

Dear Minister Donaldson,

I would like to resubmit an updated copy of proposed solutions from back country access meetings my office hosted for consideration as part of the audit of the private managed forest land regime.

Yours truly,

Scott Fraser, MLA

Mid Island-Pacific Rim

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with the Provincial Government, through the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD);

- investigate amending the Private Forest Land to include provisions for recreational use
- place covenants on future land sales for public access for recreational use
- investigate the use of legislation for access to provincial parks
- investigate possible legislation created to further protect companies from liability laws. An example would be Denmark's common sense law
- investigate possible tax breaks for land owner companies for costs associated with maintaining and managing public access areas
- look at possible purchase or acquisition of land for parks and access to parks
- look into treating main lines to provincial parks as crown land
- look into management of the back country paid by the public via taxes
- implementing a similar system to Wisconsin under the Forest Crop Law (FCL). Landowners that are under the FCL are required to permit public access to the land for hunting and recreation, in return land enrolled under the FCL is exempt from property taxes.

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with the local government, through municipalities, regional districts and nations;

- look into waiving dump fees on a regular basis (weekly, monthly, bi-monthly) to avoid illegal dumping in the backcountry
- look into modifying existing dumping laws to increase fines. Use this increase to offer incentives for people to report illegal dumping

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with the companies;

- investigate making designated user access areas
- update signage with a reporting hotline for people who witness abuse on their lands
- look into implementing a new and improved reporting system for non-compliance

- investigate bringing back the light systems on logging roads; red means active logging, amber means possible activity – proceed with caution, and green means okay and safe to proceed
- investigate the possibility of a registry program where members of the public register their vehicle information with the company which promotes accountability

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with the companies and FLNRORD to;

- look into providing individuals to long term permits for camping and recreational land use
- work together to provide education to the public and user groups about safe access, issues concerning seasonal usage and logging practices
- investigate the use of a dedicated corridor through private land to give the public access to provincial parks. This access would be 24/7 access, with consideration to fire season

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with companies, FLNRORD and local governments to work together to;

- ensure that gates on road used for emergency routes are left open all year around
- investigate the use of access agreements with a larger scope. Instead of an access agreement with use groups, the access agreement would be either the regional district, local council, or provincial government

Our office would like to share the following proposed solutions with the companies and user groups to work together to;

- explore the option of implementing a trail patrol program similar to citizens on patrol. These patrols would help monitor and manage the back country. The patrols would also assist with clean up and enforcement of safety measures. This would include utilizing the various user groups to be the eyes and ears to report problem users
- identify which access points are most utilized. This would end with the companies possibly restricting the number of main access points and support these access points with cameras and/or security