



File: 11250-01/Gate

October 12, 2017

All Forest Licensees:

This letter is a follow-up to my June 14th, 2016 letter to all forest licensees regarding gates on Forest Service Roads (FSR) and Road Permit Roads (RPR) on Crown land within South Island Natural Resource District (the District).

Since receiving my June 14th letter, some licensees have requested and received temporary authorizations to restrict access to a FSR or a RPR. Others have expressed that they believe they already have authorization to restrict access and point to previous historic arrangements including outdated District Standard Operating Procedures and written or verbal agreements that have varying levels of detail and specificity.

As you know, providing public access to forested crown land is an important cornerstone of our forest tenure system. The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), Section 22.2 (1), specifies that a FSR or RPR may be used by any person without charge.

Previous historic arrangements between a licensee and the District to restrict access to a FSR or RPR do not diminish the right granted by section 22.2 (1) to any person wanting to use a road. It is the responsibility of the gate owner to allow any person wanting to use a road section beyond a gate location, the ability to do so.

Unless use of a road would likely cause significant damage to the road, cause significant sediment delivery, or endanger property, public health or public safety, all gates are to be left in an open position. As a licensee, you can apply to me for approval to temporarily restrict access to a FSR or a RPR, if these situations are likely to occur. As part of your application, please provide your reasons consistent with FRPA section 22.2 as to why you are seeking to restrict public access, as well as the location of the existing or proposed gate, and the dates and duration of the proposed restriction.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Kleywegt, District Engineering Officer at 250-731-3021.

Yours truly,

Rhonda Morris, RPF
District Manager
South Island Natural Resource District