



Reference: WLRS 51673 | FOR 260731

August 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL: info@bcnature.ca

Harold Sellers
BC Nature

Dear Harold Sellers:

Earlier this year, our government initiated a project to explore the concept of a Working Forest to improve long-term certainty through sustainable forest management. The Ministries of Forests and Water Land and Resource Stewardship have worked together to evolve this concept into the 'Working Forest Landscape Model' (WFLM), a broader approach to managing British Columbia's forested land base. This builds upon several years of forestry modernization planning, including the Old Growth Action Plan, BC Timber Sales Review, advice from the Provincial Forest Advisory Council, and the recently released Federal Task Force on Forestry Transformation.

The WFLM is organized around three interconnected zones that, together, serve to maximize the benefits on the land base for communities, the economy, and the environment:

- A **Working Forest Zone** will unlock timber supply to generate economic predictability and streamline planning and permitting to reduce administrative costs and encourage investment.
- A **Multiple Use Zone** will focus on the restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem functions that can support multiple uses, including sustainable resource development activity by multiple sectors.
- And a **Conservation and Protection Zone** will prioritize biodiversity and ecosystem health and support the Province's goals to sustain old forest values, support species at risk, and achieve the government's target of 30% conservation by 2030. This zone will also support recreation, social, cultural, and heritage activities.

The WFLM is a model and not another process. This work doesn't replace the important land management initiatives already underway – it is intended to complement them by exploring how a working landscape approach could provide clarity to our existing planning initiatives such as Land Use Planning, Forest Landscape Planning and other land use engagement processes.

The WFLM includes three phases. The **Introduce and Plan Phase** begins now as the Province undertakes targeted engagement and consultation with First Nations alongside discussions with key members of industry, local governments, ENGOs and other interested parties. The intent is to identify and confirm a select number of Candidate Areas that will provide the conditions necessary for effective application of a three-zone model. Once the Candidate Areas have been selected, an initial **Exploration Phase** will include continued partnership and engagement with First Nations and focussed engagement with other interested parties active in the Candidate Areas, along with ongoing public updates. Next, we'll use the lessons we learn and data we gather to assess options for potential provincewide implementation during the **Refine Phase**. Any provincial-level policy changes proposed would be subject to further consultation and cooperation with First Nations and input from industry, local government, stakeholders and the public.

The Working Forest Landscape Model is intended to support thriving communities, good jobs, healthy forests, strong partnerships with First Nations, and resilient ecosystems. By providing greater clarity and predictability in how we manage the land base, we can achieve stronger economic and stewardship outcomes for people in British Columbia.

We value the expertise and perspective you bring to this work. Your experience conserving and restoring ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and ecological connectivity across the land base, and your commitment to maintaining biodiversity and ensuring that land and water resources are managed in ways that support long-term ecological health and resilience, will be critical as we explore opportunities to strengthen both economic and stewardship outcomes. We look forward to working with you as the WFLM evolves and our teams will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to provide further information and discuss opportunities for engagement.

Sincerely,



Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests



Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship