

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
(Committee of the Whole)******MEETING WITH AL GORLEY******Agenda**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
10:30-11:30 A.M.

PAGE NO.**ACTION****DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- How does RDBN get more involved in operation planning (ie. Wildfire Mitigation/ long term development (RDBN Planning considerations)?
- How does RDBN engage with all stakeholders to the benefit of our communities?
- How does the RDBN get return regarding specific resources in our region?

CORRESPONDENCE

2-3	RDBN Submission to FLNRO re: Visual Quality Objectives/Constraints	Receive
4-9	FLNRO Nadina Discussion Notes re Meeting with RDBN – October 23, 2013	Receive
10-15	Meeting Notes – Minister Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations/ RDBN – December 5, 2013	Receive
16-21	Chair's Notes re: Policy Paper on Forestry - June 6, 2013	Receive
22-25	UBCM Resolutions re: Forestry	Receive

NEW BUSINESS**ADJOURNMENT**



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**Submission
To
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations
August, 2013
Visual Quality Objectives/Constraints**

Background

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is comprised of the communities of Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake, Houston, Granisle, Telkwa, Smithers and the seven rural areas surrounding these communities (Electoral Areas A (Smithers Rural), B (Burns Lake Rural), C (Fort St. James Rural), D (Fraser Lake Rural), E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural), F (Vanderhoof Rural) and G (Houston Rural).

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations is in the initial stages of reviewing constraints that have been established by the Province under a variety of regulations and statutes. It is anticipated that the review process will include consultation with stakeholders, First Nations, and other levels of government and also include a period of public review and comment.

The following points in regard to Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) and/or Constraints have been agreed upon by the Regional Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako which are hereby submitted for consideration:

1. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako would like to see the opportunity for visual quality objectives and constraints to be relaxed in the short term to reflect their actual status of the timber stands. As the majority of our forest is comprised of pine and has been impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB), it is the RDBN's position that harvesting of the dead pine and replanting is the best option for these areas.
2. Areas of our region's spiritual, aesthetic and visual landscapes have been devastated by the MPB. As a result, VQOs should support and allow for management plans to address economic and social impacts of compromised landscapes as a result of the MPB infestation.

3. VQO's require flexibility to address fire management in order to protect life, property and the working forest. Each community within the RDBN has varying desires/concerns re VQO's as a result of wildfire impact in a region which has been devastated by the MPB infestation, resulting in vast quantities of dead timber.
4. The RDBN does not support removing constraints from riparian areas, and watersheds. Riparian areas contain and support many of the highest-value resources, have the highest species richness found in forests and are critical for several species.
5. Changes to VQO's have the potential to provide for production of other viable uses of timber, thus providing opportunities for diversification in a highly impacted sector of the region.
6. The RDBN requests that the Province ensure that the current constraints analysis is complete before establishment of new constraints. Further, that the Province actively inform, involve and engage all stakeholders, First Nations, local governments, and the public ensuring involvement, understanding, and opportunity for input regarding all future amendments/changes to government legislation regarding constraints.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Forestry Discussion

October 23, 2013

3 p.m.

Ministry of FLNRO Office (Lakes - Nadina),
Burns Lake, BC

Present: Bill Miller, Chair, RDBN
Gerry Thiessen, Chair, RDBN Forestry Committee
Steve Freeman, Director, Elec. Area "E"
Gail Chapman, CAO, RDBN

Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director, Skeena
Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina
Gordon Erlandson, Consultant

Lakes Land & Resource Management Plan

1. Overview
2. Review of RDBN Position Paper
 - clarify points
3. Discussion on Public Process

FLNRO

- Discussion to include timber supply;
- Look at Land Use Plan;
- Identify opportunities;
- The driver is the action plan as a result of the Special Committee on Timber Supply;
- Mr. O'Donoghue wants consensus from Electoral Areas B & E and also the RDBN as a whole.

RDBN

- Clarified RDBN representation, the RDBN region as a whole.

FLNRO

- will take RDBN perspective and won't go to the public if necessary.

RDBN

- requested clarification regarding the meeting;
- a-spatial 100%, old growth spatial.

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FLNRO

- could end up being relaxed for 10 years;
- identify visual quality objectives;
- have levels of harvesting in vqo areas;
- no benefit re logging in vqo areas;
- should separate wildfire mitigation and harvesting;
- no one came forward re fuel mitigation.

RDBN

- RDBN should not be funders of wildfire mitigation.

FLNRO

- License will not be coming forward re mitigation.

RDBN

- The RDBN wants to be involved in the process;
- Should have a say re log here and clean there.

FLNRO

- No ability to do that, influence re relaxing constraints.

RDBN

- Municipalities thought there is an opportunity for landscape level harvesting.

FLNRO

- No, no opportunity for landscape level harvesting;
- No other business on earth takes good and bad wood – they take the good and leave the bad;
- Have to log good and bad;
- Log areas to harvest, pushing to log profile, haven't sorted it out yet.

RDBN

- Went to L&M and Canfor re landscape level harvesting, all agreed with one approach;
- This discussion with LUMP – is perfect opportunity re “thou shalt”, need to be more involved;
- Opportunity exists now.

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FLNRO

- At the same time address fire mitigation;
- Working with licensees;
- If all is taken out, 10,000 cubic meters is left;
- There is overlap re constraints/values;
- 65% of old growth management areas are impacted.

RDBN

- 65% is a good number;

FLNRO

- 2m to 500,000 is a possibility, then up to 600,000;
- Mid-term is a problem, peel back overlays?
- Difficult overlaps (ie. 1st nations, species at risk, caribou habitat, federal legislation);
- A-spatial/replacing, may reduce economical, viable areas.

RDBN

- Have to be careful here, there will be a mid-term timber supply crunch;
- move to better forest management;
- getting rid of spatial/old growth is not good;
- should be addressed from a forest management perspective.

FLNRO

- emphasis is the timber supply review;
- serious problem in the north, must determine how to mitigate;
- needs to be good forest management, that is the lever;
- RDBN has lots of power.

RDBN

- Future development in the region, 3 natural gas lines, hydro upgrades, New Gold, drilling re pipelines, all eating away at the timber supply;
- Have to look at the landscape, huge amounts of timber are being burned.

FLNRO

- Looking at a holistic approach;
- NW Transmission line burning was a huge error, won't happen here.

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RDBN

- Trans Canada said if it is not economical they will burn;
- Conveyed to New Gold that every stick of wood must make it to the mills;
- Will lobby for that;
- Have to make sure communities are viable;
- Told New Gold that it is not a negotiating conversation, but that the impact to the timber supply must be mitigated.

FLNRO

- NW Trans. Line the fiber was burned, here we hope there will be a tenure agreement to go to the mills;
- Will make note that RDBN has "O" tolerance re pipeline impact to the timber supply;
- Cutting permits are issued by the Oil & Gas Commission;
- There may only be one pipeline.

RDBN

- Need to talk about a joint corridor re pipeline development.

FLNRO

- Russia has just announced a pipeline to China
- Options re old growth, need to narrow the options (1st Nations, Species, grizzly bear);
- Biggest bag is old growth;
- Opportunities for forest management;
- No appetite to open plan;
- If we free-up that timber, modest decline to biodiversity;
- More complicated re NQOs, lower VQO;
- No time benefit, but must mitigate fire risks;
- May have lower volume stands.

RDBN

- If not better forest management, no buy in.

FLNRO

- If that is RDBN's position, won't go to public with the issue, given that it is good forest management.

RDBN

- Need balance;
- Minister Pat Bell stated that timber would be found;
- Cannot settle for short term gain.

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FLNRO

- 35,000 cubic meters good forest management?
- 2.5 year operation re local mill on 35,000.

RDBN

- Finland is the same;
- 700 cubic meters per hectare, 100 year turnaround;
- Moose population increase;
- Priority is forest health;
- Reality is tenure is set up to find wood;
- Should be about forest health.

FLNRO

- What FLNRO is hearing is Ministry should be saying "slow down or stop"?
- Maybe need meeting with local government and licensees?

RDBN

- Not saying slow down or stop, but must be strategic and investigated further;
- Spacial/a-spacial look at landscape level harvesting;
- Could possibly decrease the AAC;
- Do harvesting plan.

FLNRO

- Landscape level harvesting plans, that is what we are talking about.

RDBN

- Need to expand that, don't want another Binta fire situation;
- Pick area that has dead trees to be cut and replanted.

FLNRO

- That is what is being done now, \$4m spent this year;
- This Forest District gets lots of money.

RDBN

- Can't just take good patches of trees.
- District offices must indicate that logging can take place in an area and that certain woods must be logged in that area.

FLNRO

- Do some of that now.

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RDBN

- Possibly have to slow down and take clear steps for the future;
- running so fast now to accommodate the big companies;
- want meeting with licensees so they know where communities are coming from.

FLRNO

- larger mills are not pushing, do not want to lose their social license.

RDBN

- Don't want to stop the process;
- Need for ongoing dialogue and to be more engaged;
- Need for level playing field;
- Tenure system has more issues;
- Local government needs to be in the room;
- Has FLNRO met with the Village of Burns Lake? – no
- Next meeting should include biodiversity issues;
- Want good science and decision making;
- Fire mitigation is a big issue.

It was agreed that a meeting between FLNRO, licensees and local government would be a good next step.

The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**Meeting with Minister Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations
And Minister Responsible for Rural Development**

December 5, 2013

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Premier's Vancouver Office, Ste. 740-999 Canada Place, Vancouver, B.C.

Present: The Honourable Minister Steve Thomson

**Tim Sheldon, Deputy Minister, FLNRO
Bruce Strongitharm, Chief of Staff, FLNRO
Scott Harrison, Ministerial Assistant**

**Via Conf. Call Kevin Kriese, Asst. Deputy Minister, North Area
Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina**

**RDBN: Bill Miller, Chair
Gerry Thiessen, Chair, Forestry Committee
Stoney Stoltenberg, Chair, Executive Committee
Luke Strimbold, Director
Dwayne Lindstrom, Director
Gail Chapman, CAO**

Discussion:

Chair Miller

- Discussion re community forests;
- Lots of what is being talked about fits with RDBN and OBAC;
- Forestry is paramount in our region;
- Development surrounding the Chinook Comfor model is a good thing;

Chair Thiessen

- Spoke of opportunities that Burns Lake has realized;
- Concern re transparency;
- Require openness;

Minister Thomson

- Thought everything was done in a transparent manner;

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Chair Miller

- Initially there were issues re the process;
- Biggest issue today is the need to develop a community forest model across our region;
- Want provincial ministry openness re the process;

Deputy Minister Sheldon

- Is the concern re the Province or the Chinook Board?

Chair Miller

- Believe the Chinook model is a good one;
- We need to look at the strength of that model and apply it across the region;

Minister Thomson

- The Province has said all along that there must be a strong, good relationship between all parties;
- Prepared to reiterate that;
- Partnership must be viable and inclusive of all;
- Hope the model works;
- The model can be worked upon and applied across the region;

Chair Thiessen

- Social responsibility for communities;
- Houston is having a tough time, the Chinook Comfor model should be carried forward;
- What is the appetite regarding other areas?

Minister Thomson

- Have looked into how important they are to communities;
- Challenge is volumes;
- Have community forests in all communities and potential for other areas, the challenge is the declining fiber supply;
- Reviewing through BCTS;
- Community looking at potential partnership.

Chair Thiessen

- BCTS, we haven't had much opportunity for input;
- It is such an intricate part of communities;
- Has to be opportunities for us to be part of the review process;

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Deputy Minister Sheldon

- 1. Role 2. Business effectiveness 3. Economy;
- John Allen to conduct the review;
- 1st report will be ready by the end of December, 2013;
- Met with UBCM;
- Can't go to communities yet, still another piece to be done;
- Can designate someone or schedule a conference call;
- Ministry will facilitate contacting John Allen.

Chair Miller

- Phase 2, the RDBN would certainly like an opportunity to be part of that conversation;
- We want resiliency for our communities;
- We can be a resource regarding development of strategies to the Province;
- Six First Nations and two local governments agreement speaks well in regard to what we can accomplish;
- The RDBN can assist regarding long term solutions re the timber supply.

Chair Thiessen

- UBCM representatives are not where the forest is;
- Fiber is being burned;
- BCTS needs to work with communities.

Deputy Minister Sheldon

- Will set up conference call with John Allen and RDBN.

Chair Thiessen

- John Allen is scheduled to attend an OBAC meeting.

Minister Thomson

- Appreciate the offer as a reserve re plans going forward;
- Decisions to be made re Houston/Quesnel;
- What are next decisions re resilient communities;
- Need to look at all opportunities and need to be proactive not reactive;

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Chair Miller

- Softwood Lumber Agreement is meant to address U.S. issues;
- See where dollars come from – small business;
- Need to address their market, we understand that;
- We need a revenue sharing model, although we understand that the Province does not have any money;
- Community forests are methods of getting money back to the communities;
- Allows communities to be proactive re pipeline development;
- Good way to revenue share.

Chair Thiessen

- Aware that there will be change, ask that decisions made have long term security for communities;
- Want the people/Province to come to the north with a good plan;
- Requests Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon attend the RDBN to look at mills and our communities;
- The Region is forest dependant.

Minister Thomson

- Trying to determine what is there;
- Not burning;
- Comes down to economics;
- That is hard one to nail down;
- Need to look at it and have further discussion.

Chair Miller

- Value-added is key and never been successful;
- There is an opportunity to help formulate this.

Chair Thiessen

- Looked at the numbers;
- Want to sit down and discuss waste and opportunities to utilize the waste.

Chair Stoltenberg

- Looked at the proposed Chinese Mill facility build proposal/enough volume in BC for outside of the country processing;
- Look at communities and mills;
- Communities could be masters of their own destinies re the community forest models.

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Director Lindstrom

- Frustrated regarding the community forest area that was mapped out for Fraser Lake;
- There is not enough fiber to make it work for Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake Community forests.

Director Strimbold

- Success re Chinook Community forest re six first nations and 2 local governments working together, this is significant.

Chair Thiessen

- Request from the RDBN to the Province is:
 - 1) total and complete transparency;
 - 2) want something in writing that can be taken back to District Forest Offices that they work together with communities.

Minister Thomson

- Most communities have developed good working relationships with Forest District offices.

Assistant Deputy Minister Kriese

- Area selection is a problem in Fraser Lake due to the beetle kill as the area is grey;
- BCTS review is not off the table yet and open for comment;
- Goal is to find area;
- It is a lot harder re BCTS.

Chair Thiessen

- L&M Lumber has no fiber;
- There is no opportunity for fiber;
- Trying to keep jobs in our community.

Minister Thomson

- John Allen and Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon to attend the region in the new year, awaiting transportation arrangements;
- Will certainly try to get to the area.

Chair Miller

- Have to remember BCTS, we are not taking volume out of the system;
- Must consider market.

Meeting with Minister Thomson
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Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon

- Don't disagree, but where do you place it?
- Don't forget that BCTS is support to those mills;
- For the Province it is a balance – timber supply is shrinking.

The meeting ended at 4:10 p.m.

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Notes to policy paper on forestry

Submitted
by Chair Mille
- June 6/13

The TFL system was developed in the 1940's and early 50's

Deal cut between BC gov and forest companies to create a forestland tenure and called for large tracts of crown forest land to be allocated to forest companies in exchange for stumpage (royalties) and the establishment of facilities adjacent to TFLs (appurtenance) there was an obligation to provide manufacturing jobs and loggers opportunities this was the social contract price paid for these harvesting rights.

It should be noted that many independent loggers and family owned businesses were forced out of business and many became mere contractors or employees as a result of these changes

The effects of global economics has changed the nature of the forest industries and the way that business is done the modern system of shareholder profit driven global corporations maximizes profit above all Ownership is and executives are seldom in the communities where the facilities are located

The needs of communities and employees/service suppliers have virtually become irrelevant

It is important to make profits but the new global economic order has taken the profitability to extremes

Community sustainability and resiliency is no longer important we have forgotten that the object is not to get rid of the trees but to provide us with an economy in our communities.

Further when appertunancy was eliminated as part of the gov restructure in 2004 which saw a take back of some of the renewable tenure hard cash was paid to those companies affected which was not the currency that was used to acquire

tenure the social contract was abandoned it needed to be renegotiated to avoid negative impacts to our communities

Log markets: Limited free enterprise in BC

85% of BC's timber is not sold on the open market it is mostly processed by large producers internally this has resulted in some significant negative consequences

- **Lack of product development**

license holders have been very unimaginative in forest product diversification the absolute security of log supply has made them over secure relying on historic markets the lack of incentive to innovate has left us dependent on a fickle dimensional market considering the vast array of species and excellent wood quality it is a crime that we have not value added to our resource

- **Maximum values & royalties seldom realized**

Much of BC's wood never reaches an open market its highest value and or royalties therefore not incented in fact that export logs have sold at times for up to 15-20% more than logs in BC

- **Us tariffs due to this subsidized markets**

The American producers claim that since our logs are not on the open market and these off shore prices are higher they justify a crippling tariff that essentially diverts money from BC coffers to the American saw millers While we see this as protectionism on the part of the Americans they have been successful in the world court in justifying these tariffs

- **Lack of free market discourages value added industry**

Since BC's timber supply is control by a few very large corporations it is very difficult for untenured sawmills to obtain a reliable supply of wood further they have control of the small amount of timber that is available on the market thru price fixing At the very least the lack of a free market place for logs has severely curtailed the development of a large and innovative secondary manufacturing sector

- **There has been a shift from the high quality “old Growth” wood products to lower quality second growth**

The BC forest model has been built on the rapid liquidation of old growth and establishment of rapid growth Silva culture regimes well this model works in some eco systems such as the uniform age and species of some of the interior plateau it does not fit well with the diverse forest in other areas of our province

This puts BC in competition with many other international producers that have much faster growing cycles and much lower production costs

What should we do

1. Diversify Forest Land Tenure system

There should be major tenure reform TFLs and TSAs should be reduced by about 50% and broken down to smaller forest land tenures models like community forests, woodlots, woodland tenures and timber sales available to logging families communities and First Nations

2. Develop free and open log markets for all BC crown timber

Open log markets must be established crown timber must go thru the open market Forest companies with tenure cannot hold so much tenure that they can control the market Log exports need to be closely monitored and close scrutiny of any export of logs imperative There must be no waste open market of that fiber which is not being utilized by the primary harvester must be made available to other industry players

3. Allocate portions of forest land to long rotation high quality yields

Allowing a portion of our forests to grow more slowly and become higher value logs will diversify and help us compete globally and slow the rate of cuts on sensitive landscapes selective harvesting practices must be introduced where diversity can be attained

How to reform tenure

Restructuring and reallocating existing tenure is going to be our greatest challenge. Despite the fact that TFL rights were generally granted at no charge to forest companies, TFL cutting rights do have value. Value has been accrued in a number of different ways:

- Value for the investment in public owned infrastructure such as roads log dumps and bridges, however to a large extent these have already been compensated for through the stumpage appraisal system.
- Value for equipment for management of the tenure
- Since TFL cutting rights were never actually purchased from the crown it can be reasonably argued that any accrued value is limited to direct investments in the TFL itself. The crown therefore, should not have to compensate TFL holders for earning potential or profits not realized. Companies cannot be compensated for loss of cheap or subsidized timber
- However some supply agreements may be needed in the short term to mitigate the effects of going to a free market wood supply where the value of timber will be higher.

Developing a free log market system in BC

Log marketing in BC is a complicated aspect of the industry and one that has remained unchanged for many years. A stronger market plan which maximizes the value of the log will ultimately strengthen the industry in BC as well as give far better return to the crown for our resource. The rulings in favor of the American tariffs would no longer be applicable and that revenue stream would then be available to the crown. *(Industry having holdings in both countries, which includes most of our major licensees, are in a win win situation with the present system the only losers are the owners of the resource)*

The necessary characteristics for a free and open market system are as follows:

1. Product definition: linked to specific fiber supply
2. Competitive pricing
3. Priority to BC companies
4. Planned central coordination
5. Promotion: describing the products and prices to the market place
The market and be both real and virtual

The role of the MOF Inspectors/enforcers

The MOF must maintain its mandate as directed by the Forest Act by monitoring and auditing the forest practices of its tenure holders. The MOF will report the audit findings to the public on an annual basis.

Foresters< whether public or private will also monitor and advise tenure holders and communities to ensure adequate landscape level planning, protection of biodiversity, and habitat protection are addressed.

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Submitted by
Chris Meller- Comments from
RPF re Note
to Policy Paper
on Forestry

1. Invest in genetic deployment. There should not be a stand within 50 km of a highway that has less than 40% genetic gain; for an extra 1-2 pennies per tree. 45% genetic gain is available in spruce today, this yields a stand that has 370 m³ / ha at 60 years, a 300 m³ / year stand at 45 years vs a natural stand that has 250 at 60 years. This is really a question of ROI, the magnitude of that ROI, when that Return starts to become available and how long that return lasts. These are the true questions that need to be grappled with.

2. Invest in inventory. How can you sell something if you don't know what you have? Why would someone invest if they don't have confidence in what you are selling?.....lack of knowledge creates risk. Why should it take 5 years to get an "up to date" inventory of the lakes TSA?

3. Support investments in the best technology, in all sectors....this will in turn support utilization of the forest on a business basis. And better technology means business that is producing a better margin for their products and therefore able to "reach further". Can be done through taxation credits or sustainability grants, etc.

4. Support markets, again about businesses increasing margin, continue to provide the framework for that to happen. Support market development and maintaining existing markets. Increased margin equals an ability to reach farther.

5. All of these things need leadership, that means having a vision, acting on it and holding those who have been "hired" to manage accountable. Make the management environment simple, responsive.....set a few rules, I.e. No shirt, no shoes, no service.....then get out of the way and let business do it's thing. Why does it take 5 months to get a cp? This limits investment and doesn't retain people capital, therefore decreasing innovation, technology and entrepreneurial spirit and therefore shrinks the timber supply to "what has always been done".

In summary: you need to know your land base; you need to make smart investments in your land base, you want the best companies deploying the best capital (technology) with access to the best markets making the most margin, contributing to GDP and job creation and you want a management team that acts like a third world shopkeeper to carry out your vision!

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Resolutions Detail

Year	Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
2011	B80	Wildland Interface Hazards on Crown Land	Bulkley-Nechako RD

Resolution Text

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and its regulations govern the activities of forest and range licensees in BC; AND WHEREAS it has been identified that 685,000 hectares in British Columbia are considered at high risk of an interface fire; AND WHEREAS some funding is available through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan program to mitigate risk from wildfire in communities and surrounding Crown lands; AND WHEREAS local governments, in particular, regional districts which have large geographical areas and highly dispersed residences are unable to contribute their portion of funding (dollars or in-kind), in order to access program funding, nor do they have the capacity or legislative authority to manage Crown land interface areas: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government, through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, to utilize its existing capacity within BC Timber Sales to have pine beetle infestation areas harvested in those interface areas wherein licensees have determined that they will not be harvesting in order to abate wildland interface hazards on Crown land.

Convention Decision

Endorsed

Executive Decision

Committee Decision

Provincial Response

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations With contributions from the federal government, the Province has provided \$62 million since 2004 to help local governments prepare community wildfire protection plans and complete on-the-ground work to reduce the interface wildfire risk. There is no requirement for local governments to treat Crown land; however, communities have the flexibility to include sections of abutting Crown property if they would like to have it treated as part of their community wildfire protection plan. Funding for these projects is provided under the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, based on cost-sharing formulas that recognize local governments' in-kind donations. When

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they are not fighting wildfires, Wildfire Branch suppression crews will also conduct fuel treatments on Crown lands to support community wildfire prevention. BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was established with a mandate to provide the cost and price benchmarks for timber harvested from public land in British Columbia. While BCTS may conduct harvests in some of the affected areas adjacent to communities to seek benchmarks, it is beyond their mandate to harvest all stands adjacent to communities. The Province agrees that it is vital that all communities, regardless of location, undergo the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process and complete the identified fire management activities and fuel reduction treatments, particularly where beetle infestations have increased the risk. The ministry is aware of the concerns about fuel treatments on Crown Lands adjacent to communities. The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, composed of UBCM, the First Nations Emergency Services Society and staff from Wildfire Branch, continues to assess funding and treatment options for Crown lands adjacent to communities.

Federal Response**Other Response**

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Resolutions Detail

Year	Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
2010	B98	Timber Supply Constraints	Vanderhoof

Resolution Text

WHEREAS since 2004 the constraints on the interior forest districts have increased to where they now negatively impact the timber supply, resulting in a shortage of fibre supply threatening the loss of jobs, which would be devastating to the local economies; AND WHEREAS before the full effect of the mountain pine beetle was understood, constraints on the forest, in particular visual quality objectives and wildlife tree patches, were applied having a negative impact on local mill's longevity and operations in their traditional areas: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Minister of Forests insures that there is a comprehensive cost benefit analysis completed a long with a cumulative impact assessment on the current impacts of established constraints, in particular the constraints of visual quality objectives and wildlife tree patches.

Convention Decision

Endorsed

Executive Decision

Committee Decision

Provincial Response

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Mines The Ministry of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines is committed to "filling the gap" or mitigating the expected downfall in the mid-term timber supply result ing from the mountain pine beetle epidem ic. In addition to actions like enhanced silviculture, and extending the "shelf-life" of dead pine, the mini stry is also exploring other ideas, including relaxing forest cover constraints, such as visual quality objectives, and increasing the size of the timber harvesting land base by adding low-volume stands. The Prince George Timber Supply Area is a good example. Recent analysis found that timber supply could be increased by five per cent – or 324,000 cubic metres per year – by removing visual quality objectives. A more complete analysis in the Prince George Timber Supply Area will be ready this fall. Changing some constraints may require legal or policy changes, which will involve public and First Nations consultations. Licensees also have to consider how changing the constraints

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affects their sustainable forest practices certification and ability to market wood products.

Federal Response

Other Response

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