



FACTSFAX

The Central Interior Logging Association's Weekly Harvesting Industry Update

www.cila.ca
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Also serving members of the Northwest Loggers, Interior Logging Association, Western Silvicultural Contractors and BC Woodlot Owners

Auditor General Report on Timber Management Not Positive

BC's Auditor General, John Doyle, has tabled a Report on the government's management of BC's forests, and it is not very positive. The purpose of the audit was to determine whether the Ministry is achieving its forest objectives for timber, by asking three questions:

1. Has the Ministry clearly defined its forest objectives for timber?
2. Does the Ministry have the management practices it needs to achieve its objectives for timber?
3. Does the Ministry appropriately monitor and report its timber results against its timber objectives?

In his conclusion, Doyle says, "The ministry's legislated mandate includes encouraging maximum productivity of the forest resources and making stewardship decisions that address both immediate and long-term economic and social benefits derived from British Columbia's forests. We expected the ministry to have developed strategic objectives for timber to demonstrate how it will achieve its legislated mandate over the immediate and long-term. These would serve as a frame of reference to assess the results achieved.

We found that the ministry has not developed strategic timber objectives that guide decision-making and demonstrate the outcomes it is pursuing at the provincial level. This lack of clarity is of particular concern given the significant issues and risks currently facing British Columbia's forests."

The AG has made six sweeping recommendations:

1. Develop a plan for directing forest stewardship that establishes clearly defined timber objectives and stewardship principles to guide decision-making, actions, timeframes and assessment of results
2. Ensure that investments in silviculture are sufficient to achieve long-term timber objectives, and that they align with stewardship principles and are cost-effective.
3. Ensure that restocking activities result in the establishment of forests that are consistent with long-term timber objectives.
4. Ensure that information systems reflect actual forest conditions in priority management areas.
5. Ensure the collective and individual components of its oversight framework are sufficient to ensure the achievement of long-term timber objectives.
6. Develop and implement appropriate performance measures to demonstrate progress toward achieving long-term timber objectives and report publicly on the results.

Next week's FactsFax will outline the government's response to the recommendations. On a side note, Auditor General reports are not binding to government.

For a copy of the full report, go to: http://www.bcauditor.com/files/publications/2012/report_11/report/OAGBC_FLNRO-Management-Timber.pdf, or call the CILA office.

CILA Board Meeting Next Friday

All CILA members and interested contractors are urged to attend next Friday's meeting of the Board of Directors, as Reynold Hert and Peter Lineen from the BC Forest Safety Council are attending to **hear contractors' opinions of the SAFE Companies program**. WorkSafeBC will also be there to explain their **latest initiative on lock-outs**, as well as representatives of the Pacific Trails Pipeline, to explain how CILA members can get work on that project, starting this summer. The meeting starts at 9:30, with an announcement re: the Carbon Offset Coop by Environment Minister Terry Lake. Please RSVP to kathleen@cila.ca or 250-562-3368 so we can plan lunch.

Nilkitkwa FSR Roadblock

Several Smithers area logging contractors are being denied access to their logging blocks and equipment due to a blockade on the Nilkitkwa Forest Service Road, set up by some First Nations people who say they oppose logging in the area near Fort Babine. The contractors involved have already lost two weeks' work, and there is no end in sight at this point. A consultation and revenue sharing agreement was signed by the Band in December. This roadblock is not supported by the Lake Babine Nation, nor by all the residents of Fort Babine.

The Ministry of Forests and the Band have been working together to get resolution to the issue, but the situation makes you wonder how a couple of people can just arbitrarily stop work from being done, and deny contractors their right to make a living, just because they want to.

There are at least six contractors affected by the blockade, who are scheduled to log 190,000m³ in that area by April. More than two weeks shut down at this time of year will have serious impact on the contractors, ranging from severe economic challenges to keeping their employees. The CILA is calling on all parties to sort out their differences and let the loggers, many of whom are First Nations, get back to work.

New Woodlot Available near Quesnel

The woodlot includes 1,175 hectares of Crown land approximately 35 kilometres south of Quesnel and has a proposed allowable annual cut of 1,479 cubic metres. Most of the woodlot is a mix of fir and aspen.

Applications will be accepted until Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Further details about the new licence are available from the Thompson Okanagan Region office in Kamloops or at: <https://www23.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do>

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