

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

**Minister's Forest and Range
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)
Armstrong Room
Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel
Richmond, BC V7B 1C7**

PAC Members

Attendees:

Duncan Barnett (via teleconf. Oct. 8th)
Randy Chan
Bruno Delesalle
Peter LaRose (Oct. 7th)
Brian McNaughton
Garry Merkel, Co-Chair
Kim Pollock
Rick Publicover

Gov't Representatives

Attendees:

Jim Snetsinger, Co-Chair
Ian Miller
Shirley Turcotte, PAC Secretariat
Marg Shamlock
David Borth

Presentations by:

Charlie Western
Nancy Densmore
Mark Vieweg
Dale Draper
Diane Medves

Affiliation

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

Ministry of Forests and Range
A/Director, Forest Practices Branch, MFR
Ministry of Forests and Range
Legislation and Policy Specialist, Ministry of Forests and Range
Director, Range Branch, MFR

Lead, Provincial FRPA Implementation Team
Biodiversity Specialist, FREP IRS, Forest Practices Branch., MFR
Director - Forest Worker Safety, MFR
A/Director of Climate Change and Forest Carbon, MFR
Forestry Round Table Secretariat

1. Welcome - Jim Snetsinger

- New PAC representative, Randy Chan, Major Licensees (Interior).
- Agenda Review - Minister Bell has had a change in his schedule, and will be unable to attend.

2. FRPA Updates:

FRPA Legislation - Marg Shamlock

- Bill 8 - 3 sections brought into force, other substantive issues were deferred to allow further consultation.
- Bill 33 – amendments passed regarding Range Use and Range Stewardship Plans.

ACTION: D. Borth to contact Grasslands Conservation Council of BC to discuss.

- Under the Forests for Tomorrow Program - amendment to the Forestry Licence to Cut to allow easier utilization of wood from MPB rehabilitated stands.

PAC Discussion

- Concerns around the amount of usable wood being left on some cutblocks
 - some coarse woody debris is needed, although many cutblocks are left very clean.
 - transportation cost is the main variable.

Note: Please visit <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/rh/hbs/#mergedProjects/FAQ/Questions.htm> and Western Silviculture Contractors Association weblink at <http://www.wsca.ca/>

Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT) - Charlie Western

- PFIT Terms of Reference were revised.
- Information sessions on areas that have impacts/implications for FRPA implementation are being brought to PFIT meetings.

3. Innovation Under FRPA - Charlie Western (slide presentation)

- ***How to Write Objectives - Workshop*** - delivery targeted for the new year (dependent upon training funds available).
- ***FSP Tracking*** - working well (licensees have 220 plans submitted).
- ***Minor vs. Major Amendments*** – PFIT is developing guidance around silviculture practices.
- ***Wildlife GAR Orders*** - shifting to more results based - consideration being given to writing objective instead of using general wildlife measures, which is more specific.
- ***Innovation and Writing Objectives*** - depending on how the objective is written, there is opportunity to allow for more innovation.

PAC Discussion

- ***Best Practices*** - There are still issues regarding the results-based culture shift for some decision-makers, and raised a concern that some small operators may avoid the time and costs involved in making an amendment to an FSP that would result in improved best practice.

PAC Recommendation: PAC would like to ask PFIT to prepare a report on innovation, including impediments under FRPA and successes that have been made around innovation.

4. FRPA Objectives and Linkages to Operational Planning, Results / Strategies – Ian Miller

FRPA 3 Pillars (see handout-FRPA Objectives table)



FRPA Objectives:

- in regulation
- High Level Plans under FPCode (grandparented)
- Land Use Plans (under ILMB) – enabled under the *Land Act*
(*LU objectives “trump” objective in GAR*)

General Wildlife Measures:

- Wildlife management areas (under SARA) or Ungulate Winter Range measures are set by MOE and have stated requirements, so they may be more prescriptive.

GAR Orders:

- Most types of GAR Orders are issued by MOE – MOE Decision-makers undertake the “balancing” piece.
- Workshop - improving how Objectives, including GAR Orders are written (will result in a more results based approach).
- Some GAR Orders will be amended, where required.

Range Planning and Practices Regulation:

- Objectives for lakeshore management zones, visual quality and fisheries sensitive watersheds do *not* apply to Range Licence Holders.
- General wildlife measures *do* apply to Range Licence Holders.
- Forage Objective does *not* apply to Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.
- Timber objective does *not* apply to Range Planning and Practices Regulation.

Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation (WPPR):

- WPPR has different format/structure
 - General wildlife measures apply.
 - Where an objective set under GAR applies to a woodlot licence area the holder must carry out activities in a manner that is consistent with the objective.
 - may write alternate performance requirement.
- Cultural Heritage Resources – results and strategies must be written.

PAC Comments

- Consistency Issues - some progress is being experienced by licensees, regarding consistency issues.
- Native grasslands need to be managed strategically, and further discussion at PAC table is required regarding forage and timber objectives.
 - Some members believe that similar wording needs to be in place for forage that is in place for community watersheds.

5. **FREP Presentation** – Nancy Densmore (Dave Maloney and Lisa Levesque via teleconference) **Results from monitoring FRPA Values (Stand Level Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Fish Riparian and Water Quality)**

- Stand Level Biodiversity - Monitoring focussed on answering “Are we managing for sustainability?” and “Can we improve?”
- Cultural Heritage - A different tack was taken regarding Cultural Heritage – which focussed on observing, capacity building and took a more process-oriented approach.
- Fish, Riparian – stream condition presented by region and stream class.

Water Quality – Training session was well received. Licensees have a keen interest, as they want to achieve environmental certification – water is key – also there is FIA funding available for projects - may need to consider moving from site level to watershed assessments.

- FREP Successes:
 - All FREP Reports will have Action Plans.
 - Training 5-6 people in each district, resulting in raised profile of district staff.

PAC Comments

- Evaluating whether CHR are being protected “under FRPA” is difficult
 - Summary of the Interviews will be posted on the FREP Website as soon as finalized <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/about/index.htm>
- Water Quality – random selection methodology questionable – needs to be at the landscape level.
- Communication Issue - “Measuring”, Evaluating, and Auditing – various different groups (e.g. FREP, Forest Practice Board, MOE and others) are carrying out studies, and communication around each needs to be clear to licensees.
- Before any changes are made to FRPA, why a change is required and what the implications are for others affected by proposed changes must be clearly understood.

6. Minister Bell – Deferred

- Minister Bell is currently focussing on four key priorities:
 - utilization of forests
 - growing trees better
 - expanding markets - accessing the Chinese market / diversify markets
 - using more wood, e.g. construction
- Jim Snetsinger advised that they had discussed the PAC Recommendation regarding forest worker safety, specifically:

PAC recommends that the Minister commission a review of FRPA and FRPA related regulations specifically to identify and provide appropriate wording where forest worker safety is an integral part of a practice requirement and/or standard.

Minister Bell wants his ministry to take a more hands-on approach by assigning responsibility, and undertaking an analysis of the options that are available, including legislative options, to address PAC’s recommendation. (see <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm> - *Minister’s letter to G. Merkel in response to PAC recommendations*).

7. MFR Forest Worker Safety – Mark Vieweg

Background

- The Forest Worker Safety Action Plan identifies the actions and initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry of Forests and Range to implement the Forest Worker Safety Strategy. The Action Plan is a ‘living’ document, and will be updated / revised as actions and initiatives are implemented.

Forest Worker Safety Action Plan (Review of Draft 3)

- PAC’s would like to see some actions being implemented that will lead to on the ground results.
- ACTION: Mark Vieweg to include work being undertaken as a result of PAC’s recommendations and the Minister’s direction included in the MFR Safety Action Plan**

Safe Companies Certification

- Although PAC understands that this would not solve all safety concerns, members suggested that a requirement, similar to wording that is included in a BCTS Licence, could be required of every operator.

Inter-Agency Committee on Forest Safety

- The Inter-Agency Committee on Forest Safety is established to take the lead on forest safety.

Road Use Permits

- PAC noted usage by mining, oil and gas resources, etc., are still of concern to permit holders. Permit holders may not have knowledge of the activities that are taking place in the area.
- Road Use permit holders are provided with authority to use roads, however, there is little or no notification to the permit holder regarding use by other resource activities also using the road, (e.g. mining, oil and gas, etc.)

ACTION: Marg Shamlock will raise issue re Road Use Permits to MFR Safety Committee.

ACTION: Marg Shamlock will review WCB Act regarding C&E Authorities and forward information out to PAC.

MFR FREP Safety Report and Recommendations

- Recommendations from FREP will be managed internally within MFR.

ACTION: Ian Miller to follow up regarding communication around FREP recommendations.

8. Climate Change and Forest Carbon – Dale Draper

- Canada signed on - Kyoto officially entered into force on February 16, 2005.
- MFR Climate Action Plan reports directly to the Premier
 - Climate Action Team focus is on initiatives
 - Climate Action Secretariat focus is on broad government policy
 - Draft Interim Report of FSCASC has been presented to the Roundtable

ACTION: S. Turcotte to include web links and related documents referenced during discussion, for information. (inserted below)

The Ministry FFEI web site: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/

The Climate Change website: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate_Change/

The Provincial Climate Action Plan: http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/attachments/climate_action_plan.pdf

The comparable Federal Plan: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=75038EBC-1>

The two forestry policy notes and a general paper on forests and carbon by the CFS that were referenced by Dave Draper:

Deforestation in Canada - What are the facts? <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/588>

Is Canada's Forest a Carbon Source or Sink? <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/source/19/275>

Climate change: how much carbon is stored in trees?: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/607>

- PAC requested information re MFR linkages to MPB (FFEI; FFT; FH Aerial Surveys, etc.) and information on seed transfer, etc.

Forest Health Aerial Surveys: www.for.gov.be.ca/fhp/health

Forest for Tomorrow: <http://www.forestsfortomorrow.ca/>

FEI web site: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate_Change/

9. Range – David Borth

The Range Program's Strategic Direction (powerpoint presentation)

- MFR Executive has approved a Range Strategy in principle (not necessarily with budget to implement) and D. Borth noted that he anticipates this will be a “living” document that can continually improve.

The Nyberg Report – Update

- Coordination of Activities between Range and Forest Licencees – linked into PFIT re communications.

PAC Comments re Range Issues

- BCCA PAC representative noted that policy is not in place re Treaty Land Selection, causing uncertainty, stifling investment in resource (e.g. fences, etc.) for the range tenure holders.

10 Roundtable and the Legislative Regulatory Review – Update – Diane Medves

Legislative Regulatory Review

- The 90 day forestry regulatory review includes regulations, policies and processes that affect forest industry and will look for opportunities for streamlining unnecessary cost burdens.
- 545 proposals were received, and were grouped into key themes and resulted in approximately 50 proposals being approved by government that were divided between two categories:

Category 1 - focussed on initiatives that government can undertake immediately

Next Steps will be implementation by MFR.

Category 2 - focussed on initiatives that were identified by a joint industry / gov't committee as top priorities – Next Steps will be for the joint industry / gov't committee to continue to identify opportunities to benefit both industry and government.

Roundtable

- The Working Roundtable will identify key issues / opportunities facing the forest sector in BC and make recommendations to ensure a sustainable industry for the future (longer term issues)
Long term success under considerations such as:
 - ▶ Climate change
 - ▶ Demographics
 - ▶ Changed competitiveness
 - ▶ MPB
 - ▶ Evolving markets
 - ▶ social expectations
- Four Working Groups were struck to focus on specific areas: Products and Markets; Cost Structure and Capital Investment; Stumpage; and Tenure
- December 2008 – Recommendations targeted to go forward to Government.

ACTION: J. Snetsinger committed to having recommendations reviewed for any policy changes regarding FRPA regulations and to advise PAC on legislation changes being considered as a result of those recommendations.

NEXT PAC TELECONFERENCE: Scheduled for January 29, 2009

NEXT PAC MEETING –Scheduled for March 12-13, 2009