

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
Box 577
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

May 12, 2008

Ray Chipeniuk
Box 2557
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Dear Ray

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board would like to thank you for your letter received March 31, 2008 regarding the proposed harvest activities planned for the Tatlow/Chapman Roads area by BC Timber Sales (BCTS).

The Board has reviewed your request for a) consideration of an amendment of the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) to include greenbelt or buffer planning, and b) to invite BCTS to complete benefit-cost analysis of the Tatlow-Chapman Timber sale.

The Board recognizes that landbase planning concepts with respect to greenbelt planning of Crown/Settlement interface zones has advanced since the creation and approval of the Bulkley LRMP. That being said, the existing zonation within the LRMP was a complex balance of many interests within the Valley, as noted within the LRMP; *"the Consensus Management Direction was developed through an extensive community involvement process that required compromises on behalf of all participating resource sectors"* (phases in Italics have been copied from the BVCRB website). Given the balance of resources represented in the LRMP, designating buffer zones around settlement lands would involve significant impacts to the current Timber Harvesting Landbase. This impact would likely require reductions to other zones within the LRMP area to maintain the balance to resources, the result of which would involve a large amount of area within the Plan area. This would effectively cause a major re-evaluation of all zonation in the LRMP, which is a significant undertaking.

This being said, the LRMP is *"intended to be a living plan"*, responsive to significant shifts in the public's desired use of resources within the Bulkley TSA. The LRMP Amendment process is designed to address changes to the plan when they have *"Demonstrated support from a broad cross-section of community"*. The Amendment process includes public consultation based on *"A detailed description of the proponent's proposed amendment(s) to the LRMP"*. This description would likely need to include a calculation of the amount of land impacted by a change in zonation and how the buffer zone would be managed. Your proposed Plan amendment, while a laudable one, will require further descriptive detail and public support before the CRB can forward it to the Integrated Land Management Bureau for consideration. We encourage you in this endeavour.

Regarding your request to have BCTS provide additional benefit-cost analysis of the type outlined in your letter; this is beyond the mandate of the BVCRB in our role to monitor the implementation of the Bulkley LRMP.

Once again, thank you for your letter on this issue. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Adrian de Groot, Chair
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board