

September 8, 2008

Dr. Bruce Fraser, Chair  
Forest Practices Board  
P.O. Box 9905, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9R1

*Bruce*

Dear Dr. ~~Fraser~~:

**Re: Forest Practices Board, Special Investigation Report “High Retention Harvesting and Timber Sustainability on the British Columbia Coast”**

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Forest Practices Board (FPB) issued a News Release “Investigation Finds “High-Grading” of Forest on B.C. Coast” which introduces the features in the FPB Special Investigation Report “*High Retention Harvesting and Timber Sustainability on the British Columbia Coast*” (January 2008).

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) President Paul Knowles RPF stated publicly, in an interview with CBC Radio Canada, that the ABCFP accepted the Board’s recommendations in the report and in particular, that the profession would take actions to meet recommendation #2.

This letter is to confirm the steps that have been taken by the ABCFP to meet recommendation #2 and other professional aspects of the report. In particular, recommendation #2 states,

*The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) should provide guidance to members to ensure they are using appropriate professional diligence in the design of high retention silvicultural prescriptions on the coast.*

The ABCFP has utilized the Professional Practice Committee and a Task Force on High Retention Harvesting to direct our energies toward providing meaningful direction for members in areas identified by the FPB report. Most notably the ABCFP has completed the following:

- a. Participated and presented professional reliance expectations regarding Partial Cutting prescriptions at workshops (Tofino BC Oct 2007, Port McNeill BC March 2008)

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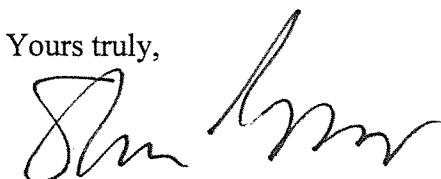
- b. Provided a Notice to the Profession outlining the specific standards of professional practice that would apply to developing high retention harvesting prescriptions.
- c. Developed a professional practice guidance document that describes the components of professional quality rationales and commitments. (Guidance for Professional Quality Rationales and Commitments)
- d. Directs members to the technical background that is important to consider prior to and during the development of High Retention Harvest or Partial Cutting prescriptions by providing a restricted endorsement of the technical guidance provided by the Ministry of Forests and Range.

In addition to recommendation #2, the ABCFP is concerned about the apparent lack of professional oversight necessary to ensure that prescriptions are implemented as prescribed and will be able to meet the intended objectives and commitments. The ABCFP will continue to work with the MFR and others to strengthen the practice foundation for professional reliance and implementation issues pertaining to the practice of professional forestry.

The ABCFP noted the FPB comments regarding the short term focus of "professional stewardship." While the FPB acknowledged this to be a legislative effect the ABCFP has advocated a planning framework to the Working Roundtable on Forestry that will seek to draw a longer term view of the forest resource and pay greater attention to the cumulative effects of use on the landscape. In addition, the Stewardship Advisory Committee will be developing Principles of Stewardship as a means to better provide guidance to members on interpreting practice effects on forest stewardship.

If you have any questions regarding the steps that have been outlined please contact Mike Larock RPF, the Director of Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship of the ABCFP at [mlarock@abcfp.ca](mailto:mlarock@abcfp.ca)

Yours truly,



Sharon Glover, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer



File: 97325/20-2006-05

January 16, 2009

Sharon Glover  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of BC Forest Professionals  
1030-1188 West Georgia St.  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A2

Dear Sharon Glover:

**Re: Response to the Board's High Retention Harvesting Report, SR 20**

Thank-you for your response of September 8, 2008 to the Forest Practices Board recommendations in our special investigation report on High Retention Harvesting on the BC Coast. Since we received your letter, we have made revisions to the report in response to issues raised by Interfor, and have just now reposted the report on our website. We very much appreciate the involvement of the association in the discussions that have taken place regarding the report revisions.

As these revisions did not affect our original recommendations, we accept your July letter as the association's response. We are pleased that you are working with industry and government to strengthen professional practice and implementation to promote sound stewardship of our forest resources.

Thank-you for your attention to these issues, and for informing us of your progress in addressing them.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Fraser, PhD  
Chair