The Honorable Steve Thompson

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**Re: Evaluating Effectiveness of the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan**

The Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was a precedent-setting plan and a first of its kind in British Columbia. This Cabinet endorsed plan was created in 1998 and established objectives to **maintain** ten resource values in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area including Biodiversity, Access, Timber Management, Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Visual Quality, Range Management, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, Subsurface Resources and Cultural Heritage Resources. The plan continues to serve an important role today, however, after eighteen years of implementation it is uncertain whether this plan has achieved its objectives.

The Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board (CRB; bvcrb.ca) developed the Bulkley LRMP in partnership with the Province of BC. This Board has become a model for community engagement in resource planning with over 20 years of continuous operation. The primary mandate of the CRB is stewardship and monitoring of the LRMP to provide advice regarding land use planning in the Bulkley Valley. This is achieved through a diverse membership composed of a collection of local citizens with a broad range of value perspectives who operate on a consensus basis.

When the LRMP was created, it was signed off by the Ministers of Forests, Energy and Mines and Environment, Lands, and Parks. These signatories encouraged the CRB to continue participating in the monitoring of this plan. Eighteen years later, the Board is concerned regarding the status of the ten aforementioned resource values and the **effectiveness** of the objectives and strategies designed to maintain them. Although there have been several partial attempts to review the **implementation** of the LRMP (i.e. Bulkley State of the Forest Report, 2005), the **effectiveness** of this plan has never been evaluated and such a review is sorely needed.

Pressures posing to compromise resource values in the Bulkley Valley are considerable and several key landscape level influences were not contemplated when this plan was developed. From the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) to climate change and large scale development (i.e. LNG), the need to have adaptive land use plans is paramount to ensure balance is achieved. For example, there has been considerable concern about the maintenance of Wildlife values. Grizzly Bears and Caribou have been highlighted as being at risk with the current implementation of the LRMP. Continuing to achieve Biodiversity targets has also been challenged significantly through elevated forestry development in response to MPB and the use of offsetting to mitigate impacts. Forest licensees, Government, small business, and others have spent considerable time and money implementing the Bulkley LRMP and an **effectiveness** review would serve to understand the relative value of these investments.

The Bulkley LRMP has been the social licence for many of the Forestry Plans in the past two decades. It remains the best current summary of the values held by local residents and is relevant to decision-making today. The CRB continues to support the LRMP and has provided significant utility to government via balanced community level feedback on contentious issues. In the spirit of collaboration and partnership, we feel it is time to re-visit the LRMP to evaluate its **effectiveness** in maintaining resource values that are important to residents of the Bulkley Valley.

Sincerely,

Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board