

File: 11250-06
11250-16

NOV 29 2004

To: All Regional Managers
All District Managers

Re: Fiscal 2005-2006 Funding Policy for Road and Structure Maintenance, Road Deactivation, and Road Closure on Non-Industrial Use Forest Service Roads

Please find attached a copy of the 2005/06 fiscal funding policy and accompanying budget request spreadsheet for the engineering business area (BA 5) for roads and structures. The ministry's BA 5 Team developed the document with input from district and regional staff.

The purpose of the document is twofold. It is not only to provide ministry policy direction for project priority planning and operational expenditures and tracking, but it is also provided to assist districts and regions in the development of their 2005/06 budget request for road and structure maintenance, road deactivation, and road closure of non-industrial use Forest Service roads (FSRs). There are significant changes compared to last year's policy and these include:

- (a) the funding of a new maintenance level called "recreation access level of maintenance" to maintain or restore access to high value Forest Service recreation sites (as identified by the Recreation Business Area). Transitional funding is being provided in fiscal 2005/06, with additional funding for this specific activity anticipated in subsequent fiscal years;
- (b) the funding of road closure (where necessary to protect public safety);
- (c) the conditions for funding of emergency projects on non-status roads (NSRs) to address critical site-specific problems that emerge (e.g., a known immediate threat to people, or a known very high and high risk to forest resources, property, utilities, transportation corridors, and other social and economic values);
- (d) a new table to better guide priority ranking of projects; and,
- (e) a new table to describe the similarities and differences between wilderness road, community access, and recreation access levels of maintenance.

In order to build a bottom up budget for fiscal 2005/06, I expect that staff of each region, with significant input from the districts including recreation coordinators, will apply the policy to priority rank proposed engineering projects and develop their respective budget request for



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this business area. The accompanying spreadsheet will be used by the regions to submit the district roll ups. It also provides an indication as to what will be reported on in the Service Plan.

The regional submissions are to be completed by December 17, 2004, and submitted to the BA 5 Team. As per previous years, the BA 5 Team will meet to discuss the regional submissions to determine if they are fairly balanced (considering the scope of regional priorities) and consistent with the policy direction.

The BA 5 Team will review the submissions and make recommendations to me by early January 2005. Based on the results of the team's recommendations, the allocation of funding could shift from one region to another.

Each Regional Engineering Officer will be in contact with districts to discuss implementation of this policy. If you or your staff have any questions with regard to its content, please discuss with members of the BA 5 Team, which include your Regional Engineering Officers – Val Ciapponi, Carl Erickson and Brent Case (co-chair), as well as Brian Chow, Andrew Davies, Ron Davis, Brian Hawryns, John Mallett (co-chair), Vince Sewell and Barry Trenholm.

A digital copy of the policy (including the budget spreadsheet) can be found at http://gww.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/pol_pro_mld.htm.



Tim Sheldan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Attachments

- pc: Deborah Meyers, Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Policy and Governance
- Rick Brand, Manager
Forest Sectors Initiative, Strategic Policy and Planning Branch
- John Mallett, BA Co-Chair
Engineering & Real Estate Operations, RTEB
- Brent Case, BA Co-Chair
Southern Interior Forest Region