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November 21, 2006

Shane Neukomm  
PG SFMP Chair  
Carrier Lumber Ltd.  
4722 Continental Way  
Prince George BC V2N 5S5

Dear Mr. Neukomm:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2006, enquiring about access management in the Prince George Forest District.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, has the responsibility for land use planning at a strategic level. At the provincial level, ILMB is directed by a committee of Deputy Ministers from the natural resource agencies.

I am unable to address the role of all government agencies in the very broad issue of access management. However, I can outline how the Northern Region of ILMB envisions our role in access management.

The ILMB plans for land use at a strategic level. In the Prince George Forest District, this is done through the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs) and the setting of legal objectives. Where thorough investigation of issues determines a business/environmental case can be made and supported by other resource agencies, an appropriate plan or objective can be considered to address the identified issues.

Within the last few years there has been one access management issue identified and discussed for the Prince George Forest District. The issue identified was with current access management operations and noted increase in grizzly bear mortality in the northwest part of the District. This is still in the concept stage and has been discussed at the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRPM) table.

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Before a new SRMP or legal objective would be considered, we would require clear indication that the access issue(s) is of strategic nature (not operational). Also it would be necessary to ensure the plan/objective has the support of other resource agencies and that the issue(s) is not covered by existing forest access policy.

It was not clear to me from your letter what the issue(s) you have with respect to access management. There is a very broad spectrum of issues involving resource road access and access management. Depending on what the specific access issues are, there may be certain government agencies and/or industries that are involved or responsible.

If the issue(s) is directly related to road maintenance or deactivation, we do not see this as a strategic planning function. There are government policies in place that direct those activities and they are the mandate of other government agencies and / or industry proponents. A fair number of issues that have been raised by the Prince George public, in the past, involve permits and processes addressed in the *Forest Act*, *Forest Service Road Use Regulation*, *Forest and Range Practices Act*, *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* or *Forest Road Regulation*.

The following excerpt from the ABCFP Forest Legislation and Policy Reference Guide 2006 may assist in outlining different roles and responsibilities concerning construction and permitting of roads. This is provided to assist the Public Advisory Group within a better understand of access management.

*Road Permits authorize a holder to construct new roads or maintain existing roads. Consistent with the transition to a results-based regime under FRPA, the MOFR district manager or timber sales manager will not be approving operational decisions. It is the Applicant, or forest licensee, who is accountable for the decision and must exercise their own due diligence in the methods they apply to achieve the necessary results.*

*The district manager has the authority to granting road use permits for industrial use of forest service roads. The district manager must be satisfied the permit holder (e.g. forest licensee) use of the road will not adversely affect other authorized users of the road, cause inordinate disturbance to the natural environment, or compromise a Forest Stewardship Plan.*

*The Forest Service Road (FSR) Use Regulation governs the use of forest service roads. Forest service roads are not considered a public highway as defined under the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA); however, some of the provision of the MVA do apply to FSRs.*

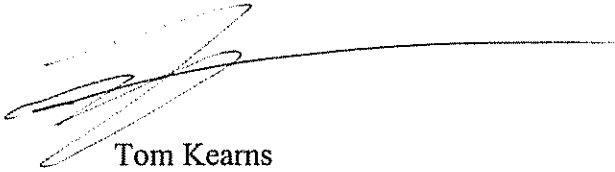
*Under the Forest and Range Practices Act forest road activities will deliver the results and strategies in approved operational plans. Professionals (e.g. working for forest licensees or BC Timber Sales) will select appropriate practices that deliver the*

*results, strategies and practice requirements set out in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation.*

In closing, I would suggest that specifically identify the access issue(s) and invite someone qualified to share information at a future meeting.

Thank you for your enquiry and correspondence on this challenging and diverse topic.

Yours truly,



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Integrated Land Management Bureau

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