

Appendix 9

Public Consultation Summary

Public Response Summary
Tree Farm Licence 56
MP#3

Compiled February 1, 2001

RCFC has closely followed the approved Review Strategy (Appendix 8 of MP #3 report) in obtaining public comment. The Review Strategy proposed several avenues for public response through the Management Plan #3 (MP #3) process. These avenues were:

- **Opportunities for comment on the implementation of MP #2** – Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers, and letters sent to known interested parties. The MP #2 information was made available from December 4, 1998 to February 12, 1999.
- **SMOOP and EEO public viewing** – Advertisements were placed in local newspapers and in the BC Gazette. Letters were sent to known interested parties. An Open House was held August 25, 1999, and the documents made available for public review from August 9 to September 13, 1999.
- **Draft Management Plan and Proposals for EEO** – Again, advertisements were placed in the local papers and the BC Gazette, and letters sent out to known interested parties. An Open House was held November 24, 2000. The Plan and Proposals were available for public review from October 30 to December 13, and an extension to the viewing period to January 15 was advertised in order to ensure an adequate viewing period. Copies of the draft MP were provided to Parks Canada and the North Columbia Environmental Society. No comments have yet been received from either of these entities.

Response to our efforts at obtaining public comment was very light with few people attending our Open Houses or public review opportunities and fewer people making any comment. The response is summarized in the table below:



Public Response Summary

Stage	Event	Number of Attendees or Comments	Summary of Comments
Implementation of MP #2	Public Review Period	No comments received	
SMOOP and EEO	Open House	1 comment received	A local Consulting Forester expressed concern about the lack of use of deciduous species in reforestation efforts. MP #2 and the existing Free Growing Guidelines did not provide much latitude for deciduous species use. Subsequent changes to the <i>Establishment to Free Growing Guidebook</i> for Nelson Region allow much more use of non-coniferous trees.
	Public Review Period	No comments received	
Draft MP#3 and EEO	Open House	10 people attended	No written comments received A BC Hydro representative verbally expressed concern about logs in the reservoir and their subsequent effect on reservoir recreation and turbines. RCFC believes that current forest practices do not result in logs being introduced into the reservoir. RCFC believes that any logs now in the reservoir are either natural, the result of reservoir bank sloughing, debris surfacing from pre-flood reservoir clearing operations, or resulting from much older forest practices.
	Public Review Period		Verbal concerns were expressed about log quality for the future. Present older tree attributes may not be available when second growth harvesting becomes prevalent. Because of these concerns, RCFC is participating in a local log quality committee and is considering initiating a silvicultural study to help set silvicultural objectives for tree species selection and modification of wood qualities. Additional text on log quality was inserted committing RCFC to completion of a Silviculture Strategy that will set goals for future timber quality and suggest treatments to achieve the goals.

As well as the comments above, several letters were received from Native groups expressing general concern over the TFL tenure on traditional territories. No specific concerns were expressed that could be addressed in the Management Plan.

Concurrent to the public review period of MP #3, RCFC received comments regarding certification of the Tree Farm Licence area under schemes such as that provided by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). These comments were not related the MP #3 process and RCFC has made no commitments regarding certification within the MP #3 context. However, RCFC is continuing to investigate the feasibility, costs, and benefits of certification.

