



July 24, 2019

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development

Via email only: PMFLProgramReview@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Donaldson:

Thank you to the Forest Tenures Branch staff who met with members from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors, City of Port Alberni City Council and staff on June 27, 2019 to discuss the Private Managed Forest Land Program review.

On behalf of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors we provide you the following input related to the Private Managed Forest Land Program (PMFL) Review.

| PMFL Review Topics | ACRD Concern | ACRD Recommendation |
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| <p>Program Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production 2) Encourage sustainable forest management practices, including protecting key public environmental values. | <p>Goal #2. Absence of measures to ensure forest management is sustainable.</p> | <p>Creation of goals to measure sustainability, such as formation of an Annual Allowable Cut for distinct geographic areas.</p> |
| <p>PMFL Review Topic Management Objectives for Public Environmental Values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Soil conservation 2) Critical wildlife habitat 3) Fish habitat 4) Drinking water quality 5) Reforestation | <p>ACRD Concern 2) <u>Critical wildlife habitat</u> Measures only apply if survival of a species is at risk when there is insufficient suitable habitat found on Crown lands (<i>PMFLR Section 5(1)(a)(ii)</i>). This strategy puts significant constraint on the Crown Land base without managing wildlife across all wildlife habitat areas.</p> | <p>ACRD Recommendation 2) Employ critical wildlife habitat strategies equally across Crown and Private Forest Lands to better manage wildlife where it is located, regardless of land ownership. 3) Utilize Crown Land legislation for the protection of fish habitat on private lands.</p> |

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| | <p>ACRD Concern</p> <p>3) <u>Fish habitat</u> Measure for the protection of fish habitat are minimal and would be better protected using the same requirements in the <i>Forest Planning and Practices Regulation</i>.</p> <p>4) <u>Drinking water quality</u> protections (<i>PMFLCR Section 14.1 (1) & (2)</i>) do not provide any protections for drinking water intakes such as buffers to prevent damage to infrastructure, other than restrictions on road building near water intakes (<i>PMFLR Section 20</i>). <i>PMFLCR Section 25</i> requires a holder of a licensed waterworks intake to demonstrate a reduction in water quality has occurred, which is a reactionary approach to a problem that could negatively impact residents and agriculture operations that rely on water intakes. July 1/19 amendment to the <i>PMFLCR</i> states that “forest activities must not have an adverse impact to drinking water”, but does not apply if the water intake doesn’t have written consent of the landowner. Many intakes in the Alberni Valley are historic predating the removal of the private lands from TFL’s. Waterworks intakes for drinking water should all be protected.</p> <p>No requirements in legislation for mandatory community watershed assessments.</p> | <p>ACRD Recommendation</p> <p>4) Create buffers around licensed intakes for harvesting activities to protect intakes. Change <i>PMFLCR Section 14.1</i> to remove section (2) which makes for the protection of drinking water not apply if written landowner consent is not received. Enforce that private forest land managers are proactive in ensuring that water quality is not impacted, rather than having the reactionary approach of requiring the waterworks intake holder demonstrate that water quality have been impacted.</p> <p>Request that new objectives be added as follows:</p> <p>Request that Management Objectives for Public Environmental Values be expanded to include watershed management including the preparation of community watershed assessments that are shared with local water purveyors.</p> <p>Request that Management Objectives for Public Environmental Values be expanded to include utilization standards ensuring more fibre is recovered rather than burned, improving air quality in the Alberni Valley.</p> |
| <p>PMFL Review Topic Regulatory Framework for Environmental Values: Legislation, regulations, policies, guidelines, processes and organizational structures, audits and reviews of the Managed</p> | <p>ACRD Concern ‘Consent Agreements’ entered between the Managed Forest Council and a Landowner to address contraventions of legislation have very low associated penalties (\$1000-\$5000), although penalties for</p> | <p>ACRD Recommendation Utilize penalties that are a deterrent from contravening the legislation.</p> |

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| Forest Council | 'Determinations' can carry a penalty up to \$25,000. Low penalties may not be a strong enough deterrent. | |
| PMFL Review Topic Incentives for Participation in Program. Key benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Opportunity for lower property assess values and taxes 2) Landowners have the right to harvest trees & local government cannot adopt bylaws or require permits that would restrict forest management activities | ACRD Concern N/A | ACRD Recommendation N/A |
| PMFL Review Topic Disincentives for Exit from the Program: Exit fees are applied when land is removed from the Managed Forest Land Class within 15 years. Most private forest has been classified beyond 15 years, and is now eligible for withdrawal without application of the exit fee. | ACRD Concern N/A | ACRD Concern N/A |
| Out of Scope Topics (These issues have already been, or are in the process of being addressed, as part of other government initiatives) | | |
| Topic Public Access to Private Managed Forest Land | ACRD Concern ACRD is not aware of any government initiatives addressing public access to private managed forest land. When the removal of private lands from TFL 44 & TFL 39 was authorized, the authorization was subject to certain terms & conditions set out in a letter dated July 9, 2004 that stated: "Access (Road Systems). Weyerhaeuser will | ACRD Recommendation The province initiates discussions with Mosaic Forest Management Ltd and local governments with respect to recreational access to and/or through Private Lands. |

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| | maintain access for the public, industrial roads users and aboriginal groups". The public does not have predictable recreational access to Provincial Recreation sites including Lowry Lake, Labour Day Lake, Father & Son Lake, and Strathcona Provincial Park. Access to Mt. Arrowsmith Regional Park is restricted to weekend access only, contrary to historical agreement. | |
| Topic Deletion of managed forest land from Tree Farm Licences, Woodlots or Community Forest Agreements | ACRD Concern The deletion of private lands from Tree Farm Licences in 2004 has had significant repercussions on the residents of the Alberni Valley, with respect to how the forest lands are managed and accessed. | ACRD Recommendation The province initiates discussions with Mosaic Forest Management Ltd and local governments with respect to recreational access to and/or through Private Lands. |

Sincerely,



John Jack
ACRD Chairperson