BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

File: 10350-00
10410-01

August 29, 2011

To All First Nations within the Campbell River Natural Resource District

Dear Chief and Councillors:

This letter updates the District Manager's April 14, 2008, letter (attached) that referenced the First Nations' information sharing and consultation process within the Campbell River Forest District, now the Campbell River Natural Resource District.

You will recall the noted letter discussed the complete consultation process from higher level land use plans down to operational plans, cutting permits and road permits. Forest licensees have typically initiated the consultation process for site specific permits because, in part, they are often in the best position to information share, explain their proposals and address any First Nation's concerns early on in the planning stage. In our experience, this process is most efficient for all parties, including First Nations.

As the delegated decision maker, in addition to operational plans, cutting permits and road permits, the District Manager reviews and makes determinations on issuing and replacing Special Use Permits and more recently *Land Act* tenures, and would like to make the most of the existing above mentioned information exchange processes. These permits and licences authorize activities on relatively small areas of land or water and are typically associated with industrial log handling. In the future, you or your consultation clearinghouse (if you have signed a Strategic Engagement Agreement) will see referrals coming directly from forest licensees and/or project proponents on these permits, licences and various tenures. We encourage you to engage them as early as possible in this consultation process. As previously offered, my staff are available at any stage in the process should you prefer to discuss your interests independently with the Province, or collectively with the licensee/proponent, on any given file.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Location:
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River BC

Mailing Address:
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River BC V9W 6Y7

Tel: (250) 286-9300
Fax: (250) 286-9490

Please contact me at 250-286-9300 if you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further. Alternatively, my staff Aaron Smeeth, Consultation Specialist at aaron.smeeth@gov.bc.ca or Kerri Brownie, Authorizations Officer at kerri.brownie@gov.bc.ca can be reached at the same number.

Yours truly,

Romona Blackwell, RFT
Acting District Manager

Attachment: April 14, 2008, Letter to All First Nations within the Campbell River Forest District.

pc. All Forest Licensees operating in the Campbell River Natural Resource District

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

File: 10350-00
10410-01

April 14, 2008

To All First Nations within the Campbell River Forest District

Dear Chief and Council:

This letter describes and clarifies the First Nations' information sharing and consultation process within the Campbell River Forest District, with specific regard to post-Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) information sharing (referrals).

Information sharing and consultation with First Nations is an integral component of the forest planning process, and there are several stages where First Nations input is sought. Government consults with First Nations on higher level plans such as Land and Resource Use Plans and input obtained at this level informs how developments can proceed on a broad scale. The Ministry of Forests and Range continues the consultation process with First Nations when contemplating any new forestry decisions including forest tenure, tenure renewal, and tenure replacement. Operational plans, also called Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP), are drafted by forest tenure holders (licensees), and shared with First Nations at an early stage. From the stage of drafting an FSP through to the conclusion of the formal review and comment period, input is sought from First Nations by forest licensees and the Campbell River Forest District (CRFD). Since the FSP typically does not show detailed harvest plans such as blocks and roads, most, if not all licensees, have committed to information sharing with First Nations subsequent to FSP approval, often on an annual or semi-annual basis. We fully acknowledge that strategies intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage Resources depend in part on First Nations engagement in the process. We encourage First Nations to work with licensees and/or CRFD to streamline the process by developing protocol agreements on how post-FSP information sharing will proceed, as some of you have already done.

Licensee information sharing, subsequent to FSP approval, is a part of the consultation process. It is an opportunity for First Nations to engage in discussions on site specific harvest planning information that was not available at the time of FSP development and approval. Should your First Nation prefer to consult with government independently, please contact my staff directly upon receipt of licensee referrals. Alternatively, you may prefer to meet with the licensee separately on operational matters. Please be assured, my staff are available at any

Ministry of Forests and Range
Campbell River Forest District
Location:
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River BC
Mailing Address:
370 South Dogwood Street
Campbell River BC V9W 6Y7
Tel: (250) 286-9300
Fax: (250) 286-9490

time in the process to join in meetings or hear your concerns directly. During this process, if your First Nation identifies any site specific concerns or aboriginal interests that may be impacted by the proposed operations, it is important that this information is communicated to the licensee and/or the CRFD. We can then work together to determine what options may be available to address the concerns and aboriginal interests raised. At the conclusion of those discussions I can then consider whether there has been adequate consultation and where appropriate, accommodation of those aboriginal interests that may be impacted, prior to issuing harvesting authority to the licensee.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (250)286-9330 if you have any concerns. In the future, should you want to meet to discuss a specific information sharing or consultation matter, please contact Aaron Smeeth, First Nations Liaison Officer, at (250)286-9368 or aaron.smeeth@gov.bc.ca or Gary Gwilt, Tenures Officer at (250)286-9334 or gary.gwilt@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by

Rory Annett, RPF
District Manager

pc: All Licensees within the Campbell River Forest District