



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

2013/2014

SUMMER LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ESTIMATES BINDER

JULY 2013

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Pages 15 through 18 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Issue: Archaeology at Willows Beach – BC Supreme Court Decision

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- A private property owner, who wished to re-develop her property, was required by the Archaeology Branch to fund an archaeological inspection of the land as it contained a significant archaeological site. This process was necessary to inform the site alteration permit she would require to build her house.
- The property owner alleged that the Province had no right to require her to fund the study and commenced a court action challenging this requirement.
- In January, 2013 an arbitrator held the property owner had failed to prove any liability on the part of the Crown.
- The property owner appealed this finding to the BC Supreme Court who dismissed the appeal. A further appeal to the Court of Appeal held in favour of the property owner allowing the appeal of the arbitrator's decision.
- May 30, 2013 the BC Supreme Court ruled that the Province did not have the legislated authority to require the property owner to pay for such studies as a precondition of obtaining a site alteration permit under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and the Province's actions constituted a nuisance in law.
- s.14, s.17
- The “developer pays” principal has been the standard in the Province since the mid-1980s and it is a national standard adopted by other provinces having similar legislation.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

General:

- This government is committed to the protection of First Nations heritage resources.
- The permitting process administered by the Archaeology Branch is the same for all landowners.
- The principle of “developer pays” is long established in B.C. and is similar to other Canadian jurisdictions.

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Justine Batten, Director, Archaeology

Phone: 250 953-3355

Issue: Grace Islet Burial Site

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- A residential development proposed for a privately owned islet in Ganges Harbour s.16
s.16
 - A heritage site inspection identified approximately 17 rock features some of which may be burials. A subsequent examination by an expert in the field of burial cairns established the majority of these features are very likely burials. Partial human remains have been found on the islet in the past.
 - A site alteration permit was considered when the property owner altered his house design such that none of the cairns would be touched by the development - although one cairn would be under the house but not in physical contact with it.
 - The application for the site alteration permit had been submitted to First Nations s.16
-
- The property owner breached the permit conditions by altering the land without the presence of a professional archaeologist and failing to maintain the proper buffer zone around the known sites.
 - He was precluded from engaging in any further land altering activity until the Archaeology Branch had surveyed the damage and spoken to the First Nations involved with this site.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13, s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Joint Working Group on First Nation Heritage Conservation and Section 4 Agreements under the *Heritage Conservation Act*

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- All Canadian provinces have legislation for protecting heritage resources but BC's situation is somewhat unique given the lack of historic treaties and the diversity in the number and types of sites.
- s.16
- The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (Joint Working Group) is working on this review process. The Joint Working Group is made up of representation from the First Nations Leadership Council, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and FLNR.
- The first recommendation of the Joint Working Group was to undertake a pilot project to create an agreement pursuant to section 4 of the Act that would protect sites that lack physical evidence of their existence.
- The Province declined this request as it believed more work had to be done with respect to a framework for such agreements.
- The Joint Working Group will commence this process with a first meeting since this decision slated for July 2013.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Marpole Midden Land Dispute

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Marpole Midden archaeological site (on SW Marine Drive in Vancouver) is the past location of a large First Nation settlement and associated burial ground dating back to 400 – 450 AD.
- While the land has been settled and developed since the 1880's and is made up completely of private property lots, the Musqueam Indian Band still assert a strong and significant cultural tie to these lands and began a blockade of the site to prevent further alterations of the land.
- The uniqueness of this site was underscored by the federal designation of the site as a National Historic Site that was of extreme cultural interest to the Musqueam Indian Band, including the presence of intact human remains, who were ready and able to contribute to the purchase of the lands.
- Negotiations were undertaken between the Musqueam Indian Band and the property owners to try and agree to a purchase of the land by the First Nations.
- Ultimately a purchase agreement was reached, with the assistance of the Province, [s.17, s.16](#)

[s.17, s.16](#)

Advice and Recommended Response:

[s.13, s.16](#)

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

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Issue: Compliance with Natural Resource Laws

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Compliance with natural resource laws is achieved through the collaboration of a number of natural resource sector (NRS) agencies, including FLNR, Environment, Energy and Mines, Agriculture and others.
- FLNR's Compliance and Enforcement Branch staff are building their expertise (through training, new delegations, etc.) to meet compliance obligations under broadened legislative accountabilities now resting under FLNR.
- The recent enactment of the *Natural Resource Compliance Act* (Bill 9) and changes to the Environmental Remediation Sub-Account (ERSA) under Bill 19 have begun a process to harmonize compliance and enforcement under FLNR's mandate.
- Ultimately, an evolving NRS Compliance and Enforcement framework will provide a consistent set of regulatory tools in support of compliance and enforcement across the sector.
- The implementation of Bill 9 and 19 will be a focus of FLNR's Compliance and Enforcement Branch over the next two years.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Consistent Compliance and Enforcement Framework

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Natural resource management is governed by numerous statutes that, because of their separate origins and histories, contain inconsistent compliance and enforcement (C&E) provisions.
- The current framework of natural resource legislation is inconsistent in its approach to compliance and enforcement, including how authorities are granted to staff to fulfill the compliance and enforcement obligations under each act.
- For example, FLNR's Compliance and Enforcement Branch staff currently require numerous designations specific to each statute to authorize them to enforce those statutes. This makes it cumbersome to authorize C&E officers across agencies and for them to enforce multiple statutes.
- Similarly, the various natural resource statutes have different methods available to promote compliance, deter non-compliance, and allow the Crown to levy penalties, recoup compensation or remediate negative environmental impacts of non-compliance.

- s.12, s.13

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: GeoBC Overview

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- GeoBC provides geospatial products, services and expert advice to governments, businesses and citizens on behalf of the B.C. public service.
- Geographic information provides critical assistance in the effective delivery of government programs, including:
 - support for the delivery of key Natural Resource Sector (NRS) priority projects, including direct support for key initiatives such as Integrated Decision Making, cumulative effects, ParcelMap BC, industrial planning for liquefied natural gas development, the *Resource Road Act*, Integrated Systems Support Strategy (ISSS), etc.
 - fostering of economic development
 - emergency response and public safety (e.g. E911, floodplain mapping, wildfires)
 - geospatial analysis and modelling in support of major events (e.g. security for the 2010 Winter Olympics)
 - management and maintenance of the Integrated Land and Resource Registry (ILRR)
 - meeting government's commitments in treaty negotiations with First Nations
- GeoBC programs include:
 - provincial base mapping and digital imagery programs (including air photos)
 - maintaining the currency of the Integrated Land and Resource Registry and supporting industry, public and internal use of the registry and the information contained therein
 - NRS priority-driven decision support and emergency management programs
 - determining and advising on the legal state of the land and/or resources through historical research/analysis, identification of statutory linkages, current and/or past business practices and legal precedence
- Benefits:
 - development and use of authoritative geographic information to support sound natural resource and land use decisions
 - services focused on key priorities, as identified by the NRS
 - management of significant provincial geospatial assets, including digital imagery
 - cost-effective service delivery

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Integrated Land and Resource Registry

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of its legislated mandate (*Land Act*, Section 7, Part 1.1), GeoBC manages and maintains the Integrated Land and Resource Registry (ILRR).
- The ILRR provides an integrated, consolidated, single source of reliable information. There are currently over three million interests registered in the ILRR.
- The ILRR is a system that contains integrated, up-to-date and common spatial representations of over 260 different types of interests, tenures, regulated uses, restrictions and reservations over Crown land.
- Public and government users can access comprehensive land and resource information in minutes (instead of days or weeks), with all information being updated in near to real time. This lets users immediately view and identify conflicting land uses over an area (such as mining or logging activity in a park or protected area, etc.).
- The ILRR supports key business processes including: land planning and treaty negotiation; inter-agency referral process; processing applications for interests in land and natural resources; and emergency planning and response.
- Key benefits of the ILRR include: faster and more consistent land use decision-making using common information; reduced risk in decision-making when processing applications for the use of land and resources; and the capacity to quickly generate maps, queries or reports to support planning and decision-making.
- The ILRR provides comprehensive access to Crown land information from a single window, using a common set of tools. This is in contrast to a user having to contact each interest-granting agency to request a land status, or having to navigate and use several different agency-specific tools and databases to determine land status.
- The ILRR provides contact details and supporting information to guide additional research, if required.
- The oil and gas private sector has become a key consumer and beneficiary of the ILRR, with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and the National Energy Board both approaching GeoBC with requests for enhancements to the application.

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Land Title and Survey Authority of B.C. (LTSA) was established by the *Land Title and Survey Authority Act*, which came into force on January 20, 2005. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for government relations with the LTSA and the legislation supporting LTSA activities.
- The LTSA is an independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for the registration of all real property ownership and all private and Crown land surveys. It operates and maintains the provincial land title registration and survey systems, which provide protection for land titles, access to titles and associated records.
- An Operating Agreement with a 60-year term was entered between the LTSA and the Province that sets out the individual and shared obligations, minimum service levels, a process for setting fees charged by the LTSA, and a process for monies payable to the Province.
- The Province and LTSA work together in a number of important operational areas (e.g. issuing Crown grants), exchange services (e.g. data, mapping), collaborate on setting policy direction, and jointly implement policy and legislative changes.
- The Operating Agreement requires that the performance of the LTSA-Province partnership be reviewed every five years. The first performance review was conducted in 2010 by a jointly selected independent consultant. The consultant found that over its initial five years, the LTSA has consistently achieved and exceeded its performance targets and financial obligations required under the Operating Agreement and has fostered very strong stakeholder support. The consultant also recommended that the parties improve their working relationship by establishing mechanisms to collaborate and resolve issues.
- In direct response to the consultant's recommendations, the LTSA and the Province have succeeded in fostering a positive, collaborative working relationship. The Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has continued to hold semi-annual meetings with the LTSA board chair and the chief executive officer to endorse and/or modify any identified priorities or understandings of the parties.
- LTSA and FLNRO have also established a "Strategy Forum", co-chaired by the ADM, Integrated Resource Operations Division (FLNRO) and the vice-president and corporate counsel (LTSA), to identify, co-ordinate and monitor mutual action on ongoing and emerging issues of strategic interest.
- LTSA is managed by an eight-person executive team headed by a president and CEO, who in turn reports to the board of directors. The 11-member board oversees LTSA's strategic direction and ensures compliance with the accountability mechanisms established by the legislature and examples of best governance practices (such as those of the Conference Board of Canada).

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Board members are selected for three-year terms from a list of nominees provided by stakeholder entities.

- As required by its bylaws, the LTSA board maintains a Stakeholder Advisory Committee. This committee (of which government is a member) provides advice on operational matters related to LTSA's mandate. The committee also ensures that the board and the management team are kept aware of stakeholder concerns and recommendations related to land title and survey plan registration services.
- Under the act and the Operating Agreement, LTSA is required to operate on a fee-for-service basis as a not-for-profit organization. Any revenues earned by LTSA in excess of operating expenses must be reinvested in LTSA. LTSA is funded solely from its portion of customer fees. The Operating Agreement allows the LTSA to retain a portion of the fees (i.e. Base Fees), with the remainder submitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- With stakeholder advice and input, the LTSA has reinvested its net earnings in business transformation efforts by improving customer service through investments in the Integrated Customer Portal and ParcelMap BC initiatives. The resulting state-of-the-art information systems and registration processes meet government's public policy objectives for the land title and survey system and they achieve sustainable, cost-effective operations for LTSA.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Gary Townsend
Phone: 250 953-3473

Issue: Land Title and Survey Authority's ParcelMap BC Initiative

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Over the past 18 months, the ministry (along with BC Assessment and others) has been participating in a Land Title Survey Authority of BC (LTSA) steering committee to define the work required to establish a provincewide cadastre called ParcelMap BC (PMBC).
- PMBC will provide a digital register of all legally surveyed private parcels (land title registry) and Crown land parcels (Crown land registry) in British Columbia. The LTSA aims to have the system built and functioning by 2014, with full implementation by 2016.
- PMBC has received strong constituent support across public and private sectors whose business depends upon reliable cadastral data, including GeoBC, BC Assessment, local governments, the Association of B.C. Land Surveyors and real estate professionals.
- s.17, s.21

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Issue: Digital Imagery Services

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- GeoBC is responsible for managing and providing access to the provincial air photo library that was collected from 1936 to 2013 and now contains approximately 2.2 million individual images.
- With the onset of digital aerial photography and other technologies used by contractors, the Province has not acquired library prints (hard copies) since 2007. Both the digital images and the pre-2007 hard copy prints comprise an important geographic information resource for government, industry and citizens.
- In March 2010, the Province's "wet lab" (photo reproduction service) was closed due to increasing costs and a general shift in technology and demand toward digital images. GeoBC initiated a "scan on demand" cost-recovery service that provides digital reproductions of hard copy images contained in the provincial collection.
- The digital air photo collection is permanently located at GeoBC headquarters in Victoria. Clients can access it through the Base Map Online Store (BMOS) at www.basemaps.gov.bc.ca
- In early 2013, the hard copy portion of the air photo library was transferred to the University of British Columbia (UBC) under a permanent loan agreement. This allows for no-cost, ongoing public access to the historical hard copy images, a service that the public and industry have indicated was wanted. The official opening of the new air photo library at UBC is scheduled for September 2013.
- Imagery that is still only available in hard copy form is being scanned by GeoBC from the original negatives. However, the volume of the collection, limited access to quality scanning equipment and the costs associated with storing the images make this a long-term project, subject to future changes based on new efficiencies in technology.
- The Province is committed to identifying cost-effective ways of preserving this significant provincial asset.

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brad Hlasny, Manager, Base Mapping & Cadastre

Phone: 250 952-6520

Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Provincial Base Mapping

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of its legislated mandate, GeoBC is responsible for all aspects of provincial base mapping:
 - geospatial reference system (i.e. geodetic survey control and GPS data), which supports the land title and survey systems in the province
 - elevation (topography)
 - hydrography (lakes, streams, rivers)
 - geographic names (feature names and place names)
 - critical infrastructure (e.g. structures, power lines, pipelines)
 - transportation (including addresses for emergency response)
 - orthoimagery (air photos), satellite imagery and LiDAR (aircraft-based laser surveys) data
 - boundaries (government units)
 - cadastre and tenures (i.e. land ownership parcels)
- GeoBC is currently updating its base mapping environment, products and services to better meet the requirements of citizens, businesses and the public service, and to allow provincial products to be used on the web and integrated into mobile technologies (e.g. smart phones).

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brad Hlasny, Manager, Base Mapping & Cadastre

Phone: 250 952-6520

Issue: Barkerville Heritage Trust Business Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In the Feb 2012 budget, \$21 million was approved for three years to fund operations and deferred maintenance at the Provincial Heritage Properties along s.12
- The Barkerville Heritage Trust (BHT) manages Barkerville Historic Town, largest of the Crown-owned Provincial Heritage Properties, with 500 ha and over 200 buildings.
- In fiscal 2012/13 and 2013/14 BHT has received \$2.4 million annually in operating dollars for Barkerville as well as over \$500,000 for deferred maintenance in 2012/13 and over \$750,000 in 2013/14.
- 2013 is the last year of funding for a 4-year \$8.7 million infrastructure project to upgrade sewer, fire and water systems at Barkerville and Fort Steele. Since 2010 BHT has received over \$4.5 million towards this work.
- s.12

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Iredale, Director, Heritage Branch

Phone: 250 356-1431

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Heritage Conservation in BC

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The BC government confirmed in the 2001 core review that the Province has a leadership role to play in heritage conservation.
- Over the past several years, Heritage Branch has focussed its resources on key accountabilities including the management of provincial heritage properties; supporting community heritage conservation through the work of organizations such as Heritage BC and its distribution of **Heritage Legacy Fund** grants; and projects with the Cascadia Green Building Council.
- The Heritage Legacy Fund of British Columbia (HLF) was created with a \$5 million Provincial endowment in 2003, to support conservation of heritage sites and objects, and to increase public knowledge and appreciation of BC's built heritage.
- The endowment is invested with the Vancouver Foundation and the proceeds are administered by a Fund Adviser appointed by the Minister.
- From 2005 to 2012, the HLF provided over \$1.35 million in matching funds for heritage conservation work and heritage awareness projects in 61 BC communities.
- In 2013, the Province named Heritage BC as Fund Adviser to the Heritage Legacy Fund and provided a further \$0.5 million endowment to the Fund to implement the Heritage BC business plan.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Jennifer Iredale, Director, Heritage

Phone: 250 356-1431

Issue: Provincial Heritage Properties—Sustainable Funding

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Core Review in 2002 directed devolving 30 Provincial Heritage Properties (Sites) from direct government operation. Six Sites have been transferred to outside ownership; one Site (Helmcken House) was transferred to the Royal BC Museum and six archaeological Sites are in process of transfer to Archaeology Branch management.
- Heritage Branch continues to be responsible for 16 Sites, most of which are managed by external agencies through nine management agreements.
- Barkerville Historic Town is the largest with 500 ha and over 200 buildings; Emily Carr House is the smallest being a house on a residential lot in Victoria.
- External managers have increased non-government revenues through entrepreneurial enterprises, fundraising and admissions, but this falls short of operating and maintenance needs.
- In March 2009, the Province provided \$8.1 million to support three years of operations and in 2011 a further \$3.85 million to cover deferred maintenance and operations costs.
- In 2010, \$8.7 million was approved for a four-year project to address deteriorated infrastructure (sewer, fire and water) at Barkerville and Fort Steele.
- s.12, s.17

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Jennifer Iredale, Director, Heritage

Phone: 250 356-1431

Issue: Farnham Glacier Management Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Farnham Glacier is located in the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal area near Invermere and has been used for training of National and Provincial winter athletes since 2003.
- The Licence was originally held by Winsport Canada (previously Calgary Olympic Development Association) and later transferred to Glacier Resorts Ltd., the Jumbo Glacier Resort proponent, following approval of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Plan in 2007.
- The Licence included on-mountain athlete accommodation/facilities known as Camp Green, dormant since 2008.
- Mountain Resorts Branch responded to complaints from the public in 2010 regarding environmental concerns at Camp Green by conducting a multi-agency site investigation and development of a remediation plan.
- In May 2011, Winsport provided notification of their intention to close and remove the camp.
- Camp deconstruction and site remediation was completed in 2011 under the direction of Qualified Registered Professionals. Glacier Resorts Ltd. played a central role in the remediation of Camp Green and is committed to addressing any environmental issues at the camp in a timely manner.
- In June 2011, the Ministry accepted a new Management Plan from Glacier Resorts Ltd. which proposed glacier-based snow sports training for high-level athletes, public skiing and site-seeing activities during summer and fall. It does not include on-mountain accommodation. Proposed activities are consistent with the Environmental Assessment Certificate and the approved Resort Master Plan for Jumbo Glacier Resort.
- In June 2011, the Management Plan was reviewed by the Ministry and submitted to the Ktunaxa Nation Council for consultation through the Strategic Engagement Agreement. The Ktunaxa Nation Council requested that completion of the consultation reports required under the Strategic Engagement Agreement be delayed until March 31, 2012, or until a decision was finalized on the Master Development Agreement (MDA) for Jumbo Glacier Resort. Consultation was closed when the MDA was approved on March 20, 2012.
- Glacier Resorts Ltd.'s new Management Plan and removal of on-mountain accommodation represented an expansion of the recreational/tourism opportunities at Farnham Glacier, a reduction of the environmental footprint and incremental revenues to the Province. Under the new MDA, Glacier Resorts Ltd. has submitted applications for MDA tenures for the first day lodge, temporary lift and associated structures.
- Glacier Resorts Ltd. has created a web site for "Farnham Glacier Adventures at Jumbo Glacier Resort" and is booking clients for summer skiing and sightseeing on the glacier. Access will be by road and snow cat.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Issue: Garibaldi at Squamish Resort Development Proposal

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) project is a major all-seasons resort proposal at Brohm Ridge that is concurrently in the Environmental Assessment Office's (EAO) and FLNR's review processes. Initiated in 1997, the project review was stalled for a number of years due to court proceedings resulting from litigation against the Province by the Squamish Nation. Once a settlement was reached with the Squamish Nation, the Environmental Assessment review was reinitiated in 2008.
- Proposed is 22,000 bed units, two golf courses, ski lifts/runs with a capital cost estimate of \$2.9 billion and over 2,000 FTEs of employment upon full build-out at 20 years.
- In May 2010, the controversial project went to then Ministers Penner (Environment) and Krueger (Tourism, Culture and the Arts) for an Environmental Assessment Certificate decision.
- On June 11, 2010, the Ministers concluded that information provided by the proponent was inadequate with respect to potential significant adverse affects in five main areas: water supply and hydrology, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, vegetation and water reservoirs and dams. GAS was given three years to fulfil the information requirements.
- In June of 2012, Mountain Resorts Branch granted GAS its 7th Interim Agreement extension and amended the study area boundary to allow investigative activities related to a groundwater supply model proposed to the EAO in response to the Ministers' 2010 order.
- In 2013, GAS conducted hydrological testing for a groundwater source, determined the supply was more than adequate and submitted a revised project description to EAO. EAO has re-initiated the Working Group and granted GAS a one year extension to June 2014 to provide the supplemental information as directed by the Ministers.

- s.16

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Issue: Hemlock Resort Master Plan for Expansion

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Hemlock Resort is an existing regional ski area near Harrison Lake that is proposing a major expansion to a destination resort.
- Provincial review of the project is being conducted by Mountain Resorts Branch under the major project review provisions in the *Land Act*.
- The Hemlock Master Plan review was initiated by Mountain Resorts Branch in October 2010 and includes full agency, local government, First Nations, stakeholder and public participation.
- The Master Plan is a 60 year, five phase vision that would see an estimated \$2.5 billion in capital investment at build out. If approved, the expansion will increase the Controlled Recreation Area from ~309 ha to 6376 ha, add 18 new chairlifts and 20,000 additional bed units.
- The Hemlock Resort expansion proposal does not trigger an Environmental Assessment Review under the *Environmental Assessment Act* as existing ski resorts under 2,000 bed units are eligible for a one-time expansion on any size.
- The Sts'ailes (formerly Chehalis First Nation), the primary First Nation with a significant aboriginal interest in the area, and the resort have a shared vision for the development. Sts'ailes and the proponent have an Economic Benefits Agreement, which includes revenue sharing and a joint venture development on Harrison Lake in Phase 2 of the expansion.
- In 2011, the Sts'ailes and the Province signed off on a multi-year, multi-agency Protocol Agreement that identifies areas and initiatives of mutual interest. Following a recent election in the community, the Sts'ailes have confirmed with MARR that the Hemlock Resort expansion is their key priority as they have such a significant interest in the project.
- The area for resort expansion has high forestry values. In order to mitigate the impacts to the existing licensees, FLNR – South Coast Regional Operations (Chilliwack District) and Mountain Resorts Branch are working to establish a First Nations Woodland Licence over the Controlled Recreation Area, an innovative approach that is supported not only by the Sts'ailes, the proponent, and FLNR but also the forest licensees who see it as a way to mitigate some of the impacts of the resort to their Annual Allowable Cut.
- Although there are multiple overlapping interests in the study area (public recreation, forestry, wildlife, and First Nations) no major issues have come forward in two years of review. The Fraser Valley Regional District is supportive of the project and is working closely with the proponent and MRB to streamline the Official Community Plan amendment process for the proponent should the project be approved.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Issue: Jumbo Glacier Resort

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The controversial project has been in the Provincial review process since July 1991. Review by Ministry staff has been completed and a final decision was made by the Minister approving the Master Development Agreement on March 20, 2012.
- Glacier Resorts Ltd. has proposed the construction of a new all-season 6,250-bed-unit alpine resort in the Purcell Mountains, 57 km west of Invermere. The proponent values the project at \$900 million at full build-out.
- The Resort Master Plan submitted in 2005 has been approved by the Ministry.
- The Jumbo Glacier Resort Project received an Environmental Assessment Certificate from the Environmental Assessment Office dated October 12, 2004 and extended for a further five years in 2009.
- s.16
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- The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) designated the resort area as a Mountain Resort Municipality. The Regional District of East Kootenay voted in favour (eight to seven) of the Province supporting this designation if the resort project was approved.
- A Road Use Permit has been issued to Glacier Resorts Ltd. for industrial use as they initiate development of the Resort Master Plan. Further applications for a day-lodge, temporary lift and associated structures have been initiated for the Farnham Glacier area of the resort (see Farnham Glacier Estimates Note).
- s.14

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Page 44 redacted for the following reason:

s.12, s.16

Issue: Valemount Glacier Resort Proposal

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Valemount Glacier Destinations submitted an Expression of Interest in December 2011 and a Formal Proposal in November 2012 to the Mountain Resorts Branch for an all-seasons resort including glacier skiing, golf, and sightseeing with up to 2,000 bed units in base development.
- Projected capital investment at build out is \$800 million and the proposed Controlled Recreation Area is 8,300 ha, located west of Valemount.
- Consistent with the All Seasons Resort Policy and Guidelines, the Expression of Interest was referred to government agencies, stakeholders and First Nations in December 2011. No major conflicts were identified that would prevent acceptance of an application.
- Valemount Glacier Destinations was confirmed as the Sole Proponent after the Expression of Interest was advertised for public comments and competing proposals. No competing proposals were received and public comments indicated strong support for the proposal.
- On March 27, 2013, an Interim Agreement was offered to Valemount Glacier Destinations after Mountain Resorts Branch reviewed and accepted the Formal Proposal.
- The Interim Agreement:
 - provides a non-exclusive use License of Occupation, allowing Valemount Glacier Destinations to conduct on-site studies and data collection activities necessary for the preparation of the Resort Master Plan and participation in the Master Plan Review process;
 - mandates that no permanent structures or improvements may be placed on the land and no timber harvesting or resource extraction may occur;
 - has low potential for impacts to existing interests and activities on the land; and,
 - does not imply Master Plan/Master Development Agreement approval.
- On May 22, 2013, the Interim Agreement was made effective after the proponent satisfied the pre-conditions of the offer, including the development of a communication plan which addresses operational and safety interests of commercial recreation operators in the Study Area.
- The Interim Agreement area overlaps existing commercial and public recreation interests, the Valemount Community Forest Licence and is within the traditional territories of the Simpcw, Canim Lake and Lheidli T'enneh First Nations.
- On May 17, 2013, Gary Townsend (ADM, Integrated Resource Operations) delegated decision maker for this Notice of Objection, advised CMH Heli-Skiing & Summer Adventures that a formal hearing of the Interim Agreement decision would not be granted.
- Valemount Community Forest is partially located within the proposal area and the Mountain Resorts Branch is currently working collaboratively with Valemount

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Community Forest, Village of Valemount (sole VCF shareholder) and agency representatives to reconcile local forest interests with the resort proposal.

- Simpcw First Nation has indicated its support and will be participating directly in the project planning and review process.
- The resort proposal and review process is strongly supported by local government, local residents and stakeholder groups. Village of Valemount, Regional District of Fraser Fort George, Valemount Chamber of Commerce, Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association and Valemount Area Recreation Development Association support the proposal. Mountain Resorts Branch has received a signed petition from the Valemount Ski Society containing over 500 signatures from local area residents supporting the project.
- Valemount Glacier Destination's proposal has been identified as a priority project in Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Investment's McBride to Barrier Corridor Economic Development Forum.
- On June 5, 2013, Mountain Resorts Branch co-facilitated a Public Information Session in Valemount with the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Village of Valemount to inform residents of the Interim Agreement, the status of the provincial and local government proposal review processes, coordination of those process and next steps.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Issue: Whistler Blackcomb Master Plan Updates

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Whistler Blackcomb Resort has submitted Master Plan updates to the Mountain Resorts Branch for review and approval.
- The scope of the draft Master Plans is for development of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains to build-out over the next 60 years. The plans include new lifts, run development and restaurants with the goal of enhancing the visitor experience by providing additional recreation infrastructure to attract an estimated 600,000 new visitors over the expansion; however, it is important to note that no additional bed units are being proposed and the Master Plans are consistent with the newly adopted Official Community Plan (OCP) update.
- s.21
- No major issues have been identified through the agency or public consultation process. Whistler Blackcomb Resort is seen as a significant partner in the community. The Resort Municipality of Whistler is supportive of the plans and has committed to working closely with Whistler Blackcomb Resort on future studies and joint servicing of the new developments.
- s.17, s.16
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- s.14, s.16

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Norman Lee, Executive Director, Mountain Resorts

Phone: 250 952-0478

Issue: Kettle Valley Rail Trail Closure at Kaleden

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Province purchased the Kettle Valley Rail (KVR) Corridor for use as a trail between Penticton and Okanagan Falls (12 km) in 1995, but decided not to purchase a 700 m portion through Kaleden due to cost.
- At the time, the Province agreed to negotiate an easement with CP Rail that would link the purchased portions of the trail to public roads in Kaleden, thus allowing trail users to bypass the unpurchased portion. Unfortunately, the Province and CP Rail did not negotiate the easements prior to expiration of the terms of the agreement.
- CP Rail sold the remaining 700 m parcel of land to a private company in 2010.
- On December 15, 2011, the new land owner closed access through their property and have indicated they will not open access until the Province negotiates a land exchange in order to acquire right of passage through their property.
- s.13, s.17

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Bill Marshall, Director, Recreation Sites & Trails

Phone: 250 953-3678

Issue: Kettle Valley Rail Trail Conflict Resolution – Naramata

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Pervasive non-motorized/motorized trail use conflict presents a significant barrier to the development of BC's highly valued rail trail network. FLNRO undertook a process involving both the motorized and non-motorized recreation users to resolve the conflict on the rail trail network. The process involved the selection of a pilot community, Naramata, located along the Kettle Valley Rail Trail (KVR) where the process could be implemented.
- A draft resolution plan, developed by the Naramata Working Group which included the Province, local government as well as motorized and non-motorized recreation users was presented to the local community. The plan clarifies allowed uses along various portions of the 30 km rail trail section, and proposes alternative motorized recreation trail routes to access certain highly desirable destinations. Despite broad support from the recreation users, the plan met opposition from advocates of licensed, on-highway vehicle use of the trail.
- s.13
- The Province is proceeding with the initial phase of the Plan, including closure of the trail to motorized vehicles over 6 km of the most populated and used portion of the trail near Naramata. Closure will be followed by upgrades to the trail surface and infrastructure.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Bill Marshall, Director, Recreation Sites & Trails

Phone: 250 953-3678

Issue: Trails Strategy for British Columbia

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNR released *Trails Strategy for British Columbia* in late May 2013.
- The Strategy was developed by a multi-agency/stakeholder committee, led by Recreation Sites and Trails BC, and underwent a comprehensive public consultation process in many communities across the province.
- The Strategy recognizes the need to apply a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach to developing world-class trails, and recommends a pro-active approach to the planning and management of BC's trail networks.

s.12

- Partner agencies, local and regional governments, and stakeholders across the Province encouraged government endorsement and implementation of the Strategy.
- The Strategy directly supports the 2013 election platform commitment to develop new trail networks for residents and tourism businesses.
- The Trails Strategy was identified in the Province's Five Year Tourism Strategy as a key action for developing BC's world-class visitor experiences.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Bill Marshall, Director, Recreation Sites and Trails

Phone: 250 953-3678

Issue: 2013 Wildfire Season Outlook

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The 2013 wildfire season has had an average start as of mid-June.
- As of June 13, 2013, 245 fires have burned 3,709 hectares, resulting in \$23,816,971 in Direct Fire Expenditures.
- Forecasting long-range weather is extremely difficult and particularly so in B.C. due to the province's size and variation in weather patterns. Environment Canada has predicted normal to above-normal temperatures and normal to below-normal precipitation amounts for July, August and September.
- The Wildfire Management Branch has the following resources available for deployment to fires within B.C. and for export to other agencies under mutual aid agreements.
- Primary resources available for 2013:
 - 140 Initial Attack crews (3-person crews)
 - 30 Sustained Action crews (20-person crews)
 - 50 standing offer mop-up contractors that are able to provide up to 329 crews (5-person crews)
 - 3 Type 1 Incident Management Teams
 - 5 Type 2 Incident Management Teams
 - 8 Airtanker Groups consisting of 14 contracted air tankers (including the Martin Mars) and 7 bird dog aircraft
 - 6 contracted medium-lift helicopters
 - miscellaneous contingency resources as required

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Simpson, Executive Director, Wildfire Management

Phone: 250 387-6368

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Landscape Fire Management Planning

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Climate change and fuel types generated by mountain pine beetle infestations are creating extreme wildfire events that are threatening communities and the critical mid-term timber supply.
- In response to extreme wildfire seasons in 2009-2010 and a historic number of community evacuations and record amount of area burned, the province initiated Landscape Fire Management Planning (LFMP) in 2012.
- LFMP directs the management of Crown land to reduce wildfire risks to communities, critical infrastructure and natural resources such as the mid-term timber supply.
- The 2012 Special Committee on Timber Supply recommended to the legislative assembly that the ministry continue to fund strategies and activities for the reduction of fuel in the wildland-urban interface. Where these investments reduce overall fire suppression risks and costs, then the ministry might best fund these expenditures from the fire suppression budget and thereby reduce the overall cost to the Province (Section 3.3 a).
- s.12, s.17

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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s.13

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Date Prepared: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Simpson, Executive Director, Wildfire Management

Phone: 250 387-6368

Issue: Future of the Martin Mars water bomber

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) is planning to offer a Request for Proposals in 2013 for an amphibious (i.e. able to land at airstrips and water bodies) aircraft with turbine engines that will be able to drop long-term retardants and short-term suppressants (water, foam and gel).
 - This will provide a competitive, safe, effective and efficient addition that will integrate seamlessly into the already existing modernized fleet.
 - The intent is to have this new group on contract for the 2014 fire season.
 - This will eliminate the need for the Martin Mars direct award contract.
 - The Coulson Group has been made aware of this process and it is welcome to submit a proposal based on the established criteria.
 - Since 2007, WMB has issued a direct award contract to the Coulson Group for the services of the Martin Mars water bomber.
 - By comparison, the 19 other airtankers contracted to the Wildfire Management Branch have been acquired through a rigorous competitive procurement process consistent with government policy.
 - The Martin Mars 2013 contract is for a 90-day period and provides an availability cost valued at \$672,300 ^{s.21}
- s.21
- The total amount paid to the Coulson Group since 2007 under the direct award contracts is \$4.77 million. This includes \$1.35 million recovered in 2011 when it was loaned to Alberta for their busy fire season.
 - The Martin Mars has been deployed to 13 fires in B.C. during the same time period, ultimately representing a substantial investment per fire.
 - There is an opportunity to procure the Martin Mars on a short-term basis or “call when needed” arrangement in the future, but not in the form of a 90-day, direct award contract.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

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Date Prepared: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Simpson, Executive Director, Wildfire Management

Phone: 250 387-6368

Issue: Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (Fuel Management Program)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The *2003 Firestorm Provincial Review* report (compiled by Gary Filmon in 2004) identified fuel management as one of the key wildfire mitigation priorities. It noted that the costs should be shared with local governments (municipalities and regional districts).
- Between 2004 and 2010, \$37 million of federal and provincial funding was allocated to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) for local government and First Nations fuel management planning and treatments. In April 2011, new funding of \$25 million was announced by Minister Steve Thomson. This funding was granted to UBCM over two years for continuation of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI).
- The delivery model of the SWPI has four project categories: Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs); Demonstration Projects; Prescriptions; and Operational Treatments. SWPI is administered through UBCM to eligible applicants on a cost-sharing basis.
- Activities implemented under the strategy to date include:
 - Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA):
 - 1.7 million hectares identified as potentially threatening communities (685,000 hectares at high risk)
 - an analysis made available to all communities for planning
 - an update to the PSTA will be completed by June 30, 2013
 - Projects funded as of March 31, 2013 for municipalities, regional districts and First Nations:
 - 302 Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been completed or are underway
 - 392 Prescriptions have been completed or are in progress
 - 229 Operational Projects have been completed or are in progress (including pilot and demonstration projects)
- Over 354 Wildfire Management Branch crew projects (207 fuels projects) have been completed in the past eight seasons, utilizing fire crews when they were not deployed on fires.
- Total area treated (as of March 31, 2013) was 47,977 hectares:
 - 26,297 hectares in areas affected by the mountain pine beetle
 - 21,680 hectares in areas not affected by the mountain pine beetle
- First Nations summary:

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- The program provides direct support to the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of B.C. by increasing capacity to facilitate fuel management work in high-priority areas.

As of March 31, 2013, First Nations results include:

- 120 Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been completed or are in progress in First Nation communities
- 119 First Nations have either completed or are in the process of completing one or more CWPPs, leaving 81 First Nations in the province that do not have CWPPs or hold joint plans with adjacent local governments
- 64 fuel management projects have been initiated or completed in First Nation communities

• s.17, s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

• s.13

Date Prepared: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gary Townsend

Phone: 250 953-3473

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Simpson, Executive Director, Wildfire Management

Phone: 250 387-6368

Issue: Research Program and Funding

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Salary Budget

- The salary budget for research in 2013/14 is anticipated to be maintained at about \$6.2 million.
 - The 2012/13 and 2011/12 salary budget for research was \$6.2 million for 73 full-time equivalents.
 - This compares to \$8.1 million for 91 full-time equivalents in the 2010/11 salary budget.
 - The change in funding reflects the transfer of 18 full-time equivalents to the Ministry of Environment in October 2010.

Operating Budget

- The base operating budget for research in 2013/14 is anticipated to be about \$5.2 million.
 - The base operating budget for 2012/13 was about \$5.8 million, and this funding difference reflects government's commitment to balance the budget.

External Research

- FLNR also anticipates spending about \$2.285 million on external research in 2013/14.
- In 2011/12, FLNR spent \$2.285 million on external research through FPInnovations.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Diane Nicholls, Executive Director

Phone: 250-387-1544

Pages 61 through 62 redacted for the following reasons:

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Issue: Big Game and Fish and Wildlife Inventory

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Wildlife inventory, including Big Game inventory, and fisheries stock assessments are required to manage fish and wildlife resources for sustainable use, to avoid precautionary management with loss of recreational opportunity and allocation, and to support resource information needs for various land use practices.
- Big game inventory and hunter recruitment and retention, are key strategies for achieving FLNR's performance measure of 100,000 basic hunting licence sales annually in B.C.
- Significant funding has been provided to support big game inventory:
 - 2005–2008: about \$425,000 was allocated each year to fund 20–30 projects annually.
 - 2008-2010: about \$120,000 was allocated each year to fund 10–15 projects annually.
 - 2011: \$865,000 to removal of barriers for future economic development.
 - 2012: \$895,000 (including \$500,000 from LBIS) to support removal of economic barriers.
 - This fiscal \$400,000 from LBIS will be used to support:
 - Optimized, sustainable use of wildlife to support First Nation needs, recreational hunting and an economically viable guide-outfitting industry;
 - Inventories to address First Nations concerns with wildlife populations and enable high priority authorizations to proceed;
 - Specific inventory focus on moose populations to identify extent and degree of moose declines throughout B.C.
- In 2013, an additional \$100,000 was allocated through the LBIS to support fisheries stock assessment.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship Division

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Caribou Recovery Implementation - Overview

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) provides for the designation of wildlife as species at risk and enables recovery planning.
- Woodland caribou are designated a species at risk in B.C. which is currently implementing recovery plans for three ecotypes of caribou in B.C: Mountain, Boreal, and Northern
- In October 2007, Government approved the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP) and FLNR is responsible for leading implementation.
- Significant progress has been made on many aspects of the MCRIP, including protecting winter habitat, reducing disturbance from recreational activities and testing predator management tools.
- Responsive wolf control may be required to support mountain caribou recovery objectives in some instances where wolf predation has been clearly demonstrated.

s.12

- The BCIP outlines requirements for development and implementation of required operating practices for industry, habitat restoration, predator control, inventory and monitoring.
- Habitat protection and five-year tenure deferral areas have been designated to conserve caribou habitat and operating practices have been agreed upon
- The Boreal Caribou Plan is well resourced by a levy applied to oil and gas production in caribou habitat.
- Some elements of the BCIP (e.g. FN engagement, collection of traditional ecological knowledge, wildlife management) will require government funding as they are not eligible for levy fund money.
- In March 2013, a major caribou radio-collaring project was completed. Other priorities may constrain participation or implementation of similar projects.

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- In March 2013, FLNR released the Implementation Plan for the Ongoing Management of South Peace Northern Caribou in British Columbia (PNCP) which outlines a management strategy for all seven northern caribou herds in the South Peace.
- The PNCP includes recommendations to conserve and protect habitat, manage predators and reduce the impacts from industrial activity.
- In June, the West Moberly First Nation released an independent caribou recovery

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strategy for the Moberly caribou herd which is included in the PNCP.

- Wolf control is a part of this plan, but is being implemented by local First Nations at arm's length to government

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 18, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship Division

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Cohen Commission – A Federal Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In August 2009, following the third consecutive year of dismal returns, Minister Penner sent a letter to Federal Minister Shea, suggesting a public review of the state of Fraser River sockeye.
- In November 2009, the Federal Government announced and set out the Terms of Reference for the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River with Justice Bruce Cohen appointed as Commissioner. Provincial staff had not anticipated a full judicial inquiry
- The Province participated in the federal government's inquiry and the hearings are completed. ^{s.14}
^{s.14}
- On October 31, 2012, the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River was submitted to the Federal Government. The report includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, eight of which directly or indirectly reference the Province of British Columbia.
- The Federal Government has not responded to the report.
- On March 22, 2013 the BC Government accepted the intent of recommendations regarding: riparian area management and, compliance and enforcement; the Water Act; marine habitat spill response; agriculture and forestry pesticide record keeping; and including consideration of sockeye salmon in monitoring of industrial and wastewater management.
- The BC Government's response notes the Province has no intention of issuing any new tenure agreements for net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020, but will consider applications to amend tenure boundaries for reasons other than increasing production.
- The media reaction to the provincial response has been very limited and balanced. The Province's response has caused some concern from the aquaculture industry.
- The BC Government will work with our federal counterparts and aquaculture operators to monitor for all possible diseases and is prepared to implement a prompt, coordinated, and science-based response, if required.
- Results of thousands of tests for Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAV) done by the Ministry of Agriculture have all been negative (no virus). Similarly, the

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Canadian Food Inspection Agency has implemented a survey of wild salmon in BC and all results to date for ISAV have been negative.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC) - Transferring revenues from fishing licences to conservation activities

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- A 30-year contract was established in 2003 with FFSBC, a non-profit service delivery partner with a mandate to conserve and enhance the freshwater fisheries resources for the benefit of the public.
- FFSBC has a 10 year track record for excellent service delivery, innovation, partnerships and operational efficiencies and is recognized as one of the most progressive and accomplished fisheries organizations in North America.
- FLNRO currently funds FFSBC as follows:
 - 70% of net angling licence revenue (~\$7M) to sustain sport fishing - primarily operation of hatcheries and the provincial stocking program.
 - \$1.2 million for fisheries “conservation services.”
 - a payment of \$375,000 to meet the province’s commitment to maintain basic infrastructure in the former provincial hatcheries.
- There has been no increase in funding to FFSBC in 10 years.
- The 2013 “Economic Impact Report on Freshwater Sport Fishing in BC” report outlines the following economic impacts of freshwater fishing:
 - \$546 million in direct economic impacts in 2010.
 - \$54.6 million in total provincial taxes in 2010.
 - 5,000 person years of employment.
 - For every \$1 invested in FFSBC service delivery, anglers spend an average of \$24.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Grizzly Bear Management

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Hunting is an important resource management tool for managing wildlife and occurs where such activities are biologically sustainable.
- FLNR's current estimate of the number of Grizzly Bears in B.C. is 15,000.
- Each year, about 300 Grizzly Bears are harvested by hunters and another 60 are taken as a result of conflict with humans and other human-caused mortality.
- This level is well within the sustainable limits of mortality for Grizzly Bears.
- B.C.'s harvest management approach is based on the best available science, the foundation of which consists of:
 - a reliable population estimate,
 - establishing a harvest rate that sustains or recovers local populations, and
 - a comprehensive system for tracking all human-caused Grizzly Bear mortalities.
- This system has generally worked well to ensure harvest limits are not exceeded. In 2013, an appendix was added to the provincial Grizzly Bear Harvest Management Procedure that provides additional flexibility to sustainably manage grizzly bears using all available sources of information in a transparent manner.
- FLNR has a comprehensive Question and Answer document on their website which outlines the management of British Columbia's Grizzly Bear hunting and responds to many of the concerns raised by the public around our management approach.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Guide Outfitter Certainty

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Province values the guide outfitting industry's contribution to B.C.'s economy of approximately \$116 million in annual revenue. About 5,000 non-residents hunt in B.C. each year; there are 240 licensed guide outfitters in B.C.
- Over the past year, the ministry has taken a number of actions to support the guide industry and to enhance business certainty therein:
 1. As of April 1st, 2012, there was an increase in the deadline for submission of a guide report from 10 days to 30 days after the conclusion of a hunt. Extending the deadline for submission of a guide declaration made it easier for guide outfitters to comply with reporting requirements, particularly for guides in isolated areas.
 2. As of July 1st, 2012, the ministry increased the length of the guiding territory certificate from a maximum of 10 years to a maximum of 25 years.
 3. The ministry secured joint funding (with Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training) to support a 14 month staff position dedicated to moving legislative, regulatory and policy initiatives forward.
 4. In November 2012, the ministry removed the Canadian citizenship requirements from the assistant guide licence and lowered the minimum age of the assistant guide from 19 to 18.
 5. In December 2012, the ministry provided the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C. (GOABC) with a "bankability proposal", identifying areas of guiding administration where the ministry will explore guide certainty changes.
 6. In January 2013, the ministry created policy and procedures related to First Nations consultation on guiding territory certificate transfers.
 7. In January 2013, the ministry provided clarity to GOABC and Regional Managers on the meaning of Section 48 (3) of the *Wildlife Act* to ensure consistent interpretation.
 8. The ministry is eliminating duplication of paperwork guides submit to the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch and BC Parks related to harvest reporting.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Hunting and Angling Facts and Figures

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Hunting, trapping, angling and wildlife viewing is worth about \$1.3 billion to the Province's economy
- 7.5 million fish are caught per year.
- "Big Game" populations and average annual harvest:
 - Grizzly bears – about 15,000 (2.1 % average harvest)
 - Black bears - 120,000 to 160,000 (2.7% average harvest)
 - Bighorn Mountain Sheep – about 6,500
 - Thinhorn Mountain Sheep – about 12,450 (2.3 % average harvest)
 - Mountain Goat – about 53,500 (1.2% average harvest)
 - Caribou – about 21,500 (1.5% average harvest, threatened caribou not allowed to be hunted)
 - Moose – about 187,500 (4.7% average harvest), population estimate will need to be adjusted downward based on most recent survey results
 - Elk – about 61,500 (5.9% average harvest)
- There are approximately 100,000 resident and non-resident hunters in B.C.
- There are approximately 300,000 anglers across B.C.; 6% more anglers since 2005.
- There are approximately 24 species of fish available for angling.
- Wildlife viewing
 - 1,100 vertebrate species
 - 488 bird species
 - 468 fish species
 - 142 mammal species
 - 22 amphibian species
 - 18 reptile species
 - 75 percent of Canada's mammal species are found in BC, including 24 species unique to B.C.
 - 2,790 vascular plant species

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Hunting Licence Program and Data Systems Modernization

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- There were more than 100,000 licensed (resident and non-resident) hunters in British Columbia in 2010/11.
- Hunting licence sales account for \$9.2 million in government revenue, as well as an additional \$3 million in surcharge revenue to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation annually.
- Currently, licences are pre-printed paper booklets sold only at Service BC offices and a network of private sector vendors.
- British Columbia is among the last few jurisdictions in North America to have paper licences.
- s.13
- Resident hunters and licensed guide outfitters are very supportive of the initiative to initiate online electronic licencing.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Limited Entry Hunting Draw

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) is a wildlife management tool to sustainably manage wildlife for hunting where demand exceeds supply, and where open seasons (unlimited participation) are not effective to ensure harvest limits are not exceeded.
- LEH is a system by which hunting authorizations are awarded to resident hunters based on a lottery, or random draw.
- Demand for LEH hunts is high. In 2013, there was a record 172,973 authorizations received by hunters to hunt for Bison, Caribou, Elk, Grizzly Bear, Moose, Mountain Goat, Mountain Sheep and Mule Deer in various locations throughout the province.
- Hunters require timely notification as to whether or not they were successful in lottery draw, so that they can plan their hunts and holiday schedules.
- The Ministry attempts to complete the draw by the end of June. Hunters are able to find out if they were successful in the draw by going online the day after the draw.
- Draw dates for previous years were June 28, 2007; July 2, 2008; July 15, 2009; June 16, 2010; June 20, 2011; and June 26, 2012.
- The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has been notified that, while the Ministry is aiming for the end of June for the draw, it may not occur until early July. A July draw has happened twice over the last 6 years.
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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Moose Management - Provincial Framework

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 2012, in response to declining moose populations in the central interior and Skeena, the Province began to develop a provincial moose management framework in cooperation with the BC Wildlife Federation and Guide Outfitters Association of BC.
- The purpose of the framework is to provide provincial coordination for moose management and guide regional implementation of management actions.
- The framework is currently in draft form and being developed by a Provincial Moose Management Team consisting of biologists from regions and headquarters.
- The framework has compiled a list of potential factors that may be associated with declining moose populations including unregulated hunting, increased access, predation, changing environmental conditions (including mountain pine beetle infestation and timber salvaging), and cumulative impacts.
- Results from 21 moose surveys in 2012/13 determined that province-wide, the decline in some moose populations is not considered to be an immediate conservation concern. However, the 2012/13 survey results mean that the Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) opportunities and guide quotas for moose in 2013 will be reduced in the Omineca and Cariboo regions.
- The framework is planned for completion in July 2013 and the provincial Moose Management Team will remain intact to continue working on current and emerging moose management concerns.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Permit Regulation Reform Project

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Permit and Authorization Service Bureau (PASB), created in 2004, is responsible for the administration of Fish and Wildlife Permits, Commercial Licences and BC Parks' Park Use Permits, authorizations which used to be administered regionally.
- While PASB streamlined the delivery of these authorizations, until now, there has been no comprehensive review of the regulations governing them for the purposes of reducing red tape (a key component of BC's Regulatory Reform Initiative).
- The Permit Regulation Reform Project is intended to identify regulatory areas under the Wildlife Act that can be simplified or eliminated in accordance with principles of smart regulation.
- The projected timeline for this project is approximately one year.
- Expected outcomes are as follows:
 - Cost savings for FLNR regional offices and PASB;
 - Reduced backlog of applications at PASB;
 - Faster delivery of authorizations;
 - Reduced regulatory burden in general; and
 - Satisfied stakeholders (including guide outfitters).
- Any regulatory reforms that result from this project will not detract from the management and conservation of fish and wildlife.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Skeena Stream Trout and Char Retention

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The federal *Fisheries Act* authorizes the Director of the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Branch to vary regulations pertaining to method/gear/bait, no fishing, and quota for freshwater angling in British Columbia.
- The vulnerability of trout and char in streams to fishing overharvest and habitat degradation is documented across North America, including southern British Columbia. As a result, char (notably bull trout) are considered a species of significant conservation concern throughout their native range.
- Significant uncertainty regarding trout and char status in the Skeena Region, where development is expanding rapidly in key watersheds, has led to a precautionary approach until fisheries assessments can identify sustainable harvest opportunities.
- In spring 2013, the Director approved a regulation change that permits a daily quota of one trout angled from streams in the Skeena Region during the summer and prohibited retention of char from Skeena streams year-round.
- This decision received strong support from conservation minded angling groups, but some angling stakeholders (including the BC Wildlife Federation) have criticized the decision as overly conservative and an unnecessary loss of angling opportunity with very little evidence to support the reduction.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Species at Risk Recovery

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) provides for the designation of wildlife as species at risk and enables recovery planning, including the identification of critical habitat.
- In the federal process, there is no recognition of economic consequences from protective measures.
- B.C. is signatory to the Canada – BC Agreement on Species at Risk within which federal and provincial agencies work to ensure a coordinated and focused approach to the delivery of species at risk protection and recovery.
- The Ministry of Environment leads the development of recovery plans for species at risk that can be adopted by the federal government under SARA.
- The Minister of FLNR is responsible for the implementation of recovery or management plans for species at risk.
- Species at risk recovery is achieved by using measures to protect species, protect habitat and augment populations.
- The main tools that the ministry has for implementing the habitat component of species recovery are under the Forest Range Practices Act and the Oil and Gas Activities Act that provide habitat protection on Crown Land from forestry, oil and gas activities, and any other activity that requires a licence to cut.
- B.C. has utilized existing provincial tools and processes to protect significant amounts of habitat for a number of SARA-listed species, including Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet, and caribou.
- The *Wildlife Act* prohibits the harvest of species at risk and enables control of predators and competitors.
- Actions the Province has taken for species at risk recovery include:
 - establishing 1605 Wildlife Habitat Areas for a total of over 1.4 million hectares to protect 59 different species and ecosystems at risk.
 - initiating successful captive breeding programs for select species that fall to low numbers (i.e., spotted owl, Vancouver Island marmot).
 - augmenting small, isolated populations with individuals from large, healthy populations to avoid extirpation (e.g. mountain caribou, mountain goats).

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- The federal government is concluding a national recovery strategy on boreal caribou and beginning development of a strategy for southern mountain caribou where the Province has announced recovery plans or started its own planning process.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 19, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Trapping in the Urban Interface

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- A number of municipalities have shown interest in developing bylaws restricting trapping within their boundaries. The Community Charter states that municipalities must receive approval from the FLNR Minister in order to create bylaws related to wildlife for areas other than “public places”.
- At the 2012 annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), a resolution was put forth by the City of Vernon requesting that FLNR be encouraged to: 1) prohibit the sale of wildlife traps to individuals without a trapping permit or license and 2) develop and promote educational programs on alternatives to trapping wildlife and the importance of signage, particularly within urban areas in order to protect humans and pets from unnecessary injury.
- There have been a number of instances of pets being caught in traps; these events have received negative media attention and resulted in a number of letters to the Ministry from concerned citizens, trappers and pet owners. Minister Steve Thomson committed to having staff review these issues to determine solutions that would reduce the chance of these events from happening in the future.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM, Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250-387-5657

Issue: Urban Wildlife – Problem Wildlife

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Wildlife, especially mule and white-tailed deer, continue to come into conflict with humans in urban settings. Wildlife creates risks relating to human safety and disease transfer and can also cause conflict with pets and gardeners.
- Many people enjoy seeing wildlife in urban settings and have concerns for animal populations and the welfare of individual animals.
- FLNR is committed to helping local communities manage wildlife in urban environments.
- Management actions will vary with each community due to differences in the local environment, wildlife populations, capacity and local attitudes.
- FLNR and Conservation Officer Service staff help communities to manage urban wildlife conflict by: taking part in planning committees, providing technical advice, developing hunting regulations, issuing permits to manage urban deer populations and loaning equipment to communities as required.
- Local governments that experience wildlife conflict are encouraged to develop community management plans that may include opinion surveys, deer population estimates, “no-feeding” bylaws and educational materials that describe various conflict reduction options.
- The Province has been encouraged by local governments and animal welfare organizations to support the use of hazing by dogs as an additional tool that could be used to address urban deer conflicts.
- Currently the Permit Regulation, under the Wildlife Act, does not contain provisions for the issuance of permits that would allow for the use of dogs to haze deer.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

Phone: 250 387-5657

Issue: Wildlife Act Amendments

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In November 2011, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 3), (Bill 19) was passed.
- Bill 19 included amendments to the Wildlife Act related to:
 1. A new mentorship-style Initiation Hunting Licence for B.C. residents 18 years of age or older who want to explore hunting for a trial period with an experienced licensed hunter. The Initiation Hunting Licence is a once in a lifetime licence that requires the holder to be under the direct supervision of a licensed adult, similar to the requirements of a youth licence.
 2. Expanding the youth licence age range from 10 to 13 years of age to 10 to 17 years of age. This increases recreational opportunities for youth and families to hunt in B.C.
 3. Extending the guiding territory certificate term from up to 10 years to up to 25 years guiding territory certificates to increase business certainty for the guiding industry.
 4. Extending the timelines that guides need to submit guide declarations by moving the declaration provision from the Act into regulation.
 5. Prescribing open and closed seasons based on classes of people and physical characteristics and circumstances of wildlife.
- Key fish and wildlife stakeholders were supportive of these legislative amendments.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Andrew Wilson, Director

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Forest Inventory - Status

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The ministry is continuously improving the province's forest inventory, with expenditures of \$80 million planned over the next 10 years, guided by the Forest Inventory Strategic Plan
- The ministry's forest inventory program:
 - Supports decision-making on sustainable forest harvest levels, mountain pine beetle (MPB) strategies, silviculture investments, wildlife habitat and protected area strategies.
 - Informs management decisions on emerging priorities such as climate change, carbon sequestration and biomass utilization.
- The forest inventory covers B.C.'s 95 million hectares, and is one of the largest, most complex inventory programs in Canada. The inventory is updated every year to reflect harvesting and annual forest growth.
- In 2012/13, approximately 2.9 million hectares of new inventory was completed.
- The Ministry is working to upgrade the current inventory to the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) standard.
- To date approximately 44% (42 million hectares) of the province (and 56% of the timber harvesting landbase) has been inventoried to the VRI standard.
- The remaining areas have been prioritised and those with significant impacts to timber supply are being re-inventoried first - for example, areas impacted by MPB.
- The program is increasing the use of innovative and cost-effective tools such as satellite imagery and these tools will enable completion of the remaining inventory areas over the next 15 years.
- In 2013/14 the ministry will undertake major inventory projects in the many TSAs, including Mid Coast, Haida Gwaii, 100 Mile House, Kamloops, Lakes, Morice, Quesnel, Prince George, Williams Lake, Merritt, Arrow, and Cranbrook.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- In 2012/13, the ministry assigned 28 permanent staff and 3 auxiliary staff, and allocated \$7.5 million (operating), to the forest inventory, monitoring, and stand modelling program.
- In 2013/14, the ministry has assigned 31 permanent staff and allocated \$8.0 million (operating) to forest inventory

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Gary Johansen

Phone: 250-356-0633

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Forest Inventory - Status of MPB Area

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In response to the MPB epidemic, the Ministry is conducting a large and multi-faceted program to update forest inventories across the BC interior.
- The re-inventory program in MPB areas employs satellite imagery, aerial photographs, ground sampling, site productivity estimation, and the monitoring of stand growth.
- In 2012/13 forest inventory mapping and/or ground sampling was undertaken in 8 management units in the BC interior.
- The Ministry has increased spending on forest inventory from \$6 million (operating) in 2011/12 to \$8.0 million (operating) in 2013/14 (\$10.7 million in total when salaries are included).
- In 2013/14 the planned forest inventory program includes projects to improve inventory information in 11 management units in the BC interior.
- The Ministry has completed MPB impact mapping and opportunity mapping on 22 high priority MPB impacted units.
- The MPB impact mapping shows attack location, severity and year and the opportunity mapping identifies areas with the best harvesting, reforestation and silvicultural opportunities.
- The new inventories pay special attention to the trees that survived the MPB attack and comprise the remaining live tree component of the forest.
- Given the vast extent of pine killed by the MPB, it is expected to take 4 years to initiate or complete inventories in each of the areas most affected by MPB

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Forest Inventory Strategic Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In the spring 2012 debates of the Legislative Assembly, Minister Thomson committed the ministry to prepare a strategic plan for the forest inventory program.
- In its 2012 report, the Special Committee on Timber Supply recommended that the ministry prepare a provincial inventory action plan.
- In February 2013, the Ministry released a Forest Inventory Strategic Plan that will guide expenditures of \$80 million over a 10-year period on forest inventory, growth monitoring, and yield prediction.
- The Strategic Plan:
 - presents a vision for forest inventory in British Columbia
 - provides a mission statement for the ministry's forest inventory program
 - describes strategies that the forest inventory program will pursue
 - lists nine program goals, and specific 5- and 10-year targets for each goal
 - specifies inventory priorities in mountain pine beetle impacted areas
- In 2013/14 the ministry is implementing an \$8 million (operating) inventory program, consistent with the Strategic Plan, with a focus on improving inventory in areas affected by the mountain pine beetle.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

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Issue: Managing Cedar Harvest on the Coast

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On the Coast, cedar and cypress account for approximately 21 percent of the volume on the timber harvesting land base and 29 percent of the harvest.
- Although the proportional contribution of cedar and cypress to the coastal harvest has declined slightly in the last few years, these species are harvested in greater proportions than they occur on the timber harvesting land base
- This trend is likely due to the high relative value of old-growth cedar compared to those of hemlock and balsam.
- The ministry and coast industry have jointly developed a protocol to monitor timber harvest profiles.
- Early monitoring results indicate that, for the coast region as a whole, the absolute amount of cedar and cypress harvest is not significantly greater than the forecasted annual supply.
- In some local areas (e.g., Haida Gwaii) the contribution of cedar and cypress to the annual harvest is significantly greater than their contribution to the timber harvesting land base.
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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: MPB Epidemic – Status

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Lodgepole pine trees killed by the MPB in one year become red and easily visible the following year. This mortality is reported as red-attack pine, whereas trees that have been dead for two or more years are reported as grey-attack.
- In 2012, the cumulative area affected by the MPB infestation was 18.3 million hectares; an increase of 200,000 hectares from 2011.
- As of 2012, the cumulative volume of MPB-killed pine (red- and grey-attack) on the timber harvesting land base is estimated to be 723 million cubic metres or 53% of the total mature pine.
- It is now projected that by the end of the infestation the cumulative kill will be about 58% of the pine on the timber harvesting land base. This is considerably less than the 80% initially projected to be killed.
- The 2012 surveys show that the area of red-attack pine (trees newly killed in 2011) covers about 3 million hectares, which is about 35 percent less kill than was surveyed in 2011.
- Most of the new infestation is categorized as low intensity, thus only about 11 million cubic metres of timber volume has been impacted.
- Elevated rates of kill may continue over the next few years in areas on the periphery of the outbreak such as the Mackenzie, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Bulkley and Morice timber supply areas.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: MPB Killed Forests – Growth and Change

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Accurate information on the rate of re-growth in MPB-affected forests is essential for resource management and to mitigate the impacts of the MPB (mountain pine beetle).
- In many stands where pine trees have been killed by the MPB, some live trees remain and some new tree seedlings will regenerate naturally.
- In addition to MPB, forests may be disturbed by climate change, fire, disease, and other insect pests.
- In February 2013, the Minister released a Forest Inventory Strategic Plan to guide expenditures of \$80 million over 10 years on forest inventory, growth monitoring, and yield prediction.
- Under the Strategic Plan, the Ministry is developing and implementing new inventory methods that better detect residual trees, monitor stand growth and change, and forecast future yields in MPB-affected forests.
- In 2013/14, the ministry is establishing new forest monitoring plots in the Merritt, Williams Lake, and Quesnel TSAs, and re-measuring existing plots in Prince George, 100 Mile House and Mackenzie TSAs.
- In addition, under the Forests For Tomorrow program funded by the Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS), the Ministry is surveying MPB damaged stands, identifying areas requiring treatment such as planting, and undertaking silviculture treatments to improve stand growth.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: MPB Salvage Harvesting and Socio-Environmental Impacts

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As a result of the MPB epidemic, allowable annual cut (AAC) levels for timber supply areas (TSA) and tree farm licences (TFL) increased from about 70.4 million m³/year in 2000 to 85.4 million m³/year in 2007. Since 2007, AACs have slowly declined to the current level of about 77 million m³/year.
- The AAC increases were intended to allow salvage harvesting of pine before it degrades, decays or burns. These increases are supported by timber supply analyses that account for current management practices and requirements for values such as visual quality, streamside area management, biological diversity and habitat requirements for fish and wildlife.
- To help balance stewardship concerns in light of increased salvage harvest activity, the Chief Forester has provided guidance to resource professionals on
 - the amount of retention expected at the stand and landscape level, and
 - the importance of collaborative planning to identify retention areas at the watershed scale.
- The benefits of salvage harvesting include
 - extraction of value and economic activity from harvesting and processing,
 - job creation and skill development,
 - the rapid reforestation of most impacted stands at no cost to the province, and
 - improved long-term timber supply.
- Due to poor markets, actual salvage harvesting has been well below the AAC in many units, however, markets have improved greatly recently.
- Government monitors forestry activities to ensure their compliance with rules and regulations and to ensure licensees are focusing harvesting on pine stands.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 10, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Issue: Old Growth Carbon

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Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Old-growth forests store large amounts of carbon.
- Forest conservation is only one of several forest management activities that have a beneficial effect on atmospheric carbon.
- ENGOs are promoting a reduction in timber harvesting to maintain carbon in the forests based in part on the belief that all the wood removed during timber harvesting becomes an emission of carbon into the atmosphere.
- This perspective, however, is not based on an examination of the full life-cycle of harvested wood products and their contribution to the removal of greenhouse gases.
- In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted that “A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit”.
- In fact, about half of the carbon in harvested wood is stored in structural products such as lumber which continue to store the carbon for 80-100 years and every tonne of wood material used in construction saves about 5.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.
- Carbon lost from harvested sites will eventually be recovered by new tree growth and by the soil.
- The ministry is working to provide a full accounting of carbon to inform forest management decisions in BC.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Timber Supply and Mid-term Impacts of MPB

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As a result of the MPB epidemic, allowable annual cut (AAC) levels for timber supply areas (TSA) and tree farm licences (TFL) increased from about 70.4 million m³/year in 2000 to 85.4 million m³/year in 2007. Since 2007, AACs have slowly declined to the current level of about 77 million m³/year.
- The objective of the AAC increase was to enable salvage of dead and dying trees while the timber still had economic value.
- Within 10-15 years the provincial AAC is projected to be 20-25% below the pre-infestation level and this reduction may last up to 5 decades. This is because the pine volume has either been harvested or has become unusable.
- In 2012, the Ministry conducted analyses in four of the most severely affected TSAs (Prince George, Lakes, Quesnel and Williams Lake) to explore possibilities for mitigating short- and mid-term timber supply shortfalls.
- In May 2012, the Legislative Assembly agreed that a *Special Committee on Timber Supply* be appointed to examine, inquire and make recommendations with respect to mid-term timber supply resulting from the pine beetle epidemic in the central interior.
- In October 2012, the Ministry initiated a plan – *Beyond the Beetle: A mid-term timber supply action plan* - to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee. Key elements of the plan include timely reforestation/rehabilitation of un-harvested areas, updating forest inventories, fuel management, intensive silviculture and conversion of volume-based tenures to area-based tenures. The plan also focuses on using dead timber for bioenergy and other purposes, and on options for increasing mid-term timber supply.
- Analyses of options to increase mid-term timber supply and the implications for non-timber values were completed for the Lakes, Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs. In the Lakes TSA, a discussion paper was prepared for consultation with communities on options to increase mid-term timber supply. Options include such things as lowering minimum stand merchantability criteria, relaxation or removal of objectives for other forest values such as visual quality, old-growth conservation and wildlife habitat.

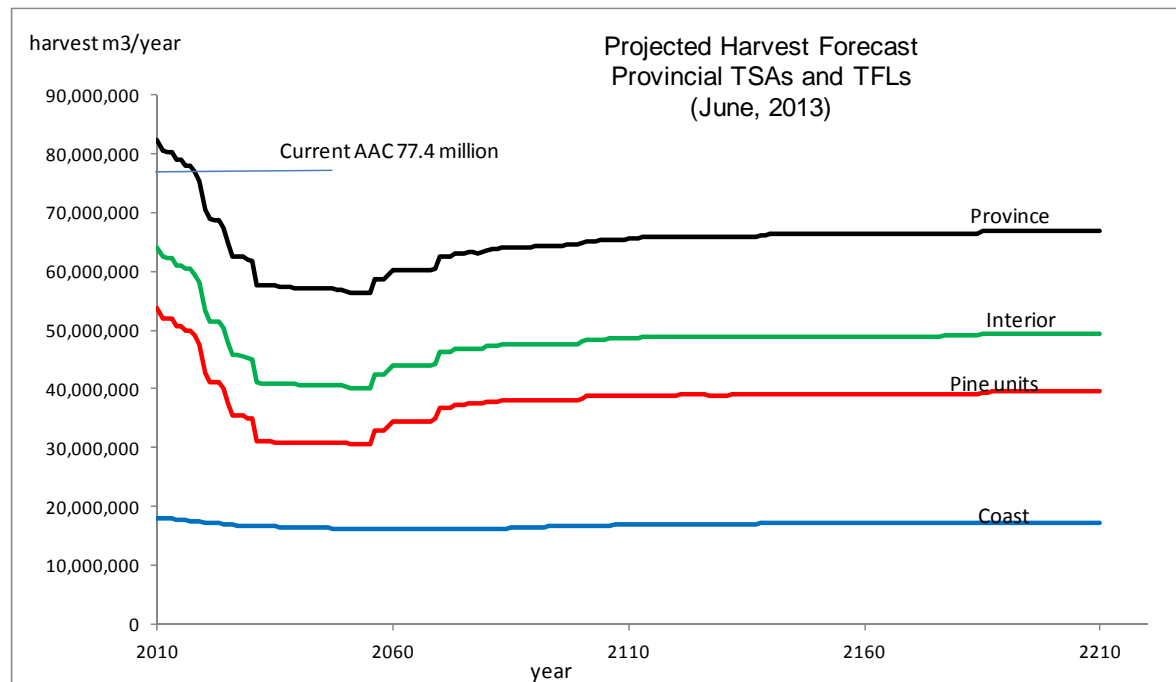
2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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July 3, 2013

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Update on Mid-Term Timber Supply Committee Recommendations

Background:

The Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan “Beyond Beetle” was prepared in response to the MLA Special Committee on Timber Supply. To date in delivering the Action Plan, the Ministry has completed actions on a significant number of recommendations and many recommendations are being implemented in the regions.

Policy, legislation and analysis:

Landbase issues & timber supply analysis:

- A draft engagement framework has been developed. The framework is being designed to ensure timely and better-informed ministry decisions by strengthening existing engagement processes with First Nations, communities and stakeholders. (Rec. 1.2)
- A proposed framework and identification of analytical methods for review of sensitive areas is under development to assist in the regional engagement on sensitive area reviews. (Rec. 2.2.a)
- Timber supply analyses and review of sensitive areas were completed for the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs. These analyses were incorporated in a draft discussion paper on options to increase mid-term timber supply. Options include such things as lowering minimum stand merchantability criteria, and relaxation or removal of objectives for other forest values such as visual quality, old-growth conservation and wildlife habitat. (Rec. 2.2)
- Review of marginally economic stands within each beetle affected TSA to quantify the types and areas of forest that could be included in a partition in the timber supply for that TSA. Review of marginal stands in the Bulkley, 100 Mile House and Boundary TSAs have been completed as a part of the regular timber supply review. During fiscal 2013/14 the ministry will complete analyses of marginal stands for the Dawson Creek, Mackenzie, Williams Lake and Morice TSAs. (Rec. 2.1.a)

Inventory:

- Release of a 10-year inventory plan in February 2013. The annual funding increase to \$8 million will ensure 35 million hectares are inventoried in mountain pine beetle affected and other priority areas. The plan outlines nine goals, each with five- and 10-year targets, ensuring no forest cover data is older than 30 years, while integrating 100 per cent of harvest, reforestation and fire information updates into the inventory. (Rec. 4.1.a)
- Complete air photo coverage, the first stage in preparing new forest inventories, has been successfully acquired for Lakes TSA and for Morice TSA, the air photos will be acquired this summer. A new forest inventory was completed in 2012 for the eastern portion of Williams Lake TSA. In the western portion, inventory information is being provided by an innovative inventory approach that utilizes a combination of photo samples, ground samples, and



July 3, 2013

Landsat satellite data. In addition, this summer, long-term stand growth monitoring plots are being established on a grid over the entire TSA. (Rec.4.1.b)

Forest, wildlife and landscape level fire management:

- Completion of type 4 silviculture strategies (comprehensive timber supply area plans that identify key silviculture objectives, tree species selection, harvesting and retention priorities and climate change) for the Quesnel and Okanagan timber supply areas. The strategies for Prince George, Lakes, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, and Morice timber supply areas are expected to be completed in August 2013. (Rec. 3.2.b)
- Formation of a new industry/ministry Resource Stewardship and Tenures Committee with regular meetings to review forest practices requirements and identify opportunities to improve fibre growth and value. (Rec. 3.1.a and 3.2.d)
- Completion of a document entitled *Partial Cutting – Ministry key training materials, standards, systems and growth and yield models* (Rec. 3.1.c)
- Further work on stocking standards. A draft document has been prepared on what species need to be included in stocking standards across the province. (Rec. 3.1.c)
- An assessment regarding suitable areas for reforestation has been completed following the criteria recommended by the special committee, including both a provincial assessment and maps showing potentially suitable areas that are available to district staff. (Rec. 3.4.b)
- A review of emerging and innovative technologies that could improve the cost-effectiveness of assessing areas impacted by the MPB and/or fire was conducted. A dialogue with stakeholders and their feedback informed the work of inventory and resource practices staff that led to the development of an Action Plan that is currently being implemented. (Rec. 3.4.c)
- Habitat supply analysis methodology was developed to determine the implications to wildlife from the Mid-Term Timber Supply harvesting scenarios. The completed product is used to inform regional MTTTS processes, further timber supply analysis and decisions.
- Development and implementation of a provincial Landscape level fire management planning process to ensure broader management of fuels and the development of fire management objectives at the landscape level in consultation with the full range of stakeholders, industry and local government. Landscape level wildfire risk and hazard analysis is being completed for the province to project areas of highest risk. Three Landscape Fire Management planning pilots are underway in Merritt, Vanderhoof and Squamish. These pilots will help provide the template process to be implemented across the province. (Rec. 3.3)

Forest tenures and fibre utilization:

- Forest Act amendments to create a supplemental forest licence and the ability to establish sustainable maximum harvest limits on the amount of low-grade timber credited to a non-sawlog facility. The supplemental forest licence and sustainable cut control credit amendments to the Forest Act received Royal Assent (Miscellaneous Bill 8) on March 14, 2013. Regulations are currently being developed in support of the legislative amendments and are anticipated to be available in summer 2013. (rec. 5.2)

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- Examine the potential for a fibre-based AAC pilot. The Bio-economy Transformation council, a collaboration between industry, government, and research and development institutions, was formed to take a leadership role in facilitating and accelerating the development of BC's bio-economy. A working group was established to review ways to enhance the utilization of fibre through a broad review of current administrative tools, while applying a lens that looks at the entire fibre resource. The working group is working on a pilot framework and a project in an interior TSA that would test a wide range of new administrative tools and policies to assess the viability of an all inclusive fibre based allowable annual cut (AAC). (Rec. 5.2.b)

Regional implementation:*South Area:*

Science based-review is being implemented in the Cariboo region. Information package for the Cariboo was distributed direct to communities in April 2013 and staff has engaged with community leaders in Williams Lake, Quesnel, Lac La Hache and Cariboo Regional District to discuss government MTTTS response and request feedback on interest for a science based review of land use objectives. The three objectives that have been offered for consideration include: old growth management areas, Mule Deer Winter Range, and Visual Quality Areas. City of Quesnel submitted a letter July 2 in support of a review of land use objectives. Cariboo FLNR is preparing a terms of reference if it is determined by government to undertake a review, after responses are rolled up in August.

Currently no opportunities have been indentified in Merritt and Kamloops TSAs as the issue will be looked at within the context of forthcoming Timber Supply Reviews. Other activities such as inventory activities and wildfire management planning are underway.

North Area:

Process to engage the public in the review of the land use objectives in the Lakes TSA. The analysis has been updated and a discussion paper is being developed. There will be a dialogue with licensees and FNs over the summer 2013 and go out to broader public in the fall. (Rec. 6)

Review and analysis concerning Old Growth Order and Landscape Biodiversity Objectives is on-going in Prince George TSA.

Issue: Cumulative Effects

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNRO and Ministry of Environment are co-leading a project to develop and test a *Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework* (CEAF) for the natural resource sector
- The project is developing a framework and tools to enable a consistent and effective approach to assessing cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making
- Three demonstration projects (West Okanagan-Nicola, Northwest and Northeast) have served as important ‘learning labs’ for the proposed framework and tools
- The project delivered final recommendations and an Action Plan for implementing a CEAF in BC to the Deputy Minister’s Committee for the Natural Resource Sector in May 2013^{s.12}
s.12
- The CEAF will support the following government goals:
 - streamlined natural resource decision-making and reduced uncertainty and costs for project proponents by providing consistent, upfront guidance and easily accessible information to support cumulative effects assessment;
 - improved outcomes for environmental, social, and economic values, by monitoring and managing a consistent set of values for all sectors;
- The CEAF project also responds to other pressures on the Province to consider and manage the cumulative effects of resource development:
 - s.14, s.16
 - A Forest Practices Board special investigation report (2011), “*Cumulative Effects: From Assessment Towards Management*”, concluded that the cumulative effects of natural resource development in BC are not well known, largely unmanaged, and that the current cumulative effects assessments for major projects have limited utility. These messages were reiterated in the Board’s February 2103 Bulletin “*The Need to Manage Cumulative Effects*”.
 - The Office of the Auditor General has advised that it is planning an audit of government’s management of cumulative environmental effects of natural resource development.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Land Use Planning and Objectives

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Land Use Planning

- Over 140 Land Use Plans have been approved over the last 15 years providing natural resource objectives and strategies for managing Crown land in B.C.
- Regional level Land Use Plans cover approximately 90% of the province and of these approximately 77% were approved in 2002 or earlier.
- Approved land use plans are used to guide provincial management decisions where the overall resource direction continues to be relevant.
- To ensure sound integrated resource management The Ministry is also pursuing other initiatives including
 - the one land manager concept,
 - developing a model of integrated decision-making
 - investigating cumulative effects assessment and management.

Resource Management Objectives

- Government's objectives for the management of natural resources are either legislated or expressed as policy.
- Legislated objectives affect values such as fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, landscape-level biodiversity, riparian areas, cultural heritage resources, recreation resources, visual resource values, and energy resources.
- Presently, legal objectives apply to:
 - the forestry and range and the oil and gas sectors
 - some industries that discharge waste to the environment
 - BC Hydro in the case of legislated clean energy objectives, and
 - Government (e.g. legislated greenhouse gas reduction objectives)
 - The proposed Water Sustainability Act includes legal water objectives.
- Legal resource objectives that apply consistently across the natural resource sector are a priority for Integrated Decision Making (IDM) and would support a cumulative effects assessment and management framework approach.

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The *Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)* is a results-based, professional reliance model that addresses applications for development within a 30 meter riparian assessment area on private land if a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) has certified that the development will not result in a harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of riparian fish habitat.
- The *RAR* complements the Federal *Fisheries Act (FFA)*, and is implemented through an intergovernmental cooperation agreement among the Province, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Union of BC Municipalities. The agreement provides that *RAR* science-based assessments constitute due diligence by proponents with respect to *FFA* requirements.

Key Issue #1: Changes to the *Federal Fisheries Act*

- The *Federal Fisheries Act* is undergoing amendments (Bill C-45, Bill C-38) that include removal of the general prohibition of HADD to fish habitat under Section 35(2) in favour of a provision prohibiting “serious harm” to fish that is permanent in nature.
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Key Issue #2: Ombudsperson Systemic Investigation into the *Riparian Areas Regulation*

- The BC Office of the Ombudsperson has announced a systemic investigation into the *Riparian Areas Regulation*, which is a comprehensive review of how the *RAR* works, the role of professional associations, and the Province’s role in monitoring QEP.
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- Results of the investigation may provide recommendations for changes to the *RAR* and supporting tools.

Key Issue #3: *Yanke v. Salmon Arm (City)*

- In a July 2011 decision with respect to *RAR*, the BC Court of Appeal ruled that government does not have legal grounds to allow variances nor does it have a role in non-HADD proposals, minimizing the ministry’s ability to affect the recovery of riparian vegetation. The ruling also precludes the ministry from rejecting a QEP report that does not follow the *RAR* methodology.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 20, 2013

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Issue: Auditor General Report on FLNR Management of Timber

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Auditor General (AG) completed an audit of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) management of timber in February 2012. FLNR responses to AG's recommendations were included in the final report.
- The major conclusions of the AG were:
 - The ministry has not clearly defined its timber objectives and as a result cannot ensure that its management practices are effective.
 - Existing management practices are resulting in a trend toward future forests having lower timber supply and less species diversity in some areas.
 - The ministry does not appropriately monitor and report results of timber management activities.
- The audit report provided the following 6 recommendations (abbreviated for this Briefing Note):
 1. Establish timber objectives and stewardship principles to guide decision-making, actions, time frames and assessment of results.
 2. Ensure silviculture investments are sufficient to achieve long-term timber objectives, align with stewardship principles and are cost-effective.
 3. Ensure that restocking activities are consistent with timber objectives.
 4. Ensure information systems reflect forest conditions in priority management units.
 5. Ensure the oversight framework is sufficient to achieve timber objectives.
 6. Establish performance measures towards achieving timber objectives and report publicly on the results.
- The AG requests agencies to complete a self-assessment of their progress in addressing each of its recommendations. FLNR completed the self-assessment and this was published in an April 2013 AG Follow-Up report.
- The AG Follow-Up report notes that a second follow-up on this audit will be completed by April 2014. It is believed that this will consist of FLNR undertaking a subsequent self-assessment.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Forest Health - Budget 2013/14

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The forest health program provides forest practitioners with science-based, economically rationalized best management practices guidance and advice; and directly implements detection and treatment activities that help prevent or mitigate the impacts of forest health agents.
- The Province is spending \$3.5 million in 2013/14 on forest health program activities. Key investments include:
 - \$1.50 million to treat high-value stands for western spruce budworm in the 100 Mile House, Central Cariboo, Chilcotin, Thompson Rivers, and Cascades districts.
 - \$1.05 million for Provincial aerial overview survey to monitor and report pest incidence and impacts supporting successful program delivery.
 - \$862,000 to manage mountain pine beetle, spruce bark beetle and Douglas-fir bark beetle outbreaks.
 - \$87,500 for continued work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to prevent the establishment of gypsy moth.
- The 13/14 forest health budget is \$4 million less than in 12/13 and is a result of the \$30 million reduction to the LBIS budget.
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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Forest Health – Provincial Trends

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Climatic Effects - FLNR staff continue to find evidence of changing forest health conditions that are associated with changing climates.
- Mountain Pine Beetle – The outbreak continues to decline. The outbreak in the Central Interior is over, but populations are still peaking in areas of the Peace, North of Prince George, and in Skeena. Suppression efforts were successful in suppressing populations in the Kootenay Boundary Region.
- Douglas-fir beetle - Activity increased slightly as a result of trees weakened during the wildfires in the Cariboo in 2011. Attacks were generally scattered and of low intensity but covered 21,000 hectares in 2012. Infestations will be targeted with a combination of harvesting, trap trees, and use of anti-aggregation pheromones.
- Spruce beetle - The area impacted nearly doubled in size compared to 2011. Outbreaks cover about 43,000 hectares with most of the damage recorded in the eastern Cariboo region. The infestation is being addressed through directed harvesting and use of trap trees.
- Western spruce budworm - Prolonged outbreaks continue in both the Cariboo and Kamloops areas and extended into the Kootenay Boundary Region in 2011. The area defoliated dropped slightly from last year to 456,000 hectares. Last year, the largest treatment program ever conducted in B.C. saw 116,234 hectares protected. This year, treatments will focus on 75,000 hectares to protect the vulnerable Douglas-fir understory critical to future timber supply in areas heavily impacted by MPB.
- Douglas-fir Tussock Moth - Populations have finally collapsed due to 4 years of FLNRO treatments with a naturally occurring virus that normally regulates outbreaks. Another outbreak is expected to return in about 10 years.
- Pine stem rusts – Climate change coupled with reforestation practices in certain areas of British Columbia's interior have increased the hazard of pine stem rusts. Strategies for reducing the impacts of pine stem rusts in new pine plantations are being implemented.
- Root disease – Appropriate management options best suited to control root disease in reforested stands continues to result in tolerable levels of infection by this indigenous disease. A changing climate will add another layer of risk to this challenging disease.
- Other Diseases – Disease such as foliar blights, dwarf mistletoe, and invasive alien and indigenous diseases, and that can be intensified by a changing climate, continue to cause significant timber supply losses across the province.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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- Gypsy moth is an exotic invasive defoliator that continues to re-occur on the South Coast. Only 3 adult male gypsy moths were caught in the 2012 trapping program marking the lowest trap catch ever recorded in BC in the 30 year history of the monitoring program. The threat of Asian gypsy moth entering from infested cargo vessels originating from Asian ports is high and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is leading the monitoring and eradication program if it is required.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 7, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Tim Ebata

Phone: 250 387-8739

Issue: FRPA - Addressing Conflicts between Tenured Users

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Over the past 10 years, the Forest Practices Board has investigated numerous complaints about conflicts between different tenure holders that operate on the same land. A few recent examples include:
 - Impacts of Mountain Pine Beetle Salvage on a Trapline (January 2010)
 - Logging and Lakeshore Management near Vanderhoof (March 2010)
 - Beetle Salvage and Water Flows near Williams Lake (April 2010)
 - Logging and Winter Stream Flow in Twinflower Creek (December 2011)
 - Dawson Creek Range-Aspen Logging (June 2012)
- These investigations examined the concerns of non-forestry tenure holders (e.g., guide outfitters, trappers, ranchers, water users) that the harvesting plans of forest licensees were not adequately accommodating their rights or interests.
- In 2012, the Wilderness Tourism Association of BC expressed its concern to the *Forest Range Practices Act* (FRPA) Practices Advisory Council that forest licensees are not effectively consulting or co-operating with tourism property owners or tenure holders about their harvesting plans.
- In the board's view, the FRPA framework does not adequately address these conflicts because there is no mechanism for government officials to intervene when tenure holders have disputes. Under the former Forest Practices Code, district managers had a more prominent role in resolving such conflicts.
- In 2010, the board recommended that the government should administer a mediation process to address such conflicts, but the government did not believe mediation was necessary or consistent with the intent of the FRPA, which supports reliance on forest licensees and their professional advisors to address the rights and interests of other tenure holders in their forest stewardship plans. Government has provided guidance to help tenure holders address conflicts.
- Since 2010, the board has not made any new recommendations on this issue, but believes the new "one land base, one land manager" model of integrated natural resource management needs to invest authority in local managers to resolve disputes among tenure holders.
- This message was recently strengthened in a Board bulletin on professional reliance that said impartial decision-makers are needed to independently weigh and balance all priorities, risks and benefits of proceeding with forest management activities, and that this would increase public confidence and provide transparency of process and decision rationale.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM, Resource Stewardship Division

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Kristine Weese, Sustainable Forest Management Specialist

Phone: 250-558-1760

Issue: FRPA - Evaluating the Effectiveness of *FRPA* and the Results Based Forest Management Framework

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of forest management policy and practices, through the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) is a foundation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the “results based” forest management framework.
- FREP monitors resource management outcomes for the 11 resource values identified under the FRPA in order to assess how well government objectives are being met. These values are biodiversity, cultural heritage, riparian (fish), water quality, visual quality, soils, forage, timber, wildlife, recreation and resource features (notably karst caves).
- FREP findings are publicly reported and conveyed to resource management professionals through communication tools such as detailed reports, extension notes, posters and short video clips.
- FREP data and results support Forest Stewardship Plan renewal, sustainable forest management certification, professional reliance, timber supply reviews, policy development, cumulative effects assessment, First Nations relationship-building and consultation, stewardship planning, responses to public and stakeholder enquiries, and compliance and enforcement functions.
- To date, more than 9,000 monitoring assessments (covering all 11 FRPA resource values) have been completed and publicly reported.
- FREP monitoring results related to practices under the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* and the *Forest and Range Practices Act* have identified practices that are sustainable and others that can be improved upon. Most monitoring to date has been related to FPC practices but the emphasis has now shifted to FRPA practices.
- The ministry has initiated a Natural Resource Sector wide integrated monitoring initiative to ensure that priority monitoring is addressed in a coordinated and efficient manner.
- Multi-resource Value Assessment Reporting is an important new tool for providing resource professionals, decision makers, licensees, First Nations, the public and other stakeholders with monitoring data for specific geographic units, such as resource districts.
- FREP methodologies have been successfully tested for use in assessing non-forestry practices such as pipe lines, highways, hydro lines and streams flowing from mine sites.

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- The 2013/14 funding is approximately \$613,000 which is down from about \$820,000 in 2012/13.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Peter Bradford

Phone: 250-356-2134

Issue: High Retention Harvesting and Waste on the Coast

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- There are significant stewardship and socio-economic concerns related to high retention harvesting practices and high waste levels observed on the coast such as:
 - Impacts to reforestation
 - Reduced future yields and value of second growth stands
 - Reducing the size of the economically accessible timber harvesting landbase by “isolating” timber

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- Preferential harvesting of high value species without construction of road infrastructure makes it economically challenging to harvest lower value stands in the future due to prohibitive road construction costs.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12th, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Lorne Bedford

Phone: 250-387-8901

Issue: Land Based Investment Funding – 2013/14

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- LBIS funding for 2013/14 is \$ 42.3 million down from \$ 78.9 million in 2012/13.

Activity	2013/14 (millions \$)
FFT Current Reforestation	23.50
FFT Timber Supply Mitigation	0
Tree improvement	3.00
Forest health	3.50
Inventory	8.00
Fish	1.00
Fire management	0.10
Ecosystem restoration	0.50
Range	0.20
Invasive plant control	0.30
Recreation	0.50
Water	0.20
Wildlife (SAR/GAR)	0.50
Wildlife Inventory	0.50
Visual Quality	0.05
Ecosystem Based Management	0.50
Total	42.30

- In 2013/14, the LBIS will:
 - reforest areas impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle and wildfire and improve timber supply in several areas of the province by
 - planting about 22.7 million seedlings
 - producing select seed to reforest, at least, 123,000 hectares
 - improve inventories in at least 15 forest management units substantially impacted by mountain pine beetle and wildfire and areas under Ecosystem based management
 - protect BC's forest by controlling and monitoring insects, disease, and invasive plants on over 70,000 hectares
 - improve fish passage through remediation of at least 7 crossings
 - restore 2,000 hectares of vulnerable grassland and open-grown forests
 - restore about 3,000 hectares of range land damaged by wildfire and pest infestations.

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- Currently, Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program plans forecast about 20 million seedlings per year for reforestation of priority areas impacted by natural disturbances. For example, FFT is planting 22.7 million seedlings in 2013/14^{s.13}
- LBIS funding breakdown over-time:

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	2010/11 \$	2011/12 \$	2012/13 \$	2013/14 \$
Forest Health ¹	5.83	7.16	8.5	3.5
Current Reforestation ²	39.826	34.115	34.45	23.5
water	0.4	0.4	0.65	0.2
Timber Supply Mitigation	11.57	11.85	11.85	0
Tree Improvement	3.53	3.5	4.0	3.0
Inventory (VRI/Site Prod)	5.957	5.45	7.5	8.0
Range	0	0.5	1.0	0.2
Invasive plants ³	0.585	0.6	1.7	0.3
Fire Management	0	0.085	0.05	0.1
Fish	4	1.5	2.5	1
Recreation	0	0.75	1.25	0.5
Visual Quality	0.15	0.15	0.25	0.05
Ecosystem Restoration	1.04	0.75	1	0.5
Wildlife (GAR/SAR)	0	0	1.85	0.5
Wildlife Inventory	0	0	0.8	0.5
EBM	0.5	0.5	1.25	0.5
LBI	2.71	1.29	0	0
	76.098	68.6	78.6	42.3

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¹ Trade commitments for the treatment of Gypsy moth

² Potential legal commitments for provision of funding under FRPA s 108 for wildfire damaged licensee plantations

³ Noxious weed control is legally required under the Weed Control Act

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Allan Powelson

Phone: 250-812-5054

Issue: Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR) Area in BC

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The ministry defines not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) as an area not occupied by a sufficient number of well-spaced trees of desirable species. NSR areas reported by the ministry are identified based on field surveys and tracking for areas within the timber harvesting land base (THLB).
- By law, licensees are required to reforest the areas they harvest. The province is responsible (but not obligated) to reforest Crown land not under licence that has been impacted by wildfire, disease or insect infestations.
- As of June 2013 there is 698,934 hectares of NSR in the THLB which includes:
 - about 564,478 hectares of recently harvested areas that are managed by tenure holders and BCTS as part of their ongoing basic silviculture obligation to reforest.
 - about 37,231 hectares of **'backlog' NSR**. These are a government responsibility to manage but government does not have a legal obligation to reforest.
 - about 97,225 hectares of NSR resulting from wildfire, MPB or other agents has been identified through field surveys. These areas are a government responsibility to manage but government does not have a legal obligation to reforest.
- Government made a throne speech commitment in February 2008 to eliminate the **backlog NSR by 2015**. Even with the funding reductions in 2013/14 the Government is on-track to achieve this commitment by 2015. Since that original commitment we have reduced the backlog NSR by 105,464 hectares. The ministry is prioritising the remaining backlog areas as most of these areas have naturally restocked and therefore will not require planting.
- At a reforestation level of 20 million seedlings and an annual investment of \$34 million, FFT will be able to treat just under **250,000** hectares within 15 years

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Phone: 250-387-3223

Issue: Protection of Big or Unique Trees

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Public and media attention on Avatar Grove renewed calls for the protection of trees of exceptional size, form, age or similar significance (“big” trees).
- The Forest Practices Board investigated Avatar Grove and issued the report “*Logging Old Growth Forest near Port Renfrew*” in February, 2011. The board encouraged government, forest professionals and forest licensees to “seek additional creative means to conserve trees of exceptional size or form, age or historical significance when they encounter them in their forestry work.”
- Existing legislation was reviewed and it was initially concluded that there was no business case to develop any new legal tool, since existing legal authorities—such as recreation sites established under the Government Action Regulation of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)—have been sufficient to protect big trees on a number of sites.
- However, when an exceptionally big, or otherwise unique, tree is encountered during harvesting operations, currently there is no mechanism that requires tenure holders to protect it and no mechanism for the government to intervene.
- Recently, environmental non-governmental organizations, particularly the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA), have expressed concern that current legal tools for protecting specific big trees are limited to only those trees that have been previously identified, on sites that have recreation value. The AFA is being consulted as part of on-going policy analysis.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Phone: 250-387-8398 or 250-812-2261

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Reforestation and Planting Numbers

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In BC forest licensees have been legally responsible for reforestation of their harvested areas since 1987.
- The Auditor General of BC conducted an audit of FLNR Management of Timber in 2012. The audit report showed the total area harvested by industry compared with the total area declared reforested by industry over a five-year period: 2006/07 to 2010/11. The average area reforested is 98 percent of the area harvested which indicates that industry is meeting their obligation to reforest harvested areas.
- The average time to reforest a harvested site in BC is 2 years, and as of 2013, we had planted over 7 billion trees as part of our commercial forestry and government led rehabilitation operations.
- Approximately 80 percent of all areas harvested are planted, while 20 percent are reforested using natural regeneration.
- Areas impacted by natural disturbances such as wildfires or Mountain Pine Beetles may reforest through natural regeneration, however the slower rate of natural regeneration can measurably reduce the future timber supply and carbon sequestration rates.
- To increase carbon sequestration and the future timber supply, reforestation in those naturally disturbed areas is being accelerated by the Forests for Tomorrow program (FFT).

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Allan Powelson

Phone: 250-812-5054

Issue: Silviculture Expenditures in BC

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Record expenditures in silviculture were in 1993-1997 when about \$330 million per year was spent treating 440,000 hectares annually.
- Between 2002-2007, about \$200 million per year was spent annually to treat 280,000 hectares per year. About 93 percent of these expenditures were by industry and BCTS fulfilling their basic silviculture obligations, the remainder came from government funded programs (Forest Investment Account and Forests For Tomorrow).
- Since 2005, FFT in its efforts to reforest mountain pine beetle and wildfire affected areas has also contributed \$270 million to increased silviculture expenditures
- In 2012/13, silviculture investments were about \$239 million to treat about 250,000 hectares:
 - \$190 million in basic silviculture by the industry and BCTS
 - \$49 million in reforestation, incremental silviculture, and tree improvement under the LBIS.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Allan Powelson

Phone: 250-812-5054

Issue: Visual Resource Management and Tourism

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Visual Resource Management Program maintains an inventory of scenic values on 14 million hectares, establishes visual quality objectives for those scenic areas, and provides input to Timber Supply Review; carry's out effectiveness monitoring, and supports Compliance and Enforcement efforts.
- Visual quality is one of the 11 values managed under the *Forest Range Practices Act*.
- Effectiveness monitoring results show that visual quality objectives are achieved on average 69% of the time and 56% of the time on our most sensitive landscapes.
- Tourism is a significant contributor to the economy of the province and many tourism experiences rely on scenic quality to support BC's global reputation as a provider of a supernatural tourism experience.
- The tourism industry has expressed concern about planned harvesting in a number of areas, most recently the Discovery Island Archipelago and in Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) impacted areas.
- The economics of harvesting MPB-killed timber has increased harvesting pressure elsewhere, notably on BC's scenic landscapes.
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- In 2013/14, total program funding is estimated to be approximately \$64,000 which is a result of the \$30 million reduction in LBIS this year. Funding 2012/13 was about \$251,000.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Jacques Marc

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Issue: Helping Tree Species Migrate in a Changing Climate

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As BC's climate warms, BC's tree species will be increasingly maladapted to their environment – compromising forest health and productivity.
- Ministry staff, working in collaboration with UBC scientists and others, are exploring use of assisted migration of native tree species and seed sources.
- Results from long-term field tests and new genomics research tools are being evaluated.
- New climate-based seed transfer systems are also being developed.
- The objective is to better match native tree species and seed sources with the present and future climates of planting sites.
- The use of exotic tree species and genetic engineering are not being considered.
- Under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the Chief Forester has the authority to establish standards governing the use of tree seed in BC's forests.
- On April 1, 2009, the Chief Forester increased the maximum elevation transfer of tree seed in response to recent past and future projected warming.
- In June 2010, the Chief Forester enabled the planting of western larch outside its existing range into areas determined to be climatically suitable.
- Changes to the transfer rules for other species will follow as staff assess the scientific information, improve climate modelling and evaluate existing practices.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: BC Dam Safety Program

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In British Columbia there are approximately 1,650 dams that are covered by the BC Dam Safety Regulation of the *Water Act* and are overseen by the Dam Safety Program.
- The program is responsible for ensuring that dam owners are in compliance with their obligations under the legislation to have safe dams.
- BC is one of four provinces with a formal dam safety program and government is committed to being at the forefront of dam safety in Canada. Dam Safety programs reduce the risks but cannot eliminate dam failures.
- On average there is one dam failure a year, the majority causing minimal damage. The most recent significant dam failure was in June 2010 when a small earth dam on Testalinden Creek failed, causing major damage to a number of orchards, vineyards and homes, blocked Highway 97 for several days and relocated the creek.
- Following the Testalinden Dam failure, immediate action was taken to further improve dam safety in British Columbia including addressing the twelve recommendations in the Deputy Solicitor General's report.
- Each year owners of Extreme, Very High or High Consequence classification dams are required to report compliance with their dam inspection and maintenance program. For 2012/13, 98% of dam owners returned their compliance forms with 98% of those responders having completed the required inspections; a continuing improvement over previous years.
- All dam safety program positions in the province are currently staffed, equivalent to 10 FTE's. In addition, Compliance and Enforcement brings resources to support dam safety related enforcement activities as well as water allocation staff when needed.
- Many of the dams in BC are aging and require upgrades or replacement. In addition, post-construction there is often development downstream, thus increasing the consequence of a dam failure. Decisions around upgrades and replacement are costly and can be controversial.
- Typical examples of aging infrastructure are the Chase River Dams (Lower and Middle Colliery Dams), built in 1911 and now owned by the City of Nanaimo.
 - Recent engineering studies revealed that the dams have a high probability of failure with a moderate seismic event or large flood.
 - The City plans to remove the dams during the summer of 2013 and replace them the following year.
 - This approach to risk reduction is acceptable to the Province. However, the decision is very controversial in the community.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: (250) 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Glen Davidson

Phone: (250) 387-6949

Issue: BC Hydro's Water Use Plans

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Water Use Plans (WUPs) were initiated in 1998 due to increasing water use conflicts leading to litigation. WUPs address fish/power issues and improved flood mitigation, respect for First Nations values, wildlife habitat, recreation and other local community needs while retaining BC Hydro's ability to provide secure, low-cost energy.
- WUPs have been very successful in balancing contemporary values and interests and have set the standard for other jurisdictions.
- All 23 WUPs prepared by BC Hydro for their hydro electric facilities have been completed and authorized by the Comptroller of Water Rights.
- WUPs implementation is done by BC Hydro at its dams and facilities and includes
 - release of environmental river flows,
 - building boat ramps,
 - re-vegetating shorelines,
 - dust control,
 - archaeological work,
 - fisheries and wildlife enhancement and monitoring.
- WUPs implementation is monitored yearly, and if needed, changes are made to better achieve plan objectives.
- As well as providing environmental and social benefits, the work adds directly to local economies including to aboriginal communities through employment and purchase of materials and services.
- Most of the work is financed through up to \$50 million/year in water rental remissions to BC Hydro as approved by Treasury Board. The remissions are paid for through an increase in waterpower rental rate paid by BC Hydro.
- Recently Metro Vancouver initiated a WUP for their facilities on the Capilano and Seymour rivers to address longstanding fisheries concerns and explore development of electric generation capability. They are ineligible for remissions.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Pieter Bekker, Manager

Phone: 250 952-6791

Issue: Diking Policy – Diking Authorities for New Dikes

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In December 2010, Ministry of Environment (MOE) and MFLNR signed off a policy to confirm that the construction of new dikes will only be approved where local government has agreed to be responsible for maintenance of the new dike and has acquired the legal access needed to maintain the dike.
- The implementation of this policy is not new; it has been an operational practice applied throughout the province for more than 10 years. The policy only applies to the construction of new dikes and where orphan dikes are proposed to be upgraded to provincial standards. The policy does not apply to the management of existing diking systems and diking authorities.
- The majority of the diking authorities in the province are local governments; however, for historical reasons other legal entities including improvement districts, strata corporations, rate-payers associations, private corporations, and individuals have become recognized as diking authorities for some existing dikes.
- Experience has shown that many of the “non local government” diking authorities have had significant difficulties in acquiring legal access and maintaining an adequately funded dike management program. These entities do not have the powers that are provided to local governments with respect to taxation, emergency response, land use approvals, expropriation, and other regulatory authority. Only local governments have access to senior government funding programs.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Diane Nicholls, Executive Director

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Glen Davidson

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Issue: Hydropower Independent Power Projects – Background

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Under the 2002 BC Energy Plan, Independent Power Producers (IPP's) were invited to develop new electricity in the province to meet the government's energy self-sufficiency goal.
- The government review of BC Hydro in 2011 recommended that the electricity self-sufficiency policy be adjusted. Premier Clark announced in early 2012 a change to account for BC Hydro's generation in an average year rather than in the driest year on record. BC Hydro's generation in an average year is 46 Terawatt hour and in the driest year was 38 Terawatt hour.
- The change in self-sufficiency policy, and a sharp decline in electricity price since 2009, affect the pace of development of IPPs. BC Hydro has not issued a Clean Power Call since the last one in 2008.
- As of June 2013, IPPs in the province hold a total of around 150 water (power) licences. About half of these licences are held by licensees with operating IPPs, and the rest are held by licensees with plants under construction or licensees seeking Energy Purchase Agreements with BC Hydro. In addition, over 560 IPP waterpower licence applications are active.
- FLNRO has the responsibility under the *Water Act* to issue water licences for hydropower projects. IPPs over 50 Megawatts also require a Certificate under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.
- All water power licences issued after November 2003 have a 40-year term.
- As of June 2013, close to 50 of the hydropower IPPs have an operating capacity of 500 Kilowatts or more. The total installed capacity of all IPPs in the province is over 900 Megawatts. For comparison, the total installed hydropower capacity in the province is over 12,000 Megawatts.
- The total waterpower rental billed to IPPs in calendar year 2012 was around \$9 million. Waterpower rental billed to all Power-General licensees (BC Hydro, FortisBC, and others) in the same year was \$438 million.
- FLNR is responsible for Water Licenses for IPP's.
- BC hydro under the direction of Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for energy purchase agreements with proponents.
- Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for provincial energy policy and the *Clean Energy Act*.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 21, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Glen Davidson

Phone: 250 387-6949

Issue: Hydropower Independent Power Projects – Emerging Issues

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Water Licensing

- As of June 2013, over 560 IPP waterpower licence applications are active. s.13
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Compliance

- Concerns about compliance with water licence conditions have been raised in the media and elsewhere.

Economics and Energy Needs of the Province

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- The revised criterion for energy self-sufficiency in 2012 has reduced BC Hydro's need to acquire power. BC Hydro has not issued a Clean Power Call since the last one in 2008.
- Capacity issue (generation and transmission infrastructure required to meet peak demand during winter and evening hours) appear to be the immediate challenge to meet the province's energy needs. IPPs, because of their lack of storage can only generate when the river flows, are not best suited to meet capacity needs.

Water Rental Rates

- Water rentals rates for hydropower are divided into three tiers, with most IPPs paying at the lowest rate and most of BC Hydro's production charged at the highest tier. s.13
- s.13
- Regulation under the *Water Act* governing waterpower rental determination for generation is subject to interpretation. The practice in the past thirty years has been to forego generation rental in the first year of operation of a waterpower plant and allow the lower first-tiered rental rate for generation to be applied to each one of multiple power plants owned by the same parent company.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 21, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Glen Davidson

Phone: 250 387-6949

Issue: Inter-jurisdictional Water Agreements

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Two inter-jurisdictional water agreements are currently under review/negotiation which may have financial and public interest implications for the province. They are:

1) Columbia River Treaty

- While the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) between Canada and United States does not expire, either side could give 10 years notice of their desire for termination as early as 2014.
- As a result government agencies on both sides of the border are in the process of engaging with the public, First Nations and agencies on the future of the Treaty.
- In BC this initiative is being led by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) with FLNRO staff participating in the discussion as they related to such issues as fish and wildlife resources, recreation, water rights and flood control.
- In addition, FLNRO staff will continue with existing treaty oversight roles on the CRT Permanent Engineering Board and Committee.

2) BC/Alberta Bilateral Agreement

- As part of the broader Peace, Athabasca and Slave Watershed Agreement, BC has committed to negotiating a bilateral water agreement with Alberta by 2012.
- With the announcement by the Province that it will move forward with the Site C project, this commitment has been highlighted and created some pressure on both parties to finalize an agreement.

- s.13, s.17

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Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.12, s.13, s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Glen Davidson

Phone: 250 387-6949

Issue: Lower and Middle Chase River Dam Replacement (Colliery Dams, Nanaimo)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The BC Dam Safety program is responsible for ensuring safe dams in B.C. and that dam owners are in compliance with their obligations under the legislation, the *Water Act*, BC Dam Safety Regulation (Regulation).
- The City of Nanaimo (City) owns and operates a series of dams on the Chase River. Two of these dams, Lower and Middle Colliery Dams were built in 1910 to provide water for coal cleaning. Currently the two dams maintain reservoirs solely for public recreational purposes.
- Under the Regulation, both dams have the highest dam failure consequence classification, 'extreme', because of the potential for loss of life and damage to infrastructure and the economy should either dam fail. A residential neighbourhood, high school and daycare are located immediately downstream of the dams.
- To meet their obligations under the Regulation, in 2003 the City began a series of studies undertaken by independent consultants with expertise in dam engineering. The studies, which were concluded in 2012, revealed that the two dams both have a high probability of failure with a moderate earthquake or large flood event with significant potential for loss of life.
- On October 17, 2012, following receipt of the dam breach inundation study, the province wrote to the City requesting a decision on their course of action to safeguard the dams by November 30, 2012.
- After consideration of various options, in October 2012, City Council directed staff to remove the dams to mitigate the public safety risks with plans to be developed for replacing the structures to restore the reservoirs to their current extent. The province was advised of the decision on October 29, 2012.
- The decision to remove the dams has been contentious with some segments of the public. As a result, the City further investigated options and on May 13, 2013, City Council directed staff to proceed with immediate removal of the dams and take the necessary steps to build replacements for both dams.
- The target date for dam removal is in late summer and early fall 2013.
- To initiate the application process for replacement of both dams under Section 4.0 of the BC Dam Safety Regulation, on May 31, 2013, the City provided written notice to the province of their plan for a two-phased approach beginning with dam removal in the summer and early fall 2013 and reconstruction in the subsequent year.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Glen Davidson

Phone: 250 387-6949

Issue: Landslide Management in BC - Review

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In response to the damaging landslides and debris flow events of 2012 the Minister of FLNRO requested staff undertake an internal review of landslide management in BC. The review was chaired by FLNRO with input from staff from FLNRO and several other ministries, most notable being the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Justice (EMBC).
- The report summarizing the findings of the review (dated February 21, 2013) contains 16 recommendations that identify and address areas of concern (i.e., climate change, preparedness, mitigation of risk, emergency response and recovery).
- A key recommendation was the Interagency Emergency Preparedness Council update the terms of reference for the IEPC's Landslide Policy and Mitigation Working Group to include review and analysis of the recommendations and responsibility for implementation of those recommendations approved by the IEPC. This recommendation was approved by the IEPC on April 29, 2013.
- A new chair for the Working Group has been appointed from FLNRO and the membership of the Working Group and its terms of reference are currently being updated.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM, Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Symonds, Director, Water Stewardship

Phone: 250 490-8255

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Testalinden Dam Failure

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On June 13, 2010, the failure of a small earth dam in the headwaters of Testalinden Creek (located approximately 6 km south of Oliver) triggered a debris flow which resulted in major damage to a number of orchards, vineyards and homes, blocked Highway 97 for several days and caused a section of the creek upstream of Highway 97 to relocate through private property.
- s.14
- As part of the Provincial initial recovery efforts a consultant was retained to complete a hazard and risk assessment for future debris flows in the creek and on the fan.
- In 2011 the Province completed work to return and stabilize 850 metres of Testalinden Creek into its former alignment upstream of Highway 97. In 2012 stabilizing work was completed on the approximately 400 metres of Testalinden Creek downstream of Highway 97.
- The dam which failed and triggered the debris flow has been decommissioned by the licensee. Following decommissioning the licensee has abandoned his water licence for the dam.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, ADM, Resource Stewardship Division

Phone: 250 356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Brian Symonds

Phone: 250 490-8255

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:	June 14, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Peter Jacobsen	Phone: 250 387-8643

Issue: Flathead Mineral Tenure Compensation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The *Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act (The Act)* was passed in November 2011 following the province signing an Agreement on the Protection of the Transboundary Flathead Watershed Area with the State of Montana on February 15, 2011. Both the legislation and the Agreement support the 2010 British Columbia–Montana MOU on Environmental Protection, Climate Action and Energy.
- The Act prohibits mineral exploration, mining, oil and gas, coal and coalbed gas extraction from occurring in British Columbia's Flathead Valley. Eleven mineral tenure holders' rights to develop their existing subsurface tenures in the Flathead Watershed area were impacted.

- s.13, s.14, s.17

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Peter Jacobsen	Phone: 250 387- 8643

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: *Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement Act*. Compensation for Impacted Harvesting Rights

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The *Maa-nulth Forest Compensation Interim Regulation* (the regulation) became effective on April 1st, 2011. As a result, the Forests Minister had 21 days after April 1st, 2011 to authorize all allowable annual cut (AAC) reductions to impacted licence holders.
- Minister's Orders were signed, and 4 impacted licensees were notified of the size of the AAC reductions to their licences.
- Meetings were held during the fall of 2011 with each licensee to explain the compensation regulation and how it would be applied.
- Section 6 of the regulation provides an entitlement to compensation for each holder of a licence whose AAC is reduced for the value of harvesting rights taken over the unexpired term of the licence.
- Section 7 of the regulation provides an entitlement to compensation for each holder of a licence whose AAC is reduced for the value of improvements (i.e. physical assets) if the improvement is on Maa-nulth First Nations treaty settlement land and the improvement was constructed or purchased by the holder of the impacted licence.
- Four licensees were impacted: Western Forest Products; Toquaht First Nation Woodlot Licence 1306; Maamook Forest Resources Limited; and The Bamfield Community Forest Association. Western Forest Products had the largest impact with 95,200 m³ of AAC affected.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Peter Jacobsen	Phone: 250 387-8643

Page 151 redacted for the following reason:

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Issue: Economic State of B.C. Forest Sector – 2012 Review

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

British Columbia's (BC's) forest sector plays a key role in the provincial economy, providing a wide variety of forest products and services and generating substantial public and private revenues. The sector is highly export oriented, depending heavily on global markets and exchange rates.

- **Recovery** continued from the 2008-2009 downturn caused by the collapse of the United States (US) housing market and the high Canadian dollar. Exports to the US increased and China continued to play a key role as our second largest market for forest products.
- **Forest sector employment** was 56,400 in 2012, up 5.7% from 2011, representing 12.3% of goods sector employment and 2.4% of all-industry employment.
- **Forest product exports** were \$10.2 billion in 2012, up 1.7% from 2011, and representing 32.5% of total export value (Chart 1).
- **B.C forest sector capital expenditure**¹ was \$567 million in 2012, up 81.8% from 2009 and up 42.3% from 2011 (Chart 2).
- **Forestry GDP**² was \$6 billion in 2012, down 1.3% from 2011, amounting to 12.8% of Goods Sector GDP and 3.1% of total GDP.
- **Forest manufacturing sales** were \$11.0 billion in 2012, down 1.8% from 2011, and representing 28.1% of total manufacturing sales.
- **The total harvest volume** was 67.5 million m³ in 2012, down 2.7% from 2011, and up 38.3% from the bottom in 2009 (Chart 3).

Export Markets

- **US** continued to be our primary trading partner in 2012 (Charts 4 and 5). Exports to the US were up 13.6% and accounted for 42.8% of the total value of BC forest product exports. Softwood lumber has the largest share of exports to the US (46.1%). Signs of continuing recovery in the US economy included gradually increasing lumber prices and housing starts, which were at 783,000 units in 2012, up 41.3% from 2009 and up 28.2% from 2011 (Chart 6).
- **China** continued as our second largest export market for forest products (30.6%). Market pulp had the largest share of exports to China (53.0%), followed by lumber (34.8%) and logs (9.1%) (Chart 7). China became BC's largest foreign market for

¹ Preliminary actual data; \$35 million of capital expenditure from "support activities for agriculture and forestry" is not included.

² In chained 2007 dollars, which provide lower GDP estimates than previous estimates using chained 2002 dollars.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

market pulp in 2007, and for logs in 2011. BC was once again only a small supplier of China's log imports (Chart 8) and China's top supplier of lumber in 2012 (Chart 9).

- **Japan** declined as a market after the mid-1990s and has been relatively stable since 2000, accounting for 11.2% of forest product exports, lumber being their largest import (59.4%).

Main Forest Products

- **Softwood lumber** is BC's dominant forest product. In 2012, B.C. accounted for 51.8% of Canada's total lumber production (53.1% of softwood lumber). In 2012, BC produced 29.0 million m³ of softwood lumber, most of it in the interior. Exports totalled \$4.2 billion, up 9.7% from 2011, with the US taking 47.6% and China 25.7%.
- **Pulp & paper** production was 5.9 million tonnes in 2012. Market pulp was the dominant product, with exports of \$2.9 billion, down 10.9% from 2011, with over half going to China. Exports of other pulp and paper products, including newsprint and paper, totalled \$1.1 billion in 2012, up 5.0%.
- **Log** exports in 2012 were \$577 million, down 2.0% from 2011 but still well above pre-2011 levels. Log exports accounted for 5.7% of the total value of B.C. forest product exports, with just under half going to China.
- **Other wood products**, including plywood and panels, had exports of \$1.4 billion in 2012, up 8.6% from 2011.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:

June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor

Name: Duncan Williams

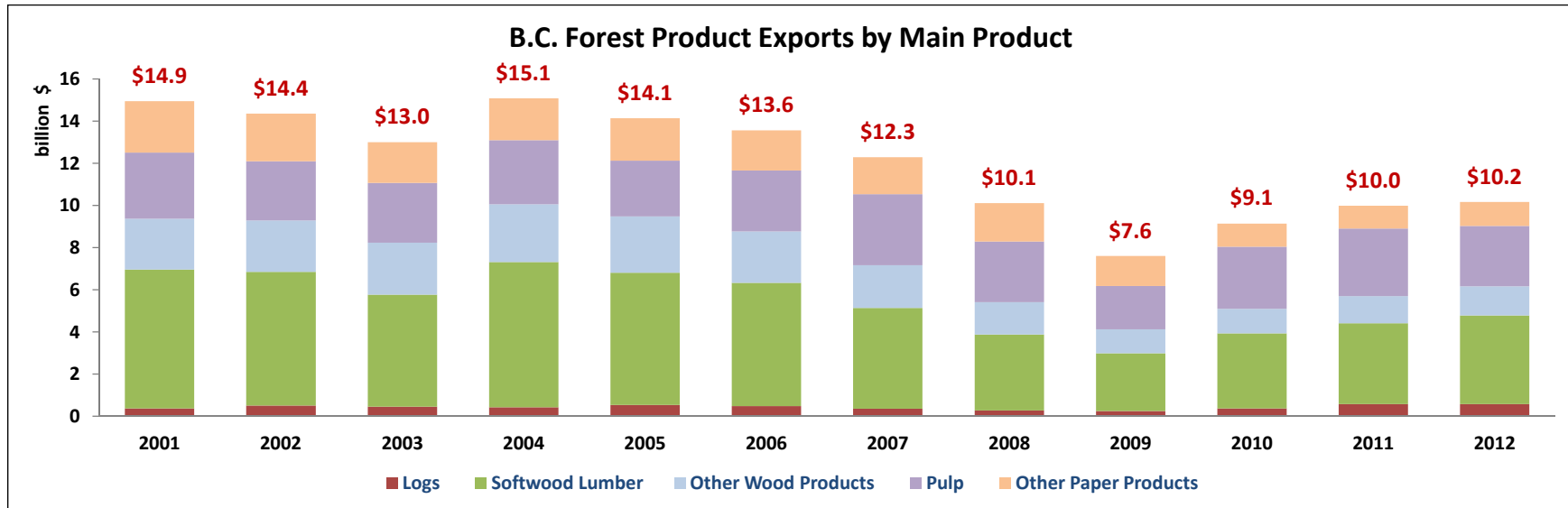
Phone: 250-387-1057

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tom Niemann

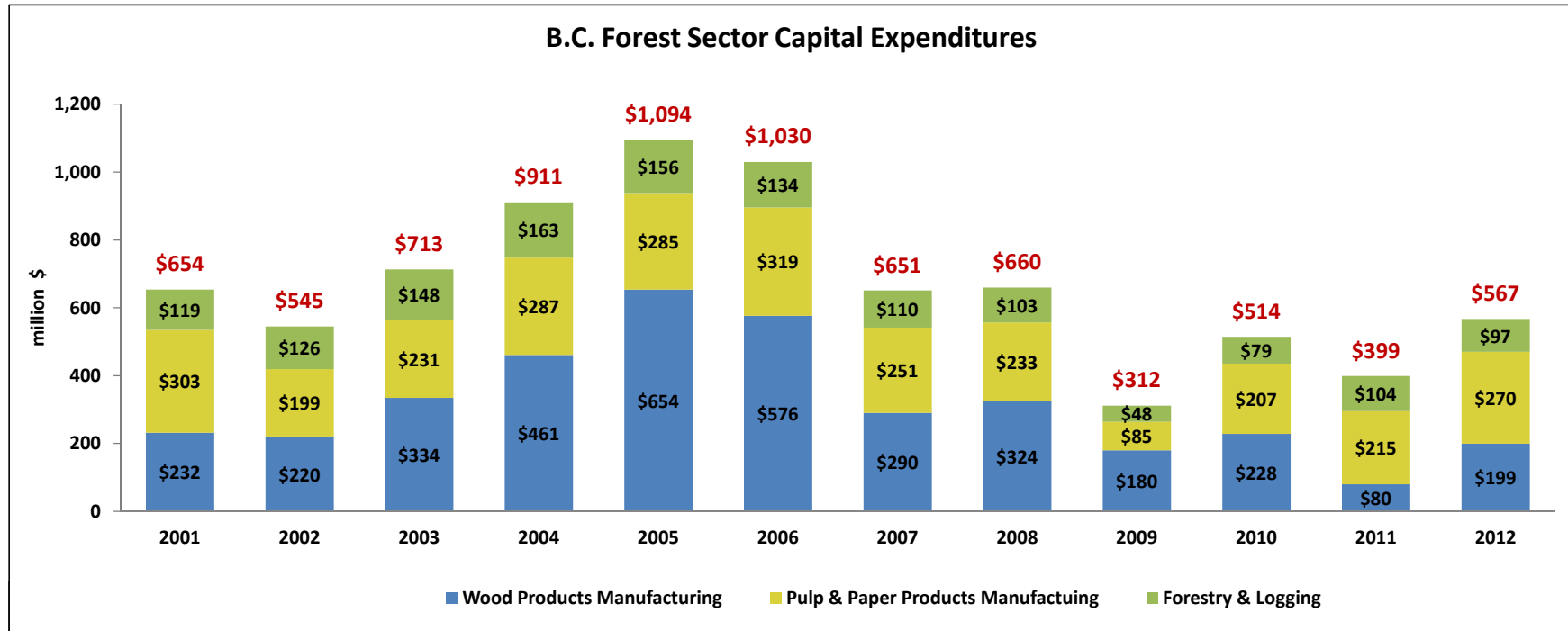
Phone: 250-356-7900

Chart 1: B.C. Forest Product Export Value, 2001 - 2012



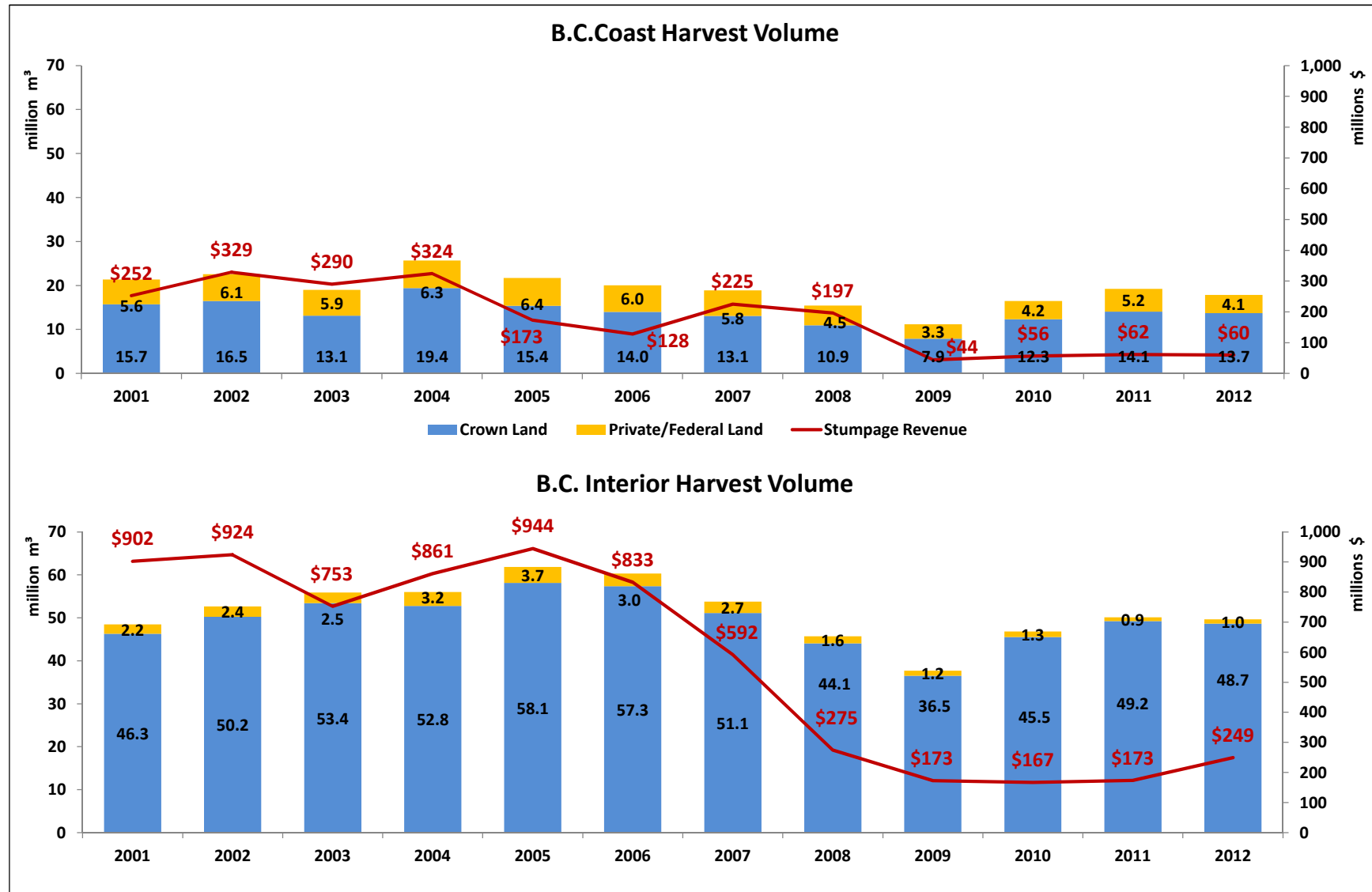
Source: Statistics Canada

Chart 2: B.C. Forestry Capital Expenditures, 2001 - 2012



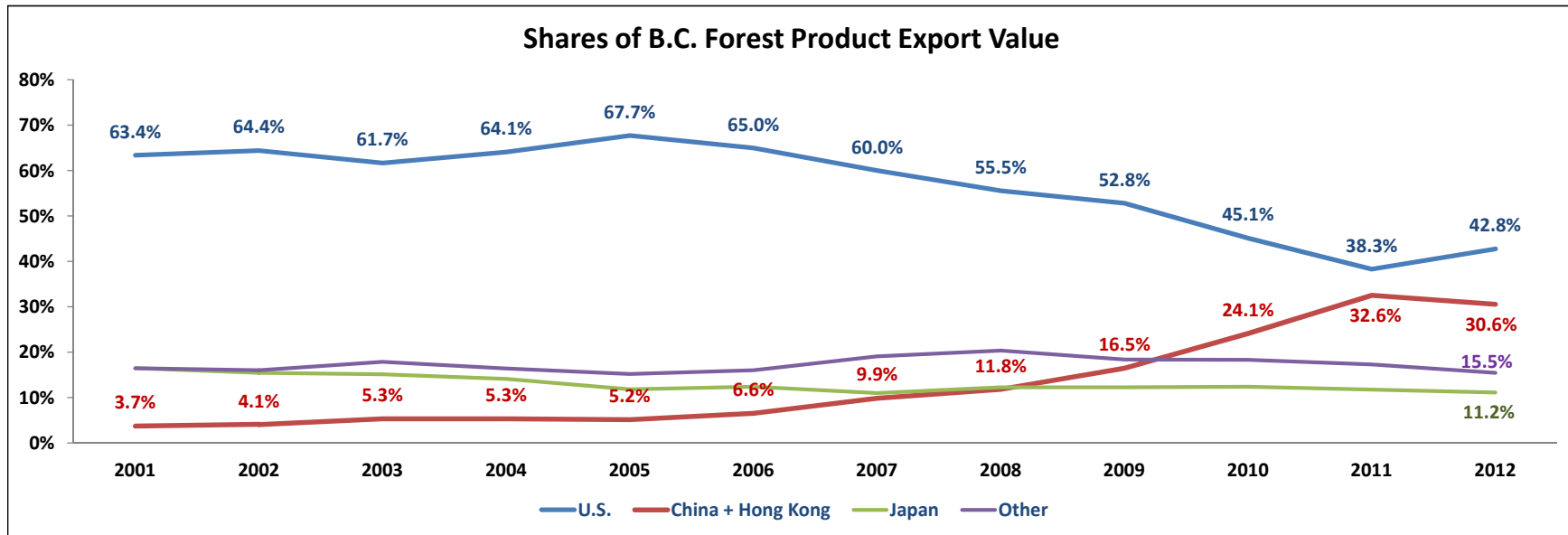
Source: Statistics Canada

Chart 3: B.C. Timber Harvest Volume and Stumpage Collected, 2001 - 2012



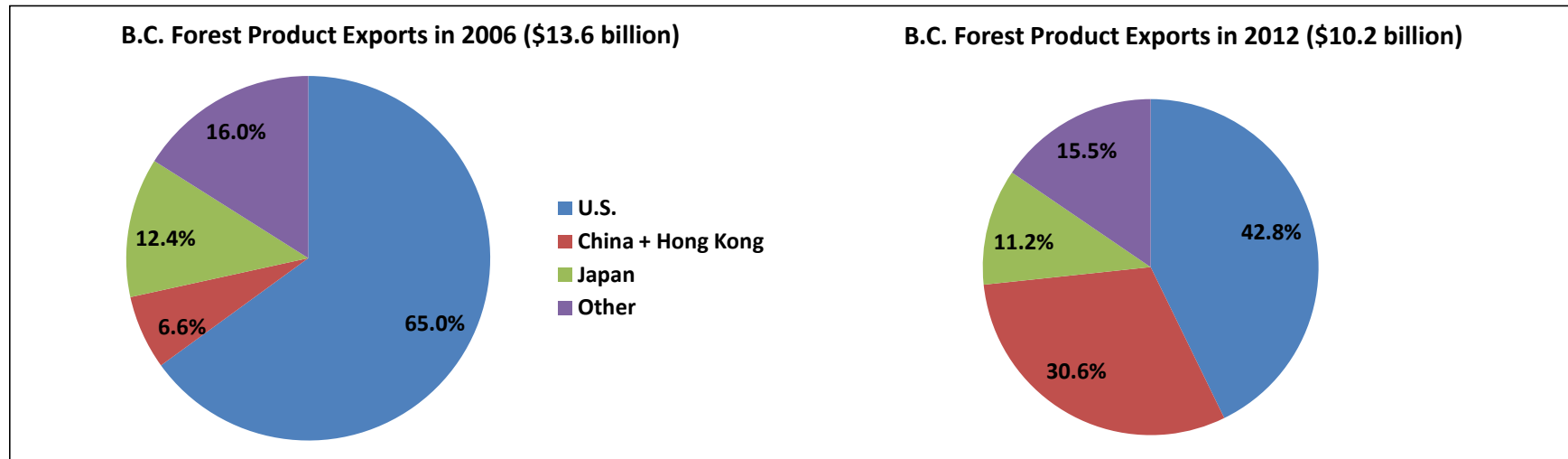
Source: HBS. All logs, special forest products, species and grades billed excluding waste, reject, and Christmass trees.

Chart 4: Market Shares of B.C. Forest Product Export Value, 2001 - 2012



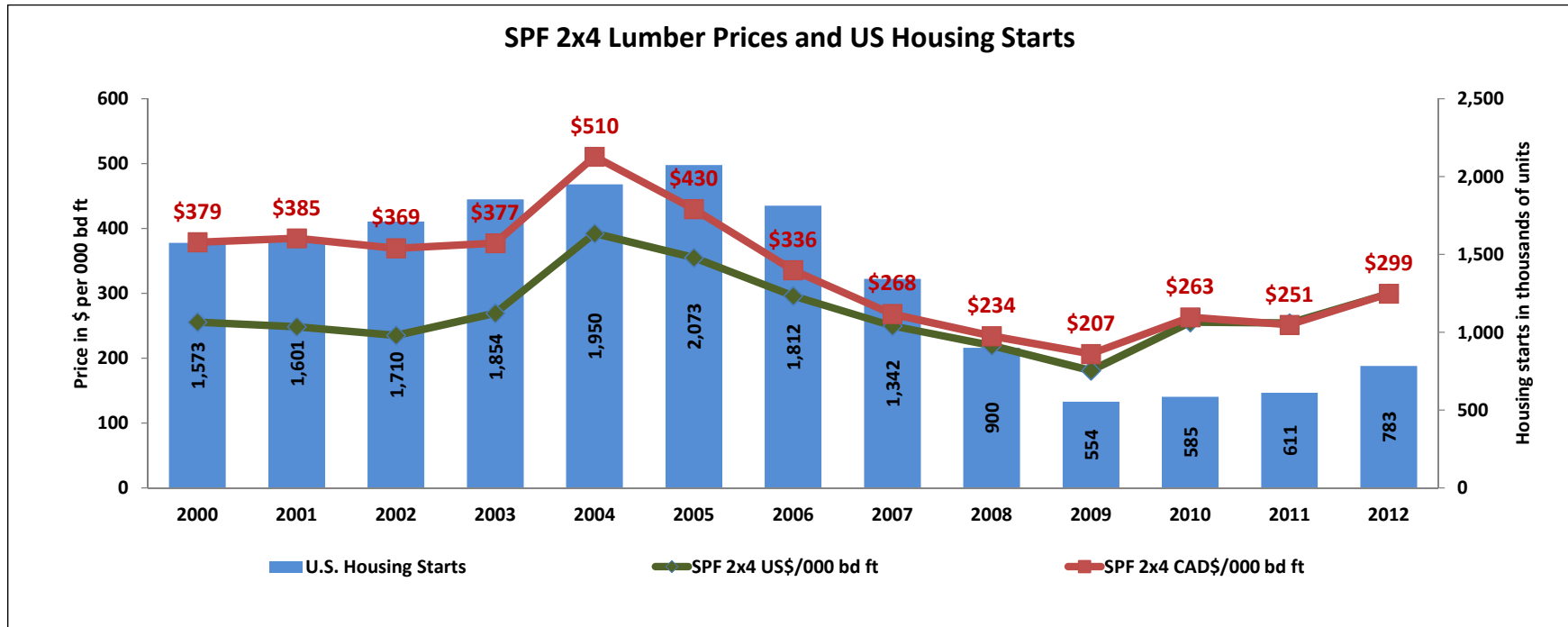
Source: Statistics Canada

Chart 5: Market Share Changed Dramatically from 2006 to 2012



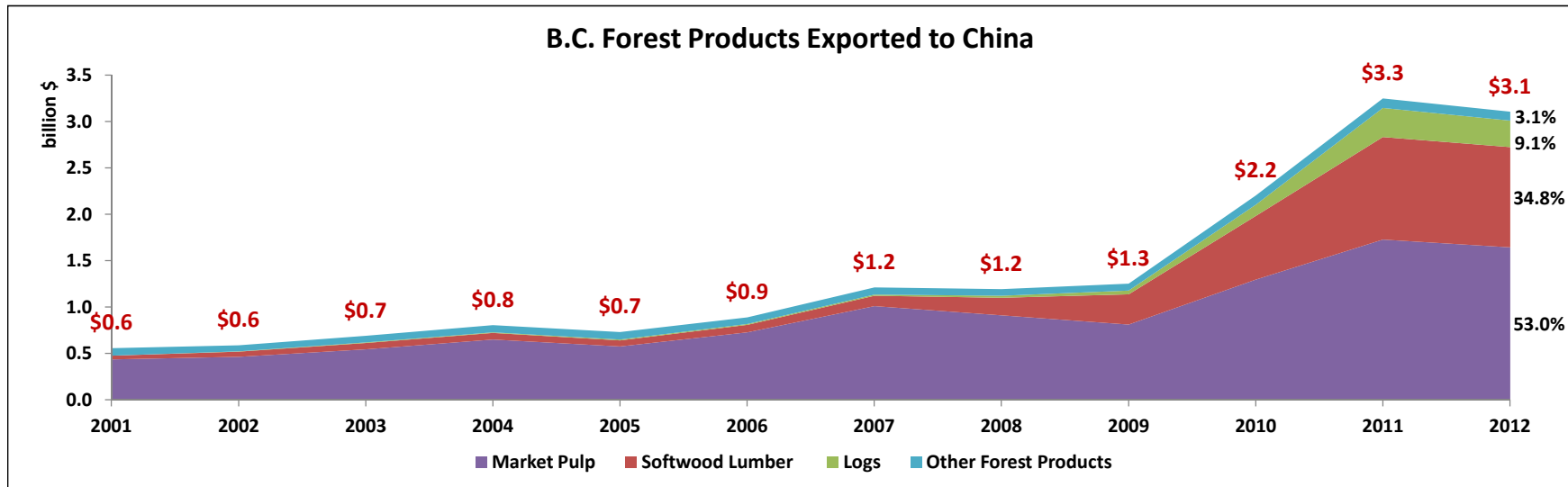
Source: Statistics Canada

Chart 6: Lumber Market Indicators: SPF 2x4 Prices and U.S. Housing Starts, 2001 - 2012



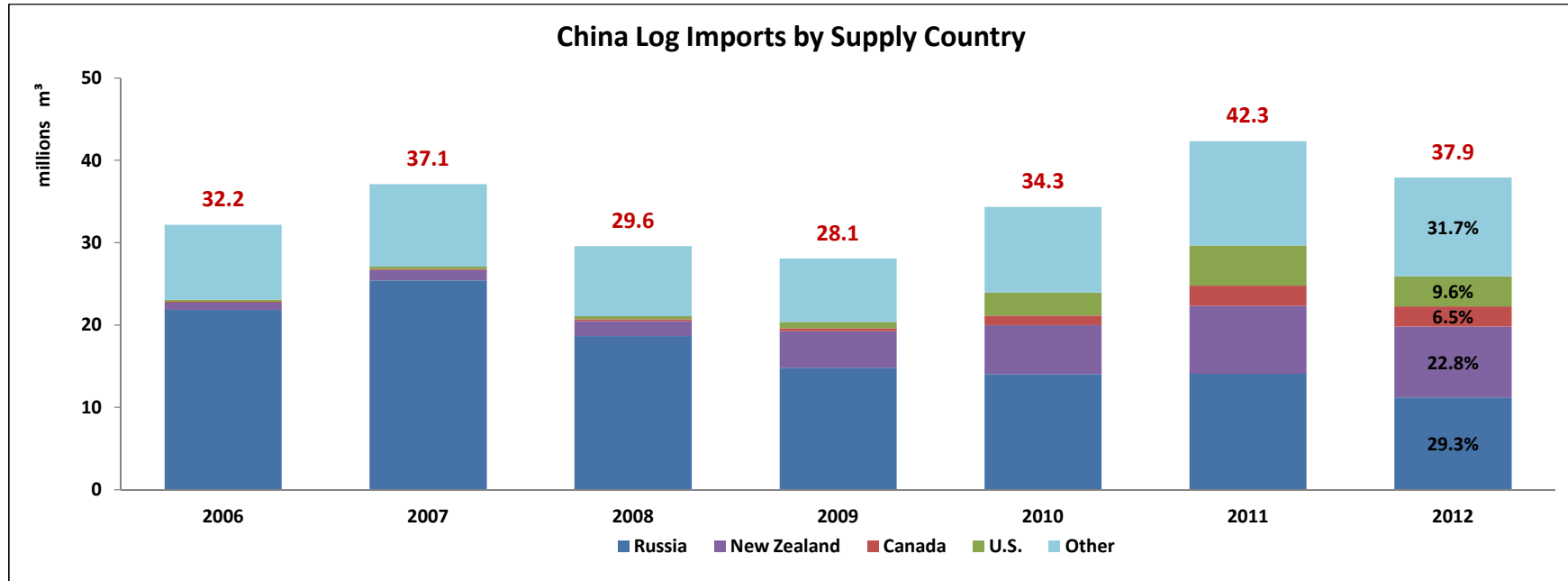
Sources: Madison's and US Census Bureau

Chart 7: B.C. Forest Product Exports to China, 2001 - 2012



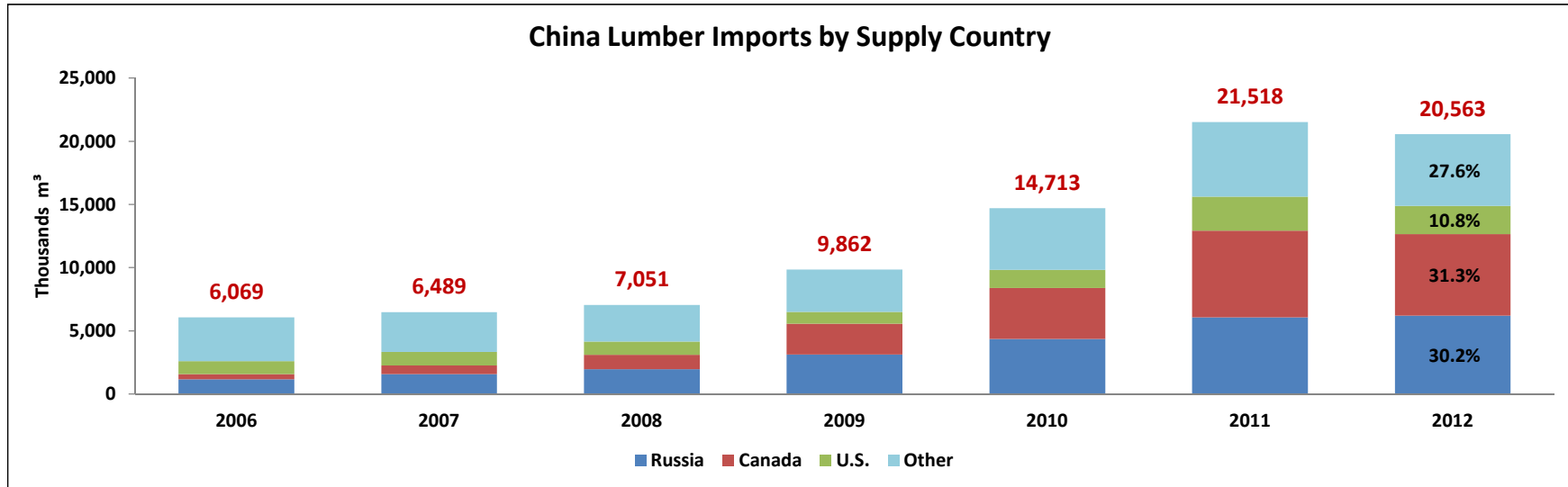
Source: Statistics Canada

Chart 8: China Log Imports Suppliers, 2006 - 2012



Source: Wood Markets China Bulletin

Chart 9: China Lumber Imports Suppliers, 2006 - 2012



Source: Wood Markets China Bulletin

Issue: Forest Bio-economy

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The forest related bio-economy involves the use of renewable woody biomass in the production of energy or energy inputs, bio-materials and chemicals, and seeks to utilize a higher percentage of logging and processing residues from traditional forest products manufacturing.
- The MLA BC Bio-Economy Committee was established in July 2011 to ascertain whether there are opportunities for BC in an emerging bio-economy. In January 2012 the Committee released a report acknowledging the significant opportunities for the province and tabling a number of recommendations.
- Following the report, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) engaged with industry to establish BC Forest Sector Bio-economy Transformation Council (Bio-Council) with the aim of advancing strategies, policies and actions to become a leader in the new bio-economy.
- The minister directed the Bio-Council to develop a bio-economy strategy by November 30, 2012 to take the next steps for advancing the initiative.
- The Strategy: “*Transforming BC’s Forest Sector – Working Action Plan for Advancing a Forest Bioeconomy*” was completed and submitted to the minister November 30, 2012. Review and discussion occurred between senior industry and government throughout December 2012 on recommendations and next steps highlighted in the strategy.
- The Bio-economy Transformation Strategy outlines specific initiatives the forest sector can undertake to move the forest-related bio-economy forward. The Strategy focuses on the supply of biomass for the manufacture and development of various product lines. Effort centres on short and long term issues such as sustainable access to fibre, biomass inventories, pricing and biomass utilization to support both established and new bio-economy sectors.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250.387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250.356-6230

Issue: Forest Carbon Offset Projects

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The forests of BC store massive amounts of carbon. This storage can be improved over what would have occurred under the business-as-usual case. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction or removal (enhanced sequestration) projects on Crown land can help reduce GHG emissions and result in an offset. A variety of forest management approaches can be used to increase the carbon stored in our forests or reduce emissions from the forests.

The following projects have been implemented:

- Mountain Pine Beetle/Wildfire Restoration investment opportunity – The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) has entered into an agreement with Carbon Offsets Aggregation Cooperative (COAC) based out of Prince George. COAC planted the first 19,000 trees on an area killed by fire in the Quesnel Forest in late May of this year. Up to 1.5 million trees are expected to be planted under this pilot program over the next 5 years.
- Great Bear Initiative - A project based on ecosystem based management (EBM) on the mid-coast. Government has been working with coastal First Nations to develop the project.

The following projects are under development:

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250 356-6230

Issue: Forest Carbon Ownership Policy

- Regulations in BC and international standards require proponents to be able to establish clear ownership of carbon offsets resulting from their project activities before proponents can sell or trade offset credits.
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction or removal (enhanced sequestration) projects on Crown land will require processes enabling proponents to demonstrate their entitlement to claim either offsets or ownership of reductions for a defined term.

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Government of British Columbia supports and encourages investment in GHG emission reduction and removal projects in the province.
- The province recognizes that when atmospheric GHGs are reduced or there is an increase in GHG storage/sequestration as a result of activities, the reductions may have a value if they are recognized by a particular regulatory scheme or the voluntary marketplace as offsets.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250 356 6230

Issue: Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- BC is working to adapt our forest management framework so that our forests remain resilient in a changing climate.
- BC's *Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation* sets an important policy direction to incorporate climate change adaptation into forest management in BC.
- The action plan envisions that BC's forests provide a broad suite of goods and services that benefit society now and in a changing climate.
- The goals of the plan are to foster resilient forests, maintain future options and benefits, and increase capacity to incorporate climate change considerations in forest management practices.
- The Action Plan outlines actions the ministry will take to move towards these goals.
- Other resource values (e.g., adapting water, land, and heritage management) will be added as we move forward with a broader climate change strategy.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsors:	
Name: Duncan Williams and Tom Ethier	Phone: 250-387-1810 Phone: 250 356-0972
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Paul Knowles	Phone: 250-953-3988

Issue: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounting on the Forest Land Base

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Forest sector has a significant impact on GHG emissions:
 - Forests absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere as they grow and sequester the carbon in wood and soil;
 - This counteracts CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion, forest fires, and decay or burning of trees killed by Mountain Pine Beetles (MPB);
 - Forests are called a “sink” when they absorb more CO₂ than they release, and a “source” when they release more than they absorb;
 - BC’s forests were a “sink” for the years 1990 through 2002, absorbing 20 to 40 million tonnes of CO₂ per year;
 - The catastrophic wildfires, the MPB epidemic and increased harvesting resulted in BC forests becoming a “source” of GHG emissions after 2002. 2006 and 2009 were the worst years on record (about 60 million tonnes of CO₂) largely because of natural disturbances;
 - BC’s forests are projected to return to being a net sink after 2020 as the forest regrows, unless climate change worsens.
- The afforestation and deforestation combined emissions have been declining. The net emissions have dropped by about 9% from 1999-2009.
- Actions on reducing GHG emissions taken to date include:
 - Developed the Forest Carbon Offset Protocol to guide the design, development, quantification and verification of BC forest carbon offsets projects to achieve reduction of GHG emissions and/or removal of GHG emissions from the atmosphere;
 - Enabled forest carbon offset projects on Crown land through an innovative call for proposals

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250-356-6230

Issue: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Targets

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNR targets for emission reductions are the same as for the rest of government:
 1. Government operations will be carbon-neutral by 2010;
 2. By 2020 BC emissions will be at least 33% less than in 2007;
 3. By 2050 BC emissions will be at least 80% less than in 2007.
- BC's public sector is officially carbon neutral, a first for any province or state in North America and an achievement that places British Columbia on the leading edge of climate action and growth in the clean energy and clean technology sectors.
- Provincial public-sector operations spent \$18.2 million to offset 730,000 tonnes of GHG in 2010, well within targets set when the carbon-neutral regulation was introduced in 2007.
- In 2010, FLNR along with other core government produced 94,494 tonnes CO₂e from all sources covered by the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*.
- In order to become carbon neutral for the 2010 calendar year, core government invested \$2,323,778 in 92,951 tonnes CO₂e of carbon offset from Pacific Carbon Trust.
- 1,543 tonnes CO₂e of emissions from biofuels were reported as part of core government's GHG emissions profile in 2010. However, they are not required to be offset as they are carbon neutral under the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation*.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250-356-6230

Issue: Log Exports

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Log export restrictions in BC are among the tightest in Canada. To gain export permission, exporters must prove that logs are surplus to the needs of domestic manufacturers.
- The volume of public timber exported as logs is a fraction of the annual harvest of public timber — in 2012 it was under 7%.
- Allowing some log exports enables harvesting and transportation employment when manufacturing is restricted by poor market demand.
- On Crown land, allowing some log exports in areas that would otherwise be uneconomic to harvest increases the supply of logs to the domestic manufacturers by increasing the total harvest.
- Log exports from BC come from private and public timberlands. Most of the private land is located on Vancouver Island. Log exports from private timberlands are governed by the federal government, not the province.
- 6.4 million m³ of logs were permitted for export in 2012. Private land timber under federal jurisdiction made up 37% of this volume. ^{s.13}
- The volume of log exports in 2012 from lands under provincial jurisdiction decreased slightly from 2011.
- China is now the largest buyer of logs, acquiring 51% of BC log exports by volume in 2012, followed by Japan (22%), South Korea (15%), and the U.S. (12%).
- Companies exporting from public timberlands pay both stumpage fees and a fee in lieu of manufacture, returning considerable further value to the province (\$22.1M in 2012/13).
- The surge in log exports in early 2011 prompted a review of log export policy that continued through 2012 and led to policy adjustments announced on January 17, 2013:
 - Fee in lieu increase for the coast outside Order in Council areas;
 - Fee in lieu decrease for lower value logs from the mid coast Order in Council area; and,
 - Increased clarity and transparency on some administrative matters.
- Orders in Council for log exports from the north coast and northwest interior were also extended to 2015 at a reduced level of 20% of timber harvest, down from 35%.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 11, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Tom Niemann	Phone: 250-356-7900

Issue: Mill Openings and Closures

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

In 2012 and to date in 2013 the same number of British Columbia (BC) mills re-opened as closed indefinitely. Net reopenings were positive for lumber mills and negative for pulp and paper mills. Market and price projections, timber supply projections, technological improvements, labour contract changes and municipal taxes are reported factors affecting mill investment and re-opening decisions.

- Lumber mills. 2012 was a relatively good year for lumber mills. Prices for most BC wood products improved throughout 2012, finishing well above where they started the year. However, prices did not increase as fast as some analysts had predicted and so some mills over extended in production and inventories. Prices have fallen back considerably in 2013 but only one indefinite closure and no temporary closures have been announced due to the market downturn. There were 5 mill openings (Canfor-Radium Hot Springs, Coulsons-Port Alberni, Sheraton-Burns Lake, ROC Holdings-Terrace and West Chilcotin-Ulkatcho) and two indefinite closures (due to fire – Babine-Burns Lake and Lakeland-Prince George).
- Pulp and paper mills. 2012 and 2013 to date has seen a number of rationalizations in the pulp and paper sector – much of it driven by the drop in newsprint sales and technological change to new pulp products. Most pulp and paper prices declined slightly over 2012 and are now improving. One indefinite closure of a complete mill (Chetwynd) occurred and two permanent closures occurred of lines within mills (Kruger – New Westminster and Domtar-Kamloops) – all with major implications for employment and fibre consumption. The speedy acquisition of Tembec's Skoomchuck mill by Paper Excellence and finalization of major debt and labour agreement restructuring at Catalyst's 3 mills (Crofton, Port Alberni, Powell River) lowered the stresses for their communities compared to what they might have been.
- Net mill openings: Zero in 2012 and 2013 to date, compared to 4 in 2011. Five mills re-opened and 5 closed indefinitely. Two of the closures were due to catastrophic explosions and fires (Babine and Lakeland mills). Net openings were 2 for lumber mills; minus 1 for pulp and paper mills and minus 1 for shake and shingle mills.
- Indefinite closures: Four in 2012 (compared to 3 in 2011), 2 due to fire and 2 due to mill inefficiencies relative to market needs and/or fibre shortages. One so far in 2013.
- Permanent mill closures: One previously shuttered lumber mill (Tolko-Creekside) was closed as part of the company's mill investment and rationalization program.
- Added shifts or lines: One major lumber mill added a shift and 2 major pulp mills eliminated lines, compared to 7 additional shifts or lines in 2011. The closure of the pulp mill lines was permanent and spurred by the need to phase out inefficient equipment or reduce production of products facing reduced demand.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- Major investments: The operators of both the Babine-Burns Lake and Lakeland-Prince George mills that were destroyed by fire in January and April 2012 have announced that they will rebuild smaller, more efficient mills on the sites (Hampton and Affiliates and the Sinclair Group). These decisions followed intense efforts by the communities, unions, the provincial governments and other stakeholders to ensure adequate timber supply and meet other requirements of the companies.

Other large and medium size lumber companies have announced or followed through on upgrading plans to improve product quality, increase mill efficiency and reduce costs (e.g., Canfor, Western Forest Products, Catalyst, Harmac, Cariboo Pulp and Paper, Conifex, Nechako, Interfor, Chetwynd Forest Industries). These include major bioenergy investments (Harmac, Conifex and Nechako).

The BC wood products, pulp and paper manufacturing sectors directly employed 38,700 persons in 2012, down slightly (1.5%) from 39,300 in 2011 (Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey). This reflected significant mill rationalizations and investments in 2012 compared with net re-opening of mills in the previous 2 years that led to a 2.1% increase in 2011, and a 2.4% increase in 2010.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:	June 14, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1057
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Jim Johnston	Phone: 250 387-8374

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Western Climate Initiative (WCI)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In August 2011, the Climate Action Secretariat, in collaboration with industry and ministries, initiated an economic analysis of the effects of BC's climate policies.

s.13, s.17

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s.13, s.17

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: James Sandland	Phone: 250-356-6230

Issue: Wood Chip Exports

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Wood chip exports are restricted in BC. To gain export permission, domestic manufacturers must show that chips are not needed.
- The volume of wood chips exported is a fraction of the annual production and consumption of wood chips — in 2012 it was under 4%.
- Allowing some wood chip exports enables optimal distribution and transportation between producer mills and consumer mills.
- BC also imports wood chips as part of the optimization process. Companies in many areas of the province have reciprocal trade agreements with companies in Alberta and the US.
- 388,000 metric tonnes of wood chips were exported in 2012^{s.13}
- The volume of wood chips produced in 2012 was about 10.9 million metric tonnes.
- Japan is the largest buyer of export wood chips, acquiring 54% of BC chip exports by volume in 2012, followed by Alberta (29%) and the U.S. (17%).
- The biggest exporter of wood chips is Fibreco Export Inc. of North Vancouver. Fibreco is also a world leader in the export of BC wood pellets used by the bioenergy sector.
- Fibreco is a major redistribution center for wood chips in the interior and on the coast.
- The BC pulp mill sector is concerned about potential wood chip shortages brought on by the Mountain Pine Beetle harvest reductions coming over the next 10 years.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- ^{s.13}
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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 12, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Tom Niemann	Phone: 250-356-7900

Issue: Wood Products and Carbon Storage

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Approximately one-half of the weight of wood is carbon.
- Wood has a lower carbon footprint than other competing structural materials such as concrete and steel which makes wood a more climate-friendly choice.
- About half of BC's harvest is made into long-lived products like lumber.
- BC's Wood First Initiative: Creating a Culture of Wood is intended to encourage climate-friendly products.
- The storage of carbon in wood products has been incorporated into the Offset Protocol.
- An innovative science project is developing estimates of carbon storage from all the wood harvested in BC to improve reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and for future Offset Protocols.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Caren Dymond	Phone: 250-387-0140

Issue: Brownfield Renewal Strategy

Key Facts Regarding the Issue:

- In February 2008, government announced the Brownfield Renewal Strategy.
- The strategy included a funding program that committed \$10 million for allocation over a 5 year period as 'seed' money to assist in getting Brownfield sites across the province back into productive use.
- The program, currently in its 5th year, has to date granted approximately \$5.3 million towards 85 projects or 65 properties in 44 communities (some properties have received funding more than once). Note, these amounts do not include this year's yet to be announced funding recipients.
- Of the 65 properties funded in the programs first 4 years, 37 are privately held, 23 are owned by local government, 3 are owned by non-profit agencies, and 2 are owned by First Nations.
- Brownfields are sites which may be contaminated but have redevelopment potential resulting in positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.
- There are approximately 6,000 Brownfields across the province.
- Examples of Brownfields are former use: gas station sites, sawmill and logging operations, industrial use sites, old landfills, and dry cleaners.
- Remediating and redeveloping these sites has a number of social, economic and environmental benefits for communities, including:
 - Enhanced quality of life through neighborhood revitalization;
 - Reduced sprawl and protection of green spaces by encouraging the re-use of Brownfield sites rather than undeveloped lands;
 - Increased tax base from lands that would otherwise sit vacant; and,
 - Reduced risk to environmental and human health and safety through cleanup and removal of site hazards.

• s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Karen McRae

Phone: 250 356-2166

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Brunswick Point Crown Land Sales

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 1968 private farm lands in Delta, at Brunswick Point, were expropriated for ancillary use to the Roberts Bank Port; and the farming families were permitted to remain on the land as farming tenants until the lands was developed. This scope of development originally planned did not occur.
- The 2009 Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) Final Agreement (treaty) gives the TFN a Right of First Refusal (RFR) on the Crown lands at Brunswick Point.
- s.13, s.14, s.17, s.16, s.12

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Jeff Sheldrake	Phone: 250 356-8956

Issue: Burke Mountain Crown Land Sales for Residential Development purposes

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The province is planning the sale of the 240 hectare 'Optional Lands' portfolio at Burke Mountain, NE Coquitlam, in support of the 'Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) project.'
- s.17
- s.13
- A previous land sale, referred to as the 'Core Lands' sale completed in 2005, generated \$36M in Crown land sales revenue. That sale was undertaken by way of Request for Proposals (RFP), the successful bidder being Vancouver based Wesbild.
- s.16
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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.12, s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised:

June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Neil Curtis

Phone: 604 586-2885

Page 182 redacted for the following reason:

s.13, s.16

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Crown Land Inventory Sales in Support of the Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) Program.

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), is responsible for the sale/disposal of high value undeveloped Crown land.
- s.17
- As part of the government wide asset disposal initiative (RAEG), FLNR is working with the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services (TICS), to dispose of Crown lands at market value.
- FLNR, TICS and other ministries are working together to coordinate key elements of land disposal, including consultations with First Nations (FN) and local government, and marketing strategies.
- s.16, s.17
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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised:

June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeff Sheldrake

Phone: 250 356-8956

Pages 184 through 185 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13, s.14, s.16, s.17

Issue: Toquaht Bay Marina and Campground Remediation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Toquaht Bay Campground (Campground), located 16 km off Highway 4 from Kennedy Lake on the Maggie Lake/Toquaht Bay forest service road, was part of the Maa-nulth Treaty (Treaty), which came into effect April 1, 2011.
- The Treaty obligates the province to determine if certain land parcels, including the Campground, are contaminated and remediate them if necessary. On July 27, 2011, Toquaht Nation (part of Maa-nulth) provided the province with the notice that triggered this Treaty clause.
- The Campground is one of the Toquaht Nation's primary revenue generating businesses and is an important part of their future development plans.
- During the 1960's, ore from the Brynnor Iron Mine, located near Maggie Lake, was crushed and concentrated near the Campground location before being shipped. Fine sand tailings mine waste was deposited along the shoreline. The Ministry of Forests began developing a small recreation and camping area at the site after the crushing operation was closed. The Campground area subsequently became very popular, and a boat launch and marina were added. The Campground is a key access point to Barkley Sound, including the Broken Group Islands section of Pacific Rim National Park.
- In late 2012, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) (Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration Branch) retained expert consultants to investigate the site per Treaty requirements. Preliminary analytical sampling in early March 2013 revealed high concentrations of arsenic in soil and sediment. Arsenic was found to be widespread in soil at the campsite and exceeded provincial standards for protection of human health. A potential risk to human health (for recreational use) was identified.
- The Campground and associated Crown owned boat launch and marina have been temporarily closed based on the advice of the Central Island Medical Health Officer with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).
- FLNR has initiated two technical studies (a human health and ecological risk assessment and a detailed site investigation) to better understand the nature and extent of risk posed by the contamination at the Campground, boat launch, and marina. At this time, it is difficult to know what remedial actions may be appropriate. Any remedial solution will be expensive and is likely to take a number of years to complete.
- FLNR is the lead agency for technical issues and studies and will jointly share communication responsibilities with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR).

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Gregg Stewart

Phone: 250 387-9659

Issue: Union Bay Remediation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Union Bay site (the Site) is a waste coal washing/load out site that is generating metal leachate into the adjacent marine environment located at Union Bay on Vancouver Island. The Site is comprised of approximately 13 hectares of Crown foreshore which is leased to West Fraser Mills Ltd. (West Fraser) until 2018 and adjacent private land owned by Kensington Properties Ltd. (Kensington).
- A draft Pollution and Remediation Order, pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)* was prepared by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in May, 2008 naming the province, West Fraser, and Kensington as Potentially Responsible Persons under *EMA*. s.14

- West Fraser and the province have s.17 on technical studies to understand contamination at the Site. In April, 2012 West Fraser submitted a remediation plan to the MoE and the province submitted a supporting biological base line report. MoE has conditionally approved the plan and expects commencement of site remediation soon. s.17, s.21

- s.12, s.13, s.17, s.16

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13



Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Gregg Stewart

Phone: 250 387-9659

Issue: Watson Island Chemical Removal

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The City of Prince Rupert (the City) assumed ownership of most of the 270 acre Watson Island industrial site in 2009 after Sun Wave Forest Products failed to pay property back taxes.
- A joint venture partnership (that includes local First Nations) has formed a development company (WatCo) and has made a conditional offer to purchase the property from the City and the District of Port Edward. s.13, s.14
- s.13, s.14
- The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training is lead agency on this file and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) is providing technical advice and procurement management services related to site remediation.
- The site contains a significant amount of aging infrastructure and equipment associated with its former use as a pulp mill. Almost all of the tanks and associated pipes contain pulp mill reagents of various kinds.
- While Ministry of Environment (MoE) has determined that the remaining chemicals do not, at this time, pose an imminent risk to the environment so as to warrant exercise of its regulatory powers to effect removal of the chemicals, provincial ministries recognize that the longer the chemicals remain on site, the greater the likelihood an imminent risk will materialize. Based on the 2006 Treasury Board Submission approving access to contingencies, FLNRO has access to ~\$7 million remaining from an allocation for remediation of the site that can be used to remove the chemicals.
- The province, through MoE, has retained a consultant to investigate and estimate the costs of removing the chemicals on site to address the local governments and First Nations' health and safety concerns. The consultant is being asked to undertake some further work to identify disposal options.
- s.13, s.16
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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 13, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Gregg Stewart	Phone: 250 387-9659

Issue: Community Forest Agreement Expansion

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- British Columbia (BC) currently has 48 operating Community Forest Agreements (CFAs), which is over three times as many as in 2007, managing an allowable annual cut (AAC) of 1.3 million m³ per year.
- In addition to the 48 existing CFAs, there are another 9 communities, (some with First Nation partnerships), that have been invited to apply for CFAs with an AAC of 403 600 m³ per year. There is also an additional 175 400 m³ per year set aside for other communities if they become interested.
- The British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) and municipalities continue to pursue government for additional opportunities for new CFAs and expansion of existing ones. The ability to meet these requests is limited as the AAC is fully allocated in most management units in the province.

Advice and Recommended Response:

• s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:

June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250-387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Graff, Senior Timber Tenures Forester
Forest Tenures Branch

Phone: 250-387-8315

Issue: Conversion of volume-based forest tenures to area-based tenures

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Special Committee on Timber Supply released their report in August 2012, and recommendation 5.1 stated “Gradually increase the diversity of area-based tenures...”
- In October 2012 FLNR released the Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan, which indicated the ministry will discuss regulatory and policy work with industry and stakeholders regarding conversion of forest licences (FLs) to tree farm licences (TFLs). Some discussions did occur.
- Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act Bill 8 received first reading on February 20, 2013 and contained legislation that would allow for the conversion of FLs to TFLs. This legislation contained the following attributes:
 - Conversion opportunities are upon invitation of the minister only.
 - Applications are required to indicate why the conversion is in the “best interests of the public”.
 - A mandatory public review and comment period of at least 60 days, and a report of the results, is required prior to the evaluation of an application. The minister directs the public input process and is required to reject an application if the process is not followed.
 - A TFL created through surrender of a FL cannot exceed the allowable annual cut (AAC) of the surrendered FL.
- The proposed legislation received a negative reaction and government decided to amend Bill 8 to remove the volume to area-based conversion legislation.
- When this decision was announced, government indicated they would initiate a process of broader public consultation this summer before re-introducing the legislation.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kelly Finch

Phone: 250 387-8301

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: *Forestry Service Providers Protection Act Compensation Fund*

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The *Forestry Service Providers Protection Act (FSPPA)* was passed in the spring of 2010 with the overall purpose of protecting the financial interest of timber harvesting contractors and subcontractors who provide logging contracting services to licensees. The *FSPPA* includes two distinct components: Part 1 - a lien and charge on accounts; and Part 2 - a compensation fund.

The legislative framework for the lien and charge on accounts was completed in March 2013. The lien is now operational and forestry service providers can now register liens in the Personal Properties Registry in accordance with the *FSPPA*.

The Compensation Fund (the Fund) was established in 2012 with a government contribution of \$5 million to the Fund. However, due to a number of outstanding issues, the Fund was not made operational. ^{s.12}

^{s.12} the minister appointed Eric van Soeren as the Administrative Authority. These steps provide for the start-up of the Fund based on the initial capital of \$5 million. No claims have been made for compensation since its inception.

^{s.13}

Advice and Recommended Response:

^{s.13}

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brad Harris

Phone: 387-8633

Issue: Supplemental Forest Licence and Sustainable Cut Control Credit

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Parliamentary Special Committee on Timber Supply was appointed to make recommendations to address the loss of mid-term timber supply as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation in the central interior. The committee recommended continuing to pursue the development of a supplemental forest licence (FL) and sustainable cut control credits (with receiving licence attributes).

Supplemental Forest Licence

To maximize the flow of fibre, the committee recommended pursuing the development of a “supplemental” FL. The supplemental FL will provide a short-term supply of fibre to a mill owner where traditional supplies cannot meet the needs of the facility. Unlike other current forms of tenure, the issuance of harvesting rights would be conditional on a market test. For example, a pellet manufacturing facility with a supplemental FL could not exercise harvesting rights unless the company has made reasonable efforts to obtain fibre from other traditional sources (e.g. chips from a lumber mill). This form of “backstop” licence would help provide a continuous supply of fibre to processing facilities when fibre supplies are tight.

Sustainable Cut Control Credits:

Currently, harvesters can deliver low grade timber to a non-sawlog facility (e.g. Oriented Strand Board (OSB) plant) without having the volume count towards their licence. This attribution (crediting) of volume encourages the delivery of low grade timber that may otherwise not be utilized. This process has been effective in increasing wood utilization but is not a long-term sustainable solution, and as such is set to expire on June 1, 2014.

s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:

June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250-387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Blair Pigeon

Phone: 250-387-8330

Issue: Tenures For Biomass Usage

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Tenures and tenure tools are available or under development that promote the use of low-quality fibre.

New Tenures

- A restricted forest licence was created to ensure more fibre gets into the hands of independent operators and bio-energy producers. This will create jobs and ensure that the province receives maximum value from the Crown timber resource.
s.12, s.13
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- New Post-Logging Residual Forest Licences are now available to allow for the removal of post-logging fibre and to help reduce the unnecessary burning of debris piles where markets for this fibre exist.

Bio-Economy Support

Government has provided funding for companies to develop new technologies through the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, and has provided opportunities for the production of heat and power using renewable resources under the BC Hydro phase 1 and 2 calls for proposals. The ministry is actively working with other ministries and organizations to improve market and commercial opportunities for biomass. Together with the Jobs Tourism and Skills Training ministry, FLNR is liaising with companies interested in using residual fibre and is exploring new markets for bio-energy projects. An example is the efforts associated with the Forest Sector Bio-Economy Transformation Council work.

Enhanced Fibre Flow

The government continues to promote business-to-business relationships that utilize low-quality wood fibre. The exact amount of fibre being ground is unknown; however, many of the following tools are helping to promote utilization:

- Since the Grade 4 credit was introduced in 2007, approximately 7 million m³ of low-quality fibre (that may not have been used) was sent to pulp, paper, pellet and bio-energy facilities.
- Cut Control Regulation section 18 enhances the flow of fibre between licensees and promotes business-to-business relationships. By way of this policy, millions of m³ of fibre exchange hands each year, helping to stimulate business activity.
- Since 2007 more than 80 million m³ of low-quality fibre (Grade 4) has been harvested for utilization in processing facilities, much of which was from Mountain Pine Beetle impacted forests.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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- Four new clean energy projects have been awarded, in conjunction with BC Hydro, to produce electricity to power 70,000 homes (750 gigawatt-hours) annually using sawmill and manufacturing debris, roadside debris, logging slash, sort yard debris and biomass derived from standing timber. In addition, the first phase of the program resulted in the award of 4 electricity purchase agreements totalling close to 600 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually.
- The government is promoting the use of low-quality wood fibre and has seen many new production facilities being built in the province including new pellet facilities (Pinnacle), new biomass power generation (Conifex) and the expansion of existing facilities (Pacific Bio-energy).

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Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Blair Pigeon

Phone: 250 387-8330

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Woodlot Licence Expansion

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On September 20, 2011, the minister confirmed an expansion of the Woodlot Licence Program by 150 000 m³/year by March 31, 2014.
- To date, 68% of the expansion goal has been met with the advertising and awarding of 46 new woodlots (representing an annual cut of approximately 103,000 m³). These awards have generated approximately \$8.1 million dollars in bonus offers.
- Currently, there are 863 active woodlot licences in the province managing a total allowable annual cut of 1.8 million m³/year.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 11, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Peter Graff	Phone: 250-387-8315

Page 200 redacted for the following reason:

s.14

Issue: Fraser Valley Aggregate Project

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- British Columbia (BC) consumes over 50 million tons of aggregate each year, valued at \$300 million. Seventy-five percent of the 25 million tonnes of the total annual aggregate consumption in the lower mainland is required for infrastructure construction and maintenance, much of which is paid by the BC government.
- Aggregate extraction and processing operations can be incompatible with adjacent communities. Concerns around noise, dust, truck traffic and environmental impacts are often raised by local residents. The cost of transporting aggregate compels operators to seek production permits in areas close to markets.

s.16, s.13

- The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Aggregate Pilot Project was launched in June 2004 to provide a model for long term provincial aggregate management and resolution of conflicts between aggregate producers and local governments.
- Land designations for aggregate production were developed between the FVRD and the local aggregate producers. The development of the designations and associated agreements took 9 years of public process which

s.13

- Meetings were organized by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) between February and April 2013 to develop a plan supported by the BCSS&GA and the FVRD to complete the FVRD Pilot Project in a timely manner.
- The FVRD is completing the FVRD Aggregate Pilot Project during May-June 2013 with the support of multiple agencies within the BC government. The results will be presented to the BCSS&GA for review and comment by July 2013.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 14, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Stewart Guy	Phone: 250 356-5165

Issue: Harmonized, Federal-Provincial Aquaculture Management

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

In February 2009, the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that marine finfish aquaculture is a “fishery” and therefore a matter of exclusive federal jurisdiction. Later, BC and Canada agreed that shellfish and freshwater aquaculture management and regulation would also reside with the federal government. The transfer of shellfish and freshwater management and resumption of federal finfish management occurred December 18, 2010.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) primary responsibility is the management of *Land Act* authorizations that are issued for the use of Crown land. The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) is the lead for strategic, provincial policy pertaining to commercial fisheries, seafood and aquaculture. AGRI is responsible for the administration of the *BC Fisheries Act*, as it pertains to the development of the seafood industry and the *Fish Inspection Act* as it pertains to safety inspections of seafood processing facilities. There are other shared areas of interest for both agencies; AGRI is responsible for the regulation of marine plant harvesting and FLNR is responsible for processing Aquaculture Licences (or business licences) for aquaculture operators. FLNR is providing input into a review of AGRI’s seafood policies and proposals to revise the *BC Fisheries Act*.

Effective June 11, 2013, there are approximately 7 shellfish and 54 finfish (61 combined) aquaculture applications awaiting decision for the replacement of previous *Land Act* authorizations. Policy development and advice is provided by the Land Tenures Branch in FLNR. Authorizations to occupy Crown land province-wide are processed by the West Coast Region where a strategy to reduce a backlog of decisions has been implemented.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:	June 11, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250-387-1810

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sean Herbert

Phone: 250 751-7275

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Implementation of the Fossil Management Framework

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) is responsible for implementing the Fossil Management Framework (FMF).
- The FMF addresses use and protection of fossils and the mitigation of impacts on fossils. It is largely based on existing legislation and recognizes the scientific, educational and heritage value of fossils.
- Public consultation in 2010 reached the main industry sectors and generated information to assist in implementing aspects of the FMF. Additional stakeholder engagement will be required to implement the remaining components of the FMF.
- Work has been done to solidify the Crown's ability to manage fossils under the *Land Act* legislative amendments and regulation. The ministry is working on aspects of protection and impact mitigation, as well as on collection and reporting guidelines.
- The implementation plan to deliver on commitments and achieve the objectives of use and protection of the fossil resource is based on the available resources and agency participation.
- There will be no additional direct cost for government to implement the FMF. Costs to industry are not expected to be significant.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:

June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Elisabeth Deom

Phone: 250 953-3676

Name: Garth Webber Atkins

Phone: 250 356-2728

s.13

Issue:

Aggregate Tenuring Process

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The aggregate sector is an important employer in British Columbia (BC), providing direct jobs for approximately 2,300 people in 2010. Aggregate extraction and processing in BC is considered a mining activity and requires a *Mines Act* permit.
 - Two processes for aggregate permitting currently exist on crown land in BC For Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) members, the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) provides one approval for aggregate pits within approximately 60 days.
 - For non-CAPP members, at least 3 permit approvals for an aggregate pit are required, including a *Land Act* licence of occupation (FLNR), a *Forest Act* occupant licence to cut (FLNR) and a *Mines Act* permit (Ministry of Energy and Mines(MEM)). This typically takes in excess of 270 days. Additional authorizations may be required, such as a water use licence (FLNR) and an industrial highway access permit (Transportation and Infrastructure).
- OGC has been delegated authority to grant *Land Act*, *Forest Act* and *Water Act* tenures that support oil and gas activities. s.13, s.16, s.17
s.13, s.16, s.17
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- In the northeast (Horn River Basin), the situation is exacerbated due to a significant increase in demand created by gas infrastructure development. Combined, FLNR and MEM often receive more than 50 applications per month, most linked to the oil and gas sector.
- Public consultation is part of any aggregate proposal review procedure. Most aggregate permit applications proceed with little or no conflict; however, there are some areas and instances where gravel extraction comes into significant conflict with the local (mainly rural) residential population.
- The Aggregate Producers Association of British Columbia, the public and local government are looking to the province for a resolution to the challenges of aggregate development.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- Pilot projects were launched to mitigate public concerns within the Fraser River Valley and the Regional District of Central Okanagan. In February 2013, FLNR became the lead contact with the appointment of a Director for Aggregate Policy. Both Community Development and MEM are working closely with the lead director on advancing the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) aggregate pilot project.
- The Fraser Valley Regional District Aggregate Pilot Project (FVRD APP) was initiated in 2004 in response to persistent and intense conflicts surrounding aggregate operations.
- A similar aggregate pilot project, modelled after the FVRD APP, was launched in September 2009 for the Regional District Central Okanagan (RDCO APP).

s.13, s.16

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Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 14, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Stewart Guy	Phone: 250 356-5165

Issue: Management of the McAbee Fossil Beds

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The McAbee Fossil Beds, located 13 kilometres east of Cache Creek, are known worldwide for their unique diversity and quality of fossils from the Eocene epoch (56 to 34 million years ago).
- Part of the McAbee site is legally tenured under the *Mineral Tenure Act* for zeolite mineral extraction and for extraction and commercial sale of fossils.
- s.12
- In July 2012 the McAbee Fossil Beds were established as a Provincial Heritage Site under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- s.12, s.14, s.17
- Access to the site is now restricted and the main access point gated to protect the integrity of the fossil resource.
- Planning and on-site assessments are being undertaken to develop options for the future management of the site.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised:	June 12, 2013
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Duncan Williams	Phone: 250 387-1810
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Elisabeth Deom	Phone: 250 953-3676
Name: Garth Webber Atkins	Phone: 250 356-2728

Pages 209 through 211 redacted for the following reasons:

s.12

Issue: BC Timber Sales harvest plans for Clayoquot Sound

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has apportioned volume of approximately 60,000 m³/year within Clayoquot Sound, in the following management units:

- Tree Farm License (TFL) 54 – 8,991 m³/year.
- TFL 57 – 13,410 m³/year.
- Pacific Timber Supply Area (TSA) – 28,000 m³/year.
- Arrowsmith TSA – approximately 10,000 m³/year.

BCTS has not issued timber sales in the Clayoquot area since 2004 due to issues with Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGO), the public, and First Nations. An undercut for BCTS has accumulated in Clayoquot Sound. Though development in Clayoquot Sound is more costly than other areas to develop, BCTS is under increasing pressure to sell its apportioned volume on an annual basis.

BCTS is planning to put forward, this fall 2013, a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) as a starting point to demonstrate intent to restart BCTS harvesting in Clayoquot Sound. Relations with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (TFN) and ENGOs will likely be challenged at this point. BCTS has never had a BCTS FSP approved previously in this area.

Relating to the Upper Kennedy Watershed Area:

- In 2007, BCTS voluntarily agreed, at the request of ENGOs, to implement a five year deferral of harvest operations within the Upper Kennedy watershed area.
- The upper portion of the watershed has no harvest history, and is considered by ENGOs and the TFN as 'pristine'. It is, however, still in the timber harvesting landbase and contributing to the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC).
- TFN is the only First Nation with asserted traditional territory in the Upper Kennedy watershed.
- In 2013, ENGOs requested that the deferral be extended for an additional five years; BCTS responded that they will not extend the deferral.

Other:

- On May 28, 2008, the *Order Establishing Land Use Objectives for Clayoquot Sound* (LUOCS) was signed. This LUOCS formalizes land use objectives for the Clayoquot Sound planning area as legal 'objectives set by government'.
- s.16
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- Today, one-third of the Clayoquot Sound area is fully protected as national and provincial parks - a total of 91,400 hectares, including the entire 78 kilometres of outer coastline.
- In the Upper Kennedy Watershed, through the LUOCS:
 - 1,986 ha, or 9.7% of the total watershed land base is protected as Park.
 - 10,829 ha, or 53% of the total watershed land base are spatial reserves (for watershed integrity, biological diversity and human values).
 - 5,832 ha (64%) of the potentially harvestable area (outside of reserves), is within special management zones with further constraints.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BCTS

Phone: 250 387-8309

Issue: BC Timber Sales harvest plans – Dakota Ridge, Sechelt

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

s.13, s.17

Timber sale licence (TSL) A79517 at Dakota Creek contains old growth hemlock, balsam and yellow cedar timber^{s.18}

The local environmental group Elphinstone Logging Focus (ELF) is requesting that BCTS drop this block from plans due to the old growth and cultural values.

The Squamish First Nation has been consulted and has not indicated any concerns with this area from a cultural or interest perspective.

TSL A79517 is comprised of five blocks totalling 45,424 m³ of timber.
s.18

TSL A87126 at Clack Creek contains second growth douglas-fir, hemlock and cedar totalling 31,584 m³ of timber. This block is within a study area proposed by ELF where the group is requesting a deferral to allow the area to be studied with the eventual objective of creating a new 1,500 hectare park. A park request has already been considered by government in the last year and there was no support for the proposal. There is amphibian habitat in the vicinity of this cut block, which is being accommodated by the block design. There is also an illegal mountain bike trail within the block. Mountain biking is a very popular activity in this area, which can continue post harvest, but the experience will be altered by the harvesting activity.

s.13, s.17

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BCTS

Phone: 250 387-8309

Issue: BC Timber Sales – Logs from Timber Sale Licences

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Independent timber processors in BC and others wanting BC timber to go to local timber processing facilities (mills) have been asking whether logs from timber sale licences (TSL) auctioned by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) can be directed to local mills or restricted from export.

BCTS auctions TSLs to two primary Categories of BCTS enterprises: Category 1, which is market loggers and major licensees, and Category 2, which is independent primary timber processors and remanufacturers.

Consistent with the BCTS business goal of supporting the Market Pricing System, approximately 90% of TSLs are open to all BCTS enterprises; however, the program auctions about 1 million m³ of timber annually restricted to Category 2 enterprises only. Category 2 TSLs include conditions requiring the holder to process the equivalent of 50%, in the form of logs or primary products (e.g., timbers, boards), of the TSL volume through a timber processing facility in BC owned or leased by the TSL holder. Earlier this year the Minister directed that the 50% timber processing requirement included in all Interior category 2 TSLs be included in all new coastal Category 2 TSLs as well.

With respect to provisions under Part 10 of the *Forest Act* specifying manufacture of Crown timber in BC, and the export exemptions under that part, the provisions apply to timber from TSLs, regardless of the Category under which it is auctioned, much as they do for other licences. TSL holders may apply for an exemption (to allow for export) in the same manner as other licence holders.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Shawn Hedges, Sr Mgr, Tenure Operations & Sustainability, BCTS

Phone: 250-387-8944

Issue: BC Timber Sale – Maurelle/Discovery Islands

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Timber sale licence (TSL) A79514 was awarded June 14, 2013 to JWN Forestry Ltd. (Bill Markvoort of Probyn Log Sales). The upset stumpage rate is \$ 26.09/m³. ^{s.17, s.21}

s.17, s.21

s.17, s.21 The range of bids and number of bids received as well as the overall winning bid is within expected norms.

Tourism operators in the Discovery Islands (between Campbell River and the mainland) are concerned that logging in the area, especially along Okisollo Channel, “Hole in the Wall,” and White Rock Passage will compromise their businesses. They have requested moratorium on logging in those areas as well as cancellation of a TSL A79514 scheduled to be opened June 14, 2013. They have also started a petition to stop the TSL and “clearcut logging”. As of June 14, 2013, 1,358 names have been collected. Also see issues note (Discovery Islands – visual quality).

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has worked extensively with the tourism operators and has modified their plans in response to their concerns. BCTS has designed its cutblocks to minimize visual impacts by leaving large retention patches and keeping cutblocks behind ridges and away from visible slopes as much as possible.

They are also installing a “direct to barge” log loading facility on Maurelle Island to avoid log dumping and storage within Okisollo Channel. The road construction is completed and including cut block layout cost approximately \$1 million. The amount of total timber is estimated to be 105,241 m³ and it is all second-growth.

The TSL has a two-year term and a condition of the licence is for no barging of logs to occur during the summer months.

In response to requests by major forest companies, who anticipate a log shortage next year as markets improve, BCTS committed to advertising additional TSLs totalling approximately 500,000 m³ above the original plan between January and June 2013. This TSL is a critical component of the BCTS’ coastal sales plan to deliver logs to the market.

BCTS has achieved independent sustainable forest management certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and as part of their certification have undertaken a comprehensive review of the sensitive ecosystems within the TSL boundaries ^{s.13}

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BCTS

Phone: 250 387-8309

Issue: BC Timber Sales – Stewardship and Reforestation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Government has been criticized for not doing enough for forest stewardship, particularly respecting reforestation of areas of forest attacked by the mountain pine beetle (MPB).

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has been developing timber and auctioning timber sales in forests attacked by the MPB for many years and continues to do so. As the MPB-attacked trees die, weather and fall to the ground, the quality of the fibre degrades and loses commercial value. By auctioning timber sales in MPB-attacked stands, BCTS extracts stumpage value from the stands and the timber sale licence (TSL) holders can sell the logs to the market.

Following harvesting of a TSL, BCTS, in accordance with the requirements of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, regenerates the harvested areas. Each year, BCTS contracts with private nurseries to grow a sufficient number of seedlings to meet its needs, as well as the needs of other ministry programs such Forests for Tomorrow (FFT). BCTS collects or purchases tree seed, which is stored at the province's Tree Seed Centre, and supplies the nurseries with the seed to grow the required seedlings to be planted.

Seedlings and area planted by BCTS for the years 2001/01 to 2012/13:

2010/11	40.3 million seedlings
2011/12	41.4 million seedlings
2012/13	38.2 million seedlings

During the same three years, an additional 16 to 19 million seedlings grown annually under BCTS nursery contracts have been planted under the ministry's other programs. Most of them are planted under FFT to rehabilitate MPB impacted stands, with marginally economic or poorer timber, by reforesting them to increase their productivity.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Shawn Hedges, Sr Mgr, Tenure Operations & Sustainability, BCTS

Phone: 250-387-8944

Issue: BC Timber Sales Volume and Financial Results

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

This note addresses two issues:

1. In 2012, major licensees and others began urging BC Timber Sales (BCTS) to put additional timber volume on the market.
2. Questions have been raised about BCTS's financial picture and contribution to the sector.

BCTS is an autonomous self-financing program within FLNRO. The BCTS Special Account (*Forest Act*, sec. 109) was established to allow BCTS to operate on a commercial basis with clear rules dictating the flow of revenues and expenditures in and out of the account. BCTS budget performance is based on its net revenue earned (gross revenue less expenditures) rather than expenditures alone.

BCTS is responsible for managing 20% of the provincial allowable annual cut (AAC). BCTS has responded to increased market demand for timber by accelerating its timber sales by more than 500,000 m³ on the Coast and by more than 800,000 m³ in areas of high demand in the Interior. As well, the characteristics of some timber sale licences (TSL) have been designed to dissuade speculative bidding, make the timber sales more attractive to larger and more integrated operators, and encourage quicker harvesting.

BCTS has also initiated a review of the unused volumes it has accumulated in some business areas across the province and expects to complete this work by July 15, 2013.

For 2012/13 fiscal year, BCTS:

- offered 12.5 million m³, sold 10.5 million m³ and, under its TSLs, the TSL holders harvested 9.8 million m³; and,
- generated a gross revenue of \$175.1 and a net revenue of \$24.8 million (net revenue without over-accrual is \$24.5 million).

For the previous fiscal year (2011/12), BCTS:

- offered 13.4 million m³, sold 11.1 million m³ and, under its TSLs, the TSL holders harvested 9.4 million m³; and,
- generated a gross revenue of \$136.6 million and a net revenue of \$1.3 million.

s.13, s.17

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s.13, s.17

For the past 10 years (2003 -2013), BCTS:

- offered 141 million m³, sold 120 million m³ and, under its TSLs, the TSL holders harvested 109 million m³;
- generated a net revenue of \$365 million and put \$1 billion of contract business into communities; and,
- planted 407 million seedlings.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Bigalke

Phone: 250-953-3108

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Kitwanga Sawmill Wood Supply

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Morning Glory Farms Ltd. (Morning Glory) purchased the Kitwanga sawmill from Pacific BioEnergy in 2012. The Premier was at the grand opening of the 2011.
s.21
- Morning Glory have no forest tenure and they have not been able to secure a log supply through BC Timber Sales (BCTS) or any forest company.
- Recent conversations with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) staff indicate significant community and some First Nation concerns with logs being exported while the new sawmill is idle.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations.

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director , BCTS

Phone: 250-387-8309

Issue: Public Opposition to BCTS Development in Lynch Creek

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In late 2013 BC Timber Sales (BCTS) plans to sell a timber sale licence (TSL) by public auction that will see 92 ha of Crown timber logged in lower Lynch Creek (approx 20 km north of Grand Forks). BCTS will also undertake minor up-grades to the existing Gladstone Forest Service Road in the late spring of 2013 to facilitate safe log hauling for this TSL.
- The Friends and Residents of the North Fork, a citizens' group based in Grand Forks, is expressing opposition to the development suggesting that the BCTS operation will have a negative effect on local grizzly bear, deer and other wildlife. Members of the group have been active in launching media poster campaigns, holding community meetings, and undertaking public awareness field trips with intent to garner broader public support for their cause. They have also been active in engaging local Ministry staff and corresponding with government officials and executive for the intent of establishing a moratorium on logging and road building in the area.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 10, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BCTS

Phone: 250-516-8419

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Shane Bowden, Timber Sales Manager

Phone: 250-505-4215

Issue: BCTS Perry Ridge Development, Slocan Valley – Sinixt Protest

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) recently award a competitively tendered contract for 8.5 km of road construction on Perry Ridge. Road construction is due to commence in mid-June of 2013.

- s.14, s.16

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Background Information

- Perry Ridge is located near the communities of Slocan and Winlaw in the Slocan Valley, about 50 km north of Castlegar and Nelson.
- Resource development at Perry Ridge has been the subject of much controversy for well over 20 years, including a high profile blockade in 1998 which resulted in the arrest of 16 individuals followed by lengthy litigation.
- Several court decisions have supported BCTS operations and conduct on Perry Ridge.
- Two allied groups, the Perry Ridge Water Users' Association (PRWUA) and individuals calling themselves Sinixt, have maintained strong opposition to any form of forest development in the area stating reasons mainly of risks to public safety and water quality and also lack of consultation and recognition of the Sinixt aboriginal rights and title.
- The Sinixt in the Slocan Valley are a small group of individuals, some known to be American citizens from the Colville, Washington area, who have been asserting aboriginal rights and title in British Columbia for a number of years, based on descendancy from the Arrow Lakes People (Lakes People). The Lakes People were declared extinct by the Federal Government in 1956 and the Sinixt are not currently recognized by either the Federal or Provincial Governments as an "aboriginal peoples of Canada" within the meaning of s.35 (1) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Falkiner

Phone: 250-516-8419

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Russell Laroche

Phone: 250-551-3925

Issue: Proposed White Lake timber harvest by BC Timber Sales

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

In 2012, timber sale licence (TSL) A88955 at White Lake created significant local concern and media attention including Minister Thompson's office. This TSL was immediately adjacent to the community. BC Timber Sales (BCTS) worked with the community and successfully sold and harvested TSL A88955 in the winter of 2012/2013. Most of the residents were satisfied with the results and articles appeared in the local papers acknowledging the success.

BCTS is proposing additional harvest including approximately 12.3 km of new and upgrade road construction and 9 proposed blocks with a total of 118 hectares using a 'clearcut with reserves' harvest system. Average block size is 13.0 hectares. Road construction is planned for summer/fall of 2013 and harvesting commencing in 2014. The harvest is within the White Lake drainage, but a significant distance away from White Lake and residences.

The harvest plans meet all legislative requirements including the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan.

The residents' concerns are primarily as follows:

- Concern with drinking water and potential sedimentation as many residents draw their water directly from the lake.
- Concern for the fish values of White Lake, Cedar Creek spawning grounds and the adjacent provincial park.
- Concern with increased logging truck traffic through the community.

Many residents are satisfied with BCTS activities and proposed harvest plans, and several have indicated this to BCTS. A small group of local residents remain strongly opposed to any harvest and have indicated they will be seeking political support to prevent all logging.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations.

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Falkiner, Executive Director , BCTS

Phone: 250-387-8309

Issue: Managing Our Resource Road Infrastructure

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- s.13, s.17
- The Engineering Program is responsible for managing Forest Service roads (FSRs), bridges and major culverts. The program focuses its efforts on resource roads used intensively for access to communities and high value recreation sites.
- These roads are integral to rural economic diversification and growth. Many of the roads under our jurisdiction have been left by licensees and now, with community growth and expanding recreational use, many roads/bridges are in need of critical improvements.
- Further exacerbating this situation is the increasing frequency of flood/storm events and competing priorities for provincial resources. Managing the risk, particularly as it pertains to protecting public safety, is paramount, and the Engineering Program is exploring new approaches to better mitigate these risks.
- The Engineering Branch receives roughly \$6.7 million/year for **operating** (road maintenance), including brushing, grading, gravelling, etc. and the road/bridge inspections and professional engineering services s.13, s.17
s.13, s.17
- The Engineering Branch receives roughly \$11 million/year for **capital** road and bridge works and replacements on its capitalized road network.
- The program's funding policy currently prioritizes resources at public safety, users and the environment in the following order:
 1. Community and Rural Residence FSRs
 2. High Value Recreational FSRs
 3. Industrial Resource Use FSRs
 4. Environmentally Maintained FSRs

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM, TOPFN

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Wyatt, Director, Engineering Branch

Phone: 250-413-7762

Issue: Proposed Upgrade to Florence Lake FSR – Tim Horton’s Children’s Foundation Camp

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On April 19, 2013, Maple Ridge-Mission MLA-incumbent Marc Dalton announced that if voted in, the Liberals would fund up to a \$5 million road upgrade to re-route and improve the Florence Lake Forest Service Road (FSR) to provide access to the proposed Tim Horton’s Children’s Foundation Camp (THCFC) at Stave Lake.
- The THCFC plans to build a year-round camp to accommodate up to 3,000 children each year from low-income homes.
- Recently, a Crown Lease of Occupation for an area of 62 ha was issued to the THCFC for enabling further planning work at the proposed camp which expires on January 1, 2016.
- Between fiscal 2010/11 and 2011/12, \$1.3 million in combined Provincial capital funding and Federal Infrastructure Stimulus funding was invested in upgrading the first 8.4 km of Florence Lake FSR.
- In November 2012, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) collaborated with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) and spent \$400K placing new crush on the same section of road (up to 8.4 km - Zajac’s Camp).
- THCFC has stated the construction of a camp is dependent on: improvements to the Florence Lake FSR to support safe four season motor coach access; hydro-electric power supply; and telephone and Internet to the camp. Total cost of estimated road upgrades are found in following table:

Table 1: Cost estimate to complete the remaining 11.5 km of Florence Lake FSR

Road Section	Length km	Road Type	Estimate (million)
8.4 km to 12 km	3.6	Reconstruction (upgrade)	s.17
12 km to 17.1 km	0.7	New Construction (including bridges)	
17.1 km to 19.9 km	2.8	Reconstruction (upgrade)	
Total	11.5		

- In January 2013, JTST and TRAN had a business case analysis done on the proposed road improvements, resulting in the recommendations that the Province should consider entering into an agreement with the First Nations operating the Sayres Lake campsite and that the total capital costs should be shared with the other stakeholders to return a reasonable cost-benefit ratio.
- An employment impact study prepared for District of Mission (DOM) estimated a short term benefit of 148 person years (PYs) of employment from camp construction and 25 PYs annually from camp operations. Road upgrades would generate 25 PYs of employment and benefit the Zajac Ranch and the West Stave Interpretive Forest.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Wyatt, Director, Engineering Branch

Phone: 250-413-7762

Issue: *First Nations Consultation on Natural Resource Authorizations*

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) staff consults with First Nations on a number of statutory decisions in forestry, mining, land, water, and fish and wildlife authorizations.
- The coordination of First Nation consultation for projects has demonstrated efficiencies in keeping with “One Process” approach.
- The province may delegate procedural aspects of consultation to proponents, who do not always agree they are required to participate.
- s.13, s.16
- Financial capacity is provided through different forms of agreements that are negotiated by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) on behalf of government (e.g., Economic and Community Development Agreements, Strategic Engagement Agreements, Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements).
- A number of natural resource sector industries have expressed concern regard the time required for the First Nation consultation process.
- Industry often cites regional and sector inconsistencies with the First Nation consultation process as a concern.
- FLNRO in collaboration with MARR is developing business processes and tools for consultation in various sectors, to ensure a greater level of consistency for the consultation process.
- The development of tools, processes and training will assist in the streamlining of the consultation process and assist in minimizing risk.
- The increasing complexity of decisions requires more sophisticated approaches for the collection and tracking of information for consideration by decision makers.
- The government has undertaken a multi-agency transformation project to better inform the First Nation consultation and decision-making process.
- FLNRO staff actively engages internally, with other agencies, with industry representatives and with First Nations to continuously improve the operational consultation process.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Darrell Robb, Director

Phone: 250 387-6719

Issue: First Nations Woodland Licence Implementation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The First Nations Woodland Licence came into effect by regulation on June 8, 2011.
- Two FNWLs have been issued since 2011. The first FNWL was issued to the Huu-ay-aht First Nation on December 2, 2011 for 9,500 hectares with an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) of 69,883 m³. The second FNWL was issued to Canim Lake Indian Band on January 1, 2013 for 21,440 hectares with an AAC of 20,000 m³.
- Eight First Nations have a mandate approval for a FNWL in fiscal 2013/2014.
- FNWL holders will be required to pay market pricing stumpage rates. However, if First Nations sign a Forest and Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA), they will receive a share of the stumpage revenue paid from their FNWL at rates similar to community forest agreements.
- First Nations Woodland Licence holders pay a reduced annual rent of \$0.12/m³ of AAC, which covers wildfire protection charges. In addition, Treasury Board agreed that the ministry would provide a rebate of a portion of annual rent payments made on volume based licenses since 2008. This payment is intended to provide an incentive for First Nations to enter into the FNWL, and also to address general concerns that First Nations have with respect to annual rent charges.
- There are approximately 170 First Nations who may be eligible for FNWLs. ^{s.16}
- ^{s.16}
- First Nations are eligible to enter a FNWL if they have been approved for negotiation, if they sign a Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement (FTOA), and if there is a source of AAC and an available operating area.
- The First Nations Forestry Council has had input on both the regulation amendments and the development of the First Nations Woodland Licence. ^{s.17}
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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Darrell Robb, Director, First Nations Relations Branch

Phone: 250 387-6719

Issue: Renewed Forest Consultation Revenue Sharing Agreement Mandate

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 2003, Forest and Range Agreements and Forest and Range Opportunity Agreements (FRA/FRO) implemented by the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) provided per-capita based revenue sharing payments and short term forest tenure opportunities in return for a consultation protocol and an acknowledgement of accommodation of Aboriginal interests on the land-base. MFR entered into 132 FRA/FRO agreements with 153 First Nations between 2004 and 2009.
- In 2010, Government authorized a new activity based revenue sharing model and the new Forest Revenue and Consultation Agreement (FCRSA) agreement with a three year term for forest revenue sharing based on forest harvesting activity within a First Nation's traditional territory.
- As of April 1, 2011, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) now negotiates FCRSAs and holds the budget, while the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) holds the policy and revenue sharing calculations for the agreements. FLNRO also conducts consultation and delivers the Direct Award Forest Tenure Program. Tenures negotiated in this program directly link to the revenue sharing agreements.
- The FCRSA program has been highly successful in addressing government's legal obligations to consult and where appropriate, accommodate First Nations with respect to forestry activities.
- The FCRSA is a key tool for government in delivering on commitments to First Nations made through the New Relationship and the Transformative Change Accord and directly supports government's Jobs and Economy Agenda by:
 - Providing revenue sharing dollars that can be used for economic development opportunities;
 - Creating a stable operating environment for the forest sector; and,
 - Providing a streamlined consultation process with secure predictable timelines and decreasing backlogs for authorizations for licensees.
- The activity based revenue sharing model was to be phased in over a four year period. A transition process was approved that continued a portion of the original per-capita funding, allowing for a recovery in the forest sector prior to government adopting a full activity based revenue sharing model.
- Although provincial forest revenues have started to recover from the historic lows of 2009/10, to date, this recovery has been modest and revised revenue projections

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

are well short of the projected levels at the time the FCRSA transition process was approved.

- s.12, s.17

- The mandate approved a two year extension of the existing transition period, postponing the move to a full activity based revenue sharing model until March 31, 2016 to maintain the current success of the program.
- The renewed mandate also provides increased revenue sharing for First Nation Woodland Licences using percentages similar to the tabular rate reduction for Community Forest Agreements to make them comparable.
- The Province currently has entered into 105 FCRSAs and there are 26 active FRA/FROs with financial commitments to 2016.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Darrell Robb, Director

Phone: 250 387-6719

Issue: Status of the First Nation Forest Strategy – Forest Tenures

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- From September 2002 to June 1, 2013, the previous Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), and the current Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) signed agreements with 152 First Nations, providing access to over 61.6 million m³ of timber.
- Through these agreements, First Nations have access to 12.3 million m³ of allowable annual cut (AAC) which represents 15.2 percent of the provincial AAC. Direct award access is 7.3 million m³ of AAC and First Nations have acquired another 4.9 million m³ of AAC of other forest tenures through competitive processes.
- First Nations have utilized 21.4 million m³ (or 35 percent of the available timber supply). Full utilization is due to lack of capacity and poor domestic and international markets.
- FLNRO is implementing the Working Roundtable on Forestry Recommendations. To reach the goal of having First Nations as full partners in the forest sector, FLNRO has:
 - changed the Interim Measures Agreement policy, separating the tenure opportunity from the revenue sharing and consultation agreement(negotiated by Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR);
 - moved to an activity-based revenue-sharing model;
 - developed an area-based First Nations Woodland Licence (FNWL);
 - reduced the annual rent payments for FNWLs;
 - providing an annual rent rebate incentive for First Nations to enter into FNWL's; and
 - providing education/training and capacity building programs for First Nation students and businesses.
- In January 2013, FLNR initiated a review of the Direct Award Tenure Program's past decade of performance in order to redesign the program where appropriate to meet changing circumstances, update policy as required and to scope out a proposal to develop an approach beyond forestry for the Natural Resource Sector.
- Work is ongoing with MARR to explore ways of enabling business-to-business opportunities in the treaty process with BC Timber Sales and the forest industry.
- Since 2010, FLNRO in partnership with FPinnovations and the federal government have implemented the First Nations Forest Sector Technical Support Program. This \$400,000 per year program, implemented by FPinnovations, provides technical advice to First Nation forest businesses to support increased activity on their tenures and improvements in productivity in small manufacturing facilities. The program is receiving very favourable feedback and will continue in fiscal 13/14.
- FLNRO is working with Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skill Development (JTSD) to implement and expand the First Nations Forestry Training Program, a co-operative partnership among the Government of British Columbia; the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC); BC Timber Sales; and First Nations. Federally, ASETS (Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy) coordinates the "on-the-ground" services with local educational institutions and First Nations. Current initiatives:

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- Five students have completed the first 8 month forestry academic year and field work at an accredited academic institution and are now getting four months of work experience with BCTS before the 2nd year academic year starts.
- The program is anticipated to expand to 40 students for 2013/2014 through a collaborative approach with JTSD, BCTS, forest industry and FNFC.

Advice and Recommended Response:

● s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Darrell Robb, Director

Phone: 250 387-6719

Issue: Forest Worker Safety Update

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Due to a high rate of fatalities and injuries, the forest industry began a major effort in 2005 to improve its safety record. In part, the initiative was fuelled by the findings of the Forest Safety Task Force commissioned by government.

The seven-year period from 1999 to 2005 generated an average of 25 fatalities per year in the forest industry (21.6 of them in harvesting).

Concerted effort by the industry and its employees along with support from the BC Forest Safety Council, WorkSafeBC, and government agencies has resulted in significant improvement. Albeit progress has been made fatalities and serious injuries remain about twice the provincial average. Continued effort is required.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: Jun 12 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tom Jackson Director Resource Worker Safety Phone: 250 956 9505

Pages 240 through 241 redacted for the following reasons:

s.12

Issue: Resource Roads Safety

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Safety on resource roads is a concern in various sectors (forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, recreation, organized labour and others).
- Currently, safety policy on resource roads varies with the nature and use of the road. Differing and overlapping authorities, and inconsistency in understanding the rules can create confusion, uncertainty and unsafe situations.
- The *Natural Resource Roads Act* (NRRA) project is proceeding to provide clarity of expectations around resource roads for users and stakeholders including due consideration for safety of users. Once in place it will serve the clear foundation for education and enforcement activity intended to improve safety on resource roads for all users.
- Vehicle accidents on resource roads must be minimized. This will require ongoing engagement and commitment by government, builders, maintenance personnel and most importantly users..
- In past, the focus has been on the safety of resource workers. In collaboration with WorkSafeBC and industry, FLNR has supported the formation of Road Safety Committees. Although there have been clear success stories using this approach, these committees do not address the needs of all users, such as the public nor do they address all road situations well..
- Radio communications pilots lead by FLNRO pilots were completed in 2012. The pilot project involved collaboration with Industry Canada (who is responsible for radio spectrum licensing), FP Innovation and road users. Pilot projects were implemented in the South Peace, on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. They tested radio technology, call methods, signage, and channels. The ministry continues to collaborate with Industry Canada which has assumed the lead role to establish a standardized set of resource road radio channels.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: Jun 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tom Jackson/ Don Gosnell/ Brain Chow
953 4370

Phone: 250 956 5105/250 356-5766/250

Issue: Coast Market Pricing System Update

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Coast Market Pricing System (MPS) is required to be updated periodically. MPS was first introduced on the Coast on February 29, 2004, and updated on June 1, 2007, January 15, 2009 and again on July 1, 2013. Work is currently being done for the next Coast MPS update.

A Coast MPS steering committee, which includes senior industry and ministry staff, has been established to better understand the inter-relationship of the various elements of MPS and the market dynamics. This committee will provide guidance to the MPS technical group on the analysis required to improve the pricing model and prepare for the update on the Coast.

A joint industry and ministry timber pricing technical committee has been working on the update and it is expected that the update will be completed in the next 6 months or so.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 15, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM,

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

Issue: Cruise Based Billing

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Timber Cruising Integrity:

Timber cruising is the timber measurement system where standing trees are measured to estimate the volume and quality of the timber; the information from the cruise is used to determine the rate (\$/m³) to charge for the timber and, in the case of cruise based billing, the volume to be billed.

FLNR has policies and standards in place to ensure government revenue from cruise based sales is protected. For example, FLNR targets to audit three percent of all cruise plots in the field and audits harvest boundaries and the area cut on a monthly basis.

FLNR implemented changes to the *Foresters Act* that recognizes timber cruising as the practice of professional forestry with the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP), which places a greater accountability on timber cruisers and reduces government revenue risk.

Cruise Based Billing:

Cruise based billing has efficiencies to both industry and government in that scaling and waste surveys are not required; however, due to the nature of the sampling process used in the cruise, the buyer or seller of the timber may obtain a final harvest volume that is different than the cruise.

Cruise based billing has been used for decades in BC on a limited basis but was significantly increased in July of 2010 with the advent of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) outbreak in the interior of the province. Cruise based billing also occurs on the coast, but on a limited basis. Cruise based billing is largely restricted to low-value and low-quality timber.

The following table outlines the percentage of the total harvest for the coast and interior and the method of sale (cruise based and scale based).

Volume Billed* - Province
Billed April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

*all logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land. Excludes Christmas trees, waste, reject, private and federal land.

Area	Total harvest in million m3	Percentage of harvest scale based	Percentage of harvest cruise based
Coast	14.0	91% (12.7 million)	9% (1.3 million)
Interior	48.7	51% (24.9 million)	49% (23.9 million)

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 15, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

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Issue: Interior Market Pricing System Update

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Interior Market Pricing System (MPS) is required, under the Softwood Lumber Agreement, to be updated periodically. However, in practice, the interior MPS has had annual updates.
- The next update is scheduled for July 1, 2013. The joint industry and ministry technical timber pricing committee has finished the work on the update.
- s.17, s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 15, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

Issue: Revenue Derived From Forest and Land Resources

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The 2013/14 Budget Estimates Forecast (Blue Book) shows a steady increase in revenues from forestry activities. Forest revenues range from \$537.1 million (actual including logging tax) in 2012/13 to \$675.7 million (forecast) in 2015/16. Total ministry revenues, which include Crown lands and natural resources operations, are also provided below.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Revenue Forecast (\$, millions)

FORESTS REVENUE	2012/13 Revised Forecast	2012/13 Actual Revenues	2013/14 Budget Forecast	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Forecast
Timber Tenures (Stumpage & Rent)	221.0	224.6	292.1	316.5	341.1
BC Timber Sales	177.7	175.1	187.3	191.2	194.6
SLA Border Tax	93.5	109.5	64.8	100.5	108.5
Other Forest Revenues*	10.6	12.2	11.5	11.5	11.5
Logging Tax**	15.0	15.7	20.0	20.0	20.0
FORESTS REVENUE	\$517.8	\$537.1	\$575.7	\$639.7	\$675.7
Crown Lands Revenue***	59.1	69.2	123.0	84.4	124.5
Other NRO Revenue****	12.0	13.9	12.0	12.0	12.0
Water Revenue	413.4	412.0	434.9	416.8	420.5
Land Registry Fees	27.1	26.0	27.1	27.1	27.1
TOTAL MINISTRY REVENUE	\$1,029.4	\$1,061.2	\$1,172.7	\$1,180.0	\$1,259.8

* Other Forest Revenues: includes, timber export fees, range permits and fees, waste, penalties and interest.

** Logging Tax is determined by the Ministry of Finance and is in addition to the MFLNRO forecasting process.

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*** *Crown Lands Revenue: includes land tenure, land sales, land royalties, and other Crown land fees.*

**** *Other NRO Revenue: includes hunting and angling licence fees, other miscellaneous revenue, and interest.*

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

Prepared for 2013/14 Estimates Debate

Pages 250 through 251 redacted for the following reasons:

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Issue: Stumpage Rates and Minimum Stumpage Rate of \$0.25/m³

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Coast average billed sawlog stumpage rates (2012/2013) for the Coast was \$1.46 for timber tenures and \$27.19 for BCTS. The average stumpage rate billed including off grade was \$1.33 for timber tenures and \$24.62 for BCTS.
- Interior average billed sawlog stumpage rates (2012/2013) for the Interior was \$6.55 for timber tenures and \$23.50 for BCTS. The average stumpage rate billed including off grade was \$4.59 for timber tenures and \$14.98 for BCTS.
- BCTS rates are higher since bidders are not responsible for tenure obligations such as silviculture, long-term planning, or major road development and maintenance
- This rate applies also to all non-sawlog log grades (Grades 4 and 6 in the Interior and hemlock/balsam U, all X and Y grades on the Coast) and is applied to sawlogs when the appraised stumpage value is \$0.25 /m³ or less (often called negative indicated stumpage rates).
- During 2012/13 for the Coast, 60.7% of all crown timber was billed at \$0.25/m³. For the Interior, 31.2% of all Crown timber was billed at 0.25/m³. Overall, during fiscal 2012/13, 38.4 % of the provincial harvest was billed at \$0.25 /m³, which has decreased from 53.1% during 2011/12.
- The current minimum stumpage rate is \$0.25/m³, per the Minimum Stumpage Rate Regulation. This rate has been unchanged since 1987^{s.13, s.17}

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Volume and Value Billed* by Rate Group**

Scaled April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

* All logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land. Excludes waste, reject, private and federal land. For all scale invoiced as of date of reporting - June 17, 2013

** Rate groups - '.25' has an invoiced rate of less than .26 (Note - due to final billings on the weight scale cyclic billing process this includes some rates less than .25). '>.25' has an invoiced rate equal to, or greater than .26.

Fiscal Year	Coast Interior	Tenure Group	.25**			>.25**	
			Volume (m3)	Value (\$)	Volume (%)	Volume (m3)	Value (\$)
2012/2013	Coast	BCTS	160,883	40,221	7.4%	2,007,469	53,201,585
		Timber Tenures	8,263,448	2,075,345	69.3%	3,662,588	13,720,201
	Coast Total		8,424,331	2,115,566	59.8%	5,670,057	66,921,786
	Interior	BCTS	560,468	135,114	7.3%	7,085,847	113,448,713
		Timber Tenures	14,052,344	3,455,638	34.4%	26,811,302	180,210,840
	Interior Total		14,612,812	3,590,752	30.1%	33,897,149	293,659,554
2012/2013 Total			23,037,143	5,706,318	36.8%	39,567,206	360,581,340

Average Rate Billed* - Province

Scaled April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2013

Fiscal Year	Coast Interior	Tenure	Sawlog	Total
			Avg Rate (\$)	Avg Rate (\$)
2008/2009	Coast	BCTS	34.14	28.19
		Timber Tenures	16.21	14.12
	Interior	BCTS	19.61	10.54
		Timber Tenures	7.53	4.50
2009/2010	Coast	BCTS	25.91	21.16
		Timber Tenures	2.46	2.20
	Interior	BCTS	14.24	8.25
		Timber Tenures	4.23	2.62
2010/2011	Coast	BCTS	25.55	22.27
		Timber Tenures	1.54	1.40
	Interior	BCTS	17.56	10.62
		Timber Tenures	3.61	1.98
2011/2012	Coast	BCTS	30.45	26.83
		Timber Tenures	1.74	1.56
	Interior	BCTS	22.47	12.33
		Timber Tenures	3.76	2.11
2012/2013	Coast	BCTS	27.19	24.62
		Timber Tenures	1.46	1.33
	Interior	BCTS	23.50	14.98
		Timber Tenures	6.55	4.59

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

Issue: Timber Pricing Oversight

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) is mandated under the *Ministry of Forests Act* to assert the financial interests of the Crown in its forest and range resources in a systematic and equitable manner. Timber Pricing Branch is responsible for policies related to timber pricing, measurement, billing, revenue reporting/forecasting and revenue oversight.

To support the oversight role, the ministry has developed control policies and standards to ensure all legislated requirements are met. These controls span the timber measurement business areas of scaling, timber cruising, residue and waste assessments and include appraisal submissions. The oversight process has the following key features:

1. **Risk:** Risk based assessment processes are used to prioritize the oversight and allocation of audit resources.
2. **Standards:** Review standards are in place to ensure the level of ministry oversight is consistently assessed.
3. **Reporting:** Results of the oversight are summarized and reviewed.

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Scaling

A provincial summary of **Scaling** results for calendar year 2012:

There were 525 active scalers in 2012.

- 1,273 check scales were performed in 4,060 active months (one check scale for every 2.6 active months). An average 0.1 percent of the loads were check scaled and 7.8 percent of the loads were replaced by the check scale.
- There were 870 active scale sites and 2,064 scale site inspections performed. An average of 2.4 site inspections per scale site were completed per year
- The scaling standards requires the Ministry to audit scalers based on a risk based assessment; the Ministry did not achieve this standard on a provincial basis and there is a high degree of variability noted between Districts.

Timber Cruising

A provincial summary of **Cruising** results for calendar year 2012:

- Two percent of scale based and three percent of cruise based plots were checked in the field with 15 percent of those reviews being rejected.
- 82 percent of all cruise compilations were assessed with 14 percent rejected
- Cruising standards requires the Ministry to audit three to four per cent of all field cruise plot samples; the Ministry did not meet this standard on a provincial basis

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and there is a high degree of variability noted between Districts.

Residue and Waste

A provincial summary of **Waste** results for calendar year 2012:

- 6,235 blocks were waste surveyed with 296 blocks checked in the field (five per cent).
- 6,374 waste blocks were checked in the office with 1198 rejected or 18.0 percent.
- Waste standards require a Ministry review of 10% of all cut blocks; the Ministry did not meet this standard on a provincial basis and there is a high degree of variability noted between Districts

Appraisals

Total Number of Active Adjustable Appraisals as of April 1 2013: 4736

Fully appraised cutting authorities are detailed appraisals which include information to determine stumpage rates based on site conditions, timber types, timber quality, harvest methods, road construction and silviculture.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 19, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech, Director

Phone: 250 356-9807

Issue: Wood Waste Levels

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- s.13, s.17
- Provincial levels of waste as a percentage of harvest have increased from 1.2% (0.7 million m³) in 2003/2004 to 5.3% (3.6 million m³) in 2012/2013.
 - Coast levels of waste as a percentage of harvest have increased from approximately 6% (0.8 million m³) in 2003 to 14% (2.0 million m³) in 2012.
 - Interior levels of waste have increased from 1% (0.3 million m³) to 5% (1.3 million m³) over the same period.
 - The highest levels of waste are on the high cost Coast helicopter old growth harvest areas with an average of 329m³/ha billed in 2012.
- With the lumber market collapse and lack of demand for timber in the period of 2007-2009, the market value for timber dropped, resulting in a high percentage of stumpage rates at \$0.25/m³. Market conditions have improved significantly and it is expected that improved economics should result in fuller recovery of lower quality fibre.
- The take or pay waste billing policy requires licensees to pay for merchantable timber whether it is taken to the mill or left in the forest as waste.
- Stand-as-a-whole pricing cruise-based billing was expanded to major licensees cutting permits for Interior beetle-killed timber on July 1, 2010, which reduced costs and may encourage fuller utilization of this timber. The volume of merchantable timber remaining on cruise-based cutting authorities is unknown as waste assessments are not required for cruise based cutting authorities.
- Some wood residue is necessary for biodiversity reasons, as well providing small-scale salvagers access to wood residue for other uses, such as firewood, pellet production or wood chips for pulp.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 15, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

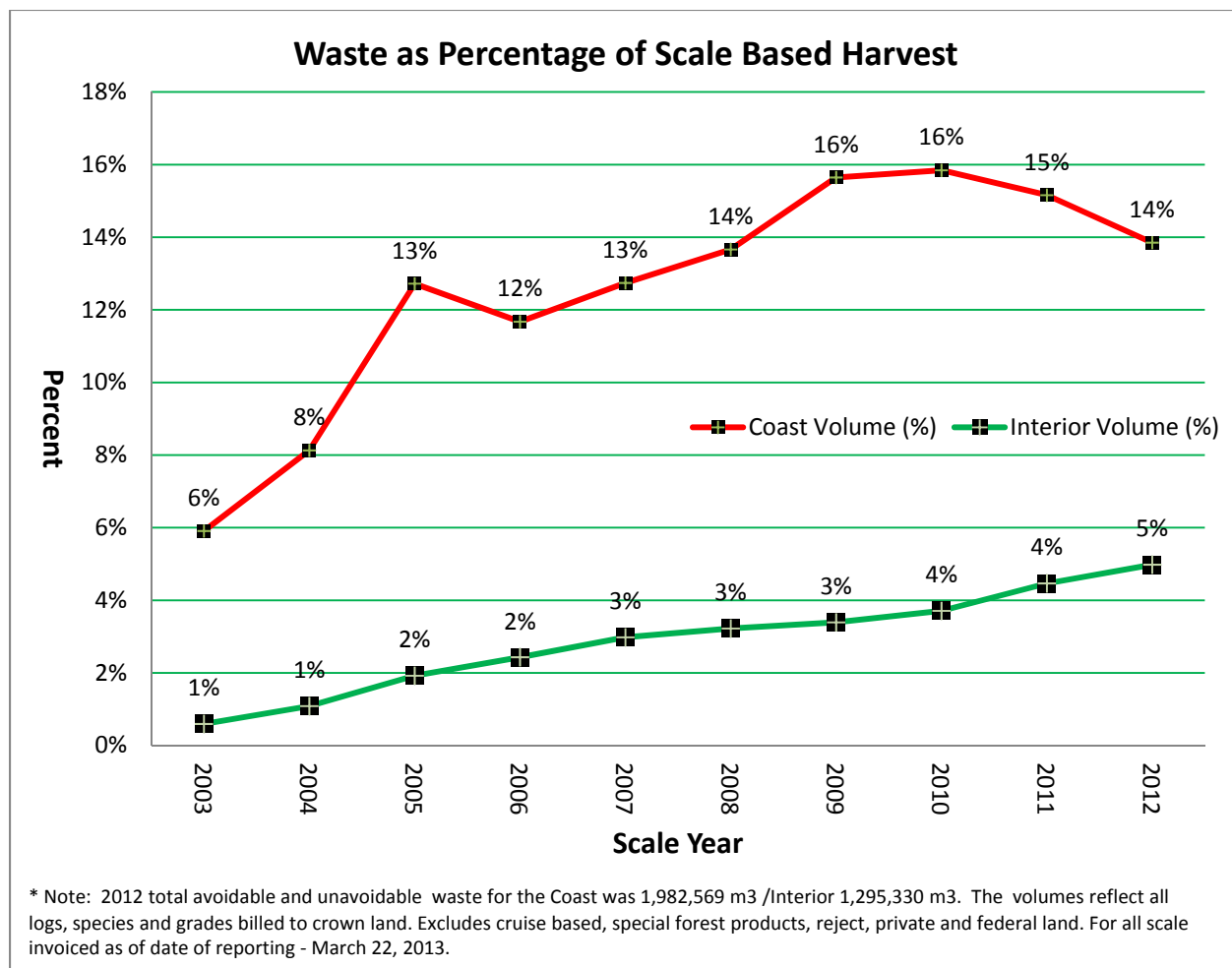
Volume and Value Billed* - Province Billed April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2013

* all logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land including waste and reject. Excludes Christmas trees, private and federal land.

Fiscal Year	Coast Interior	Non Waste		Waste		Total Crown	
		Volume (m3)	Value (\$)	Volume (m3)	Value (\$)	Volume (m3)	Value (\$)
2003/2004	Coast	11,701,758	240,267,215	492,634	724,052	12,194,392	240,991,267
	Interior	46,018,733	650,456,027	220,217	134,794	46,238,949	650,590,821
2003/2004 Total		57,720,490	890,723,242	712,851	858,846	58,433,341	891,582,088
2004/2005	Coast	19,747,143	335,904,759	1,791,317	3,708,888	21,538,460	339,613,647
	Interior	57,715,883	954,409,601	549,140	151,669	58,265,023	954,561,271
2004/2005 Total		77,463,026	1,290,314,360	2,340,458	3,860,558	79,803,484	1,294,174,918
2005/2006	Coast	15,572,817	158,996,391	2,323,462	7,051,568	17,896,279	166,047,959
	Interior	61,443,110	944,325,700	958,180	633,121	62,401,290	944,958,821
2005/2006 Total		77,015,927	1,103,322,091	3,281,642	7,684,689	80,297,569	1,111,006,781
2006/2007	Coast	14,527,736	146,660,529	1,606,958	2,610,823	16,134,694	149,271,352
	Interior	56,501,049	812,110,137	1,528,209	1,253,397	58,029,258	813,363,533
2006/2007 Total		71,028,785	958,770,665	3,135,167	3,864,219	74,163,952	962,634,885
2007/2008	Coast	12,446,049	217,261,133	1,984,992	4,699,268	14,431,041	221,960,401
	Interior	50,551,716	494,560,744	1,617,193	1,375,717	52,168,909	495,936,461
2007/2008 Total		62,997,765	711,821,877	3,602,185	6,074,985	66,599,950	717,896,862
2008/2009	Coast	10,370,513	179,504,544	1,677,004	6,263,544	12,047,516	185,768,088
	Interior	41,090,268	231,416,749	1,441,686	2,889,020	42,531,954	234,305,770
2008/2009 Total		51,460,781	410,921,293	3,118,690	9,152,565	54,579,471	420,073,858
2009/2010	Coast	8,725,772	43,094,616	1,325,618	4,580,290	10,051,390	47,674,906
	Interior	37,378,546	154,665,743	1,229,185	2,144,604	38,607,731	156,810,346
2009/2010 Total		46,104,318	197,760,359	2,554,803	6,724,893	48,659,121	204,485,253
2010/2011	Coast	12,067,775	55,088,343	2,322,480	2,874,387	14,390,254	57,962,730
	Interior	45,448,688	161,762,815	1,380,431	3,063,526	46,829,119	164,826,341
2010/2011 Total		57,516,463	216,851,158	3,702,911	5,937,913	61,219,373	222,789,071
2011/2012	Coast	14,463,225	60,750,424	2,690,429	3,550,867	17,153,654	64,301,290
	Interior	49,883,963	175,700,828	1,139,160	1,124,219	51,023,123	176,825,047
2011/2012 Total		64,347,188	236,451,251	3,829,589	4,675,086	68,176,778	241,126,337
2012/2013	Coast	13,965,152	66,424,794	2,033,950	3,524,797	15,999,103	69,949,591
	Interior	48,831,277	281,373,920	1,521,776	4,025,383	50,353,052	285,399,303
2012/2013 Total		62,796,429	347,798,713	3,555,726	7,550,180	66,352,155	355,348,894

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations



Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Jensen, ADM

Phone: 250 387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Murray Stech

Phone: 250 356-9807

Issue: Implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) on the North and Central Coast

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- British Columbia's Central and North Coast, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest, is an ecologically significant region that includes one of the largest intact temperate rainforests on Earth. This area has received much global attention over the past 15 years and is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have lived there for thousands of years and contains many coastal communities. Its rich ecosystems support diverse economic activities, including forestry, fishing and tourism.
- The Great Bear Rainforest covers 6.4 million hectares – an area larger than Switzerland – and more than 2.1 million hectares are fully protected from logging. That includes half of the area's old growth forests. Of the 6.4 million hectares, only 590,000 hectares – about 9 per cent, is available for logging, and then only using the most ecologically sensitive methods.
- Commitments for EBM emerged from the Land and Resource Management Planning processes (LRMPs) which began in 1997 for the Central Coast and in 2001 for the North Coast. These planning processes resulted in consensus recommendations being presented to the Province and First Nation governments – all designed to concurrently manage ecological integrity and human well being, the two goals of EBM.
- On March 31, 2009, a joint announcement supported by all parties confirmed that the Province met its commitment to establish and fully implement an EBM system for coastal BC, which is reflected in two Land Use Objectives Orders (LUOs) for the area, the South Central and the Central & North Coast LUOs. The Province made a series of additional commitments to First Nations and key stakeholders for work that would be done in the following five years to March 2014.
- Excellent progress has been made on implementing these commitments. The largest outstanding commitment is a review of the LUOs prior to March 2014. The objective of this review, undertaken in a manner that is consistent with FN agreements, will be to concurrently achieve low ecological risk and high human well-being and if this is not possible, seek meaningful increments towards both.
- Negotiations regarding the review of the LUOs have commenced. The forest sector and the environmental non-government organizations (ENGOS) are attempting to reach a solution that would form the basis of a joint recommendation to the Province and First Nation governments and each of the parties (including First Nations) is lobbying for their specific interests.
- s.13, s.16

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area, Tom Jensen, ADM BCTS Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rory Annett, Executive Director Phone: 250 286-9330

Issue: Marine Planning in British Columbia

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

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- All current marine planning projects are governed by multi-party MoUs and often rely on external funding agreements.
- Provincial staff are currently engaged in four key marine planning processes:
 1. The Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNICMA)
 2. The Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)
 3. West Coast Aquatic (WCA)
 4. Canada – BC Marine Protected Area Network Strategy and Implementation
- The oceans and marine sectors are an important contributor to the provincial economy and are a significant economic driver for BC coastal communities. A 2005 evaluation identified the oceans sector as comprising 7-8% of the total BC economy (~\$11.6 billion). This is expected to rise substantially given projected industrial expansion on the coast and coastal / marine based export of provincial resources (e.g., LNG).

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250 387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Allan Lidstone

Phone: 250 356-6255

Issue: Old Growth Management in the Coast Area

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Old growth forest conservation is an important strategic objective when addressing sustainable natural resource management on the Crown land base.
- Concern has been expressed by environmental groups and citizens regarding the conservation of old-growth in the Province and specifically in the Coast Area.
- This issue is of particular importance to the Ancient Forest Alliance who request that the Province inventory old-growth forests in British Columbia and protect them where they are scarce (i.e. Vancouver Island, Southern Mainland Coast, Southern Interior, etc.).

Background:

- OGMA's are a spatial representation of the requirement for old growth retention as established under the Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives (2004) (under Section 93.4 of the *Land Act*) in support of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.
- A June 2012 investigation by the Forest Practices Board examined how the Province has implemented old-growth retention as directed in land use plans and how forest licensees are implementing the requirements set by government.
- The investigation found that progress has been made in old-growth retention but also highlighted some challenges regarding monitoring, inventory and how some tenured users are required to maintain old-growth and others are not. They also noticed substantial variation in the levels of old-growth retention required in different areas, ranging from a low of 3 percent to a high of 70 percent.
- In the Coast Area, in addition to identifying spatial OGMA's, different strategies are employed to protect or reserve special values on Crown land. Most of these strategies also manage for old-growth forest retention, depending on the area. These strategies include: Watershed Reserves (Clayoquot Sound), Strategic Landscape Reserves (Central and North Coast), Wildlife Habitat Areas which require old growth (e.g. Spotted Owl), Forest Reserves (Haida Gwaii), Wildlands (Sea to Sky), Recreation areas, Ecological Reserves, and Conservancies.
- The Coast Area has a portion of the land base in Protected Areas (West Coast Region has 21%, South Coast Region has 37%) and a high percentage are old growth forests but some is water, ice, rock, etc.
- In the West Coast Region, 17% of the forested land base is in old growth reserves (approximately 1,127,285 ha) and an additional 21% (approximately 2,343,430 ha) of the entire land base is in Protected Areas. In the South Coast Region, 8% of the forested land base is in old growth reserves (approximately 149,000 ha) and an additional 33% (1,385,468 ha) of the entire land base is in parks, protected and conservation areas.
- s.13, s.17

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- On Vancouver Island, limited accessible old-growth in proximity to major population centres is an ongoing issue. OGMAs have been used to conserve: 1) Old-growth with unique features (Avatar Grove), 2) Rare and endangered ecosystems (Coastal Douglas Fir) and; 3) First Nations traditional and cultural use areas.
- In the rest of the West Coast Region, planning frameworks with a much higher level of forest retention (EBM) than the Provincial OGMA standard are being implemented. This is also the case in the South Coast Region, where EBM is being implemented, and proposals to sell carbon credits are in review (Cheakamus Community Forest in Whistler).

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contacts for Issue:

Name: Dorthe Jakobsen, West Coast Region

Phone: 250-751-7379

Name: Mark Anderson, South Coast Region

Phone: 604-485-0710

Issue: Sonora Island Old Growth Logging

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- TimberWest recently attempted to harvest several stands of second growth trees with very large old growth "veterans" and one small stand that meets the ecological definition of old growth on Sonora Island, which is subject to the Land Use Objectives for the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Sonora residents have been on record for over 20 years wanting protection for these large rare (for the Discovery Islands) trees and have had repeated assurances from TimberWest and predecessor companies that they would be left.
- The landscape unit containing Sonora Island has an extreme deficit of old growth, relative to the targets specified in the land use orders and all old growth stands are expected to be protected. There is lack of clarity in the Land Use Objectives Orders about the operational definition of an old growth stand and how to consider remnant old growth trees.
- Sonora residents contacted ministry staff, the Forest Practices Board and environmental groups to voice their concerns.
- TimberWest has responded by placing a moratorium on their logging in these blocks and is now working with the residents and environmental groups to resolve their concerns. Ministry staff are supporting the discussions at the request of all parties.
- Greenpeace and Forest Ethics have seized upon this as evidence that additional protection and prescriptive measures are needed as part of the review of the Land Use Objectives Orders due in 2014^{s.13}

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- Some members of a local environment group have commissioned a "sensitive ecosystems inventory" on the Discovery Islands and have suggested that any logging that occurs within the Discovery Islands (including Sonora) before the inventory is complete couldn't be environmentally sound.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rory Annett, Executive Director

Phone: 250 286-9330

Issue: Bowen Island Docks

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Four residential property owners on Bowen Island were granted Licences of Occupation for private moorage near Cape Roger Curtis in January 2013.
- The proposed moorage structures are each about 100 metres long. Only one has started construction. There are no provincial policy restrictions on the size of private moorage structures.
- Proposed floating breakwaters were not allowed as they are not permitted under the private moorage policy.
- Local residents regard the bay as a public park and have opposed the docks.
- The applications were referred to Bowen Island Municipality. The Municipality has neither zoning nor building bylaws that apply to private moorage.
- Federal Fisheries did not raise any concerns about impacts to the marine habitat. Navigable Waters required applicants to obtain a *Navigable Waters Act* permit.
- FLNR staff did not identify any environmental concerns with the proposed docks.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Keith Anderson

Phone: 604 586-4323

BRIEFING NOTE – Minister Thomson

ISSUE: What is the Clean Energy Sector doing to protect the environment, work with First Nations and comply with government regulations?

BACKGROUND:

- 70 clean energy projects (IPPs) supply approximately 15% of the power on the BC Hydro grid.
- The majority of these are small run-of-river type projects. Average size is 8 – 9 MWs capacity.
- Not included in the 70 are other suppliers to BC Hydro – forest and pulp and paper and mining companies such as Teck and Rio Tinto.
- B.C. is blessed to have remarkable clean energy resources such as run-of-river, wind and biomass. These natural resources produce clean, low carbon power, as well as green jobs in the province.

Protecting BC's Environment

- By 2009, clean energy projects in BC had enabled an annual reduction of 4 million tonnes of GHGs that would otherwise have resulted from BC importing more power from thermal plants. The clean energy potential in BC Hydro's 2006 Call for Power was equal to removing one million cars from our roads.

Contribution to Jobs and First Nations

- To date, clean energy producers existing operations have created 18,000 person-years of employment. Many of these jobs are in First Nations and rural communities.
- At the moment, 12 clean energy projects that are under construction represent \$2.6 in capex and have a direct work force of 2,300 people of which 700 are from First Nations.
- The clean energy sector has contributed more than \$2 billion to the provincial economy, and \$378 million to government revenue for public services – money that pays for our hospitals and schools.
- Clean energy producers are leaders in negotiating long-terms economic benefits agreements with First Nations. As well, a portion of provincial royalties from water licenses and land leases will go to First Nations.
- Some 125 First Nations in BC are involved in the clean energy sector in all regions of the province.

Compliance with Regulations

- Clean Energy projects are regulated during the investigative, development and construction phases of development. All incidences of non-compliance are reported to government agencies.
- With consideration for BC's official fish, the Pacific salmon, CEBC has commissioned an independent review of small hydro and their impacts on salmonids in BC. This work is being led by Pacific Salmon Foundation, Canada's premier, not-for-profit salmon conservation organization. The investigative scientific team is from ESSA Technologies who led scientific work into missing Sockeye salmon for the Cohen Commission.
- CEBC has also commission a study to look into the "Economic Impact of the Clean Energy Sector on BC First Nations." This study is led by Dr. Edwin Blewett, Resource Economist who worked

with Dr. Peter Pearse on the Royal Commission on Fisheries in the 1970s and the provincial Forest policy development in the 1990s and 2000's.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Clean energy producers are creating the heritage assets of tomorrow, today. They will continue to provide good, fair and long-term value for money for B.C.'s ratepayers for decades to come.
- Power for BC's northern development opportunities in upstream oil and gas, mining and export LNG developments will all utilize clean energy to meet an unprecedented demand for energy.

**CONFIDENTIAL
ISSUES NOTE**

Environmental Assessment Office
Updated: May 7, 2013

Minister Responsible: Interregnum Period

**EAO Oversight of
Certified Water
Power Projects**

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- 13 water power projects have been certified under the *Environmental Assessment Act* to date; three of these are operational and four are under construction.
- In fiscal year 2012/13, Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) compliance and enforcement staff conducted six inspections on water power projects certified under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, accounting for 35 percent of EAO-led inspections conducted that year.
- All 2012/13 inspections were conducted during the construction phase. Inspections found the projects to be largely compliant with their construction phase environmental assessment certificate conditions. Minor instances of certificate non-compliance were noted and addressed by certificate holders.
- EAO plans to inspect seven water power projects for compliance with environmental assessment certificate conditions in fiscal year 2013/14, including inspection of the three certified projects in the operations phase.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

In January and April 2013, there were media reports regarding instances of non-compliance from run-of-river hydroelectric projects. These reports stemmed from Freedom of Information (FOI) releases that documented non-compliances identified by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR).

A review of the most recent FOI release has determined that there may be a total of five incidents of certificate non-compliance on two *Environmental Assessment Act* certified projects (the East Toba River Montrose Creek Hydroelectric Project and the

Upper Stave Hydroelectric Project). The incidents include non conformance with either in-stream flow requirements or with flow ramping rate requirements. EAO compliance and enforcement staff are following up on these incidents to determine the level of compliance related to these incidents and will determine the appropriate enforcement response if non-compliance with the Environmental Assessment Certificates are confirmed. EAO compliance and enforcement staff were planning inspections of both these projects, independent of the FOI release, and will be proceeding with these inspections over the next several weeks.

Run-of-river water power projects divert a portion of a river's flow into a penstock, through turbines and back to the river channel, to generate electricity. Water power projects can result in significant adverse impacts to aquatic and terrestrial environments, as well as cultural and recreational values.

To avoid or mitigate potential impacts, projects with a rated nameplate capacity of 50 MW or greater are required to undergo an environmental assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. All projects must obtain authorizations from FLNR before commencing operations.

In 2012, FLNR and EAO staff identified post-construction issues in the oversight of water power projects. Some of these issues pertained to EA certified projects (e.g., better coordination of compliance and the need to ensure continuous improvement of conditions proposed for water power projects), but the majority of issues discussed were with respect to post-EA permitting and sub-threshold projects.

These issues were discussed in a compliance management workshop hosted by EAO in July of 2012. A key result was sharing of information regarding best practices for compliance management. At that time, EAO determined that it would prioritize the inspection of water power projects for 2012/13. The inspection of water power projects remains a priority for 2013/14.

Background:

Currently there are 13 EA-certified water power projects in BC, of a total of 68 operational projects in BC. Of the 13 EA-certified water power projects:

- Three are operational (there is one EA certificate applicable to the three separate components of the Upper Harrison Project);
- A further four projects are currently under construction;
- One project (Narrows Inlet Hydroelectric Project) is in the application review stage of the EA process, with the timeline suspended, pending additional information from the Proponent."
- A further 11 projects are in the Pre-application phase of EA.

Constructed and Operational	Under Construction	Certified – not yet begun construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Toba River Montrose Creek Hydroelectric Project • Pingston Creek Hydroelectric Project • Upper Harrison Water Power Project (Includes three separate projects – Tipella Creek Hydroelectric Project, Lamont Creek Hydroelectric Project, and Upper Stave Hydroelectric Project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kwoiek Creek Hydroelectric Project • Kokish River Hydroelectric Project • Forrest Kerr Hydroelectric Project • McLymont Creek Hydroelectric Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Silver Creek Hydroelectric Project • Tretheway Creek Hydroelectric Project • Shovel Creek Hydroelectric Project • Cascade Heritage Power Project • Upper Lillooet Hydroelectric Project • Upper Toba Hydroelectric Project

Results of 2011 and 2012 Site Inspections for EA Certified Water Power Projects

- In 2011, EAO inspected the East Toba Power House and Transmission Line.

2011 Inspections	
Project	Results
East Toba Montrose Power House and Transmission Line	<p>No incidents of non-compliances were identified at the time of inspection (August 25, 2011).</p> <p>The inspector reported that all data regarding in-stream flow rates and ramping levels are reported to MoE and DFO at regular intervals.</p>

- In 2012, EAO conducted six inspections on four water power projects. All projects were inspected during their construction phase; consequently ramping or in-stream flow issues were not identified as a concern.

2012 Inspections	
Project	Results
McLymont Creek Hydro Electric Project	No non-compliances observed at the time of inspection (Nov 27, 2012).
Forrest Kerr Hydro Electric Project	There were no non-compliances observed at the time of inspection (Nov 27/28, 2012).

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2012 Inspections

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Kokish Hydro Electric Project (3 inspections)

No non-compliances were observed on the first inspection conducted on July 18, 2012. There was concern raised over sediment and erosion control measures currently in place.

Follow-up inspections were conducted on October 17, 2012, and March 11, 2013. No non-compliances were found on the follow-up inspection. Previous concerns regarding sediment and erosion control have been mitigated.

Kwoiek Creek Hydro Electric Project

One instance of non-compliance noted at the time of inspection (Jul 31/ Aug 1, 2012); non-compliance was an environmental management plan that was not sent to a regulating body prior to its implementation. The plan was otherwise in accordance with the EA Certificate and BC regulations.

Prior non-compliances regarding clearing outside of the right-of-way and during bird nesting seasons without having bird nesting surveys conducted were reported to EAO in June 2012. The Independent Environmental Monitor dealt with these non-compliances through a stop work order.

Communications Contact:
Program Area Contact:

Greg Leake
Erin Scraba / Chris Parks

387-2470
387-7412 / 387-0295

Issue: Clean Energy Non-Compliance (Waterpower)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The number of Clean Energy Projects (CEPs) has increased significantly over the last decade as a result of BC's Energy Plan and BC Hydro's Power Calls.
- Waterpower CEPs have become more technically complicated and located in more ecology sensitive areas, thus leading to more rigorous design review and monitoring.
- In general there are 3 types of non-compliance: (1) human errors in operating the facility; (2) design of the project; and (3) exceptional natural circumstances.
- The highest risk from waterpower CEP non-compliance is the potential for fish stranding during periods of low flows (Instream Flow Rates [IFR]) or with the procedures during start up of shutting down of the projects (ramping).
- A 2010 audit of 16 operating facilities in the South Coast Region identified 749 non-compliance incidents of which 356 (48%) were for water use non-compliance (IFR and ramping), and 393 (52%) were related to agency notification and mitigation matters. Only 7 (<1%) of all non-compliances impacted fish.
- Ministry staff work closely with project proponents to address any environmental issues that may unexpectedly occur during project operations. Various provincial resource statutes provide authorities for taking enforcement actions (e.g. issuing orders, tickets, fines). The exercise of this authority is discretionary by the statutory decision-maker and decisions are made on a case by case basis.
- Clean Energy BC recently contracted the Pacific Salmon Foundation to undertake an independent review of waterpower CEPs and their impacts on salmonid species in BC, including assessing the positive and negative impacts of CEPs on the environment and associated mitigation and compensation works. The report is expected to be completed in the fall of 2013.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) recently completed a review of habitat monitoring performance at 22 CEPs in BC and Yukon (Hatfield Report) in respect to the *Fisheries Act* section 35(2) Authorizations. The Hatfield Report also reviewed what would be required among these operating CEPs to bring them into compliance with the "Long-Term Aquatic Monitoring Protocols for New and Upgraded Hydroelectric Projects" adopted by Canada in 2012, after the projects were approved. It was concluded that, *"All projects typically complied more to their respective Authorization than they aligned with the long-term monitoring protocols prepared for the industry as a whole."*
- Both B.C.'s 2010 audit and Canada's 2012 Hatfield Report recommend establishing a web-based compliance monitoring system. ^{s.13}

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 19, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland»

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Heather MacKnight

Phone: 604 586-2892

Issue: Florence Lake Forest Service Road

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In November 2010, the District of Mission (DOM) requested \$5 to \$7 million in government funding for road improvements, services and recreation plans to support access to the West Stave Interpretive Forest (WSIF) (~ 5,000 ha controlled recreation area held by DOM) as well as to the proposed Tim Horton's Children's Foundation Camp (THCFC).
- Florence Lake Forest Service Road (FLFSR) is an industrial road that received \$1.3 million in upgrades in 2010/11, funded through the Federal and Provincial Community stimulus program, to the first 9 kms accessing Zajac Ranch for medically challenged children. Additional contributions through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure enabled surfacing of the same road section in the fall of 2012.
- A further 12 kms of upgrade to enable safe motor coach travel is estimated to cost \$5 million. The upgrade includes a new, safer route around an unstable stream crossing. THCFC is clear that the current location is desired and the road must be funded by the Province in order to invest the \$15-17 million to construct the camp.
- The license of occupation issued to THCFC enabling further planning work at the proposed camp expires on January 1, 2016.
- In April 2013, during the election, Liberal MLA incumbent Marc Dalton committed to funding up to \$5 million of the road upgrades subject to the election outcome.
- An employment impact study prepared for DOM estimated a short term benefit of 148 person years (PYs) of employment from camp construction and 25 PYs annually from camp operations. Road upgrades would generate 25 PYs of employment. Zajac Ranch and the WSIF are also estimated to result in short term employment of 65 PYs and longer term employment of 43 PYs annually.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Johnsrude

Phone: 604 702-5781

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Harrison Hot Springs/District of Kent Alternate Evacuation Route

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Village of Harrison Hot Springs/District of Kent (Village) requested a suitable option for emergency evacuation. Former Minister Pat Bell responded on April 26, 2010 suggesting that the Village apply for the necessary permits to support furthering their access objectives.
- Highway 9 is a stable access route from the south with Rockwell Drive as access from the Village to the north along Harrison Lake. Rockwell Drive is a highways road that changes into a main Forest Service Road (FSR) and has some potential options for evacuation including a route through the Sasquatch Provincial Park and out through the Ruby Creek FSR. This route requires significant infrastructure improvements, park access permits and/or other detailed planning.
- A meeting held on February 7, 2013 between the Village Councils, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Chilliwack District of FLNR focused on the above alternate route.
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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Johnsrude

Phone: 604 702-5781

Issue: Hatzic Valley Flooding and Public Safety

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Hatzic Valley is a naturally flood prone area along the Lower Fraser River protected by dikes and pumping stations. While inadequate protection measures play a key role in flood management issues, historical forest development activities have generated large amounts of sediment that infill the streams significantly reducing drainage capacity.
- The valley terrain has inherent natural hazards due to the geology creating an environment requiring careful attention when conducting residential, commercial or forest/crown land development.
- The area is also subject to high levels of precipitation with notably intense weather events. A few homes have been purchased by government due to safety hazards and one significant landslide event ended with a fatality several decades ago.
- The area has had limited forest development over the last 10+ years due to the known flood and terrain sensitivities. The area does not have any special designations such as a community watershed but the Chilliwack District Manager has provided guidance to all forest license holders of the professional information available that must be considered for any forest development to occur.
- The Hatzic Valley Logging Committee (HVLC) has also been established over the past 5 years to better enable communication between the Ministry, forest licensees and the local residents.
- Recently, cutting permits have been issued to Teal Jones and the Dorman Group that are at least partly within sub drainages of the broader Hatzic watershed. The District Office undertook a detailed review of these areas to ensure professional assessments had been conducted for both terrain and hydrological hazards, the recommendations were incorporated and communication occurred with the HVLC.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Johnsrude

Phone: 604 702-5781

Issue: Howe Sound Planning

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Future of Howe Sound Society (FHSS) is a highly organized non-profit society with the mission of encouraging the development of a comprehensive land use plan for Howe Sound. FHSS was formed in response to Burnco's McNab Creek aggregate mine proposal situated on the east side of Howe Sound.
- FHSS has advised FLNR staff that in an early 2013 meeting, former Minister Pat Bell expressed general support of a focused land use planning for the area.
- FHSS held a public forum in April 2013 with participation by NGOs, local governments, local MLAs and the tourism/film industries. Staff from FLNR, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Industry, and the Squamish First Nation attended as observers. FHSS is planning another forum in the fall.
- The main concerns raised at the forum centered on the environmental impacts of "re-industrialization" within the Sound (i.e. aggregate and LNG) and on recovering land and marine values.
- FHSS have asked the province to:
 - Initiate a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) type planning process for the Howe Sound area that includes the marine environment;
 - Place a moratorium on industrial development pending plan completion.
- An Environmental Assessment process is currently under way for the McNab Creek aggregate proposal.
- An LRMP has been completed for the Sea-to Sky District but not for the Sunshine Coast District, which includes most of the area of interest.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland»

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeff Juthans

Phone: 604 586-4287

Issue: Lions Bay Debris Flow Risk

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Preliminary geotechnical reports identified a landslide risk affecting up to 16 residences in the community of Lions Bay. At a September 14, 2012 meeting, the affected residents were notified of the risk to life and property and that FLNR and Ministry of Justice (JAG) would be proceeding with further detailed geotechnical assessments and possible mitigation options. The ministries are also working closely with the Village of Lions Bay (Village) on managing the issue.
- A more detailed geotechnical report has been presented to FLNR and JAG staff identifying a clear unacceptable risk for one residence, and borderline risk for a second. The risk for the remaining identified properties has been determined to be acceptable. Landslides have previously occurred at this location approximately 1500 and 3000 years ago.
- On February 27, 2013, FLNR and JAG staff presented the results of the geotechnical report to the Village, impacted residents, and residents of concern.

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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- A meeting with MLA McIntyre, Mayor Broughton, Minister Bond (JAG) and Minister Thomson occurred on March 20, 2013. It was clearly communicated that additional policy review was required.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dave Southam

Phone: 604-898-2141

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Log Shortage on Coast

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Established major licensees including International Forest Products and Western Forest Products have expressed concern about short term log supply shortage.
- The Coast Forest Products Association has been critical that BC Timber Sales has generated unused volume and are contributing to the log supply issue.
- It is not economic at this time to access the full timber harvesting landbase on the coast.
- On the Coast for the past 3 years harvest levels have been at 89% of the allowable annual cut. There is currently 1.3 million m³ of unused volume generated by forest licensees that has already undergone the reconciliation process and been made available for disposition.
- During 2012, Coastal licensees were granted permits to export up to 3.4 million m³ of timber.
- Coastal average stumpage rates in 2012 were in the range of \$2 to \$2.50/m³, with at least 60% of major licensee rates at \$0.25/m³. Stumpage is not currently a major factor in delivered wood cost on the coast.
- BC Timber Sales coastal rates during the same time were in excess of \$24/m³
- Waste levels on the Coast have grown from 6% (0.829 million m³) in 2003 to 14% in 2012, which represents 1.980 million m³ of timber.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Denis Collins

Phone: 250-751-7121

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Pender Harbour Docks

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- s.14, s.16

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- In early 2013, the parties agreed to focus reconciliation discussions on resolving issues related to docks (i.e. private, strata, group, commercial and marinas) in Pender Harbour.
- The reconciliation discussions are aimed at:
 - resolving issues related to over 300 existing docks in Pender Harbour, and
 - developing a dock management plan for future dock applications.
- As of June 2013, considerable progress has been made towards an agreement. Any draft agreement will be subject to approval by both governments.
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) is leading the negotiations and FLNR is an active partner.
- Applicants for new and replacement dock tenures in Pender Harbour have expressed frustration with the apparent impasse in resolving this issue. FLNR has 48 applications (14 new and 34 replacements) on hold while it works with MARR to resolve this matter with the FN.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Heather MacKnight

Phone: 604-586-2892

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Repeal of *Drainage Ditch and Dike Act (DDDA)*

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The *DDDA* (1907) empowered 5 diking districts (DD) to collect taxes, construct, and maintain works for diking and drainage. The taxes have proven inadequate to fully support the DDs' operation and maintenance.
- The *DDDA* was repealed in 2003. The repeal included a sunset provision (currently December 31, 2015) and provisions to transfer the 5 DDs and their dikes to the local governments (LG). Four LGs are involved in taking over 5 DDs.
s.12, s.14
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- Prior to considering a transfer of the DDs, LGs requested that the Province carryout assessment studies and complete critical upgrades. Two dike assessments were completed in 2013 s.17
- s.17
- The City of Surrey (the City) is the LG for 2 DDs and in 2012 completed dike assessments for both DDs using its own resources. The City has taken over temporary day to day management of the Surrey DD while it negotiates the transfer with the Province. In respect to the Colebrook DD, the City has advised that assuming responsibility for the DD is contingent on funding being provided for necessary dike upgrades and acquiring legal access. In the meantime, it will respond to flooding emergencies.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: John Pattle

Phone: 604 586-5624

Issue: Wildlife Management on Island Timberlands Private Lands

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Local residents in Port Alberni, assisted by MLA Scott Fraser, have met with Minister Thomson and communicated concerns regarding the logging of private lands on McLaughlin Ridge formerly designated as Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) and Northern Goshawk Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA).
- McLaughlin Ridge is privately owned by Island Timberlands and was formerly under Crown (FRPA) management as part of Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 44 (Weyerhaeuser). The area was withdrawn from the TFL and is managed under the *Private Managed Forest Lands Act* (PMFLA). Management of lands under the PMFLA is less legally constraining than under FRPA and the owner (Island Timberlands) is able to manage for the values in a manner that they determine.
- The area includes some of the highest quality ungulate (deer and elk) winter range on Vancouver Island and a highly productive goshawk nesting area for this SARA-listed species. s.13, s.21
s.13, s.21
- When the lands were withdrawn, the UWR and WHAs remained in place for two years with a requirement that Weyerhaeuser negotiate with the Ministry of Environment to agree on a strategy for ongoing management of UWR. Island Timberlands continued with similar negotiations for an additional period of time, but ultimately no agreement was reached. There was a freedom of information request and several documents have been made public on the ministry's website regarding these negotiations.
s.13
- Island Timberlands do have forest harvest plans in place for both McLaughlin Ridge and Block 35 (Adjacent to Cathedral Grove). Meanwhile, local residents continue to highlight the importance of this habitat and monitor logging activity in the area as it occurs.
- Island Timberlands has a harvest plan for Block 35 (adjacent to Cathedral Grove) and will carry it out at their discretion. s.13, s.21
s.13, s.21

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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- The private lands in this instance were withdrawn from TFL 44 during a period when the Province did not insist that strong mechanisms to maintain non-timber values accompany the withdrawal. This process was later improved in the withdrawal of private lands from TFL 23 (for example) where conditions were placed on the withdrawal limiting the activities on some removed lands ^{s.13}

Advice and Recommended Response:

- ^{s.13}

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 19, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Rhonda Morris, District Manager, South Island

Phone: 250-731-3033

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Aquaculture Program Update

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNR is responsible under the *Land Act* for the disposition of Crown land used for the purposes of aquaculture. The responsibility for the management and regulation of operational aspects of finfish and shellfish aquaculture was transferred to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in December 2010; however, FLNR retained responsibility for the management of marine plant aquaculture.
 - There are currently 54 finfish and 7 shellfish tenures that require replacement.
 - There are 38 new aquaculture tenure applications pending; 4 finfish and 34 shellfish.
 - There are 8 finfish and 9 shellfish amendment applications currently under review.
 - It is anticipated that decisions on the replacement of 21 expired tenures in the Broughton Archipelago will be made shortly.
- s.14, s.16

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- FLNR is continuing to work with DFO and Transport Canada to harmonize aquaculture application and review processes.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM – Coast Area Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kathy Evans, Manager – Aquaculture Phone: 250-897-7541

Issue: Coast Area Disposition of Unused Volume

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- January 2012 *Provincial Guidance on Unused Volume Tracking and Disposition* promotes the tracking unused volume, which originates from the delayed licensing of available volume or from a licensee not utilizing their harvest rights.
- Section 75.8 of the *Forest Act* specifies “no carry forward of unharvested volume” to a subsequent cut control period. Disposition of this volume is also guided by Deputy Minister direction that unused volume should be disposed of based on and within the geographic areas and/or species profile that generated the unused volume. Unused volume disposition planning needs to consider the impact to existing licensees, BC Timber Sales, and other government commitments. Possible uses for this volume are competitive non-replaceable forest licences and direct award non-replaceable tenures to First Nations.
- The amount of unused volume available for disposition is continually updated as unused volume potentially accrues on an ongoing basis. Unused volume not committed after 5 years from its origin is written off. The Regional Executive Director is the decision maker for both determining what portion of unused volume should be considered for disposition, as well as the method of disposition. These decisions may be elevated to the Deputy Minister where deemed appropriate.
- Major licensees with significant accumulations of unused (unharvested) volume on their licences have lobbied at various levels of government to have the volume written off. Meanwhile, other licensees, First Nations, and other parties have demanded this volume be made available in new tenures.
- There is currently about 1.5 million cubic metres (m³) of unused volume committed in an existing agreement or an approved plan to dispose in coastal management units, with another 1.3 million m³ potentially available to fulfill government objectives according to the principles outlined in provincial unused volume guidelines and Deputy Minister direction. This does not include any unused volume accumulated by BC Timber Sales who have a separate unused volume strategy.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Denis Collins

Phone: 250 751-7121

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Cohen Commission Implementation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The recommendations of the *Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River* were directed primarily at the federal government. The federal government has not provided an official response at this time.
- The Province has accepted the intent of all eight recommendations that reference the Province, including a moratorium on new tenures (or expansion of existing tenures) for net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands area until at least September 30, 2020.
- There are currently 7 tenures under review for replacement in the Discovery Islands area. These sites are under a month-to-month tenancy until decisions are made.
- FLNR will work with the salmon aquaculture sector and DFO to pre-screen requests by operators prior to the operator preparing a formal application for amendments that may be for the purposes of improving safety, environmental conditions or the health of farmed salmon.
- The purpose of the pre-screening process is to confirm that the application is consistent with provincial conditions for salmon aquaculture in the Discovery Islands. Those that meet provincial conditions may be accepted as formal applications. Acceptable applications will be reviewed using standard, harmonized application review processes.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, ADM, Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Kathy Evans, Manager – Aquaculture, West Coast Region

Phone: 250-897-7541

Issue: Cowichan River Instream Flow Issues

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Low late summer water flows in Cowichan River are impacting fish migration.
- Catalyst Paper, the water licence holder is required to meet the water licence condition to release a minimum of 7 cubic metres per second (cms) from Cowichan Lake while being responsive to requests from others, which are not a condition of the water licence, to provide higher flows, in the form of pulses, for the fall Chinook returns in the Cowichan River.
- Catalyst Paper holds water licences, and owns and operates the weir at the outlet of Cowichan Lake.
- Storage in and release of water from Cowichan Lake has been undertaken by Catalyst Paper or its predecessors since the late 1950s.
- The ability to meet the 7 cms requirement is challenging when there are low snow packs and little rain in the summer as occurred in 2012 when over the summer precipitation was approximately equivalent to a 50 to 100 year drought.
- In addition, over the years the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has become reliant upon late summer pulse releases (i.e. greater than 7 cms flows) to bring fall run Chinook into the Cowichan River and away from predators such as seals and sea lions. Pulse releases for Chinook were never part of the original consideration for including the 7 cms condition in the water licence.
- There have been several requests both through the media and in writing to allow Catalyst Paper to store more water in Cowichan Lake during the summer. Authorizing the storage would require an additional storage licence. To date there have been no applications received from eligible applicants.
- In addition, there have been requests for the Province to take out a water licence, however, there has been no demonstrated need to undertake this responsibility for provincial interests and there would be liability issues for the Province associated with the increased flooding of lakefront properties during the summer.
- In late 2012, the Province received a resolution from the Board of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) requesting the Provincial Comptroller of Water Rights consider implementing a “rule band approach” to managing the water levels in Cowichan Lake over the summer and fall period. The proposed rule band would see the authorized storage level on Cowichan Lake increased by 20 cm and modifications to the timing of the drawdown of the lake storage. In the absence of an application being received for a new water licence for the additional storage, a second option was developed which would see the historic storage level retained, consistent with the existing licences, but amend the existing rule curve to allow the start of drawdown of the lake to be delayed until the end of July in those years when sufficient water is available.

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- There are approximately 600-700 lakefront properties around the lake. A number of the owners of these properties opposed any changes to lake levels primarily based on concerns that their beaches would be flooded or be inaccessible in the summer, and that any change summer management might increase winter flood levels.
- Riparian or lakefront owners as well as other water licence holders are recognized as legal objectors under the *Water Act* and can appeal a decision of the Comptroller to the Environmental Appeal Board.
- During the review process, the proposed changes under consideration were advertised to the public and communicated by letters sent to all First Nations in the area and lakefront property owners. As part of the review process, a public meeting was held on March 9, 2013 in Cowichan Lake with presentations from the Federal and Provincial fisheries agencies, the CVRD, FLNR, and Catalyst Paper. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the proposal put forward by the CVRD to move to a rule band approach and the second proposal for a modified rule band, consistent with existing licensing, given that there has been no application for the additional storage. There were approximately 200 people in attendance.
- Objections to the proposed changes to the existing operations were required to be submitted in writing by April 5, 2013.
- A decision on the CVRD's request for changes to the existing operational rule curve was made by the Deputy Comptroller on May 30, 2013. The new operating rule curve retained the previous maximum storage level but approved changing to latest date for the approved start of drawdown from July 9th to July 31st. The new rule curve is being used at this time.
- The Deputy Comptroller's decision is subject to appeal to the Environment Appeal Board by legal objectors who do not feel their concerns have been taken into account in the decision. The 30 day appeal time started on June 5, 2013.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brian Symonds

Phone: 250-490-8255

Issue: Fishing Lodges – Haida Gwaii Resource District

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- There are 14 sport fishing lodges currently operating on the West Coast of Haida Gwaii. Many of these are considered to be world class.
 - Four companies operate on five leases (and one private parcel) concentrated in Henslung Cove and Beal Cove, near the southern tip of Langara Island: Aerie Holdings, Langara Lodge, Oak Bay Marina, and North Island Camp.
 - Three new lodges are planned over the next couple of years.
 - The Council of the Haida Nation has expressed concern regarding the high concentration of lodges in this area, and impacts on their aboriginal interests, specifically traditional food fishing and access to spiritual sites.
 - There are issues associated with new conservancies, requirements of new management plans for the entire west coast and a new permitting process under the *Parks Act*.
 - Several fishing lodges fall within newly established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which are regulated under the *Parks Act*.^{s.14}
- s.14
- The sports fishing lodges employ a significant number of people from the island communities as guides and a variety of staff positions seasonally, and fund post-secondary education scholarships for Haida Gwaii high-school graduates.
 - The sports fishing lodges have been lobbying government for certainty on their tenures and in some cases have requested premature renewal of tenure replacements.
 - The Haida Gwaii Resource District is currently processing two tenure replacement applications, one of which is an early replacement request.
 - The Haida Gwaii Resource District is working with the sport fishing lodges to develop a long term, sustainable sport fishing strategy on Haida Gwaii. The strategy will be completed by an integrated/joint team comprised of the industry, Council of the Haida Nation and the Province. Items to be dealt with are, but not limited to:
 - term lengths and types of permits;
 - environmental standards (new Haida Gwaii Integrated Compliance and Enforcement Team to identify clear expectations around compliance and enforcement);
 - protection of important Haida archaeological sites;
 - consideration of continued use by the Haida—i.e. shellfish/seaweed collection; and
 - opportunities to extend season beyond that of fishing (ex. Eco-tourism, educational tourism).

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Leonard Munt, District Manager

Phone 250-559-6202

Issue: Flood Plain / Diking Authority Issues – Bella Coola Valley

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Bella Coola Valley experienced three successive flooding events in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and has had a long history of flooding with big events every 10-15 years. The 2010 flood exceeded the 1 in 200 year flood levels. There are many 'orphaned' diking structures in the Bella Coola Valley that have mostly been built with emergency funds during or right at the end of floods (1980 flood).
- Since the Province delegated flood plain management and diking responsibility to Municipalities and Regional Districts in the 1990s, the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) has resisted becoming a Diking Authority under the *Dike Maintenance Act* and presently there is no coordinated dike management in the valley. The Province is unlikely to approve new dike construction in the Bella Coola Valley unless the CCRD accepts becoming a Diking Authority.
- A public referendum on May 25, 2013 voted 93% against establishing a narrow scope Diking Authority around the Bella Coola Airport and voted against borrowing over \$1 million dollars to match nearly \$2 million dollars of Federal And Provincial "Building Canada Funds" towards upgrading and repairing the dike protecting the critical infrastructure of the Bella Coola Airport.
- The CCRD is a small regional district in the Province and has a very small tax base and residents do not feel they have the ability to take on Dike Maintenance Act responsibilities for the many orphaned dikes and new dikes required.

• s.13

- There are a number of other flood plain and dike repair issues in Bella Coola that will likely involve FLNR staff for the foreseeable future and may have CCRD board members, societies or private individuals lobbying government.
- A group supported by the CCRD – the Nusatsum Property Owners Society is putting forth a design to repair an existing 'groyne' in the Nusatsum River – tributary to the Bella Coola River threatening 7-10 properties. A member of the society has met with Minister Thomson (Marvin Schmunk) in Kelowna. The Deputy Inspector of Dikes has indicated that the Province may consider allowing this to proceed as 'repairs to an existing dike' if the engineered plan resembles the original structure, thus avoiding the Diking Authority requirement.
- The Minister can expect the CCRD to approach the Ministry about the Diking Authority issue and how to resolve the impasse on this issue so critical repairs can proceed to other Bella Coola Valley dikes and begin the process of establishing new dikes.
- In the spring 2013 freshet Burnt Bridge Creek, a tributary to the Bella Coola River located in Tweedsmuir Park and the Burnt Bridge Creek Conservancy has had

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

channel breakouts. During the 2013 spring freshet a new channel broke through and is affecting 4 properties with cut off driveways and flooded basements (groundwater). The water is partially running down Hwy 20 as well. There are 4 residences affected. ^{s.13}

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: (250) 387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

David Flegel, Resource Manager, Bella Coola

Phone: (250) 982-2030 wk, (250) 982-2574 hm

Larry Barr, Director of Resource Management, West Coast Region

Phone (250) 751-7105

Issue: Forest Tenures Strategy on Haida Gwaii

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In December 2009, the Minister of Forests and Range approved the Haida Gwaii Forest Tenure Strategy, to manage the expected impacts resulting from the implementation of the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement (SLUA), which included the creation of conservancies and the establishment of ecosystem based management (EBM) objectives.
 - Based on the expected reductions in the allowable annual cut (AAC), the strategy was designed to use Crown volume, in conjunction with Queen Charlotte (QC) Timber Supply Area (TSA) and Tree Farm Licence (TFL) boundary reconciliation, to maintain the viability of existing forest tenures, fulfil tenure commitments to the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) and the island communities, and maintain BC Timber Sales (BCTS) market pricing objectives.
 - s.14, s.17
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- All remaining conservancy area impacts were absorbed using Crown reserved volume in the May 2011 TSA Apportionment, therefore, no compensable reductions are expected in future TSA apportionment decisions or volume allocations.
 - Effective April 4, 2012, an AAC of 929,000 cubic metres (m³) was set by the Haida Gwaii Management Council for the environmentally and economically harvestable area on Haida Gwaii, which excludes all established protected areas, private land, Indian Reserves and Municipalities. This new AAC is a 48% reduction from the prior Haida Gwaii AAC, previously only derived by totalling the separate AAC for each constituent management unit on Haida Gwaii.
 - Effective September 20, 2012, the Deputy Chief Forester, under Section 8(10) of the *Forest Act*, determined an AAC of 512,000 m³ for the QC TSA.
 - Volume allocation of the QC TSA needs to be reduced by 172,031 m³ (25% reduction) to match the AAC of the TSA determination of September 20, 2012, of 512,000 m³, to support the SLUA, and principles of sustainable management generally. A continued delay in the volume allocation decision poses a risk of overharvesting beyond sustainable levels determined by the Chief Forester.
 - For the purpose of maintaining forest management sustainability principles, FLNR's practice in most cases is to apportion the TSA volume so that it is consistent with the Chief Forester's AAC determination.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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s.13, s.14

- The licensees on Haida Gwaii have proposed a package of economic measures that they believe would help them realize the AAC, improve the utilization of the resource, and maintain the viability of operations on Haida Gwaii. The package includes:
 - Changing the log export fee structure to make it equal to the Mid and North Coast;
 - Conducting a economic timber operability analysis to identify the economic availability of annual harvest volumes and understand Land Use Order constraints on harvest flow; and
 - Updating the Coast Appraisal Manual to reflect the post Land Use Order cost structure on Haida Gwaii, appraisal allowance and economic operability analysis.
- The Minister did not support proceeding with proposed export fee changes prior to the election.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250.387.9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director

Phone: 250.751.7161

Issue: Hatchery Augmentation of Steelhead Trout in Puntledge River

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Steelhead Trout population on the Puntledge River, located near Courtenay on Vancouver Island, is far below historical levels and this population is considered “at risk.” A local group called the Puntledge River Restoration Committee (PRRC) has requested hatchery augmentation of steelhead on the Puntledge River for several years. The Fish & Wildlife program of FLNR has denied these requests.
- Past hatchery augmentation attempts to recover this species on the Puntledge River have failed. These attempts involved the removal of more than 4 wild fish for the hatchery program at a cost of \$100,000 and resulted in only 4 hatchery-origin adults returning to spawn with the net result of loss in wild fish stock.
- The science now recognizes that hatchery augmentation causes more harm than good.
- In 2005, the province introduced a Steelhead Stream Classification Policy (3-2-02.01) that does not support hatchery augmentation in streams with small but viable populations as there is a risk to extant wild stocks. This policy is currently under review.
- Stocking of fish other than steelhead (i.e. rainbow trout or cutthroat trout) is also contrary to policy and will further harm steelhead populations. This approach would not generate licence sales to justify the cost and would come at the expense of successful lake-stocking programs.
- FLNR has explained the reasons for our approach to the PRRC on many occasions. In 2010, staff presented at a mediated workshop to discuss hatchery augmentation as well as other Puntledge River issues. Staff also attend 2 or 3 meetings per year with the PRRC.
- s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Larry Barr

Phone: 250-751-7105

Issue: Snuneymeux First Nation Reconciliation Agreement

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

A Reconciliation Agreement (RA) was signed in March 2013 between the Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) and the Province. The purpose of the RA is to provide the SFN with land as a benefit in recognition and reconciliation of treaty rights, as SFN is party to the Douglas Treaty. The lands provided to SFN through this agreement will be counted as part of the Province's contribution towards any final RA that SFN, the Province and Canada may conclude. ^{s.13, s.17}

Within the RA, the SFN has committed to withdrawing objections to a list of 25 natural resource authorizations (all replacement authorizations consisting of 22 private moorages, two commercial moorages and one log handling site). A condition of the RA was also that SFN agree to file a notice of discontinuance in *Snuneymuxw et al v HMQBC et al* (Vancouver Registry No. SO13336). The discontinuance will remain in effect until 2022.

The RA also initiated the formation of three working groups:

- Douglas Treaty Working Group - a forum for exchanging information and building understanding about the respective views of SFN and British Columbia regarding the Treaty of 1854.
- Engagement Process and Referral Working Group - a forum for developing efficient and effective processes for the review of applications for land and resource use in SFN's Traditional Territory.
- Nanaimo Estuary Working Group - a forum to identify issues and actions to be taken for the ongoing improvement of the Nanaimo Estuary. This group has a strong focus on the current log storage activities in the estuary.

^{s.13, s.16}

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM, Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Myles Mana, Director Authorizations

Phone: 250-751-7308

Issue: Sooke Harbour Private Moorages

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In October, 2012, FLNR established a *Land Act* Section 17 Designated Use Area (DUA) over 254 hectares of foreshore in Sooke Harbour and Basin for a period of 5 years. This temporary measure was taken in response to the T'souke First Nation's longstanding concerns over cumulative effects of development on the marine environment and to provide some time to work on a foreshore management plan for the area.
- The purpose of the DUA is to improve water quality and to facilitate shellfish aquaculture and traditional shellfish harvesting. FLNR is no longer accepting new applications for private moorages and other incompatible uses in the DUA areas. Existing tenure holders in good standing are unaffected. This temporary moratorium on private moorages will be revenue-neutral because specific permissions for private moorage are at zero rent.
- The withdrawal of Crown foreshore from disposition has resulted in complaints from private property owners and developers. Local government representatives have also voiced concerns.
- FLNR staff recently met with representatives from the District of Sooke and the Capital Regional District, as well as MLA Horgan, to explore opportunities to collaborate on a Sooke Harbour and Basin Foreshore Management Plan with the objective to mitigate impacts of future foreshore development.
- Both local governments are interested in participating in this planning process and discussions on joint staffing and funding are currently underway.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2103

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM, Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rudi Mayser, Authorizations Manager, West Coast Region

Phone: 250-751-7234

Issue: Species and Ecosystems at Risk Management in Coast Area

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Coast Area has led or participated in the management of such species at risk (SAR) as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, northern goshawk (*laingi* subspecies), mountain goat, grizzly bear, Pacific giant salamander, Dolly Varden char, cutthroat trout and endangered species such as the Vancouver Island marmot, Pacific water shrew, Western painted turtle, tall bugbane and Vananda Creek stickleback.

The Coast Area also informs management actions and best management practices for rare plants, plant communities and animals under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). As well, the Coast Area is often the lead in responding to ongoing public interest in the Coastal Douglas-Fir and other threatened ecosystems.

Integration of timber harvest, land-use planning and SAR species and ecosystems conservation has been an ongoing challenge given the large population, high resource values and advanced level of land disturbance for resource uses and urbanisation in both the South and West Coast Regions.

Government has demonstrated a commitment to manage these issues by:

- Incorporating explicit objectives in Land Use Plans in the Central Coast/North Coast Plan, Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision, Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement, Sea to Sky Land Use Plan and the Coast Douglas Fir Land Use Order for SAR that go beyond “normal” *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) objectives;
- Engaging with the federal government to coordinate SAR recovery;
- Completing and posting a Management Plan for northern goshawk (*laingi* subspecies);
- Working to complete a northern goshawk Implementation Plan (*laingi* subspecies);

s.12

- Conducting Northern goshawk (*laingi* subspecies) and other SAR field inventories in both regions;
- Identification, legal protection and management of Wildlife Habitat Areas and Ungulate Winter Ranges under FRPA;
- Extensive grizzly bear telemetry and DNA research and monitoring in South Coast;
- Work with the Marmot Recovery Foundation to support recovery of Vancouver Island marmot population from a low of 23 animals in 2004 to more than 400 in 2013 through direct breeding, release of marmots into new areas and habitat protection (draft wildlife management area);
- Recovery of once endangered Peregrine falcon;

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- Co-led completion of the Recovery Strategy for Vananda Creek Stickleback Species Pairs with Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- Draft Recovery Strategy submitted for Pacific giant salamander, Pacific water shrew, and Tall Bugbane;
- Recovery Team Chair in place for Western painted turtle;
- Over \$250,000 (from various sources) was spent on species risk management in the Coast area in the past fiscal year by staff in Research, Fish and Wildlife and Ecosystems groups; and
- Funding to support inventory and planning is very limited and may affect the ability to deliver the necessary work.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Steve Gordon / Ron Diederichs

Phone: 250-751-7126 / 250-751-3223

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Zeballos Forest Service Road Maintenance

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Zeballos Forest Service Road (FSR) is the only road access route to the community of Zeballos.
 - Maintenance of this FSR (64 kilometres) is very challenging given the mountainous geography and adverse weather.
 - Ongoing concerns with the residents of Zeballos, Ocluje, Ehattesaht and users of Fair Harbour who would ultimately like to have a paved provincial highway servicing their needs
 - The area has a road network of industrial forestry roads held under road permit and FSRs which are built and maintained to forestry standards with industrial use, when not under industrial use and budget permitting, graded, plowed and maintained to the minimum gravel highway standards (with additional maintenance contribution from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure).
 - FLNR staff have facilitated a partnership between the Federal Government, Nuchatlaht First Nations (Ocluje) and the Village of Zeballos for a \$400,000 road safety improvement project, now completed.
 - The river bank along the Zeballos River at the “Old Town bridge” is progressively washing away and is threatening to wash out the FSR. The area is being surveyed this year^{s.17}
- s.17, s.13
- The community may question the state of the road and demand improvements to bridges and road alignment.
 - During the winter months, extra maintenance funding is usually necessary to maintain single lane access to the community due to heavy snow. Seasonal flooding can also reduce access.
 - Securing sufficient maintenance and improvement funding is an ongoing issue.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM – Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ro Blackwell, District Manager, Campbell River Phone: 250-286-9329

Issue: Fraser River Dredging and Diking

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Liberal election platform committed to working with Canada and Fraser Valley municipalities to secure a long term Fraser River (Fraser) dredging and diking program.
- Protection against damaging floods along the Fraser is provided through maintenance of dikes, management of sediment build-up and flood forecasting.
- The protection provided by the dike system is inconsistent and needs expensive upgrading and regular maintenance to be effective.
- Dredging and dike upgrades are currently funded by Emergency Management BC (EMBC).
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has recently partnered with the Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) to fund dredging in the lower Fraser and tributaries.
- FLNR provides technical expertise of flood hazard management and issues permits under the *Land Act* and *Water Act* for dredging of Provincial Crown land and permits under the *Dike Maintenance Act* for all dike structure builds and alterations.
- In 2012 sediment build-up in the Fraser between Mission and Chilliwack adversely affected navigation and resulted in community perception of higher flood risk.

Dredging

- Public Works Canada (PWC) funded a dredging program in the Fraser River until 1987 then withdrew that service.
- The Lower Fraser (estuary to Kanaka Creek in Maple Ridge) falls to the authority of PMV and is routinely dredged for deep sea vessel navigation.
- The Upper Fraser (Maple Ridge to Hope) is Provincial Crown land, is not routinely dredged for navigation (lack of deep sea vessels travel) but is occasionally dredged to encourage conveyance of the water and the flushing of sediment downstream.
- In fall 2012 in the Mission to Hope area, shallow river conditions hindered water transport of log booms. The overland transport of logs by truck caused a significant increase in road traffic in the local communities and increased operating costs to industry. The industry estimated \$6 million worth of logs were not moved to mills.
- The numerous salmon species of the Fraser River are subject to federal authority under the *Fisheries Act*. Dredging that occurs underwater must be done in July-August in order to cause the least impact to migrating and spawning fish.
- About 20 – 30 First Nations (FNs) will need to be consulted for a large reaching dredging and dike program. Dredging is likely to be supported by FNs active in the logging sector but not by FNs with strong fisheries interests.
- The Fraser River has numerous environmental groups and commercial/recreational fishers who will likely have concerns with the impact on the environment of dredging.

Diking

- It is estimated that there is \$50 billion worth of development in the Lower Mainland floodplain that relies on dikes and other flood protection infrastructure.

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- There have been two major floods of the Fraser River, the largest in 1894 and the second largest in 1948. Scientists predict a one-in-three chance of a similar-sized flood occurring by 2060.
- The majority of the flood protection works were constructed under a Federal-Provincial program between 1968 and 1995. These flood protection works relied on a 1969 flood profile.
- A 2006 hydraulic modeling of the Lower Fraser River using advanced technology and science, determined the profile to be higher than the original 1969 flood profile. As a result, the study predicted widespread dike overtopping and dike failures would occur throughout the Lower Fraser River should there be another major flood equivalent to the 1894 flood of record.
- Following the flood study, the Province adopted a new flood profile for dike design and construction. In March 2007 the Province provided \$33 million for diking authorities in BC to undertake urgent flood mitigation works for completion prior to the spring freshet. The Province subsequently announced an intention to invest \$100 million over 10 years for flood protection infrastructure and maintenance.
- In 2013, FLNR completed updates to the Fraser River Hydraulic Model (Model) and Gravel Reach Design Profile. The Model is the primary flood management tool for the Lower Fraser Valley and is ready for use in forecasting in real time the threat of flood to communities as well as to better inform future discussions on managing dredging activities and the heights to which dikes should be built.
- Climate change will increase the potential for larger and more frequent floods in many BC communities.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 21, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julia Berardinucci

Phone: 604-586-4433

Issue: Protection of Undeveloped Watersheds in Clayoquot Sound

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Environmental Non-Government Organization (ENGO) Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) published a report dated Spring 2013 that calls for the protection of undeveloped watersheds in Clayoquot Sound.
- Forest tenure holders that operate in Clayoquot Sound are: Iisaak Forest Resources Ltd., Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd., BC Timber Sales (BCTS), International Forest Products Ltd. (Interfor), the Ahousaht First Nation, Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands Limited Partnership.
- Iisaak Forest Resources Ltd. and Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd. are forest companies owned by the First Nations of Clayoquot Sound and control over 78% of the forest tenured land base.
- Forest resource development activities must comply with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and Regulations as well as the Clayoquot Sound Land Use Order (CSLUO) and the Clayoquot Sound Watershed plans.
- The CSLUO legal objective is to: “maintain aquatic ecosystems, biological diversity and community values, including First Nations cultural values, by managing forested ecosystems in Clayoquot Sound in accordance with the principles of sustainable ecosystem management as defined by the Scientific Panel and as embodied in the Clayoquot Sound Watershed Plans”.
- Today, one-third of the Clayoquot Sound area is fully protected as national and provincial parks – a total of 91,400 hectares, including the entire 78 kilometres of outer coastline.
- The watershed plans specify spatial reserves for hydriprarian resources, sensitive soils and unstable terrain, red and blue listed plant communities, forest interior conditions in late successional stage forest, old growth trees and reserves for ecosystem representation. These spatial reserves preclude logging from an additional 67,800 hectares.
- The land base outside of the parks and watershed reserves are considered harvestable areas. Within these harvestable areas there are special management zones where additional conditions and limits are imposed on harvesting in order to accommodate non-timber values.
- A minimum of 40% of the forested land base in every watershed planning unit must be old growth; plus, in every planning unit a minimum 20% of old growth in reserves must be interior forest condition; plus a minimum of 20% of every site series/dominant tree species/old age class must be in reserves.
- Our records show a total of 5 ‘pristine’ watersheds (<1% harvested) in Clayoquot Sound that are not fully protected: Clayoquot River, Flores Island, Meares Island (not part of CSLUO, under court injunction), Beach and Bedwell/Ursus/Bulson.
- The WCWC is calling for the government to increase its protection of old growth in Clayoquot Sound, specifically the undeveloped watersheds.

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- FLNR staff recommend that government continue to operate under the 1993 Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision, the legal objectives and watershed plans established as per the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel recommendations.
- On May 20, 2013, Ma-Mook Natural Resources Limited (TFL 54) applied for a cutting permit that includes 3 blocks totally approximately 40 hectares in the vicinity of Hesquiaht point creek within the Hesquiaht watershed plan.
- Forest harvesting and other resource development such as road building is permissible within the harvestable area of this watershed as long as it is consistent with CSLUO, the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the Hesquiaht watershed plan.
- The cutting permit is within the traditional territories of the Hesquiaht and Ahousaht First Nations, both of whom are part owners of Ma-mook and have provided support letters to proceed with this application to the Ministry.
- The Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Greenpeace are voicing concerns regarding this cutting permit application claiming that it is within an undeveloped watershed. While, the Hesquiaht Watershed itself is classified as a developed watershed, the sub-watershed known as Hesquiaht point creek where harvesting is planned is largely undeveloped with the exception of a mainline road at the base of the drainage area and roads that were constructed or partly constructed in 2008 that would provide access to the 2013 cutting permit application.
- After the 2008 road permit was issued to Ma-mook Coulson's, ENGOs pressured the licensee to halt development in the watershed and the company ceased operations. Note Coulson's is no longer part-owner of the TFL.
- During a recent phone call, Greenpeace asked the District Manager to hold off issuing the May 2013 cutting permit to allow time for ENGOs and Ma-Mook to come to an arrangement whereby the ENGOs would provide a trust fund in return for a First Nations' promise to permanently stop harvesting in the undeveloped and unprotected watersheds (similar to the Great Bear Rainforest model).

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 28, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rhonda Morris

Phone: 250-731-3033

Issue: Visual and Ecological Concerns about Logging in the Discovery Islands

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Some tourism operators in the Discovery Islands (between Campbell River and the mainland) are concerned that logging in the area will compromise their businesses. They have requested a moratorium on logging in Okisollo Channel, “Hole in the Wall,” and White Rock Passage, including cancellation of a BCTS sale awarded on June 14 (see associated BCTS Estimates Note).
- While still a primary economic driver, this area has seen a reduction in the forestry sector – particularly in milling. After an extended period of poor markets, the forest sector is rebounding. Additionally, this area has seen growth in the tourism sectors.
- The Discovery Island Marine Tourism Group has cited growth of its sector, contraction of the logging sector along with log exports, as reasons to undertake a stakeholder driven comprehensive land use plan for the Discovery Islands that reflects changes in relative economic and employment contributions the two sectors make.
- Over the past 18 months, FLNRO staff have engaged the Discovery Island Marine Tourism Group in an attempt to gain more information about their concerns. ^{s.13}
- ^{s.13} Staff from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training have recently reached out to leadership of the Discovery Islands Marine Tourism Group to better understand their concerns. A meeting is being planned for early July.
- ^{s.13}
- The holder of the BCTS sale on Maurelle Island plans to begin harvest in September. TimberWest may harvest a very small area in “Hole in the Wall” during the summer. No other licensee plans to harvest in the area subject to the moratorium request this year.
- Tourism sectors active in this area include land- and water-based nature viewing, saltwater fishing, scuba diving and power and sail cruising.
- The islands are administratively are in FLNRO’s Campbell River District and Sunshine Coast District. Visual quality objectives (VQOs) in Campbell River reflect the Vancouver Island and the Great Bear Rainforest land and resource management plans. The northern Discovery Islands are part of the Great Bear Rainforest and the western area is part of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. Planning for protected areas is completed for the whole area.
- Visual quality objectives in the Discovery Islands were established in 2005 and clearly reflected the area’s growing tourism sector at that time. Visual quality objectives were established through a public process and are legally binding under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

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- The Sierra Club and other local groups have commissioned a “sensitive ecosystems inventory” on the Discovery Islands and have suggested that any logging that occurs within the Discovery Islands before the inventory is complete couldn’t be environmentally sound. There is overlap between the membership of the Tourism group and the group concerned about sensitive ecosystems.
- Sensitive Ecosystems Inventories are designed to inform local governments’ responses to development applications that permanently change land use. The Forest and Range Practices Act and Land Use Objectives work together to manage the values that a sensitive ecosystems inventory would identify on the forest landbase.
- Greenpeace, Sierra Club and Forest Ethics are supporting the Discovery Island Marine Tourism Group and groups concerned about sensitive ecosystems and

s.13

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 28, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250 387-0600

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rory Annett, Executive Director

Phone: 250 286-9330

Issue: Beaver Valley Invasive Bass

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Smallmouth bass, a species invasive to BC, has become established in the Beaver Valley chain of lakes West of Williams Lake in the Cariboo Region. The infestation poses a threat to salmon and trout.
- Bass eradication strategy has been developed. The strategy sets out the time, tactics and costs required to carry out eradication.
- s.13, s.17
- Letters have been received from the Cariboo Regional District and First Nations requesting that action be taken.
- Broad corporate support, engagement with federal fisheries authorities, and sufficient funding is required to address the situation.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (Cell 250 267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549

Issue: Bridge Lake Land Exchange

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNRO is in the final stage of negotiations to exchange Heritage Island in Bridge Lake for Crown shore land property.
- Heritage Island is the only privately owned Island in Bridge Lake. The remaining Islands and a portion of the shore land were included the Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act introduced in the 2013 legislative session.
- There is significant local interest in this file. Initial public consultation indicated moderate support. More recent public input has been almost entirely opposed.
- The Crown property proposed for the exchange is currently encumbered by a Order in Council (OIC) recreation reserve that will need to be amended for the exchange to proceed.
- s.12, s.13
- FLNR staff have recently explored with the applicant alternative locations for the Crown land component of the proposed exchange. As of yet no suitable alternative sites have been identified.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398-4355 (cell: 250 267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ken Vanderburgh

Phone: 250 398 4225

Issue: Canim Lake Indian Band Forest Stewardship Retention Strategy

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On April 2, 2013, the Canim Lake Indian Band (CLIB) provided the District Manager at 100 Mile House and Forest Licensees operating within the 100 Mile House Timber Supply Area, a Forest Stewardship Retention Strategy (FSRP) for the “Snine Forest” which encompasses most of their traditional territory.
- The FSRP sets out land use objectives with results and strategies that are required to address their First Nations rights over the area. The Strategy also provides strong linkages to traditional use and cultural heritage values.

- s.13, s.16

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- An assessment of timber supply implications has not been completed to date. Both the District and industry stakeholders are working with the band to better understand the implications this will have to fibre access and timber supply. Some accommodation measures are contemplated and industry is working with the band to address concerns through their development proposals.

- s.13, s.16

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398-4355 (cell: 250 267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Pat Byrne

Phone: 250 395-7804

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Cariboo Region - Managing Elk on Agriculture Lands

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Elk moving south naturally from populations in the Omineca Region are trapped north of Quesnel by physiographic features and easy access to crops.
- Agriculture practices have not adapted to the slowly growing herd now inhabiting crop lands on ranches. Concentrations of elk are causing significant loss of agriculture production.
- Wildlife management policy indicates that elk are to be recovered in the Cariboo. A Ministry plan to assist in the dispersal of elk in autumn 2012, initiated after engagement with stakeholders and First Nations (FN), was stopped in favour of increased information sharing and education.
- First Nations consider the recovery of elk in the Cariboo Region to be an important government initiative that respects FN heritage and rights.
- There has been sustained correspondence from stakeholders on all sides of this issue.
- Ministry is preparing information bulletins and consultative engagements to support community and FN dialogue through spring and summer, 2013. This will include a summary of mitigation and prevention measures to protect crops, and an examination of the outcomes of different management options that may be applied under current circumstances in Quesnel.
- Ministry has met with Cariboo and Quesnel Cattlemen's Associations to discuss the issue. There has been a particular concern among ranchers in the South of the region about perceived risks of assisted dispersal of elk southward to mitigate impacts on producers North of Quesnel.

Advice and Recommended Response:

• s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Cariboo Region Lakeshore Compliance (*Water Act, Land Act*)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Ministry survey of the condition of lakeshore environs in light of property developments has revealed a high frequency of non-compliance with *Water Act* and *Land Act* provisions and regional district bylaws. Resulting developments are at high risk of impacting the environment, fisheries and the values which make such areas attractive for land procurement and recreation.
- The Cariboo Region is planning a sequence of activities to inform land holders of their stewardship responsibilities and compliance provisions. Certain high impact occurrences will be subject to investigation in support of enforcement actions. While strong protest will arise from certain land development proponents and land holders, it is expected the activities will be welcomed by the majority of land holders wanting to sustain the value of their holdings and the supporting environmental assets.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: 14 June 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: City of Quesnel Community Forest Agreement (CFA) Application

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

As a result of the recent (2012-2013) Quesnel TSA Apportionment review, the City of Quesnel has re-opened dialogue on a CFA.

- January 7, 2013 letter from Mayor Sjostrom to Minister Thomson asked for an AAC similar to other communities (Burns Lake, Williams Lake, 100 Mile) of 50,000 to 100,000 m3 per year.
- MRL of March 25, 2013, indicated that:
 - Quesnel AAC trending down,
 - Small tenure volume for Woodlots and CFA's are fully allocated,
 - Maintaining the current replaceable forest licence and BC Timber Sales allocations, while establishing a First Nations Woodland Licence volume, are the highest priorities.
- June 12, 2013 letter from Mayor Sjostrom reminds the Minister that "the City of Quesnel was specifically mentioned in the Mid-term Timber Supply Report as a highly impacted community" and asks the Minister to look at BCTS areas in the Quesnel TSA to find the 50,000 to 60,000 m3 AAC per year for a CFA.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Gerry MacDougall	Phone: 250-398-4355 (Cell: 250 267-8999)
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Steve Dodge	Phone: 250-992-4465

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Cumulative Impacts — ^{s.13} Aboriginal Rights

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) asked for a moratorium on timber harvesting and mining development within the Hungry and Dash Valleys.
- TNG is concerned about the cumulative impacts of resource development in this area on Tsilhqot'in Rights and Title. ^{s.13, s.16}

^{s.13, s.16}

- South Chilcotin Stewardship Committee (SCSC) is working to address concerns. This committee is composed of provincial government, TNG and licensee representatives with an end goal of an agreed-upon stewardship plan for this specific area.
- ^{s.13, s.16}

Advice and Recommended Response:

- ^{s.13}

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: (250)398-4355 (Cell 250-267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Pedersen

Phone: (250)398-4400

Page 319 redacted for the following reason:

s.13, s.16

Issue: Decommissioning Nina Lake Dam

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- After safety assessment, the Nina Lake dam is classed as high risk and high consequence.
- Ministry assessment considers it in best public interest to decommission dam unless another party assumes full responsibility for structure and related water rights.
- Community of Likely and Cariboo Regional District (CRD) strongly protest the approach and engaged with minister during Fall 2012.
- The community and CRD committed to undertake engineering assessments to support their consideration of options. Correspondence from Minister Thomson in December 2012 reiterated ministry positioning that the dam will be decommissioned unless another party assumes responsibility for the structure.
- Refer to CLIFF correspondence files, 194686 and 194642.
- Business planning and fiscal allocations will support decommissioning works commencing September 2013, unless another party steps forward.
- Complicating issues have recently developed. Two mining companies have conflicting plans for dam structure and impoundment. One seeks use of the impoundment as tailings storage facility, another wants to use dam as part of roadway to operate placer workings. These proposals have exacerbated community concerns.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Gustafson Range Vacancy Decision to Advertise

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In anticipation of a pending sale of the James Cattle Co. Ranch at 100 Mile House, District Range staff prepared information in the summer of 2012 for the potential range vacancy to be advertised and awarded in the spring of 2013.
- In December 2012 Douglas Lake Cattle Co. contacted the South Area ADM and Director of Range Branch to discuss the disposition of Range tenure associated with the James Cattle Co. Ranch. The District affirmed that there were plans to advertise and tender the vacancy.
- Consultation with potentially affected First Nations was initiated on January 15, 2013^{s.13, s.16}
s.13, s.16

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- It was agreed that an extension of the advertisement period would be granted to allow them more time to consider an application. It was also explained that the licence would only provide for cattle grazing rights and does not preclude public or First Nations access to the area.
s.13, s.16

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250-398-4355 (cell 250 267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Pat Byrne

Phone: .250-395-7804

Issue: Higgins Lake Aeration System

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Continued lake aeration to maintain a fishery cannot be justified due to cost.
- Unless another party can assume full responsibility for the aeration system, it will not be reinstalled in late fall 2013.
- Strong community protest arose when the issue was first raised.
- Fisheries objectives can be met by means other than lake aeration.
- An alternative fish stocking regime will commence if no party steps forward to undertake full responsibility for aeration next winter.
- Correspondence with community has commenced, explaining the situation and the alternative, including the need to reduce costs to government.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Inspections of Placer Mines in the Cariboo Region

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- While transforming referral-based business delivery, Cariboo Region staff undertook inspections of placer mining operations during the 2010 field season. A substantive frequency of non-compliance with provincial and federal legislation was revealed. The report was shared with Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM). Joint agency business deliberations are ongoing regarding means to address identified issues.
- FOI request resulted in media exposure.
- Suite of joint MEM/FLNR initiatives has been established. Cariboo Miners Association has been meeting with FLNR and MEM staff. Outcome of the meetings has been very positive, focussing on how the agencies can assist the Association in development of their community of placer mining practices.
- FLNR staff participated in the Quesnel “Gold Show” in late May to offer insight into ministry services to the placer sector.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Land Base Investment Strategy (LBIS) – Mid-Term Timber Supply

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan set out references to:
 - **Forest health management** to protect the value, volume and productivity of the forests comprising the mid-term supply,
 - Completion and implementation of **Type IV silviculture strategies** to guide investments in stand management to increase fiber production,
 - Updating **forest inventory** information to support timber supply determinations and identify timber harvest opportunity
 - **Planting** of Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR) land areas.
- For the next fiscal year or two, investment in these LBIS envelopes is expected to be constrained, possibly limiting material initiatives in these areas of ministry responsibility, yet this work is critical to maintaining community economic stability during the mid-term timber supply period
- Communities, First Nations and natural resource stakeholders are familiar with the Mid-term Timber Supply Action Plan, and seek government's commitment to invest in timber supply initiatives in the Cariboo Region.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Mid Term Timber Supply Action Plan – Cariboo Region

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- There is also a Provincial level Estimates Note.
- Information to support deliberations about possible science-based review within communities, First Nations and among natural resource stakeholders was circulated in early April.
- Consultative engagement with communities, First Nations and natural resource stakeholders is ongoing, explaining core actions being undertaken in the region respecting timber supply, and seeking information from the groups respecting any requests they may make respecting science-based review of sensitive area designations.
- The Region will examine the current state of land and resources against targets established under the CCLUP. The resulting knowledge will be reinvested in continuous improvement of forest resource planning and practice.
- A regional **forest health strategy** aligns fiscal resources to the priority tasks of protecting the volume, value and productivity of forest stands that contribute to mid-term timber supply.
- **Type IV silviculture strategies** in each of the region's three timber supply areas identify and prioritise opportunities to invest in incremental silviculture treatments to enhance timber production and wood quality.
- The ministry's Wildfire Management Branch will continue to work with local governments and First Nations' communities to plan and implement **interface fuel management** projects.
- Not **Sufficiently Re-stocked (NSR) forest areas** are identified, with planting projects bringing these areas back to full productive capacity.
- The Cariboo Region will implement **forest inventory** initiatives to provide the basis for revised timber supply determinations.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Three Western Supply Blocks (3wsb) of Williams Lake TSA

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In early 2012, the Ulkatcho First Nation raised concerns over the amount of block layout in the 3wsb, ^{s.13, s.21, s.16}
^{s.16, s.21}
- The Licensees do not have any replaceable volume apportioned to the 3wsb.
- Both Licensees have made investments in cutting permit development which they have not pursued due to the ministry reviewing the apportionment. The review has been concluded and found no available volume to attribute to replaceable volume.
- There is considerable opportunity to salvage pine that has been killed by the mountain pine beetle (MPB).
- Ministry has asked the Licensees not to apply for cutting permits in the 3wsb until an updated inventory of the remaining pine is completed, criteria for an eligible salvage stand are redetermined, and operating areas are determined for all Licensees that have harvesting rights in the 3wsb.
- Preliminary inventory information is now available; district staff are reviewing and will present data in early July to all interested parties.
- Ulkatcho First Nations has officially accepted the Ministry's offer of an area-based First Nations Woodland Licence (FNWL) for their community.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: (250)398-4355 (Cell 250-267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Pedersen

Phone: (250)398-4400

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Tl'etinqox-t'in (Anaham Band) – Management of Wildlife

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Agreement was reached with Chief Joe Alphonse, Tl'etinqox-t'in (Anaham Band), during September 2012 regarding the issue of non-Tsilhqot'in hunting of moose.
- The agreement included response to the Chief's request for resources to manage First Nations' hunting, predator management and feral horses.
- The Anaham community monitored wildlife harvesting by band members, and worked to build and promote wildlife harvesting policies and practices.
- Community members were engaged in trapper training to enable re-invigoration of traditional practices, including management of predator populations.
- Free ranging feral horses were noted by First Nations as having an impact on suitability of winter moose habitat.
- Traditional management of feral horses which was carried out in late February and early March 2013.
- The agreement enabled band members to repair traditional corrals and herd feral horses in support of proper herd management.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Tsilhqot'in National Government – Land Use and Wildlife Recovery

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) is concerned about the cumulative impacts of resource development, primarily with the rate and location of timber harvesting activities and associated road construction and use.
- Cumulative impacts stem from mining, hunting, motorized recreation and range use. These activities thought to create a serious and imminent threat to Tsilhqot'in Rights including their right to use and manage wildlife, fish and traditional medicinal and food plants.
- The TNG considers that new mining and forestry roads will provide new access and threats to "their territory".
- The inter-agency South Chilcotin Stewardship Committee (SCSC), composed of provincial government, TNG and industry representatives is addressing the concerns. A stewardship plan is imminent for the South Chilcotin land area.
- An interim chapter of forest licensee planning sets out commitments for road deactivation, new access, forest connectivity and timber harvest scheduling.
- s.13
- There are ongoing deliberations to support moose recovery, recreational trails and watershed hydrology.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Tsilhqot'in National Government - Moose Allocations

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) has advised ministry of a resolution stating that moose Annual Allowable Harvest and harvest allocation decisions constitute infringements of rights.
- Over 1100 moose are set aside across the region annually to supply First Nation (FN) community needs.
- Issue has been subject of deep, frequent consultative engagement with the TNG going back over 2 years under terms of the Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement.
- s.13, s.16

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Williams Lake Community Forest Agreement

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 2007, the City of Williams Lake was invited to apply for a Community Forest Agreement (CFA). As a result of trying to locate a suitable area for the tenure, the city encountered a number of areas of interest to the Williams Lake Indian Band (WLIB).
- In January and October 2009, Pat Bell (the minister at the time) met with City of Williams Lake officials to determine if there was a suitable area to support a joint CFA between the city and the WLIB.
- In May 2011, an offer was made to the city and WLIB for a joint CFA of 40,000 cubic metres (m³) per year.
- Both the city and WLIB have identified areas required to supply the 40,000 m³ annual allowable cut.
- One of these blocks has been identified in the Big Lake area. s.13, s.16
- s.13, s.16
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- Former Cariboo North MLA, Bob Simpson, was involved in trying to work toward an amenable solution regarding the involvement of Big Lake in the city and WLIB's CFA.
- Former MLA Simpson organized a Big Lake public meeting (February 24, 2013) over the proposed area selection for the CFA around Big Lake. Again, residents from Horsefly, Miocene and Big Lake voiced their concern over the CFA being in their backyard and not receiving any benefit from it.
- From this meeting, the City and WLIB agreed to a facilitated meeting so they could hear from the residents that would be impacted by the CFA. This was held April 22, 2013.
- The City and WLIB have taken the information from the April 22, 2013 facilitated session and have incorporated changes into their application. They plan to present those changes in a session scheduled June 24, 2013, for all residents impacted by the CFA application.
- s.13, s.16

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- The proponents, after the meeting on June 24, 2013, will be ready to submit their application to the Regional Executive Director (RED) for approval.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: (250)398-4355 (Cell 250-267-8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Pedersen

Phone: (250)398-4400

Issue: Wolf Management - Cariboo Region

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- First Nations, livestock producers and wildlife stakeholders remain deeply concerned about the extent of wolf predation on livestock, and on wildlife such as moose and threatened northern caribou.
- Public engagement in the provincial Wolf Management Plan focussed attention on this matter, and has raised expectations for specific government initiative.
- All groups are looking for strongly visible actions to address wolf predation.
- First Nations, ranchers and wildlife stakeholders are seeking specific commitments from government regarding implementation of the provincial wolf management plan, with particular focus on actions in the Cariboo Region.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250 398 4355 (cell 250 267 8999)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rodger Stewart

Phone: 250 398 4549 (cell 250 305 8536)

Issue: Automation of Authorizations Processes – Development and Maintenance

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

FrontCounter BC and the Information Management Branch are working with the mines, lands and water business areas to develop electronic applications for relevant authorizations. In addition, FrontCounter BC is facilitating on-going development and enhancement of automated tools to continue to streamline the authorization process.

- Through treasury board contingency funding in 2012/13, electronic application forms for lands, water and mines authorizations are being developed on the virtual FrontCounter BC (vFCBC) platform.
- Electronic Notice of Work (mines) applications were launched February 28th, 2013. Water and Lands will be launched through the summer and fall of 2013.
- Electronic applications facilitate the automation of sequential steps of the authorization process such as stakeholder referrals and initiation of First Nations Consultation processes. eReferrals is an electronic tool currently being used for these purposes.
- On-going maintenance and enhancement of automated systems and tools such as vFCBC and eReferrals, is required to meet continuous improvement needs.
- Estimate \$75,000 - \$100,000 required annually to support maintenance for vFCBC and eReferrals.
- To align with the Integrated Decision Making project and to continue to streamline the authorization process for project submissions, additional authorizations will be identified to be moved to the electronic platform.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13
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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM	Phone: 250-828-4292
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Jamie Jeffreys, A/Director FrontCounter BC	Phone: 250-828-4217

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Client Satisfaction with Natural Resource Authorizations Services

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

FrontCounter BC conducts monthly client satisfaction surveys through BC Stats. BC Stats provides reports summarizing the results by office in addition to the overall provincial score.

- Client Satisfaction is performance measure 2 in the Ministry Service Plan
- The current process provides for a third-party independent assessment of FrontCounter BC's performance, and indirectly, business area performance on the permitting process.
- The goal is to increase the number of responses to the client satisfaction surveys in each of the 29 FrontCounter BC offices. To achieve this, the number of surveys conducted each month will need to be increased. Budget increased from \$39,000 in 2012/13 to \$42,000 in 2013/14.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jamie Jeffreys, A/Director FrontCounter BC

Phone: 250-828-4217

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: City of Cranbrook Sewage System Upgrade (Spray Irrigation)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The City of Cranbrook has been granted short term tenures over Crown lands to facilitate expansion of their existing sewage treatment facilities. The current tenures cover areas for an additional storage pond, pipeline, service roads and outfall to the Kootenay River.

The City of Cranbrook has also applied for a Free Crown Grant over adjacent Crown lands for the purpose of expanding their irrigation fields. The additional proposed irrigation field has been granted sponsorship from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. This application is on hold, pending receipt of supporting documentation from the City of Cranbrook to prove need for the additional lands. The

s.13, s.16, s.17

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM, Regional Operations Phone: 250 828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeremy Zandbergen Phone: 250 426-1778

Issue: Columbia Headwaters Community Forest Society (CHCF)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

On June 23, 2010 Minister Bell met with CHCF to discuss their request for a CFA but remained firm that he would not consider a new CFA application unless unallocated volume was available. The Minister gave qualified support for Phase 2 (Development and Planning) of the CHCF plan, subject to the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) issue being addressed. The Minister tasked the Forest District to assist CHCF with exploring options to secure volume either through purchase of tenure, partnerships with existing tenure holders or First Nations, research, or amalgamation of East Kootenay Timber Supply Areas (TSA). August 5, 2010 - present: FLNR District met with CHCF on numerous occasions to discuss the following issues:

- Timber Supply Review (TSR) 3 planning cell volume and area information for the CFA interest area.
- Establishment of a modest CFA with an AAC of 10,000 m³/year rather than the CHCF's targeted 45,000 m³/year. FLNR confirmed that the TSA was currently fully allocated and concluded that it would be necessary to complete TSR 4 before determining whether or not the TSA could support an additional license (whether it be 10,000 or 45 000 m³/year). The CHCF expressed their disappointment that they could not proceed with a 10,000 m³/year allocation at the present time.
- On January 4, 2012, the CHCF requested that Minister Thomson allocate 35,000 m³/year from the sale of Tembec's Kootenay licenses to Canfor in order to maintain competition and support processing facilities in the East Kootenay. Minister Thomson did not approve the request as both ministry and federal authorities concluded that the proposed sale would not unduly restrict competition in the standing timber, log or chip markets.
- The CHCF is currently generating local community support and continues to lobby both Minister Thomson and MLA MacDonald for their support.
- The CHCF has also asked to participate in the upcoming TSR 4 for the Invermere TSA.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM, Regional Operations Phone: 250 828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ray Morello Phone: 250 426-1725

Issue: Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The CVWMA is located just outside Creston and is 7,000 hectares (ha) in size. The CVWMA is governed by its own Act and regulations to manage wildlife habitat in the Creston Valley. In 1994, the area was designated as an area of international importance under the Ramsar Convention due to its importance to wildlife. ^{s.12}

s.12

Since that decision the Management Authority has been working on the transition issues. During the recent election, some public have been attempting to reverse the decision with letters to the media and getting onto to the agenda of the candidate forums for Nelson-Creston. There is a lot of interest shown for continued operation of the interpretative centre, which has many issues with respect to financial sustainability.

The Management Authority is required to provide a progress report to the Environment and Land Use Committee this year which will be delivered before the end of June.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring-ADM

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tony Wideski-RED

Phone: 250-426-1741

Issue: Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Assessment

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The province, through the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and FLNR, had developed a draft cumulative effects assessment framework in the spring of 2013, using four demonstration projects in the north, interior and Vancouver Island. Locally, the Ktunaxa Nation Council, in March 2012, adopted a policy that it ceases to support any new coal exploration or development in the Elk Valley until progress has been made with the Province on jointly developing a strategy for monitoring and managing cumulative impacts of development activities in the Elk Valley.

In the meantime, Teck Coal and Ktunaxa began their own cumulative effects assessment and retained a consultant to facilitate workshops and a working group. Select FLNR, MOE and Ministry of Energy and Mines staff had attended a few meetings in 2012.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring - ADM

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeremy Zandbergen-DRA

Phone: (250) 426-1778

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Guide Outfitter Quotas, Territory Expansions, KB Region

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Approximately 68% of the Kootenay Boundary Region is covered by Guide Outfitter (GO) Territory. Several GO's have applied for expansion of their territories, hoping to bolster their allowable harvest (mitigating downward impacts, due to recent Minister decision), and improve their business opportunities. s.13

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. GO Quota letters, with reductions, due to several factors, were issued in late January 2013, causing serious concern in the industry, re: viability, and 21 related Environmental Appeal Board appeals, expected to be heard in September / October 2013.

Subsequent to issuance of Quota letters, and prior to election, the Minister asked Regions to review 2013 Quotas to determine if there were any further opportunities to reduce impacts to the industry. Region did this, but much of the issues related to Kootenay Boundary GO's remain unresolved.

The Minister also announced a pending 2013 ministerial review of the Policy and Procedures used to determine GO Allocations and Quotas. Industry is currently waiting on this pre-election Minister commitment.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: ADM Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250 828 4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Paul Rasmussen

Phone: 250 608 1077

Issue: Johnsons Landing Landslide

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On May 23, 2013, a geotechnical report was released by the Regional District of Central Kootenay that caused some negative reaction from affected landowners, some of whom will not receive any or much Disaster Financial Assistance from Emergency Management BC and others whose homes are in hazard risk zones identified by the geotechnical engineer.
- The report recommends notification to landowners in high risk areas and to area users when seasonal risks are elevated, and restriction of future dwelling or construction therein, along with some creek channel minor interim works.
- The report also recommends installation and operation of a simple landslide monitoring program, and establishment of a watershed plan for resource management and development on Crown land within the creek watershed.
- On a more provincial, high-level implementation, the report recommends:
 - Increase public awareness of when and how to report signs of unusual creek activity and slope instability,
 - Enhance the accessibility of landslide hazard maps and reports to regulatory bodies, qualified professionals, property owners and the public,
 - Raise awareness of the benefits of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for professionals, government agencies, and private companies in areas of known or expected landslide hazard located above areas with significant values.
 - Consider establishing uniform and consistent landslide risk tolerance / acceptability criteria to be applied throughout the province or Regional District for assessment of landslide risk relating to land development, building permitting, and existing residences.
 - Maintain robust emergency communications with consistent protocols for all emergency response personnel responding to landslide events.
- Some residents expect full buy-out of properties at pre-landslide market value. Hon. Shirley Bond prepared responses to these issues in a May 23 press release.
- In fall 2012, the Selkirk Resource District of FLNR spent \$15,000 on a helicopter-based aerial seeding program of alder seed to enhance site stabilisation
- As well, FLNR supported permitting of water well drilling on Crown land for a community water system to replace a surface water intake which was destroyed in the original landslide and subsequent instability.

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: «Direct Line»

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeremy Zandbergen

Phone: 250-426-1778

Issue: Kootenay Urban Deer

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Some municipalities in BC continue to experience issues with resident deer populations, both from a public safety and property protection standpoint.
- Communities that have brought forward this issue in the Kootenay Boundary Region include: Grand Forks, Cranbrook, Kimberley and Invermere.
- Upon request from each community, the Province has provided technical support (i.e. biologist), expertise, traps and permitting to carry out a deer cull. The communities of Cranbrook and Kimberley have completed the removal of deer according to their permits. Work in the City of Invermere was done (2012), but was delayed by a court injunction (subsequently lifted).
- Due to the success experienced in the pilot community (Cranbrook), it is expected that more communities will be approaching the Province for similar support in their community. Also, it is expected that some communities will need to continue deer removal programs (in a maintenance and preventative fashion) in the future.
- Although no direct funds will be given to the affected communities, upon request the Province lends technical (i.e. biologist) support, expertise and equipment (traps). Commitments have been made at the Regional level to expedite any permit applications that relate to community action plans dealing with this issue.
- Humane methodology has been developed and approved by expert biologists and the Province's veterinarian doctor. Meat is distributed to non profit charity organizations, where feasible.
- Communities are also working on alternate (non-lethal) methods of dealing with their urban deer problems. For example, in May 2013, the Ministry oversaw a one day "deer hazing" trial, in which highly trained dogs were used (under close supervision) to move the deer out of town. Although full reports are not in on the trial, it appears to have been successful. As a result, Kimberley may be asking FLNR to amend Wildlife Act Permitting regulations to allow Kimberley to lead such an activity (for a sustained period) in the future.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: ADM Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250 828 4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Paul Rasmussen

Phone: 250 608 1077

Issue: Meadow Creek Cedar (MCC) – Suspended Forest Licence

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Meadow Creek Cedar holds a forest Licence tenure with an Annual Allowable Cut of 96513 m³ and owns a lumber mill at the north end of Kootenay Lake. The lumber mill is currently shut down. MCC was purchased by its current owner, Daljit Kooner, in 2005.

s.21

Following numerous contravention determinations, in February, 2012, the District Manager suspended Meadow Creek's forest licence with instructions requiring MCC to address outstanding legal and financial obligations. In November of 2012 a management agreement was signed between MCC and a new locally owned company Blue Ridge Land and Timber Co that would provide for the new company to manage the licence back into compliance. As a result of some positive actions taken by the management company (withdrew all determination appeals thereby accepting outstanding liabilities and entered into a debt repayment schedule with the Crown), a variance of the suspension was issued to MCC now operating as Blue Ridge Timber Co to allow for limited logging opportunities on the licence. A second variance was issued in May 2013 to further allow up to 100,000m³ of new cutting permits to be applied for under the licence. Blue Ridge has started in a process to address obligations, by hiring new staff, planting trees this spring and committing to a repayment schedule to Crown.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring (ADM)

Phone: (250) 828 4292

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Garth Wiggill (District Manager)

Phone: (250) 825 1101

Issue: Selkirk Power Renewable Energy Run of River Project

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The proposed project consists of three interconnected small hydroelectric facilities totalling 44 Mega Watt capacity on Alder, Cupola and Ventego Creeks, tributaries to the Beaver River. The project is located 2 km east of the Glacier National Park boundary. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) has no zoning in the area of the proposed project.

- Environmental and engineering studies began in 2007 and continued for 5 years.
- Selkirk Power received an Energy Purchase contract with BC Hydro in April 2010.
- The proponent had submitted revised plans in May/June 2013 to update the project design and include a transmission line component (~24 km long) to connect to the grid.
- The BC Environmental Assessment Office determined that the project was not reviewable under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The proponent was undertaking a Federal Canadian Environmental Assessment to address fisheries and navigable water issues until federal laws were amended on July 31, 2012.
- Ktunaxa Nation Council is not lending support to the project. However, Shuswap Indian Band in Invermere is supportive of the project and has entered into a business and financing arrangement with the proponent.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring - ADM

Phone: 250-828-4292

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeremy Zandbergen-DRA

Phone: (250) 426-1778

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Woodex - Repayment schedule and wood supply

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Woodex (located at Edgewater BC)

s.21

Woodex has had numerous communications with the Minister of FLNR regarding obtaining a secure wood supply. As a result of the sale of Tembec to Canfor, the Minister asked Canfor to enter into a wood supply agreement with Woodex. Canfor has since offered Woodex 60,000 m³/year for a 5 year term. s.13

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Woodex notified the District on February 6, 2013, that it is their intent to start developing their existing NRFL licenses in the Rocky Mountain District and submit Cutting Permits by late summer 2013. Woodex is aware of the requirement to pay silviculture deposits prior to harvesting.

Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM, Regional Operations Phone: 250 828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ray Morello Phone: 250 426-1725

Issue: BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) AGM Resolutions

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- BCCA AGM (May 23 – 25) and the Estimates Debate for FLNR are taking place fairly close together.
- AGM Resolutions form the basis of BCCA policy advocacy for the organization.
- 10 out of 16 resolutions concerned FLNR policy.
- 3 resolutions have direct budget implications or infer costs to other stakeholders.
 - "...BCCA lobby the provincial government to create a stumpage appraisal cost allowance for all measures required for forage establishment including site preparation, grass seed and seeding."
 - "...Provincial funding for clean up and repairs to range improvements (eg. fences) after small fires be equivalent to the funding that becomes available from the Provincial Emergency Program to cover damage caused by large fires."
 - "...Province of British Columbia should provide funding for dam owners to cover the cost of Dam Safety Reviews as well as maintenance and repairs to irrigation dams."
 - "...that timber companies be required to leave tenure holders' access roads, including cattle guards, in the same or better condition they were prior to the industrial activity."

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250 828 4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth

Phone: 250 371 3836

Issue: Capacity for Operational Response to Invasive Species

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Invasive species are a significant threat to British Columbia. Management of invasive plants is through a long established program (since 1940's), whereas work on invasive animals is ad hoc and project based.
- Last year's identification and response to the Snakehead in Burnaby and potential introduction of Quagga mussels to the Shuswap, along with ongoing work on European fire ants has elevated the risks and highlighted the need for a formalized approach to operationally address all invasive species.
- The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group has identified this gap and elevated to FLNR executive.
- FLNR is responsible for the operational delivery of invasive species, including invasive plants.
- The update to the *Wildlife Act* – Controlled Alien Species Regulation in December has provided a stronger regulatory base to support invasive species prevention and control efforts on listed invasive animals. Ministry of Environment and FLNR are developing an implementation plan for these regulations and have begun training staff who will be involved in compliance and enforcement.
- FLNR Executive is currently reviewing several options for delivery of invasive species management functions within FLNR.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: (250) 828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth

Phone: (250) 371-3836

Issue: Crown Range Infrastructure Replacement

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Maintenance of Crown range fencing is a major concern to range tenure holders.
- There remains a very large inventory of Crown range fence (thousands of kilometres) that is in poor condition. Existing tenure holders face increasing difficulty in keeping livestock in assigned areas.
- Range tenures that are currently vacant due to a lengthy industry downturn are now of interest to cattle producers with the recent improvement in markets. The poor condition of the infrastructure is preventing allocation of these vacancies.
- The BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) pressed for an annual \$2.0 million fund for Crown Range Infrastructure maintenance that was referenced in the Ranching Task Force but no commitments for funding were made by the provincial government.
- Wildfires in 2009 and 2010 destroyed 266 km of Crown range fences.
- The Job Opportunities Program and Community Adjustment Fund that supported the program have been fully expended and are no longer available.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM

Phone 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth, Director – Range Branch

Phone: 250-371-3836

Issue: Invasive Plant Program Funding

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The 2013/14 invasive plant program operational budget is \$540,000. This funding is from Land Based Investment (LBI) (\$300,000) and Base (\$240,000) allocations.
- LBI allocation is 50% of last year. Total Invasive Plant Program operational budget is 64% of the previous fiscal.
- This funding does not address grants to regional weed committees and local governments to support noxious weed programs and invasive plant partnership delivery models.
- \$1.7 million was granted to regional committees and local governments in 2012/13 fiscal year. These funds are being used by partners now to survey and treat high risk invasive plant species, coordinate activities amongst land managers, and increase public awareness.
- \$240,000 will be spent on the ongoing development of new biological control agents for invasive plants including Japanese knotweed, hawkweed, toadflax, common tansy, oxeye daisy, marsh plume thistle, and leafy spurge.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM Operations, South Area Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth, Director, Range Branch

Phone: 250-371-3836

Issue: Land Based Investment Category: Ecosystem Restoration

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 2012/13, 9,101 hectares were treated under the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ER)—including harvesting, spacing and prescribed fire treatments—drawing upon funding received from 11 different funding sources.
- \$6.75 million for the provincial ER since its inception in 2006.
- Local ER Steering Committees are in place in seven resource districts with multi-sector representation from resource ministries, First Nations and Non-governmental Organizations.
- Strategic scoping exercises are in place to consider provincial ER implementation
- Land Based Investment (LBI) funding has been critical seed money to complete key projects and to leverage additional funding from other sources to sustain the expanding ER program.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM

Phone: (250)828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth, Director Range Branch

Phone: (250)371-3836

Issue: Support to the B.C. Beef Industry

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- \$2.4 million to the B.C. Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) in 2006/07 and 2007/08 under the Natural Range envelope of the federally funded Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Action Plan, to mitigate the loss of natural barriers due to MPB infestation impacts and related harvesting (primarily for fence construction).
- \$145,000 to the BCCA in 2007/08 for the MPB Fenceline Protection Program.
- \$200,000 to the BCCA in 2008/09 for an extension of the MPB Fenceline Protection Program.
- \$70,000 to the BCCA in 2007/08 for the development of the B.C. Beef Cattle Industry Strategy.
- \$30,000 to Range Management Schools for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- Acquisition of federal funds and project management of \$5.5 million for the Crown Range Infrastructure Replacement and Protection Program, as funded by the Job Opportunities Program and the Community Adjustment Fund, and delivered by Memorandum of Understanding between the then Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) and the BCCA in 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- Ministry participation in the 2009 Ranching Task Force to review regulation and legislation in support of the ranching sector.
- \$6.75 million for the provincial Ecosystem Restoration program (ER) since its inception in 2006, to renew and expand forage resources for livestock and wildlife.
- \$200,000 in 2010/11 toward Crown range seeding (to help mitigate the forage losses of the 2010 wildfires) from Land Based Investment (LBI).
- \$2.35M via the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) programs was used for mitigation of 2009 and 2010 wildfire impacts on Crown Range Infrastructure.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 13, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, ADM

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Borth, Director – Range Branch

Phone: 250-371-3836

Issue: Availability of Crown land for Westside Land Exchange

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- In 2009, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) reached an interim project agreement with Westbank First Nation (WFN) related to the Westside Road Interchange Project.
- As part of this agreement, MOTI committed to make reasonable best efforts to transfer specific Crown lands located in the Rose Valley Lake area to WFN in exchange for lands required for this MOTI project.
- MOTI prepared a report on the suitability of the lands; this report identified a number of concerns and encumbrances that were identified and discussed with MOTI. Following these discussions, MOTI requested a transfer of administration under Section 106 of the *Land Act*. MOTI requires control of the subject lands to facilitate the land exchange with WFN. This would also allow MOTI to provide WFN an interim tenure while the land exchange is being finalized.

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- Some of the land in the MOTI request may be considered suitable for potential transfer.
- In early March the Minister decided not to support the transfer of approximately 232 hectares (ha) of Crown land, although an area of 38 ha would be considered available if required by MOTI.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: April 12, 2012

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: (250) 828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Don Meeks, Manager, Land Authorizations

Phone: (250) 828-4415

Issue: Domtar Pulp Mill – Closure of Sawdust Line

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Domtar Kamloops Bio-Energy began producing 18 megawatts (MW) of power for sale to BC Hydro in 2009 and had an Energy Purchase Agreement to expand production to 32 MW by May 2012. Upgrades to extraction turbines resulted in total production of around 72 MW.
- On August 4, 2011, BC Hydro announced four successful proponents under the Bioenergy Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP) that will produce electricity using sawmill and manufacturing debris, roadside debris, logging slash, sort yard debris and biomass derived from standing timber.
- BC Hydro hired a consultant and engaged FLNR staff to conduct a review of the proposed fuel plans submitted with each proposal.
- The evaluators concluded that the Merritt Green Energy proposal had high potential to impact four existing biomass users, which included Domtar in Kamloops, by competing for lower-cost biomass residuals.
- In spring 2012 Domtar expressed concerns to government about insufficient fibre supply because of increased demand for hog fuel and sawdust by the Merritt Green Energy facility.
- With the announcement of the closure of the sawdust line (mill A) in early 2013, the issue has shifted from a restricted fibre supply for Domtar to an abundant supply of sawdust on the open market.
- BC Hydro does not need as much energy from Domtar resulting in less hog fuel demand.
- The issue now is the ability of sawmills to operate in an environment where they cannot dispose of their sawdust either through sale, burning or stockpiling.
- Gilbert Smith Forest Products is seeking to discuss this issue with the Minister.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised:

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jim Schafthuizen, Director, Tenures & Pricing

Phone: 250-828-4625

Issue: Babine Forest Products mill destroyed in Burns Lake

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Babine Forest Products Ltd (BFP) mill in Burns Lake has been largely destroyed by an explosion and fire on January 20, 2012. Hampton Affiliates Inc. (Hampton), owner of BFP, required government assurance of long-term timber supply stability for an investment decision to rebuild the mill.
- Prior to the explosion, BFP directly employed 230 people of whom 42% were First Nations or people of aboriginal ancestry. A relatively equal amount of people were employed through contracts with BFP such as logging, silviculture and road building/maintenance workers.
- The mill was the largest employer for the Village of Burns Lake and Lake Babine Nation.
- A Government House Committee (the Committee) was formed to look at options to deal with mid-term timber supply issue caused by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The Committee prepared a report “Growing Fibre, Growing Value” with specific recommendations for the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) to increase available timber supply.
- In September 2012, the Minister provided a letter to Hampton outlining the commitments the Minister was prepared to make to support a new facility in the Burns Lake area. In December of 2012, Hampton announced they would build a smaller modern mill.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Kevin Kriese, ADM, North Area

Phone: 250-847-7789

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina, Skeena Region

Phone: 250-692-2227

Issue: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area and Advisory Board

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) was established under the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* (Act) in 1998 and is governed by the Act and the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan Regulation.
- The Preamble in the Act states that the MKMA is ‘an area of unique wilderness in northeastern British Columbia that is endowed with a globally significant abundance and diversity of wildlife.’
- The Act also states that the Premier must appoint a Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board to advise on natural resource management in the MKMA and may also appoint a chair.
- FLNR is responsible for the MKMA.
- The Act establishes a Trust Fund for which the Minister of FLNR is trustee. The Trust Fund has two accounts; a general account for operation of the Advisory Board and a project account.
- In 2008, Government instructed the Advisory Board to expend the remaining funds in the project account.
- s.17
- The chair (Stephanie Killam) and 15 Board members have been appointed or reappointed with their term beginning April 1, 2013. This includes five sectors were missing from the board until 2012: mining and minerals, oil and gas, energy, forestry and a member to represent the Northern Rockies Municipality.
- The Advisory Board also includes both Treaty 8 Tribal Association, Kaska Dena and Tsey Keh Dena (*say-kay-dena*) First Nation representatives.
- The Advisory Board has completed the strategic and operating plans and will be providing them to Government along with related advice in the near future.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Kevin Kriese, ADM, North Area

Phone: 250 847-7789

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Butch Morningstar, Exec Director, North Area

Phone: 250 387-0844

Issue: Sacred Headwaters (Klappan area)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- This area includes the headwaters of the Nass, Skeena and Stikine Rivers in Northwest British Columbia.
- This area is covered by Cassiar Iskut Stikine Land Use Plan, approved in 2000, and which contains 26.2 percent protected area (1.37 million ha).
- It has rich cultural and wildlife values and contains large mineral, coal and coal bed gas deposits.
- Royal Dutch Shell gave up its tenure to explore for coalbed methane in December 2012 when a 4 year moratorium expired. The premier announced in the Throne Speech of 2013 that the Klappan would be protected and a reserve was placed over the area restricting methane extraction. Mineral and coal are still available for staking and development.
- Fortune Minerals holds tenure over mount Klappan coal deposits (high grade anthracite coal) and has just entered the Environmental Assessment process.
- Fortune Minerals recently signed a \$181 million dollar agreement with South Korea's POSCO and the mine would employ 474 people over 25 years.
- Imperial Metals' Red Chris Project (copper/gold mine) has been permitted and is under construction.
- The area is wholly within the asserted territory of the Tahltan First Nation.
- This area has been the focus of protests and roadblocks by the Tahltan First Nation to prevent coal bed gas exploration and most recently coal extraction.
- An international environmental campaign is currently emerging to protect the "Sacred Headwaters" from any development.
- The Government's platform included the commitment that "A BC Liberal Government will work with communities, First Nations and industry to examine the feasibility of developing a provincially designated protected area in the Klappan."
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Advice and Recommended Response:

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2012/13 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 11, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Kevin Kriese, ADM, North Area

Phone: (250) 847-7789

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director, Skeena Region

Phone: (250) 847-7495

Issue: Advancing One Project, One Process for Major Projects

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- A major project is characterized by significant capital investment with multiple and complex government authorizations. Natural Resource Sector (NRS) major projects can represent a range of investment from \$50,000 to several billion dollars.
- “One Project, One Process” integrates numerous regulatory processes for issuing authorizations into one process to eliminate overlap and duplication while maintaining or enhancing environmental standards.
- The Major Projects Office was created in 2011 to implement the commitment for the NRS to collaborate as “One Land Manager.”
- The Major Projects Office teams in all 8 regions provide project management services for NRS major projects to streamline the authorization process, and integrate environmental considerations for durable decisions.
- Major Projects Office (Victoria) is a service-oriented team that supports NRS projects through the development of project management solutions, tools, regional training and a one-window public interface for major projects.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Examples of 'One Process' Success:

- **Treasure Mountain Silver Mine** – Huldra Silver Inc., a Vancouver-based firm, was issued a Mines Act permit on May 18, 2012 for its Treasure Mountain silver mine about 15 kilometres east of the Coquihalla Highway near Hope. It is expected to yield 60,000 tonnes per year and will provide 25 full-time jobs in the area.
- **Northwest Transmission Line** – Coordination between the Environmental Assessment Office and the ministry has led to efficiencies in the overall assessment and authorization process. The Major Projects Office continues to coordinate the construction permitting.
- **Tumbler Ridge Wind Farm** – The Finavera Tumbler Ridge Wind Farm is a 50 Megawatt wind project, consisting of 33 wind turbine generators, powering a potential 30,000 homes. The project was reviewed concurrently through the BC environmental assessment process and the operational authorization review process, which allowed for authorization decisions to be made within 60 days of issuance of the EA certificate. Moreover, a single decision package was prepared by FLNRO staff that allowed the statutory decision makers to consider multiple separate authorizations at the same time.
- **Tulsequah Chief Mine** – Chieftain Metals Inc has proposed development of a 2,000 tonnes per day polymetallic underground mine located 140 km of Atlin. This project has a projected workforce of 260 and \$440 million in capital investment. FLNRO conducted a coordinated authorizations process concurrently with the EA review. All road authorizations were approved January 25, 2013, including an approval that provides an improved access route to the mine that fully meets the objectives of the joint Atlin Taku Land Use Plan signed in 2011.

Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve

Phone: 250-387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brenda Hartley

Phone: 250-828-4443

Issue: Forest Sector Strategy

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

“Our Natural Advantage, Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia”, was released in April 2012 as part of the BC Jobs Plan and builds on work of the Working Roundtable on Forestry.

This strategy provides a summary of actions or areas of focus consistent with the six priorities outlined in the report of the Working Roundtable on Forestry:

1. A commitment to using wood first;
2. Growing trees, sequestering carbon, and ensuring that land is available from which to derive a range of forest products;
3. Creating a globally competitive, market-based operating climate;
4. Embracing innovation and diversification;
5. Supporting prosperous rural forest economies; and
6. First Nations becoming partners in forestry.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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[Note: Details regarding specific strategies are addressed through estimates notes prepared by FLRNO branches. Strategies related to wood first, international marketing and labour force are the responsibility of Forest Innovation Investment; Ministry of Internal Trade Relations; and Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training respectively.]

Date Prepared/Revised: July 2, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve

Phone: 250 387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dave Peterson

Phone: 250 952-6500

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Issue: Integrated Decision Making (IDM) for the Natural Resource Sector (NRS)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Government looks to the NRS to be a driver of economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. The IDM program is a suite of transformation initiatives in support of the “One Land Base/One Land Manager” concept.

Through the IDM program, changes are being developed to streamline authorization processes, harmonize regulatory requirements and integrate electronic systems to:

- provide greater transparency and enhanced access to social, economic and environmental data;
- enable resources to be better managed across the sector; and
- improve how the sector makes timely and durable decisions for the access and use of natural resources in BC.

Significant progress has already been made through an expanded FrontCounter BC presence across the province, streamlined authorizations and increased online self-service tools.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 17, 2013

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve, A/Executive Director, Corporate Initiatives

Phone: 250-387-9707

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Andrew Morgan, Director, Integration Initiatives

Phone: 250-953-4205

Issue: Natural Resource Sector Backlog Reduction and Authorization Streamlining

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of the BC Jobs Plan, the Premier in January 2011 announced \$24 million to five resource sector agencies to reduce the backlog of natural resource authorizations.
- Funding issued to FLNRO was \$5.1M in 2011/12, \$7.1M for 2012/13 to reduce backlogs and improve turnaround times for Land Act authorizations and Water Act authorizations, and mining Notice of Work applications.
- In January 2013, the Premier announced an additional \$7 million to support the natural resource sector's continued efforts in addressing backlogs for April through September 2013 (FLRNO received \$2.84 million).
- Success to date has been achieved through temporary staffing increases, streamlining existing processes and reducing barriers to related decision making.
- **Notice of Work:**
 - All mining applications in British Columbia require a Notice of Work (NoW) to be completed before they can proceed.
 - NoW applications that are in the system for longer than 60 days are considered in backlog status.
 - The target to reduce the NoW application backlog by 80 per cent by August 31, 2012 was achieved by June 2012, ahead of schedule.
 - The target to reduce NoW turnaround times from 110 to 60 days for December 31, 2013 is on track to be achieved.

Subject Area	Starting	End Target Dec 2013	Current Status (May 31, 2013)
Turn Around Time	110 days	60 days	65 days

- **Land Act Authorizations:**
 - Under the *Land Act*, the use of Crown land requires submission of an application and issuance of tenure. This process is a critical part of determining the viability of a project on public land.
 - *Land Act* tenure applications that are in the system for longer than 140 days are in backlog status.
 - The target to reduce the backlog in *Land Act* authorizations by 50% by December 31, 2012 was achieved and has been maintained to date.

Starting Backlog	End Target (50%) Dec 2012	Current Status (May 31, 2013)
2,785	1,392	1,396

2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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- **Water Act Authorizations:**

- Under the *Water Act*, the use or diversion of all surface water in BC requires the submission of an application and issuance of a water license.
- Water licence applications that are in the system for longer than 140 days are in backlog status.
- The target to reduce the backlog in *Water Act* authorizations by 50% by December 31, 2012 was achieved, and has been slightly further reduced.

Starting Backlog	End Target (50%) Dec 2012	Current Status (May 31, 2013)
3,899	1,950	1,829

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013 – Claudia Trudeau FLNRO

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Claudia Trudeau, Strategic Policy Manager

Phone: 250-356-7278

Issue: Crown Land Authorizations Backlog Reduction

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of the BC Jobs Plan, the Premier in January 2011 announced \$24 million to five resource sector agencies to reduce the backlog of natural resource authorizations.
- Funding issued to FLNRO was \$5.1M in 2011/12, \$7.1M for 2012/13 to reduce backlogs and improve turnaround times for Land Act authorizations and Water Act authorizations, and mining Notice of Work applications.
- In January 2013, the Premier announced an additional \$7 million to support the natural resource sector's continued efforts in addressing backlogs for April through September 2013 (FLRNO received \$2.84 million).
- Under the Land Act, the use of Crown land requires submission of an application and issuance of tenure.
- Land Act applications include a wide range of proposed projects, from personal/residential applications such as private moorage up to major commercial ventures such as mines and clean energy projects. All of these projects support employment and investment through their construction and/or operation.
- Land Act applications that are in the system for longer than 140 days are in backlog status. Lands backlog is a 'rolling average' of existing backlogged applications and new ones entering the system. As a result totals may increase or decrease from one month to the next.
- As part of the BC Jobs Plan, the target to reduce the backlog in *Land Act* authorizations by 50% by December 31, 2012 was achieved and has been maintained to date.

Starting Backlog	End Target (Dec 30, 2012)	Current Status (May 31, 2013)
2,785	1,392	1,396

- Lands backlog reduction have been achieved through temporary staffing increases, streamlining existing processes and reducing barriers to related decision making.
- Several process improvements are underway, including development of electronic applications for lands authorizations, which will help to prevent the Crown Land application backlog from recurring.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013 – Claudia Trudeau FLNRO

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ricahrd Grieve, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Myles Mana, Dir. of Authorizations

Phone: 250 751-7308

Issue: Mining and Minerals Sector Notice of Work Backlog Reduction

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of the BC Jobs Plan, the Premier in January 2011 announced \$24 million to five resource sector agencies to reduce the backlog of natural resource authorizations. Funding issued to FLNRO was \$5.1M in 2011/12, \$7.1M for 2012/13 to reduce backlogs and improve turnaround times for Land Act and Water Act authorizations, and mining Notice of Work (NoW) applications.
- In January 2013, the Premier announced an additional \$7 million to support the natural resource sector's continued efforts in addressing backlogs for April through September 2013 (FLRNO received \$2.84 million).
- Success to date has been achieved through temporary staffing increases, streamlining existing processes and reducing barriers to related decision making.
- As part of the Jobs Plan, the government committed to reducing the backlog of NoW applications by 80% by August 2012. This target was achieved by June 2012, ahead of schedule.
- The target to reduce NoW turnaround times from 110 to 60 days for December 31, 2013 is on track to being achieved. As of May 31, 2013 the turnaround time for NoW applications is 65 days.
- Over 1,000 NoW applications are received each year which include Mineral and Coal Exploration, Mines, Placer Mines and Aggregate. In 2011 there were 1,178 applications received. In 2012 there were 1,249 applications received. As of May 31, 2013 there have been 568 applications received.
- Actions to successfully meet NoW targets include:
 - Improved tools and systems to support more effective consultation with First Nations (ethno historic reports, consultation tracking systems under development).
 - Shifting from issuing permits annually to multi-year area-based permitting, authorizing exploration activities for up to five years, within identified activity areas, expected to decrease the number of applications and amendments annually.
 - Created and launched a web-based application process that will provide clear, consistent information and requirements, consistent and automated data and offers the ability to track progress on application reviews so proponents know where they are in the system (completed March 1, 2013). The e-Application system is expected to significantly increase the quality of applications and reduce the administrative burden for government staff.
 - Effective September 2013, permit amendments will no longer be required for some low-impact exploration activities. This will streamline the permitting process and allow resources to be focused on higher-impact projects.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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2013/14 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 14, 2013 – Claudia Trudeau FLNRO

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Butch Morningstar

Phone: 250 387-0844

Issue: Water Authorizations Backlog Reduction

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As part of the BC Jobs Plan, the Premier in January 2011 announced \$24 million to five resource sector agencies to reduce the backlog of natural resource authorizations.
- Funding issued to FLNRO was \$5.1M in 2011/12, \$7.1M for 2012/13 to reduce backlogs and improve turnaround times for Land Act authorizations and Water Act authorizations, and mining Notice of Work applications.
- In January 2013, the Premier announced an additional \$7 million to support the natural resource sector's continued efforts in addressing backlogs for April through September 2013 (FLRNO received \$2.84 million).
- Under the *Water Act*, the use or diversion of all surface water in BC requires the submission of an application and issuance of a water license.
- Water license applications that are in the system for longer than 140 days are in backlog status. Backlog totals are a 'rolling average' of existing backlogged applications and new ones entering the system. As a result totals may increase or decrease from one month to the next.
- The BC Jobs Plan target to reduce the backlog in *Water Act* authorizations by 50% by December 31, 2012 was substantially achieved, and the current backlog reduction is slightly improved over the December target.

Starting Backlog	End Target (Dec 30, 2012)	Current Status (May 31, 2013)
3,899	1,950	1,829

- Water backlog reduction has been achieved through temporary staffing increases, streamlining existing processes and reducing barriers to related decision making.
- Process efficiencies under development include an electronic water application system, which will help to prevent the water application backlog from recurring.

Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised: June 12, 2013 – Claudia Trudeau FLNRO

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Grieve, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250-387-9707

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jamie Jeffries/ Brian Symonds

Phone: 250-828-4217/ 250-490-8255

2013/14 Estimates Briefing

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

Vote 30: Ministry Operations

Vote 31: Direct Fire

Draft
December 31, 2013

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

2013/14 Estimates Briefing

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MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

Budget Highlights

OPERATING BUDGET: \$561.343 M (decrease of \$39.970, or 6.6% from 2012/13 Restated)

The Ministry operating budget changes include:

- o The September 2012 Government Reorganization resulted in \$0.283 M transfer from the Ministry of Agriculture for Grazing and Range Stewardship
- o \$4.450 M increase in Forest Inventory Program (Land Base Investment)
- o **(\$40.000)** M reduction in Land Based Investment Activities which is comprised of a **(\$10.000)** M reduction to last year's one time \$10.000 million increase and **(\$30.000)** M decrease to base funding; 2013/14 funding will be focused on planting (of 20M seedlings), and inventory
- o **s.17**
- o **(\$0.147)** M decrease due to realignment of Ministers' Offices budgets across government
- o **(\$1.243)** M decrease to align to revised BCTS Service Plan
- o *NRS Authorizations Backlog - not included in the budget, Ministry has approval to access contingencies for up to \$2.84 M in 13/14 to continue to reduce backlog work.*

CAPITAL BUDGET: \$58.752 million (increase of \$3.529 million or 6.4% from 2012/13 Restated)

Increases for:

- \$6.174 M for vehicle replacements due to the age of the fleet
- \$1.300 M to align with revised BCTS Service Plan
- \$1.158 M for Forest Service Roads per service plan
- \$0.352 M for specialized equipment replacement
- \$0.204 M to land improvements upgrades for Air Tanker Bases

Decreases for:

- **(\$4.808)** M in building capital due to completion of planned facility projects and the Merritt Fire Zone /Provincial Training Facility and Valemount Fire Zone base
- **(\$0.851)** M due to the completion of a number of systems projects

FTEs and Staffing

FTEs - Continue to be budgeted at a summary level for the Province.

Staff - Complement of staff at March 31, 2013 was 3,956. 3,454 FLNR (433 is current number of aux wildfire staff) and 502 Corporate services staff supporting the sector. This number will change throughout the year, particularly in field and fire season when up to additional 1,200-1,400 staff will be hired on a temporary basis.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – 2013/14 Estimates Briefing Book

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2012 PLAN

OPERATING

\$000s

		2012/13 Estimates	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Plan	2015/16 Plan
A February 2012 Plan					
1	Vote 27 - Ministry Operations	380,079	340,079	370,079	370,079
2	Vote 28 - Direct Fire	62,901	62,901	62,901	62,901
3	BC Timber Sales Special Account	159,034	151,928	158,991	158,991
4	Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
5	Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
6	Total February 2012 Plan	602,034	554,928	591,991	591,991
7	<i>Year-to-year change in 2012/13 Service Plan</i>	<i>12,432</i>	<i>(47,106)</i>	<i>37,063</i>	-
B Inter Ministry Transfers					
8	Grazing & Range Stewardship staff from Agriculture (3 FTEs)	283	283	283	283
9	Geology staff to Energy and Mines (12 FTEs)	(884)	(884)	(884)	(884)
10	Library staff to Environment (2 FTEs)	(120)	(120)	(120)	(120)
11	Ministry Operations to Direct Fire Vote for Fire Attack Crew Vehicles	(264)	(264)	(264)	(264)
12	To Direct Fire Vote from Ministry Operations for Fire Attack Crew Vehicles	264	264	264	264
	Total Inter Ministry Transfers	(721)	(721)	(721)	(721)
C Budget Lifts and Reductions					
13	TB targeted reductions		(3,030)	(3,030)	(3,030)
14	Realignment of Ministers' Offices budgets across government		(147)	(144)	(144)
15	Heritage Programs - completion of deferred maintenance and repairs				(2,246)
16	Land Based Investment (Inventory)		4,450	3,100	3,100
17	BC Timber Sales - program changes		5,863	(15)	300
	Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	7,136	(89)	(2,020)
		601,313	561,343	591,181	589,250
	<i>Change from 2012/13 Service Plan</i>	<i>(721)</i>	<i>6,415</i>	<i>(810)</i>	<i>(2,741)</i>
		<i>(0.1%)</i>	1.2%	<i>(0.1%)</i>	<i>(0.5%)</i>
D February 2013 Plan					
21	Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	379,094	340,367	369,020	366,774
22	Vote 31 - Direct Fire	63,165	63,165	63,165	63,165
23	BC Timber Sales Special Account	159,034	157,791	158,976	159,291
24	Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
25	Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
	Total 2013 Plan	601,313	561,343	591,181	589,250
	Year-to-Year Change in 2013/14 Service Plan		(39,970)	29,838	(1,931)
			(6.6%)	5.3%	(0.3%)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – 2013/14 Estimates Briefing
BUDGET BY VOTE and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB)

\$ 000s

		Vote 27 - Ministry Operations				Vote 28 - Direct Fire				Special Accounts (BCTS, Crown Lands, FSMF)				Ministry Total			
		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes	
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%
2013-14 Estimates - Vote																	
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	186,726	187,639	913	0.5%	30,954	30,704	(250)	(0.8%)	18,376	16,779	(1,597)	(8.7%)	236,056	235,122	(934)	(0.4%)
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	1,728	1,665	(63)	(3.6%)	4,247	4,247	-	-	303	303	-	-	6,278	6,215	(63)	(1.0%)
Employee Benefits	52	43,036	45,052	2,016	4.7%	7,119	7,369	250	3.5%	4,227	4,027	(200)	(4.7%)	54,382	56,448	2,066	3.8%
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54	90	52	(38)	(42.2%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	52	(38)	(42.2%)
Salaries and Benefits		231,580	234,408	2,828	1.2%	42,320	42,320	-	-	22,906	21,109	(1,797)	(7.8%)	296,806	297,837	1,031	0
Public Servant Travel	57	5,785	5,680	(105)	(1.8%)	1,261	1,261	-	-	559	559	-	-	7,605	7,500	(105)	(1.4%)
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	4,464	4,436	(28)	(0.6%)	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,464	5,436	(28)	(0.5%)
Professional Services	60	106,425	51,689	(54,736)	(51.4%)	5,657	5,788	131	2.3%	48,990	47,135	(1,855)	(3.8%)	161,072	104,612	(56,460)	(35.1%)
Information Services	63	7,703	7,933	230	3.0%	145	145	-	-	589	589	-	-	8,437	8,667	230	2.7%
Office and Business Expenses	65	7,560	6,319	(1,241)	(16.4%)	577	577	-	-	630	630	-	-	8,767	7,526	(1,241)	(14.2%)
Advertising and Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68	80	28	(52)	(65.0%)	149	149	-	-	20	20	-	-	249	197	(52)	(20.9%)
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	11,709	8,957	(2,752)	(23.5%)	7,882	7,882	-	-	791	1,000	209	26.4%	20,382	17,839	(2,543)	(12.5%)
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	16,777	11,057	(5,720)	(34.1%)	20,465	20,465	-	-	1,478	1,478	-	-	38,720	33,000	(5,720)	(14.8%)
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	11,109	10,422	(687)	(6.2%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,109	10,422	(687)	(6.2%)
Amortization	73	23,603	23,398	(205)	(0.9%)	-	-	-	-	30,400	29,900	(500)	(1.6%)	54,003	53,298	(705)	(1.3%)
Building Occupancy Charges	75	2,535	1,145	(1,390)	(54.8%)	-	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	2,565	1,175	(1,390)	(54.2%)
Operating Costs		197,750	131,064	(66,686)	(33.7%)	37,136	37,267	131	0	83,487	81,341	(2,146)	(2.6%)	318,373	249,672	(68,701)	(21.6%)
Transfer-Grants	77	4,169	2,612	(1,557)	(37.3%)	-	-	-	-	76,506	68,209	(8,297)	(10.8%)	80,675	70,821	(9,854)	(12.2%)
Transfer - Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	9,110	6,837	(2,273)	(25.0%)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	9,111	6,838	(2,273)	(24.9%)
Government Transfers		13,279	9,449	(3,830)	(28.8%)	-	-	-	-	76,507	68,210	(8,297)	(10.8%)	89,786	77,659	(12,127)	(13.5%)
Transfers Pymt--Votes/Special Accounts	81	1	5,800	5,799	579900.0%	-	-	-	-	12,000	9,684	(2,316)	(19.3%)	12,001	15,484	3,483	29.0%
Other Expenditures	85	56,391	49,271	(7,120)	(12.6%)	-	1	1	-	46,121	56,936	10,815	23.4%	102,512	106,208	3,696	3.6%
Other Expenditures		56,392	55,071	(1,321)	(2.3%)	-	1	1	-	58,121	66,620	8,499	14.6%	114,513	121,692	7,179	6.3%
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(12,000)	(7,884)	4,116	(34.3%)	-	(1,800)	(1,800)	-	(1)	(5,800)	(5,799)	579900.0%	(12,001)	(15,484)	(3,483)	29.0%
Recoveries Within Government	88	(31,874)	(17,412)	14,462	(45.4%)	(1,670)	(1)	1,669	(99.9%)	(1)	(1)	-	-	(33,545)	(17,414)	16,131	(48.1%)
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(10)	(5)	5	(50.0%)	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	(10)	(6)	4	(40.0%)
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(76,023)	(64,324)	11,699	(15.4%)	(14,621)	(14,621)	-	-	(81,965)	(73,668)	8,297	(10.1%)	(172,609)	(152,613)	19,996	(11.6%)
Recoveries		(119,907)	(89,625)	30,282	(25.3%)	(16,291)	(16,423)	(132)	0.8%	(81,967)	(79,469)	2,498	(3.0%)	(218,165)	(185,517)	32,648	(15.0%)
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURES		379,094	340,367	(38,727)	(10.2%)	63,165	63,165	-	-	159,054	157,811	(1,243)	(0.8%)	601,313	561,343	(39,970)	(6.6%)

CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION

Buildings	6,648	1,840	(4,808)	(72.3%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,648	1,840	(4,808)	(72.3%)
Specialized Equipment	1,161	1,513	352	30.3%	-	-	-	-	-	161	150	(11)	(6.8%)	1,322	1,663	341	25.8%
Office Furniture/Equipment	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18	-	-
Vehicles	438	6,612	6,174	1409.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	438	6,612	6,174	1409.6%
Information Technology	3,956	3,105	(851)	(21.5%)	-	-	-	-	-	490	350	(140)	(28.6%)	4,446	3,455	(991)	(22.3%)
Roads	11,842	13,000	1,158	9.8%	-	-	-	-	-	26,849	28,300	1,451	5.4%	38,691	41,300	2,609	6.7%
Land Improvements	3,660	3,864	204	5.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,660	3,864	204	5.6%
NET CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION	27,723	29,952	2,229	8.0%	-	-	-	-	-	27,500	28,800	1,300	4.7%	55,223	58,752	3,529	6.4%

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – 2013/14 Estimates Briefing
BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB) FOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE

		Integrated Resource Operations				Resource Stewardship				Tenures, Competitiveness &			
STANDARD OBJECTS OF EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes		(\$000)	(\$000)	Changes	
		RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%
2013-14 Estimates - Vote													
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	31,543	34,231	2,688	8.5%	16,991	18,470	1,479	8.7%	5,859	5,813	(46)	(0.8%)
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	182	182	-	-	106	130	24	22.6%	86	86	-	-
Employee Benefits	52	7,255	8,214	959	13.2%	3,908	4,432	524	13.4%	1,348	1,394	46	3.4%
Legislative Salaries & Allowances	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Servant Travel	57	1,303	1,303	-	-	809	953	144	17.8%	256	273	17	6.6%
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services-Operating & Reg	60	4,791	3,680	(1,111)	(23.2%)	77,651	38,363	(39,288)	(50.6%)	7,023	7,023	-	-
Information Systems-Operating	63	565	565	-	-	58	258	200	344.8%	71	101	30	42.3%
Office & Business Expenses	65	1,511	1,467	(44)	(2.9%)	636	1,077	441	69.3%	162	121	(41)	(25.3%)
Info Advertising & Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Advertising & Publications	68	15	4	(11)	(73.3%)	22	7	(15)	(68.2%)	1	-	(1)	(100.0%)
Utilities, Materials & Supplies	69	2,350	3,395	1,045	44.5%	7,544	3,757	(3,787)	(50.2%)	8	7	(1)	(12.5%)
Operating Equipment Vehicles & Other	70	2,686	1,019	(1,667)	(62.1%)	691	2,276	1,585	229.4%	10	18	8	80.0%
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amortization	73	799	786	(13)	(1.6%)	71	39	(32)	(45.1%)	5	5	-	-
Building Occupancy Charges	75	631	606	(25)	(4.0%)	54	55	1	1.9%	-	-	-	-
Transfer-Grants	77	-	-	-	-	4,062	460	(3,602)	(88.7%)	10	10	-	-
Transfer-Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	7,161	4,966	(2,195)	(30.7%)	68	20	(48)	(70.6%)	1,800	1,620	(180)	(10.0%)
Transfer Btwn Votes & Special Accounts	81	-	-	-	-	-	5,799	5,799	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenditures	85	-	27	27	-	48,001	48,001	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	-	-	-	-	(1,416)	(100)	1,316	(92.9%)	-	-	-	-
Recoveries Within Government	88	(585)	(585)	-	-	(493)	(493)	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(2)	(1)	1	(50.0%)	(5)	(1)	4	(80.0%)	(1)	(1)	-	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(1,480)	(1,480)	-	-	(56,557)	(56,560)	(3)	0.0%	(3,000)	(3,000)	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES, Incl SAs		58,725	58,379	(346)	(0.6%)	102,211	66,953	(35,258)	(34.5%)	13,637	13,469	(168)	(16.3%)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – 2012/13 Estimates Briefing

BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB) FOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE

		Timber Operations & Pricing				Regional Operations				Executive & Support Services				TOTAL MINISTRY OPERATIONS			
		(\$000)		Changes		(\$000)		Changes		(\$000)		Changes		(\$000)		Changes	
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%	RESTATED 2012/13	2013/14 BUDGET	(\$000)	%
2013-14 Estimates - Vote																	
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	5,684	6,025	341	6.0%	83,422	85,781	2,359	2.8%	43,227	37,319	(5,908)	(13.7%)	186,726	187,639	913	0.5%
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	66	44	(22)	(33.3%)	895	902	7	0.8%	393	321	(72)	(18.3%)	1,728	1,665	(63)	(3.6%)
Employee Benefits	52	1,308	1,446	138	10.6%	19,189	20,588	1,399	7.3%	10,028	8,978	(1,050)	(10.5%)	43,036	45,052	2,016	4.7%
Legislative Salaries & Allowances	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	52	(38)	(42.2%)	90	52	(38)	(42.2%)
Public Servant Travel	57	269	269	-	-	2,146	2,362	216	10.1%	1,002	520	(482)	(48.1%)	5,785	5,680	(105)	(1.8%)
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,464	4,436	(28)	(0.6%)	4,464	4,436	(28)	(0.6%)
Professional Services-Operating & Reg	60	979	504	(475)	(48.5%)	7,885	1,696	(6,189)	(78.5%)	8,096	423	(7,673)	(94.8%)	106,425	51,689	(54,736)	(51.4%)
Information Systems-Operating	63	30	30	-	-	368	368	-	-	6,611	6,611	-	-	7,703	7,933	230	3.0%
Office & Business Expenses	65	64	64	-	-	2,442	1,990	(452)	(18.5%)	2,745	1,600	(1,145)	(41.7%)	7,560	6,319	(1,241)	(16.4%)
Info Advertising & Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Advertising & Publications	68	-	-	-	-	42	17	(25)	(59.5%)	-	-	-	-	80	28	(52)	(65.0%)
Utilities, Materials & Supplies	69	25	20	(5)	(20.0%)	940	936	(4)	(0.4%)	842	842	-	-	11,709	8,957	(2,752)	(23.5%)
Operating Equipment Vehicles & Other	70	86	86	-	-	2,657	1,843	(814)	(30.6%)	10,647	5,815	(4,832)	(45.4%)	16,777	11,057	(5,720)	(34.1%)
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	10,201	9,999	(202)	(2.0%)	898	413	(485)	(54.0%)	-	-	-	-	11,109	10,422	(687)	(6.1%)
Amortization	73	5,477	5,477	-	-	567	407	(160)	(28.2%)	16,684	16,684	-	-	23,603	23,398	(205)	(0.9%)
Building Occupancy Charges	75	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	1,850	480	(1,370)	(74.1%)	2,535	1,145	(1,390)	(54.8%)
Transfer-Grants	77	-	-	-	-	12	2,142	2,130	17750.0%	85	-	(85)	(100.0%)	4,169	2,612	(1,557)	(37.3%)
Transfer-Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	150	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	150	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	81	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,110	6,687	(2,423)	(26.6%)
Transfer Btwn Votes & Special Accounts	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	5,800	5,799	(1)
Other Expenditures	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,390	1,243	(7,147)	(85.2%)	56,391	49,271	(7,120)	(12.6%)
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(378)	(400)	(22)	5.8%	(1,071)	(1,484)	(413)	38.6%	(9,135)	(5,900)	3,235	(35.4%)	(12,000)	(7,884)	4,116	(34.3%)
Recoveries Within Government	88	(1)	(1)	-	-	(2,101)	(535)	1,566	(74.5%)	(28,693)	(15,797)	12,896	(44.9%)	(31,874)	(17,412)	14,462	(45.4%)
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	(10)	(5)	5	(50.0%)
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(1)	(1)	-	-	(2,803)	(2,803)	-	-	(12,182)	(480)	11,702	(96.1%)	(76,023)	(64,324)	11,699	(15.4%)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES, Incl SAs		23,889	23,642	(247)	(1.0%)	115,488	114,777	(711)	(0.6%)	65,144	63,147	(1,997)	(3.1%)	379,094	340,367	(38,727)	(10.2%)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
3 Year Budget - Core Program
Restated 2012/13 to 2015/16
\$000s

Division	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Plan	Change	2015/16 Plan
Integrated Resource Operations	58,725	(346)	58,379	134	58,513	(2,246)	56,267
Resource Stewardship	102,211	(35,258)	66,953	27,830	94,783	-	94,783
Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation	13,637	(168)	13,469	65	13,534	-	13,534
Timber Operations, Pricing & First Nations	23,889	(247)	23,642	95	23,737	-	23,737
Regional Operations	115,488	(711)	114,777	95	114,872	-	114,872
Executive & Support Services	65,144	(1,997)	63,147	434	63,581	-	63,581
<i>Minister's Office</i>	834	(147)	687	3	690	-	690
<i>Corporate Services</i>	64,310	(1,850)	62,460	431	62,891	-	62,891
Ministry Operations	379,094	(38,727)	340,367	28,653	369,020	(2,246)	366,774
Direct Fire	63,165	-	63,165	-	63,165	-	63,165
BC Timber Sales Special Account	159,034	(1,243)	157,791	1,185	158,976	315	159,291
Crown Land Special Account	20	-	20	-	20	-	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY TOTAL	601,313	(39,970)	561,343	29,838	591,181	(1,931)	589,250
TOTAL Percent Change by year	-		(6.6%)		5.3%		(0.3%)

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Three Year STOB Track

VOTE 30 - Ministry Operations

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Plan	Change	2015/16 Plan
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	186,726	913	187,639	(1,505)	186,134	0	186,134
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	1,728	(63)	1,665	0	1,665	0	1,665
52 Employee Benefits	43,036	2,016	45,052	1,503	46,555	1	46,556
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	90	(38)	52	1	53	1	54
GAC subtotal	231,580	2,828	234,408	(1)	234,407	2	234,409
55 Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	5,785	(105)	5,680	0	5,680	0	5,680
59 Centralized Management Support Services	4,464	(28)	4,436	0	4,436	0	4,436
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	106,425	(54,736)	51,689	28,241	79,930	0	79,930
61 Professional Services - Advisory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
63 Information Systems - Operating	7,703	230	7,933	0	7,933	0	7,933
65 Office and Business Expenses	7,560	(1,241)	6,319	431	6,750	0	6,750
67 Advertising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	80	(52)	28	0	28	0	28
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	11,709	(2,752)	8,957	0	8,957	0	8,957
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	16,777	(5,720)	11,057	0	11,057	0	11,057
72 Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Transfers & Other	11,109	(687)	10,422	0	10,422	0	10,422
73 Amortization Expenses	23,603	(205)	23,398	0	23,398	0	23,398
75 Building Occupancy Charges	2,535	(1,390)	1,145	0	1,145	0	1,145
GAC subtotal	197,750	(66,686)	131,064	28,672	159,736	0	159,736
77 Transfers - Grants	4,169	(1,557)	2,612	0	2,612	0	2,612
80 Transfers Under Agreement	9,110	(2,273)	6,837	0	6,837	(2,246)	4,591
GAC subtotal	13,279	(3,830)	9,449	0	9,449	(2,246)	7,203
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	1	5,799	5,800	0	5,800	0	5,800
84 Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85* Water Remissions	48,001	0	48,001	0	48,001	0	48,001
85 Other Expenses	8,390	(7,120)	1,270	2	1,272	(2)	1,270
GAC subtotal	56,392	(1,321)	55,071	2	55,073	(2)	55,071
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(12,000)	4,116	(7,884)	(20)	(7,904)	0	(7,904)
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	(31,874)	14,462	(17,412)	0	(17,412)	0	(17,412)
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	(10)	5	(5)	0	(5)	0	(5)
90 Recoveries - External	(76,023)	11,699	(64,324)	0	(64,324)	0	(64,324)
GAC subtotal	(119,907)	30,282	(89,625)	(20)	(89,645)	0	(89,645)
Total Voted Operating Expense	379,094	(38,727)	340,367	28,653	369,020	(2,246)	366,774
Percent Change by year			(10.2%)		8.4%		(0.6%)

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Three Year STOB Track

VOTE 31 - Direct Fire

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16
		Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change	Plan
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	30,954	(250)	30,704	(246)	30,458	0	30,458
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	4,247	0	4,247	0	4,247	0	4,247
52	Employee Benefits	7,119	250	7,369	246	7,615	0	7,615
GAC subtotal		42,320	0	42,320	0	42,320	0	42,320
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	1,261	0	1,261	0	1,261	0	1,261
59	Centralized Management Support Services	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	5,657	131	5,788	0	5,788	0	5,788
63	Information Systems - Operating	145	0	145	0	145	0	145
65	Office and Business Expenses	577	0	577	0	577	0	577
67	Advertising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	149	0	149	0	149	0	149
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	7,882	0	7,882	0	7,882	0	7,882
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	20,465	0	20,465	0	20,465	0	20,465
72	Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Transfers & Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	Amortization Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75	Building Occupancy Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAC subtotal		37,136	131	37,267	0	37,267	0	37,267
77	Transfers - Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
80	Transfers Under Agreement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAC subtotal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
81	Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85*	Water Remissions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85	Other Expenses	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
GAC subtotal		0	1	1	0	1	0	1
86	Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	0	(1,800)	(1,800)	0	(1,800)	0	(1,800)
88	Recoveries - Within CRF	(1,670)	1,669	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)
89	Recoveries - Within GRE	0	(1)	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)
90	Recoveries - External	(14,621)	0	(14,621)	0	(14,621)	0	(14,621)
GAC subtotal		(16,291)	(132)	(16,423)	0	(16,423)	0	(16,423)
Total Voted Operating Expense		63,165	0	63,165	0	63,165	0	63,165

Percent Change by year

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Three Year STOB Track BC Timber Sales Special Account

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2012/13	Change	2013/14	Change	2014/15	Change	2015/16 Plan
	Restated		Estimates		Plan		
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	17,843	(1,593)	16,250	(130)	16,120	0	16,120
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	303	0	303	0	303	0	303
52 Employee Benefits	4,104	(204)	3,900	130	4,030	0	4,030
GAC subtotal	22,250	(1,797)	20,453	0	20,453	0	20,453
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	549	0	549	0	549	0	549
59 Centralized Management Support Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	44,536	(1,855)	42,681	8,359	51,040	490	51,530
63 Information Systems - Operating	579	0	579	0	579	0	579
65 Office and Business Expenses	590	0	590	0	590	0	590
67 Advertising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	20	0	20	0	20	0	20
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	641	209	850	0	850	0	850
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	1,340	0	1,340	0	1,340	0	1,340
72 Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Transfers & Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
73 Amortization Expenses	30,400	(500)	29,900	100	30,000	(500)	29,500
75 Building Occupancy Charges	30	0	30	0	30	0	30
GAC subtotal	78,685	(2,146)	76,539	8,459	84,998	(10)	84,988
77 Transfers - Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
80 Transfers Under Agreement	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
GAC subtotal	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	12,000	(2,316)	9,684	20	9,704	0	9,704
84 Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85* Water Remissions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85 Other Expenses	46,101	10,815	56,916	(7,294)	49,622	325	49,947
GAC subtotal	58,101	8,499	66,600	(7,274)	59,326	325	59,651
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(1)	(5,799)	(5,800)	0	(5,800)	0	(5,800)
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90 Recoveries - External	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)
GAC subtotal	(3)	(5,799)	(5,802)	0	(5,802)	0	(5,802)
Total Voted Operating Expense	159,034	(1,243)	157,791	1,185	158,976	315	159,291
Percent Change by year			(0.8%)		0.8%		0.2%

BC Timber Sales Special Account

	2012/13 Estimates	2012/13 Actuals	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Planned	2015/16 Planned
CURRENT PLAN					
Revenue	178,115	175,134	187,320	191,200	194,600
Expense	(159,034)	(150,586)	(157,791)	(158,976)	(159,291)
Net Revenue (Expense)	19,081	24,548	29,529	32,224	35,309
PREVIOUS PLAN					
Revenue	178,115	175,134	187,309	191,160	191,160
Expense	(159,034)	(150,586)	(151,928)	(158,991)	(158,991)
Net Revenue (Expense)	19,081	24,548	35,381	32,169	32,169

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Three Year STOB Track Crown Land Special Account

\$ 000s

		2012/13		2013/14	2014/15		2015/16	
STOB Expenses		Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change	Plan
77	Transfers - Grants	76,506	(8,297)	68,209	(56,956)	11,253	0	11,253
GAC subtotal		76,506	(8,297)	68,209	(56,956)	11,253	0	11,253
85	Other Expenses	20	0	20	0	20	0	20
GAC subtotal		20	0	20	0	20	0	20
90	Recoveries - External	(76,506)	8,297	(68,209)	56,956	(11,253)	0	(11,253)
GAC subtotal		(76,506)	8,297	(68,209)	56,956	(11,253)	0	(11,253)
Total Voted Operating Expense		20	0	20	0	20	0	20

Percent Change by year

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Forest Stand Management Fund Special Account

\$ 000s

				2012/13		2013/14			2014/15	2015/16
STOB Expenses				Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change	Plan
50	Base Salaries and Overtime		533	(4)	529	(4)	525	0	525	
52	Employee Benefits		123	4	127	4	131	0	131	
GAC subtotal			656	0	656	0	656	0	656	
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses		10	0	10	0	10	0	10	
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory		4,454	0	4,454	0	4,454	0	4,454	
63	Information Systems - Operating		10	0	10	0	10	0	10	
65	Office and Business Expenses		40	0	40	0	40	0	40	
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies		150	0	150	0	150	0	150	
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp		138	0	138	0	138	0	138	
GAC subtotal			4,802	0	4,802	0	4,802	0	4,802	
90	Recoveries - External		(5,458)	0	(5,458)	0	(5,458)	0	(5,458)	
GAC subtotal			(5,458)	0	(5,458)	0	(5,458)	0	(5,458)	
Total Voted Operating Expense				0	0	0	0	0	0	

Percent Change by year

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – 2013/14 Budget Briefing Book

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2012 PLAN

CAPITAL

\$000s

	2012/13 Estimates	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Plan	2015/16 Plan
February 2012 Plan				
Vote 27 - Ministry Operations	27,723	28,038	25,807	25,807
BC Timber Sales Special Account	27,500	27,400	23,800	23,800
Total February 2012 Plan	55,223	55,438	49,607	49,607
Year-to-year change		215	(5,831)	-
Inter Ministry Transfers				
	-	-	-	-
Total Inter Ministry Transfers	-	-	-	-
Budget Lifts and Reductions				
TB Adjustments to Ministry Operations		1,914	-	(2,040)
TB Adjustments to BC Timber Sales		1,400	4,200	5,900
(see Capital Allocation sheet for details)	-	3,314	4,200	3,860
Change from 2012/13 Service Plan	-	3,314	4,200	3,860
	-	6.0%	8.5%	7.8%
Capital Budget Targets - February 2013 Plan	2012/13 Restated Estimates	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Plan	2015/16 Plan
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	27,723	29,952	25,807	23,767
BC Timber Sales Special Account	27,500	28,800	28,000	29,700
TOTAL BUDGET TARGETS	55,223	58,752	53,807	53,467
Change in 2013/14 Service Plan		3,529	(4,945)	(340)
		6.4%	(8.4%)	(0.6%)

Table 19

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - 2012/13 Estimates Briefing
3 Year Budget - Capital Overview
2012/13 to 2015/16

\$ 000s							
Asset Category	2012/13 Restated	Change	2013/14 Estimates	Change	2014/15 Plan	Change	2015/16 Plan
Min Ops - Buildings	6,648	(4,808)	1,840	(100)	1,740	(1,740)	-
Min Ops - Specialized Equipment	1,161	352	1,513	(670)	843	-	843
Min Ops - Office Furniture/Equipment	18	-	18	-	18	-	18
Min Ops - Vehicles	438	6,174	6,612	723	7,335	-	7,335
Min Ops - Info Technology	3,956	(851)	3,105	(2,805)	300	(300)	-
Min Ops - Roads	11,842	1,158	13,000	300	13,300	-	13,300
Min Ops - Land Improvements	3,660	204	3,864	(1,593)	2,271	-	2,271
Total Voted Appropriation	27,723	2,229	29,952	(4,145)	25,807	(2,040)	23,767
BCTS - Specialized Equipment	161	(11)	150	-	150	-	150
BCTS - Info Technology	490	(140)	350	-	350	-	350
BCTS - Roads	26,849	1,451	28,300	(800)	27,500	1,700	29,200
Total Special Account	27,500	1,300	28,800	(800)	28,000	1,700	29,700
MINISTRY TOTAL	55,223	3,529	58,752	(4,945)	53,807	(340)	53,467
TOTAL Percent Change by year			6.4%		(8.4%)		(0.6%)

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Revenue and Recoveries 2012/13 to 2015/16

	(\$000s)			
	Actuals 2012/13	Estimates 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Forecast 2015/16
BC Timber Sales				
Upset Stumpage	97,166	108,852	110,940	112,980
Bonus Stumpage	70,190	72,568	73,960	75,320
Harvesting Rental & Fees	115	100	100	100
Waste	5,478	4,595	4,995	4,995
Penalties	469	400	400	400
Miscellaneous	1,706	800	800	800
Foreign Exchange Gain/Loss	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Recovery of Prior Year's Expenses	2	1	1	1
Miscellaneous - FIA	9	6	6	6
Subtotal - BC Timber Sales	175,134	187,320	191,200	194,600
Timber Tenures				
Stumpage (Incl. Timber Licences)	208,083	275,083	299,517	324,060
Harvesting Rental & Fees	16,535	17,000	17,000	17,000
Subtotal - Timber Tenures	224,618	292,083	316,517	341,060
Other Forests Revenue				
Timber Export Fees	8,444	7,000	7,000	7,000
Range Permits & Fees	1,794	1,800	1,800	1,800
Waste	2,072	3,000	3,000	3,000
Penalties	53	100	100	100
Interest	1,143	1,500	1,550	1,600
Miscellaneous	1,054	1,250	1,250	1,250
Softwood Lumber Border Tax	109,516	64,827	100,523	108,498
Subtotal - Other Forests Revenue	124,076	79,477	115,223	123,248
Non Ministry Forest Revenue (Logging Tax)	15,700	20,000	20,000	20,000
Non Ministry Forest Revenue (Recoveries)	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Forest Revenue	553,528	592,880	656,940	692,908

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Revenue and Recoveries 2012/13 to 2015/16

(\$000s)				
	Actuals 2012/13	Estimates 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Forecast 2015/16
Water Resources				
Water Licences - Major & minor producers	373,976	399,367	384,395	389,671
Water Licences BC Hydro Remission - Tier 3 revenue	28,719	27,525	24,432	25,303
Water Rentals - Local Authorities & General	7,387	7,175	7,175	7,175
	410,082	434,067	416,002	422,149
Recoveries	45,992	48,000	48,000	48,000
Subtotal - Water Resources	456,074	482,067	464,002	470,149
Wildlife Act Fees and Licenses				
Angling Permits and Licenses	3,567	4,000	4,000	4,000
Angling Surcharges Collected on Behalf of HCTF	3,472	3,100	3,100	3,100
Hunting Permits and Licenses	9,615	9,200	9,200	9,200
Hunting Surcharges Collected on Behalf of HCTF	2,523	2,900	2,900	2,900
Surcharges Paid to HCTF	(5,995)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
	13,182	13,200	13,200	13,200
Recoveries	9,035	7,000	7,000	7,000
Subtotal - Wildlife Act Fees and Licences	22,217	20,200	20,200	20,200
Motor Vehicle Licenses and Permits				
Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act	26	19	19	19
Commissions	(26)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Subtotal - Motor Vehicle Licences	0	0	0	0
Land Tenure Fees				
Land Registry Fees	26,022	25,000	25,000	25,000
Real Estate Earnings of the Crown Land SA				
Land Tenure Revenue	50,357	43,428	43,530	43,634
Land Sales Revenue	5,982	70,942	30,935	72,395
Land Sales Project Costs	(616)	(2,046)	(799)	(2,351)
Other Income & Interest earned	2,366	1,176	1,176	1,176
Land Royalty Revenue	11,142	9,504	9,551	9,687
Less provisions for doubtful accounts (CLSA)	(33)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Subtotal - CLSA Real Estate Earnings	69,198	123,003	84,392	124,540

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Revenue and Recoveries 2012/13 to 2015/16

	(\$000s)			
	Actuals 2012/13	Estimates 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Forecast 2015/16
Other Fees and Licences				
Board and Meal Tickets	0	0	0	0
Sale of Maps and Air Photos	2	2	2	2
Miscellaneous Fees, Licenses & Permits (Water)	550	550	550	550
Subtotal - Other Fees and Licences	552	552	552	552
Fines and Penalties				
Water violations	0	5	5	5
Other Miscellaneous Revenue				
Sale of Maps and Air Photos				
Foreign Exchange Gains/Losses	25	25	25	25
Prior Year's Expense Recovery	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Surveyor General's & Other Miscellaneous	300	300	300	300
Less Allowance for Doubtful Accounts (misc rev)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Subtotal - Other Miscellaneous Revenue	1,474	1,474	1,474	1,474
Other Natural Resource Revenue	575,537	652,301	595,625	641,920
Total - Forest, Lands & Natural Resource Operations	1,129,065	1,245,181	1,252,565	1,334,828

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2013/2014 Budget Briefing

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector

Staff Classification by Core Business

Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

Classification	Total	FLNR	CSNR
Administrative Coordinator	1	1	
Applied Leadership	64	23	41
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd B	7	3	4
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd C	3	3	
Band A	2	2	
Band B	1	1	
Business Leadership	293	249	44
Deputy Minister	1	1	
Executive Administrative Asst	10	7	3
Senior Executive Assistant	1	1	
Strategic Leadership	54	46	8
Excluded Positions Sub-Total	437	337	100
Aboriginal Youth Intern Prog	1	1	0
Administrative Officer R14	48	30	18
Administrative Officer R18	39	27	12
Administrative Officer R21	29	20	9
Administrative Officer R24	29	26	3
Administrative Officer R27	10	10	
Administrative Officer R30	1	1	
Administrative Officer Sub-Total	156	114	42
Biologist R21	5	5	
Biologist R24	97	97	
Biologist R27	44	44	
Biologist R30	15	15	
Biologist Sub-Total	161	161	0
Clerk R11	172	124	48
Clerk R14	69	57	12
Clerk R9	270	237	33
Clerk Stenographer R11	7	6	1
Clerk Stenographer R14	1	1	
Clerk Stenographer R9	19	16	3
Clerk and Clerk Stenographer Sub-Total	538	441	97
Communications Officer R14	2	2	
Communications Officer R18	9	8	1
Communications Officer R21	1	1	
Communications Officer Sub-Total	12	11	1
Economist R30	4	4	
Economist R27	1	1	
Economist Sub-Total	5	5	0

**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector**

Staff Classification by Core Business

Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

Classification	Total	FLNR	CSNR
Financial Officer (TMA) R24	4	3	1
Financial Officer (TMA) R27	1	1	
Financial Officer R14	19	3	16
Financial Officer R18	62	11	51
Financial Officer R21	22	2	20
Financial Officer R24	5	3	2
Financial Officer R27	1	1	
Financial Officer Sub-Total	114	24	90
Food Production (Camp Cook) R9	1	1	0
Forest Technician R7	753	753	0
Heritage Resources Officer R18	1	1	
Heritage Resources Officer R24	4	4	
Heritage Resources Officer R27	2	2	
Heritage Resources Officer R30	1	1	
Heritage Resources Officer Sub-Total	8	8	0
Information Systems R18	25	1	24
Information Systems R21	24		24
Information Systems R24	41	1	40
Information Systems R27	33	1	32
Information Systems R30	25		25
Information Systems Sub-Total	148	3	145
Labourer R6	8	8	0
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 1	2	2	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 2	32	32	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 3	27	27	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 4	11	11	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 5	4	4	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 1	1	1	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 3	10	10	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 4	8	7	1
Licensed Sc Off Forester 1	4	4	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 2	233	233	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 3	233	232	1
Licensed Sc Off Forester 4	57	57	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 5	6	6	
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 3	2	2	
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 4	2	2	
Licensed Sc Off Other 1	3	3	
Licensed Sc Off Other 2	47	47	
Licensed Sc Off Other 3	38	38	
Licensed Sc Off Other 4	8	8	

Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

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**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector**

Staff Classification by Core Business

Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

Classification	Total	FLNR	CSNR
Scientific/Technical Off R30	4	4	
Scientific/Technical Officer Sub-Total	1510	1507	3
Stockworker R11	1	1	
Stockworker R9	14	14	
Stockworker Sub-Total	15	15	0
Tech Enforcement Officer R18	21	21	
Tech Enforcement Officer R21	19	19	
Tech Enforcement Officer R24	1	1	
Tech Enforcement Officer R27	1	1	
Tech Enforcement Officer Sub-Total	42	42	0
TJ Mechanic Lt Vehicle & Eqpt	2	2	0
TL Electronics Radio Commun	18		18
TS Electronics Radio Commun	1		1
TSS Electronics Radio Commun	2		2
Electronics Radio Commun Sub-Total	21	0	21
Utility Worker R11	1	1	0
Veterinary Specialist	1	1	0
Grand Total	4809	4305	504

2013/2014 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

Classification	Grand Total												CSNR					CSNR Total
		Minister's Office	Deputy Minister's Office	Corporate Initiatives	Integrated Resource Operations	Regional Operations - Coast Area	Regional Operations - North Area	Regional Operations - South Area	Resource Stewardship	Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	Timber Operations and Pricing	FLNR Total	ADM's Office	Client Services Branch	Financial Services Branch	Information Management Branch	People and Workplace Strategies	
Administrative Coordinator	1	1										1						
Applied Leadership	64		1	4	4	3	1	5	2		3	23	3	16	7		15	41
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd B	7				1		1	1				3	4					4
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd C	3					1			1		1	3						
Band A	2	2										2						
Band B	1	1										1						
Business Leadership	293		1	13	37	34	40	42	21	14	47	249		20	8	9	7	44
Deputy Minister	1		1									1						
Executive Administrative Asst	10				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	3					3
Senior Executive Assistant	1		1									1						
Strategic Leadership	54			1	9	3	7	5	10	5	6	46		1	4	1	2	8
Excluded Positions Sub-Total	437	4	4	18	52	42	50	54	35	20	58	337	10	37	19	10	24	100
Aboriginal Youth Intern Prog	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative Officer R14	48		1		7	6	6	8	1		1	30		17			1	18
Administrative Officer R18	39		1	1	4		2	3	5	6	5	27		11		1		12
Administrative Officer R21	29				8	1	5	3	1		2	20	1	5	3			9
Administrative Officer R24	29			4	5	1	1	3	5	6	1	26		2	1			3
Administrative Officer R27	10				3		1		3	1	2	10						
Administrative Officer R30	1								1			1						
Administrative Officer Sub-Total	156	0	2	5	27	8	15	17	15	14	11	114	1	35	4	1	1	42
Biologist R21	5					1	2		2			5						
Biologist R24	97					30	25	38	4			97						
Biologist R27	44					9	9	16	10			44						
Biologist R30	15					3	4	8				15						
Biologist Sub-Total	161	0	0	0	0	43	40	62	16	0	0	161	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clerk R11	172		3		7	16	22	24	10	1	41	124		34	11	2	1	48
Clerk R14	69			1	29	3	11	8	1	2	2	57		5	5	1	1	12
Clerk R9	270	1	5	2	130	32	23	35	8		1	237		30	2	1		33
Clerk Stenographer R11	7				2	1			3			6				1		1
Clerk Stenographer R14	1					1						1						
Clerk Stenographer R9	19					3		2	6	3	2	16		1	2			3
Clerk and Clerk Stenographer Sub-Total	538	1	8	3	168	56	56	69	28	6	46	441	0	70	20	5	2	97
Communications Officer R14	2		2									2						
Communications Officer R18	9		1	2	5							8	1					1
Communications Officer R21	1				1							1						
Communications Officer Sub-Total	12	0	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	1
Economist R30	4									4		4						
Economist R27	1									1		1						
Economist Sub-Total	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Officer (TMA) R24	4								1		2	3			1			1
Financial Officer (TMA) R27	1										1	1						
Financial Officer R14	19					1					2	3		11	5			16
Financial Officer R18	62				1						10	11		38	13			51
Financial Officer R21	22				1						1	2		4	16			20
Financial Officer R24	5				1		1	1				3			2			2
Financial Officer R27	1								1			1						
Financial Officer Sub-Total	114	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	2	0	16	24	0	53	37	0	0	90
Food Production (Camp Cook) R9	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Technician R7	753	0	0	0	737	0	0	0	16	0	0	753	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heritage Resources Officer R18	1				1							1						
Heritage Resources Officer R24	4				4							4						
Heritage Resources Officer R27	2				2							2						

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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Heritage Resources Officer R30	1				1							1						
Heritage Resources Officer Sub-Total	8	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Systems R18	25								1			1			1	23		24
Information Systems R21	24															24		24
Information Systems R24	41									1		1			1	39		40
Information Systems R27	33									1		1			1	31		32
Information Systems R30	25															25		25
Information Systems Sub-Total	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	3	142	0	145
Labourer R6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 1	2							2				2						
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 2	32					8	5	18	1			32						
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 3	27				1		4	18	2	1	1	27						
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 4	11					2	2	5	1	1		11						
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 5	4							3		1		4						
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 1	1										1	1						
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 3	10					2	2	3		3		10						
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 4	8				1	2	2	1			1	7				1		1
Licensed Sc Off Forester 1	4						3				1	4						
Licensed Sc Off Forester 2	233			2	20	25	32	38	1		115	233						
Licensed Sc Off Forester 3	233			2	14	25	37	48	46	4	56	232				1		1
Licensed Sc Off Forester 4	57			3	2	5	5	5	24	8	5	57						
Licensed Sc Off Forester 5	6						1		5			6						
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 3	2						1	1				2						
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 4	2					1			1			2						
Licensed Sc Off Other 1	3					2	1					3						
Licensed Sc Off Other 2	47				3	8	14	21			1	47						
Licensed Sc Off Other 3	38				1	8	15	13		1		38						
Licensed Sc Off Other 4	8					4		3	1			8						
LSO 3 -Designated Profssnl Eng	29				2	4	1	5	5		12	29						
LSO 4 -Designated Profssnl Eng	11					2		4	1		4	11						
LSO 5 -Designated Profssnl Eng	3								2		1	3						
Licensed Science Officer Sub-Total	771	0	0	7	44	98	125	188	90	19	198	769	0	0	0	2	0	2
Machine Operator R11	2											2		2				2
Machine Operator R13	5				3				2			5						
Machine Operator R9	3								3			3						
Machine Operator Sub-Total	10	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	0	2
Office Assistant R7	47	0	0	0	36	0	4	1	4	0	1	46	0	1	0	0	0	1
Park Assistant R7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning Officer R24	3					2		1				3						
Planning Officer R27	19			1		5	2	6	4	1		19						
Planning Officer R30	2							1	1			2						
Planning Officer Sub-Total	24	0	0	1	0	7	2	8	5	1	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy Analyst - Economics R27	2									2		2						
Policy Analyst - Science R27	5			3						2		5						
Policy Social/Info/Health R27	2			2								2						
Policy Analyst Sub-Total	9	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research Officer R18	3								1		2	3						
Research Officer R21	3			1	1						1	3						
Research Officer R24	2				1				1			2						
Research Officer R27	4								2	1	1	4						
Research Officer Sub-Total	12	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	1	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science Officer R30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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													ADM's Office	Client Services Branch	Financial Services Branch	Information Management Branch	People and Workplace Strategies	
Scientific/Tech Off R11 - Res	3							3				3						
Scientific/Tech Off R13 - Res	264				259						5	264						
Scientific/Tech Off R15 - Res	26				7	4	2	4	2		7	26						
Scientific/Tech Off R18 - Res	434				203	26	30	47	14		114	434						
Scientific/Tech Off R21 - Res	190				94	9	11	17	2		55	188				2		2
Scientific/Tech Off R24 - Res	160				88	12	21	27	4		8	160						
Scientific/Tech Off R27 - Res	56				27	4	13	4	3		5	56						
Scientific/Tech Off R30 - Res	3				1		1	1				3						
Scientific/Technical Off R11	3							3				3						
Scientific/Technical Off R13	2					1		1				2						
Scientific/Technical Off R15	15					5	4	4			2	15						
Scientific/Technical Off R18	54				6	5	8	18	3		14	54						
Scientific/Technical Off R21	146				21	16	22	24	4		58	145		1				1
Scientific/Technical Off R24	120				21	30	19	30	5		15	120						
Scientific/Technical Off R27	30				8	2	8	3	3		6	30						
Scientific/Technical Off R30	4				1		1	1	1			4						
Scientific/Technical Officer Sub-Total	1510	0	0	0	736	114	140	187	41	0	289	1507	0	1	0	2	0	3
Stockworker R11	1				1							1						
Stockworker R9	14				14							14						
Stockworker Sub-Total	15	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tech Enforcement Officer R18	21					9	3	9				21						
Tech Enforcement Officer R21	19					4	6	9				19						
Tech Enforcement Officer R24	1										1	1						
Tech Enforcement Officer R27	1										1	1						
Tech Enforcement Officer Sub-Total	42	0	0	0	0	13	9	18	0	0	2	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
TJ Mechanic Lt Vehicle & Eqpt	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TL Electronics Radio Commun	18															18		18
TS Electronics Radio Commun	1															1		1
TSS Electronics Radio Commun	2															2		2
Electronics Radio Commun Sub-Total	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	21
Utility Worker R11	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterinary Specialist	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	4809	5	17	42	1843	382	442	605	272	72	625	4305	12	199	83	183	27	504

2013/2014 Budget Briefing

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector

Staff by Location

Report based on CHIPS data as of June 15, 2013

Location	Total	FLNR	CSNR
100 Mile House	57	57	
Abbotsford	1	1	
Alexis Creek	31	31	
Bella Coola	4	4	
Black Creek	1	1	
Burns Lake	86	86	
Campbell River	91	90	1
Cassiar	1	1	
Castlegar	158	155	3
Chetwynd	11	11	
Chilliwack	30	30	
Clearwater	31	31	
Courtenay	9	9	
Cranbrook	150	145	5
Cultus Lake	63	63	
Dawson Creek	83	82	1
Dease Lake	3	3	
Duncan	5	5	
Fort Nelson	31	31	
Fort St. James	42	41	1
Fort St. John	106	101	5
Golden	3	3	
Grand Forks	23	23	
Hope	1	1	
Houston	20	20	
Invermere	21	21	
Kamloops	427	392	35
Lillooet	41	41	
Lytton	19	19	
Mackenzie	73	73	
McBride	5	5	
Merritt	121	121	
Mesachie Lake	6	5	1
Nakusp	10	10	
Nanaimo	153	135	18
Nelson	95	87	8
New Westminster	1	1	
Parksville	72	72	
Pemberton	3	3	

**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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Staff by Location

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Location	Total	FLNR	CSNR
Penticton	49	47	2
Port Alberni	39	39	
Port Coquitlam	1	1	
Port McNeill	68	68	
Powell River	41	40	1
Prince George	292	265	27
Prince Rupert	2	2	
Princeton	1	1	
Queen Charlotte City	25	25	
Quesnel	73	73	
Revelstoke	90	90	
Rosedale	48	47	1
Saanichton	10	8	2
Salmon Arm	53	53	
Sechelt	11	11	
Sidney	1	1	
Smithers	197	190	7
Squamish	74	74	
Surrey	120	107	13
Tappen	8	8	
Terrace	84	84	
Valemont	12	12	
Vancouver	2	2	
Vanderhoof	96	95	1
Vernon	156	154	2
Victoria	934	571	363
Williams Lake	234	227	7
Grand Total	4809	4305	504