparian and Other Natural Range Barriers

- Methods to reduce the impacts of stream disturbance by cattle were discussed (use of natural barriers (including falling dead trees vs. building fences)
- Funding sources available to assist with fencing costs (e.g. Appraisals and Min. of Transportation and Highways)
- PAC discussed potential for establishing a working group (licensees, woodlot owners and ranch owners) to develop a pilot to test using natural selective falling that would act as natural barriers for cattle to reduce stream disturbance.
- PAC also noted need to reduce impacts of stream disturbance by recreational vehicle use.

Stop 3 – Timber Supply Considerations

- Dr. Phil Burton, Manager, Northern Projects for the Pacific Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada discussed the work he is doing on timber supply considerations around advanced regeneration.

Stop 4 – Visual Quality

- Issues that impact visual quality in mountain pine beetle affected areas were discussed.
- A presentation on Visual Landscape Inventory Mapping explained the methodology and how both large and small landscape views need to be considered.

Stop 5 – Cultural Heritage Sites

- Frank Craig, Traces Archaeological Research and Consulting Ltd. led members to an area where cultural heritage sites were revealed and explained how they would be managed by forest licensees under FRPA.
- The PAC has been advised that the Archaeological Branch, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts do not have the capacity to review every proposed forestry operation for potential cultural heritage resource impacts.

Stop 6 – Forest Recreation Sites on Crown Land

- The mandate for recreation resource management was transferred from the Ministry of Forests and Range to the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts on January 1, 2006.
- Recreation sites in the Pr. George Forest District are well used by families for camping during summer and fishermen and hunters in fall, however, this area presents specific challenges (hazard trees, fire hazards, etc.) due to the mountain pine beetle.
- PAC noted need for further consideration regarding the impact mountain pine beetle is having on safety issues around recreation sites.

Stop 7 – Soils and Hydrology in Mountain Pine Beetle Affected Areas

- The impact of salvage harvesting in mountain pine beetle affected areas on soil management was discussed.
- Hydrology issues in MPB affected areas become more important due to increased water run off interfering with spring and summer road access to facilitate the salvage harvesting that is taking place in mountain pine beetle affected areas.

Evening Presentation: Future Forest Ecosystems – Jim Snetsinger

- Initiative focused on how to effectively respond to future environment and ecological changes
- Symposium held at UNBC Dec. 2005 (attended by 150 representatives from federal and provincial agencies, universities, First Nations, forest and range industries, environmental organizations and consulting resource professionals)
- Team established early 2006 to follow-up on strategies coming out of symposium (see website http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/)
A number of projects are underway with timelines from 1 to 5 years targeted for completion, following which may result in some proposals for policy change going forward for consideration.

Topics for Further Discussion at Future PAC Teleconferences and Meetings:

The PAC reviewed issues related to the FRPA values in the field and will follow up on items identified as requiring further information and discussion during upcoming sessions.

Communication

- PAC continues to flag need for more timely communication on current issues, e.g. Mountain Pine Beetle management to raise public awareness.

Range/Riparian Issues

- Possibilities for funding pilot project to evaluate use of selective falling to provide natural barriers to reduce stream disturbance by cattle.

Future Forest Ecosystems

- PAC will continue to follow initiatives relating to FRPA practices

Forage

- Need to develop strategies/approaches that result in harvested areas providing a desirable level of forage for both wildlife and cattle.