

**PAC Meeting
March 29-30, 2007
Key Issues**

**Minister's Forest and Range
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)
Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre
FRASER ROOM
7551 Westminster Highway
Richmond, BC V6X 1A3**

PAC Members

Attendees:

Bruno Delesalle
Dave Haywood-Farmer
James O'Hanley
Peter LaRose
Corinne Lonsdale
Brian McNaughton (via teleconf.)
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair
Roy Nagel
Kim Pollock
Ric Slaco

Affiliation

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

Gov't Representatives

Attendees:

Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair
Diane Medves (March 30th)
Ian Miller
Marg Shamlock
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat

Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range
Director, Forest Practices Br., Ministry of Forests and Range
Manager, Integrated Resources Section, Ministry of Forests and Range
Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range
FRPA Coordinator, Ministry of Forests and Range

Guest Presentations:

Range / Forestry Interface

David Borth

Provincial Forest Genetics Strategy

Jack Woods

Mtn Pine Beetle Initiatives (Prov/Fed)

Paul Rehler

Mtn. Pine Beetle Federal Direction

Sue Farlinger

MPB Emergency Response Update

Ray Schultz

FREP Program Update

Kevin Kilpatrick

Safety Under FRPA

Gerrard Olivoto

Forest Resource Roads

Doug Kelly

C&E Under FRPA

Kevin Bertram

Ministry of Forests and Range

Director, Range Branch

Forest Genetics Council

Program Manager

Ministry of Forests and Range

Canada-BC Mountain Pine Beetle Program

Natural Resources Canada

Director General, Pacific Forestry Centre

Ministry of Forests and Range

ADM, Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response Division

MOFR Forest Practices Br., Forest and Range Evaluation Program (*FREP*)

Resource Monitoring Specialist

Ministry of Forests and Range, Forest Practices Branch

Consultant to Forest and Range Evaluation Program (*FREP*)


Ministry of Forests and Range, Resource Tenures & Engineering Br

Manager, Engineering & Real Estate Operations

Ministry of Forests and Range, Compliance & Enforcement Br.

A/ Provincial Compliance & Enforcement Manager

FRPA Transition

- The Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT): Issue management is on-going. Current information can be found on their website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/pfit/>
- PAC noted that the intent, under FRPA was for FDPs to expire upon replacement by FSPs – or March 31, 2007 (whichever came first). Specific information is set out in the FRPA General Bulletin # 2 - [Managing Through Transition - FSP Opportunities](#)  which is located on the PFIT website under FRPA.

PAC Strategic Framework

- The Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council recognized the need to update their Terms of Reference and develop a strategic framework that would set out their mandate, provide clarity and focus for the council during their next term.

ACTION: Draft document currently out for PAC review and comment, with target for spring 2007 completion date.

Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP)

- FREP monitors resource values and conducts intensive evaluations to ensure science-based information is in place to fully support ongoing continuous improvement of forest practices, policies and legislation. Please visit the FREP website for further information at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/index.htm>
- FREP received Level 1 certification from the National Quality Institute and is the first provincial government program to achieve this prestigious recognition.
 - The National Quality Institute is a non-profit organization that fosters quality in the private and public sectors.

Worker Safety

- PAC members have committed to stay informed on initiatives that impact worker safety under FRPA.
- Final internal analysis by MOFR FREP on forest worker safety is expected to be finalized by the end of May 2007 – the draft report will be distributed to PAC for review and comment.
- PAC is also interested in reviewing the results of the Auditor-General's study into worker safety, due in early summer of 2007.

ACTION: MOFR to distribute the Draft Forest Worker Safety Report to PAC for review and comment.

ACTION: PAC members will carefully consider both the final MOFR FREP Forest Worker Safety Report and the results of the Auditor-General's study into worker safety to determine whether PAC has any recommendation to the minister regarding worker safety under FRPA.

Future Forest Ecosystems of B.C. – Implementation Update

- The Ministry of Forests and Range's Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative is sponsored by the Chief Forester to assess options for maintaining and enhancing the resilience of B.C.'s forest ecosystems. Some initiatives are being implemented and current information is posted on the website (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests).
- PAC requested further information regarding seed supply. The *Chief Forester's Standards for Seed Use* is available on web link <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/cfstandards/> .

Mountain Pine Beetle

- PAC discussed initiatives that have been funded through the federal MPB Initiative and partnering opportunities regarding MPB research initiatives. (information can be found at http://www.bcfii.ca/industry_resources/mountain_pine_beetle_info.htm)

ACTION: PAC will endeavour to follow up on this topic at their future meetings.

FRPA Communication Strategy

- The PAC provided their advice in a report to Minister Coleman in June, 2006, which was shared with the MOFR Public Affairs Bureau.
- The Public Affairs Bureau reported that a communication strategy is being developed.
- The Public Affairs Branch regularly carries out surveys to assess information needs and develops various information packages that are available on the website.

Range / Forestry Interface

- Bulletins are being drafted to help provide some guidance regarding managing for invasive plants:
 - a document that will provide information to help range licensees understand what is needed to meet their obligations under FRPA
 - a document that will provide some advice regarding practices under FRPA
- The Range Branch advised that they are planning to seek a partner to pilot how natural barriers can be used to assist with fencing issues.

ACTION: PAC will be focusing on the range / forestry interface issues and examining these concerns in more detail during their July field tour.

Forest Resource Roads

The MOFR Tenures and Engineering Branch is reviewing legislation for resource roads. The objective of the Resource Road Act (RRA) Initiative is to streamline the resource road access and management process.

The key principles of the RRA Initiative are: (see *Terms of Reference for the Resource Road Act Steering Committee* http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/legislation_regulations.htm)

- to reflect the operational reality of each industrial sector and ensure that industry competitiveness is not negatively impacted. This initiative recognizes there are fundamental differences among resource sectors and their regulatory and operational environments;
- no changes to land use planning authorities;
- ensure there is no net increase in costs to industry or to government;
- eliminate complex prescriptive processes for road construction and shift to a results-based regime for road construction, maintenance and deactivation;
- standardize administration of licensing, fees and enforcement;
- ensure a new act is consistent with single-point-of-service delivery initiatives;
- create a fair and efficient dispute settlement mechanism set in an appropriate organization;
- individual ministries and the commission would retain responsibility for approval, administration and enforcement of resource roads for their respective industries;
- avoid change for the sake of change and utilize existing legislation, regulation and policy processes wherever possible, and;
- maintain the public right to reasonable access over roads except when public safety or environmental integrity may be compromised

Topics for Further Discussion at Future PAC Teleconferences and Meetings

The PAC reviewed various issues and has identified several that need further information and/or discussion. Topics to be scheduled as items on upcoming Agendas:

- Discussion regarding FREP and Auditor-General's reports on forest worker safety.
- Agroforestry / Non-timber forest products.
- Responsibilities/linkages between provincial management for Mountain Pine Beetle across the landscape and the Federal Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative.
- Range/Forestry interface issues (fencing, natural barriers, encroachment, invasive plants, grass seeding, etc.)
- Regeneration / Reforestation
- Overall effectiveness of FRPA (including FRPA communication strategy, public/stakeholder involvement, professional reliance, etc.)

Please visit the PAC website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm>