



Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, BVCRB

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Mail: Treasurer Ron Vanderstar, 11565 Old Babine Lake Road,
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Ministry of Forests
Skeena Stikine Natural Resources District Bag 6000
3333 Tatlow Road,
Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0

Attention: Glen Buhr, RPF, Stewardship Forester, Glen.Buhr@gov.bc.ca

Attention: Cheryl MacKenzie, Resource Manager, Regional Operations,
Cheryl.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca

Re: Review of Land Use Designation for Area - Ag/Wild Zone FID #79

Oct. 7th, 2024

Dear Glen,

We have recently had the future land use designation for the Agricultural and Wildlife Zone FID #79 brought to our attention. As discussed with Dean Daly, RPF, his Woodlot 1481 is located just to the west of the FID #79, and he has been managing these lands to maintain continuous mature forest cover since 1995. We, the Board would like to know more about the current status of sale and tenuring of Crown land. We understand there is no current application to take this parcel out of the designation but we understand the pressure to develop the valley bottom is increasing. To relieve pressure we have some recommendations.

If you sell these agricultural designated lands through an agricultural lease you lose control of land management for protection of the community values before they are even evaluated for success. Field assessments help verify which remaining stands in the valley have values important to First Nations, to watershed integrity and to maintain healthy animal populations in this case: moose, deer and elk. Science-based, structural criteria also allow for holistic forest landscape planning. We are the public sector and we need the Province to recognize and evaluate the loss of wildlife, habitats and corridors while balancing the needs of agricultural ranchers.

We recommend individual parcels like the one connecting to Dean's woodlot be individually reviewed. Redefining the borders within these parcels would allow for better site specific decisions. We all would be enabled to develop agricultural lands where desired and restrict development where protection of other values are possible. In this case consider the Class 2

water designation of the Bulkley, whether there should be a treelined riparian zone buffer and more. Retaining non-cereal portions in Crown land for the purpose of retaining SRMP values of wildlife connectivity and forested cover is another consideration.

Public consultation would also provide insight into whether we should remove agricultural designation of this specific parcel. The same review process should be utilized for removal of WHMA and Section 16 and 17s designations.

We support the recommendations of Len Vanderstar when he did a field assessment in May of 2024 and we would like to hear from you regarding your intentions to redesignate this parcel in addition to your land management strategies for the Bulkley Valley bottom.

In closing we would like to know, by the referral process, when there is a review planned and what and when there will be decisions regarding the long-term land use for FID #79.



Dean's Map, June 2023

Sincerely Yours,

Sue Brookes, Recording Secretary for the BVCRB

cc: Dean Daly, Woodlot 1481 cell: 250-877-1708

Reference:

1. Raceway NE Agriculture Development Area (ADA) Site Inspection Report, May 20, 2024, Len Vanderstar, R.P.Bio, Northern Habitat Solutions