

File: 975-01 Forest Practices Board

October 30, 2010

Chris Mosher
Director, Audits
Forest Practices Board
1675 Douglas Street
Victoria, British Columbia

Dear Mr. Mosher,

In June 23rd 2010, the Forest Practices Board released a report outlining the findings from a full scope forestry audit of BC Timber Sales' Seaward-tlasta Business Area. This report indicated the Board's interest in receiving a written update, by October 31st 2010, of further progress made by the Business Area to implement its road maintenance strategy. By this letter I am pleased to offer a followup report.



On June 4th 2010 I provided some comments on the Board's draft Audit report and included an update of activities that had occurred since the auditors' visit to the Business Area a year prior. These comments are attached to this letter. This update summarizes our accomplishments since this previous submission to the Board.

Key recent achievements and activities on Seaward-tlasta Business Area's road maintenance strategy include:

- A final Road Risk Analysis Strategy report was completed by David Campbell, Research Hydrologist-Geomorphologist at the Coast Forest Region on July 28th, 2010. The report is attached for your information. The final report includes tabular summaries outlining Road Risk ratings and Upslope Risks for 1570 kilometres of roads under BCTS stewardship. Risk ratings on 857 kilometres of roads were not completed because they were still "planned" and not constructed or due to gaps in air photography, slope or terrain information. Additional assessment is required by our Engineering team to determine how to close this information gap.

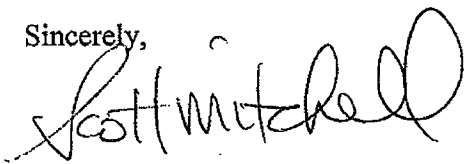
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- Geographic Information System (GIS) files associated with the Road and Upslope risk ratings were received by the Business Area in early August 2010. Additional work is required to integrate this information into our Cengea RESOURCES forest management system.
- Guided by Dave Campbell's preliminary findings and local knowledge, the joint NICC District/Seaward-tlasta Business Area Engineering team has been actively undertaking road inspections with a total of 318 kilometers of BCTS FSRs inspected since April 2010. Assessment results are being loaded into RESOURCES and will be used to plan future road maintenance activities.
- Based on results of 2009 road inspections, the Seaward-tlasta Business Area awarded three separate road maintenance contracts in August/September to in the Holberg and Doc Creek areas. These contracts include such activities as culvert and ditch line maintenance, grading and brushing.
- Engineering and Seaward-tlasta field team staff have been actively undertaking recce flight and ground inspections to assess damage related to the September 25, 2010 storm event. Urgent rehabilitation works are ongoing and planning is underway to address other infrastructure damage.
- Further analysis of the Road Risk Analysis Strategy report and associated data will occur through the coming winter and will be used to formulate inspection plans for the Engineering Team in fiscal 11/12.
- The Engineering team are currently working with a Professional Engineering consultant to undertake bridge inspections on approximately 190 bridges located on BCTS FSRs. These inspections are nearing completion.

Implementation of, and enhancements to, our road maintenance strategy continues to be an ongoing priority for our Engineering team. I trust that you find this update of activities to be demonstrative of satisfactory progress.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott Mitchell, RPF
Woodlands Manager
Seaward-tlasta Business Area

Attachment(s): Road Risk Analysis Strategy – July 28th, 2010
June 4, 2010 letter to Forest Practices Board



**Forest
Practices
Board**

File: 97150-20/2009-07

November 10, 2010

Duncan Taggart
Timber Sales Manager
Seaward-tlasta Business Area
Box 7000, 2217 Mine Road
Port McNeill, B.C. V0N 2R0

Dear Duncan Taggart:

Re: Forestry Audit: British Columbia Timber Sales, Seaward-tlasta Business Area.

In June 2010, the Board completed its audit report focusing on the Mid-coast portion of the Seaward-tlasta Business Area. In that audit the Board noted that BCTS had not inspected some roads for which it had maintenance responsibility, and therefore did not ensure structural integrity or that the drainage systems were functional. While no adverse affects were noted during the audit, this was a systemic issue that could lead to environmental harm.

The report noted that since the audit, BCTS had increased road inspections and had nearly completed a report recommending schedules for road maintenance, based on risk. The Board requested that BCTS provide a written update of further progress made to implement its road maintenance strategy, by October 31, 2010.

The Board received your staff's email response dated October 30, 2010. Board staff has assessed this information, noting that BCTS has completed risk ratings for most roads, undertaken inspections and awarded road maintenance contracts. Staff also noted that BCTS commits to completing risk assessments for the remaining roads, and developing inspection plans for 2011/12.

I accept this response as having addressed the Board's recommendation and now consider this file to be closed.

Thank you again for your continued support throughout the audit.

Yours sincerely,

R.A. (Al) Gorley, RPF
Chair

Cc: Andrew Ashford, District Manager, North Island – Central Coast Forest District