

**PAC Meeting  
and Field Tour  
July 12-13, 2007  
Key Issues**

**Minister's Forest and Range  
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)  
Morning Meeting  
Central Cariboo Forest District  
200 – 640 Borland Street  
Williams Lake, BC**

**Attendees:**

Duncan Barnett  
David Borth  
Bruno Delesalle  
Brian McNaughton  
Diane Medves  
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair  
Ian Miller  
Rick Publicover  
Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair  
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat  
Norah White

**Affiliation**

Land Stewardship Committee, British Columbia Cattlemen's Assn.  
Director, Range Branch, Ministry of Forests  
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC  
Federation of BC Woodlot Associations  
Director, Forest Practices Branch, Ministry of Forests and Range  
First Nations Summit  
Manager, Integrated Resource Section, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Central Interior Logging Association  
Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range  
PAC Secretariat, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Forest Policy Advisor, Ministry of Forests and Range

**Presenters:**

Dave Trotter, Resource Management Br., Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
George Powell, BC Agroforestry Industry, Development Initiative  
Kristy Palmantier, Invasive Plant Council  
Robin Hood, Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Society  
Grant Huffman, Rancher  
Dave Conly, Tolko Industries Ltd., Cariboo  
Shawn Meisner, Tolko Industries Ltd., Cariboo  
Cathy Koot, UBC/Alex Fraser Research Forest  
Mircea Rau, UBC/Alex Fraser Research Forest  
Harry Jennings, Rgn Forest Practices Specialist; Ministry of Forests and Range  
Grant Feldinger, Tenures Officer, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Mark Hamm, Operations Manager, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Leo Rankin, Regional Entomologist, Ministry of Forests and Range

**PAC Meeting Objective:**

Annually, the Minister's Forest Practices Public Advisory Council (PAC) makes an effort to get out into the field to learn how practices are being carried out on the ground and determine for themselves whether the FRPA regime is meeting its goals in the management of provincial forest and range lands. In particular, members have been interested in visiting areas that are challenged by significant levels of MPB-killed forests.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

### **PAC Boardroom Meeting:**

#### **Agro-forestry:**

##### Agroforestry Initiatives and Policy Developments in BC (powerpoint presentation)

- Dave Trotter, Resource Management Br., Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL)

- MPB affected areas currently being harvested may provide opportunities for change. The MAL is examining the potential of converting some land for agricultural use.
- PAC may wish to consider how agroforestry and non-timber forest products activities should be managed under FRPA legislation and regulations.

##### Agroforestry Overview (powerpoint presentation)

- George Powell, BC Agroforestry Industry, Development Initiative

- G. Powell advised that current information is distributed via newsletter, and the PAC secretariat has been added to the distribution list. Members will receive future newsletters and other information from the Agroforestry Initiative.

(Note: Individual subscriptions may be obtained by sending an e-mail to

[george\\_powell@uniserve.com](mailto:george_powell@uniserve.com) with "Subscribe Agroforestry Update" in the subject line.

- Agroforestry Products – G. Powell advised that information on agroforestry products (e.g. manuals and seminars on how to make birch syrup) is available – see the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative website at <http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/app-proj.htm>

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to schedule Agroforestry on fall PAC agenda.**

### **PAC Field Tour:**

**RANGE / FORESTRY INTERFACE:** (*Encroachment Burning; Natural Range Barriers; Fencing Issues - dead pine; Grass Seeding*)

#### **Becher Prairie Grassland Restoration Project; Fall Burn 2006**

- Grant Huffman, Rancher and Harry Jennings, MFR

- Need to consider how best to manage for declining grasslands due to forest encroachment – grassland benchmarks need to be developed
- Consideration on how best to re-introduce fire into ecological processes being undertaken through pilot projects
- Costly, ranchers would be economically unable to carry out on private lands.

## **FOREST AND RANGE PRACTICES** (*Shelterwood; Incremental Silviculture in Beetle-Killed Pine Stands; Old Growth Management Areas; Woodlots and Community Forests; Mountain Pine Beetle Impacts*)

### **Mountain Pine Beetle Management:**

#### **Mountain Pine Beetle Impacts**

- Dave Conly / Shawn Meisner, Tolko and Harry Jennings / Leo Rankin, MFR

- Managing forests with significant levels of beetle kill and the impacts of GAR orders in managing for wildlife in MPB affected areas were discussed.
- Harvesting dead pine – issues discussed included shelf life, utilization and safety.
- A concern was raised during the field tour by the Tolko forest industry representative, who reported forest management practices may be constrained by GAR (and OGMAs) orders (re: managing for ungulate winter range in MPB affected stands).

**ACTION: Ian Miller to follow up with Tolko industry representative and asked if Tolko could provide their perspective on this issue in writing so an analysis can be undertaken and reported out on at the Interagency Joint Management Committee (JMC) and to the Interagency ADM Joint Steering Committee (JSC).**

### **Interior Douglas-fir Forest Management**

- Brian McNaughton, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

- 1977 and 1979 juvenile spaced forest areas were visited. The overall health and condition of the stands as a result of the documented pre / post prescribed treatments were discussed

### **Likely Xat'sull Community Forest**

- Robin Hood, Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Society

- Background information was presented on setting up and developing the Likely Xatsu'll Community Forest, a joint partnership between the communities of Likely and Soda Creek Indian Band.

### **Invasive Plants**

**Beauty is the Beast: Impacts of Invasive Plants in BC (powerpoint presentation)**

- Kristy Palmantier, Invasive Plant Council

- Are activities associated with practices under FRPA contributing to problems related to the introduction and/or spread of invasive plants on Crown land?

*Note: PAC is reminded of an issue previously raised by D. Barnett*

*Previous draft MFR guidance on invasive plant management was not well received, due to its prescriptive nature. This guidance paper should be edited, finalized and circulated.*

### **Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs)**

- - Robin Hood, Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Society

- The challenges for managing for OGMAs, fir and spruce beetle infestations and salvage harvesting issues in both community forests and woodlots were viewed and discussed.

### **UBC ALEX FRASER RESEARCH FOREST:**

( please visit website: <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/resfor/afrf/MWP3WebQuality.pdf> )

- Cathy Koot / Mircea Rau, UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest

- The UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest raised a concern about their ability to reflect their forest health activities by way of results/strategies for the timber objective in their FSP.

**ACTION: Ian Miller to follow up with the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest and discuss with Charlie Western, PFIT.**

### **Uniform Shelterwood Research Project (Shelterwood Trial)**

- Discussion included whether removing dead pine by partial cutting would be economically feasible in today's market.

### **Incremental Silviculture (Pine Trial)**

- Alternative management strategies for managing a MPB-killed pine plantation.
- Planning strategies for retaining Aspen on the landscape.
- Range management / agro-forestry in spaced forest areas
- Underplanting and small mammals create management challenges. Use of unspaced forest areas allow for wildlife cover.

### **Landing Restoration (Fire Lake Road)**

- Trial to restore landing area and manage for cattle damage to planted trees.
- Discussion regarding effects of carrying out obligations for stocking standards and regeneration following repeated pine salvage operations.
- Discussion regarding possible need for a legal requirement under FRPA to set out a result or strategy to address long-term timber supply.
- Discussion regarding balancing management objectives: MPB vs. mule deer winter range.
- Consideration regarding species selection for reforestation – should pine continue to be the dominant species planted?

### **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.

1. Agroforestry and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)
  - NTFPs - What are the products?
  - Is there any need to develop policy around agroforestry and NTFPs under FRPA?
  - What are the impacts of activities associated with agroforestry and non-timber forest products on Crown land?
  - Are activities on the ground raising concerns (practices / linkages to First Nations / biodiversity issues)? Are there conflicts for objectives under FRPA (e.g. silviculture / stocking standards)? Are there trespass issues (e.g. First Nations / Crown land)
  - Are there silvi-pasture concerns?
2. Strategies for medium and long term timber supply - Do practices under FRPA support innovative response to medium and long term timber supply? Long term forage supply also needs to be addressed, not just timber.
3. Provincial legislative framework for invasive plants – Legislation regarding invasive plants falls under *BC Weed Control Act*, *Forest and Range Practices Act* and *Integrated Pest Management Act*.
  - Need for a central database for listing invasive plants required – presently various lists are in existence (some lists are legislated, some lists are not)
4. Roles/Results/Impacts of professional reliance and compliance and enforcement under FRPA on forest and range management practices.