



File: 280-30 CLIFF 84900
12280-01/NTFP

JUL 05 2005

Bruce Fraser
Chair, Forest Practices Board
P.O. Box 9905 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9R1

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD	
JUL 15 '05	
RECEIVED by:	
Original	KAIRRY
File #	
ACTION:	COPIES:
DARLENE	DARLENE FRED BRUCE
<input type="checkbox"/> NIA Int.	<input type="checkbox"/> FYI Int.

Dear Dr. Fraser:

Please accept this letter as government's response to the Board's recommendations in its special report "Integrating Non-Timber Forest Products into Forest Planning and Practices in British Columbia" Special Report (FPB/SR/19) May 2004.

Recommendation 1.

"Government should conduct the research necessary to quantify the current economic contribution of the (non-timber forest products) NTFP sector to the province and its contribution to economic diversification of rural communities. Government should also continue to support and undertake research to develop knowledge about compatible management of timber and NTFP resources and sustainable management of NTFPs."

The provincial government supports research to quantify the economic contribution of NTFPs to the economy and increase knowledge about compatible management. Government has led some projects and collaborated in other efforts to quantify the current economic contribution of the sector to the province and its contribution to economic diversification of rural communities¹. Government has recently partnered with the Centre for Non-Timber Resources (CNTR) on two studies; the first concerning the economic viability of non-timber forest product industries and the second on opportunities for compatible management of non-timber forest products on public lands in the timber harvesting land base¹. Other initiatives will be pursued as resources allow.

Government sees its role as supporting the required research by facilitating coordination, development of partnerships and collaborating with others, rather than undertaking all the required research. This is being done through the development of a strategy that will guide the Forest Investment Account (FIA) Forest Science Program (FSP).



Recommendation 2.

“Government should look further into regulating the NTFP industry in light of it’s economic importance for income and employment, the need for sustainable management of the NTFP resource and its cultural and economic importance to First Nations.”

Government is investigating options for regulating the NTFP industry. On the basis of several recent assessments, which concluded that the most effective approach would combine elements of state, common property and private property rights, government concluded that it should focus on developing general policies to ensure sustainable NTFP management².

Government is exploring a range of options including a buyer licensing and reporting system as part of the collaborative stewardship pilot projects, which is intended to evaluate new and expanded forms of property rights and tenures in British Columbia. The Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) is also collaborating with CNTR in their study of regulatory options.

Recommendation 3.

“Government should establish objectives for NTFPs under the Land Act through sustainable resource management plans (SRMP), to guide forest planning and practices where NTFPs are an important local resource for economic and/or traditional uses.

It is generally acknowledged that government is changing the way resources are being managed in British Columbia and procedures continue to evolve³. Government intends to bring into force the *Land Amendment Act* (LAA) and Land Use Objectives Regulation this year. The *Land Amendment Act* s. 93.1, 93.3 (1) will allow Cabinet to designate areas and establish objectives to conserve or manage natural resources, balance multiple natural resource uses, implement a plan for a specific use of Crown land, resolve land use conflicts, and provide for specific economic development. Government is still examining the scope of sections 93.1 and 93.3 (1) of the LAA, including its applicability to establishing objectives for NTFPs.

Your recommendation mentions the potential role of SRMPs in establishing objectives for NTFPs. The LAA section 93.4 will allow the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to establish objectives for the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). Currently only the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (FPC) sections 3 - 5 and the FRPA and associated regulations have provisions for establishing legally binding objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MOAL) will explore the application of legally established land use objectives for NTFPs where appropriate.

Although NTFPs are not explicitly identified as a FRPA “value” or subject (FRPA, section 149) or land use objective for biodiversity (FPC sections 3 – 5), existing objectives for other values contribute to the sustainable management of NTFPs. Where an objective has been established and is in effect under FRPA, agreement-holders must identify measurable and verifiable results and prepare strategies that are consistent with these government objectives in their FSPs under the FRPA Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, section 10. Examples of FRPA and FPC objectives that could contribute to the sustainable management of NTFPs include objectives for biodiversity, wildlife and cultural heritage resources.

Other agencies have roles under FRPA that are relevant in NTFP management. The Ministry of Environment (MOE) is responsible for species at risk and regionally important wildlife. If NTFP elements are identified as a species at risk, or regionally important, their management for conservation purposes would be covered under the FRPA. The MOFR is responsible for implementation of FPC and FRPA and operational planning under FRPA. The MOFR is collaborating with CNTR to determine how management of NTFPs is being considered in these planning processes and in operational activities.

Recommendation 4.

“Government, the forest industry and professional associations should promote awareness amongst foresters and other resource management professionals, as well as the NTFP sector, about the opportunities and challenges of integrating the sustainable management of timber with NTFPs”.

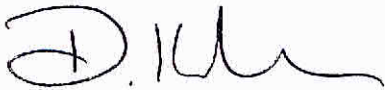
Awareness about NTFPs continues to grow. There has been some effort to address integration of NTFPs and timber management within the provincial government. The MOAL is participating in a joint federal/provincial government funded Agroforestry Initiative to provide information and funding to encourage NTFP agro-forestry. The MOFR is interested in promoting awareness within government about NTFP issues and is collaborating, along with other government agencies, with the CNTR in research and extension activities and particularly in developing and delivering extension events and products. Government support for the CNTRs initiatives, including several collaborative research projects, extension events, course development and delivery and network and database development⁴. Our staff is involved in professional associations such as the ABCPF, which are also working to increase awareness. Their March/April 2005 newsletter “Forum” focused on NTFPs.

Dr. Bruce Fraser

In closing, we trust that this response helps to identify government's actions to address the Forest Practices Board's recommendations and its support for ensuring the sustainable management of NTFPs. If the Board has any questions or requires further information please contact the following ministry specialists:

- Evelyn Hamilton, Manager, Wildlife and Range Program, MOFR 387-3650
- Judy Godfrey, Policy Analyst, Biodiversity Branch, MOE 356-5545, or
- Megan Loeb, Forest and Land Use Planner, MOAL, 356-0438.

Yours truly,



Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests
and Range



Chris Trumpy
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment



Larry Pedersen
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
and Lands

pc: Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester, MOFR
Nancy Wilkin, ADM, MOE
Henry Benskin, A/Deputy Chief Forester, MOFR
Judy Godfrey, Policy Analyst, Biodiversity Branch, MOE
Megan Loeb, Forest and Land Use Planner, MOAL

Footnotes

¹ Some completed, ongoing or initiated and terminated research projects and publications include:

- FRBC/FII funded Northern Vancouver Island Integrated NTFP Demonstration. Project (Mitchell 2003);
- FRBC funded project to begin development of a research strategy (Mah et al. 2000);
- ~~FRBC funded economic strategy that quantified the economic contribution of the sectors and identified some NTFP "best bets" (Wills and Lipsey 1999);~~
- Report on QCI mushrooms including economic analyses (Tedder et al. 2000);
- A new FIA/FSP funded CNTR baseline study of economic contribution of NTFPs ✓
- ~~ERBC funded property rights study of NTFPs in British Columbia;~~
- Ongoing research related to compatible and sustainable management of salal (Titus et al. 2003) and mushrooms (S. Berch, M. Kranabetter, and B. Chapman); ✓
- A new FIA/FSP funded CNTF study on how NTFPs are currently being addressed in planning processes and on compatible management of timber and NTFPs. The MOFR is collaborating with the CNTR and focussing on mushrooms and greenery provincially and on all species in the Kootenays. ✓

² A number of reports/projects have been written/undertaken to investigate options for regulating the NTFP industry including:

- Agroforestry Industry in British Columbia: Identification of issues, responsibilities and opportunities for the Ministry of Forests (de Gues 1993);
- ~~Botanical Forest Products in British Columbia: An overview (de Gues 1995);~~
- ~~A ERBC funded property rights report, that describes legal, economic and social characteristics of NTFPs in British Columbia (Tedder et al. 2002);~~
- ~~A FH funded collaborative stewardship pilot project to monitor management approaches for NTFPs (i.e. property rights, tenure) that was initiated in 2002. (Tedder et al. 2003);~~
- A FIA/FSP funded study to develop a compendium of laws, regulations and policies governing harvesting and marketing of NTFPs from British Columbia and other jurisdictions in and adjacent to Canada that has been started by CNTR. ✓

³ Definitions to facilitate clarity are being used in this document:

- Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) - new act that specifies requirements for FSPs;
- Forest Practices Code (FPC) - an earlier Act and associated regulations, now mostly replaced by FRPA, that addresses higher level plan objectives;
- Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs) - detailed plans for specific components of regional and sub-regional plans;
- Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) - operational level plans required under FRPA Regulations.

⁴ Center for Non Timber Resources activities:

- developing and delivering a certificate course on NTFPs at Royal Roads University;
- developing an on-line course on NTFPs for UVic and international audiences;
- collaborating with UBC to do research and develop NTFP courses;
- sponsoring a workshop on incorporation of NTFP values into forest management in Port Hardy (April 2005) and Prince George (September 2005) with funding from the Canadian Model Forest Network, and developing management guide books,
- organizing a NTFP symposium and workshops in Victoria in August 2005 that includes an international experts symposium, an industry conference and a public trade show/exhibition;
- developing BC Wild Directory - a directory of NTFP buyers and suppliers in British Columbia;
- developing a Canadian NTFP directory, with the Canadian Model Forest Network;
- developing a Canadian NTFP Network with the Northern Forest Diversification Center;
- undertook a needs assessment for First Nations regarding training around NTFPs with the G. Manuel Institute and Nisconlith Indian Band;
- sponsoring a website and e-newsletter and an on-line database of publications.



File: 97350-20/2004 NTFP

August 31, 2005

Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests and Range
PO Box 9525 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9C3

Chris Trumpy
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9339 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Larry Pedersen
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
PO Box 9120 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9B4

Dear Doug Konkin, Chris Trumpy, and Larry Pederson:

**Re: Government's response to the Board's recommendations in its special report:
*Integrating Non-Timber Forest Products into Forest Planning and Practices in
British Columbia***

Thank-you for your letter of July 5, 2005, responding to the above report and recommendations. The Board has now reviewed the response and we are not satisfied that government has taken or proposed any concrete actions to address the Board's recommendations. We would like to request an opportunity to meet with the three of you to further discuss NTFPs and explore ways of taking some practical steps on this very important forest resource management issue. We believe the time is right to get some specific initiatives going to provide economic opportunities for communities while ensuring sustainable management of the NTFP resource.

Please contact Skye Dumond at 356-6521 to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Fraser".

Bruce Fraser, PhD
Chair