

## Re: Skeena Region Wide Conservation Land Cancellations Inquiry

2024-05-27 12:41

Thanks. Received and understood.

Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

2024-05-27

Hello Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS),  
I still await a response to my letter (Jan 27, 2024), detailing 13 specific points of disagreement with supporting documentation, to Deputy Minister Hall's rationales (Sept 6, 2023). These supported the Lands Act cancellations and harvest plans, prior to completion of the Wildlife Management Area process.

My observation has been that years of resources, consultation and effort go into projects and processes, which are not implemented. The solution has been to start another process or delay for more research. Without understanding and incorporating lessons learned from past, we just diminish opportunities and repeat "processes".

Board Member, BVCRB

2024-05-27 12:31

Thanks for the reply Len. Re: the WHMAs, as I stated below, my expectation is that the FLP will carry the objectives through the process. Re: the request that no further resource development or Land Act tenure issuance happen over the areas in question, this is being considered as part of the work. I am most wanting to focus on the path forward. Talk soon

Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

Sent: 2024-05-27 00:48

Thank you Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS) for responding to our inquiry of May 12. I am glad that things are beginning to realign with respect to the Skeena Region Conservation Lands Program, some 4 to 5 years post cancellations of the Land Act designated conservation lands. I am confident, under your leadership, that you will successfully revitalized the Skeena Region Conservation Lands Program, but only if there is strong directives from the Deputy Minister's office to Skeena Regional Managers that continue to oppose transfer of authorities to the Wildlife Act.

Acknowledging that processes take time and the fact that we are continuing to see development and resource extraction on some of these conservation lands, we have been asking for no further resource development or Land Act tenure issuance on the cancelled Land Act Conservation Lands occurs as this re-designation process is underway. So far this request has

received no response from either the Deputy Minister's (Lori Halls) office or the Skeena Regional Office. A follow-up discussion would be advantageous to all parties.

As you know, the Conservation Lands Program is under the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS), not the Ministry of Forests. As such, your suggestion that we take up our concern with respect to commercial timber extraction, with little regard to habitat objectives I might add, within the Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) conservation lands, is perceived to be punting WLRS's responsibility over to the MOF. These WHMAs, although cancelled from the Land Act without consultation, are still legally established via the yr. 2000 Higher Level Plan that was carried forward under the 2006 Objectives Set by Government. Legally, they still are "nonadministered" conservation lands and remain under the authority of your Ministry. There should be no need to re-negotiate their existence through a long drawn out Forest Landscape Planning process while we see forest stands being logged...this is a typical talk and log scenario.

If you could discuss these outstanding issues with your Regional Management Team colleagues and with the Deputy Minister's office, and get back to us, that would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Co-Director  
Bulkley Valley Stewardship Coalition

2024-05-22 12:33

Hi

The main problem is that Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)'s letter is inconsistent with the process described by Lori Halls which indicates that the government would seek reinstatement of the Lands Act designations at least on an interim basis. Now, Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS) indicates that nothing will happen and no interim protections will be sought pending the unfolding of the FKP process.

Chair: What Matter in Our Valley

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 10:53 PM

I guess we can consider this the response to our Dec. 15 letter (attached). No mention of an interim development moratorium, so we should keep the pressure on to keep Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)'s project front and centre ... squeaky wheel gets the grease. It also appears that the future of the WHMAs & F&W Reserves cancelled under the Land Act in the Bulkley Valley rides on the Forest Landscape Planning Process; conservation should not be thrown into the Ministry of Forests basket but should reside with Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)'s Ministry (WLRS) from my perspective.

I'll draft a reply and forward to you for endorsement.  
A BVCRB Director agrees  
The above from the Co-Director

Bulkley Valley Stewardship Coalition

> Date: May 21, 2024 at 10:26:13 PM PDT

> Hi .. et al; just back from leave and going through emails -

>

> I am in the initial stages of scoping a project to potentially establish new Wildlife Management Area(s) in the Skeena region. Some of these may be over defined areas that were previously administered under the Land Act. I have project initiation work to do in May and June that includes having interagency discussions, lining up resourcing, and drafting what external consultation and engagement might look like on the project, among other things.

>

> With respect to the Wildlife Habitat Management Areas in the Bulkley, I suggest the CRB look to the Forest Landscape Planning process to carry forward the objectives for these areas into the tactical-level, forestry operations plans.

>

> Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

>

> Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2024 6:29 PM

> Greetings Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS),

>

> On behalf of the coalition of concerned groups (BV Stewardship Coalition, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, Kalum PIC, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust & Wildlife for Tomorrow), I am inquiring about an update with respect to where the Skeena Region Conservation Lands Program is at with respect to re-instatement of cancelled conservation lands in light of Deputy Minister's response letter of March 26, 2024 (attached).

>

> I wonder if you could share expected timelines for various milestones as part of the project charter, or better still, the project charter itself. This will help inform and ease the anxiety of the concerned public. However, we have seen no reply to date from the B.C. government regarding our specific request regarding assurance, in good faith, that no further resource development or Land Act tenure issuance on the cancelled Land Act Conservation Lands occurs as this re-designation process is underway. We will continue to pursue this request in the interim.

>

> Sincerely,

>Co-Director

Bulkley Valley Stewardship Coalition