



File: 15740-01
Licensee File

March 1, 2016

To: Forest Tenure Holders

Dear Licensee:

Re: Authorization to Damage and Repair a Range Development on Crown Range

The purpose of this letter is to clarify expectations of the standards and conditions for breaching fences and to provide authorization for breaching fences if these conditions are followed. This authority cancels and replaces the authority granted in December 2010 to "Modify a Range Development".

Sec 51(1)(b) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* requires anyone modifying or damaging range infrastructure to have appropriate prior authorization. The minister may prescribe conditions that must be met under Sec 51(3)(c):

51(1) Unless authorized in writing by the minister, a person must not

(b) carry out, construct, modify, remove, damage or destroy a range development on Crown range.

(3) The minister may

(c) impose pre-conditions or conditions of an authorization that the minister considers necessary or desirable, to be met by the person, including, but not limited to, requiring that the person provide security

Pursuant to Section 51, I hereby authorize you to damage and subsequently repair range developments on Crown range in the course of your forestry operations **subject to the following conditions:**

1. Unnecessary breaches weaken and shorten the lifespan of range infrastructure. The integrity of the fence must be maintained and fence damage minimized. Align cutblock boundaries to incorporate the fence into the block or completely out of the block wherever possible. Plan road crossing or skid trails to use an existing gate or short fence section. Do not create unnecessary breaches.

2. Forest licensees must contact the range licensee prior to breaching a fence if the area **or** the adjacent area has an active range tenure. If your activity results in passage through a gate, it is your responsibility to prevent cattle movement until the breach is repaired. Permanent or temporary cattleguards are the preferred option to mitigate livestock movement.
3. **Road building activities that breach a fence must be concurrent with establishing a temporary fence repair. Brace posts must be installed either side of the block road and the fence tied off to the posts and a gate or cattleguard installed at the same time. Gates or cattle guards must be installed to Ministry specifications. Specifications can be found on the district website: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dka/>**
4. Breaches and fence damage are to be repaired prior to the scheduled cattle turnout in the area or the adjacent area, unless agreement is reached with the range licensee(s) on how the breach will be managed and when it will be repaired. Damage to developments must be fixed immediately post harvest and again after any additional work on the site. All damage to range developments must be repaired as per the attached "Best Management Practices for Fence Planning and Repair and in accordance with the Kamloops Forest District Fence Specifications".
5. Temporary cattleguards must be left in place until the road is fully decommissioned and impassable for vehicles. Permanent cattleguards installed under appraisal allowance may not be relocated without the prior approval of the Range Officer.

It is important to track all damages and repair made to a range development and be prepared to submit them to a forest officer if requested.

This authority is subject to your operations within the Kamloops Timber Supply Area and where your operations overlap range tenures located in other Timber Supply areas under the administration of the Thompson Rivers Forest District. It may be varied or revoked at any time.

Failure to comply with the conditions of this authority could result in an enforcement action. Please ensure that this is circulated to your staff and consultants that are working on your behalf.

If you have questions, please call the Range Officer, Thompson Rivers Forest District, at (250) 371-6500.

Yours truly,

 Digitally signed by Rick Sommer
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o=Thompson Rivers
District, ou=FLNR,
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07:19:19 -08'00'

Rick Sommer, RPF
District Manager

Attachment

Best Management Practices for Fence Planning and Repair during Forestry Operations

February 2016

General

Once harvest operations are complete, the breach must be permanently closed by constructing a fence to the same condition or better than it was prior to damage. Fences must be built to the Thompson Rivers Forest District Fence Specifications.

- Temporary gates must be wired permanently shut and braced to specification unless agreed to by the range licensee and the access road blocked or ditched to deter the public from cutting the fence.

Range staff will provide names of qualified fence contractors upon request.

Posts and Braces

- Brace panels, no matter what condition they were in prior to your activities, will be built/rebuilt according to the attached specifications.
- Replace broken posts and braces with treated posts and braces. Local material is unacceptable.
- Loose posts and braces will be re-secured to maintain wire height and tension.
- Reconstruction must be consistent with the Thompson Rivers Forest District Fence Specifications

Wire Tension and Height

- Wire heights will be as per district fence specifications.
- Pig-tails and staples will not be used to tighten wire.
- Replace missing staples as required.
- Staples will allow movement of wire for wire tightening.
- Wire stretchers will be used to tighten barbed wire at fence corners or tie-off points. If necessary, wires will be cut and tightened in-line.
- Smooth wire fences must be re-tensioned and repaired only with smooth wire to maintain the integrity of the fence. In-line wire tighteners must be used on smooth wire.

Fence Droppers

- Replace broken droppers with treated material

Gates

- Height of gate to be the same as fence wire height and wire pre-stretched.
- Must be marked with ribbon for visibility where vehicle traffic is likely to occur.
- Gate warning signs must be posted on either side of the gate where vehicle traffic is likely to occur. Warning signs are available from Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Best Management Practices for Fence Planning and Repair during Forestry Operations

Rights of way:

- Integrity of right-of-way must be maintained to ensure ease of access for maintenance. Leaners, and logging debris are to be removed from the fence or right of way.

Seeding

- Any disturbed soil should be seeded with a Ministry approved grass seed mix at a rate of 10 kg/ha.

Cattle Guards (Regular and ATV)

- If cattle have been removed from the range area, gates associated with cattle guards are to be left open and the posts removed from the cattle guard where practical, to avoid damage in the unlikely event it is negatively impacted during road maintenance operations.
- guards are to be cleaned out as necessary immediately post-harvest

Reconstruction of Existing Fences during Maintenance Activities

- Reconstruction must be consistent with Thompson Rivers Forest District, Four Strand Barbed Wire or Five Strand Smooth wire Fence Specifications