

From: [Bob Mitchell](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 8:47 AM

To: Alan Baxter, Dave Ripmeester

Subject: Re: Logging in the Quick Core Ecosystem

Hi Alan and Dave

I read your advertisement in the Interior News dated January 2, 2013 for amending West Fraser's FSP to allow more forest harvesting in the Quick CORE Ecosystem.

Any harvesting within COREs must protect the **Integrity and Function** of the CORE ecosystem as defined by the LRMP.

Integrity and Function **are not** just about harvesting or road building. CORES **are** about biodiversity, wildlife and many other intangibles. They **are not** only about 'retaining representative forests' or 'interior forest conditions' as stated in the Higher Level Plan Analysis of Dec 14, 2011. This issue is not just about harvesting 'dead' Lodgepole Pine. Dead Lodgepole Pine have value beyond lumber and may even improve the integrity and function of an ecosystem. And it's **not** just about the results of a spatial analysis either. And it is **not** just about Ungulate movement patterns. This is about much, much, more.

The CORES are connected to Landscape Corridors in the Bulkley TSA. The connection is important to the integrity of both. You can't just substitute an area in the Howsons for area in the Quick CORE. A correct substitution would have to be identified in the Lodgepole Pine SBSdk or SBSmc that will survive the beetle outbreak which is unlikely. Also, There isn't a lot of SBS dk in the Bulkley TSA to substitute for Quick CORE SBS dk.

The Community Resource Board (CRB) recommended the CORES as means of reaching consensus on the LRMP. This consensus has great respect in our community. The CRB must reach a consensus on your proposal for changing CORE location or any reduction in the Integrity and Function of any CORE.

Even the Chief Forester respected the consensus of the CRB and LRMP by only allowing a harvest of 5% over a complete rotation in individual CORES within his Timber Supply Review.

There is lots of other dead Lodgepole Pine in the Bulkley TSA that are not causing a threat to other values and can be harvested, although they might be some distance from the mill. Lodgepole Pine in the Enhanced Timber Zone for one. One might ask, What happens when the next inevitable outbreak of Spruce or Balsam Beetle occurs due to climate change? Where do we move or substitute for the Cores then.

The Integrity and Function of CORES must be maintained.

Also, considering the significance of the this amendment to West Fraser's FSP, I think the public review and comment period should be extended to 60 days. 10 days is far too short.

I am available to discuss this issue.

Bob Mitchell RPF (retired)