

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Jevan Hanchard
District Manager
Skeena Stikine Forest District
Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
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Re: Updated Bulkley State of the Forest Report 2004

Dear Jevan Hanchard

The Bulkley State of the Forest 2004 (SOFR) for the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) promised effectiveness reviews every 5 years for the Bulkley Timbers Supply Area (TSA). The SOFR also promised to publicize a report in 5 years to show whether the indicators had improved. These promises have not been fulfilled. In a letter dated Oct 2, 2017 to Minister of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations (attached) we requested a New SOFR be completed for the intervening period. We did not receive an answer.

The Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board (CRB) is charged with both monitoring the Implementation and the Effectiveness of the LRMP. Thus far there have been several reports that monitor the implementation of the LRMP but 'no' further public reports that monitor the effectiveness. Effectiveness is not a compliance and enforcement issue.

The SOFR is the only report that charts the 'effectives' of the LRMP over time.

The CRB is having difficulty meeting its mandate to monitor the effectiveness of the LRMP. The CRB cannot possibly consider changes or improvements to the LRMP without knowing how effective the current version is at achieving the objectives it set and the values it was charged to maintain.

The SOFR outlines a group of value indicators which show the **effectiveness** of Forest Management activities on achieving the Biodiversity, Wildlife Habitat, Watershed Integrity, Timber, Visual Quality, Cultural Heritage, Access, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Subsurface Resources objectives of the LRMP. Several of the values have only one indicator, others none, still others are below acceptable levels. It is important that indicators be carried forward with new indicators added in an updated report.

Since the SFOR 2004 report was produced there have been several sources of data to add 'new' indicators to the SOFR including:

1. The Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) which resulted in a Multiple Resource Value Assessment 2013 (MRVA),
2. The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (2018) with First Nations.
3. Forest Practices Board Special Investigation: Conserving Fish Habitat under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

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New information from these programs may provide effectiveness data for existing and new indicators in the SOFR report.

We feel that several of Industry reports in the intervening years are good reports but only represent implementation of the Bulkley Higher Level Plan, not effectiveness of achieving the LRMP objectives.

It is important the new SOFR report is public friendly, like the SOFR 2004, and lines up with specific objectives in the LRMP.

In conclusion the CRB is asking again that the Ministry fulfill it's promise and complete an updated SOFR as soon as possible, so that the CRB can carry out its mandate to monitor the effectiveness of the LRMP and make improvements if necessary. We look forward to the completion of a new SOFR.

Yours Truly

Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board.