



For immediate release  
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## **Investigation finds range practices compliant**

GRAND FORKS – The Forest Practices Board has completed an investigation into a complaint about range practices and government enforcement in the Ingram-Boundary range unit. A resident of Midway submitted the complaint in January 2023, raising concerns about overgrazing, inadequate fencing to protect riparian areas and the spread of invasive plants.

The investigation examined whether two range agreement holders followed legislative requirements during the 2023 grazing season. It also considered whether government enforcement had been appropriate. Board investigators visited the range unit in September 2023.

The board determined that the range agreement holders complied with legal requirements when grazing livestock in the 2023 grazing season, and protected riparian and upland areas as required. However, investigators found the actions that deal with the spread of invasive plants in the range agreement holders' range use plans were unmeasurable and could not be evaluated for compliance.

The board has previously stressed the importance of ensuring that range use plan actions are measurable and enforceable to improve accountability. The investigation also found that while some riparian and upland areas remain in good condition, others are at high risk of becoming non-functional if cattle movement and invasive species are not properly managed.

The board concluded that government enforcement was appropriate. In response to the concerns brought to their attention by the complainant, the Ministry of Forests conducted site visits and took enforcement action where necessary.

The Ingram-Boundary range unit is located west of Grand Forks. It lies within the territories of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, the Okanagan Indian Band, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Osoyoos Indian Band, the Penticton Indian Band, the Splat-sin First Nation and the Upper Nicola Band. The board recognizes the importance of the Indigenous Peoples' historical relationship with the land, which continues to this day.

### **Learn more:**

To read the full report, visit: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/release-publications/releases/>

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