

File: 202-20/FPB (CLIFF 8591)

AUG 4 2005

Bruce Fraser, Chair
Forest Practices Board
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9R1

Dear Dr. Fraser:

Please accept this letter as the Ministry of ~~Forests and Range~~'s action plan and timeline to address recommendations one, two and four in the Forest Practices Board's report *Audit of Forest Soil Conservation, Mackenzie Forest District (Nov 2004)*.

Recommendation One

The Ministry of Forests initiate and lead a joint review, with participation by the forest industry, to identify the economic, operational and other disincentives associated with forest road rehabilitation under current forestry legislation and policy.

Ministry's response

The ministry is currently establishing an internal team to clarify (a) existing legislation and policy governing forest road rehabilitation and permanent access structures, and (b) linkages to forest soil effectiveness evaluations, ongoing research, and compliance and enforcement. Once this clarification has been completed, we will invite forest industry representatives to participate on a joint ministry-industry review committee.

The joint review committee will complete a terms of reference and implementation plan. Expected products will include:

- an examination of research on forest road rehabilitation in other jurisdictions; and,
- recommendations on policy direction for forest road rehabilitation and, where appropriate, permanent access structures.

The joint review committee will report out by March 31, 2006.



To: Dr. Bruce Fraser

Recommendations Two and Four

(2) The Ministry of Forests, with participation by the forest industry, propose changes to legislation and policy as required to create incentives for the rehabilitation and regeneration of areas used for access structures, where appropriate.

(4) The Ministry of Forests review the soil conservation requirements established by the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) to determine whether legislative change is required to appropriately promote the minimization of permanent access structures

Ministry's response

The ministry will postpone addressing recommendations two and four until our actions to address recommendation one have been completed. This is necessary because our review of forest road rehabilitation policy will also involve significant discussion and review of policy governing permanent access structures.

Given that our actions to address recommendation one will not be completed until March 31, 2006, we hereby advise the Board that we will respond to recommendations two and four by May 31, 2006.

If you have any questions about the ministry's action plan and timeline to address the Board's recommendations, please contact Sandy Currie, Site Planning, Harvesting and Soils Specialist, Forest Practices Branch, at 387-8627.

Yours truly,



Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister

Cc: Sandy Currie, Site Planning, Harvesting & Soils Specialist
Forest Practices Branch