

File: 12000-01

December 19, 2005

To: All Forest Licensees, Woodlot Licensees, and Range Tenure Holders in North Island-Central Coast Forest District

**Subject: Update on the Government Actions Regulation
in the North Island-Central Coast Forest District**

North Island-Central Coast Forest District (NICC FD) would like to take the opportunity to provide you with a status update on the Government Actions Regulation (GAR), which supports the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

Background:

By way of the recently passed (Dec. 13, 2004) GAR, government has specified the requirements for the establishment of localized areas where special stewardship is needed to manage resource values. Under GAR, the values that may be addressed directly relate to 7 of the 11 FRPA values (fish, wildlife, water, resource features, recreation resources, visual quality and cultural heritage resources) and may also affect the other 4 (soils, timber, biodiversity, and forage & associated plant communities). The regulation also provides for the creation of objectives and/or practices requirements for managing these areas. GAR also continues specified items from the Forest Practices Code (FPC) into FRPA including existing community watersheds, resource features, and visual quality classes (as visual quality objectives). Information on the regulatory roles of the various agencies in relation to the 11 FRPA values is attached as a separate page titled "Agency Regulatory Roles".



When determining if a GAR Order is required, the following four tests must be met.

- Test 1: Is special management required and not otherwise provided in regulation or another enactment?
- Test 2: Is the proposed action consistent with established objectives?
- Test 3: Would the proposed action unduly reduce the supply of timber from BC's forests?
- Test 4: Do public benefits from the action outweigh material adverse impacts on delivered wood costs and any undue constraint on the ability of a forest or range agreement holder to exercise their rights under the agreement?

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Completed Actions:

Under section 17 of GAR, the existing recommended Visual Quality Classes (rVQCs) were continued as visual quality objectives (VQOs) when the GAR regulation took effect December 13, 2004. This applies to those parties operating in the Midcoast Timber Supply Area and all TFL's in the NICC FD.

Under section 7(2) of GAR, the Kingcome TSA Scenic Area rVQCs were established by Order as VQOs effective August 31, 2005. This Order applies to those parties operating in the Kingcome Timber Supply Area. The August 31st date is the reference date used for FPPR 12(2), which requires that licensees be made aware of orders 4 months before they must have lawful consideration in a plan submission.

There are scenic area maps for both TSA's indicating the required VQOs for each of the above and they are available on the NICC FD website. Spatially referenced data relating to these maps will be made available on the Land and Resources Data Warehouse (LRDW) for those with accounts. If there are any questions on the maps please contact Andy Waines, Stewardship Forester, NICC FD, at 250.956.5030 or e-mail at Andy.Waines@gov.bc.ca.

Proposed Actions:

NICC FD's intention is to consider proceeding with the following individual GAR Orders in the future:

- Karst features,
- Range development features,
- Lakeshore management zones and objectives,
- Cultural and heritage features (likely to be handled in a regional approach),
- Inventory and research plots (likely to be handled in a regional or provincial approach),
- Recreation features (likely to be handled by the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts – MTSA).

If you have any comments as to the process, or issues with any of these possible future GAR orders, we would appreciate your general comments. Understanding your concerns will greatly assist us in how we initiate and conduct a process that is sensitive to, and meets the needs of interested parties. Once the processes are underway for each specific GAR order, information will be sent out and there will be additional opportunities for your input.

Where Can I Find Up-To-Date GARs Information?

All established GAR Orders within, the Province of British Columbia, are posted at the following website, <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/govact/GAR-ORDERS.htm>.

In addition, GARs communications and supporting documents for the NICC FD will be posted on the district webpage, located directly at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dni/> . This portion of the district webpage is currently being updated with the supporting GAR documentation and will be available by January 6th .

For more information or general comments, please contact Christina Mardell, Stewardship Forester, NICC FD at 250.956.5089, or e-mail at Christina.A.Mardell@gov.bc.ca .

Thank you for taking an interest in this initiative.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles van Hemmen", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Charles (Chuck) H. van Hemmen
District Manager

Attachment(s): Agency Regulatory Roles

Agency Regulatory Roles

The Minister of Environment has the enabling authority to establish:

- categories of species at risk, regionally important wildlife and ungulate species;
- ungulate winter ranges and objectives;
- wildlife habitat areas and objectives;
- general wildlife measures for wildlife habitat areas or ungulate winter ranges;
- wildlife habitat features;
- water quality objectives for community watersheds;
- fisheries sensitive watersheds and objectives; and
- temperature sensitive streams.

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands has the enabling authority to establish:

- scenic areas; and
- community watersheds.

The Minister of Forests and Range has the enabling authority to identify or establish:

- resource features;
- lakeshore management zones and objectives; and
- visual quality objectives for scenic areas.

The establishment of recreation sites, recreation trails and interpretive forest sites and objectives by the Minister of Forests and Range is enabled under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* itself – and not under GAR.

Recreation-related responsibilities under GAR are expected to be transferred to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.