



October 21, 1999

File: 135/40 – Part 10.1 – C.W.A.

Rod Blake
President, Cariboo Woodlot Association
655 N. Mackenzie Avenue
Williams Lake, British Columbia
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Dear Rod Blake:

Thank you for submitting a preliminary proposal to pilot test new methods of regulating forest practices and for participating with staff from the Ministry of Forests in conducting an assessment of the proposal. The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) has reviewed your proposal and sees merit in you proceeding further to now finalize a preliminary application on behalf of the actual proponents from the Cariboo Forest Region, who yet remain to be identified.



I am pleased to respond with the following comments on behalf of the JSC:

- The JSC encourages you to now identify six potential proponents whose woodlots will be piloted. We ask you to consider the proponent selection criteria that we have identified for this purpose. We further ask you to gain the concurrence of the Regional Manager, Ministry of Forests, and the Regional Director, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in advancing the proposed proponents.
- The JSC is encouraged with your innovative approach to funding intensive silviculture on a cost-share basis. We do express some concern that this effort not needlessly complicates or unduly delay the regulatory aspect of the piloting. Therefore, this letter does not constitute approval of this funding concept.
- The JSC suggests that caution be exercised to ensure that there is no compromising of government's fiduciary obligation to consult with First Nations. This is a prime consideration for your proposed new framework for planning and permitting processes.
- The JSC notes your interest in examining a land-based alternative to AAC. Careful consideration of this will be required to ensure that the regulatory change you are proposing is, in fact, required to improve the regulatory framework for forest practices under the code.

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**Ministry of
Forests**

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Rod Blake
President, Cariboo Woodlot Association

- The JSC believes your proposed framework for a Comprehensive Management Plan, that provides for the establishment of forest attributes by zone, is sound in concept, but caution that we see a considerable challenge in identifying measurable criteria and getting some common acceptance of those criteria. It is suggested that the six proponent woodlots offer a variety of conditions under which the concept can be tested.
- The JSC believes that your proposed quality assurance framework needs further conceptual work. The roles of agencies, licensee, first nations and public in the auditing and reporting process need clarification and acceptance. Also, there is a need to take care in developing a credible process for selecting auditor(s) and ensuring their terms of reference are broadly understood and accepted. Lastly, we suggest more work go into identifying effective strategies for mitigation and remediation.

The JSC is of a view that your preliminary application has considerable potential to meet the intent of Step 1 of the Results Based Code Piloting Process, but requests an opportunity to review and comment on the finalized assessment following identification of the six specific proponents. Following this, the JSC suggests that your next step in fully developing your proposal will be to meet with the Regional Manger, MOF and Regional Director, MELP, or their designates, to agree to a comprehensive action plan. You should give full consideration to the above points in that plan, which will need to provide for the adequate review and support of public and agencies, and appropriate methods of information exchange with First Nations.

Nothing in this letter should be construed to limit in any way the essential purpose of developing a proposal that meets the legislated tests in Section 10.1 of the *Forest Practices Code Act*.

The JSC offers its best wishes in selecting the piloting proponents as you continue with further development of your piloting proposal.

Yours truly,

Guenter Stahl
Project Manager
Results Based Code Pilots

Pc: Regional Manger, MOF – Mike Carlson
Regional Director, MELP – Herb Langin
Al Waters, Woodlot Manager – MOF
Joint Steering Committee
Ralph Archibald, Director Forest Practices Branch – MOF
Rod Davis, Director Habitat Protection Branch – MELP