

May 28, 2000
Barry Smith
District Manager
Bulkley-Cassiar Forest District
Smithers, B.C.

Dear Barry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the access options for the North Babine Watershed. In section 2.1.2.1 of the Bulkley LRMP, the Board has stated its opposition to circle routes in the Bulkley TSA. The reasons given center around wildlife management issues and these issues are a continuing cause of concern to the current Board.

At a recent meeting, the Board discussed the access options presented by the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment in their background paper of April, 2000. The Community Resources Board is not in a position to specifically endorse any of the options presented, but would like to make several general recommendations. Our primary concerns in making these recommendations are for wildlife management and for the economic and social stability of the communities of Telkwa and Smithers.

Therefore, we recommend that:

1. any access option chosen must not have a negative impact on the ability of the Ministry of Environment to adequately manage wildlife, specifically grizzly bear and moose.
2. any access option chosen must not have a negative impact on SCI's Smithers operation.
3. any access option chosen must not adversely impact PIR's current stumpage.

Please contact me if you wish to further discuss these recommendations.

Yours truly,

Wes Giesbrecht
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board