



Reference: 258777

September 29, 2020

Dave Clarke
Executive Director, Forest Practices Board
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, BC
V8W 9R1

Dear Dave,

Please accept this letter in response to the Forest Practices Board (the board) report, *"Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47, East Thurlow Island"* (March 2020). The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the ministry) is appreciative of the careful consideration of all stakeholders throughout the investigative process and is pleased that the licensee's operations are meeting the intent of the *Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order*.

The report recommends that the ministry communicate expectations to licensees that their operations be consistent with the guidance provided in the *Land Management Handbook (#72), Guidelines to Support Implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Order with Respect to Old Forest and Listed Plant Communities* (2019). In May 2020, District Managers within the three Districts that overlap the Great Bear Rainforest addressed this recommendation by delivering correspondence (Appendix A) to all relevant licensees confirming government policy expectations.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the board's report and recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

Ben Morton
Manager, Regional Operations, Coast Area

CC: Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests, Range, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Barry Dobbin, District Manager Coast Mountains Natural Resource District
Andrew Ashford, District Manager North Island Central Coast Natural Resource District
Lesley Fettes, District Manager Campbell River Natural Resource District
Norah White, Manager, Sustainable Forest Management, Resource Practices Branch
Julie MacDougall, Director, Resource Practices Branch



Attachments:

[Appendix A: Handbook_ProvincialExpectations.pdf](#)



Forest Practices Board

File: 97250-20/18020

October 15, 2020

Ben Morton
Manager, Regional Operations, Coast Area
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9308 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9N1

Dear Ben:

Re: Response to the Board's recommendation - Planning for Old Forest on TFL 47 - East Thurlow Island

We received your letter of September 29, 2020, responding to the Board's recommendation that government clearly communicate its expectations to forest stewardship plan holders regarding implementation of the provincial field guide.

I understand that in May 2020, the district managers of the three natural resource districts that overlap the Great Bear Rainforest, delivered a letter of expectation to all licensees. The letter communicated the expectation that licensees adopt the guidance provided within Land Management Handbook #72 (the provincial field guide), and reference the intent to comply with it in forest stewardship plans for the related biodiversity objectives in the Great Bear Rainforest Order.

Although government expects that licensees will adopt the criteria immediately, forest stewardship plan updates could take some time. The Board requests that government keep it informed on progress made with effectiveness monitoring of the provincial field guide.

Thank you for your response to the Board's recommendation. We now consider this file closed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kriese', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Kriese
Chair