



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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Statement: Forest Practices Board Report on Range Use

The BC Cattlemen's Association feels the Forest Practices Board report released last week strengthens the Association's request to establish a set of Best Management Practices that are specific to ranching.

The Association feels that changes are needed to the way that the Forest & Range Practices Act was implemented to make range planning more meaningful to agreement holders. The report recommends replacing Range Use Plans with a set of clear practice requirements. The Association has been advocating for the Ministry of Forests and Range to manage range lands by a set of realistic, achievable best practices that are specific to our industry. We will continue to work with Ministry staff to identify the set of approved practices.

The report identified that many approved Range Use Plans were missing required information. It is important not to misinterpret this as an indication of poor range practices. Range Agreement holders work closely with local Ministry of Forests and Range staff to ensure they are meeting agreed upon grazing objectives.

The report also recommends additional training for tenure holders. Last year, the Association proposed a cost-shared Range Development Fund to government which included a component for 'extension services' for ranchers.

When it comes to rangeland management and planning there are many variables that are beyond the ranchers' control, such as uncontrolled wildlife grazing/browsing, drought, oil & gas development and forest fires. A good working relationship between ranchers and their Ministry of Forests and Range Agriologist helps quickly resolve situations where planned activities need to be altered.

Ranchers are proud to be stewards of our rangeland resources and a well-managed resource benefits all of society.

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