



File: 280-30
Ref: 219099

DEC 18 2015

Tim Ryan
Chair, Forest Practices Board
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9R1

Dear Tim Ryan:

On behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, please accept this letter as government's interim response to the Forest Practices Board's recommendations in its report: *Logging Old Forest on TFL 47 – Sonora Island (July 2015)*.

Recommendations to Government

1. Government should ensure that the meaning of the term "old forest" is sufficiently clear to fit with the ecological conditions present in the South Central Coast Order (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.

Government's interim response

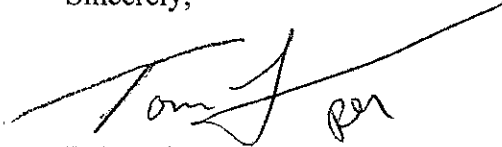
- The ministry appreciates the Board's recommendations and agrees that definitions for 'old forest' and at-risk plant communities warrant clarification.
- The ministry has addressed the Board's recommendations in the 2015 Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order (which will replace existing land use orders pertinent to the South Central Coast) as well as supporting technical guidance documents (Background and Intent and Landscape Reserve Design Methodology).
- The Order and technical guidance have also benefited from the Board's feedback in its August 10, 2015, letter to the ministry.
- The Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order is expected to be enacted in the near future, with technical guidance to be distributed shortly thereafter.
- As we are uncertain about the exact timing of this enactment/release, we hereby offer the Board a verbal briefing on the Order and technical guidance sometime in early 2016, and commit to following up with a final written response to the Board's recommendations by March 31, 2016.

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Tim Ryan, Chair, Forest Practices Board

To set up a briefing on the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order and supporting technical guidance, please contact Rory Annett, Executive Director, Coastal Projects, at rory.annett@gov.bc.ca (250-286-9330).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Sheldan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

T. R. (Tim) Sheldan
Deputy Minister

cc: Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, West Coast Region
Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship
Craig Sutherland, Assistant Deputy Minister, South Area
Rory Annett, Executive Director, Coastal Projects
Jennifer Davis, Director, Resource Practices Branch
Allan Lidstone, Director, Resource Management Objectives Branch



File: 97250-20/141147

February 9, 2016

Tim Sheldon
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
PO Box 9352 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Dear Tim Sheldon:

Re: Forest Practices Board report *Logging Old Forest on TFL 47, Sonora Island*

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2015, providing the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' (FLNR) response to the Boards' recommendations in its July 2015 report, *Logging Old Forest on TFL 47 – Sonora Island*.

The Board recommended that government should ensure the meaning of the term 'old forest' is sufficiently clear and aligns with the intent of ecosystem-based management. It also recommended that government should ensure the definitions for red and blue-listed plant communities are clear and there is effective guidance for their identification.

Your letter identified that the Board's recommendations are addressed in the new Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order and supporting guidance documents. It also included a commitment to a briefing by FLNR staff, which took place on January 26, 2016, with Rory Annett, Executive Director, Coastal Projects. We understand that the full extent of how the Board's recommendations have been addressed will not be clear until the new Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order is implemented and revised guidance documents are developed. The Board is encouraged by the work of the ministry and the response by all participants in this investigation. I accept FLNR's response as fulfilling the Board recommendations and will now close this file.

Thank you again for your participation and cooperation in this investigation. The Board will maintain its interest in the implementation of the new land use order for the Great Bear Rainforest, and may choose to review progress at some point in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'R'.

Timothy S. Ryan, RPF
Chair