
Advise to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) Advisory Board

From : Greg FLNR Rawling:EX <Greg.Rawling@gov.bc.ca> Wed, Feb 11, 2015 09:08 PM
Subject : Advise to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) Advisory Board
To : PHIL ZACHARATOS <mkmasupport@shaw.ca>, Stephanie Killam <stephkillam46@gmail.com>
Cc : Dale FLNR Morgan:EX <Dale.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>, Heather I FLNR Wiebe:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>, Laura FLNR Plante:EX <Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca>, Kevin FLNR Kriese:EX <Kevin.Kriese@gov.bc.ca>

Advise to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) Advisory Board

Dear Stephanie:

We have reflected upon recent conversations with you and some members of the Advisory Board as well as the opportunity to view a presentation by Nobi Suzuki of the University of British Columbia regarding the work he has done in the Muskwa-Kechika (MK) Management Area. As a result, we believe it would be beneficial to share our thoughts or observations to assist you and the Advisory Board with updating its Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan that focuses your limited fiscal and human resources in a direction that aligns with government priorities and expectations.

We encourage the ongoing use of tools such as Nobi Suzuki's work to assess risk in a transparent way, and to guide future work through an assessment of risk. The development of this tool could help identify which values are at greater risk, or what areas are more likely to see emerging development conflicts. Due to the limitations of the inventory, we suggest that the tool be considered as a coarse filter with input from other program experts to confirm the management and risk perspectives.

While there has been little to no industrial development in the MKMA to date we believe it is only a matter of time before a decision maker will be faced with adjudicating a development proposal within the management

area. At that time the decision maker will either turn to existing advice or guidance from the Advisory Board or to the Advisory Board itself for its advice or guidance. The large majority of the MK is designed to allow for industrial development in a way that is compatible with wildlife values in the area; the uncertainty about how those values will be integrated is a concern for the province. We believe guidance on how industry can take into account wilderness objectives, such as the Advisory Board produced for mineral exploration, can pro-actively address these concerns.

It is important to focus the work of the board, the research program, and any government actions, on the issues and areas where there is a higher risk of change to the values that are most critical to the MK.

Therefore, we suggest the Advisory Board would be highly strategic to proactively focus, over the next few years, on creating a framework or process that assists with providing meaningful, integrated, clear and measurable advice or guidance for the industries most likely to submit a development proposal in the MK. It is apparent that development of forestry in the north end of the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area is possible in the next five years. Guidance on how forestry could occur in that area in a way that is compatible with the MK values would be beneficial. Another area where there is a high probability for future development applications is in wind resources. There is an opportunity to provide guidance as to how wind resources could be developed in a way that is compatible with maintenance of high elevation caribou habitat and wilderness values.

In general, guidance is best when it is received well in advance of a proposal, when it is clear and measurable, and when it has been developed through a transparent process. As you know, fiscal and human resources continue to be challenging so whatever we can do to focus the work of the Advisory Board to assist decision makers to adjudicate development proposals that harmonize with the spirit, intent and vision for the MK, the more effective and successful we will be.

Yours Truly,

Greg Rawling, Regional Executive Director,
Omineca Natural Resource Region