



Forest Practices Board

2019/20 Annual Report

*BC's Independent Watchdog
for Sound Forest and Range Practices*



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OUR MANDATE

The Forest Practices Board serves the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia.

Our work encourages:

- Sound forest and range practices that warrant public confidence;
- Fair and equitable application of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*; and
- Continuing improvements in forest and range practices.

OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

These values and corresponding behaviours guide us in all of our work.

INDEPENDENCE

- Act on behalf of the public interest, not any single group
- Perform in a non-adversarial, unbiased, non-partisan and balanced manner

INTEGRITY

- Be straightforward in approach—tell it like it is
- Base actions and decisions on knowledge, evidence, experience and common sense

EXCELLENCE

- Produce high-quality work
- Seek continuous improvement—both in our work and in forest and range practices

FAIRNESS

- Treat all people with respect, fairness and sensitivity
- Seek solutions rather than assigning blame

TRANSPARENCY

- Provide clear and concise reports to the public
- Be accessible and accountable

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Canadian society is facing the greatest uncertainty in more than a generation as we cope with the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incredibly difficult to plan ahead when our already weak crystal ball has become foggier than ever.

In times of uncertainty, it is important to identify the core principles that guide us through turbulent times. For the Board, one of our principles is continuous improvement. Regardless of what challenges or opportunities the pandemic creates, and regardless of your views on a particular forest practice, most people will agree that **we can do better**.

For forestry, while our immediate focus is the pandemic response, we have long term and structural issues that continue to demand attention and action. The challenges include issues with forestry markets, declining timber supply, increasing expectations from society for non-timber values, and a rapidly changing climate. In short, there is lots of work to do!

For the Board, our continuous improvement philosophy applies to how we do our work, as well as how our work influences forest and range practices. In the past year, we undertook three major initiatives to improve the operation of the Board:

- we created an externally facing strategic plan that will direct our activities for the next three years;
- we prepared an Indigenous Engagement Strategy to help us play a more active role in supporting reconciliation in BC and to improve the way we interact with and support Indigenous peoples; and
- we prepared a new policy on recruitment that creates greater clarity on how we recruit new potential Board members.

Across the province, we also witnessed how our work encourages continuous improvement in policy and on the ground. A few highlights:

- In April of 2019, Bill 21 received Royal Assent, amending the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. Some of these amendments reflect recommendations made by the Board, including:
 - improvements to management of visual quality;
 - a requirement to make the location of cutblocks and roads available for public review and comment; and
 - putting a limit on the number of times a forest stewardship plan can be extended.

- Four complaints were resolved through dialogue between the complainant and the subject of the complaint. This means they were able to find a solution that worked.
- In several of our audits, the licensee acted immediately to rectify gaps in their operating practices uncovered during the audit.

These results show me that the forestry community is looking for constructive ways to do better.

This annual report celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Forest Practices Board. I want to formally acknowledge all of the past staff, Board members and chairs who helped build the organization we see today, and who contributed to more than 649 reports and 500 recommendations intended to improve our forest and range practices.

Looking ahead to next year, even with our foggy crystal ball, I am willing to predict that the Forest Practices Board will continue to identify areas where we believe improvements can be made to forest and range practices in BC. And it will be another interesting year...

Kevin Kriese
Chair, Forest Practices Board

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019–2022

In 2019, the Board developed a strategic plan to guide our work over the next few years. As part of this process, we met with forest sector and environmental organizations to discuss our performance, our role and our effectiveness as the public watchdog for forest and range practices. We also conducted a strategic priorities survey, where we asked people for feedback on our work.

We heard that our programs and processes are valued and respected. All the stakeholders we talked to see value in the work we do. The independent voice of the Board is seen as a critical element in BC's forest and range sectors. We also heard that we can do more to educate the public about forest practices—the good and the bad, and about the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* and what they are. Some people perceive that our work does not have the impact it should—that it is not acted upon enough by industry or government.

We used that information to help us evaluate where we can work differently to have greater impact and value in the future. The result of our review is a strategic plan that establishes priorities for the next three years, 2019-2022. Our plan is available to the public on our website, to increase transparency about what we do and how we do it. This annual report covers the period of developing the plan, and the initial implementation. We report on our achievement of the goals, objectives and our performance, to

the extent that we can, given that we are early into the implementation of the plan.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

These strategic priorities describe areas where we will shift how we undertake our work, new areas of focus, and themes that we will emphasize. They affect the organization through changes to operational procedures or policy (how the Board does its work), as well as key areas we will focus our programs on, where we have discretion on what we address (what the Board works on).

- 1. Indigenous Relations:** *We will develop a comprehensive approach to working with Indigenous peoples in our work.*
- 2. Increase Impact and Influence Change:** *Harness the results of our work to provide compelling advice to industry and the government on ways to improve forestry and range legislation, policy and practices, and to inform the public about the state of forest and range practices today.*
- 3. Prepare for the Future:** *Increase focus on topics that will drive future forest practices;*
 - *climate change*
 - *tactical planning*
 - *effectiveness monitoring results*

- 4. Continuously Improve Existing Work:** *In order to excel and adapt to changing circumstances, we will build on our strengths and continue to improve our operations.*

The plan sets out five goals, describing the results we wish to achieve for each of our major program areas, as well as for the day-to-day operation of the organization. These goals collectively deliver on our mandate. Achievement of each of the goals is reviewed in the following program sections of this annual report.

Initial Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were identified in the strategic plan, and more specific indicators have been developed to measure our performance. Performance information for all of these indicators can be found throughout this annual report.

KPIs – ORGANIZATION

- **Reports Published** – We will report the number of projects completed and reports published, by type (audit, complaint investigation, appeal, etc.)
- **Budget** – annual expenditures by program
- **Audit Results** – the findings of our audit program sorted by type of tenure, region, etc.
- **Complaint Program** – the number of concerns received and the number of complaints, reported by region and category of issue

KPIs – COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- **Communication Events** – We will report information on # invitations for Board and staff to speak about reports and findings, # events attended, # communities visited, # stakeholder meetings, etc.
- **Content Engagements** – We will report engagement statistics such as # website visits and report downloads, # social media engagements, # media stories, etc.

KPIs – INCREASE IMPACT AND INFLUENCE CHANGE¹

In order to evaluate what influence and impact our work is having, we will work to develop new indicators that measure two factors:

- **Report Uptake** – the acceptance and use of our reports by the intended audiences
- **Recommendations Uptake** – the acceptance and implementation of our recommendations

¹ Indicators measuring the priority to *Increase Impact and Influence Change* require us to undertake survey work. Surveys are currently in development and we intend to report results in the next annual report.

THE BOARD



Kevin Kriese
Chair



Bruce Larson
PhD, Vice-Chair



Tara Marsden



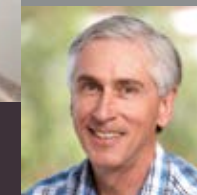
Norma Wilson
P.Ge



Gerry Grant
RFP



Marlene Machmer
RPBio



Rick Monchak
RFP

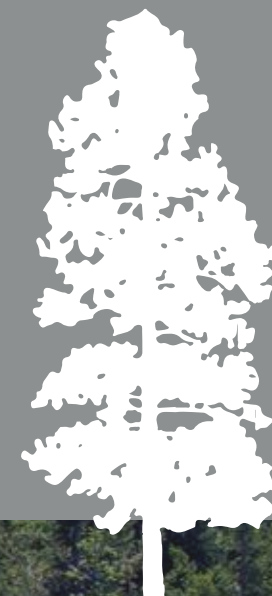
25 YEARS

6

Board Chairs

42

Part-time Board
Members



PONDEROSA PINE *Pinus ponderosa*

PAST BOARDS



The Board's focus this year has been on completing and implementing the strategic plan. An Indigenous Relations Committee, made up of Board members and staff, led the development of an Indigenous relations policy for the organization. The Board approved the draft policy in March and it is available on the website. This is a work in progress and it will be improved over time. Feedback on the policy is welcome.

A Governance Committee was also established, to look at how the Board is structured and how it makes decisions. A review of the roles and responsibilities of the Board members and senior staff is part of this committee's work.

The Board is also considering how it can address the future priorities that will affect future forest practices—as part of that work, the Board made submissions to the government's consultation on Climate Change Adaptation, changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the Together for Wildlife consultation and a submission to the old-growth review panel. These documents are available on the Board's website.

The Board held its main strategic planning meeting in April 2019, near Whistler, and then held a final strategic planning meeting in Smithers in June. The final plan was approved in July. The Board met in Victoria in September and December 2019, and had seven meetings

by conference call. The March 2020 Board meeting was planned for Victoria, but was changed to a virtual meeting given the COVID-19 situation in the province at the time. Panels of the Board also met by conference call on specific audit and investigation files.

During the year, the Board Chair continued to place an emphasis on engaging with stakeholders and others interested in the work of the Board, meeting with nearly two dozen people. The Chair met with representatives from the First Nations Forestry Council, the forest industry, professional associations, environmental organizations, local governments, government ministries and more.

BOARD MEMBERS

In December, Norma Wilson completed her term after serving on the Board for 5 1/2 years. As we ended the 2019-2020 fiscal year, a search was underway for new members to replace members completing their terms in 2020. As always, our search for new Board members will strive to continue the Board's diversity in experience, gender and representation. We believe this diversity of Board members providing oversight of the organization and of forest and range practices in the province is one of the Forest Practices Board's key strengths.

25 YEARS

126 Employees and Co-op Students

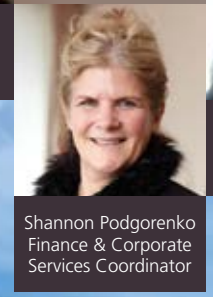
LODGEPOLE PINE *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*



OUR PEOPLE



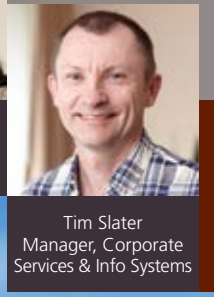
Dave Clarke
Executive Director



Shannon Podgorenko
Finance & Corporate
Services Coordinator



Skye Dumond
Executive Operations
Coordinator



Tim Slater
Manager, Corporate
Services & Info Systems

BUDGET AND FINANCIALS

GOAL

Maintain a healthy and innovative organization that efficiently uses its staff and resources.

- Objective 1 Maintain a recruitment and retention strategy to ensure staff with appropriate experience and expertise.
- Objective 2 Support staff training and professional development.
- Objective 3 Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement.
- Objective 4 Foster transparency through reporting of activities and expenditures in the annual report.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Like many public service organizations, the Board faces significant staffing and retention challenges due to upcoming retirements. We are working hard to retain our existing people and to recruit talented, experienced people to replace those who do leave. We are also working on a succession plan for key positions.

Our overall people strategy involves:

- offering flexible work hours to help employees balance their work and home lives;
- supporting a dispersed workforce (something that had us well positioned to transition to working from home under COVID-19 restrictions);
- supporting training and professional development; and
- providing staff with the opportunity to work on projects and issues that inspire them and provide personal satisfaction.

FINANCIAL REPORT	Board Members and Executive	Investigations	Audits	Legal	Communications	Administration & Overhead	TOTAL
Salaries and Benefits	424,292	615,592	798,843	236,630	221,496	156,946	2,453,799
Other Operating Costs	159,987	62,244	287,195	6,234	31,006	858,423	1,405,089
Total Operating Expenditures	584,279	677,836	1,086,038	242,864	252,502	1,015,369	3,858,888
Total Capital Expenditures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Expenditures	584,279	677,836	1,086,038	242,864	252,502	1,015,369	3,858,888
Budget							3,862,000

NOTES:

1. "Board Members and Executive" expenditures cover those of the Chair of the Board, the part-time Board members, the office of the Executive Director, and staff providing direct support to the Board members.
2. "Legal" expenditures covers legal advice on all files of the Board, including review and appeals.
3. "Administration and Overhead" includes building occupancy charges, software licensing, centralized support charges, and salaries associated with support for corporate services and information systems.

25 YEARS

226 Audits*
256 Audit Reports
518 Forest and Range
Licences Audited

* Note: some audits generated more than one report because there was more than one licence holder, e.g., an audit of several woodlot licences.



Tom Bruderer
Audit Specialist



Christine Armour
Manager, Audits
and Investigations



Chris Mosher
Director



Daryl Spencer
Manager, Audits
and Investigations



Garth Lord
Manager, Audits
and Investigations



Cameron Leitch
Manager, Audits
and Investigations



Chris Oman
Manager, Audits
and Investigations

AUDITS

GOAL

Maintain an audit program that uses Board audit standards, based on Canadian generally accepted audit standards, to provide assurance about the state of forest and range practices, and encourage continuous improvement.

- Objective 1 Undertake regular audits of an array of forest and range tenures across the province.
- Objective 2 Maintain audit practices, expertise and tools to reflect evolving audit practices, standards and policies.

AUDIT RESULTS – 2019/20

11
Audit Reports
Published
(16 Separate Audit
Opinions)

6
With No
Issues

5
With
Issues

5 Areas of
Improvement

1 Significant
Non-Compliance

4 Fire Hazard
Assessments

1 Harvesting

1 Harvesting

COMPLIANCE AUDITS - STARTED IN 2018

	Auditee / Licence	Natural Resource District	Findings
1	BCTS and Timber Sale Licence Holders: Arrow Lake Field Unit Portion of the Kootenay Business Area	Selkirk	One area requiring improvement – fire hazard assessments.
2	Small Scale Salvage	Cariboo-Chilcotin	Two areas requiring improvement – fire hazard assessments and harvesting.
3	Woodlot Licences W0604, W1780, W1781 and W1950	Peace	All practices were in compliance.
4	Woodlot Licence W2101	Peace	One significant non-compliance – harvesting.

COMPLIANCE AUDITS - STARTED IN 2019

	Auditee / Licence	Natural Resource District	Findings
1	Pacheedaht Andersen Timber Holdings LP – TFL 61	South Island	All practices were in compliance.
2	Saik'uz First Nation – NRFL A91154	Stuart Nechako	All practices were in compliance.
3	Northern Engineered Wood Products – NRFL A85566	Nadina	All practices were in compliance.
4	Tolko Industries Ltd. – Forest Licences A18696, A18697 and A74911	Cascades	One area requiring improvement – fire hazard assessments.
5	100 Mile Development Corp. – Community Forest Agreement K2W	100 Mile House	All practices were in compliance.
6	Clinton & District Community Forest of BC Limited – CFA K4F	100 Mile House	One area requiring improvement – fire hazard assessments.
7	NRFLs A75807, A79504 and A90380	Chilliwack	All practices were in compliance.



25 YEARS

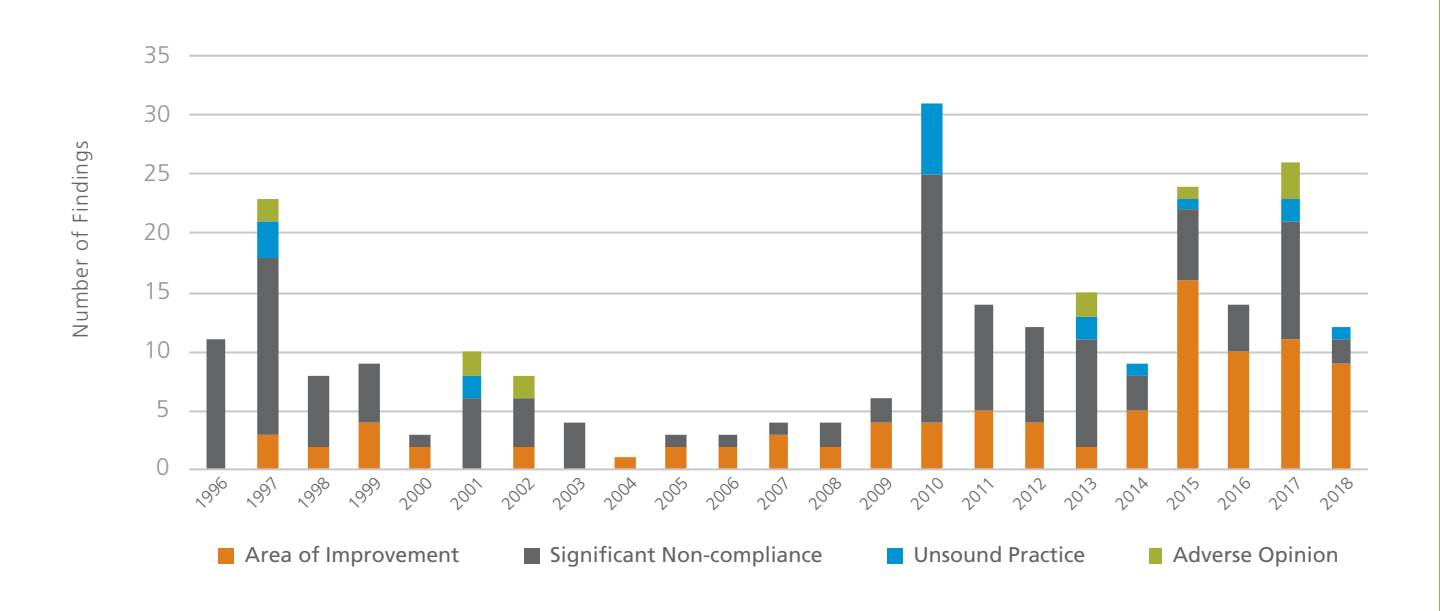
2019 COMPLIANCE AUDITS IN PROGRESS

	Auditee / Licence	Natural Resource District
1	Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. – FL A30171	Selkirk
2	BCTS and Timber Sale Licensees – Quesnel Field Unit	Cariboo-Chilcotin
3	BCTS and Timber Sale Licensees – Clearwater Field Unit	Thompson Rivers

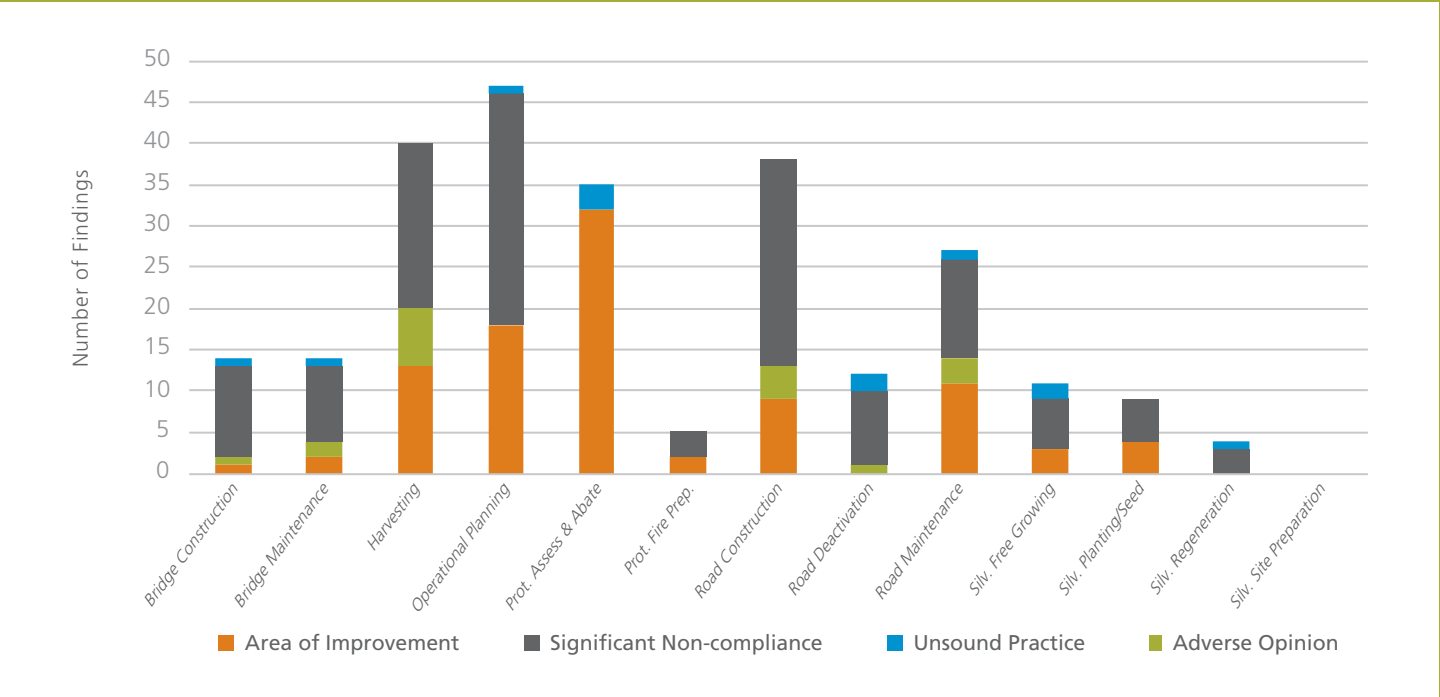
ACTIVITIES AUDITED IN THE FIELD IN 2019

Activity	Population	Sampled
Harvesting (# of blocks)	327	237
Road Construction (KM)	345	240
Road Deactivation (KM)	48	21
Road Maintenance (KM)	3427	2078
Bridge Construction (# of bridges)	16	14
Bridge Maintenance (# of bridges)	176	94
Silviculture – Free Growing (# of blocks)	205	97
Silviculture – Regeneration Due (# of blocks)	316	112
Silviculture – Planting (# of blocks)	300	164
Silviculture – Site Preparation (# of blocks)	75	40
Fire Protection (# of active sites)	5	5

FINDINGS OVER 25 YEARS



FINDINGS BY ACTIVITY (25 YEARS)



COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

GOAL

Maintain a complaint function that is accessible, fair, transparent, and encourages resolution of issues.

Objective 1 Respond to public complaints about forest and range practices in a timely manner.

Objective 2 Develop and maintain investigation processes that support issue resolution.

Objective 3 Promote awareness of the complaint investigation process.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed an update to the internal complaint investigation manual – increased clarity and efficiency for investigators.
- Resolved 4 complaints – found a resolution that meets the needs of the participants.
- Completed and published 10 complaint investigation reports.
- Made 4 recommendations for improvement – 2 responded to and implemented, responses to 2 not due yet.



COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS	COMPLAINTS	CONCERNS
CARRIED OVER	10	4
RECEIVED	8	52 (7 became formal complaints)
TOTAL	18	56
RESOLVED AND PUBLISHED	4	Resolved concerns are not currently tracked
PUBLISHED/CLOSED	6	42
ONGOING AT MARCH 31	8	7

25 YEARS

356 Complaint Reports
1335 Concerns



	NEW COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	LOCATION	RECEIVED	STATUS
1	BLACK BEAR DENS Black bear dens are not being managed under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> .	Vancouver Island	April 8, 2019	Published January 2020
2	BASTION CREEK CWS Complainant asked to look at a watershed hydrology assessment. BCTS have said the report is available in their office and will not provide the report.	Sunnybrae	April 26, 2019	Resolved October 2019
3	BOBTAIL MOUNTAIN Trapper is concerned about forestry practices, biodiversity, silviculture, wildlife habitat, and herbicide application.	Prince George	May 9, 2019	Under Investigation
4	KITWANGA MUSHROOMS Logging has been completed in a mushroom patch. Many culturally modified trees have been found.	Kitwanga	September 9, 2019	Published December 2019
5	BERNARD CREEK MUDSLIDE Forest service road deactivation work in 2015 diverted water and caused a mudslide into Bernard Creek in 2017. The mudslide damaged a licensed waterworks.	Creston	November 28, 2019	Under Investigation
6	NORTHERN WETBELT HARVESTING Harvesting within a caribou corridor.	Prince George	November 28, 2019	Under Investigation
7	CW RAIL TRAIL Complainant is concerned that road building on BC Rails to Trails will contaminate a creek that flows into Christina Lake.	Fife	December 2, 2019	Under Investigation
8	SMITHERS VQO A cutblock near Smithers does not meet the visual quality objective, and the Compliance and Enforcement Branch has not investigated a complaint about it.	Smithers	December 23, 2019	Under Investigation



PUBLISHED REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47 – East Thurlow Island

In February 2018, the Forest Practices Board received a complaint from residents of East Thurlow Island about forest planning for old forest and red- and blue-listed plant communities in the Great Bear Rainforest. The complainants believed that TimberWest’s planning did not meet the intent of the *Great Bear Rainforest Order*, and that it favoured the harvest of timber over the conservation of ecological integrity.

The Board found that TimberWest’s planning for old forest and listed plant communities is meeting the intent of the Order, is consistent with legal requirements, and was conducted in a reasonable manner. Given the Order’s intent to implement ecosystem-based management (EBM) in a manner that maintains ecosystem integrity and improves human well-being concurrently, the Board concludes that TimberWest is adapting and adjusting its management as expected under an EBM regime. Implementation of EBM is complex and requires a process of adaptive management. A review of the implementation of EBM is planned in 2021.

Forestry Activities in the Peachland and Trepanier Creek Community Watersheds

In November 2017, the Forest Practices Board received a complaint about impacts to water quality in the Peachland and Trepanier community watersheds. The complainants asserted that forestry activities in the watersheds have negatively affected the quality of drinking water and increased the number of boil water advisory notices, resulted in stream bank erosion and caused a landslide off the Munroe Forest Service Road into Peachland Creek.

The Board found that the forestry activities complied with legal requirements. There are many developments and activities in these watersheds, in addition to forestry, that can impact the water resource and it was not possible to differentiate between forestry and non-forestry impacts. The investigation determined that forestry activities did not cause impacts on human health that could not be addressed through water treatment. The landslide on the Munroe Forest Service Road was not caused by forestry activities and licensees maintained natural drainage patterns and maintained forestry roads consistent with legislation.

NEW COMPLAINT TOPICS

1 Visual quality

2 Wildlife habitat

2 Hydrology / landslides

3 Impacts to other resource users

NEW COMPLAINTS BY REGION

2 Skeena Region

2 Omineca Region

2 Kootenay Boundary Region

1 Thompson-Okanagan

1 South Coast

APPEALS



Mark Haddock
General Counsel

25 YEARS

92 Appeals Joined



AMABILIS FIR *abies amabilis*

GOAL

Participate in appeals to the Forest Appeals Commission where the Board can bring a public interest perspective that may not otherwise be heard.

Objective 1 Join or initiate appeals where there are important issues of precedent in the interpretation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) or the *Wildfire Act*.

Objective 2 Join or initiate appeals where there are important issues of administrative justice in the application of FRPA or the *Wildfire Act*, such as the appropriateness of administrative penalties, or procedural fairness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 32 determinations reviewed
- 1 appeal joined
- 1 appeal from 2018-19 was withdrawn by the appellant (Interfor)
- 1 appeal from 2018-19 is on hold pending completion of a related court action (Blueberry)
- 1 decision from the Forest Appeals Commission (FAC) was received

DECISION FROM THE FOREST APPEALS COMMISSION

Bridge Safety

In 2018, the Board joined an appeal brought by Lemare Lake Logging Ltd., which raised the issue of whether guard rails are part of what makes a bridge “structurally sound and safe for industrial users.” The appeal was heard in Port McNeill in early 2019, and FAC issued its decision in June. Lemare was found to have contravened its bridge maintenance obligation due to the rotten condition of the guard rails, in addition to road use related infractions for continuing to use the bridge after load limits were placed on it and failing to comply with a stop

work order. FAC found that the defences of due diligence and mistake of fact did not apply in the circumstances. The appeal found that the 3-year limitation period began when an official determined that the guard rails were a safety issue that required immediate attention. Lemare asked for the penalty to be reduced from \$20,000: FAC varied the penalty amounts for particular contraventions, but kept the overall penalty at \$20,000. The decision confirms the importance of guard rails as a safety element of logging road bridges that must be maintained.

NEW APPEAL JOINED

Declared Areas in Forest Stewardship Plans

FRPA allows forest stewardship plan holders to declare that they have completed “all activities and evaluations that are necessary” in relation to cutblocks and roads, and thereby receive limited protection from subsequent requirements. In September 2019, Tolko Industries Inc. appealed a district manager’s decision to place conditions on the approval of

a forest stewardship plan that included many declared areas, on the grounds that he had no authority to do so. The Board joined the appeal due to a number of issues concerning the interpretation of FRPA’s declared areas provisions. The appeal proceeded by way of written hearing, with submissions closing in February 2020, and is awaiting decision.

SPECIAL PROJECTS



Hannah Horn
Manager of
Special Investigations

25 YEARS

51 Special Investigation Reports

57 Special Reports

WHITE SPRUCE *Picea glauca*

GOAL

Undertake special projects to examine issues of public interest that cannot be addressed through the Board's other work and trends identified in audits or investigations.

- Objective 1 Annually prepare a Special Project Plan that identifies the priorities for special projects, while maintaining flexibility to address unanticipated issues.
- Objective 2 Complete special projects in a timely manner.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A Special Projects Plan for 2020-2021 is in development and will be completed in summer 2020.
- Completed and published 1 special report and 1 special investigation that began in the previous year
- 1 new special report was started and completed
- Made 5 recommendations for improvement: 1 tactical planning, 4 compliance and enforcement

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Tactical Forest Planning Special Report

In BC, objectives for multiple, potentially competing, values are provided by government, typically through strategic land use plans increasingly prepared in partnership with First Nations. At the operational scale, forest professionals undertake detailed planning to direct forestry activities. What is largely missing in BC is a process for planning at an intermediate level to translate government's broad objectives and provide clear and tangible direction to operational planning by forest professionals.

Tactical forest planning recognizes that each forest resource needs to be considered at a scale appropriate to it—whether it be a fisheries sensitive watershed, the home range of a large predator, or an economic unit for forestry planning. It is forward looking, using computer models to project the location of forestry activities over space and time to plan for the best outcome for the various forest resources of concern. Among its many benefits, comprehensive tactical forest planning could streamline or eliminate some of the current requirements of operational planning and might satisfy the demand for many single-issue tactical plans such as access plans, fuel management plans, silviculture strategies, etc. The Board recommends that tactical forest planning be implemented throughout the province to fill the missing link between strategic and operational planning.

Compliance and Enforcement Special Investigation

The Forest Practices Board has a mandate to investigate the appropriateness of government enforcement of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Wildfire Act*. The Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) is the law enforcement arm of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and is responsible for ensuring compliance with certain natural resource legislation.

The investigation looked at how the program is set up to fulfill its mandate, what its priorities are, and how it measures performance. Next, it considered whether compliance and enforcement efforts were directed at the priorities for 2017-18. Finally, the Board examined whether the government's enforcement framework is appropriate, based on interviews with CEB staff, FLNRORD personnel, including district managers, BCTS managers, and forest industry representatives.

The investigation found that CEB has a compliance and enforcement framework in place, has clear priorities set, and is meeting those priorities. However, there are weaknesses with the framework, as well as problems with CEB's measurement and reporting system that do not allow the Board to conclude whether the program is encouraging licensees to comply with FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*. These issues need to be addressed in order to minimize risks to FRPA values and to restore public confidence in government's compliance and enforcement of the legislation. The Board is making four recommendations to government to adjust its compliance and enforcement.

PUBLISHED REPORTS

PUBLISHED

1	Tactical Forest Planning: The Missing Link Between Strategic Planning and Operational Planning in BC	July 2019
2	Follow-up Report on Forest Stewardship Plans: Are They Meeting Expectations?	May 2019
3	Appropriateness of Government's Compliance and Enforcement Framework for FRPA and the <i>Wildfire Act</i>	April 2019

WORK IN PROGRESS

Work continued on a number of special projects. Two were nearing completion at March 31, 2020.

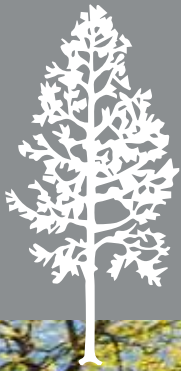
- Follow-up Investigation of Bridge Planning, Design and Construction
- Conserving Fish Habitat under FRPA – Part 2: An Evaluation of FRPA on the Ground
- Protection of Species at Risk Under FRPA: Northern Goshawk
- Are Appropriate Reforestation Choices being made in the Interior Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone?
- Managing Forest Recreation Values under FRPA

Staff who work on these projects are the same staff who carry out audits and investigations of public complaints, which are part of the Board's legal mandate and must take precedence. As a result, special projects can be delayed by audit and investigation work.



25 YEARS

500 Recommendations for Improvements

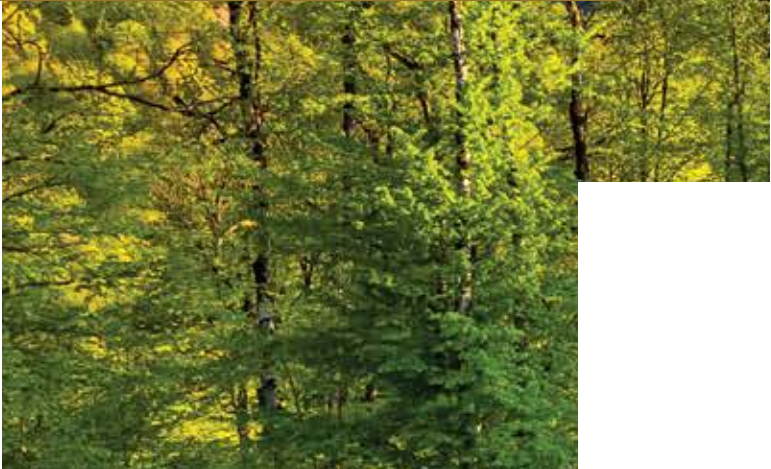


TAMARACK Larix laricina

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

One of the main ways the Board influences continuous improvement is through the recommendations it makes. The Board can request that the party the recommendation is directed at notify the Board, within a specified time period, of the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to implement the recommendation, or the reasons for not following the recommendation. If the Board is not satisfied that suitable actions have been taken, it can make a report to the minister and the provincial Cabinet on the matter.

We are developing a survey that will help us to assess the uptake of our advice and recommendations, and the degree to which our reports are influencing forest and range practices. The survey will be implemented in 2020 and results reported in the next annual report.



Special Investigation of the Appropriateness of Government’s Compliance and Enforcement of FRPA and the Wildfire Act

In accordance with section 131 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), the Board made the following recommendations:

1. Develop an annual compliance and enforcement plan with measurable objectives and specific targets for proactive compliance monitoring, as well as for investigating public complaints regarding FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*. Overall, the levels of compliance monitoring should provide a basis to inform the public about licensees’ compliance with legislation. As part of this process:
 - a. Develop clear policy and procedures for implementation of the plan and ensure it is communicated to, and understood by, field staff.
 - b. Develop stronger relationships with clients, stakeholders and partners that focus on identifying mutual needs and ensuring compliance and enforcement is delivered consistently across the province.
 - c. Take an adaptive approach to reviewing priorities to ensure that emerging issues are not being missed.
2. Develop performance measures that align with the annual plan’s objectives and targets and enable compliance and enforcement to measure achievement of actions aimed at promoting compliance.
3. Report to the public annually on the results of compliance and enforcement efforts, including defensible information on compliance rates, enforcement actions and outcomes.
4. Develop human resources plans and strategies that ensure recruitment, development and support programs result in the Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) employing staff with the capability to understand, interpret and enforce the requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*.

Response Received

In December 2019, the Board received a response from government that did not completely address the recommendations, due to ongoing changes within the program. The Board responded in early March 2020, asking for additional information to help assess government’s response to the recommendations. The due date for additional information is June 30, 2020.





Tactical Forest Planning: The Missing Link Between Strategic Planning and Operational Planning in BC

The Board recommends that:

1. The provincial government amend FRPA to include tactical forest planning. The implementation of this planning level should be consistent with five principles:
 - Inclusive
 - Integrative
 - Place based and forward looking
 - Embedded in the forest management system
 - Continuous improvement

In addition, the mandate of the Forest Practices Board should extend to tactical forest planning. The Board did not request a response to this recommendation.

Complaint Investigation – Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47 – East Thurlow Island

In accordance with section 131 of FRPA, the Board made the following recommendations:

1. TimberWest amend its FSP content for old forest and listed plant communities to incorporate the provincial field guide criteria for stand-level assessment of old forest and listed plant communities.
2. Government clearly communicate its expectations to FSP holders regarding implementation of the provincial field guide within the Great Bear Rainforest.

The Board requested that TimberWest and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) respond to these recommendations by September 30, 2020.

Complaint Investigation – Fire Hazard Abatement and the Shovel Lake Wildfire

In accordance with section 131 of FRPA, the Board made the following recommendation:

1. Government review the appropriateness of the Defined Hazard Assessment and Abatement Strategy with particular attention to the deadline by which hazards must be abated, and the amount of fuel that may be left on cutblocks without requiring abatement.

Response Received

On January 21, 2020, government responded to the recommendation, informing the Board that the BC Wildfire Service has begun a review of fire and fuel hazard assessment and abatement legislation, policy and guidance, and that this work is expected to continue until 2021. The review will inform an evaluation of the current fuel hazard assessment and abatement process. In addition, planned amendments to FRPA include the establishment of a wildfire objective which will enable new practices in the interface to address the wildfire threat. Government will also be provided with more oversight. Although the review and amendments will take some time to complete, it is clear that BC Wildfire Service is on track to fulfill the Board’s recommendation. The Board accepted the response and closed the file.

Complaint Investigation – Road Deactivation and Impacts to Fish Habitat near Kelowna

In accordance with section 131 of FRPA, the Board made the following recommendation:

1. Government prepare guidance for CEB staff on how to interpret and apply section 46 (1)(b) of FRPA, regarding unforeseen weather conditions leading to damage to the environment.

Response Received

In November 2019, government responded to the recommendation. FLNRORD developed an operational bulletin that meets the intent of the recommendation. The bulletin covers information that will be useful to Natural Resources Officers as they conduct investigations. The Board accepted the response and closed the file.

Complaint Investigation – Timber Salvage Harvesting and Fisher Management in the Nazko Area

In accordance with section 131 of FRPA, the Board made the following recommendations:

1. As previously recommended by the Board, government must take leadership on landscape level decisions. Given the type of large scale salvage that is continuing to occur in this area, government should ensure that harvesting and retention planning in such salvage scenarios is coordinated between multiple licensees with spatially explicit legal direction for species at risk and monitoring to ensure that planning is implemented and effective.

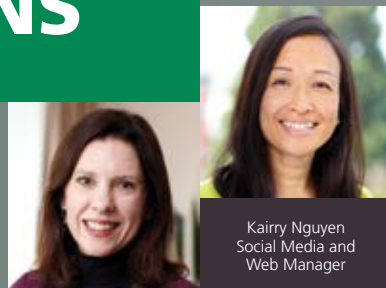
2. Government should use the legal tools under sections 9, 10, and 11 of the *Government Actions Regulation* or section 7 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* for species-at-risk to protect remaining important fisher habitats in the Nazko area and manage to restore the local population over time.

Response Received

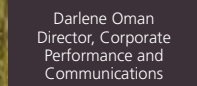
In June 2019, FLNRORD responded to the recommendations, saying it agreed with recommendation 1 and is currently working to develop landscape level planning options and to strengthen FRPA in a number of ways that could help in this regard. FLNRORD declined to implement recommendation 2, but did describe five initiatives it has underway that may enhance the conservation of fisher habitat in the Cariboo region.

The Board responded that it supports the strengthening of FRPA, and believes that landscape level planning has been a gap in the existing planning framework. However, legislative changes will take several years to implement and fisher habitat continues to be at risk in the interim. The Board continues to believe, as per the recommendation 2, that interim steps to protect valuable fisher habitat are needed. The Board said it would like to better understand how the five actions identified by FLNRORD will be implemented in the Quesnel area and how they will improve outcomes for fisher. The Board requested an update on implementation of the five initiatives by July 31, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS



Kairry Nguyen
Social Media and
Web Manager



Darlene Oman
Director, Corporate
Performance and
Communications

25 YEARS

649 Reports Published



BLACK COTTONWOOD *Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*



146,516
IMPRESSIONS

↑ FOLLOWERS
17%



18,770
REACH

↑ FOLLOWERS
113%



26,343
WEBSITE VISITS

NEW USERS
15,095



25
PUBLICATIONS



23
SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS



35
CONFERENCES/EVENTS



2
NEWSLETTERS



27
NEWS RELEASES



7,396
REPORT DOWNLOADS



96
MEDIA STORIES

REPORTS PUBLISHED

1. Fire Hazard Abatement and the Shovel Lake Wildfire; Complaint Investigation
2. Forestry Audit: Arrow Lake Field Unit Portion of the Kootenay Business Area
3. Appropriateness of Government's Compliance and Enforcement Framework for FRPA and the Wildfire Act; Special Investigation
4. Forestry Audit: Small Scale Salvage in the Cariboo Chilcotin Natural Resource District
5. Follow-up Report on Forest Stewardship Plans: Are They Meeting Expectations?; Special Report
6. Peace Natural Resource District – Woodlot Licences W0604, W1780, W1781 and W1950; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
7. Peace Natural Resource District – Woodlot Licence W2101; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
8. Road Deactivation and Impacts to Fish Habitat near Kelowna; Complaint Investigation
9. Tactical Forest Planning: The Missing Link Between Strategic Planning and Operational Planning in BC; Special Report
10. Pacheedaht Andersen Timber Holdings LP – TFL 61 – South Island Natural Resource District; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
11. Planning for Landscape-level Biodiversity and Approval of an Extension to a FSP; Closing Letter
12. Forestry Activities in the Peachland and Trepanier Creek Community Watersheds; Complaint Investigation
13. Bastion Creek Community Watershed; Closing Letter
14. Yates Creek Flooding; Closing Letter
15. Saik'uz First Nation – NRFL A91154; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
16. Bamfield Visual Quality Objectives; Closing Letter
17. Northern Engineered Wood Products – NRFL A85566; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
18. Impacts of Forestry Activities on Mushroom Habitat near Kitwanga; Closing Letter
19. Conservation of Black Bear Dens on Vancouver Island; Complaint Investigation
20. Tolko Industries Ltd. – FL A18696, A18697 and A74911; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
21. 100 Mile Development Corp. – Community Forest Agreement K2W; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
22. Clinton & District Community Forest of BC Limited – CFA K4F; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
23. Chilliwack Natural Resource District – NRFLs A75807, A79504 and A90380; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices
24. Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47 – East Thurlow Island; Complaint Investigation
25. Annual Report 2018-2019

Some of our Former
Staff over the Years



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 2. British Columbia. *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* - Periodicals.
 3. British Columbia. *Forest and Range Practices Act* - Periodicals.
 4. Forest policy - British Columbia - Periodicals.
 5. Forest management - British Columbia - Periodicals.
 6. Forestry law and legislation - British Columbia - Periodicals. I. Title.
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