

**PAC Meeting  
February 7-8, 2008  
Key Issues**

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

**Best Western Richmond Inn  
Room 290  
Richmond, BC**

**PAC Members**

**Attendees:**

Duncan Barnett  
Bruno Delesalle  
Peter LaRose  
Corinne Lonsdale  
Brian McNaughton  
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair  
James O'Hanley  
Kim Pollock  
Rick Publicover

**Gov't Representatives**

**Attendees:**

Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair  
Ian Miller  
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat  
Marg Shamlock (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>)  
David Borth

**Presentations by:**

Dave Francis  
Don Gosnell  
Dan Graham  
Charlie Western

**Affiliation**

British Columbia Cattlemen's Assn.  
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC  
COTA  
Union of BC Municipalities  
Federation of BC Woodlot Associations  
First Nations Summit  
Major Licensees (Interior)  
United Steelworkers  
Central Interior Logging Association

Ministry of Forests and Range  
Manager, Integrated Resources, Forest Practices Branch, MFR  
Ministry of Forests and Range  
Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Director, Range Branch, MFR

Forest Worker Safety Manager, MFR  
Manager, Bioenergy, Forest Analysis Branch, MFR  
Director, Compliance & Enforcement Branch, MFR  
Lead, Provincial FRPA Implementation Team

**1. Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) Review / Approval of October 11-12 Key Issues**

- Approved for posting to PAC website.

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to post October 11-12 Key Issues to PAC website.**

**PAC Review/Comment of 2007 Annual Report**

- Minor revisions to be made prior to submitting to Minister Coleman.

**ACTION: PAC 2007 Annual Report was sent to Minister Coleman March 26, 2008**

**2. FRPA Legislation - Update**

- Proposed FRPA amendments have been forwarded to Legislative Committee

**PAC Discussion**

- PAC BCCA representative noted that improved consultation process regarding proposed amendments for Range Act and Forest Planning and Practices Regulation is being sought.

**Note: PAC Members agreed that PAC needs to take a more active review and comment role for all FRPA, Range and Woodlot amendments.**

**ACTION: M. Shamlock will follow up with information when it is available.**

### Cumulative Impacts on the Landbase

- PAC raised need for careful attention to how cumulative effects on the landbase are managed.

*Question:* How will the prioritization of cumulative effects on the landbase be handled?

*Reply:* The Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) is scoping out this issue and will report back.

**ACTION: Jim Snetsinger will follow up with information when it is available.**

PAC Questions / Comments:

*Question:* How are oil and gas being considered across government agencies?

*Reply:* There is a cross-agency Working Group (led by OGC) working collaboratively on the new *Oil and Gas Activities Act*. There is full consultation across agencies, with an environmental piece of regulation included.

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to invite representative from Oil & Gas to present to future PAC meeting.**

### Range Management

- The Range Branch had commissioned an independent analysis along with some recommendations, which is nearing the final draft stage. The draft report will be discussed with PAC members, professional associations, and others.
- PAC BCCA Representative noted that the Range Report recommendations included some concerns that he has raised (e.g. fencing and C&E for range issues, etc.) and following PAC final review, PAC should contemplate whether they wish to provide advice to the Minister Coleman.
- A draft Strategy for Range is also being developed, which the Range Branch would like to present to PAC for their review and comment.

**ACTION: S. Turcotte scheduled a teleconference March 13, 2008 between PAC and Range Br. to review the Range Report and recommendations.**

**ACTION: S. Turcotte to schedule the Draft Range Strategy for PAC review and comment.**

### Invasive Plants

- PAC BCCA Representative reported that he attended the Invasive Plant Council Meeting that was held January 22 & 23, 2008.
- Many forest-related presentations, along with some agriculture-related presentations were given, and the BC government is managing invasive plants corporately.
- PAC Major Licensees (Interior) Representative advised that management of invasive plants by industry will grow as their awareness of the issues grows.

### Agroforestry

- The Range Branch is directing a lot of resources toward agroforestry / silvopasture, and anticipates bringing this to PAC at the next meeting.

### **Forest Worker Safety**

- PAC has discussed concerns regarding Forest Worker Safety over the last 5 years and reports were undertaken as a result.
- Three reports have been completed, along with recommendations (some overlapping):
  - 1) FREP report (6 recommendations)
  - 2) Auditor General Report (15 recommendations)
  - 3) Ombudsman Report which focused on forest resource roads (18 recommendations)
- United Steelworker PAC representative had suggested a FRPA objective for safety may be helpful, and to provide a better understanding on how an objective under the FRPA structure works, had met with PAC government representatives in January to understand what the impact of an objective for safety would have and discuss options to address forest worker safety.

### **Forest Worker Safety Strategy - Dave Francis**

- Dave Francis advised that he was appointed to establish the Forest Worker Safety Strategy which will be provided for PAC information once developed. The strategy will set out the MFR leadership role for forest worker safety and is meant to be an umbrella for various safety initiatives and supports Worksafe BC - WorkSafe BC has the responsibility for enforcement.
- 2006 State of Forests Report included a safety indicator and reported on safety for first time.

### **Range Safety Concerns**

- Range licensees have expressed concerns that maintenance for resource roads could be transferred to ranchers. They noted that although government built fences, the responsibility to maintain fences fell to the ranchers, and now, MPB-affected trees are now presenting maintenance concerns.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (revised May 2008) is a binding requirement on industry licensees, however, PAC noted that they does not seem to be on the ground monitoring, compliance and enforcement to ensure safety.

### **MFR Compliance & Enforcement – Dan Graham**

- C&E Officers will “Recognize/Report/Record any non-compliance for safety that they come across during their inspections.

### **PAC Questions/Comments:**

- Is there a responsibility for all public servants to Recognize/Record/Report and do they have any authority to issue a Stop Work Order?
- PAC would like to see MFR C&E Officers have the ability to issue a "STOP WORK ORDER" (currently they understand that a Stop Work Order can only be issued with regard to an environmental issue.

***Note: This would require training to ensure Ministry staff/C&E inspectors have the background, training and experience needed to recognize unsafe work conditions.***

### **Legislation Process - Ian Miller**

- Government policy is that there is no duplication or conflict with existing legislation. There cannot be 2 duplicate pieces of legislation within BC Legislation.

**ACTION: PAC members to review the Forest Worker Strategy / Action Plan as soon as available.**

**ACTION: PAC teleconference scheduled for Feb. 18, 2008 to finalize PAC recommendations to Minister following their final analysis.**

***Note: PAC Recommendations on Forest Worker Safety dated February 26<sup>th</sup> was sent to Minister Coleman***

## **Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) - Charlie Western**

### **Success Measures**

- Charlie Western expressed thanks to PAC for their comments - and reported that their input had been of great assistance.
- Once the report is nearly it will help set direction as PFIT develops their strategic plan for next year.

**Note: The Administrative Guidance document has been divided into two volumes:**

**- Vol. 1 will deal with the preparation of FSPs**

**- Vol. 2 will focus on post FSPs**

Please visit the PFIT website which has now been revamped to include enhanced tools ( [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/FRPA\\_implementation/index.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/FRPA_implementation/index.htm) ). The new structure provides the ability to easily expand and add new information, etc.

### **FRPA Pillars:**

#### 1st Pillar - Objective Pillar

PFIT Objective Working Group - set up to coordinating activities to develop procedures

#### 2nd Pillar - Planning & Practices Pillar

Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) - were finalized (Dec. 2006)

Woodlots/Range Stewardship Plans - just ending

#### 3rd Pillar - C&E Pillar

Workshops were held to address Professional Reliance model, communities of Practice were formed to build relationships (both within and between gov't/companies/stakeholders)

- 1) What does a results model inspection look like?
- 2) What does inspection of planning in general look like?
- 3) What do Landscape level inspections look like?

The Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) is made up of approximately 65 members, connected via 4 working groups:

- 1) Issues Management (provides rigour / resolves issues)
- 2) Silviculture (coordinates silviculture advice, sets priorities, etc.)
- 3) Woodlots/Range/Small Forest Licensees (reviews issues and works towards resolution)
- 4) Objectives - collaboration / coordinated approaches

### Monitoring

- FREP is the basis –an evaluation of FRPA administration will be done this year  
- licensees are also undertaking self-monitoring, and providing/sharing their information back into FREP.

**Note: Licensees have raised concerns that they are finding it very difficult to get approvals for any innovative plans.**

**ACTION: Charlie Western to report on Innovation at future PAC meeting.**

### PAC Questions/Comments

Have cross-agency Ministers provided any direction regarding inter-agency collaboration on the impacts of competing activities on the landbase on the resource values?

- Some initial scoping around how to approach the issue of cumulative effects on the landbase have been initiated, however, this is at the preliminary stages only.
- MFR is undertaking an initiative that includes inspections/First Nation Consultations and Approvals, etc.
  - Resource Road Act - is working x-agency with a collaborative model
  - Oil and Gas Activities Act - also being developed with x-agency team

**ACTIONS: Charlie Western to bring back to PAC:**

- 1) **Summary Report (with examples) re Innovation**
- 2) **Final Report on Success Measures to guide PFIT Strategic Plan for next year**
- 3) **Business Plan wrt Cost Effectiveness**

### Update on Premier Announcements - David Morel

- 1) Use of Wood in all public buildings
- 2) Transitional Funding - transfer of funds to BC from federal budget
- 3) 90 Day Regulatory Review and a Working Roundtable on Forestry

#### 90 Day Regulatory Review

- Process will review practices and look for efficiencies within the system in 90 days. This review will be focused on the forestry industry.

**Note: PAC BCCA Representative noted that Range needs to be involved, as there are impacts on the range industry**

#### Working Roundtable on Forestry

- Terms of Reference will include public consultation on forestry
- Public Hearings throughout BC
- Secretariat will manage process and report to Cabinet
- Membership (broad representation) - includes Minister Coleman, MFR, Minister Bell, MAL, rural MLAs, representatives from the forest industry, Truckloggers Assn, First Nations, academia, organized labour and environmental organizations.

PAC Questions / Comments:

- PAC BCCA Representative noted that Range needs to be involved, as there are impacts on the range industry and UBCM PAC Representative noted that Local Communities need opportunity to participate.

**ACTION: PAC teleconference Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> to include discussion PAC recommendation regarding participation re the 90 Day Regulatory Review and/or the Working Roundtable for Forestry.**

***Note: PAC Recommendation to Minister regarding the Regulatory Review and the Working Roundtable sent to Minister dated March 3, 2008***

### **Bioenergy - Don Gosnell, Asst. Director, FAIB**

- Don Gosnell reported that he is undertaking a cross-agency analysis (including industry, (BC Hydro, BCTS, Pipelines, and others) to gain understanding on what is already being done, and where bioenergy might go in future.
- The Premier's direction was for the province to work to become energy self-sufficient.
- Bioenergy links to economy, business security, climate change / carbon counting initiative
  - ~ Eco-certification will likely require companies be fossil fuel free / bio-neutral
  - ~ China / Japan markets want access to tenures for pellet production (use seen as green energy/credits) (producing pellets are negative)

### **PAC Questions / Comments**

- If PAC mandate is forest sustainability, then there may be a concern around landcare and tenures directed to priority stands.

**ACTION: PAC will continue to follow this issue and may wish to make a recommendation to the Minister regarding Bioenergy in the future.**

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