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March 4, 2015

DISTRICT MANAGER INFORMATION NOTICE

RADIO COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS BEING IMPLEMENTED ON FSRs

This letter is to advise of pending changes to radio communication protocols for forest service roads in the Cascades Forest District

Standard resource road radio communications protocols are being implemented in the district following on successful outcomes of pilot projects examining whether road user safety could be improved through standardized protocols for mobile radio communications when travelling on resource roads in British Columbia (BC). The pilot projects consisted of implementing: standardized radio communications signage, a block of dedicated resource road radio channels and standardized call procedures. The pilots occurred on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and in the South Peace areas of the province.

The standard resource road radio communications protocol, radio channels and signs were developed by the radio communications working group, with representatives from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (including BC Timber Sales), Industry Canada, BC Forest Safety Council/Truck Safe and FPIInnovations. The working group coordinated numerous meetings with forest licensees and truck drivers in developing the protocol. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations lead the implementation and evaluation of the pilot projects. Industry Canada is taking the greater lead role as implementation of the standard protocols spreads to other areas of the province.

Previously, mobile radio communications has been highly variable across the province with users required to know the unwritten local protocols. Truckers and other road users with mobile radios needed to reprogram their radios to gain access to local radio channels as they moved around to different work locations. In the pilot areas, a single set of radio channels was used on forest service roads (FSR). New communications signs posted on the pilot roads indicate which radio channel to use, calling interval, direction being travelled and vehicle type.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations
Resource Authorization

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The pilot projects were successful and the new standard protocols are being gradually expanded from the original pilot areas and into other areas of the province. Currently, activity is underway in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast areas to revised and further implement the standard bank of resource road radio channels.

The Cascades Forest District will be transitioning to the standard protocols for forest service roads, including standard signage, standard bank of radio channels and standard call procedures. Transition will commence on May 4, 2015. Transition will be gradual and road users will see new signage with new radio channels posted on new signage with call procedures noted. Road users with mobile radios should use the posted channels and call protocols. All road users are reminded that forest service roads are not radio controlled but that they are radio assisted and should drive safely according to the road conditions and weather.

For further information, please contact: Ken Conway-Brown, Engineering Officer, Cascades Forest District at (250) 378-8400.

A summary report of the pilot projects, produced by FPInnovations, as well as other information pertaining to resource road radio communications can be found by visiting: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/Road_Radio_Project.htm. A copy of the District polygon maps can be found on the Natural Resource District's website : <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/>.

Yours truly,



Chris Walder
Acting District Manager