



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Forests

Prince George
REGION
Standard Operating Procedure
Number: 2-3

SUBJECT:

**SECTION 22 RANGE ACT
DELETION OF AREA**

CHAPTER

2

MANUAL

Range/Grazing

SECTION

PURPOSE:

To outline the procedure necessary when Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing request an area to be deleted from a grazing or haycutting permit or licence in the interests of perceived “higher and better” use and, subsequently, the permitted Animal Unit Months must be reduced.

DISCUSSION:

As a consequence of the increasing demand on a limited land base, alienations under the *Land Act* have removed many areas heretofore available under forest service haycutting and grazing tenures. This is particularly true for areas such as the former Prince George Special Sales Area and the Deferred Planning Areas through-out the region that are not included in Provincial Forests.

Loss of range areas often necessitates a reduction in permitted Animal Unit Months or permitted tonnes of hay in the Ministry of Forests. To enable Crown range users to adjust their operations to such a loss notification is required – Section 22 of the *Range Act*.

Further, the payment of .20 per AUM (.60 per tonne of hay) rental, as part of the grazing (haycutting) billing is to give the tenure holder a reasonable expectation to maintain the privilege to utilize the range to that extent in the following year.

PROCEDURES:

(To be followed upon receipt of request from Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing to delete the area).

1. District to send letter to regional manager providing the following information:
 - name of tenure holder
 - description of area in permit or licence
 - areas to be deleted
 - reasons for deletion
2. Regional range officer to advise Victoria of impending deletion. Range Branch Victoria will request the minister to sign letter of notification which is sent directly to the tenure holder (with copies to regional range office and district).

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PROCEDURES (cont'd)

3. The area will be deleted from the established permit or licence area in not less than one year from the date of the minister's letter.
4. After the one year notification period an unexpired term permit or licence area must be amended to the extent of the notice.

A.U.M.'s authorized must also be amended and compensated for as is outlined in Section 24 and 25 of the *Range Act* (another S.O.P to follow on compensation).

M. J. Wilkins
Regional Manager

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