



Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association

Aug 20, 2025

To: Les Ellis, President

RE: Cattleman's Response Letter

Dear Les Ellis,

Thank you for your letter that I received via the Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board that highlighted two topics of importance: the first being the problems ranchers in the local area are facing with wildlife preying on livestock, and second, the Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) process occurring in the Lakes, Bulkley and Morice Timber Supply Areas (TSA)s.

With respect to wildlife preying on livestock and a scientific investigation to determine the number of grizzly bears in the area, I have passed along your concern to Anne-Marie Roberts, Director of Resource Stewardship Operations, Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS). They hold the mandate for wildlife management within the provincial government.

To provide insight into the BC Cattlemen's involvement in Forest Landscape Planning in the Skeena Region, I'll outline the context and history related to both the Lakes and Bulkley Morice FLP processes.

A forest landscape plan is designed to focus on forest management practices. It does not speak to or limit activities permitted or rights granted under the *Range Act* or a grazing lease under the *Land Act*.


Range tenure holders were invited to explore how they can participate in shaping FLPs via a letter sent to Roger Groot, dated January 30, 2024 requesting input on the Bulkley Morice FLP (attached). Roger and I subsequently followed up in person on March 14, 2025, with Jon Solecki, the BC Cattlemen's Representative who has been regularly involved in the Lakes Resiliency Project since March 2021- present.

With respect to the concern you highlight regarding forage availability for wildlife, FLPs consider both timber and non-timber values. Wildlife has been identified as a value in both the Lakes and Bulkley Morice FLPs, and management approaches are currently being drafted for the Lakes FLP. Jon Solecki is a participant in these discussions.

I encourage you to work with Jon and Roger to ensure your specific input is passed along to the Lakes and Bulkley Morice FLP projects, as they are the primary Range/Cattlemen's contacts for both the Lakes Resiliency Project and the Bulkley Morice Forest Landscape Plans respectively.

If you require additional information on the Cattleman's involvement in the FLP process please reach out to me.

Regards,



Tara Dunphy

Director, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning

Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests

cc:

Jon Solecki, Skeena Regional Director, B.C Cattlemen's Association tatalrose@gmail.com

Roger Groot, Director, Pleasant Valley Cattlemen's Association rlgroot@gmail.com

Dan Huisman, Director, Skeena Cattlemen's Association 3hcattlecomp@gmail.com

Cam Bentley, District Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District,

Cam.Bentley@gov.bc.ca

Neal Marincak, A/District Manager, Nadina Resource District, Neal.Marincak@gov.bc.ca

Anne-Marie Roberts, Director of Resource Stewardship and Operations, Ministry of WLRS

annemarie.roberts@gov.bc.ca



January 30, 2024

Roger Groot

BC Cattleman's Association

Via Email: rlgroot@gmail.com

Dear Roger Groot,

The Province is committed to modernizing the forest economy and supporting an innovative, sustainable forest sector. The Province is also committed to advancing reconciliation by strengthening partnerships and meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples in the management of the land base and natural resources in British Columbia.

Through Bill 23, the *Forest Statutes Amendment Act*, the Province has introduced Forest Landscape Planning (FLP). FLP is intended to provide forest sector specific direction on where and how forest management activities occur at an operational level. FLPs provide direction to guide the sectors' operational planning and management activities including harvesting, road building and restoration investment.

Central to the FLP is working collaboratively with Indigenous governments to co-develop plans with the input from stakeholders, local communities, and the public at each of the various milestones of the planning process. Once complete, Forest Landscape Plans will be established by the chief forester following the recommendations developed through the FLP process.

Additional information on FLPs is available on the [BC Government website](#).

We are initiating the development of a FLP within the Bulkley and Morice Timber Supply Areas (TSAs). Once a FLP process is initiated, there will be opportunities for local groups to provide input via a Stakeholder Review and Input Group (SRIG).

BC Cattleman's participated in the development of the Lakes Resiliency Project pilot FLP, and we would value a local BC Cattleman's input on the neighbouring Bulkley Morice FLP.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss Forest Landscape Planning, and to answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Tara.Dunphy@gov.bc.ca or 250-643-7127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tara Dunphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tara Dunphy
Director of Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning
Skeena Natural Resource Region

Ministry of Forests

cc:

Tara Dunphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Skeena Region, Tara.Dunphy@gov.bc.ca

Cam Bentley, District Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District,
Cam.Bentley@gov.bc.ca

Neal Marincak, A/District Manager, Nadina Resource District, Neal.Marincak@gov.bc.ca