



March 28, 2014

File: 11360-02

Dear Licensees:

Re: DISTRICT MANAGER REQUIREMENTS - BUILDING OF FOREST SERVICE ROAD BRIDGES, MAJOR CULVERTS OR INSTALLATION OF FISH STREAM CULVERTS BY A ROAD USE PERMIT HOLDER

During the 2013 field season the Forest Practices Board (the Board) undertook a special investigation of bridge planning, design and construction within the Chilliwack Resource District and four other districts throughout the province. The Board examined 216 bridges built since January 2010 to determine if the new structures were safe for industrial use and if the forest resources such as water, soil and fish are being protected.

On Wednesday, March 5, 2014 they the released their report;

http://www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/SIR38_Bridge_Planning_Design_and_Construction.pdf

The board found that generally, bridge builders were protecting the environment by maintaining natural surface drainage patterns and fish passage, controlling sediment and protecting banks and channels, however, they identified that safety is an issue.

In light of the board's findings this letter is being provided to all holders of Road Use Permits (RUP) in the Chilliwack Forest District including those RUP holders that have been assigned maintenance responsibility by order as per Section 79(4) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, as a reminder for requirements for building bridges, major culverts or installing culverts in fish streams on Forest Service Roads (FSRs).

Section 79(7) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation requires the holder of a RUP to provide a District Manager with at least 30 days notice to build a bridge, install a major culvert or install a culvert in a fish stream on a Forest Service Road (FSR).

Section 79(8) provides the ability for the District Manager to impose requirements for the bridge or culvert within 30 days of receipt of notice.

It is recommended that more than 30 days notice of intentions be provided such that the holder of a RUP may have greater opportunity to incorporate requirements as may be specified by the District Manager.

Page 1 of 2

Other publications, guidebooks and standards pertaining to Forest Service Roads and bridges are available and may be obtained from the following web sites:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/publications_guidebooks.htm

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/Bridges_And_Major_Culverts.htm

Yours truly,

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