



Under section 131(2) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* the Board can make recommendation(s) for improvement. This document brings together all recommendations and responses to those recommendations in one place. Click on the links to read the full reports and response(s) to the recommendations.

[2019](#)

[2018](#)

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[2012](#)

[2011](#)

[2010](#)

[2009](#)

[2008](#)

2020

Reforestation in the Interior Douglas-Fir Subzone: Are Reforestation Choices Meeting Objectives?

September 2020

Special Investigation – SIR/53

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FLNRORD should promptly re-assess the long-term reforestation objectives for the dry IDF, and update them based on the likely consequences of climate change.
2. FLNRORD should update reforestation standards to reflect the updated objectives, using a combination of legally required direction and best management practices (guidance) so that the public can be confident that the objectives will be achieved.

The Board requests that government respond to these recommendations by February 1, 2021, indicating:

- a) that it accepts the recommendations and describes how it is addressing or has addressed them; or
- b) that it partially accepts the recommendations and provides reasons why; or
- c) that it is not accepting the recommendations, and provide reasons why.

If government accepts or partially accepts the recommendations, the Board requests that it update the Board on its progress in addressing them within 12 months of publication of this report.

DEADLINE

- February 1, 2021

Conserving Fish Habitat under FRPA – Part 2: An Evaluation of Forest and Range Practices on the Ground

May 2020

Special Investigation – SIR/52

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should amend FRPA and/or its regulations to ensure that there is a clear and enforceable requirement to minimize sediment entering streams during road construction, maintenance and deactivation.
2. Government should update guidance and standards for road construction and maintenance to clearly identify practices needed to minimize sediment entering streams during road construction, deactivation, and on an ongoing basis during road maintenance.

DEADLINE

- November 1, 2020

Follow-up Investigation of Bridge Planning, Design and Construction

April 2020

Special Investigation – SIR/51

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Joint Practices Board of ABCFP and EGBC should review the professional practice guidelines for crossings with an eye towards improving clarity to help their members understand their responsibilities for bridge planning and design.
2. The ABCFP should subsequently review its guidance for forest professionals to ensure it is clear and consistent with professional practice guidelines for bridge planning and design.
3. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development confirm how it intends to undertake ongoing compliance monitoring and, if necessary, enforcement, of bridge planning, design and construction.

DEADLINE

[Response to Recommendations](#) – Government

[Response to Recommendations](#) – EGBC and ABCFP

Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47 – East Thurlow Island

March 2020

Complaint Investigation – IRC/230

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommends that:

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.

[Response to Recommendations](#) – Government

[Response to Recommendation](#) – Mosaic (formally TimberWest)

2019

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

June 2019

Special Report – SR/58

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommends that:

The provincial government amend the Forest and Range Practices Act 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.

Road Deactivation and Impacts to Fish Habitat near Kelowna

June 2019

Complaint Investigation – IRC/222

RECOMMENDATION

Government should 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 to Recommendations](#)

Appropriateness of Government's Compliance & Enforcement Framework for FRPA and the Wildfire Act

April 2019

Special Investigation – SIR/50

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Compliance and Enforcement Branch:

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 WA. 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 CEB employing staff with the capability to understand, interpret and enforce the requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*.

Response to Recommendations

Fire Hazard Abatement and the Shovel Lake Wildfire

March 2019

Complaint Investigation – IRC/221

RECOMMENDATION

- 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 to Recommendation

2018

Timber Salvage Harvesting and Fisher Management in the Nazko Area

October 2018

Complaint Investigation – IRC/217

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.

Responses to Recommendations

Western Toads and Forest Harvesting near Summit Lake

May 2018

Complaint Investigation – IRC/214

RECOMMENDATION

Government should proceed quickly to designate this species as regionally important wildlife under GAR, which would enable the establishment of wildlife habitat areas and implementation of general wildlife measures for protection of western toad habitat, where such measures are warranted. BCTS should revise its protocol to include consideration of younger occurrences of plant communities.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

Managing At-Risk Plant Communities near Mount Elphinstone Park

January 2018

Complaint Investigation – IRC/212

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should provide legal objectives or guidance for managing the amount and distribution of these plant communities in the TSA.
2. Government should update the list of plant communities in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy.
3. BCTS should revise its protocol to include consideration of younger occurrences of plant communities.

[Responses to Recommendation](#)

2017

Special Report on the Forest and Range Evaluation Program

November 2017

Special Report – SR/54

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FREP should clarify and communicate to all involved what is meant by the measure of “sustainability” it uses, and how that relates to government’s objectives for the values specified in FRPA. This should include the linkage between the impact ratings and sustainability measures and how the information is to be used by licensees and by decision-makers, such as district managers approving forest stewardship plans.
2. FREP should review the design of the monitoring program to ensure it can answer the priority evaluation questions and also develop new questions to address emerging information needs. It is essential that FREP is collecting the right data and providing the information that forest managers require today. This review should include consideration of long-term routine monitoring of specific sites in addition to the current approach of random sampling.
3. FREP should fully implement effectiveness monitoring for soils, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plant communities, landscape-level biodiversity, and values established under the Government Actions Regulation (e.g., wildlife habitat areas) and land use orders.
4. FREP should engage licensees and their professionals in all aspects of the monitoring program. FREP should also directly involve government and industry specialists in the monitoring program on an on-going basis, particularly in researching the causal factors affecting the condition of values. This should help to address industry concerns and build credibility, improving licensee confidence in FREP’s monitoring.
5. FLNRO should implement a collaborative process at both the provincial and district levels to facilitate continuous improvement of practices based on FREP’s monitoring results. At the provincial level, government should have a process to implement changes to legislation and/or policy where improvements are not made voluntarily.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Resource Road Construction in Steep Terrain

September 2017

Special Investigation – SIR/47

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Board requests that, in view of the potential consequences and risks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development review current legislation and regulations, and consider including additional legal requirements related to road construction if roads are located on terrain that is unstable or potentially unstable; on terrain with slopes greater than 60 percent; or on terrain where there are indicators of slope instability.
2. The Board requests that the Joint Practices Board of the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia advise it of the steps, planned or taken, to address the professional practice issues identified in this report.

[Response to Recommendations](#) – Government

[Response to Recommendation](#) – Joint Practices Board of ABCFP/EGBC

Forest Roads and Grizzly Bear Management in the Kettle-Granby Area

August 2017

Complaint Investigation – IRC/210

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should confirm its population recovery objective and develop a strategy that includes a population target for the Kettle-Granby grizzly bear population unit that can be used to guide habitat management and industrial planning decisions.
2. Government should consider revising GAR Order 8-373, in light of the recent grizzly bear research in the Kettle-Granby area and the failure to meet the road density targets through voluntary guidance. This reconsideration should weigh the benefits of road density and secure core area measures to government's recovery objectives for the Kettle-Granby grizzly bear population unit against an informed assessment of any material adverse effects on delivered wood costs.
3. Government should provide leadership to reduce the current risks to bears in the KettleGranby area. Government should lead local licensees and BCTS in an operational planning process for roads and timber harvesting in the Kettle-Granby specified area that protects high value bear habitat and addresses access management, such as road deactivation and regulatory road closures, while integrating with timber objectives. The Board's previous reports on access management may be helpful to this exercise.
4. Government should monitor the amount of open road density, secure core area, and grizzly population size and distribution over time and make further adjustments to management and legal requirements if and as needed.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

2016

Dry Creek – Hydrology and Wildlife Concerns About a Large Cutblock

November 2016

Complaint Investigation – IRC/203

RECOMMENDATION

To manage for conservation of biodiversity at the landscape level, Interfor should have a qualified person perform an analysis and develop a plan that ensures future timber harvesting in this landscape unit resembles, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance and considers retention areas and connectivity over the landscape.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Maintenance of the Cooke Creek Forest Service Road near Enderby

October 2016

Complaint Investigation – IRC/202

RECOMMENDATION

The Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District and BC Timber Sales prepare an action plan describing how they will avoid similar design and maintenance issues in the future.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

Visual Quality on Alberni Inlet

September 2016

Special Investigation – SIR/46

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government evaluate its approach to management of visual resources. This evaluation should involve not only the forest sector, but also those business sectors reliant on visual resources for their success. The evaluation should include consideration of ways to improve the clarity and enforceability of the existing regulatory framework, including consideration of making visual resource management a practice requirement for all licensees, consistent with the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation*.
2. Government and the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP) review and update guidance and policy documents to ensure consistency of approach and use of best practices in the management of visual resources.
3. Government ensure that compliance with, and enforcement of, visual quality objectives is a consistent priority across the province.

[Responses to Recommendations](#)

Selkirk Natural Resource District – Woodlot Licence W0437

July 2016

Audit – ARC/192

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Update the government database (RESULTS) to address the issues identified in the audit.
2. Work with district staff to develop a plan to address the silviculture issues identified in the audit.

[Responses to Recommendations](#)

Harvesting Impacts on Natural Range Barriers near Sharpe Lake

March 2016

Complaint Investigation – IRC/200

RECOMMENDATION

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations should facilitate a process between West Fraser and the complainants to collect and record detailed information on livestock movement to confirm whether a natural range barrier has been breached and to determine the appropriate mitigation required to be implemented by West Fraser. The Board suggests that such monitoring of livestock by the complainants occur over at least a two-year period, commencing at the start of the next grazing season.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

District Managers' Authority Over Forest Operations

Special Report – SR/52

December 2015

RECOMMENDATION

Government introduce a regulation to implement *Forest Act* section 81.1. The regulation should authorize district managers to refuse a cutting permit or road permit if the minister determines that any of the following applies:

- there is clearly significant risk to public health or safety;
- there is clearly significant risk to forest resources or values;
- there is likely to be a contravention of legislation; or
- the interests of another tenure holder have not been adequately addressed (if that tenure holder requests district manager intervention).

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Forest Stewardship Plans: Are They Meeting Expectations?

Special Investigation – SIR/44

August 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government, and its decision makers, should not extend or approve FSPs that include:
 - results, strategies and measures that are unenforceable,
 - results or strategies that are not consistent to the extent practicable with government's objectives, or
 - measures that are not reasonable and appropriate.
2. Government should ensure that the public has at least one opportunity every five years for full review and comment on forest stewardship plans.
3. Government should establish a process for public review and comment on planned roads and cutblocks.
4. The ABCFP should ensure that forest professionals, and their employers, are cognizant of the forest professionals' independent responsibilities regarding:
 - results, strategies and measures that are measurable or verifiable,
 - results or strategies that are consistent to the extent practicable with government's objectives, and
 - measures that are reasonable and appropriate.

DEADLINES

- The Board requests that government advise it of progress made and timelines for implementing recommendations 1, 2 and 3 by November 30, 2015.
- The Board requests that the ABCFP advise it of progress made and timelines for implementing recommendation 4 by November 30, 2015.

[Responses to Recommendations](#)

Logging Old Forest on TFL 47 – Sonora Island

Complaint Investigation – IRC/196

June 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should ensure that the meaning of the term "old forest" is sufficiently clear to fit with the ecological conditions present in the SCCO area and to align with the intent of EBM.
2. Government should ensure that the definitions for red- and blue-listed plant communities are clear for the SCCO area and that effective guidance for identification of these plant communities is available.
3. TimberWest should provide the Board with information on how it will interpret the SCCO definition of old forest when conducting forest operations within the SCCO area.

Responses to Recommendations: [Government](#) – [TimberWest](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS**Inventory**

1. Government improve the current information on resource roads by providing a website that allows collaborative editing of content (a wiki); both to enable government staff and to engage the public in providing current information about road location and status.

Strategic Management

2. A regulation bringing into force sections 93.1 and 93.3 of the *Land Act*, as a way to enable setting and varying of access objectives for a prescribed area that could apply to everyone; all industries and the public.
3. Government require timely notification be provided to non-industrial users of resource roads about pending changes in road status (new construction, changes in maintenance and deactivation).
4. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations maintains some access on forest service roads that serve communities, rural residences and high value recreation areas, but there is no formal mechanism for public input into that program. The Board recommends government address part of this issue by implementing the recommendation of the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman that “the Province should establish a new public highway designation for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities.”

Operational Management

5. Until comprehensive legislation is passed, government address many of the operational issues with minor regulatory changes, by developing clear policies and by promoting and supporting the work of local road management committees.
6. Government complete an inventory of these roads, including rating the risk of negative effects. With respect to road rehabilitation in the forestry context, there is a need for a clear distinction between temporary and permanent access and clear direction that temporary access roads should be rehabilitated.

Response to Recommendations

Mitigation of Forestry Impacts to Natural Range Barriers

February 2015

Special Investigation – SIR/42

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should ensure that measures in operational plans support effective mitigation of impacts to natural range barriers and are verifiable. Alternatively, government could replace the requirement in FRPA to propose and carry out measures with a practice requirement.
2. Government should ensure that policies governing the stumpage appraisal system provide licensees and range users with sufficient time to determine if, and to what extent, forest practices have impacted a natural range barrier and the appropriate mitigation that is required.
3. Government should ensure that guidance is developed to clarify the purpose and scope of natural range barriers, including where on the range tenure section 48 of FRPA is meant to apply (e.g., pasture or tenure boundaries) and the values the requirement is intended to mitigate.

Response to Recommendations

639881 BC Ltd. – Non-Replaceable Forest Licence A72921

January 2015

Audit – ARC/173

REQUEST

The Board understands the NRFL is under new management and requests that 639881 BC Ltd. report back by **February 27, 2015**, on progress made in meeting the outstanding Wildfire Act obligations, and on other actions implemented to address the issues identified in this audit.

Response to Request

REQUEST

Burns Lake Specialty Wood Ltd. report back to the Board by **January 31, 2015**, on the progress made in completing the outstanding abatement obligations and reporting the required information for current and past abatement activities to government.

[Closing Letter](#)

Timeliness, Penalty Size and Transparency of Penalty Determinations

October 2014

Special Investigation – SIR/41

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should establish a publicly-accessible, online database of all penalty determinations under FRPA and WA. *Comment – If there are concerns related to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, these could be addressed through a regulation or statute similar to section 6.1 of the Ministry of Environment Act.*
2. Government should, by regulation, include the size of the enterprise as a required consideration for decision makers. *Comment – This could be done relatively quickly, using the regulation-making authority under section 71(5)(g) of FRPA and section 71 of WA.*
3. To promote sound decision-making and consistency, government should consider reducing the number of delegated decision makers for penalty determinations, so that decision makers would gain more experience.
4. Decision makers should consider levying larger penalty amounts, particularly where the gravity and magnitude of the contravention is more than minimal, the person has previous similar contraventions or the contravention is deliberate. *Comment – This consideration would be in addition to removing any economic benefit.*
5. Compliance and enforcement staff should: (a) examine the reasons why so many investigations exceed the policy guidance of one-year maximum and take steps to reduce investigation time; (b) where possible, present evidence to decision makers to enable them to address the issue of economic benefit from contraventions; and (c) consider making more use of agreed statements of facts.
6. Decision makers should complete determinations promptly after the opportunity to be heard, and should include the incident or discovery date in their determinations so that timeliness can be monitored.
7. Decision makers and compliance and enforcement staff should continue the practice of “de-briefing” after a penalty determination has been made, to discuss opportunities for improvement. The Board is not requesting a response to Recommendations 4 to 7, but will continue to monitor these issues.

DEADLINE

- The Board requests a response to Recommendations 1 to 3 no later than March 31, 2015.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Community Watersheds: From Objectives to Results on the Ground

April 2014

Special Investigation – SIR/40

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthening FRPA's requirements for the protection of drinking water. Government should undertake a review of FRPA's requirements for the protection of drinking water generally, and in community watersheds specifically. The review should include:
 - revising government's objective for community watersheds with the intent of emphasizing the importance of source water protection;
 - revising the water quality practice requirement, in all applicable FRPA regulations, to address the inherent risk to human health associated with sediment;

- clarifying the meaning and scope of cumulative hydrological effects including whether the assessment and management of these effects is appropriate within the confines of FRPA or should be implemented under a different process; and
 - examining the appropriate use of specific water quality objectives under the Government Actions Regulation and provisions under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, where watershed condition is at risk.
2. Strengthening the content and approval of forest stewardship plans. Government should provide clear direction to delegated decision-makers that ensures results and strategies in FSPs pertaining to the community watershed objective are measurable or verifiable.
 3. Ensuring the content of professional assessments is meaningful. The Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC should develop guidance for their members on the appropriate content of a watershed or hydrological assessment. This should include:
 - the elements necessary to address government's objective for community watersheds, including where the surface water source has changed to a groundwater source;
 - procedures for considering cumulative hydrological effects at the watershed scale;
 - integration of the needs of licensed waterworks; and
 - examples of recommendations providing clear direction for implementation.
 4. Monitoring the protection of drinking water. Government should expand its monitoring of the effectiveness of forest and range practices in protecting water quality to include water used for drinking both within and outside of community watersheds.
 5. Updating the status of community watersheds. Government should undertake a comprehensive review of the status of community watersheds and determine which watersheds warrant designation and require special management.

[Responses to Recommendations](#) – Government

[Responses to Recommendations](#) – APEGBC and ABCFP

Timber Harvesting and Potential Impacts to the Duhamel Creek Alluvial Fan

April 2014

Complaint Investigation – IRC/193

RECOMMENDATION

Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd. (the licensee) update the 2004 watershed assessment using the standard as outlined in Land Management Handbook 61 – Managing Forested Watersheds for Hydrogeomorphic Risks on Fans.

[Response to Recommendation](#) (a report)

[Closing Letter](#)

South Island District Woodlot – Woodlot Licence W0033

March 2014

Audit – ARC/163

REQUEST

Penelakut notify the Board by **April 30, 2014**, of the progress made in reporting the required information on current and past activities to government.

[Closing Letter](#)

Bridge Planning, Design and Construction

March 2014

Special Investigation – SIR/38

REQUEST

The Board requests that the Joint Practices Board of the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia advise it of the steps planned or taken to address the professional practice issues identified in this report.

[Response to Request](#)

REQUEST

Halalt notify it by **April 30, 2014**, of the progress made in reporting the required information on current and past activities to government.

[Closing Letter](#)

2013

Monitoring Licensees' Compliance with Legislation

July 2013

Special Investigation – SIR/37

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Determine the aggregate rates of forest and range licensees' compliance with FRPA and the WA by taking into account all instances of non-compliance for an activity, whether or not the result was enforcement action.
2. Publish annually the aggregate rates of forest and range licensees' compliance with FRPA and the WA for specific activities, such as harvesting and roads, ensuring that the rates of compliance are identified separately from the rates of other regulated communities within FLNR's mandate.

2012

Water Quality in Oyama and Vernon Creek Community Watersheds

August 2012

Audit – ARC/140

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the audited watersheds, the risk of harmful substances reaching the water supply intake is much higher downstream of the two storage lakes. However, because of the varying risk in watersheds throughout the province, it can be difficult for practitioners to determine the probability that the harmful material will reach the intake.

Government should provide guidance on the implementation of the practice requirement to not cause material that is harmful to human health to be deposited in, or transported to, water that is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks, recognizing the variable risks within and between watersheds, of the harmful material reaching the intake.
2. Streams, wetlands and other areas with riparian function require protection from cattle impacts. Government should ensure that all watercourses and areas with riparian function are protected to the extent that range use does not materially impair their function.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Woodlot Licence W0657 – Fort St. James District

August 2012

Audit – ARC/141

REQUEST

The Board requests that the licensee report back to the Board by **December 31, 2012**, on the progress made in reporting required information for current and past activities in accordance with regulatory requirements.

[Response to Request](#)

BCTS and Timber Sale Licence Holders – Straight of Georgia Business Area, Campbell River District

Audit – ARC/139

July 2012

RECOMMENDATION

BCTS-CR should assess the potential environmental risk of the activities carried out by the various TSL holders and determine whether a monitoring/remediation strategy is required to minimize impacts which have occurred or to reduce the likelihood of impacts in the future.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

How Much of British Columbia's Forest is not Satisfactorily Restocked?

Special Report – SR/42

June 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Confirm its assumptions about how much additional area will be salvage harvested by the forest industry and develop a monitoring system to track whether those assumptions are being borne out;
2. Use the best information and projections currently available to conduct a broadly framed cost-benefit analysis of options to restock or not restock areas that may be NSR in the beetle affected region; and
3. Carry out the survey and inventory work necessary to inform the future decisions that must be made; particularly those related to determination of the allowable annual cut in the beetle affected region.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Conserving Old Growth Forests in BC

Special Investigation – SIR/36

June 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should develop and maintain a process for tracking OGMA values and incursions that can be updated by licensees or government staff.
2. Government should provide appropriate oversight of non-spatial orders (where non-legal OGMAs have not been identified) to ensure that required attributes are available on the land base and, if they are not, that required recruitment stands have been identified.
3. Government should create a uniform and consistent way of identifying and recording values within OGMAs and of making the information available to all Crown land tenure holders and agencies that administer those tenures.
4. Government should review the conditions of orders to ensure that, if fully exercised, provisions for harvesting or road construction do not materially alter the effectiveness of OGMAs.
5. Government should ensure all Crown land tenure holders are required to protect or mitigate the impacts of their activities in OGMAs.
6. Government should develop and implement a strategy to assess the effectiveness of spatial and non-spatial old-growth retention.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Gilpin Creek Debris Slide

Complaint Investigation – IRC/181

May 2012

RECOMMENDATION

The Ministry of Environment should assess the fences that were installed near the water troughs in 2009 to determine whether any modifications to make them more wildlife friendly are necessary.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ministry of Environment should assess the fences that were installed near the water troughs in 2009 to determine whether any modifications to make them more wildlife friendly are necessary.

1. MCC, or the government if MCC's licence is still suspended, should employ a qualified professional to review roads where construction did not follow the engineering designs and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation strategy for those roads.
2. Government should assess the potential environmental risk of the roads in the Healy Creek drainage and coordinate a maintenance/deactivation strategy involving all resource users.
3. Government should examine its policies to ensure it has the ability to act quickly where there is an imminent high risk to the environment or a forest resource, whether or not a negative impact has occurred.
4. Government should explore its options, including intervention under section 77 of FRPA, for ensuring outstanding silviculture obligations on FL A30171 are met and free growing is achieved within the timelines specified in MCC's FSP

[Response to Recommendations](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Management Plans

Commitment:

1. Government make fire management planning a high priority by ensuring current plans are up to date and moving quickly to Stage 2 which prioritizes values and defines where fire is wanted or unwanted, and under what circumstances.

Planning Process and Content:

2. WMB and land management staff collaborate to refine the current Fire Management Plan model to focus on information important to fire managers while remaining simple and easy to access. First Nations, licensees, BCTS, local governments, and the public should also be included where appropriate.
3. WMB implement the digital delivery of geographic and land management information for fire management planning through an existing software platform such as Fireview.

Fire Analyses

4. Standardize and automate resource valuation to the greatest extent possible to ensure that resources are valued consistently.
5. Develop a provincially consistent process to estimate potential fire spread so values at risk can be assessed consistently and efficiently.
6. Review monitoring practices for FAs to ensure that plans are regularly updated and that resource and wildfire managers' decisions are carried out according to the plan.
7. Ensure those completing the FA state clear objectives, strategies and tactics.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

2011

Remediation Orders: How Effective Area They?

Special Investigation – SIR/32

November 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop guidance for decision-makers to consider when making remediation orders, so orders are more enforceable.
2. Improve and standardize the way in which information about compliance with orders, and the enforcement of orders, is gathered and recorded.
3. Publish information annually on the rate of compliance with orders; the number of investigations and penalty determinations made to enforce orders; and, whether the intended outcomes of orders were achieved. To encourage voluntary remediation, the legislation could be amended to enable a licensee to reach a formal agreement with government to remediate the harm caused by a contravention. The Board recommends that government.
4. Amend FRPA and the WA to enable government and licensees to cooperatively enter into formal agreements to remediate, as a way to address non-compliance with legislation, when forest or range activities have resulted in harm to Crown resources.

Response to Recommendations

Reporting the Results of Forestry Activities

Special Investigation – SIR/33

November 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should immediately make legislative, policy and information management system changes required to implement a reporting system for construction and deactivation of roads outside of cutblocks.
2. The forest ministry should conduct a needs analysis to evaluate the current status of reporting under section 86 of the FPPR, and institute any design, re-design, improvements and/or simplifications that are warranted.
3. The forest ministry should move towards a less expensive, more flexible option for development and maintenance of the reporting system.
4. In the near term, until recommendations 2 and 3 are acted upon, the forest ministry should implement a comprehensive quality control system for reports filed under section 86; including changes to RESULTS that would enforce submission of basic legal requirements of the section and they should improve the documentation for RESULTS and enhance training opportunities for users (detailed suggestions are provided in Appendix 3 of report).

Response to Recommendations

2010

Meeting Outstanding Silviculture Obligations in the Kotcho Area

Complaint Investigation – IRC/171

November 2010

RECOMMENDATION

Canada Resurgence Development Ltd. (the licensee) advise the Board of the status of the three Kotcho cutblocks, 91-3, 55-1 and 53-1.

DEADLINE

- September 30, 2011

BCTS – Seaward-tlasta Business Area

June 2010

Audit – ARC/118

REQUEST

The Board acknowledges BCTS's effort to reduce environmental risk and requests that BCTS provide the Board with a written update of further progress made to implement its road maintenance strategy, by **October 31, 2010**.

[Response to Request](#)

Pine Beetle Salvage Logging and Water Flows near Williams Lake, BC

April 2010

Complaint Investigation – IRC/166

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends that government consider this case as support for the Board recommendation made in the recent report, [Logging and Lakeshore Management near Vanderhoof](#), FPB/IRC 163, March 2010.

Quesnel Forest District – Woodlot Licence W1050

March 2010

Audit – ARC/115

REQUEST

The licensee to report back to the Board by **December 31, 2010**, on the progress made in abating the fire hazard, as well as the status of the outstanding reforestation obligations on the identified cutblock.

[Closing Letter](#)

Logging and Lakeshore Management near Vanderhoof

March 2010

Complaint Investigation – IRC/163

RECOMMENDATION

Integrated Land Management Bureau's Board of Directors, within the context of its Resource Management Coordination Project, develop a means to deal with direct overlapping interests of tenured land and forest resource users by a process of mediation in which the interests of the parties are effectively identified and a reasonable balance between all interests is struck, consistent with the law, but also responsive to locally specific circumstances.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

Managing Forest Fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface

February 2010

Special Investigation – SIR/28

RECOMMENDATIONS

Local Governments

1. Local governments should consider fuel hazard and wildfire risk and should require mitigation measures before approving new development in interface areas.
2. Local governments should take advantage of the fuel management program, build on the experience of others described in this report and manage the hazardous fuels in and around their community.

Provincial Government

3. The provincial government should make fuel management easier for communities. Possible actions include:
 - Setting provincial stocking standards for interface areas so that local governments do not have to negotiate them individually with MFR district managers.
 - Establishing interface areas where public safety is the first priority.
 - Addressing administrative issues regarding stumpage, appraisal, and international trade to remove them as barriers to local governments taking action.

- Addressing the need for funding to sustain the program over the long-term.
 - Fostering, encouraging and supporting innovation; local communities may have suggestions for addressing fuel management issues such as liability, jurisdiction and sustainable funding.
4. The provincial government should lead the development of best management practices for the management of debris from fuel treatments.

2009

Biodiversity Conservation during Salvage Logging in the Central Interior of BC

November 2009

Special Report – SR/35

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should seize the opportunity that exists to implement a landscape-level conservation uplift by proceeding without delay to:
 - a. Clarify government's objectives for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape-level in areas affected by large-scale salvage operations.
 - b. Provide leadership in the process of making landscape-level decisions about what areas to retain during salvage harvesting.
 - c. Evaluate the achievement of government's objectives for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape-level, throughout the area of the salvage operations, before opportunities are lost to influence the decisions made as a result of recommendation 1b.
2. The Ministry of Forests and Range should:
 - a. Use all available information to produce a disturbance/depletion map that shows all forest harvesting that has occurred, provides some estimate of the date of the harvest and indicates the source of the information. That map should be updated annually.
 - b. Take steps necessary to make available maps showing forest cover and forest harvesting on tree farm licences of sufficient detail for strategic level analysis.
 - c. Implement quality control procedures to ensure complete and accurate reporting of wildlife tree retention areas under Section 86(3)(a)(iv) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
 - d. Make explicit the reserve status of all mature forest areas previously reported as being in harvested blocks.
 - e. Complete the mapping of existing wildlife tree retention areas in harvested blocks where responsibility has reverted to the Crown.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Range Planning under the Forest and Range Practices Act

November 2009

Special Investigation – SIR/26

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.a) The Board recommends that government explore the option of creating a more streamlined framework for range planning by replacing the RUP with a set of clear practice requirements and creating a defined approach for preparation of RSPs. A number of considerations would have to go into such a framework including:
 - What should the criteria be for determining who can follow practice requirements and who can prepare an RSP? Also, to what extent will the holder of an RSP be able to vary from the practice requirements?
 - How should the timing and amount of grazing be determined—through range readiness criteria and stubble heights? And who should make the determination?
 - How should tenure-specific issues be identified and addressed?
 - Who should have monitoring responsibilities and how should monitoring be set up to efficiently and effectively assess range condition and modify plans and practices to achieve continuous improvement?

- 1.b) For those agreement holders who prepare RSPs, their content and quality needs improvements, such as ensuring that:
- Tenure-specific issues or problems are identified, and measures to address them are proposed in the plan.
 - Readiness criteria and period of use are specified in such a way that it is clear what is required so that over-grazing does not result.
 - Issues and actions are measurable and enforceable.
 - Designated features are identified on range tenure maps, and measures to protect those features from grazing impacts are proposed where appropriate.
 - Adequate monitoring of the range resource is done to enable adaptive management and continuous improvement in range condition.
2. The Board recommends that government ensure that all range plans being considered for approval fully meet the content requirements set out in legislation before they are approved.
3. The Board recommends that government invest in training to ensure agreement holders and range staff understand government's objectives for range and that agreement holders have sufficient knowledge to comply with the range plan and the range practice requirements.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Lake Koochanusa Campfire Ban and Recreation Issues

November 2009

Complaint Investigation – IRC/159

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government assess the risk to public safety and the environment, in the Lake Koochanusa area, caused by unmanaged recreation use. The assessment should identify and assess problematic areas by issue, and identify the resources needed to implement appropriate management measures, such as recreation orders. The government should designate a lead agency to coordinate the process and its implementation.
2. The Board recommends that the Minister of Forests and Range examine the risk and effectiveness of the current system for collection of tickets under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*. As part of this examination, the Board suggests that the Minister consider establishing a reciprocal arrangement with Alberta for collection of fines, and internal to BC an amendment to link collection of *Wildfire Act* and *Forest and Range Practices Act* fines to driver's licence renewals.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Glyphosate Herbicide Impacts

October 2009

Complaint Investigation – IRC/158

REQUEST

The Board requests that MOE advise it of the status of the federal re-evaluation by **September 30, 2010**.

[Response to Request](#)

BCTS – Strait of Georgia Business Area, Powell River Business Unit

July 2009

Audit – ARC/108

REQUEST

The Board requests that BCTS provide us with a report by **October 31, 2009**, on the remedial actions taken with respect to the ongoing maintenance issues on portions of the Potlatch and McNab forest service roads.

[Closing Letter](#)

BCTS – Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area, Quesnel Field Unit

May 2009

Audit – ARC/106

REQUEST

Subsequent to the audit, BCTS informed the Board that they are using an updated version of seedlot management software and have reviewed their contract administration procedures to address seedling transfer issues.

As well, BCTS plans to seek approval for those areas that were outside the transfer limits in effect at the time of planting, but will fall within the limits that came into effect April 1, 2009. For the remainder, BCTS has scheduled additional surveys to evaluate seedling growth and health. The Board requests that BCTS provide the survey results by **November 30, 2010**, along with an action plan for future monitoring.

[Response to Request](#)

Construction of the McCorkall and Woodpecker Forestry Roads

March 2009

Complaint Investigation – IRC/151

RECOMMENDATION

BCTS Prince George and the Ministry of Forests should take steps to mitigate any damage to the complainants' businesses resulting from the opening up of access via the McCorkall and Woodpecker connectors.

[Closing Letter](#)

Kootenay Lake Forest District – Creston Valley Forest Corporation – FL A54214

February 2009

Audit – ARC/104

REQUEST

Although the CVFC has not restocked these areas with the species and to the density specified in its plans, the cutblocks are vegetated. The relatively small size and dispersed nature of the cutblocks reflect the CVFC's ecosystem-based philosophy of forest management and its objectives for a variety of forest resources, including the protection of drinking water.

The Board requests that the CVFC report back on the efforts to regenerate these sites and develop new stocking standards by **November 30, 2009**.

[Response to Request](#)

Fish Passage at Stream Crossings

January 2009

Special Investigation – SIR/25

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends that government take the necessary actions to ensure fish access to valuable habitat is maintained and restored.

[Response to Recommendation](#)

2008

Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement

December 2008

Special Investigation – SIR/24

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exemptions

1. The Board recommends that licensees consider requesting exemptions from fire hazard assessment requirements where it can be demonstrated that circumstances, conditions and practices make the request appropriate.

Fire Hazard Assessment Process

2. The Board recommends that a simpler fire hazard and risk assessment process be developed to accurately assess fire hazard and risk under a wide range of field conditions. This process should include a clear definition of what constitutes a “fire hazard.”

Practices

3. The Board recommends that best management practices to abate fire hazard be developed and shared with licensees and professionals.

Response to Recommendations

Woodlot Salvage Permit Policy and the Effects on Managing Forest Health

September 2008

Complaint Investigation – IRC/145

RECOMMENDATION

The Ministry of Forests and Range should consider removing the December 2006 policy on salvage permits for woodlots, or amending it so that it is consistent with the administrative practices within forest districts. Whichever process is chosen for the administration of blanket salvage permits, it should provide woodlot licensees with as much flexibility as is reasonable to adequately address forest health issues as they arise in the long term.

Response to Recommendations

Wildlife and Cattle Grazing in the East Kootenay

July 2008

Complaint Investigation – IRC/144

RECOMMENDATION

With appropriate consultation and expert advice, the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Ministry of Environment direct reductions of forage use in the East Kootenay to levels sufficient to achieve a positive and continuing trend in grassland ecosystem condition.

Response to Recommendation

Goshawk Foraging Habitat on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii

July 2008

Complaint Investigation – IRC/143

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Integrated Land Management Bureau should complete old growth management area (OGMA) spatial establishment in the Rennell Sound Landscape Unit, addressing goshawk foraging habitat to the degree possible within the OGMA selection criteria.
2. Government should consider the unique situation of goshawks and foraging habitat on Haida Gwaii and advise the Board of its plans for managing foraging habitat there.
3. The goshawk situation on Haida Gwaii appears to be an example of where an adjustment to the one percent limit on timber supply impacts is warranted. Ecosystem based management objectives from the Land Use Agreement may address foraging habitat but implementation is 18 months away. In the interim, managers may need flexibility to provide protection within a specific goshawk territory. Government should consider increasing the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy budget, specifically for goshawks on Haida Gwaii, to provide this flexibility when it is needed.

Response to Recommendations

McBride Community Forest

July 2008

Complaint Investigation – IRC/142

RECOMMENDATION

The Ministry of Forest and Range's compliance and enforcement staff contact the complainants to advise them of the outcome of any and all investigations into reported complaints and concerns.

REQUEST

The Board also requests that, as a courtesy, the Ministry of Forests and Range forward their final report regarding the investigation into Edgar's Road to the Board for review.

[Closing Letter](#)

Biodiversity in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock Forests Near Dome Creek

May 2008

Complaint Investigation – IRC/137

RECOMMENDATIONS

Interior Rainforest and Rare Lichens

1. The Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Environment and the Integrated Land Management Bureau should formulate an overall stewardship strategy for the interior rainforest to ensure that biodiversity values are adequately managed and conserved.
2. The Minister of Forests and Range should examine the UNBC research and the ILMB Legacy Project reports to identify vulnerable interior rainforest stands in the Robson Valley and Prince George TSAs and the risk to such values from harvesting. Once areas are identified as vulnerable and at risk, the Minister should designate those areas under Part 13 of the *Forest Act* and suspend, vary or refuse to issue cutting permits and other timber harvesting plans for up to ten years.
3. The Regional Executive Director of ILMB should provide the Board with a copy of the decision on whether to establish spatial OGMAs, upon the completion of the Legacy Project. The document should incorporate a rationale for the decision including the factors considered and how values and risks were identified and addressed.

Driscoll Ridge and Ancient Forest Hiking Trails

4. The Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts should establish the Driscoll Ridge Trail and the Ancient Forest Trail as recreation trails under section 56(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.
5. The Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts should consider setting legal objectives for each of the trails as empowered by section 56(3) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.
6. The Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts should consider designating the Ancient Forest hiking trail as an interpretative forest site as empowered by section 56(1) of *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

Compliance Inspections and Management

May 2008

Special Investigation – SIR/23

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ministry of Forests and Range should:

1. Strengthen policy guidance for C&E inspection coverage; and
2. Ensure CIMS provides information in a form more useful to local C&E management to achieve good inspection coverage and consistency in identifying and addressing non-compliances.

Establishment of Conservation Areas for Old Growth and Wildlife Habitat in the Squamish and Chilliwack Forest Districts

April 2008

Special Investigation – SIR/21

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Ministry of Environment should promptly establish deer winter range areas in the Chilliwack Forest District or amend the Section 7 notice to include the appropriate non-contributing land base (NCLB) portion before harvesting removes further options.
2. Given the observed harvest levels in the NCLB and the importance of some old growth management areas (OGMAs) in providing old forest areas of adequate size to contain interior forest habitat and support landscape connectivity, the Integrated Land Management Bureau should complete the legal establishment of the (currently) draft OGMAs in these two districts and reconsider its proposed provincial policy for ending spatial establishment of OGMAs in 2008.

[Response to Recommendations](#)

RECOMMENDATION

Government approve proposed new or updated strategic plans and the associated proposed FRPA objectives in areas where the harvest levels have increased to deal with the MPB epidemic.

High Retention Harvesting and Timber Sustainability on the BC Coast

2008

Special Investigation – SIR/20

–revised January 2009–

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The current regulations and policies do not provide strategic direction to help determine when silvicultural systems and/or harvest approaches with high amounts of retention should be used. The Ministry of Forests and Range should provide strategic direction to guide licensees on appropriate approaches for high amounts of retention, based on clear strategic objectives for the full range of values over time, including timber species/values.
2. In addition, 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.
3. The Ministry of Forests and Range should require clear, achievable and measurable up-front targets for post-harvest retention levels. Stocking standards should require the use of residual basal area ranges with compliance limits at both the lower and upper end. Some characterization of vigour and economic viability should be used to allow trees to contribute to stocking. Ultimately, retention stocking standards must be designed so they can be audited for compliance, and monitored for effectiveness.
4. The Ministry of Forests and Range should develop policy about ‘opportunity cuts’ with no expectations of future yield (and therefore no silvicultural system) which should be considered, for example, in areas constrained from harvest due to other objectives, such as slope stability concerns.

Responses to Recommendations: [Government](#) – [ABCFP](#)