

Thank you for the opportunity to write regarding the review of the Private Managed Forest Lands Program. Please note that my comments are informed by over 39 years working in BC as a marine and fisheries biologist (4 years consulting and 35 years for the Federal Government).

One of my main interests for PMFL is to ensure that fish and wildlife resources are adequately protected during forest operations. In this regard, it is critical that harvesting on PMFL have maximum riparian buffers along streams, rivers and oceans to protect fish and their habitat. In addition roads and crossings need to be built in a manner to prevent sediment laden water and other pollutants from entering watercourses and that stream crossings be built to provide sufficient water flow to allow fish migration and prevent upstream and downstream erosion. Community watersheds need to have a high level of protection from PMFL to ensure drinking water is not impacted during logging practices.

The current approach of allowing logging companies to self monitor regarding adherence to regulations is in my view flawed and does not allow for sufficient oversight of logging operations. The province of BC needs to hire more natural resource officers to work with private land logging companies to ensure sustainable forest practices are followed.

As a frequent traveler around BC , I feel that there needs be more consideration of protecting view corridor to reduce the visual impacts of logging in BC, where nature tourism is a huge driver of the economy province-wide. This can be achieved by providing large buffers between major highways and logging activity and taking into account the visual impact of logging on our tourist routes in forest plans. Given today's technology using satellite imagery, GIS software and Digital Elevation Models, this should be an easy task that BC Government staff could lead so that private logging companies know in advance where viewscapes need to be maintained.

I am also deeply concerned about the continuing harvesting of old growth forests in our province on either public or privately managed lands. These forests are unique and irreplaceable, allow for excellent carbon capture, are home to many species at risk, and are a huge source of pride and identity to BC citizens. This practice has to stop so that the remaining 5% of old growth forest is protected and sustained for future generations.

In summary, as a minimum, PMFL should be subject to same level of protection and regulation as public land and receive the same if not more oversight from Government resource officers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce J. Reid