

Quad Riders ATV Association of British Columbia

PO Box 146

Vanderhoof, BC, V0J 3A0

Head Office 250 554 7823 Toll Free 1 866 766 7823

www.atvbc.ca



VIA EMAIL: PMFLProgramReview@gov.bc.ca

July 22, 2019

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
PO Box 9049 Stn Prv Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

As the provincial organization representing the interests of over 125,000 registered ATV riders in British Columbia, the Quad Riders ATV Association of BC (ATVBC) is pleased to respond to the request for engagement regarding the Private Managed Forest Land Program Review.

Upon review of the Background documents¹ posted on the engagement site and referenced below, ATVBC would like to respond to the survey questions herein and provide further recommendations.

ATVBC supports revising the broad program goals for the Private Managed Forest Land Program to include consideration of recreation values to better align with the social, economic and environmental conditions that have changed in the last 16 years since the Private Managed Forest Land Act was introduced in 2003.

The *Managed Forest Land*² background document identifies that much of the private forest land in BC is located near communities on productive land that is highly valued for multiple resources including timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, drinking water, and recreation.

Forest activity conducted under the Forest and Range Practices Act and regulations establishes objectives for 11 resource values including recreation however forest activity under the Private Managed Forest Land Act establishes only 5 key public environmental values excluding recreation³.

While FRPA sets out objectives and regulations for 11 resource values including recreation, recreation is still somewhat of an orphaned value under FRPA as it is a forest resource however not part of forestry or range activities and does not have its own legislation and government program to fully manage its diverse activities therefore ATVBC suggests legislation be developed and integrated into the current regulatory framework to better manage recreation values on crown land and private managed forest land.

ATVBC supports improved planning and regulations for recreation resource values to mitigate the impacts of recreation on forestry activities while protecting access to recreation resources, and as such, look forward to the findings in the upcoming Forest Practices Board Managing Forest Recreation Resources Values Under FRPA Special Report.

ATVBC suggests additional benefits or incentives in the program to encourage landowner participation would be that approved expenses incurred by the landowner to facilitate public recreation access, be offset by the Province in an adjustment to the taxation of the property resulting in a further reduction of property taxes.

With over one million hectares, representing roughly 22% of the private land in BC, classed as managed forest and increasing population levels in areas near large tracts of private managed forest land, it is more critical than ever that recreation resources are given due consideration which may involve crossing, or recreating on, privately held forest land to access lakes, streams, creeks and the many other natural attractions in beautiful BC.

We would like to thank the Province of BC for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Private Managed Forest Land Program and look forward to continuing to work with you to enhance and protect recreation values while balancing the needs of the private managed forest land.

Sincerely,



Ralph Matthews, President
Quad Riders ATV Association of BC (ATVBC)

¹Private Managed Forest Land Program Review Background Documents
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/privatemanagedforest/background/>

²Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, *Managed Forest Land*
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/privatemanagedforest/history>

³Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, *Regulation of Managed Forest Land*
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/privatemanagedforest/managed-forest-land-regulation>