CHILLIWACK NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

ALL ROAD USE PERMIT HOLDER BULLETIN

May 2, 2017

Traffic Control Devices and Access Management - Responsibility

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarification and reference to legislative requirements for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices/structures on crown lands.

During the past few years there has been an increased level of concern expressed from the general public, clients and other natural resource users over access restrictions on forest roads.

Government has a policy of maintaining the existing levels of free public access to resource roads on Crown Land. Closing of a road or restriction of its use **must** be approved by the District Manager. Closures and restrictions are balanced so that natural resource values are coordinated and integrated as required to achieve the purposes of section 4(b) and (c) of the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act.*

If a traffic control device is proposed on a Forest Service Road, authorization by the District Manager to Construct Works within a Forest Service Right-of-Way is required.

Responsibilities:

It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure that permits are in place. All companies and organizations are required to supply information related to existing traffic control devices that are on crown lands. A statement of general conformance signed by a professional must be submitted upon installation and removal.

If a gate is installed the District office also requires to be loaned two copies of all keys. The ministry respectfully recognizes that these are the proponent's gates and will only authorize use of loaned gate keys to government personnel and its agents for government related business. Where possible, the holder of the authorization should attempt to reduce overall numbers of keys by using keyed-alike locks throughout their operational area.

Access restrictions are not to stop the public or organizations from using areas but rather controlling access. Management of access is generally intended as a balance that enables access for recreational and other natural resource activities, while accounting for the potential negative impacts from the minority who choose to misuse our forest lands. In many cases, users should be able to gain access by registering and obtaining a key for the locked gate from licensee contacts.

Section 22.2 of *FRPA Division 2 - Roads* provides for control devices on Forest Service Roads and Road Permit Roads, under the proviso the purpose meets the following

criteria per 22.2(2)*(c): use of the road under subsection (1) would likely*

(i) cause significant damage to the road,
(ii) cause significant sediment delivery, or
(iii) endanger property, public health or public safety,

The minister's authority has been delegated to the District Manager.

Section 6 of the FSR Use Regulation **Traffic Control Devices** also provides the district manager to authorize gates and traffic restrictions on Forest Service Roads.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a traffic control device may be used in any of the following ways:

(a) to close the road to all traffic or to specified categories or sizes of motor vehicles including those not engaged in commercial activities;
(b) to close the road totally, or for a specified period of time;
(c) to regulate the movement of traffic;
(d) to require the use of 2-way radio systems during certain hours in order to coordinate the movement of traffic, including specifying the radio frequency to be used on portions of forest service roads;
(e) to restrict the use of vehicles having characteristics that could damage the forest service road or create a safety risk;
(f) to warn drivers of hazardous or unusual conditions existing on forest service roads.

(3) A person must not erect a traffic control device on a forest service road without the prior consent of the district manager in whose district the road is situated.

APPLICATION, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS:

Access Control Devices Currently Installed - Requirements

Proponents that currently have access control devices/structures installed on Forest Service Roads (FSRs) without a permit must make application to the District Manager by **July 31, 2017.** This will avoid any non-compliance actions that may result. Complete the application form attached and email to FTA.DCKDSQ@gov.bc.ca. Include as part of the application a detailed rationale as to the purpose of the access restriction and the company/organization's access control policy regarding public requests for access. Also include a location map (mapview pdf at1:20,000 scale - digital format), GPS coordinates and labelled photos of both approaches and signage.

The detailed rationale for the access restriction must include reasons for the authorization request and why other means of traffic control are not sufficient.

The proponent must show proof that the existing structures are installed and/or upgraded to district

standards by completing and submitting to the District Manager a Statement of General Conformance Form with the application.

Application Requirements

Complete the application form and email to FTA.DCKDSQ@gov.bc.ca. Information required includes map illustrating the location of the access control device (mapview pdf at1:20,000 scale - digital format) and GPS coordinates. Include a detailed rationale for the purpose of the restriction and the company/organization's access control policy. This rationale will help determine whether or not the District Manager authorizes the request. Applications without a rationale will not be accepted.

The detailed rationale for the access restriction must include reasons for the authorization request and why other means of traffic control are not sufficient.

Installation Requirements

The construction of the access control device must be carried out to the satisfaction of the District Manager in accordance with the requirements, conditions and special clauses set out under the authorization,

a) All structures must be placed in a conspicuous location, marked with permanent reflective material and be clearly visible to the operator of a motor vehicle from a safe stopping distance,
b) A GATE AHEAD or RESTRICTED ACCESS sign must be located at a safe stopping distance and clearly visible to the operator of a motor vehicle on both approaches to the gate,
c) The GATE AHEAD or RESTRICTED ACCESS sign must include contact information of the person responsible for the structure, (company name, contact name, phone number, email address),
d) A sign must be placed on the structure and must include contact information of the person responsible for the structure (company name, contact name, phone number, email address),
e) All signage must be of industrial standard as defined in the authorization,
f) All structures must have a sufficiently large turnaround location in the vicinity and must be maintained at all times,
g) Metal chain or wire rope, regardless of any covering material utilized, are deemed to be unsafe and must not be utilized.

Upon installation a Statement of General Conformance Form must be completed and submitted to the District Manager. Photos of the structure, signage and approach from various angles (digital format) must also be submitted.

Maintenance Requirements

Maintain signage and approaches along the FSR throughout the term of this authorization, as to ensure the Works will not be, or become a hazard to the users of the road,

a) The structure must be maintained to the satisfaction of the District Manager,

b) Ensure all signs are maintained and contact information is kept updated,

c) Brush signage sightlines regularly to ensure clear visibility. Keep the turnaround and both approaches clear and maintained at all times,

d) Ensure that any bridge, culvert, ditch, or other existing work affected by the **Works** are properly maintained,

e) Ensure that the FSR remains free and clear of obstructions when open to traffic, and remove debris, equipment or any other thing to allow unhindered use of the FSR,

f) If a gate is used ensure it is secured open or secured closed as not to swing freely causing safety concerns. Repair gate and other structures as needed to maintain in good working condition,

g) Access for other authorized Road Use Permit holders must be maintained.

Removal Requirements:

After completion of operations the structure and all signage, other obstructions, railings, barriers created as a result of the **Works** must be removed. Any "excavated materials" must be replaced to its original state. Do everything reasonable to remove debris, equipment or any other thing associated allowing unhindered and safe use of the FSR to resume as quickly as possible.

Upon removal a Statement of General Conformance Form must be submitted to the District Manager for approval.

If you have any questions on the above, please contact our engineering department by phone at 604-702-5700 or email at: Forests.ChilliwackDistrictOffice@gov.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Mike Peters

Digitally signed by Mike Peters
DN: cn=Mike Peters, o, ou, email=mike.peters@gov.bc.ca, c=US
Date: 2017.05.01 16:08:26 -07'00'

Mike Peters
District Manager
Chilliwack Natural Resource District