



2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT





MISSION

The Forest Practices Board serves the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia.

VALUES

The Forest Practices Board:

- acts on behalf of the public's interest, not those of any single group;
- is straightforward 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 and non-partisan manner;
- carries out its mandate with integrity and efficiency;
- provides clear and concise reports to the public;
- bases actions and decisions on knowledge, experience and common sense; and,
- is accessible and accountable.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission and Values	ii
Message from the Chair	2
What We Do	4
Audits	4
Complaint Investigations	5
Special Projects	5
Appeals	5
Who We Are	6
The Board	6
Highlights	8
Mountain Pine Beetle	8
Implementing the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i>	10
Forest Stewardship	12
Public Involvement	15
Accomplishments	21
Audits	21
Complaint Investigations	23
Special Projects	25
Appeals	26
Looking Ahead	27
Glossary	31

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Audits conducted by the Board during the past year illustrated the dominant pattern of full compliance by forest licensees with requirements of the *Forest Practices Code*, where these still apply, and with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* where they have come into force. This is consistent with our recent experience and shows industry diligence in meeting legislated requirements. This performance was also consistent from both the emerging First Nations operations audited and those of BC Timber Sales, where smaller firms are common.

Three particular audits bear special comment.

- BCTS operations in the Fort St. John pilot project area – under a unique and well-developed forest stewardship plan prepared under a pilot regulation pre-dating FRPA – were particularly well conducted.
- As we also audit the appropriateness of government enforcement of its legislation, we have been monitoring the enforcement aspect of the forestry component of the Nisga'a Treaty agreement – in this case, the bankruptcy of New Skeena Forest Products, which left many silviculture and road maintenance obligations unfulfilled, thus transferring them to government. The Board continues to follow the work of both the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Nisga'a Lisims Government to assess whether or not these obligations are being fulfilled by the Crown in the absence of the licensee.
- An audit of water management in two community watersheds in the West Kootenays using a pilot set of criteria and indicators of effective performance that were specifically developed to fit into the results-based regulatory regime now in force. Industry practices in the community watersheds were both consistent with regulations and effective in keeping water supplies free of contamination from forestry operation sources.

As forest practices regulation made the transition from the *Forest Practices Code* to the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, one of the major changes was to lighten the load of detailed development plans that require advance approval from government. The major planning requirement is now for licensees

to prepare a forest stewardship plan that gives a general overview of stewardship commitments and intended operations for broad geographical areas, without detailed spatial information about the location of intended roads and harvest blocks.

The Board examined 15 of the earliest plans and concluded that the level of information provided was likely to be too general to satisfy government's need for effective enforcement and the public's need for meaningful engagement. While the Board questioned the efficacy of this planning model at the outset, there have since been ongoing efforts by the government/industry FRPA Implementation Team to improve both plan content and consultation initiatives surrounding plan development and approval.

In general, industry performance is consistent with the requirements of government regulation, but licensees currently face major challenges in dealing with the mountain pine beetle infestation and its many consequences which has raised some issues on the ground, and so the Board continues to conduct special investigations in this troubled forest land base. And, while our earliest concerns were for the success of reforestation in salvage harvested areas, where we found a thorough replanting effort in progress, we are now moving on to hydrological and biodiversity considerations. This year we examined beetle-attacked stands from a 1980s infestation that had not been salvage harvested. We found that natural recovery was slower to produce a full timber supply, but did exhibit regeneration and stand structure that were valuable for a combination of wildlife habitat and hydrological recovery, along with a reduced but still valuable timber volume.

In other major areas of public interest, the Board examined the growing concern for managing forest fuels, the protection of karst limestone features in coastal forests and the control of invasive species.

Public complaints received by the Board represent the diversity of interests affected by forestry operations. This year they included security of domestic water supplies, conservation of wildlife habitat, recovery of threatened species, recreational impacts of harvesting, impacts of harvesting on grazing potential and the use of pesticides.

In total, public complaints reflect the extensive footprint of industrial forestry operations on the landscape, the number and complexity of overlapping tenures on Crown land, and the expectations by many parties that a great range of forest values be maintained at the same time.



Bruce Fraser,
Chair

OUR BUSINESS

1. Conducting audits and special investigations and publishing independent public reports.

The Board provides the public with objective information about the state of forest and range practices, validates sound practices and recommends improvements based on direct field observation, consultation and research.

2. Conducting complaint investigations and administrative appeals.

The Board provides a venue to address public complaints regarding forest and range practices.

Core business areas arise from the Board's legislated mandate. The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* state that the Board:

- must carry out periodic independent audits to determine compliance and the appropriateness of government enforcement;
- may carry out special investigations;
- may make a special report and comment publicly;

- must deal with complaints from the public; and
- may undertake appeals.

Functions are performed by professional staff and contractors under the guidance of the independent Board.

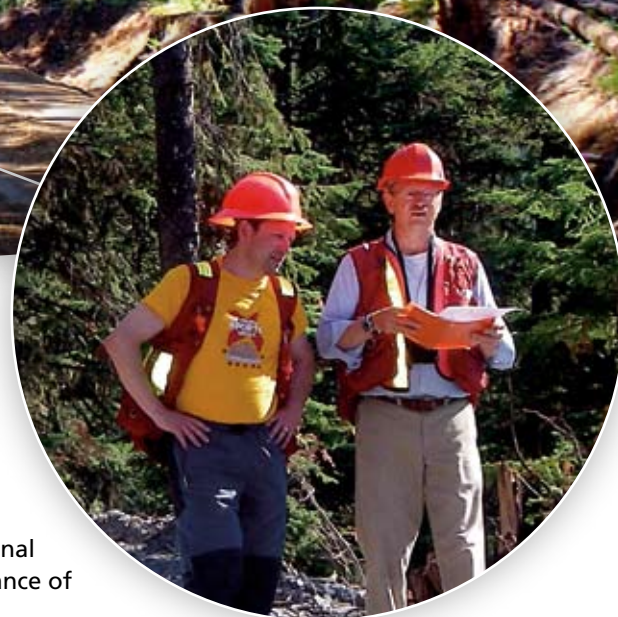
AUDITS

One of the main ways the Board gathers information is through its random, field-based audits.

Audits can be:

- limited scope (specific areas or practices);
- full scope (comprehensive);
- thematic (specific values);
- enforcement-based (determining level of compliance); or
- they can examine any aspect or combination of aspects of forest practice.

The results of audits are published in public reports. Audits examine and provide assurance on whether forest practices are achieving government's forest stewardship objectives.





COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The Board can investigate complaints related to issues occurring on Crown land, such as planning and forest stewardship plans; site plans and woodlot licence plans; forest practices; range plans and practices; protection of resources, including recreational; and, industry compliance and government enforcement of legislation. It cannot deal with complaints related to private property (except in tree farm licences and woodlots), awarding of licences or other forest-related legislation.

The Board investigates, reports and makes recommendations – it has no power to direct companies, individuals or government agencies to carry out any actions, though Board reports are considered to be directional by policy makers. If a complainant requires direct action, he or she must take their concern to the responsible organization or agency first; the Board's role is more one of investigation, assessment and problem solving after other avenues have been explored. Board staff may, however, be able to help with identifying agencies or companies relevant to specific concerns, as they have comprehensive knowledge of those involved in forestry and range use and management.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special investigations are conducted by the Board to deal with forestry-related matters that are of interest to the province as a whole, as opposed to audits and complaints which are more targeted.

Special investigations involve in-depth research into such topics as:

- aspects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic;
- range practices on the province's native grasslands; and,
- fire hazard assessment and abatement.

Special reports are issued by the Board when we wish to comment publicly on a matter, or if it's been determined that an in-depth special investigation is not necessary.

Special reports recently released by the Board include:

- Protecting Karst in Coastal BC; and,
- Control of Invasive Plants on Crown Land in British Columbia.

APPEALS

The Board can appeal decisions made by government officials, such as determinations of non-compliance, penalties or approvals of plans for forestry or range operations.

Appeals can either be generated by public request, or initiated by the Board, which is charged with being an advocate for the public interest and can put forward a position on the matter. The Board can also become party to appeals launched by others (such as licensees) in order to make submissions on the case.

The advocacy role of the Board in appeals differs from its more neutral role in conducting audits or complaint investigations. When investigating complaints, the Board may make recommendations for change, but these recommendations are not legally binding. By contrast, as an advocate in an appeal process the Board can argue that the *Forest and Range Practices Act* should be interpreted in a certain way.

Appeals are made to the independent Forest Appeals Commission. The Commission makes the final decision on appeals and those determinations are legally binding.

Who We Are



THE BOARD

6

The Forest Practices Board was created under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Code) as an independent watchdog for effective forest practices in B.C.'s public forests. The mandate of the Board is to provide independent assurance, to both the public and the international marketplace, that forest and range licensees are carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements, and also to ensure that resource ministries are appropriately monitoring and enforcing legislation during the course of forest practice.

The Board's mandate continues under the more recent *Forest and Range Practices Act* (the Act), but shifts Board focus to assessing the effectiveness of forest practices in achieving government's legislated objectives for forest resource values.

Board independence from licensees and government is ensured by legislation. While the Board submits reports to the Ministers of Forests and Range; Environment; Agriculture and Lands; and, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, its reports are not approved by government

before public release. When the Board deals with an audit or complaint about a government agency, that agency receives the same level of information about the Board's preliminary findings as any other auditee or complaint subject.

The Forest Practices Board's funding is determined directly by Treasury Board, and is distinct from the budget of the Ministry of Forests and Range.

BUDGET	Board Members & Executive¹	Complaint Investigations	Audits	Legal²	Special Projects & Communications³	Administration Overhead⁴	Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 285,882	\$ 426,774	\$ 547,234	\$ 255,528	\$ 412,756	\$ 265,963	\$ 2,194,137
Other Operating Costs	165,575	62,400	474,356	15,108	277,389	490,922	1,485,750
Total Operating Expenditures	451,457	489,174	1,021,590	270,636	690,145	881,885	3,679,887
Total Capital Expenditures							125,000
Total Expenditures							3,804,887
Budget							\$ 3,807,000

1. "Board Members and Executive" covers expenditures of the Board Chair, the part-time Board members, expenditures associated with the office of the Executive Director, and those of staff providing direct support to the Board members.
2. "Legal Expenditures" covers legal advice on all files of the Board including administrative appeals.
3. Communications costs estimated at \$200,000.
4. "Administration and Overhead" includes building occupancy charges, amortization, software licensing, centralized support charges, and salaries associated with support for finance, human resources and information systems.



BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Board members live in communities across the province. Collectively, they represent a broad range of expertise and experience.

Dr. Bruce Fraser (Chair) is a forest ecologist with 17 years of experience as a consultant in the areas of community economic development, public participation in resource management and resource conflict resolution. Fraser taught at Selkirk College in 1968, was its principal from 1972 to 1975, and was president of Malaspina College from 1982 to 1986. He has also done consulting work in strategic planning for international environmental, educational and forestry development projects.

Dr. Geoff Battersby, MD (Vice Chair) has served as the Chair of the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation since its inception in 1993. Battersby has spent almost 15 years in elected office – ten years as mayor of Revelstoke. He received a British Columbia Community Achievement Award in 2004.

Mark Haddock, LL.B. is an environmental lawyer who has worked with West Coast Environmental Law, Sierra Legal Defense Fund, and in private practice. He wrote the “Citizen’s Guide to Forest Land Use Planning” for West Coast Environmental Law.

Rachel F. Holt, PhD, RPBio, owns a small consulting company in Nelson. She has worked to develop approaches for: ecosystem-based management in the coastal temperate rainforest; managing endangered species; and, environmental risk assessment for Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii. Holt helped establish forest certification standards for B.C. and restoration strategies for mountain pine beetle affected areas. She is a board member of the Columbia Mountains Institute and Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives.

David Mannix, a coastal logger for more than 20 years, is the forestry coordinator for the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Beyond his logging career, he has also piloted non-timber forest product projects, started a log home building operation, and helped develop the Forest Stewardship Council’s regional certification standards for the province in 2001 and 2002.

Barb Shirley was Mayor of Chetwynd from 1993 to 1996 and has also served as the president of the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce. She currently sits on the board of Northern Lights College and is a past lay board member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals.

Guenter Stahl worked at the Ministry of Forests from 1967 to 2001, and was district manager for the Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District from 1985 to 1999. He served with community, industry and environmental leaders as a founding member of the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, and helped oversee the introduction and implementation of the *Forest Practices Code* and results-based Code pilot projects.

Debbie Zandbelt, RPF, is an independent forestry consultant in Vernon. Over the past 15 years she has worked in government, industry and consulting in both B.C. and Alberta. Zandbelt is currently working primarily in the areas of professional forestry guidance, timber appraisals and silviculture. She chairs the Association of BC Forest Professionals Professional Practice Committee and is a member of the Practice Advisory Service.

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

B.C. is currently experiencing the most widespread mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation ever recorded in North America. Provincial government aerial surveys show a cumulative area of about 9.2 million hectares of B.C. forests – an area nearly three times the size of Vancouver Island – has been affected.

The MPB infestation is located in B.C.'s interior, particularly in the central Fraser River drainage area. Up to 80 percent of the province's mature lodgepole pine, which accounts for about 25 percent of the provincial timber supply, is expected to be killed by the MPB epidemic.

Pressure to salvage MPB-killed timber prompted B.C.'s chief forester to substantially increase the allowable annual cut (AAC) in the Lakes, Prince George and Quesnel district timber supply areas (TSAs). Further increases to AAC levels are currently being proposed, primarily directed at salvage logging.

The economic and social consequences to the province are significant, as beetle-killed trees retain timber value for only a few years before rotting or falling down. While higher harvest rates have been approved in order to recover as much timber value as possible, once the MPB outbreak has run its course and salvage logging is completed,



there will be a reduction in timber supply for many forestry-based communities for some time.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Board published three special reports relating to MPB management. The reports examine reforestation of areas logged for MPB, the type of forest that might develop in MPB affected areas and how stream flows are affected by MPB and salvage harvesting.

Special Report: Species Composition and Regeneration in Mountain Pine Beetle Areas

In October 2006 the Board released a special report on regeneration of logged areas previously infested by MPB. Reforestation efforts in the MPB-affected districts of Quesnel, Nadina and Vanderhoof forest districts were compared with non-MPB affected forest districts in the interior of B.C. The report found the reforestation of MPB areas to be as prompt, or even quicker, than in areas with little or no MPB attack. The Board also reported a small increase in mixed species planting (as opposed to pure pine plantations) in these areas, helping promote a more resilient future forest.

Special Report: Lodgepole Pine Stand Structure 25 Years After Mountain Pine Beetle Attack

In January 2007 the Board released another report describing the current state of lodgepole pine dominated forest stands that were not harvested following a major MPB infestation in 1979 in the southern part of the Quesnel forest district. It provides valuable insight into what our future forests might look like where no salvage harvesting takes place.

The stands examined have developed a unique forest stand structure since the beetle attack. After the forest canopy was removed, understory trees – fir, spruce and young pine that survived – started growing faster than before the attack. These mixed stands may represent a source of mid-term timber supply.

Special Investigation Report: The Effect of MPB Attack and Salvage Harvesting on Streamflows

In March 2007 the Board released a special investigation report that predicted how stream flows would increase following MPB attacks. The special investigation studied Baker Creek watershed, a tributary to the Fraser River west of Quesnel.

A computer simulation model predicted more frequent and higher peak flows in streams flowing into Baker Creek as a result of the combined effect of the MPB-killed trees and the salvage logging in MPB watersheds. The model indicated that past conventional harvesting, plus the MPB attack on 80 percent of the pine forest, will increase stream peak flow by 60 percent, and that clear-cut salvage logging of 80 percent of beetle-infested trees could result in a 92 percent increase in peak stream flow. According to the model projections, flood events that historically occur at 20-year intervals are now likely to take place every three to five years.

On the ground, the process occurs because trees naturally modify stream flow by intercepting snow in their canopies and returning it to the atmosphere, reducing the amount of snow reaching the ground. As well, in the spring, forest shade reduces snow melt rates, creating a more measured release of water. Because beetle-killed trees are less effective in providing shade and interception, and clear-cut salvage logging removes this effect completely, more frequent and abundant stream flow occurs in MPB-infested forests.

While watershed assessments are no longer required under provincial legislation, they are still useful tools to help resource managers develop strategies for protecting drinking water, preserving fish habitat and preventing flooding.

The Board suggests industry re-evaluate bridges and culverts in anticipation of the projected increase in stream flows from beetle-infested watersheds.

UPCOMING MPB PROJECTS

The Board has two upcoming reports on MPB scheduled for release in the next fiscal year. The first investigates the volume of non-pine logging in areas with increased allowable cut, and the second considers the impact of large-scale salvage operations on stand-level and landscape-level biodiversity retention.





IMPLEMENTING THE FOREST AND RANGE PRACTICES ACT

In 2002, B.C. began large-scale changes to forest practices legislation in order to streamline legislation and reduce “red tape.” The provincial government gradually phased out the *Forest Practices Code* (the Code) and introduced a new legislative framework, the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). As of April 2007 all companies are required to have forest stewardship plans under FRPA for forestry operations on Crown land in B.C.

The Board supports the principle of a results-based regulatory regime for forest practices in B.C. Based on the good Code-based performance of most operators in recent years, the Board agrees that the regulatory system is ready for a move to a more results-based approach – one where licensees and professionals have discretion to decide how to carry out their activities in a manner that is not only consistent with government’s objectives for important forest resources, but also sensitive to local conditions on the ground.

In public statements, government has stated that FRPA will:

- maintain high levels of protection for forest values, including watersheds and wildlife habitat;
- create efficiencies for both government and industry through streamlined planning processes;
- encourage innovation by skilled resource professionals;
- hold industry responsible for outcomes;
- involve rigorous compliance and enforcement; and,
- contribute to high quality forest management and sustainable environmental values for future generations.


One of the ways government holds forest companies to account is by approving their forest stewardship plans (FSPs). These plans are available for public review 60 days prior to their submission for approval. The public may submit written comments about the FSPs, and the forest company must consider the comments, and may choose to change its plan based on the input it receives. FSPs are the only forest planning documents with a legal requirement for public review.

Special Report: A Review of the Early Stewardship Plans Under FRPA

In May 2006 the Board released a special report which reviewed 15 of the first FSPs submitted by forest companies.

The Board found that the early FSPs were not particularly suitable for public review and comment due partly to their sparse detail, but also to their cumbersome and qualified wording. The FSPs did not use plain language, presumably because FSP commitments are subject to enforcement and legal interpretation. FSPs were therefore written in contract terms, producing convoluted and intricate documents that were difficult for people to understand.

The Board also found that licensees tended to avoid committing to measurable outcomes. Instead they chose to minimize their exposure to government enforcement by setting out verifiable, but usually un-measurable strategies. The sparse content and limited enforceability of these FSPs complies with FRPA, but makes it difficult for the public and government to hold licensees accountable for results.



Limited content of FSPs does not, of course, prevent industry from practicing sound forest stewardship. Third-party certification, strategic land-use plans, and professional standards all encourage high levels of forest stewardship. The Board believes, however, that FSPs are the principal vehicle by which publicly reviewed and enforceable commitments are made by licensees to deliver on government objectives for sustainable management of B.C.'s forests.

The Board will continue to monitor the quality of FSPs and the overall implementation of FRPA over the coming years, and to inform the public about what is going on in their provincial forests.

The Board will also continue to post information bulletins on our website that help people understand aspects of forest legislation, including FRPA and FSPs.

UPCOMING FRPA PROJECTS:

To further monitor the effectiveness of FRPA, the Board has initiated a special investigation into the effectiveness of FSPs in protecting marbled murrelet habitat in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. This investigation examines the licensee's plans for conserving marbled murrelet nesting habitat in 15 forest development units depicted in its forest stewardship plan for two forest and five timber licences.



FOREST STEWARDSHIP

In addition to our work around high-profile issues such as MPB attacks and the FRPA transition, the Board continued to investigate key forest stewardship issues in 2006-2007.

The Board reviewed how government and industry are performing in controlling invasive plants, managing controlled burning to prevent catastrophic wildfires and regenerating provincial forests after logging.

These three reports reflect the ongoing forest management issues in the province and identify areas for improvement and opportunity for change.

Special Report: Control of Invasive Plants on Crown Land in British Columbia

An invasive plant is any non-native (coming from outside the province) plant species that threatens the survival of the native plants. Unchecked, invasive plants can impact the economy by displacing native plants that have commercial value, threaten our environment by impacting native ecosystems and cause health problems to people and animals.

The Board's investigation in October 2006 found that forest and range licensees have no legal obligation to carry out invasive plant inventories or to control existing invasive plants on Crown land. While they are required to prevent the spread of invasive plants that may result from their activities, government provides little guidance on how to do so.

The report warned that climate change and soil disturbance due to increased road construction (often related to pine beetle salvage logging and oil and gas exploration) may contribute to continued invasive plant spread over the coming years.

Special Report: Managing Forest Fuels

Forest fuels consist of living and dead trees, branches, needles and vegetation that will burn in the event of a wildfire. A 60-year history of fire suppression, insect and tree disease epidemics and certain types of logging practices are all contributing to a build-up of forest fuels. Meanwhile, the encroachment of urban development into forested areas increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires in populated areas.



The Board report concluded that it is vital to recognize that areas with excessively high fuels create a risk to public and forest values, such as community watersheds and wildlife habitat, thus the Board believes action needs to be taken through forest policy and practices to prevent further fuel build-up. Fuel levels in high-risk areas need to be decreased through prescribed fire near interface communities.

Special Report: Achievement of Free-growing Forests – 2004 Provincial Update

In April 2006 the Board reported on the status of free-growing forests across B.C. Following the logging of public land, forest companies are required to reforest sites with native tree species. Companies are required to tend those trees and ensure they grow into a healthy new forest by a specified date. Once they reach this stage, called free-growing, the trees become the responsibility of the Crown.

The Board's report found that 92 percent of cutblocks due for free-growing actually achieved free-growing status, which compares favorably with the findings in our June 2003 report entitled



“Reforestation BC’s Public Land – An Evaluation of Free-Growing Success,” which found 85 percent of cutblocks had completely achieved free-growing status, and the other 15 percent did not due to patches of competing brush.

For success to continue with free-growing in B.C., maintaining a strong commitment to forming partnerships between forestry companies and the Crown will create the best possible environment.

UPCOMING FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS:

A special investigation on grasslands will be released in mid-2007. Grasslands cover less than one percent of the province, yet they provide fundamentally important ecosystems that are valuable both esthetically and economically to B.C. The Board is interested in the status of grasslands and the effect that range practices are having on B.C.’s grasslands on Crown land.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT: CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS ON CROWN LAND IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. The Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee should review and consolidate the invasive plant and weed lists into a single list for the province.
2. MoFR should identify which invasive plants will be managed as priorities at the district level, so that treatments can be applied in a coordinated fashion. In addition, MoFR inventories should include all species listed in the FRPA *Invasive Plant Regulation* so that licensees are aware of their presence when they are preparing operational plans.
3. The linkage among FRPA, the *Weed Control Act*, and the *Integrated Pest Management Act* needs to be clarified so that government agency, licensee, and private landowner responsibilities are clearly understood by all parties. Government should develop policy or legislation that integrates invasive plant responsibility among Acts to provide this clarity.
4. MoFR should develop training courses for licensees to increase skills in plant identification, control measures and the use of the Invasive Alien Plant Database.
5. MoFR should give consideration to amending Section 26 of FRPA to include invasive plants. This would enable government to require strategies to address invasive plants in appropriate areas on both Crown and private land.

The Board requests that the provincial government respond to these recommendations by March 31, 2007.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT: MANAGING FOREST FUELS

1. The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), through land use planning teams, should establish strategic fuel management objectives at the landscape level in Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs).
2. MoFR should amend the *Forest and Range Practices Act* to include fuel as one of the objectives that must be addressed in forest stewardship plans.
3. MoFR should establish a standardized system for assessing fuels.
4. MoFR 's inventory of forest fuel hazards should be broadened to include areas surrounding wildfire urban interface (WUI) and other areas with important forest values, such as community watersheds and habitat for species at risk.
5. MoFR should assess the effectiveness of different fuel reduction treatments in producing fire resilient stands over time, and produce guidelines for best management practices in fuel reduction. Effectiveness of different spatial patterns of treatment across the landscape should also be assessed. Current fuel reduction activities should be monitored and assessed with an adaptive management approach.
6. The provincial government should address public and stakeholder concerns with the increased use of prescribed fire and other full reduction techniques. The challenges of liability, public acceptance, smoke management and incentives need to be addressed so this valuable tool can be returned to the stewardship landscape.
7. MoFR should explore incentives to encourage fuel reduction in high priority areas, and develop appropriate streamlined FRPA regulations to better enable local governments to carry out fuel treatments.

The Board requests that the Integrated Land Management Bureau provide a response on progress in implementing recommendation one by March 31, 2007.

The Board requests that the Ministry of Forests and Range provide a response on progress in implementing the remaining recommendations by March 31, 2007.

Public Involvement



The Board is actively involved in the forestry community, communicating with stakeholders ranging from government ministries to the public.

Board chair, Dr. Bruce Fraser, routinely presents papers at conferences and speaks to media about Board reports, and other proceedings.

This fiscal year we wrote articles for several newspapers during National Forest Week, as well as an editorial explaining how poor forest practices damage karst, an important geological feature in B.C.

In March 2007 the Board hosted a news conference to present findings from our much anticipated mountain pine beetle hydrology report, explaining to media how stream flows may increase due to MPB infestation. This report was also featured in a CBC series that examined Fraser River floods.

This fiscal year the Board issued 33 news releases and published 25 reports that reflect the work we are doing in monitoring forest stewardship practices in the province.



MEDIA COVERAGE OF NEWS RELEASES

Beetle epidemic increases frequency, severity of peak stream flows	42
Forest fuels a burning issue for Interior BC	21
Beetle-killed trees have environmental and timber value	17
Mountain pine beetle report finds good reforestation efforts	14
Invasive plants a threat to B.C. ecosystems	9

FOR A COMPLETE REPORT LIST SEE:

Audits	pages 21 & 22
Complaint Investigations	pages 23 & 24
Special Projects	page 25



MEDIA COVERAGE

Board work has prompted regional and national media attention, featuring headlines such as:

“Alien weeds take root”

– *Vernon Morning Star*

“There is life after pine beetle, reports suggests”

– *The Daily Courier (Kamloops)*

“Dead trees still have benefits”

– *Vancouver Sun*



MEDIA ANALYSIS

News releases issued	33 news releases
Print coverage	63 stories generated in print media
Broadcast coverage	12 radio and TV interviews conducted
Media coverage not generated by the Board	27 media placings generated by other organizations
Stakeholder reference	8 third-party references in media
Periodicals and journals	19 in-depth articles

Forest Ethics

Forest Ethics is a multilateral, non-profit organization founded in 1994 to help protect endangered forests. They pressure large corporations to refuse paper and wood products sourced from trees in areas they wish to conserve. Recent campaigns targeted the catalog industry, particularly Victoria's Secret, asking them to print on recycled paper. Among the forests they seek to protect are the Great Bear and Inland rainforests in B.C.

Forestry Students

Forestry students will define the future of the industry. Four B.C. universities offer Bachelor of Science degrees in forestry or natural resource management, and UBC offers three forestry graduate degree programs, which will ensure that provincially-based research to improve the industry and develop progressive strategies for a sustainable future in forestry will continue.

STAKEHOLDERS

The Board meets with stakeholder groups and individuals throughout the year to discuss issues and concerns about our forests.

These are some of the parties we met with this year:

Government

BC Timber Sales
Market Outreach Network
Integrated Land Management Bureau
Ministry of Forests and Range
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts

Environmental Organizations

Forest Ethics
Wildsight

Industry

Interfor
Western Forest Products

Other

Association of BC Forest Professionals
Forestry Students
First Nations

BC Timber Sales

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) seeks to maintain a thriving forest economy in the province. They manage 20 per cent of Crown land's allowable annual cut, auctioning off the logging rights to ensure market value on the trees. BCTS must operate in accordance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Forest Practices Code*. While they operate under the Ministry of Forests and Range, they have financial and operational independence from the Forest Service.

Western Forest Products

Western Forest Products is B.C.'s largest coastal forestry operator and lumber producer. They manage eight sawmills and four remanufacturing plants, all located on the coast of B.C. Their allowable annual cut is 7.5 million cubic metres. They sell products to more than 20 countries, helping B.C. remain competitive in the global softwood lumber market.



This year our display included a video booth which played an operational video, as well as copies of some of our key reports. The shows we participated in provided an excellent opportunity for the Board to demonstrate the concept of sound forest stewardship practices to stakeholders and the public.

18



As part of our outreach to stakeholders, Board representatives take part in key conferences and trade shows around the province. Events the Board has participated in, both past and present, include:

Smithers

B.C. Cattlemen's Association 79th Annual General Meeting and Convention

Vancouver

64th Annual Truck Loggers Association Convention and Exposition

Vancouver

Price Waterhouse Coopers 20th Annual Global Forest and Paper Industry Conference

Vancouver

2007 Forest Leadership Conference

Victoria

Annual Applied Biology Conference

Prince George

Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association 26th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Prince George

Council of Forest Industries (COFI) 2007 Annual General Meeting

Vernon

Interior Logging Association 49th Annual Trades Convention

Harrison Hot Springs

ExpoFor 2007 (Association of BC Forest Professionals)



Electronic Service Delivery

The Board maintains online communication with stakeholders through a regularly updated website, a valuable and easy way to facilitate communication with, and between, forestry professionals, the public and industry. The website features all of our reports and publications – past, current and pending – and is an easy reference point for the public and other stakeholders.

The Board's website has received attention from across the province and around the world, because we are the world's only independent forestry watchdog.

The website is also a valuable tool for forestry professionals as they research current issues in their field, and university and college students frequently access our reports as reference for their studies.

The Board's complaint forms are posted on our website, and anyone can fill out and submit one if they have seen a forestry practice they believe violates provincial forestry legislation. Under the Board mandate, all complaints must be addressed once received.

Beyond our website, other electronic communication we employ includes the use of a subscription-based list server. When we release a report, it is emailed electronically to registered stakeholders through this service.

www.fpb.gov.bc.ca

TOP 15 WEBSITE DOWNLOADS

Integrating Non-Timber Forest Products into Forest Planning and Practices in British Columbia	1,034
Evaluating Mountain Pine Beetle Management in British Columbia	947
A Review of the Early Forest Stewardship Plans Under FRPA	884
Board Bulletin, Volume 7 – Forest Stewardship Plan Review: A Public Responsibility	634
Managing Forest Fuels	626
An Example of Long-Form Audit Reporting	533
Backgrounder – Review of early FSPs: Summary of Key Issues	531
Lodgepole Pine Stand Structure 25 Years after Mountain Pine Beetle Attack	513
Woodlot Management and Horseback Riding Near Wells Gray Provincial Park	510
The Effect of Mountain Pine Beetle Attack and Salvage Harvesting On Streamflows	487
Control of Invasive Plants on Crown Land in British Columbia	394
Approval of Large Cutblocks to Control Mountain Pine Beetle in the Robson Valley	390
Reviews and Appeals of <i>Forest Practices Code</i> Decisions in British Columbia, 1995-2001	388
Continuous Improvement at the Forest Practices Board	374
Protecting Karst in Coastal BC	330

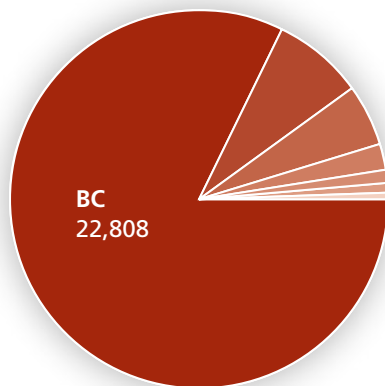
Subscribe to the listserver to receive reports electronically at:

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BREAKDOWN OF WEBSITE VISITORS

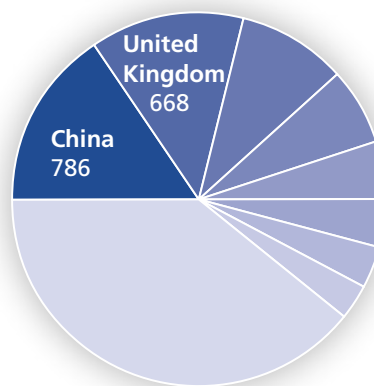
WEBSITE VISITS: 37,862

Canada 27,661



Ontario 2,132
Alberta 1,435
Quebec 668
Saskatchewan 183
New Brunswick 140
Other Provinces
& Territories 295

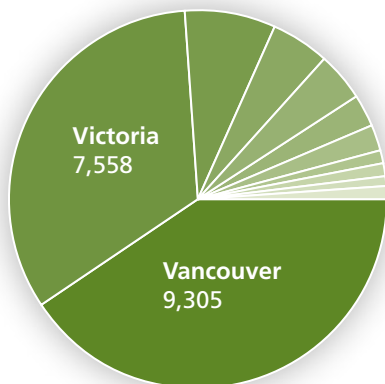
International 5,014



Germany 466
France 347
India 243
Australia 206
Japan 181
Russia 151
Other Countries 1,966

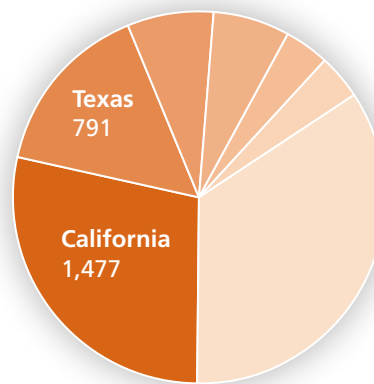
20

British Columbia 22,808



Kelowna 1,784
New Westminster 1,126
Burnaby 590
Kamloops 518
Duncan 264
Nanaimo 249
Vernon 222
Courtney 201
Other Cities 991

USA 5,187



District of Columbia 377
Washington 350
Pennsylvania 201
New York 198
Other States 1,793

To learn more about the Forest Practices Board please visit our website at www.fpb.gov.bc.ca or call us at 1-800-994-5899

Accomplishments



AUDITS

Accomplishments

Activities audited by FPB in 2006/07

- Harvesting on 413 cutblocks
- 544 kilometres of road construction
- 2,912 kilometres of road maintenance
- 92 kilometres of road deactivation
- 159 bridges constructed and/or maintained
- Silviculture activity on 242 cutblocks
- Fire protection activities on nine active sites

BCTS Fort St. John Forest District

In 1999, legislation was passed to allow implementation of results-based pilot projects under the former *Forest Practices Code*. Two of these pilot projects were completed, including the 4.1 million hectare Fort St. John pilot project, which was audited in the fall of 2006. Licensees committed to measurable targets for forest practices, subject to third-party verification of compliance. Board auditors used this information to measure performance under the pilot regulation. The audit determined that the pilot was fully functional, with plans, practices and measurable performance in place for several years. The Board is pleased that the effort of the participants appears to have paid off, and hopes they continue with this effective framework for forest practices.

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORTS

Auditee(s) & Location	Focus	Findings
BC Timber Sales Program Rocky Mountain Forest District	• Full scope compliance audit	Significant non-compliance by a TSL holder relating to road construction near a fish stream. All other practices in compliance. No recommendations made.
Burns Lake Indian Band – NRFL A72919 Nadina Forest District	• Full scope compliance audit	All practices in compliance. No recommendations made.
BC Timber Sales Program Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District	• Full scope compliance audit	All practices in compliance. No recommendations made.
Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd – Pulpwood agreement #16 West Fraser Mills Ltd – FL A20001 100 Mile House Forest District	• Harvesting • Road construction, deactivation and maintenance	All practices in compliance. No recommendations made.
Chunzoohl Forest Products Ltd – NRFL A72190 Prince George Forest District	• Harvesting • Road construction, deactivation and maintenance	All practices in compliance. No recommendations made.
Stuwix Resources Ltd – FL A65006 Cascades Forest District	• Full scope compliance audit	All practices in compliance. Area of improvement: Road building practices require improvement. No recommendations made.
BC Timber Sales Program Fort St. John Forest District	• Full scope compliance audit	All practices in compliance. No recommendations made.



ENFORCEMENT AUDIT REPORTS

Auditee(s) & Location	Focus	Findings
Final Audit of Nisga'a Lands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Forests and Range Ministry of Environment Kalum Forest District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of government enforcement 	MoFR and MoE are appropriately enforcing forestry legislation on Nisga'a Lands.

PILOT EFFECTIVENESS AUDIT REPORTS

Auditee(s) & Location	Focus	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atco Forest Products Ltd. Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd. Pope & Talbot Ltd. Springer Creek Forest Products Ltd. Arrow Boundary Forest District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management in Ladybird and Springer Creek Watersheds 	<p>Current forest practices are effective at minimizing impacts to water quality.</p> <p>Recommendation: MoFR should reassess the present requirement for notification in section 84 of the <i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation</i>, to ensure it accurately specifies only those intended to be notified are notified.</p>

Nisga'a Treaty agreement and audit of government's enforcement on Nisga'a lands

As required by the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the Board audited the appropriateness of government's enforcement of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and related regulations on Nisga'a lands for the period from July 19, 2003 to May 10, 2005. The Board found, with some minor exceptions, that the Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR) and Ministry of Environment (MoE) are appropriately enforcing forestry legislation on Nisga'a lands. Government has an obligation under the Nisga'a Final Agreement to provide a summary of compliance and enforcement activities on Nisga'a lands to the Nisga'a Lisims government. However, the data provided was inconsistent with MoFR's inspection records, inaccurately categorizing all inspections as finding compliance when six of the 27 inspection reports identified non-compliance. MoFR has primary enforcement responsibility on Nisga'a lands, which are located in and around the Nass Valley, about 100 kilometres northwest of Terrace, and cover about 2,000 square kilometres.

Audit of Water management in two community watersheds in the West Kootenays

A pilot audit examining two community watersheds in the Arrow Boundary Forest District determined that forest practices are in compliance with legislated requirements in all significant respects. Four licensees – Atco Lumber Ltd., Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd., Pope & Talbot Ltd. and Springer Creek Forest Products Ltd. – were audited during the course of operations in the Norns Creek community watershed near Castlegar and the Springer Creek community watershed near Slocan. The pilot audit assessed licensee performance using criteria and assessment methods developed by the Board and the Ministry of Forests and Range, addressing water quality, quantity and timing of flow, as well as licensees' planning, monitoring and risk management processes.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

Accomplishments

Investigations conducted by FPB in 2006/07

- Total of 49 concerns addressed – half of that of previous years
- 13 complaints investigated
- 40 concerns addressed by phone or referred to an appropriate agency or company
- Two complaints resolved by participants
- Revised investigation procedures implemented as recommended in last year's review of the complaint investigation process

Impacts of Harvesting on Cattle Grazing near Quesnel

The Board concluded that the licensee must improve its consultation with range users and, in a timely manner, modify practices (where feasible) to mitigate impacts. The Board recommended that the licensee report both to the complainant and the Board about what actions and measures it has undertaken, or will undertake, to address range issues.



COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORTS

Complaint	Outcome	Recommendations
Monosodium Methanearsonate (MSMA) Policy Development	Resolved	None
Domestic Water Concerns with Harvesting and Road Construction near Elmer Creek	BCTS has undertaken several measures to clarify its approach, and measures are being taken to address domestic water concerns.	None
Impacts of Harvesting on Cattle Grazing near Quesnel	The investigation concluded that the licensee must improve its consultation with range users and, in a timely manner, modify practices (where feasible) to mitigate impacts.	Implemented
Logging on Trophy Mountain Interrupting Commercial Horseback Riding Business	Resolved	None
Habitat Retention and Mountain Pine Beetle Salvage in the Fly Hills	The investigation determined that the licensees, Tolko and Federated Cooperative Ltd. (FCL), had largely met and exceeded LRMP guidelines for landscape-level habitat retention. While non-pine trees and green pine were being harvested along with beetle-killed trees in salvage cutblocks, the stands were predominantly pine.	See Recommendations Below

continued on page 24

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommended that:

1. The regional Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) and Ministry of Environment (MoE) offices review the habitat targets in the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) marten strategy to determine if they are adequate to meet the LRMP planning goals, given accelerated harvesting due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
2. Because of the extent of the current mountain pine beetle epidemic, stand-level retention should not be evaluated by pre-epidemic ideas of adequate retention, e.g., the seven percent wildlife tree requirement in FRPA. In cutblocks that have little or no adjacent landscape-level retention, licensees should plan for higher levels. To the extent practicable, retention should involve non-pine species. If pine is needed as a buffer, or to minimize ground disturbance, it should be retained. Taking all the dead and susceptible pines is contrary to sound stewardship of the full range of forest resources.
3. Some salvaged areas are becoming one continuous clear-cut and should be managed as such. Licensees should proactively increase retention within cutblocks in these areas, including leaving standing green or dead pine for structure where there is an insignificant non-pine component.



continued from page 23

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORTS

Complaint	Outcome	Recommendations
Recreational Impacts in Two Woodlots	The investigation of the 276-hectare BCIT Forest Society woodlot near Kanaka Creek concluded that the woodlot's streamside management, and erosion and sediment control activities are appropriate. The investigation of Blue Mountain Woodlot Limited's 400-hectare woodlot on Blue Mountain concluded that a government-created recreation strategy should be finished to help resolve recreational use conflicts at the woodlot.	Being implemented
Streamside Protection, Sediment Control and the Pacific Water Shrew	The investigation concluded that the licensee's management of riparian areas is appropriate. The licensee's riparian management does not have to meet the standard of a Pacific water shrew WHA, nevertheless it comes close. The licensee's erosion and sediment control activities are appropriate.	None
Consistency of Logging with the Robson Valley LRMP	The investigation concluded that the actions of the licensee and the district, in trying to address the MPB outbreak in the area, did not result in any damage to forest resources. It also determined that one amendment to the logging plan did not meet legal requirements, as it showed only large areas within which logging would take place, rather than specific cutblock boundaries as required by legislation. As well, it found that the district manager did not have the authority to approve the exemption from visual quality standards in the plan at the time the approval was granted.	Implemented
BCTS Logging at Roberts Creek	The investigation found that the BCTS site plans took the appropriate steps to deal with wildlife, terrain stability, flooding, water quality, veteran trees and recreation trails in the area.	None

Recreational Impacts in a Woodlot

The Board recommended that the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MoTSA) reactivate a 2003 recreation management strategy for the Blue Mountain provincial forest and produce and implement a recreation management plan for the area, and that, if necessary, the woodlot licensee amend the management plan for the woodlot to be compatible with the proposed recreational management plan.

Consistency of Logging with the Robson Valley LRMP

The Board recommended that, rather than grandparent large administrative boundary blocks in a plan to deal with MPB, the licensee should give the public an opportunity for review and comment when it prepares its forest stewardship plan.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Accomplishments

Special Projects conducted by FPB in 2006/07

- 12 special projects (investigations and reports) completed featuring topics that have broad public interest including:
 - Two reports on effects of mountain pine beetle (stream flow and species regeneration in cutblocks)
 - Forest fuels
 - Invasive plants
 - Range practices



SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS

Report	Key Finding
Amending Prescriptions for Achieving Free-Growing Forests	Forest companies are making reasonable and appropriate amendments to their free-growing strategies.
The Effect of Mountain Pine Beetle Attack and Salvage Harvesting on Stream Flows	Government and industry should implement preventative measures to counter the increasingly frequent extreme peak flows in streams that will occur as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
Species Composition and Regeneration in Cutblocks in Mountain Pine Beetle Areas	The reforestation of mountain pine beetle salvage areas is as prompt, or quicker, than areas not affected by mountain pine beetle.
Lodgepole Pine Stand Structure 25 Years after Mountain Pine Beetle Attack	Stands of trees killed by the mountain pine beetle still provide environmental benefits and potential timber value if left standing.
Protecting Karst in Coastal BC	Karst is a resource that, particularly on the B.C. coast, is sensitive to damage from forest practices, but that sensitivity is often not recognized.
Control of Invasive Plants on Crown Land in British Columbia	Non-native, invasive plants, such as broom and knapweed, pose a growing threat to the native ecosystems in the province.
A Review of the Early Forest Stewardship Plans Under FRPA	The first forest stewardship plans under new results-based forestry legislation lack clear results, and make it difficult for the public and government to hold forest companies accountable.
Conservation of Biological Diversity: An Assessment of the Application of Criteria and Indicators	Criteria and indicators provide an objective, science-based assessment standard for evaluating biodiversity conservation by forest licensees for audits by the Board.
Pilot Effectiveness Audits: Use of Criteria and Indicators to Date - Lessons Learned	Experience and lessons were learned in five pilot audits examining biodiversity and other forest values such as soil conservation, visual quality, and stream riparian management.
Achievement of Free-Growing Forests - 2004 Provincial Update	Forest companies in B.C. are continuing to do a good job at planting and tending new forests in logged areas.
Post-Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Risk Management	The provincial government should clarify responsibility and accountability for evaluating hazards and managing risks to public safety after forest fires.

APPEALS

Accomplishments

125 determinations reviewed

14 appeals reviewed

0 appeals joined

1 appeal in progress
(adjourned until a review is completed)

1 appeal concluded



APPEALS IN PROGRESS

Skidegate Old Growth

This appeal by TFL Forest Ltd. concerned the rejection of a proposed FDP amendment by the Queen Charlotte Islands District Manager. One of the questions in the appeal was whether a district manager can apply provisions of a draft land use plan to decide that an application to harvest old growth should not be approved. The Commission does not have jurisdiction to hear this particular appeal until there has been an administrative review of the decision. Therefore, this appeal was adjourned in June 2006 until the review process was completed. As of the end of the year, the review decision was still pending.

APPEALS CONCLUDED

Kalesnikoff

This appeal concerned whether the risk of road construction causing four landslides was foreseeable and, if so, whether the licensee exercised sufficient care to avoid causing them. The Forest Appeals Commission issued its decision on August 2, 2006 (2003-FOR-005 and 2003-FOR-006). The Commission found that the licensee's road construction complied with the legal requirements, so the amount of diligence applied or required did not have to be considered.

L&M Trespass and Pope and Talbot Trespass

These appeals were in progress at the date of publication of last year's annual report. The Board initially joined these appeals to influence the legal interpretation of the due diligence defence. However, in view of the Forest Appeals Commission's decisions in Weyerhaeuser (2004-FOR-005, listed in the Board's 2005-6 Annual Report) and Kalesnikoff (see above), the Board concluded that these decisions would offer only modest latitude for further development of the due diligence defence. Accordingly, the Board withdrew from the appeals. Subsequently, the government consented to an order allowing the L&M appeal and setting aside the penalty. The Pope and Talbot appeal was still pending as of year-end.

Kootenay Main Karsts

This appeal concerned the liability of directors and officers of companies. In its November 2006 decision, the Forest Appeals Commission rescinded a \$45,000 administrative fine that had been imposed on the president and director of the licensee company, whose contractors had significantly damaged identified karst features on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Karst is a distinctive topography shaped by water dissolving bedrock (usually limestone) to create sinkholes, vertical shafts, disappearing streams, springs and complex underground drainage systems and caves.

AUDIT PRIORITIES

- Final compliance audit on Nisga'a Lands will be completed in May 2007
- Pilot audit of multiple forest values will be completed in July 2007
- Soil conservation audit is continuing and will be concluded in 2007
- 2007 audit season will see an array of audits across the province

NEW AUDITS STARTED IN 2006/07

COMPLIANCE AUDITS

Auditee(s) & Location	Focus	Status (as of March 31, 2007)
Sunshine Coast Forest District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Forest Products Ltd. - FL A19220 • 9096 Investments Ltd. (affiliated with Homalco First Nation) – NRFL A65197 • Terminal Forest Products Ltd. – FL A19229 • F.A.B. Logging Co. Ltd. - TSL A20492 • Northwest Hardwoods (a division of Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.) – NRFL A47297 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting • Road construction, deactivation and maintenance 	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in April 2007.
North Coast Forest District Triumph Timber Ltd – FL A16820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scope compliance audit 	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in May 2007.
Kalum Forest District Final Annual Audit of Nisga'a Lands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Skeena Forest Products • Sim Gan Forest Corp • West Fraser Mills Ltd • BC Timber Sales, Skeena Business Area • Kalum Forest District Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scope compliance audit 	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in May 2007.
Prince George Forest District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrier Lumber Limited – NRFL A70714 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting • Road construction, deactivation and maintenance 	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in July 2007.



PILOT EFFECTIVENESS AUDITS

Auditee(s) & Location	Focus	Status (as of March 31, 2007)
Columbia Forest District <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.• Wood River Forest Inc• BCTS – Okanagan Columbia TSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil Conservation	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in 2007.
Apollo Forest Products – FL A18156 Brave Holdings Ltd – SNRFL A75670	Multiple Forest Values <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity• Riparian Management• Soil Conservation	The findings will be reported publicly upon completion in July 2007.

INVESTIGATIONS PRIORITIES

The section's priorities for the coming year are to continue to assess the utility of procedural changes that were identified in the complaint investigation review, including:

- Increased efforts to resolve complaints
- Timely reporting
- Focusing on identifying and investigating issues that are important to the participants
- Following up on all complaints

In addition, we hope to be able to take advantage of the a slightly lower rate of complaint intake by diversifying our skills and increasing our participation in other Board activities such as audits, special reports and special investigations.



NEW INVESTIGATIONS STARTED IN 2006/07

Investigation	Concerns/Issues Raised	Status
Near Lillooet, April 2006 Anderson Lake	Mule deer winter habitat and water resources were inadequately managed during forest practices.	Open
Sunshine Coast, May 2006 Sunshine Coast FSP	Public review, revised community input and reduced commitments from Stillwater Pilot Plan are not reasonable.	Open
East Kootenays, June 2006 East Kootenay Crown Range	Crown range is being managed inappropriately for forage for wildlife and livestock.	Open
West Kootenays, July 2006 Eagle Creek	Logging for beetles in a community watershed will unreasonably increase the cleared area.	Open
Vancouver Island, September 2006 Coastal Douglas Fir Woodlots	Timber harvesting on woodlots is being approved in a scarce ecosystem without assessment for rare plant communities.	Open
Queen Charlotte Islands, September 2007 Rennell Sound Goshawks	Goshawk habitat and hydrology issues are being inadequately addressed within a landscape unit.	Open
Fraser Valley, September 2006 Lake Errock Visual Resources	Visual resources in a large cutblock near Chilliwack were not adequately managed and conserved during harvesting.	Open
Prince George, November 2007 McCorkall Connector Road	A road was approved for improper purposes, so that road permit holder was denied road maintenance fees.	Open
Kamloops, February 2007 Stake Lake Trail	Salvage of beetle-killed pines is unreasonably preventing ski trail use.	Open
North Central BC, March 2007 Valemount Recreation	Government is unreasonably limiting recreational access to support tenured commercial enterprises.	Open

SPECIAL PROJECTS PRIORITIES

- The special investigation looking at enforcement in six forest districts will be concluded in 2007.
- The special investigation of fire hazard assessment and abatement practices will be ongoing in 2007.
- The final reports on mountain pine beetle management will be completed:
 - Species profiles of harvested timber in the MPB areas
 - Retention for biodiversity in MPB areas

New projects initiated in 2007 will look at:

- Fish passage at stream crossings
- Cumulative effects of resource roads in the NE
- Linkage between higher level plans and forest operations

APPEALS PRIORITIES

The Board will continue to monitor appeals to the Forest Appeals Commission. It will participate in future appeals if the Board's participation would:

- Help to improve forest management
- Help to sustain public confidence in forest management
- Encourage fair and consistent application of the law
- Provide clarification or interpretation of important sections of the law

SPECIAL PROJECTS INITIATED OR CONTINUED IN 2006/07

Spatially establishing conservation areas	Using a subset of biodiversity or wildlife objectives within landscape units of forest district(s), the investigation will focus exclusively on spatially-defined targets for old-growth management areas, ungulate winter ranges, and wildlife habitat areas in the Chilliwack and Squamish Forest Districts.
High retention partial cut stands on the Coast	Examining silvicultural prescriptions, site plans and harvest implementation for partial-cutting with high levels of retention, the investigation will determine whether the plans are silviculturally feasible and ecologically appropriate.
Upland range condition	Assessing the effectiveness of range practices on Crown land in maintaining the desired condition of upland grassland, this investigation will examine maintenance of important habitat for threatened and endangered grassland wildlife species.
Stand level retention in MPB areas	Assessing the extent to which the chief forester's guidance on landscape- and stand-level structural retention is being applied, this investigation will determine, to the extent possible, the landscape level consequence of the harvest and retention.
Harvest of tree species in MPB areas	Investigating how much non-pine is being harvested in areas affected by the MPB epidemic, this report will examine the reasons for the non-pine harvest.
Implementation of protected areas for marbled murrelet	Examining the licensee's forest stewardship plan for conserving marbled murrelet nesting habitat, this investigation will look at 15 forest development units, two forest licences and five timber licences in the Sunshine Coast Forest District.
Little Lamb Creek	Focusing on issues that were outside the scope of previous Board and MoFR work, this investigation will report further on the roadwork in the Lamb Creek Area.
Outcome of water issue complaints received by the Board	Examining the authority and effectiveness of the Board's water protection complaint investigation function, this investigation will report on past and future effectiveness.
CIMS Assessment – C&E special investigation	Investigating MoFR's Compliance Information Management System used for compliance and enforcement in six forest districts.
Hazard assessment and abatement special investigation	Assessing the utilization of hazard assessment and abatement practices of all forest licensees with an AAC greater than 100,000 metres ³ and all 12 BCTS business areas, the investigation will survey all licensees and a sample will be field verified.

GOVERNMENT BODIES

Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB)
provides land use planning service to government, including spatial analysis and modelling, land use planning, Treaty negotiations, sectoral economic development and land tenure allocations.

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL)

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR)

Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR)

Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MoTSA)

LEGISLATION AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Forest and Range Practices Act (The Act/FRPA)

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and its regulations govern the activities of forest and range licensees in B.C. The statute sets the requirements for planning, road building, logging, reforestation, and grazing. FRPA encourages innovation and holds industry responsible for outcomes. Combined with compliance and enforcement, the Act and regulations contribute to forest management and sustainable environmental values. FRPA and its regulations took effect on Jan. 31, 2004. Any activities already approved under the existing *Forest Practices Code* may continue and are governed by the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and its regulations. After the FRPA transition period ends, a licensee may only submit an operational plan under FRPA. Once the plan is approved, the licensee will operate under FRPA.

Forest Practices Code (The Code/FPC)

Forestry legislation implemented in June 1995 that prescribed strict legislative requirements for forest practices in B.C. Although some sections of the Act are still in force, the activities of B.C.'s forest and range licensees are now governed by the FRPA and regulations.

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)

A plan that must be drafted by tenure holders and submitted to the Ministry of Forests for approval before any cutting permits are granted. In their plans, tenure holders must state explicitly how they will address government objectives for key forest values, such as soils and wildlife.

Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)

A strategic, multi-agency, integrated resource plan developed for, and implemented in, specific regions. LRMPs are based on the principles of enhanced public involvement, consideration of all resource values, consensus-based decision making, and resource sustainability.

Land use planning

The interactive process of inventorying and assessing the status, potential, and limitations of a particular geographic area (the land base) and its resources, with a view to planning and managing these resources to satisfy human and other ecological needs now and in the future.

Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP)

SRMPs facilitate resource management decisions for small to medium size landscapes or watersheds. They focus on similar issues and values as regional plans or LRMPs (e.g. timber, biodiversity, tourism) but at a more detailed level. For example, SRMPs are used to identify Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), a priority component of biodiversity planning, for addressing specific economic development issues such as agriculture or tourism development, and are also useful for managing values such as spiritual and cultural resources as identified by First Nations.

ACTIVITIES

Administrative appeals

The Board may appeal decisions made by government officials. The Board acts as an advocate for the public interest in these cases and puts forward a position on the matter. The Board can also become a party to appeals launched by others (e.g., licensees) in order to make submissions on the case.

Audits

Audits, either limited, full scope, thematic or enforcement-based, can examine any aspect or combination of aspects of forest practice. The results of audits are published in public reports.

Complaint investigations

The Board must address all formal complaints related to forestry issues on Crown land; when a complaint investigation has been completed, a report is published which may or may not include recommendations for resolving the complaint. The Board doesn't deal with complaints related to private property (except in tree farm licences and woodlots), awarding of licences or other forest-related legislation.

Special investigations

Special investigations are conducted by the Board to deal with matters of significant public interest that cannot be adequately addressed through complaint investigations or audits – for example, the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

COMMON FORESTRY TERMS

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)

The allowable rate of timber harvest from a specified area of land. The chief forester sets AACs for timber supply areas (TSAs) and tree farm licences (TFLs) in accordance with Section 8 of the *Forest Act*.

Cutblock

A specific area, with defined boundaries, authorized for harvest.

Forest practice

A prescribed activity that is carried out by: (a) the government; (b) the holder of an agreement under the *Forest Act*; (c) a person in a prescribed category of persons on private land, subject to a tree farm licence, a community forest agreement, or a woodlot licence, or on Crown land.

Free-growing stand

A stand of healthy trees of a commercially valuable species, the growth of which is not impeded by competition from plants, shrubs, or other trees.

Habitat management

Management of the forest to create environments that provide habitats (food, shelter) to meet the needs of particular organisms.

Invasive Alien Plant Database

The Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) Application is the database for invasive plant data in B.C. It is intended to co-ordinate and share information generated by various agencies and non-government organizations involved in invasive plant management. The application has been developed to allow the entry, edit and query of invasive plant information including: site details; invasive plant inventory information; planning; treatment methods and data; and, monitoring data.

Invasive plant

Any non-native (coming from outside the province) plant species that threatens the survival of native plants. Unchecked, invasive plants can impact the economy by displacing native plants that have commercial value, threaten our environment by impacting native ecosystems and cause health problems to people and animals.

Karst

A geological formation formed by water dissolving limestone over many thousands of years, creating shafts, sinkholes, caves, disappearing streams and springs.

Licensee

The holder of a licence under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* or *Forest Act*.

Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB)

The mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, is a small insect, less than a centimetre long, which lives most of its life under the bark of pine trees, including lodgepole, ponderosa and western white pine.

Marbled Murrelet (MAMU)

Marbled Murrelets, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, are small Pacific coast seabirds that belong to the same family as auks, puffins and murre. In winter, they have black and white plumage and conspicuous white wing patches. They are considered a species at risk.

Marten

Pine Marten, *Martes Americana*, is a weasel-like animal that is dark brown to blond in colour with a paler head and underparts. The tail is long and bushy; the ears pointed and small and it weight is one to four pounds. They are considered an endangered species.

Prescribed fire

The knowledgeable and controlled application of fire to a specific land area to accomplish predetermined forest management or other land use objectives.

Salvage harvesting

Logging operations specifically designed to remove damaged timber (dead or in poor condition) and yield a wood product. Often carried out following fire, insect attack, or windthrow.

Stream flow

The measurable rate of groundwater and stream run-off.

Sustainable forest management

Forest management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, economic, social, and cultural opportunities for present and future generations.

Third-party certification

Use of a non-legislated certifying body that sets standards around forest practices.

Timber supply area (TSA)

An area of Crown land designated by MoFR in accordance with FRPA and managed for a range of objectives including timber production.

Wildfire urban interface (WUI)

An area where various structures (most notably private homes) and other human developments meet, or are intermingled with, forest and other vegetative fuel types.

Wildlife tree requirement

The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level to retain wildlife trees without unduly reducing the supply of timber from B.C.'s forests.



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