

**From:** [Judy Carlson](#)  
**To:** [FRPA Engagement FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Input from the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club  
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We are a group of about 50 members who meet each weekend for a day's outing to hike, ski, or snowshoe in the forested lands of mid-Vancouver Island.

It is apparent to us that our local forest are increasingly being used for recreation. We are often joined on our hikes by people from the east coast of Vancouver Island or even Victoria,, and we meet frequently with other hiking groups to discuss destinations and access to other parts of the Island. Even locally, the numbers of people out for short hikes of an hour or two has increased dramatically, as evidenced by the number of cars that are parked at these trailheads.

So, from a recreation point of view here are the changes we would like to see with respect to the management of Crown lands.

Consultation about the boundaries of the timber supply areas:

Some of these areas are very near town and have trails that have been used for decades for walking, biking, and running. Most members of the public consider that their recreation value outweighs their timber value, and would like to see them removed from the timber supply area. A specific example of the in Port Alberni is the location of Woodlot Licence 1479 Unit C, and there are other examples on the Island, near Lantzville and Campbell River. Similarly, in more distant areas such as in the Nahmint Valley, some areas of old-growth with high biodiversity and recreation values may also need to be excluded from the timber supply area.

Consultation about the shared use of roads:

As logging roads are extended farther and higher, some may provide more convenient access to routes to subalpine and alpine areas, and should be left in 4 wheel drivable condition whenever possible.

The construction of water-diverting barriers (such as water bars and cross ditches) on unused roads needs to be improved, with standards for details like angle of approach can cross-section profile so as to reduce the obstruction to vehicular traffic while still maintaining the integrity of the roads.

We would like all tenure licences to include provision for public access, and that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD) provide a website which will let the public know when there are unavoidable road closures due to active logging. It is very frustrating for people to drive long distances in the hope of climbing a mountain, only to find that the beginning of the access spur road is blocked by a pile of logs.

We hope that the upcoming changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) will allow true consultation to take place, where the public's input actually does result in changes on the ground. People's attitudes about the forest are changing and the new management system must be flexible enough so that timber values can be adjusted and that biodiversity and recreational values can be protected.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input and we look forward to working in partnership with others so that our forest lands are sustainable in all their aspects.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Carlson  
Chair, Alberni Valley Outdoor Club