



**Forest
Practices
Board**

MITIGATION OF FORESTRY IMPACTS TO NATURAL RANGE BARRIERS

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What is the Forest Practices Board?

Independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in BC

The Board encourages:

- *Sound forest and range practices* that warrant public confidence
- *Fair and equitable* application of forest and range practice legislation
- *Continuing improvements* in forest and range practices

Mitigation of Natural Range Barriers

Forest Practices Board Special Investigation - Mitigation of Natural Range Barriers Under FRPA

1. Why are range barriers important?
2. Case studies of range barrier mitigation
3. Evaluation of measures in FSPs & WLPs
4. Factors influencing effective mitigation
5. Moving forward...

Why are range barriers important?

Herd Management & Range Stewardship

If impacted, this can lead to....

- a decline in rangeland health
- increased costs to retrieve livestock
- unplanned livestock breeding
- non-compliance with RUP or practice requirements

What does FRPA require?

- Applies to forest licensees required to have a FSP/WLP (what about holders of FLTCs?)
- Propose measures in an operational plan
- Carry out those measures
- Requirement to mitigate continues even after plan expires / licence holder removed from plan

Approach

Case Studies

- 10 case studies in 9 FLNR districts
- were the steps in mitigation effective?

Measures in Operational Plans

- 46 FSPs and 10 WLPs
- likely to lead to effective mitigation?
- are they verifiable (enforceable)?

Case Studies

Mitigation Step	Was the step effective?		
	Yes	Partially	No
Notification	6	0	4
Assessment	5	1	4
Implementation	1	5	4



Okanagan Shuswap



Quesnel



Cariboo-Chilcotin

Measures in 56 FSPs & WLPs

If the measure in the plan is followed as written, would it likely to result in good mitigation?

YES	NO
39	17

For the 17 plans, it does not mean that there will be problems with how mitigation is done.

Are the measures enforceable?

Verifiability (Enforceability)	56 Plans
Verifiable	1
Partially verifiable	31
Not verifiable	24

- Use of terms like ***consider, reasonable compromise, reasonable efforts***
- No timeframe for mitigation

Factors Limiting Effective Mitigation

- Issues with the stumpage appraisal system
- Lack of proactive forest planning
- Poor information on location of range barriers
- Cumulative harvesting & other land uses
- Cost-sharing arrangements
- Issues with guidance on managing range barriers

What did the Board recommend?

- Ensure measures in operational plans will likely be effective and are verifiable.
- Improve policies governing stumpage appraisal related to range barrier mitigation (more flexibility is required).
- Improve guidance on range barrier mitigation (e.g. what values is government intending to protect?).