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Forest Practices Board

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MAR 12 2009

Dr. Bruce Fraser, Chair
Forest Practices Board
3rd Floor, 1675 Douglas Street
PO Box 9905, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9R1

Dear Dr. Fraser:

Re: Complaint Investigation 070784 - Woodlot Salvage Permit Policy and the Effects on Managing Forest Health

On behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), please accept this letter as government's response to the recommendations and conclusions in the Forest Practices Board's Complaint Investigation 070784, *Woodlot Salvage Permit Policy and the Effects on Managing Forest Health, September 2008.*

The recent changes to administrative procedures regarding blanket salvage permits for woodlots (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/InterpretiveBulletins/issue_6.pdf) as part of the Forest Regulatory Review, and the December 1, 2008, change to pricing for woodlot licences to a tabular rate regime, have addressed the Board's concerns regarding woodlot licensees flexibility to adequately address salvage harvesting and forest health concerns on woodlots. In addition, as noted in the investigation report the recent decision for forest districts to provide the initial spatial file requirements for woodlot licences will resolve much of the complaint.

Recent discussions, regarding salvage on woodlots, with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) attest that this is indeed the case and that no further change is warranted. The MFR, through monthly communications with the FBCWA, will keep apprised of woodlot salvage processes and operations, and revise policy and procedures as warranted.

The MFR participates on a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the FBCWA. The goal of the JWG is to identify issues affecting the woodlot program and licensees, to resolve these issues,

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and to streamline processes as warranted with existing resources. The MFR is committed to continuously improving the efficiency of tenures and operations, and has a long working relationship with the FBCWA to ensure woodlot opportunities and management move in that direction.

If the Board has any questions regarding government's response, please contact Ron Greschner, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range, at 250-371-3794.

Yours truly,

T.P. (Phil) Zacharatos, R.P.F.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

pc: Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester
Bob Friesen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenure and Revenue Division
Jim Langridge, Director, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch
Ian Miller, A/Director Forest Practices Branch
Paul Rehsler, Canada - BC MPB Program Officer, Forest Practices Branch
Ron Greschner, Sr. Timber Tenures Forester, Resource Tenures & Engineering Branch