

## What is this investigation about?

Over a period of three years, the complainant observed cattle on land it purchased to conserve wildlife habitat and on the adjacent Crown range. The Board investigated a complaint asserting that:

- Two ranchers were not grazing their cattle in the right place and at the right time;
- A fence was not being maintained; and
- Government enforcement of these issues was not appropriate.

Investigators considered whether the range agreement holders complied with *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) requirements and whether government enforcement was appropriate.

## What did the Board find?

The Board found the range agreement holders did not comply with legislation ([section 45\(1\)](#) of FRPA or [section 40\(1\)](#) of the *Range Planning and Practices Regulation*) when it came to following their grazing schedules and maintaining a fence in an effective and operating condition.

The Board also found that government enforcement was not appropriate, as it did not achieve compliance with legislation.

## Key Takeaways

In this investigation, the Board has concerns with government's approach to enforcement of range activities. It is unacceptable for government staff to conduct inspections but not always record the results. It is also inappropriate for the Compliance and Enforcement Branch to rely on district range staff to encourage compliance without verifying that corrective actions were taken.

As government is reallocating these range resources, the Board believes government should help resolve the fence maintenance and grazing schedule issues. This will help ensure the conservation and stewardship of the public range resource.

## Acknowledgement

The Overton-Moody range unit east of Grand Forks is within the territories of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Okanagan Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, and Splatshin First Nation. These Indigenous Peoples have been the stewards of this land since time immemorial, and the Board acknowledges their deep connection with the land that continues to this day.