



File: ARCS-00280-30

June 17, 2016

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

Dear Tim Ryan:

On behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), please accept this letter as government's response to the Forest Practices Board's recommendation in its report: *Harvesting Impacts on Natural Range Barriers near Sharpe Lake (March 2016)*.

***Recommendation to government:***

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations should facilitate a process between West Fraser and the complainants to collect and record detailed information on livestock movement to confirm whether a natural range barrier has been breached and to determine the appropriate mitigation required to be implemented by West Fraser. The Board suggests that such monitoring of livestock by the complainants occur over at least a two-year period, commencing at the start of the next grazing season.

***Government response:***

On June 3, 2016, West Fraser Mills staff met with Sharpe Lake Ranch owners Jim and Ruth Robinson to discuss the licensee's future harvesting plans that will occur on the Robinson's range tenure. The planned harvesting will fully remove the remaining natural range barrier that was the focus of the Forest Practices Board's investigation.

The Robinsons indicated they had no issues with the harvesting plans as long as a fence was constructed that would connect the existing fences, thereby controlling cattle movement. West Fraser and the Robinsons mutually agreed that the fence would be constructed next summer (2017), after authorized harvesting on the range tenure has been completed. The Robinsons indicated that, because a fence will be constructed, there would be no need to monitor future cattle movement through this area.

We trust that this letter addresses the Board's recommendation. However, if the Board has any follow-up questions, please contact Ray Raatz, Operations Manager, at [ray.raatz@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ray.raatz@gov.bc.ca) (250-395-7807).

Yours truly,

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations

100 Mile House Natural  
Resource District

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100 Mile House, BC V0K 2E0

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Forest Practices Board Attn: Tim Ryan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pat Byrne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pat Byrne  
District Manager  
100 Mile House Natural Resource District

cc: Rob Ballinger, West Fraser Mills Ltd.  
Jim and Ruth Robinson, Sharpe Lake Ranch

File: 97250-20-15016

July 13, 2016

Pat Byrne  
District Manager  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
100 Mile House Natural Resource District  
100 Mile House, BC V0K 2E0

Dear Pat Byrne

**Re: *Your Response to our recommendations in Complaint Investigation 15016 – Harvesting Impacts on Natural Range Barriers near Sharpe Lake.***

Thank you for your response to the recommendations in the Board's report.

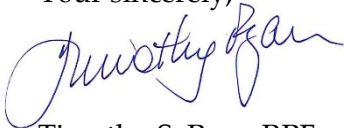
We were pleased to hear that West Fraser have reached an agreement with the Robinsons to address concerns about controlling cattle movement.

I accept this as addressing the Board's recommendations.

The Board emphasizes solutions in its work. We commend all the parties in their work to resolve this issue.

We will now consider this file closed.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Timothy S. Ryan RPF  
Chair

cc Jim and Ruth Robinson  
Mark Runge West Fraser Mills  
Mike Scott Interfor.