



March 31, 2008

File: 280-20

Bruce Fraser, Ph D  
Chair  
Forest Practices Board  
3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, 1675 Douglas St  
Victoria BC V8W 9R1

Dear Dr. Fraser:

Re: Forest Practices Board Complaint Investigation 060733

As part of the above Complaint Investigation the Forest Practices Board recommended that, *“Government promptly finalize and implement an overall stewardship strategy for the CDF ecosystem and communicate its strategy to the public.”* The Board also requested that, *“the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands report in writing to the Board by March 31, 2008, about the steps it has taken to give effect to the Board’s recommendations.”* This letter responds to the Forest Practices Board’s request.

Land ownership in the Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone (CDF) is a key consideration in developing a strategy for stewardship of this ecosystem. Eighty percent (80%) of the CDF lands are privately owned. Eleven percent (11%) of the lands are owned by the federal or local governments with a portion designated as regional or national parks. Only nine percent (9%) of the CDF lands are actually owned by the Province, and the Province has formally protected about thirty-two percent (32%) of this amount within provincial parks or protected areas.

The Province’s strategy for CDF stewardship includes the following components:

1. **Establishment of a Land Use Objective (LUO) for Crown land parcels in the CDF.**  
The LUO will be aimed at enhancing stewardship of red-listed plant communities on Crown provincial forest in the CDF. The development of the LUO will be led by the Integrated Land Management Bureau in collaboration with First Nations, stakeholders, communities and experts in provincial resource agencies. As with all draft LUO Orders, it will be subject to the statutory public consultation process. The LUO Order is now being drafted with a summer 2008 date targeted for consultation.
2. **Completion of ecological mapping of the CDF.** Terrestrial ecosystem mapping is key to identifying high value parcels to be addressed by the LUO. To date, this mapping has been conducted on 90% of the CDF with mapping of the remaining 10% of the land base .../2

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**Integrated Land  
Management  
Bureau**

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scheduled for completion by June 2008. Ecological mapping provides detailed information to assist in identification and enhanced stewardship of red listed communities.

3. **Implementation of interim stewardship measures.** In June 2007, the Province implemented an interim procedure to support CDF stewardship while a strategy was being prepared. This procedure will continue until a Land Use Objective is established for red-listed plant communities on Crown provincial forest land in the CDF. This procedure involves the following:
  - a. The Ministry of Forests and Range deferring the issuance of new tenures in the CDF; and
  - b. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts deferring the issuance of Crown land tenures and sales unless deemed by the Coast Interagency Management Committee and a technical sub-committee not to impact red-listed communities.
4. **Initiation of a public awareness program targeting non-Provincial landowners and people working on Crown lands in the CDF.** This program is intended to increase knowledge about the CDF ecosystem and actions that can be taken by others to further its stewardship. Since ninety-one percent (91%) of CDF is non-Provincial land, this initiative is important to the ecosystem's sustainability. Among other things, a "Good Practices" document will be prepared to provide background information for forest professionals operating in the CDF.

The actions developed by the Province of British Columbia to enhance stewardship in the CDF will assist non-Provincial landowners and those managing Crown lands in understanding the issues threatening the long-term viability of the CDF. The strategy will encourage land managers and private land holders to take appropriate measures on their lands to participate in the enhanced stewardship of red-listed plant communities in the CDF.

I trust that these coordinated actions by government address the recommendations made in Forest Practices Board Complaint Investigation 60733.

Sincerely,



Heather MacKnight  
Regional Executive Director (Coast)  
Integrated Land Management Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

pc: Carmen Cadrin

Emma Neill



File: 97250-20/060733

Your File: 280-20

April 8, 2008

Heather MacKnight, Regional Director  
Integrated Land Management Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Suite 200 – 10428 153 Street  
Surrey, BC, V3R 1E1

Dear Heather MacKnight:

Re: Complaint 060733 – CDF Woodlots – Recommendation Follow-up

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 2008. I appreciate your ministry's timely response to the Board's recommendation arising from complaint file 060733, CDF Woodlots.

I accept your response and thank you and your staff for such a positive and effective reply. I encourage your ministry to continue with a speedy implementation of the stewardship strategy and hope that you will communicate it fully to the public.

In addition, given the high proportion of the CDF that is private land, it seems likely that sustainability of the ecosystem, including the provincial forest, will in large part depend on concurrent private land conservation. Your fourth point—public awareness—is of course critical to that effort. In the interest of sustainability, I hope that your ministry will also continue to investigate and promote more direct means to secure ecological values on private lands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Fraser".

Bruce Fraser, PhD  
Chair

## Update to Government's Response

In August 2009, the provincial Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) advised the Board that:

Terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM) of the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) ecosystem is completed. Provincial staff have used this detailed information to analyze and identify priority areas for CDF stewardship.

Interim stewardship measures remain in effect and will continue until a Land Use Objective Order is established for red-listed plant communities on Crown provincial forest land in the CDF. These measures include deferring the issuance of new tenures in the CDF identified areas and deferring Crown land tenures and sales unless deemed not to impact red-listed species.

Preliminary work has been undertaken to develop a public awareness program targeting non-Provincial landowners and people working on Crown lands in the CDF. The ILMB is reviewing cost efficient options to implement this objective given the current budget situation in the province.

The ILMB also reported that considerable progress has been made towards the establishment of a Land Use Objective for Crown land parcels in the CDF. Completion of the TEM in 2008/09 resulted in the re-visiting of some of the work that had been done previously to identify priority CDF parcels. In addition, subsequent internal discussions on potential CDF parcels highlighted the need for further analytical work so the delegated decision-maker could be satisfied that Section 2 of the Land Use Objectives Regulation of the *Land Act* (B.C. Reg. 357/2005) was met prior to initiating public consultation on the draft Order. Public consultation is expected to commence later this year.