

July 8, 2008

Mr. Wayne Thorp, Managing Director  
Foothills Landscape Management Forum  
Box 7352  
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1S9

Dear Mr. Thorp:

**RE: BERLAND SMOKY ACCESS PLAN**

Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) has received the Berland Smoky Access Plan submitted on June 8, 2008 by the Foothills Landscape Management Forum.

SRD has reviewed the plan and subsequently approves the identified corridors' general location to provide guidance for primary access routing within the Berland Smoky area. SRD acknowledges that primary access routes, at the time of disposition application, may be requested to be up to and including an all weather road standard. SRD further recognizes that as broad policy directions emerge from the Alberta Government (e.g., West Central Caribou Landscape Management Plan; grizzly bear recovery strategies; Land-use Framework), this plan and the associated Information Letter (enclosed), which is targeted at future land users in the area, may need to be reviewed and modified to ensure consistency with provincial direction.

With this approval, SRD provides industry with the ability to proceed with the following:

- Preparation of detailed engineering, standards, and construction up to all weather roads standard in advance of actual disposition application. Site specific proposals for actual grade and watercourse crossing locations, and environmental protection requirements, shall be submitted for any disposition within the approved corridor. Industry will determine when the road is necessary for their purposes based on integrated planning, as well as the standard for resource extraction as a result of approved timber harvest and/or acquisition of mineral rights.
- Road disposition applications within the plan area will adhere to the plan.
- At the time of disposition application, industry will be expected to provide details of required stakeholder consultation and/or notification.

Primary access roads applied for that are not within the approved corridors will require an amendment to the Berland Smoky Access Plan. The amended corridor plan will have to be submitted for approval with appropriate justification including information confirming consultation and suitability for use by other partners/industrial users in the area.

Once industry has identified the need for primary access that adheres to the plan as submitted or approved for amendment, the department will streamline the disposition review and approval process. Further evaluation of road standards and of alternative primary routing options will not be required, and further demonstration that a road is needed will not be required. Based on the site specific proposal submitted within the approved corridor, the road may be subject to site specific conditioning.

Once a road application in the primary corridor is approved, if it is not built within five years, the Minister of SRD reserves the right to cancel the Licence of Occupation on the uncompleted portion, and award it to another applicant.

Thank you for your dedicated effort in developing this plan. We look forward to continuing our work with you on integrated land management efforts across Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Selland', written in a cursive style.

Glenn Selland, Executive Director  
Land Management Branch