



Fundamental Purposes

The Board encourages:

- **Sound forest and range practices** that warrant public confidence.
- **Fair and equitable** application of forest and range practice legislation.
- **Continuing improvements** in forest and range practices.



Board Principles

- acts on behalf of the **public's interest**;
- is **straight forward** in its approach;
- **emphasizes solutions** over assigning blame;
- behaves in a **non-adversarial, balanced** manner;
- treats all people with **respect, fairness and sensitivity**;
- performs in a **measured, unbiased, non-partisan** manner;
- carries out its mandate with **integrity and efficiency**;
- provides **clear and concise** reports to the public;
- uses **knowledge, experience and common sense**; and
- is **accessible and accountable**.



The Structure

- 7 Appointed Board Members
- 20 Public Service Staff
- \$3.8M Budget



Board Success

- 500+ reports published
- 300+ recommendations - 80% were followed
- Improvements in legislation, policy, professional guidelines
- Strong support from stakeholders and public
- The Board is retained to conduct audits and investigations for other agencies



Key Features

Structural Factors

- Legal authority
- Independent
- Public reporting
- Use the best available expertise – staff & consultants
- Board – diverse and deep



Key Features

Functional Factors

- Only able to make recommendations.
- Hold government's feet to the fire.
- Is a forum for contentious issues before they become polarized.
- Constructive tone, non-biased, balance criticism with fair due process.



Key Features

Functional Factors (continued)

- Focus on solutions not blame.
- Mandate is clear & relatively simple.
- Communicate often & well, with no surprises.
- Report review process very thorough.



What does the Board do?

Must do:

- Audits
- Complaint Investigations

May do:

- Special Investigations
- Special Reports
- Appeals
- Other work



Complaint Investigations

The Board must investigate complaints regarding:

- Compliance
- Appropriateness of government's enforcement.

May investigate:

- Soundness of practice
- Meeting intent of legislation



Special Investigations & Reports

- More pervasive provincial or regional issues
- Often apparent in our audits or investigations



Special Investigations & Reports

- A **special investigation** is conducted by the Board to deal with matters of significant public interest that cannot be adequately addressed through a complaint investigation or an audit.
- A **special report** is issued by the Board if it wishes to comment publicly on a matter or if it is determined that an in-depth special investigation is not necessary.



Example: Special Investigation

Management of Karst Resource Features on Northern Vancouver Island (March 2014)

- Karst management on northern Vancouver Island.
- Did not determine that any caves or significant karst features had been damaged or rendered ineffective by forestry activities.
- Investigators were only able to assess the portions of karst terrain that were readily visible; they did not assess the subterranean portions.
- Board acknowledges that forest management on karst terrain can be challenging, due to identified surface karst features being only a small part of the karst terrain as a whole; and that this is further complicated by legislation that only focuses on caves and very specific karst features.
- It is important that forest professionals take a cautious approach when addressing karst features and utilize karst specialists and the best available information when assessing karst features and prescribing management strategies.



Example: Special Report

Restoring and Maintaining Rangelands in the East Kootenay (Sept 2016)

- A 2008 complaint investigation found that cattle and elk were over-grazing rangelands in the East Kootenay and the Board recommended that government reduce forage use.
- A follow-up investigation in 2015 reported that actions undertaken by government since 2008 had successfully reduced elk populations and grazing allocations for cattle amidst ongoing efforts to restore areas of grassland and open forest lost to forest ingrowth and encroachment.
- This special report evaluates the effectiveness of actions implemented by government and others to increase the area and quality of rangelands in the East Kootenay.
- While progress was being made through the collaborative efforts of government and a dedicated group of stakeholders, a number of issues threaten the sustainability of rangelands over the longer term.
- These include ongoing encroachment and ingrowth of forests, spread of invasive plants, site disturbance due to industrial activities and off-road recreational vehicles and localized over-grazing by cattle and elk.

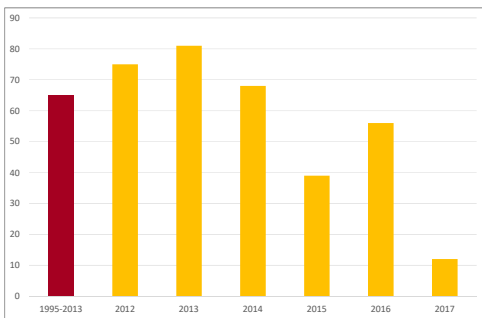


Future Specials

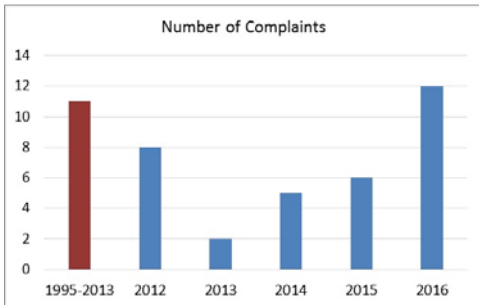
- In progress:
 - Compliance and Enforcement (SI)
 - Roads Constructed on Steep Slopes (SI)
 - Kootenay Lake Woodlots (SI)
 - An Evaluation of FREP (SR)
 - Young Stand Harvesting (SR)
 - Protection of Fish Habitat (SR)
- Upcoming (yet to be fully scoped):
 - Are Reforestation Choices Meeting Expectations?
 - Management of Recreation Values under FRPA
 - Wildlife Management under FRPA
- OGMA, Planning and Practices in Domestic Watersheds, Landscape Unit Planning



Trend in Total Annual Concerns

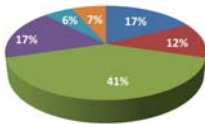


Trend in Total Annual Complaints



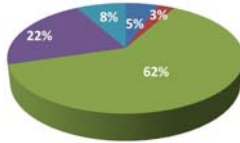
Types of Complaints

Historic 1995-2015
(complaints published)



- Adequacy of Planning
- Opportunity for Public Involvement
- Conservation of Resource Values
- Effect of Forest Practices
- Effect of Range Practices
- Appropriateness of Enforcement

2012-2016 Complaints Investigated

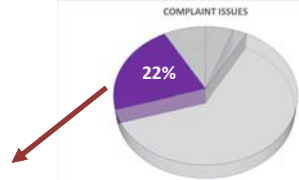


What are the conservation issues?

| From 2015-2016 Complaints Investigated | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Wildlife | 4 | 31% |
| Water | 3 | 23% |
| Visual Quality | 3 | 23% |
| Biodiversity | 2 | 15% |
| Recreation | 1 | 8% |
| TOTAL | 13 | 100% |



What are the forest practices issues?

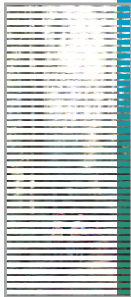


- Road maintenance
- Silviculture
- Harvesting and Road building generally
- Management of Forest Health



Other Trends...

- Complainants have a diverse background.
- Two anonymous complaints in 2016.
- Several from environmental groups.
- Most are in the Southern Interior or South Coast.
 - But one currently is near Quesnel



Ongoing Complaints

- **Conservation**
 - Wildlife: 3
 - Biodiversity: 1
 - Recreation: 1
 - Visuals: 2
- **Forest Practices**
 - Harvesting and road building: 3
 - Silviculture: 1



Recently Published

- Unauthorized Damage to a Range Development
- Management of Douglas-fir Bark Beetles Southeast of Kamloops, BC
- Forest Planning and Practices at East Creek



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