



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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March 17, 2023

Eamon O'Donoghue
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests
Bag 5000
3726 Alfred Avenue Smithers, BC VOJ 2N0
Email: FLNR.AssociateDM@gov.bc.ca

BCCA File 2023-017
Sent by Email

Subject: Forest Landscape Planning

Dear Sir,

The BC Cattlemen's Association was encouraged by the Premier's recent announcement of the start of eight new Forest Landscape Plans in British Columbia. As our members are typically, significant Crown land users we have always supported planning as the best way to ensure the needs of all Crown land users are recognized and balanced with the needs of other users.

As these plans are started, we cannot over emphasize the importance of having range tenure holder participation at both the Planning and Technical tables.

Ranching, range use and the knowledge of animal habits and needs are typically not well understood by other stakeholders. It would be very concerning if decisions regarding ranching and Crown range use are made by well-intentioned but unqualified participants.

Further, other than First Nation peoples, it is typically only the ranching community that is concerned about ground vegetation and invasive plants. Ranchers understand the importance of maintaining a healthy cover of understory vegetation to maintain soil biology and water holding capability. This is an important but often over looked aspect that could benefit good decision making at both the Planning and Technical tables.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you. Please contact our General Manager Kevin Boon at (250) 573-3611 if you agree that a discussion would be beneficial.

Yours truly,

Brian Thomas, President
British Columbia Cattlemen's Association