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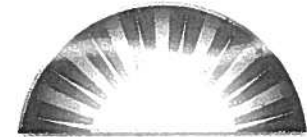
The Best Place on Earth

SEP 27 2007

File: 0280-30
Ref: 152860

Bruce Fraser, PhD
Chair, Forest Practices Board
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9N1

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD	
OCT 02 '07	
RECEIVED by:	
Original <u>Bruce Fraser</u>	
File # _____	
ACTION:	COPIES:
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PREMIER'S AWARD
PARTNERSHIP 2006/07

Dear Dr. Fraser:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 2007 regarding the Forest Practices Board (FPB) Special Report on Access Management, dated December 2005. I apologize for not responding to the recommendation made by FPB.

The following describes two key initiatives that have been worked on since the report was published, and which address several of the issues raised in the FPB Special Report on Access Management.

Since October 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) and Integrated Land Management Bureau staff have actively participated in an inter-agency *Resource Road Act (RRA)* initiative, currently led by the Ministry of Forests and Range. The goal is to consolidate current provincial agency legislation under a new *RRA* and provide a more consistent, fair, and cost-effective regulatory and management framework within the province. The new *RRA* would allow for improved consistency of road-use rules, construction, maintenance, and deactivation activities, as well as compliance and enforcement tools, which will collectively improve safety and reduce the environmental impact of resource roads. In developing the *RRA*, consideration has been given to several of the issues identified in the FPB report, including those associated with road inventory, non-status roads and deactivated roads, road authorization and maintenance, road costs sharing, public use restrictions, protection of the environment, and agency mandates. The target implementation date for the *RRA* is spring 2009.

MAL has also been involved in the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) initiative being led by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and the Arts (MTSA). This initiative is intended to address concerns associated with ORV administration, management, safety, and environmental impacts. I understand that MTSA is undertaking further analysis of costs and impacts for implementation of an anticipated regulatory framework. At this time no target date has been provided for completion of this work.

.../2

MAL recognizes the importance of addressing access management issues in the province and will continue to work toward improving policy in this regard. MAL will also continue to actively participate with other agencies to address stakeholder and public concerns in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

If you would like additional information on this or any other issues associated with access management policy, please contact Mr. Greg Kockx, Manager, Land Program Services Branch at 250 356-8117.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Ministry's attention.

Sincerely,



Larry Pedersen
Deputy Minister

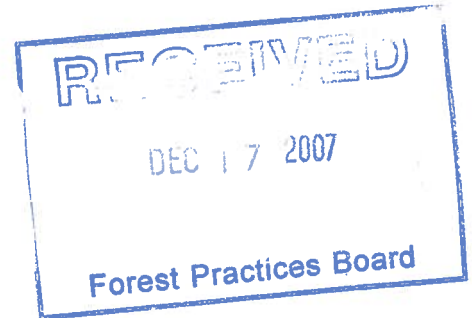
pc: Bruce Okabe
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and the Arts

Mike Lambert
Associate Deputy Minister
Integrated Land Management Bureau

Greg Kockx
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

December 7, 2007

Steve Chatwin
Special Projects Manager
Forest Practices Board
3rd Floor, 1675 Douglas Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9R1



Dear Steve Chatwin: *Steve.*

The following is in response to the Forest Practices Board, Access Management in British Columbia recommendation:

The Ministry of Forests and Range should proceed expeditiously with the ongoing development of legislation to streamline and integrate the resource road regulatory framework. The new legislation should address the lack of consultation on creating and deactivating roads.



The Ministry of Forests and Range has been leading the development of a Resource Road Act for government. It is noted that there are several other government ministries which are also responsible for resource roads. The intents of the Resource Road Act include: consolidation of relevant legislation, harmonization of policy and administration, with results-based focus based on FRPA. Although there is no intent to directly impact land use or access management planning, authorities or processes, benefits anticipated include: simplified permitting requirements, common standards across industries, reduced environmental impact, improved inter-industry and inter-ministry road use, no new non-status roads and improved tracking of government liabilities. It is our understanding that other government initiatives are under consideration related to access management strategies.

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Steve Chatwin

Much work has been undertaken in preparing a Resource Road Act by the Ministry of Forests and Range in co-ordination with an interagency steering committee for government, including consultation with various stakeholders.

Consultation is currently underway along with draft legislation being developed. We are anticipating proclamation of the Resource Road Act in the spring with act and regulations in effect in the fall of 2008.

Yours truly,



Doug Kelly
Manager
Engineering and Real Estate Operations

File: 97350-20/2005-02

January 30, 2008

Doug Kelly
Manager, Engineering and Real Estate Operations
Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch
Ministry of Forests and Range
PO Box 9510 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9C2

Dear Doug Kelly:

Re: Access Management Recommendations

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2007, to Steve Chatwin, in which you updated us on the ministry's progress towards a Resource Road Act. It is encouraging that this new legislation will be proclaimed in the spring of 2008.

The content of the new act, namely consolidation of legislation and harmonization of policies, is exactly what we called for in our recommendations. We remain concerned, however, that the new legislation will not address land use or access management planning. One of the main conclusions in our Access Management Special Report was that there is a lack of coherent government policy on road access, with each agency implementing road access based on its own perspective and interpretation. The result is public frustration that there is a lack of long term strategic access management rationale or direction.

Doug Kelly
January 30, 2007
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We look forward to reviewing the new Act and regulations in a few months time. We appreciate the response to our recommendations and consider this file closed.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Fraser, PhD
Chair