

## A Wider Perspective Needed

The last issue covering tenure reform (BCFP May-June 2010) needed wider perspective. Additional discussion is needed perhaps under the heading provided by Criterion 7 of the Montreal Process "Legal institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable forest management."

Tenure in a public forest is an oxymoron. Tenure reform is likely to push us further down the path of enclosure of our public forests into the private interest. Do we really want to stay on this path?

The following blog considers another path: [www.greenbccommunities.com](http://www.greenbccommunities.com)

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## Taking Species at Risk Seriously

Ferguson and Pinkus (BCFP Jan-Feb 2010), in "Where's the Law," suggested that British Columbia requires a more powerful piece of legislation to protect species at risk (SAR). When British Columbia introduced the Forest Practices Code everybody complained that it was highly prescriptive. With the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), we ideally have less prescription and more reliance on expertise and due diligence. Under either piece of legislation, have we really seen a major halting in biodiversity loss? I agree that we need new SAR legislation that is based on science; identifies, protects and recovers species and habitat; is transparent and accountable; and most of all, is enforced and funded. Though, I do have a few concerns about any proposed legislation.

First, biodiversity problems are not evenly distributed over the province and thus areas will require different approaches. Given the large land base and ecological diversity of the province, I suggest a powerful but flexible piece of legislation that allows professionals to adapt land-management decisions regionally. Therefore, any legislation should be able to take the differences between the north and south of the province into consideration. Second, a new piece of legislation should not be limited to forest and range management, but encompass all land-use activities, paying greater attention to the connectivity of ecosystems and the maintenance of key elements of the natural habitat regardless of land use.

If British Columbia is to continue being "The Best Place on Earth" and "Super Natural" I agree that new legislation must be adopted (e.g., SEPA) to address species at risk; however, significant efforts towards true sustainable land use must also take into consideration the great differences that occur across the province.

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## Put in Your Two Cents

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