

June 28, 2007

Mr. James G. Snetsinger, RPF
Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests & Range
Strategic Policy & Planning Branch
2nd Floor 1520 Blanshard St
PO Box 9515 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9C2

Dear Mr. Snetsinger:

RE: Your Letter of April 26, 2007 Regarding the ABCFP's Inventory Report

I am writing in response to your letter of April 26, 2007 which you wrote in follow up to our assessment of the status of forest inventories in BC. First, I want to acknowledge the positive work you and your staff have done with forest inventories. The work currently underway is very encouraging.

The Association of BC Forest Professional's cannot understate the importance these inventories have, not only for forest management, but also for many of the other government-led initiatives such as climate change. Proper, up-to-date forest inventories are the foundations on which forest professionals make decisions and measure success. They enable our members, as stewards of the forest, to determine if they are achieving our forest stewardship obligation of sustainability.

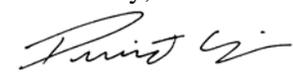
It is because our members rely so heavily on inventories that the ABCFP continues to urge government to place a higher priority on forest inventories. While we recognize the \$8 million is a significant investment, as is the provincial and federal funding for MPB related inventories, these sources of funding are temporary and do not reflect the need for ongoing sustainable funding required to maintain a proper forest inventory for BC. In fact, the \$8 million is about half what the base funding was for the resource inventory program in fiscal 1994/95.

The ABCFP continues to urge government to recognize the importance of forest inventories to the province by making it a responsibility of the Chief Forester under the *Forest Act* as and by providing a long-term stable funding source. Without these changes, the ABCFP believes forest inventories will continue to be overlooked and under funded.

The initiatives you highlighted in your April 26th response are extremely positive and will assist in improving the status of BC's forest inventory. The extent of these improvements is yet to be determined and the ABCFP is committed to doing a follow-up review in the coming years. We are encouraged by the changes you have implemented and will monitor the progress of these changes so we can report the results.

Thank you for your attention to issue.

Yours truly,



Dwight Yochim, RPF
Director, Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship