



Reference: 277826

2024-02-26

VIA EMAIL: bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca

Brian Thomas, President
British Columbia Cattlemen's Association
Agri Centre #4 10145 Dallas Drive
Kamloops, British Columbia, V2C 6T4

Dear Brian Thomas:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2024, regarding ecosystem restoration. In your letter you highlighted the ongoing provincial efforts in ecosystem restoration being delivered through various collaborative partnerships. You also advocated for additional ecosystem restoration projects to be delivered within the province, specifically within the Rocky Mountain Resource District.

As you correctly pointed out, the Ecosystem Restoration (ER) program is an important contributor towards enhancing the climate change resiliency of our forest and grassland ecosystems.

Many trailblazing concepts developed within the program have been instrumental in shaping the Provincial Wildfire Risk Reduction program, the Wildfire Recovery Program, and has significantly aided in the establishment of the Cultural and Prescribed Fire program. Through these strategically targeted programs, we also continue to achieve numerous ecosystem restoration goals.

The Range Branch's ER program is actively maintaining key partnerships and exploring additional funding sources to expand our efforts. Recently, the Range Branch has initiated discussions with the Rocky Mountain Resource District to explore future collaborative opportunities to further support ER plans and projects.

We greatly value your ongoing support and look forward to the local ranching sector's participation as we consider expanding our areas of focus.

Should you have any further questions or wish to engage in a more detailed discussion, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Ecosystem Restoration Specialist, Al Neal, at Ph. (236) 527-2013.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa Sanderson
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Christopher Cooper, Director, Timber, Range and Economics Branch
Al Neal, Senior Ecosystem Restoration Specialist, Timber, Range and Economics Branch