

# Sustainability: The Long, Winding Road



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Annual Conference and AGM  
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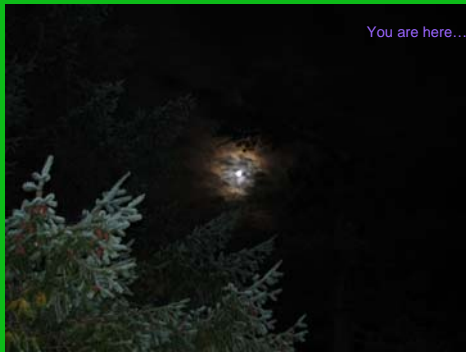
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## On the Sustainability Grail Trail



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The Association of  
**Professional Engineers**  
& **Geoscientists**  
of British Columbia

GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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## The Road: Past, Present & Future...

- The 'bad-old-good-old days'
  - *and their consequences*
- FP Code
  - *and unintended outcomes*
- FRPA and sustainability
  - *not FRPA alone...*
- FRPA evaluation: FREP
  - *opportunities for APEGBC*
- And...rounding remaining bends

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## Before the FPCode

- Prior to June 15, 1995, BC forest roads were
  - poorly located
  - poorly constructed
  - poorly drained
  - poorly maintained \*

\* Fannin, Moore, Schwab & VanDine. 2005.  
*Landslide Risk Management in Forest Practices.*

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## Consequences

- Compromised slope stability
- Sedimentation
- Reduced water quality
- Impacts on fish, fish habitat
- Impacts on landscape aesthetics
- Reduced soil productivity
- International notoriety
  - New Yorker (May, 1990)
  - National Geographic (September, 1990)

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**National Geographic**  
**September, 1990**

*Text reads in part:* "Stripped to the shoreline, gullied slopes of Mount Paxton shock visitors to Vancouver Island on Canada's Pacific Coast. Slides, silting and loss of ground cover penalize wildlife and fish..."

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### Response 1: 'The Code'

- **1995: Forest Practices Code of BC Act**
  - Mandatory practices relied on statute/guidebooks
  - Little emphasis on professional reliance
  - Effective: Planned roads, full benching, end hauling → **reduced landslide damage**
- **But:**
  - Unintended consequences for industry and government
    - Highly prescriptive, administratively complex → **very costly to implement fully**

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### Response 2: The Forest and Range Practices Act

- FRPA legislation and Regs. came formally into effect Jan 31, 2004
  - FPC - FRPA transition ends Dec 31, 2006
  - Still a statutory code, now results-based
  - Relies also on other statutes & non-statutory realm
  - Simpler policy framework
  - More reliance on resource professionals
    - individual professional responsibility/accountability
    - more autonomy
    - due diligence required
    - uphold ethics, standards, conduct

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## Background to FRPA & Sustainability

Land use plans

Protected areas

Compliance with Code

T.S.R. info Certification

Pilot projects

Species-at-risk legislation

Recovery plans




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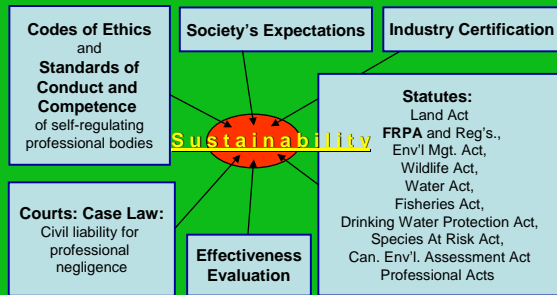
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## Sustainability From More Than FRPA




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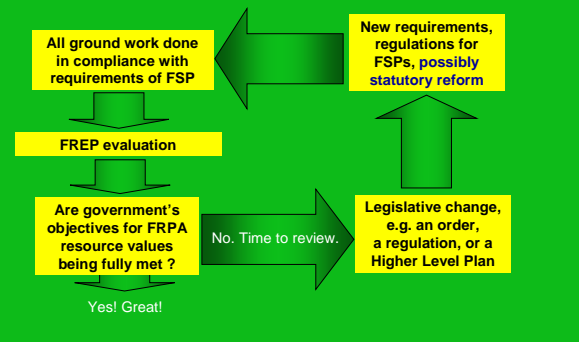
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## FRPA Resource Evaluation Program (FREP)




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Ongoing challenges:  
Sedimentation...



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...no fish here, but downstream?



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On this long primary main line...



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...miles of ditches to accumulate sediment...



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...and failing slopes. What happens on secondary haul roads?



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### Challenges: Possible Solutions?

- **Sedimentation:**
  - cross-drain culverts?
  - shorter ditch lines?
  - grass-seeding for ditches and cut-slopes?
  - armouring for risk points in ditches?
  - coarser material for surfacing—and resurfacing?
- **Terrain stability:**
  - Make sure assessments identify specific areas of risk & recommend procedures?

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## Another Ongoing Challenge

Overcoming public scepticism from earlier days...

"Now don't you worry 'bout that environment folks, we'll be takin' right good care of it."



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## Keep In Touch...!



BC Forest Service website:

[www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca)

FREP website:

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/)

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