



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

BC's LANDS



UPDATE

Featuring News From the Lands Sector of B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

The ministry's Crown Contaminated Sites Branch is doing a great job leading the remediation of an historical refuse dump adjacent to the Pitt River. The former landfill is located on the east bank of the Upper Pitt River, about 10km upstream from the Pitt Lake.

Clean-up of this site has been a major priority for government. What started out as a joint initiative shared by three ministries was ultimately taken over by Agriculture and Lands' Crown Contaminated Sites Branch due to the scope of the project.

The goal is to prevent any further erosion of refuse into the river and protect water quality, aquatic life and habitat. The entire old landfill material is being excavated and barged to an existing disposal facility in Richmond. An erosion barrier wall is being built along the riverbank to prevent further erosion. The work has been contracted to JJM Construction and Sperling Hansen and Associates, and is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Watch for the next issue of BC's Lands Update for more information on the other major projects the Crown Contaminated Sites program staff are working on around the province.

Until then,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands



Swift progress is being made at the Pitt River site including the placement of erosion barriers.



FrontCounterBC
Natural Resource Opportunity Centre

Update: FrontCounterBC Open in Kamloops

Business is booming at the FrontCounter BC office in Kamloops. Front Counter BC is a single window service for clients of provincial natural resource ministries and agencies. Since its grand opening in September, FrontCounter BC Kamloops staff have processed more than 600 natural resource-related queries and applications, resulting in over 130 new applications in the system including Free Use Permit, Crown Land Temporary Permit and Occupant License to Cut.

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November is LRMP Month in Prince George

All Land and Resource Management Plans in the Prince George Service Centre (Fort St. James, Mackenzie, Prince George, Robson Valley, Vanderhoof) are holding meetings this month to report on, and discuss, implementation issues.

Vanderhoof will be holding a two-day meeting to work on a project to deal with impacts of the mountain pine beetle.

This project is the result of a request from the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Task.

The goal is to ensure identified values in the LRMP reflect desired future conditions and conservation values because resources are being impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic and large-scale salvage harvesting.

The Vanderhoof LRMP was approved in 1997. And after 8 years of implementation, the LRMP Monitoring Table remains active, passionate and engaged in land use planning decisions

To respond to this newsletter, or for more information, please e-mail:

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Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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FrontCounter BC Kamloops is the first of eight centres. Additional FrontCounter BC Natural Resource Opportunity Centres will be phased into operation over the next two years. Prince George and Nanaimo are scheduled to open in early-2006 with offices in Surrey, Smithers, Fort St. John, Williams Lake and Cranbrook opening in the latter part of 2006 and early 2007. For more information on FrontCounter BC visit www.frontcounterbc.ca



On Saturday October 22 a field trip hosted by the Prince George LRMP was well attended, despite soggy weather. In total, 26 people representing various interests including cultural heritage, wildlife, ranching, environmental and timber values attended. The rain held off and the fog subsided long enough for the group to view and discuss the impact that the ongoing mountain pine beetle epidemic is having on important resource values identified in the Prince George LRMP.

Demystifying a Much-Loved MAL Acronym - What are LRMPs?

Anyone who works in government will probably be the first to admit bureaucrats love using acronyms. One you may have heard over the years in reference to land and resource planning is LRMP – Land and Resource Management Plan. So what exactly is a LRMP?

LRMPs are the main mechanism used for broad zoning of Crown land in British Columbia. This includes areas where resource development is the primary use, as well as areas protected for natural, recreational and cultural purposes. Zoning sets out where and how resource activities can occur on Crown land. LRMPs also provide other recommendations for land and resource management beyond zoning, including general management direction for a range of natural resources. On the coast this has been described as ecosystem based management.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau is currently coordinating the completion and approval of six LRMPs that cover 12% of B.C. These include: Central Coast, North Coast, Sea-to-Sky, Morice, Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands and Lillooet LRMPs.

Right now, the province is focusing its attention on the approval of the Central Coast and North Coast LRMPs. These plans have generated significant local and international attention because B.C.'s coast is home to 50% of the world's remaining temperate rainforest and is home to the unique white bear known as the Kermode.