



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Forests

Prince George
REGION
Standard Operating Procedure
Number: 20-2

SUBJECT:

**Improvements on
Hay Cutting Tenures**

CHAPTER

20

MANUAL

Range

SECTION

PURPOSE:

To establish a procedure for assessing requests for range improvements on Crown Land under a hay cutting tenure.

SCOPE:

The procedure will apply to all hay cutting tenures in the region.

RATIONALE:

Hay cutting tenures under the *Range Act* are generally designed to allow the cutting of hay from “natural” meadows. They were not designed or intended to authorize “farming” of Crown Land. Breaking native land up and seeding it to tame forage to increase hay production is not what these tenures are intended for. Improvements of these types are generally considered as major land use decisions and should be handled through normal land use planning processes. Agricultural leases, issued under the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, are the tenures intended to address most farming applications.

Improvements of a minor nature are allowed under hay cutting tenures. These are generally improvements which are intended to enhance the availability of the native forage. These improvements may include such things as minor drainage works, fencing, brush control, etc. Such improvements could be authorized under the Range Use Plans for hay cutting tenure, after the appropriate referrals have been carried out.

Major improvements, such as breaking and seeding may be considered as part of the hay cutting tenures in some circumstances. These circumstances would be ones in which the basic land use decision has already been made and the areas have already been converted to tame species. In such cases, authorizing renovation of the areas may be the best land use decision. These areas could include abandoned cultivation areas or industrial right-of-ways.

PROCEDURES:

1. Determine if the improvement is changing the land use designation of the area. (Changing a native plant community to agronomic species).
2. If the land use designation is not being changed, follow normal referral processes in dealing with the application and Range Use Plan Amendment.
3. If the land use designation is being changed, application for improvements under the hay cutting tenure will usually be denied.

DATE	ORIGINATOR (TITLE)	PAGE
February 5, 1997	Bruce Johnson, Range Specialist	1 of 1