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Ministry of Forests

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MINISTRY OF FORESTS 2022/23 Budget Highlights

OPERATING BUDGET: (\$832.516 M - an increase of \$44.842 M or 5.7 % from 2021/22 Restated)

The Ministry operating budget changes include;

In Plan Changes - (\$29.826M)

- o \$0.119 M Net increase in Ministry Operations based on: \$0.102 M approved lift for implementation of joint submission between the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Forests and \$0.017 M approved budget lift to the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- o No changes to the Fire Management vote.
- o (\$29.945 M) Net decrease in BC Timber Sales. In plan 22/23 costs were lower than 21/22 restated costs as they were based on previous year's costs of goods sold expenses.

Inter-Ministry Program Transfers - (\$100.187M)

- o See Inter-Ministry Program Transfer worksheet for specific details on individual transfers

Add to Plan Changes - \$74.668 M :

- o \$6.790M approved budget lift for Clean BC
- o \$3.149M approved budget lift Climate Program and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS)
- o \$2.852M approved budget lift for Engineering work coordinated through the BC Wildfire Services
- o \$0.551M approved budget lift for Legal Services costs
- o \$57.975M approved budget lift to the Fire Management Vote
- o \$2.871M increase to align the BC Timber Sales budget with their Performance Targets and Resource Requirements
- o \$0.480M increase to the Crown Land Special Account to align the with the approved 5 year expense forecast submission

CAPITAL BUDGET: \$79.182 M (an increase of \$0.519M or 0.7% from 2021/22 Restated)

- o **Ministry Capital budgets are estimated on an annual basis based on requirements submitted and prioritized across government**

In Plan Changes - (\$6.807 M)

- o (\$5.600M) decrease for Wildfire facilities projects due to completion in 2021/22.
- o (\$0.295 M) decrease in funding requirements for vehicle replacements.
- o (\$0.087 M) decrease in Land Improvements due to expiration of funding in Campsite Expansion project.
- o (\$0.825 M) BCTS in plan 22/23 costs were lower than 21/22 restated costs based on anticipated decrease in road building activity

Inter-Ministry Program Transfers -

- o \$0.087M Land Improvement transfer amount to Environment and Climate Change in restated year was higher than 2022/23 amount

Total Plan Changes - \$0.7.239 M :

- o \$7.220 M increase for Wildfire facilities due to TB decision
- o \$5.310 M increase for Vehicles due to TB decision
- o \$2.050 M increase for Wildfire Specialized Equipment due to TB decision
- o \$1.014 M increase for Specialized Equipment due to TB decision
- o (\$8.355 M) reduction is due to a decrease in road building based on an anticipated decrease in the sale of timber and timber volumes harvested under the BC Timber Sales Special Account

FTEs and Staffing

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

Staff - TBD Complement of staff at January 1, 2021 was 4,183 (3,838 FLNR and 345 Corporate services staff supporting the natural resource ministries), however this will change throughout the year, particularly in field and fire season when an additional 1,200 - 1,400 staff will be hired on a temporary basis.

**Ministry of Forests
2022/23 Budget Briefing**

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2021 PLAN

OPERATING

\$000s

	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
A April 2021 Plan				
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	517,715	517,834	517,852	517,852
Vote 31 - Fire Management	136,310	136,310	136,310	136,310
BC Timber Sales Special Account	233,816	203,871	199,835	199,835
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total April 2021 Plan	887,861	858,035	854,017	854,017
<i>Year-to-year change in 2021/22 Service Plan</i>		<i>(29,826)</i>	<i>(4,018)</i>	-
B Inter Ministry Transfers				
See Inter-Ministry Transfers worksheet for details	(100,187)	(100,187)	(100,187)	(100,187)
Total Inter Ministry Transfers	(100,187)	(100,187)	(100,187)	(100,187)
C Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Lift for Clean BC		6,790	6,792	6,795
Lift for Climate Program and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS)		3,149	4,932	4,992
Roads maintenance budget lift within Ministry Operations		2,852	2,852	2,852
Legal Services budget lift within Ministry Operations		551	551	551
Fire Management Vote budget lift		57,975	63,225	63,225
Lift to BCTS to align with their Performance Targets and Resource Requirements		2,871	13,165	32,226
Lift to Crown Land Special Account		480	480	480
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	74,668	91,997	111,121
Total Transfers and Adjustments	787,674	832,516	845,827	864,951
<i>Change from 2022/23 Service Plan</i>	(100,187)	(25,519)	(8,190)	10,934
	(11.3%)	(3.0%)	(1.0%)	1.3%
D February 2022 Plan				
Vote XX - Ministry Operations	417,528	430,989	432,792	432,855
Vote XX - Fire Management	136,310	194,285	199,535	199,535
BC Timber Sales Special Account	233,816	206,742	213,000	232,061
Crown Land Special Account	20	500	500	500
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total February 2022 Plan	787,674	832,516	845,827	864,951
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2022/23 Service Plan</i>		44,842	13,311	19,124
		5.7%	1.6%	2.3%

Footnote(s):

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THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2021 PLAN

CAPITAL								
\$000s								
		2021/22 Estimates	#	2022/23 Estimates	#	2023/24 Plan	#	2024/25 Plan
A April 2021 Plan								
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations		29,808		23,826		23,826		23,826
Vote 31 - Fire Management		525		525		525		525
BC Timber Sales Special Account		49,851		49,026		46,686		46,686
Total April 2021 Plan		80,184		73,377		71,037		71,037
<i>Year-to-year change in 2021/22 Service Plan</i>				(6,807)		(2,340)		-
B Intra-Ministry Transfers								
Transfer to Environment - Rec.Sites and Trails		(1,521)		(1,434)		(1,434)		(1,434)
		-						
Total-Intra Ministry Transfers		(1,521)		(1,434)		(1,434)		(1,434)
Budget Lifts and Reductions								
Budget lift for BC Wildfire Facilities				7,220		6,650		6,650
Budget lift for Specialized Equipment				1,014		1,014		1,014
Budget lift for Vehicles				5,310		41		41
Budget lift for Specialized Equipment- Fire Mgmt				2,050		2,050		2,050
Decrease to BCTS Roads to align with their Performance Targets and Resource Requirements				(8,355)		(2,930)		(3,757)
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions		-		7,239		6,825		5,998
Total Transfers and Adjustments		78,663		79,182		76,428		75,601
<i>Change from 2022/23 Service Plan</i>		(1,521)		5,805		5,391		4,564
		(1.9%)		7.9%		7.6%		6.4%
		2021/22 Restated Estimates	#	2022/23 Estimates	#	2023/24 Plan	#	2024/25 Plan
C February 2022 Plan								
Vote XX - Ministry Operations		28,287		35,936		30,097		30,097
Vote XX - Fire Management		525		2,575		2,575		2,575
BC Timber Sales Special Account		49,851		40,671		43,756		42,929
Total April 2021 Plan		78,663		79,182		76,428		75,601
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2021/22 Service Plan</i>				519		(2,754)		(827)
				0.7%		(3.5%)		(1.1%)

Footnote(s):

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Issue: Budget 2022 Summary

Recommended Response:

The Ministry budget for 2022/23 is \$832.516M, representing an increase of 5.7 percent (\$44.8M) from the 2021/22 restated estimates¹.

The increase is mainly the result of funding increases to Fire Management (\$57.98M); Ministry Operations (\$13.46M); Crown Land Special Account increase to reflect the approved five-year expense forecast (\$0.48M) and offset by a decrease to expected BC Timber Sales expenditures (-\$27.1M) (see *chart below*).

Key Facts:

	2021/22 Restated Estimates (000s)	2022/23 Estimates (000s)	Diff +/-
Ministry Operations - increase includes: \$6.79M – Clean BC \$3.15M – Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy \$2.85M – Engineering Forest Service Road work for Wildfire support \$0.67M – Minor administrative and legal services costs	417,528	430,989	13,460
Fire Management	136,310	194,285	57,980
BC Timber Sales Special Account	233,816	206,742	-27,100
Crown Land Special Account	20	500	480
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	
Total	787,674	832,516	44,842
Percent Change		5.7%	

Date Prepared/Revised: January 26, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sonja Martins

Phone: (250) 889-1774

Program Contact for Issue:

Name: Melissa Kortum

Phone: (250) 698-0401

¹ The Ministry transferred total budgets of \$100.817M to other ministries as part of the Natural Resource Sector restructuring. This change is captured in the restated estimates for 2021/22 fiscal year to allow for a year over year budget comparison. See separate note for full details of the transfers.

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Issue: BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

Recommend Response:

- The Ministry of Forests has been provided funding through the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) led by the Ministry of Environment.
- A total of \$13.073M in new funding over three years was approved to:
 - support the implementation of the BC Flood Strategy;
 - increase the Ministry's climate science capacity and expertise to develop a Ministry Climate Adaptation Policy Framework, and to provide climate change projections and impacts data for decision-makers and researchers; and,
 - improve understanding of the risks to provincial resource roads and increase their climate resilience.
- The new funding will provide foundational science, data, and capacity for climate change adaptation and fill critical gaps in expertise.

Key Facts:

Over three years, \$13.073M of new funding will be provided to implement CPAS actions in the following areas:

Table 1: Approved annual budget increases by program area (\$Millions)

Program Area	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	3-yr Total
Flood Strategy and drought resilience	0.706	1.102	1.162	2.970
Increase FLNR climate change capacity and expertise	2.000	3.000	3.000	8.000
Geohazard risks and increases to the climate resilience of provincial resource roads	0.443	0.830	0.830	2.103
Annual Total	3.149	4.932	4.992	13.073

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BC Flood Strategy and drought resilience (\$2.97M)

- Develop and lead the ongoing application of provincial flood mapping guidelines to inform flood management across BC, to improve operational flood and drought forecasting capabilities, and to strengthen drought response.
- In addition, there will be \$11.991M over three years of access to Contingencies Vote, subject to Cabinet direction on the BC Flood Strategy.

Increase the Ministry's climate change capacity and expertise

- \$8.000M over three years to increase the Ministry's climate change capacity and expertise.
- Develop a Ministry Climate Adaptation Policy Framework and to provide user friendly, accessible climate projections for decision-makers and researchers.
- With this funding, projections of climate impacts relevant for consideration in forest, species, and ecosystem planning and management will be produced through a new Ecosystem Forecast Centre.

Geohazard risks and increases to the climate resilience of provincial resource roads

- \$2.103M over three years to establish provincial leadership on geohazards research and assessment, including mitigation of climate-driven geohazards such as landslides that can disrupt transportation corridors and communities.
- The new funding will also be used to establish and implement new standards and codes for resource roads that integrate consideration of climate change.

Date Prepared/Revised: January 24, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julie MacDougall

Phone: 250-880-0890

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Issue: BC Wildfire Service Budget Uplift

Recommend Response:

- The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is responsible for managing wildfires (response, recovery, prevention and mitigation) and providing emergency response (boots on the ground) to all other natural hazards, such as floods.
- B.C.'s approach to wildfire continues the shift to a proactive approach to fire management that encompasses all four pillars of emergency management (prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery).
- In Budget 2022, the Fire Management Vote increases to \$194.285M in 2022/23 and to \$199.535M for 2023/24 and ongoing. This equals a total investment of \$184.425M over the three-year fiscal plan.

Fire Management Vote (\$M)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Budget 2021	136.310	Government Financial Information	
Budget 2022 Increase			
- Wildfire Risk Reduction	20.000		
- Internal Resourcing (staffing, training and other tools)	37.975		
Budget 2022 Total	194.285		

The substantial investment will enable:

- Improve wildfire risk reduction on Crown Land by investing over \$60M over three years.
- Increasing Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning Program.
- To add staff capacity

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- Improve training and modernize firefighting equipment,
- Respond to all natural hazards 12 months of the year,
- Develop innovative tools and technologies to provide decision-makers with the best information to make quick decisions and to provide the public with the most update to date information (e.g., public mobile app).
- Establish a community fire fighting model and support rural and indigenous communities to build capacity.
- Improve road access and egress in remote and indigenous communities
- The additional funding will assist B.C. in its continued objective to support its proactive approach to fire management and government will continue to manage wildfires on the land base.

Key Facts:

- Ten-year average costs are \$357M annually, however costs have ranged from \$134M in 2011 to \$712 M forecast for 2021.
- The severity and cost of wildfire seasons is unpredictable, as the level of activity and costs related to wildfire activities depend on weather conditions, the number of fires and where they burn.
- The Fire Management Vote includes statutory appropriation to spend what is required to fight wildfires. In the past, the impact of statutory wildfire suppression spending on government's fiscal plan has been offset by the forecast allowance in the budget, program savings by other areas of government, and/or higher than budgeted revenue.
- Funding for Fire Management Vote in the Estimates is a base amount, due to the significant variability in spending year-to-year. It is unnecessary to increase the budget "just in case" we have a bad fire season and potentially strand funds that could otherwise be available for other priorities.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mary Myers

Phone: 778 974-5707

Prepared for 2022/23 Estimates Debate

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Issue: BC Wildfire Year End Payments

Recommend Response:

- At the end of last fiscal (March 2022), \$90M was granted to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to support wildfire community capacity and response programming for the wildfire risk reduction program.
- Objectives of the program include:
 - Decreasing wildfire risk through continued partnerships with local governments and First Nations through UBCM,
 - Increasing community wildfire resiliency, and
 - Improving critical infrastructure to increase wildfire resiliency.
- This funding will ensure the program is sustainable over the next five to six years.
- UBCM, First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the province through BC FireSmart committee will work directly with the communities through implementing all seven disciplines of FireSmart including emergency planning, vegetation management, and training.

Key Facts:

- Since 2017, the government has invested over \$135M in wildfire risk reduction and wildfire resiliency programs. Through programs such as the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI), supported by BC Wildfire Service's Prevention program and administered through UBCM and FNESS, there has been a focus in community wildfire resiliency. The three core principles in wildfire resiliency are to maintain and enhance:
 - **community resiliency**, by mitigating the adverse impacts of wildfires to lives, property, critical infrastructure, and well-being;

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- **ecological resiliency**, by sustaining and enhancing ecological processes that are integral to ecosystem health; and
- **economic resiliency**, by mitigating the adverse impacts of wildfires on the ecosystem processes that produce natural resource values that sustain diverse local natural resource economies.

Date Prepared/Revised: January 27, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier, Executive Director

Phone: (250) 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mary Myers, Director Corporate Governance

Phone: (250) 507-9353

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Issue: BCTS 2021/22 Performance

Recommended Response:

- BCTS is a self-financing program within FLNRORD.
 - **Goal:** to provide credible representative cost and benchmark data for the Market Pricing System (MPS) through auctions of timber harvested from public land in BC.
 - **Objectives:**
 1. Sell the full BCTS apportionment over the business cycle, consistent with safe practices, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and sustainable forest management.
 2. Generate direct net revenue and indirect revenue for the Province over the business cycle.

2021/22 Performance Summary:

Key Performance Measure	Target	Projection	Variance
Annual Timber Volume Sold	10.9Mm3	5.9Mm3	(5.0Mm3) ¹
Annual Timber Volume Developed	12.0Mm3	9.5Mm3	(2.5Mm3) ²
Net Revenue	\$110.2M	\$184.1M	\$73.9M

¹ The government's old growth strategy has paused timber sales in identified areas adversely impacting volume sold production for the year.

² Development delays due to the government's old growth strategy combined with, reconciliation activities, and managing wildlife continue to adversely impacting production.

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- On average BCTS continues to achieve its goal of supporting the Market Pricing System by advertising over 20% of the planned provincial harvest volume for the year.
- Objective 1: There is a high likelihood this objective will not be achieved.

BCTS is projecting to only achieve 54% of its target for timber volume sold. Implementation of the government's Old Growth Strategy has significantly impacted BCTS' ability to sell timber this year. This combined with wildlife impacts, and delays related to reconciliation with indigenous peoples are the primary reasons for the shortfall.

2021/22 is the third year of the 5-year business cycle and BCTS. At the start of the year there was already a short fall in timber volume sold from 2019/20 and 2020/21. The Old Growth Strategy has paused a significant proportion of BCTS operations which will exacerbate the short fall. It is unlikely the shortfall will be rectified before the end of the business cycle March 31, 2024.

- Objective 2: BCTS is projecting to exceed its Net Revenue target for the year by about \$74M. The rates billed during the year were higher than expected as licensees took advantage of high lumber prices and continued to harvest high value timber.

Key Facts:

- BCTS continues to play a critical role in the forest sector and the economies of rural communities.
- Each year BCTS puts over \$170M directly into communities through tendering of its service contracts.
- Its activities also support over 7,000 direct and about 10,000 indirect well-paying jobs each year.
- Since inception in 2003, BCTS has:
 - ✓ sold over 200 million cubic metres of timber into the forest economy through competitive auctions;
 - ✓ grown over 1.1 billion trees to support future forests; and,

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- ✓ earned about \$1.8 billion in net revenue for the Province, the majority of which supported other government priorities such as education, health, parks and recreation.
- BCTS publishes quarterly and annual public performance reports. The 2021/22 Annual Performance Report will be available in late June 2022.

Date Prepared: January 24, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, DM

Phone: (250) 828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Robert Bigalke, Director Business, BCTS

Phone: (778) 974-5681

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Issue: BCTS 2022/23 Performance Targets

Recommend Response:

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is a self-financing program within the Ministry of Forests.

Goal: to provide credible representative cost and benchmark data for the Market Pricing System (MPS) through auctions of timber harvested from public land in BC.

Objectives:

1. Sell the full BCTS apportionment over the business cycle, consistent with safe practices, reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and sustainable forest management.
2. Generate direct net revenue and indirect revenue for the province over the business cycle.
3. Pursue continuous business improvements across government and with third party partners and customers.

Principles:

- Forest Sector Safety.
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- Sustainable Forest Management.

2022/23 Performance Summary:

Key Performance Measure	Target
Annual Timber Volume Sold ¹	6.3Mm3
Annual Timber Volume Developed ²	8.6Mm3
Annual Timber Volume Harvested	6.5Mm3
Net Revenue	\$53.74M

¹ The government's old growth strategy has paused timber sales in identified areas adversely impacting volume sold production for the year.

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² Development delays due to the government's old growth strategy combined with, reconciliation activities, and managing wildlife continue are adversely impacting production.

- On average BCTS continues to achieve its goal of supporting the MPS by advertising over 20 percent of the planned provincial harvest volume for the year. However, due to the impacts of the Old Growth Strategy, BCTS is not projecting to achieve this target in 2022/23.
- Objective 1: There is a high likelihood this objective will not be achieved.
BCTS is projecting to sell less timber volume in 2022/23 than in previous years. Implementation of the government's Old Growth Strategy has significantly impacted BCTS' ability to sell timber this year. This combined with wildlife impacts, and delays related to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples are the primary reasons for the reduction.

2022/23 will be the fourth year of the five-year BCTS business cycle. At the end of 2021/22 there was already a shortfall in timber volume sold from 2019/20 and 2020/21. The Old Growth Strategy has paused a significant proportion of BCTS operations which will exacerbate the shortfall. It is unlikely BCTS will be able to rectify this shortfall before the end of the business cycle March 31, 2024.

- Objective 2: BCTS is projecting a lower Net Revenue for 2022/23 than earned in recent years. The rates paid for timber harvested are expected to maintain their level over the next year. However, the amount of timber volume harvested is expected to be much less than in previous years due to Old Growth Strategy impacts.

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Key Facts:

- BCTS continues to play a critical role in the forest sector and the economies of rural communities.
- Each year on average BCTS continues to put over \$170M directly into communities through tendering of its service contracts.
- Its activities also directly support approximately 4,000 to 7,000 well-paying jobs each year.
- Since inception in 2003, BCTS has:
 - ✓ sold over 200 million cubic metres of timber into the forest economy through competitive auctions;
 - ✓ grown over 1.1 billion trees to support future forests; and,
 - ✓ earned about \$1.8 billion in net revenue for the province, the majority of which supported other government priorities such as education, health, parks and recreation.
- BCTS publishes quarterly and annual public performance reports.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 1, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, DM

Phone: (250) 828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Robert Bigalke, Director Business, BCTS

Phone: (778) 974-5681

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Issue: Budget Transfer Summary

Recommended Response:

The Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat completed a comprehensive analysis of the Natural Resource Sector that led to the creation of a new ministry and the reorganization of several programs across government.

Specifically, the Ministry of Forests transferred programs and corresponding budgets of just over \$100M to other ministries. Including;

- Strategic policy capacity for species at risk coordination, land use planning and ecosystem management has been transferred to the new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship.
- Provincial Heritage Site and Resort Management programs have been transferred to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.
- Rural Economic Development has been transferred to the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.
- BC Recreation Sites and Trails has been transferred to the Ministry of Environment.

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Key Facts:

The following table details all the program transfers from the ministry:

Program Function	Ministry of Forests	
	Budget	FTEs
Regional Land Use and Ecosystems Staffing	-26,735,554	-226
Rural Development	-25,000,000	-18
Recreation Sites and Trails	-7,964,790	-49
Species at Risk Coordination	-6,905,000	-13
Heritage Programs	-6,615,184	-16
GeoBC	-5,073,113	-51
Corporate Services	-4,137,483	-333
FrontCounter BC	-3,494,092	-13
Resource Planning and Provincial Stewardship	-3,308,958	-35
Regional Geospatial Resources	-3,006,000	-35
Ministry Overheads	-2,424,000	0
Regional Economic Operations (part of Rural)	-2,391,000	-21
Resort Operations	-1,967,988	-24
Marine & Coastal Resources	-695,000	-7
ADMO(RSD)	-510,000	-3
Minister's Office-NRO-FOR	-290,000	-3
Corporate Services Support	-120,000	
NRS Governance Secretariat	-84,000	-2
Snow Survey Program	415,000	2
Total transfers	-100,307,162	-847

Date Prepared/Revised: February 2, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sonja Martins

Phone: (250) 889-1774

Program Contact for Issue:

Name: Melissa Kortum

Phone: (778) 698-0401

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Issue: *CleanBC Funding for Forest Bioeconomy*

Recommend Response:

- The Ministry of Forests is leading the implementation of the Forest Bioeconomy Pathway under the updated CleanBC Roadmap.
- The Forest Bioeconomy Pathway supports the achievement of CleanBC's 2030 targets by increasing the role that BC's forests play in carbon mitigation, through increased carbon sequestration and emission reductions
- \$20.377M of new funding over three years (\$6.79M annually) is included in the budget to:

Program	Annual \$M
Increase the rate and amount of carbon being stored in BC's forests through fertilization and addressing forest health;	5.125
Support Indigenous-led bioeconomy development;	1.300
Finalize and implement a new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol, which will enable investment in BC's forests through carbon offsets; and	0.250
Develop and implement regulatory measures to detect and reduce industrial methane emissions.	0.117
Total Annual Budget Increase	6.792

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Key Facts:

In Budget 2022, \$20.377M of new funding is provided to implement the Forest Bioeconomy Pathway in the following areas:

Carbon and Forest Management (\$15.375M over three years)

- to increase the rate and amount of carbon being stored in BC's forests through targeted fertilization of nutrient deficient stands, and to protect and manage BC's forest resources from the impacts of a wide range of forest health factors.
- To fund the fertilization of approximately 25,500 hectares of forests which is expected to lead to a reduction of the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases by 1.3 mega tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.
- It will also support forest health treatments to prevent the death of existing tree stands and avoid the release of the carbon stored in live trees through their death and decomposition. The healthy tree stands will continue to sequester carbon.

Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy (\$3.9M over three years)

- to expand the existing Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program to include a new accelerator stream which will provide additional support for projects.
- Since 2019, the Program has successfully delivered 41 projects with over 24 Indigenous communities and organizations across the province.
- This program supports increased Indigenous participation in the forest sector and the development of an Indigenous-led forest bioeconomy in BC.

Forest Carbon Offset Protocol (\$0.750M over three years)

- to allow the province to work with partners to finalize and implement a new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol, which will enable investment in BC's forests through carbon offsets.
- The sale of offsets provides another funding source for innovative emissions reduction work across all sectors without the need for substantial government investment, as well as economic diversification opportunities within the province.

Methane Emission (\$0.352M over three years)

- to develop and implement regulatory measures to detect and reduce industrial methane emissions.
- The overall goal is to eliminate industrial methane emissions in the province by 2035.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 4, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: (250) 851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julie MacDougall

Phone: (250) 880-0890

KEY MESSAGES

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Employee Terminations

- Effective November 22, 2021, all employees in the BC Public Service were required to provide proof of vaccination, and compliance with this policy is a condition of employment.
- Accommodations for medical or other grounds that are protected under B.C.s Human Rights Code were also considered.
- Approximately 1% of employees chose not to be vaccinated or chose not to disclose their vaccination status. Those employees were placed on unpaid leave for 3 months, at the end of which they were informed they would face termination if still unvaccinated and if no accommodation was in place.
- Unfortunately, within in our ministry one employee has been terminated as a result of not complying with the vaccination policy, and four more terminations are in process as of April 20, 2022.
- It would be inappropriate to share more details given these are human resource matters that must be treated with an appropriate respect for the privacy of those employees.
- However, I can confirm the ministry did take steps to ensure these terminations did not substantively impact ministry operations and service delivery.
- Questions about to the details and application of the vaccination policy are appropriately addressed to the Minister of Finance as the minister responsible for the BC Public Service Agency.

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Issue: Columbia Basin Trust Background Information

Recommend Response:

- The Trust will continue to deliver programs that support the social, economic and environmental well-being of Basin residents, consistent with the Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities for 2020-2023.
- Those priorities were identified by Basin residents in the summer of 2020, and will help guide the Trust's work to the end of 2023.

Key Facts:

MOU between Columbia Basin Trust and the Province

- The unique relationship between the Province and the Trust, and the Trust's dual accountability to the Province and the residents of the Basin, is set out in a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- The Trust is working with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation to update and renew the MOU.

Columbia Basin Management Plan (CBMP) Strategic Priorities 2020-2023:

- In September 2020, the Trust Board approved the CBMP which includes six Strategic Priorities (Community Wellbeing, Ecosystem Enhancement, High-Speed Connectivity, Housing, Local Food Production and Access, and Support for Business Renewal) and two Integrated Priorities (Climate Resilience and Working with Indigenous Peoples).
- The Board of Directors originally approved CBMP for the timeframe of 2020-2022. In the Fall of 2021, the Board extended the plan through to the end of 2023, in recognition that Basin residents continue to emphasize the priorities in the plan, and that significant in-person community engagement to seek feedback on developing a new plan is not yet possible from a public health perspective.
- Resident engagement for a renewed (longer term) CBMP is expected to commence in the latter months of 2022 and into mid-2023. This engagement will include in-person and virtual opportunities for input.
- Some highlights of the Trust's activities include (over the last 5 years):
 - constructed 895 km of fibreoptic connectivity, bringing high speed internet to more than 12,000 underserved homes
 - committed \$26 million to the construction of more than 600 affordable housing units in both Indigenous, and non-Indigenous Basin communities

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- invested \$50 million in direct loans to Basin businesses, and provided advisory support to more than 924 small business owners
- partnered to preserve 100,000 hectares of ecologically and/or biologically sensitive land in the region
- contributed more than \$6 million to help create 660 new childcare spaces, with a further \$4 million to improve 2,950 existing spaces
- provided more than \$10 million to support a range community level climate resiliency initiatives

Service Plan Financials

- Government Financial Information

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Les MacLaren

Phone: 778-698-7183

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Johnny Strilaeff, CEO

Phone: 250-304-1632

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Issue: Columbia Power Corporation Background Information

Recommend Response:

- Columbia Power Corporation will continue to ensure the long-term profitability, reliability, safety and environmental sustainability of its jointly owned power generation and transmission assets.
- Although certain planned operating maintenance and capital programs were delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not had any negative long-term impacts to operations or equipment reliability.

Key Facts:

Operations and Maintenance Outsourcing Review

- Columbia Power is conducting a value-for-money assessment of the primary operations and maintenance contractor for the power assets (FortisBC) to ensure Columbia Power and the Columbia Basin Trust continue to receive the required level of performance at a commercially reasonable cost.
- Recommendations and follow-up action (if any) will be reviewed in Fiscal 2022/23.

Brilliant Power Purchase Agreement

- The 60-year power sales agreement with FortisBC at the Brilliant Dam and Generating Station contains a market reset clause at the conclusion of the first 30 years (2026).
- The price received for power is anticipated to change as a result of this clause, and dialogue with FortisBC has started to agree on interpretation and application of the agreement.

Brilliant Expansion Generating Station

- Power from Brilliant Expansion is currently sold under three separate agreements with terms coming to an end between 2027 and 2029.
- Columbia Power is undertaking a preliminary assessment of sales opportunities to ensure Columbia Power and the Columbia Basin Trust receive appropriate value for the power in the future.

Service Plan Financials

- In Columbia Power Corporation's 2022/23-2024/25 Service Plan, the following financial forecasts were presented for the year 2022/2023:
 - Generate \$81M in total revenue

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- Incur \$24M in expenses
- Deliver \$56M in net income

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Les MacLaren

Phone: 778-698-7183

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Johnny Strilaeff, CEO

Phone: 250-304-1632

Potential CBT/CPC Estimates Questions and Answers

1. What impact will a renegotiated Columbia River Treaty have on Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) from a power sales/revenue perspective?

Answer: Neither CBT nor CPC have a role in the CRT negotiation; however, I understand that both organizations maintain an open dialogue with the CRT negotiating team. When/if we reach the stage where specific details of a modernized CRT are understood, CBT and CPC would have an opportunity to review those details and provide feedback as to the impacts (positive or negative) prior to finalizing any agreement with the United States.

2. Now that CBT has assumed primary responsibility for managing the power projects, why doesn't the Province sell their 50% of the assets to the Trust? If the Province were to do this, could it allow CPC to use those funds to develop new clean and renewable power generating opportunities in the Province?

Answer: The Province has no plans to sell CPC's 50% ownership in Arrow Lakes Generating Station, Brilliant Dam, Brilliant Expansion, or Waneta Expansion to CBT or any other purchaser. Revenue from these assets is used to deliver on Government's overall priorities. Currently, CPC's mandate from the Province is to ensure the long-term reliability and profitability of its power generation and transmission assets in the Basin. It has no mandate to develop new generating assets at this time.

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Issue: Columbia River Treaty Background

Recommend Response:

- The Columbia River Treaty (CRT) is a trans-boundary water management agreement between the United States (U.S.) and Canada that was signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964.
- In 1963, Canada delegated most of the CRT rights and obligations to B.C.
- A provincial review to determine whether the CRT should be continued, amended or terminated was launched in 2011.
- A Provincial decision to continue the Treaty and seek improvements within its existing framework was released on March 13, 2014.
- The decision includes 14 principles to guide discussions with Canada and the U.S. on the future of the CRT.
- The decision and guiding principles were based on extensive Indigenous Nation, local government and public consultation processes, and more than two years of hydrologic, social, economic, and legal studies.
- The CRT continues to benefit both Canada and the U.S., but the benefits to the U.S. are significantly undervalued and extend across a much broader range of interests, such as fisheries, navigation, recreation, irrigation and water supply, than the original Treaty focus of flood risk mitigation and power production.
- The Canadian Entitlement in fiscal 2021/22 was \$232 million, an increase from previous years due to high market energy prices. The forecast for fiscal 2022/23 is \$256 million.

Key Facts:

Background:

- One of the key principles of the CRT is to create and equitably share benefits resulting from trans-boundary coordination of the Columbia River.
- Although the CRT has no specified end date, either Canada or the U.S. can unilaterally terminate most of the agreement's provisions after 2024, with at least 10 years notice. No such notice has been given.

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- Currently, the CRT returns approximately \$120-150 million each year to the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund through the sale of Canada's share of the downstream power benefits (referred to as the Canadian Entitlement).
- Although international treaties are within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the federal government, the Canada-BC Agreement (1963) transferred most CRT rights and obligations to the Province, and also requires the agreement of the Province before any action by Canada to amend or terminate the Treaty.
- The CRT's primary purposes are to provide flood risk mitigation in Canada and the U.S., and increase the power generating potential of the Columbia River by capturing spring run-off and releasing water at other times of the year when it is more valuable and beneficial.
- Under the CRT, Canada agreed to build 15.5 million acre-feet of storage by constructing three dams: Duncan; Arrow (Hugh Keenleyside); and Mica.
- The CRT also gave the U.S. the option, which it exercised, to construct a dam near Libby, Montana, that floods the Kootenay River valley 68 km back into Canada almost as far as Cranbrook (Koocanusa Reservoir).
- Assured flood control provisions expire in 2024 and change to a more ad hoc "called upon" version of flood control.
- In Canada, BC Hydro is the designated Entity responsible for implementing the CRT. The Province is designated as Entity for the purposes of disposing of the Canadian Entitlement. In the U.S., Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are jointly the U.S. Entity responsible for the CRT.

CRT Review:

- Beginning in late 2011, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) CRT Team led an extensive consultation and review process to evaluate future options, including continuation, amendment or termination of the Treaty.
- On March 13, 2014, the provincial government released its decision continue the CRT and seek improvements within its existing framework. The decision had, and continues to have, bipartisan support.

Indigenous Nation Engagement:

- The Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and Syilx Okanagan Nations assert rights and title in the Columbia Basin.

Local Basin Engagement:

- B.C. continues its engagement with Basin residents, local governments and stakeholder groups to confirm their interests regarding the future of the CRT.
- In early 2021, the Province held a virtual town hall focused in the Columbia Basin to update residents on CRT negotiations and seek input on work being done to address community interests related to the Treaty.

Cross Reference: Estimate 2021 – Columbia River Treaty Negotiations

Date Prepared/Revised: March 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Les MacLaren, ADM, EMLI

Phone: 778-698-7183

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kathy Eichenberger, ED, EMLI

Phone: 250-953-3368

Prepared for 2022/23 Estimates Debate

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Columbia River Treaty Negotiations

Recommend Response:

- British Columbia (B.C.) and Canada are committed to working with the United States (U.S.) to modernize the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) to ensure it provides benefits that are shared equitably between our two countries.
- Global Affairs Canada has stated that while Canada is the signatory for the CRT, B.C. is the lead in implementing the Treaty and has a major role in negotiations.
- As part of the Canadian negotiating delegation, B.C. works closely with Canada and Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Indigenous Nations during the negotiation process to ensure B.C.'s interests are represented and benefits to British Columbians are maintained or enhanced.
- The Negotiation Framework Agreement signed by the five governments is consistent with the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- Negotiations on Treaty modernization began in May 2018. There have been 12 rounds of negotiations to date. Due to Covid-19, rounds 10-12 were held virtually.
- The topics discussed during negotiations include flood risk management, hydropower coordination, ecosystems, adaptive management, and Libby Dam operations.
- In June 2020, Canada tabled a framework proposal for a modernized Treaty that was developed collaboratively by Canada, B.C. and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations.
- Canada's proposal followed a framework on key issues presented by U.S. negotiators in the March 2020 round.
- The U.S. framework and the Canadian proposal are each just one step in a complex negotiation process.
- There is no deadline for negotiations, but I can assure you that the Canadian delegation is committed to working towards an agreement in a timely manner.

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Key Facts:

Negotiations:

- Canada appointed Sylvain Fabi, currently Consul General in Denver (United States), Global Affairs Canada, as its chief negotiator. Jill Smail was appointed as Lead Negotiator in August 2017 by the U.S. State Department.
- The B.C. CRT Team works closely and collaboratively with federal departments, primarily Global Affairs Canada, in preparing negotiating scenarios, positions and proposals for CRT modernization. Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada also support the negotiating team.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 and 2021 negotiations were held virtually. Canada hosted the virtual round 12 in January 2022.
- The U.S. initial framework (March 2020) was not acceptable to Canada and B.C. Due to the confidential nature of the negotiations, details of Canada's proposal and of the U.S. framework cannot be made public.

Indigenous Nations:

- B.C. and Canada are committed to seeking Indigenous Nations' free, prior and informed consent on the outcome of the modernized Treaty negotiations, consistent with the respective governments' adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Since early 2018, representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations have worked closely with the governments of Canada and B.C. to develop and refine negotiating positions and strategies.
- As observers, Indigenous Nations are present at all negotiating meetings, fully participate in caucus meetings with Canada and B.C. during negotiation sessions and debrief with Canada and B.C. after each negotiation round.

Financial Information:

- In 2019, the Treasury Board approved that as of 2020/21, negotiating and ancillary costs be recovered from the CRT revenues (Canadian Entitlement/CE) that the Province receives.
- The CRT typically returns approximately \$120-150 million annually to the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund through the sale of Canada's share of the downstream power benefits (CE). The CE in 2021/22 was \$232 million. Government Financial
- As per a MOU between the two ministries, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) is responsible for staff and expenditure authority associated with CRT negotiations and related legal, technical, and consultation work.

Table: Approved* and Requested Funding for CRT Negotiations (\$ millions)

	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Q3 forecast	2021/22** forecast/final	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total	3.155	3.949	3.860	3.569	5.614	Government Financial Information	

* 2020/21 funding approved as a recovery from CRT revenues going forward.

** 2021 adjusted based on reduced CRT negotiation sessions in 2021/22.

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Cross Reference: Estimates 2021 – Columbia River Treaty Background

Date Prepared/Revised: March 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Les MacLaren, ADM, EMLI

Phone: 778-698-7183

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kathy Eichenberger, ED, EMLI

Phone: 250-953-3368

Columbia River Treaty

KEY MESSAGES:

- Canada and the United States met virtually on Jan. 10, 2022, for the 12th round of talks on the future of the Columbia River Treaty.
- The one-day virtual session focused on evolving concepts for post-2024 flood risk management, Canada's desire for more operational flexibility and mechanisms for achieving ecosystem objectives.
- This round, along with the 11th round in December 2021, have expanded the conversation around each country's key interests, building on proposals for a modernized agreement that were tabled by Canada and the U.S. in 2020.
- Canada, B.C., and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations have continued their cooperative efforts over the past year and half, advancing work to strengthen Canadian positions and make improvements in the Basin. Input from local governments and residents continues to inform this work.
- B.C. and Canada are committed to working with the U.S. to modernize the Columbia River Treaty, to ensure it provides benefits that are shared equitably between our two countries.
- There is no deadline for negotiations, and we will take the time needed to get it right.

Indigenous Nations:

- Since early 2018, representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations have worked hand-in-hand with the governments of Canada and B.C. to develop and refine negotiating positions and strategies.
- The full involvement of Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations in the Canada-U.S. negotiations is unprecedented.
- Having the governments of B.C. and Canada work in partnership with the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and Syilx Okanagan Nations demonstrates Canada's and B.C.'s commitments to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to our journey towards reconciliation.

Key Facts:

Since May 2018, negotiators for Canada (including B.C.) and the United States have been meeting to discuss what a modernized version of the Columbia River Treaty could look like.

There have been 12 sessions to date. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent

negotiation round, hosted by the U.S., was held virtually on Jan. 10, 2022. This followed sessions in Washington, D.C., Nelson, B.C., Portland, Oregon, Vancouver, B.C., Victoria, B.C., ?aq'am (near Cranbrook), B.C., and virtual sessions in June 2020 and Dec. 2021. The 13th round of negotiations will be scheduled in the near future.

Negotiators have discussed a range of topics to date, including flood-risk management, hydroelectric power, ecosystems, adaptive management, increasing flexibility in the Treaty for Canadian operations, enhanced co-ordination of Libby Dam, and other benefits to the U.S. that are not considered in the current Treaty, such as navigation, recreation, irrigation and fisheries.

During the 10th round of discussions in June 2020 Canada tabled a proposal outlining a framework for a modernized Treaty, developed collaboratively by Canada, B.C. and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations. Canada's proposal followed a framework shared by U.S. negotiators at the previous round of talks in March 2020, which outlined their thinking on the key issues. Due to the confidential nature of the bilateral international negotiations, details of Canada's initial proposal and of the U.S. framework cannot be made public. The Canadian proposal and U.S. framework are each just one step in a complex negotiation process.

Work is moving forward in B.C. on key Treaty-related priorities, including: examining scenarios for how Treaty dams, reservoir and river operations could be operated differently to meet Basin interests and improve aquatic and riparian ecosystems; looking at potential Canadian domestic governance models for the Treaty; and addressing community interests raised by Basin residents. Community interest projects include a proposed touring route through the Basin to acknowledge what was lost when the Treaty dams were created; work with Village of Valemount to assess regional air-quality issues; collaboration with Creston Valley diking authorities on dike maintenance and construction; and exploring ways to enhance support for the Basin agriculture sector.

In 2018, the B.C. government re-launched its engagement with Basin communities through a series of public meetings to seek input on the Treaty. In 2019, the B.C. government hosted another 12 meetings to update Basin communities about the current Treaty negotiations. In Feb. 2021, the Province hosted a virtual town hall to provide updates on and answer questions regarding the Treaty. Two virtual public information sessions in spring 2022 will provide the latest updates on Canada-U.S. negotiations and describe the process for modernizing the Treaty in both countries (May 16); and provide an overview of Indigenous-led research and assessments underway to determine how reservoir and river operations might be modified to improve aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the B.C. portion of the Columbia Basin (June 15).

Indigenous Nations:

Since spring of 2018, Canadian Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations (the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations) have been collaborating with B.C. and Canada on developing negotiation positions and strategies. On April 24, 2019, then federal Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, supported by Minister Katrine Conroy, invited the representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations to participate as observers during Columbia River Treaty negotiations. The Indigenous Nations have been present as observers at the Canada-U.S. negotiations since. In this capacity, the Nations have made presentations during negotiation sessions and to the public at Columbia Basin community meetings on ecosystems and salmon reintroduction in the Upper Columbia Basin. The Indigenous Nations are full participants during Canadian delegation caucus meetings and participate fully in negotiating session preparations and Canadian delegation debrief meetings.

Decisions regarding representation at the international negotiating table belong to the Government of Canada, as one of the two parties to the Columbia River Treaty. On the American side, U.S. Tribes do not have regular representation at the negotiating table. However, at the last four rounds of negotiations, the U.S. delegation included expert advisers from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Columbia River Treaty - Background:

- The CRT is a transboundary water management agreement between the U.S. and Canada that was signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964.
- One of the key principles of the CRT is to create and equitably share benefits resulting from the transboundary co-ordination of Columbia River flows.
- Although the CRT has no specified end date, either Canada or the U.S. can unilaterally terminate most of the agreement's provisions after 2024, with at least 10 years notice. No such notice has been given.
- Currently, the CRT normally returns between \$100-150 million each year to the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund through the sale of Canada's share of the U.S.'s downstream power benefits (referred to as the Canadian Entitlement). The Entitlement is in the form of power delivered to the Canada-U.S. border, which is marketed on B.C.'s behalf by BC Hydro's marketing subsidiary Powerex.
- The value of the Canadian Entitlement in fiscal 2020/21 was \$117 million.
- Although international treaties are within the jurisdiction of the federal government, the Canada-British Columbia Agreement (1963) transferred most CRT rights and obligations to the Province and requires the agreement of the Province before terminating or amending the CRT.
- The primary purposes of the CRT are to provide flood mitigation in Canada and the U.S., and increase the power generating potential of the Columbia River by capturing spring run-off and releasing water at other times of the year when it is more valuable.
- Assured flood control provisions (guaranteed access to a volume of Canadian storage for flood risk management) expire in 2024, and change to a more-risky for the U.S and ad hoc "called-upon" version of flood control. The U.S. is strongly motivated to achieve some level of assured flood risk management after 2024.
- In Canada, BC Hydro is the designated "Entity" with the responsibility to implement the CRT on behalf of the Province and Canada. The Province has been designated as the Canadian Entity for the purposes of disposing of the Canadian Entitlement. In the U.S., the CRT is entirely the responsibility of the federal government, which has designated the Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the U.S. Entity responsible for CRT implementation.

Communications Contact:	Robin Platts, 250 213-6451
Program Area Contact:	Kathy Eichenberger, 250 886-1253
File Created:	May 17, 2018
File Updated:	Feb. 15, 2022; May 11, 2022

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Columbia River Treaty

May 11~~April 22~~, 2022

Canada-US Negotiations

1. Has working to modernize the Columbia River Treaty been a worthwhile effort?

- This is an almost 60-year-old Treaty, and it makes sense to look at ways to modernize it. We have already seen many benefits through this process:
 - The partnership and collaboration between the five governments in advancing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
 - Indigenous-led efforts to develop significant research on enhancing Basin ecosystems and identifying Indigenous cultural values,
 - The Local Governments Committee's initiative to develop objectives for Basin socioeconomic interests such as recreation, tourism, agriculture, economic development,
 - The strong relationship that has been established between the Province and Basin local governments,
 - Hearing directly from basin communities about their desires and concerns regarding a modernized Treaty, and
 - Identifying existing issues regarding Treaty impacts that can be addressed domestically.
- So yes, this process has been worthwhile. The potential to make this a better Treaty that meets the needs of the people of the basin and respects Indigenous Nations rights is absolutely key.

2. What external factors are important to consider from the past, present and into the future, when exploring a modernized Treaty?

Past:

- The Treaty has served its intended purpose of increasing GHG-free power generation and preventing catastrophic flooding. However, the past does not provide an acceptable model for engagement with Basin communities and residents, and collaboration with Indigenous Nations.

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Present:

- Legal frameworks regarding the rights of Indigenous peoples have changed, from case law to the legal adoption of UNDRIP with the governments of B.C. and Canada.
- Ecosystems have risen in importance and must be recognized in a modernized Treaty.
- New tools (Zoom, social media, etc.) are available for engagement with all parties and interests.

Future:

- There is increasing uncertainty around changing climate, evolving technology, energy needs and societal values.
- We have witnessed some of this uncertainty with last year's flooding and heat dome, both of which had an affect on hydro infrastructure.
- This is why it is important for a modernized Treaty to include more flexibility for Canadian operations and incorporates active adaptive management.

3. What are the benefits of continuing the Columbia River Treaty?

- The U.S. continues to enjoy predictability, knowing on a daily basis what flows are crossing the border into the U.S.
- The U.S. also continues to benefit from flow shaping in Canada to provide extra GHG-free power generation and prevent significant flooding.
- There are other U.S. benefits that are not considered in the Treaty but that exist nonetheless, such as: higher water levels for recreation in peak tourist season, for example in Lake Roosevelt; minimum and maximum flows that navigation can count on and plan for; water supply for irrigation.
- Most importantly, the U.S. benefits from Canada providing additional flows for U.S. salmon, contributing to population enhancement efforts.
- On the Canadian side, the Canadian Entitlement is the only benefit Canada receives currently, while incurring capital and maintenance, amongst other costs to meet U.S. requirements, such as operating Hugh Keeleyside dam for U.S. flood protection.
- Canada is interested in looking at the suite of downstream benefits to ensure they are created and shared equitably, whether it's through the Canadian Entitlement or some other mechanism.

4. What will happen if a modernized Treaty is not agreed to before 2024?

- The 'Called Upon' provision in the Columbia River Treaty will automatically take effect in 2024 at the expiration of the 60-year Assured Flood Control, unless another flood risk management agreement is reached, and remains in effect for the useful life of the Treaty dams, even if the Treaty is terminated.
- Under the current Assured Flood Control regime, Canada operates with reserved space in its reservoirs to provide guaranteed flood risk management to the United States. The more impromptu Called Upon regime requires the United States to make "effective use" of their reservoirs to manage flood risk, drafting them more deeply and frequently, before "calling upon" Canada for additional storage to prevent damaging floods.
- If there is no agreement on a modernized Treaty, power operations and the other provisions of the Treaty continue, including the delivery of the Canadian Entitlement.

5. What do you see as a good outcome for the future of the Columbia River Treaty?

- A successful outcome would be a modernized a Treaty that is an improvement over the current regime, that is expanded to include present and future objectives, and is adaptable to change.
- A successful outcome would also mean a modernized Treaty that continues to create and equitably share benefits between Canada and the U.S.
- Canada, B.C. and Basin Indigenous Nations are looking to gain increased operational flexibility to meet objectives for ecosystems, Indigenous cultural values, and socioeconomic interests, while still benefiting from providing flood risk management downstream and coordinate with the U.S. to ensure that the region continues to produce GHG-free power that enables as to help mitigate climate change impacts, fuels our economies and powers our homes and businesses.

6. When will the next round of Canada-U.S. negotiations take place?

- The next round has not yet been scheduled. Both countries are undertaking technical work to inform the key issues being discussed.

7. Is it likely that the current U.S. administration will push for changes to the Treaty?

- That's a question that Global Affairs Canada or the U.S. State Department would be in a better position to answer. From B.C.'s perspective, our negotiators will

continue to work in the interests of B.C. and B.C. Columbia Basin communities and be ready for ensuing rounds.

8. Have the negotiations changed since this process started in May 2018?

- During the first two years of discussions, negotiators focused on exchanging information and building a stronger understanding of each country's main concerns and priorities for a modernized Treaty.
- In 2020, Canada and the U.S. each tabled proposals for a modernized agreement, which led to more challenging conversations about how to include many and diverse interests in a modernized Treaty. The Canadian proposal was developed collaboratively by Canada, B.C. and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations.
- The 11th and 12th rounds of discussions in December 2021 and this past January advanced those conversations, focusing on evolving concepts for post-2024 flood risk management, Canada's desire for more operational flexibility and mechanisms for achieving ecosystem objectives.

9. Why was there such a long period of time between the 10th and 11th round of negotiations?

- That is a question for the U.S. Department of State. Canada and the U.S. alternate hosting rounds of negotiations. Canada hosted the 10th round virtually in June 2020, during which Canada tabled a proposal outlining a framework for a modernized Treaty. We had been awaiting indication from the U.S. on scheduling the 11th round.
- Given that the U.S. had undergone a federal election and subsequent change in administration, it's not unusual for there to be a longer gap between negotiations rounds.
- Canada and the U.S. have since met for the 11th and 12th rounds of discussions, on December 9, 2021 and January 10, 2022.

10. Will the Canadian proposal or the U.S. framework be made public?

- Because details of the negotiations are confidential, the Canadian proposal and US framework are unlikely to be made public.

11. What was included in Canada's proposal?

- Canada's proposal outlines a framework for a modernized Columbia River Treaty and covers the range of issues that have been discussed since negotiations began in 2018, such as flood-risk management, power generation, ecosystem function,

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Libby dam coordination and increased flexibility for Canadian operations. As details of these bilateral international negotiations are confidential, we cannot share more information at this point.

- What I can tell you is that the proposal reflects the interests of B.C., and was developed collaboratively by Canada, B.C. and the Canadian Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations who are part of the Canadian negotiation delegation.
- We will continue to engage with Basin residents as the negotiation process develops.
- The Province will be hosting 2 public online events in May and June, both accessible by web and by phone. The first one will feature an update on CRT negotiations by members of the Canadian negotiating delegation, and provide insight into the process for modernizing the CRT in both Canada and the U.S. The second event will provide details on the significant ecosystem research being led by Indigenous Nations in collaboration with federal and provincial agencies and consultants that is informing Canadian negotiating positions.
- These events follow a virtual town hall held in February 2021 where those involved in the Treaty modernization process provided an update and answered questions. A recording of that session along with a summary report and detailed Q+A document is available on the B.C. Treaty website.
- We continue working closely with the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee and the Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee to ensure Columbia Basin interests are represented in negotiations.
- We will continue to share what information we can with the public through our website, Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter feeds, as well as connecting with interested citizens through email and by phone.

12. How much say did B.C. have in the Canadian proposal?

- The Province of B.C. is part of the Canadian negotiating team and made a major contribution to the proposal. The proposal was developed collaboratively by Canada, B.C. and the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations who are also part of the Canadian negotiation delegation.
- Any changes to the Treaty will impact the Canadian Columbia Basin, either positively or negatively. The Canadian negotiating team is ensuring that Canadian Columbia Basin interests are represented in the negotiations.

13. How much say did Indigenous Nations have in the proposal?

- Indigenous Nations worked with Canada and B.C. to collaboratively develop the

Canadian proposal.

- Indigenous Nations are full participants in the Canadian negotiating team. Since early 2018, when negotiations began, representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and *Syilx* Okanagan Nations have been working closely with the governments of Canada and B.C. to develop and refine Canadian negotiating positions and strategies.
- That partnership became more formalized when, in April 2019, then Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland invited representatives from the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and *Syilx* Okanagan Nations, to join the Canadian delegation as observers.
- Since then, the Indigenous Nations have been present during negotiations between Canada and the U.S. They actively participate in Canadian caucus sessions, preparatory work prior to each negotiation rounds, and debrief sessions after each negotiating round.

14. Does the exchange of options/proposals mean we are close to having a modernized Treaty?

- This is another step in a complex negotiation process, but it does not mean we are close to a new agreement. There is no deadline for negotiations, and we will take the time needed to get it right.
- Since discussions began, negotiators have been exchanging information and building a stronger understanding of each country's priorities.
- The exchange of proposals in 2020 moved Canada and the U.S. into a new phase of negotiations, where the countries started having more challenging conversations around how to include those priorities in a modernized Treaty.
- Our government is committed to working hard towards achieving a successful agreement in a timely manner.

15. Will the U.S. respond to Canada with another proposal or framework? How long might the back-and-forth continue?

- There is no end date for negotiations, so the countries can exchange proposals until they come to an agreement.

16. In the wake of ~~recent~~ flooding in B.C. in November 2021, are you discussing issues associated with the Nooksack River in Washington and its impacts on the Sumas River System in the Abbotsford area?

- The Nooksack River is not part of the Columbia River system and is not part of the Columbia River Treaty, therefore it is not within the scope of our current discussions to modernize the CRT.

17. What do you think about Biden being lobbied about the negotiations delays and ongoing payment of the Canadian Entitlement/Downstream Benefits?

- The treaty is a complex instrument and both Canadian and U.S. negotiation teams are looking for ways to create, enhance and share the benefits equitably.
- B.C. and Canada are committed to working with the U.S. to modernize the Columbia River Treaty, to ensure it provides benefits that are shared equitably between our two countries.
- This includes discussing the Canadian Entitlement and potential continued cooperation on power operations.
- There is no deadline for negotiations, and we will take the time needed to get it right.

18. In Dec. 2020, some members of the United States Congress tabled a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives asking that the administration give notice of termination of the Columbia River Treaty. Is there any news about that?

- No 10-year termination notice has been issued to date. Should one be issued, Canada, in collaboration with B.C. and Indigenous Nations, would determine next steps.

19. How are Basin interests such as reducing reservoir fluctuations being addressed in the negotiating process?

- The Negotiation Advisory Team, which includes representatives from Canada, B.C. and the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations, is working on an important project to examine different scenarios for how the Canadian Treaty dams could be operated to meet Basin interests.
- A subgroup of the Negotiation Advisory Team is modelling different system operations that take into account objectives for ecosystems and Indigenous cultural values, flood-risk management, hydro power, and other social and economic values.

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- Indigenous Nations are developing performance measures for ecosystems in collaboration with provincial and federal agencies, and consultants. Performance measures for Indigenous cultural values are also being developed by the Indigenous Nations. BC Hydro is creating modelling inputs for power generation and flood risk management. The development of socio-economic performance measures is being led by the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee.

20. What happens if the negotiations don't improve conditions in the region?

- If Canada and the U.S. cannot come to agreement on a modernized Treaty – for B.C. that means a Treaty that supports B.C. Basin interests - Canada, in collaboration with B.C. and Indigenous Nations, would determine next steps.
- It is worth noting that there is significant work happening outside of negotiations that has already and will continue leading to improved conditions in the region.
- Through our ongoing engagement with Columbia Basin communities and local governments, the Province has heard about many community concerns and opportunities, and has been exploring ways of addressing these issues outside of CRT negotiations.
- Some examples of projects the B.C. CRT Team is working on with Basin communities include:
 - Working with diking authorities in Creston Valley to address dike maintenance and construction;
 - Reviewing fish passage at Duncan Dam;
 - Supporting the repair of a portion of the Nakusp marina and breakwater in Nakusp;
 - Collaborating with the Village of Valemount, the Province's CRT Team, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to look at air quality issues;
 - Exploring recreation and other opportunities in Golden, Valemount, and Revelstoke;
 - Exploring opportunities for enhancing support for the Basin agriculture sector; and
 - Initiating a Basin-wide Columbia River Treaty Heritage Project to provide a platform for local stories about the impact of the Treaty, and to recognize what was lost when the Treaty dams were built.

21. Will Basin residents have a say before a final agreement on the Treaty is reached?

- Our commitment is that we will engage with the people of the Basin so they can clearly understand what the modernized Treaty being proposed will contain before it is finalized.

Canadian Entitlement and Downstream Benefits

22. Is the Canadian Entitlement one of the topics on the table in the current negotiations? Could it be reduced as part of a renegotiated Treaty?

- I can't comment on the specifics of the current negotiations; however, the fundamental principle of the Treaty is maximizing benefits for Canada and the U.S. and sharing them equitably. This must continue to be the foundation of the Treaty.
- The key to an agreement will be finding opportunities to build on successes and make improvements for the benefit of both countries. I'm confident that we can create a better Treaty, while ensuring it continues to maximize benefits for Canada and the U.S. and sharing them equitably.
- It's also important to remember that the U.S. has benefited greatly from the Treaty over the past 58 years.

23. What is the current value of the Canadian Entitlement?

- Currently, the Treaty returns usually between \$120-150 million each year, through the sale of Canada's share of the U.S.'s downstream power benefits (referred to as the Canadian Entitlement). This revenue goes to the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- The value to the Canadian Entitlement in fiscal 2020/21 was \$117 million.

24. Why does the value of the Canadian Entitlement vary from year to year?

- Under the Treaty, the United States provides the Canadian Entitlement to B.C. as energy and capacity delivered to the Canada-U.S. border, not as money. BC Hydro's power marketing subsidiary Powerex sells the Canadian Entitlement at market value to either BC Hydro or utilities in Alberta or United States. The fluctuations in the cash value of the Entitlement are due to variations in the market and the price of power. Factors such as high flow years, or unusually hot or cold weather can create variations in the actual revenues from selling the power we receive.

25. Why doesn't government direct revenue from the annual Canadian Entitlement towards fish and wildlife compensation programs to address the ecological damage done by the Columbia River dams?

- It is BC Hydro's obligation to fund the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, not the taxpayers'.
- BC Hydro's obligation is a condition of its water licences in the Columbia and Peace regions.
- The FWCP is focussed on conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife in watersheds that have been impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.
- Funding decisions are made at a local level - each region has a local independent board with representatives from each of the partners, including the Province of BC, First Nations, BC Hydro, public stakeholders.

26. What are the U.S.'s views on the Canadian Entitlement?

- There is an ongoing dialogue about the value of co-ordinated flows to maximize power generation compared to an uncoordinated regime (without the Treaty). These discussions are confidential to the negotiating table.

27. What is your position on the downstream benefits the Treaty provides?

- Again, I can't comment of the specifics of current negotiations. What I can say, is that the Treaty has provided significant benefits in the U.S. portion of the Columbia Basin - notably in terms of irrigation, navigation, fisheries and recreation.
- When we reach out to Americans, we hear how the operation of Canadian Treaty reservoirs benefits navigation, salmon population recovery efforts, recreation and water supply, as well as ensuring reliable power production and keeping American towns and cities safe from floods.
- B.C. Canada and Indigenous Nations are committed to working with the U.S. to modernize the agreement to ensure it provides benefits that are shared equitably between our two countries.

28. Why did BC Hydro not consider using the power available under the Canadian Entitlement instead of building Site C?

- This is because the amount of power delivered to the Canadian border as part of the Canadian Entitlement is variable and can't be relied upon over the long term as the U.S. can at any time give a 10-year treaty termination notice. In addition, government policy at the time did not allow for BC Hydro to include resources

from outside the Province in its long-term plans.

29. When does the Columbia River Treaty expire? Is there a schedule or timeline for how long the negotiations will take?

- The Columbia River Treaty does not have an expiration date; however, the “assured” flood-control provisions of the Treaty will expire in 2024 and will move to a more ad hoc “Called Upon” operation unless another agreement is made.
- 2024 is also the earliest that either country could have terminated the Treaty, provided at least 10 years’ written notice is given. Neither country has issued a termination notice.
- There is no set timeline for negotiations, though we expect they will take time. We are committed to making progress in a timely and efficient way.

30. Since the Treaty is an agreement between Canada and the United States, what is B.C.’s role?

- Although international treaties are within the jurisdiction of the federal government, the Canada-British Columbia Agreement (1963) transferred most CRT rights and obligations to the Province, and also requires Canada to seek the agreement of the Province before terminating or amending the Columbia River Treaty.
- Global Affairs Canada is leading the negotiations for Canada as the federal government has the constitutional responsibility for international treaties. B.C. is part of the Canadian negotiating team.

Indigenous and Tribal Involvement

31. How will Indigenous Nations be involved in a modernized CRT?

- In Canada, Indigenous Nations are partners in the Treaty modernization process and will continue to be involved in consensus-based decision making regarding the future of the Treaty. Canada, B.C. and the Indigenous Nations are currently exploring new models of domestic CRT governance.
- It is important to note that both B.C. and Canada have passed legislation to implement UNDRIP.

32. Does the decision to have Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations as observers in negotiating sessions mean that U.S. tribes will also be represented in negotiations?

- That is a question for the U.S. State Department; however, we can say that U.S. Tribes have been included in the last four negotiating sessions.

- On the Canadian side, Global Affairs Canada is responsible for decisions about who participates in negotiations. Certainly, from B.C.'s perspective, the decision for Canadian Indigenous Nations to participate as full partners is a very positive step forward in our journey towards reconciliation and is in line with B.C. and Canada's legislation to implement UNDRIP.

33. Indigenous Nations are participating as "official observers in the negotiations" - what exactly does that mean?

- The presence of Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations as observers at the Canada-U.S. negotiations is an important and unprecedented step in demonstrating Canada's and B.C.'s commitments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to our journey towards reconciliation.
- Representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and *Syilx* Okanagan Nations are present in the negotiating room and are full participants in caucus meetings with Canada and B.C. during negotiating sessions. They are also full participants in preparatory meetings with Canada and B.C. before each round of negotiations and debrief meetings after each round of negotiations.
- Indigenous Nations representatives have delivered presentations on behalf of Canada to the U.S. negotiators twice: once during the 8th round of negotiations in ?aq'am in Sept. 2019, and again during the 11th round on Dec. 9, 2021. The presentations were on ecosystem goals and objectives in the Canadian Columbia River Basin, and the collaboration between Indigenous, provincial and federal governments to explore the feasibility of reintroducing salmon to the Upper Columbia River.
- Indigenous Nations are a key part of the process and have been working closely with the governments of B.C. and Canada since Feb. 2018, to develop and refine negotiating positions and strategies. This collaboration will continue.

34. What role does the Sinixt Nation have in the negotiations?

- In April 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the Lakes Tribe of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation as a successor group to the Sinixt people, with Aboriginal rights in the Arrow Lakes region. The Province will consult with the Lakes Tribe on how they would like to be engaged on a number of issues, including the Columbia River Treaty. These discussions are still in their early stages. However, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are being consulted by U.S. Treaty negotiators on the Columbia River Treaty.

35. Why are Indigenous Nations observers on the Negotiating Team and local governments are not?

- Local governments and Basin communities are represented by the Province of B.C., which is part of the Canadian negotiation delegation.
- Global Affairs Canada is responsible for decisions about who participates in negotiations. In 2019, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, invited the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations to participate as observers, which, despite what that word implies, has led to full participation on the Canadian negotiating team alongside Canada and B.C.
- Certainly, from B.C.'s perspective, the decision for Canadian Indigenous Nations to participate as full partners is a very positive step forward in our journey towards reconciliation and is in line with B.C. and Canada's legislation to implement UNDRIP.
- Representatives of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and Syilx Okanagan Nations are present in the negotiating room and are full participants in caucus meetings with Canada and B.C. during negotiating sessions. They are also full participants in preparatory meetings with Canada and B.C. before each round of negotiations and debrief meetings after each round of negotiations.

Ecosystems and Salmon

36. How do salmon and anadromous salmon recovery efforts factor into the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty?

- Salmon restoration is being addressed in two different, yet parallel, processes – within the Columbia River Treaty context and outside of it.
- There are some factors related to salmon survival in the Upper Columbia that are directly impacted by the Treaty and so must be part of Treaty modernization discussions.
- Other factors, such as salmon habitat, are being addressed through the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative – a collaborative effort between Indigenous Nations, B.C. and Canada to study the feasibility of returning salmon to the Upper Columbia River.

37. Can you tell me more about the efforts to reintroduce salmon to the Upper Columbia River?

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- The governments of Canada and B.C. have been working with Indigenous Nations as they lead efforts to investigate the feasibility of reintroduction of salmon to the Upper Columbia River.
- In 2019, the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Indigenous Nations, Canada and British Columbia signed a Letter of Agreement to collaborate on exploring the feasibility of reintroduction of Pacific anadromous salmon into the Canadian portion of the Upper Columbia River Basin.
- You can follow the efforts of the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative at ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca.
- The annual Bringing the Salmon Home Festival took place~~is happening online~~ May 3 – 4, 2022. Over 1000 people registered two days of free online events and diverse presentations from knowledge keepers, artists, musicians, biologists, elders and youth.

38. Idaho Senator Jim Risch has said the Treaty should remain focused on electricity generation and flood control. He has said he only expects to see small changes to the Treaty and does not think it should be expanded to include new priorities such as ecosystems and restoring salmon to the upper Columbia. What is your response?

- From Canada, B.C. and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nation's perspective, there are a number of issues that we want to address beyond electricity generation and flood-risk management. Addressing ecosystems is important to our governments. In addition, B.C. and Canada are collaborating with Indigenous Nations who are leading efforts to investigate the feasibility of restoring salmon to the B.C. portion of the Columbia basin.

39. How would B.C. respond if the United States were to take ecosystems and salmon reintroduction off the table?

- Canada, B.C. and Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations remain committed to ensuring that a modernized Treaty includes environmental provisions, including providing greater flexibility for Canada to undertake environmental improvements in the Canadian portion of the Basin. We will continue to raise these important topics at the negotiation table.
- In 2019, the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Indigenous Nations, Canada and British Columbia signed a Letter of Agreement to collaborate on exploring the reintroduction of Pacific anadromous salmon into the Canadian portion of the Upper Columbia River Basin.

Climate Change

40. How significant a factor is climate change in the current negotiations?

- The B.C. Decision and the U.S. Regional Recommendation on the future of the Columbia River Treaty both address the need to consider climate change impacts in the Columbia River Basin in the modernization of the CRT.
- Climate change considerations are a factor in the domestic ecosystem work being led by Indigenous Nations in collaboration with provincial and federal agencies, and consultants.
- Climate change is interwoven in the discussions that Canada and the U.S. are having about the modernization of the Treaty.

41. BC Hydro participated in a University of Victoria report showing that while Columbia Basin glaciers are thicker than previously thought, this won't offer much of a lifeline against melt due to climate change. Why does this type of research have value to BC Hydro? Does this data have real-world and policy implications?

- BC Hydro is constantly monitoring water levels, snowpack and environmental factors that impact their operations.
- Glacier melt is a small component of the total inflow BC Hydro relies on to power the province. That's why they participated and supported this research.
- It's important to have a better understanding of the glacier mass left in the Columbia Basin in particular. While the glacier melt accounts for a small component of our total inflow across the province, in low snowpack years, glacier melt can account for up to 30 per cent of the late summer inflow to streams and reservoirs in the Upper Columbia watershed.
- This research helps BC Hydro improve certainty around the water cycle in the Basin and provides them with the information on how climate change may be impacting these resources and their operations.
- The changes to glaciers and glacier melt have implications to communities, industries and the ecosystems relying on their presence, both as a part of the natural landscape and as source of water, particularly in the late summer. This new information will also help BC Hydro inform decisions for their long-term planning.

Domestic Governance

42. Will Indigenous Nations, Basin residents or local governments have a say in future Treaty governance?

- The Negotiations Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from Canada, B.C. and the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations, directed that a consultant be hired to look at potential governance options for a modernized Treaty. This is related to the domestic, or Canadian CRT governance.
- One of the fundamental principles underlying this process is that proposed governance models will be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The process is rolling out in stages and will take time.
- Indigenous Nations, the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee, and the Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee have been and will continue to be consulted to ensure this process is collaborative.
- We will be transparent, and more information will be provided in the future.

Removing/Decommissioning Dams

43. In terms of the future of the Treaty, would B.C. consider removing any of the Treaty dams as a way of mitigating the impacts created by the Treaty?

- B.C. is not considering removing any Treaty dams. It's also worth noting that dams in the Canadian Columbia Basin enable almost 50% of BC's power.

If asked about removal of non-treaty dams in the U.S., e.g. on the Snake River:

- Any decisions about removing non-Treaty dams in the U.S. would be the decision of the U.S. government.

If asked about decommissioning the Duncan Dam:

- The Duncan Dam manages flows to optimize power generation downstream in the Kootenay River system, while also reducing the risk of damaging floods from Kaslo to Nelson to Castlegar.
- B.C. has no intention of decommissioning Duncan Dam; however, one suggestion is to install fish passage at the dam BC Hydro is in the process of replacing the fish weir at Duncan Dam. We will also explore other suggestions to reduce impacts from Duncan Dam operations.

Columbia Basin Community Engagement

44. How are Columbia Basin Local Governments and citizens involved with the CRT?

- The Province communicates regularly with the CRT Local Governments Committee (LGC), to ensure the Canadian negotiating team is up to date on Basin community issues and concerns. B.C. has a protocol agreement on how we work closely with Columbia Basin Local Governments during CRT negotiations.
- In addition, the LGC is leading efforts to ensure Basin socioeconomic interests are integrated in the Canadian negotiating team's discussions about potential changes to CRT operations.
- B.C. also meets regularly with the Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee (CBRAC) on matters related to the CRT and domestic hydroelectric operations, including future improvements to the Treaty. CBRAC is a diverse Basin-wide group representing a broad range of perspectives, interests and geography.
- We work closely with LGC, CBRAC, and Columbia Basin citizens and organizations to discuss the future of the Treaty, to find out what the issues are and find ways to address them.
- The Province has been engaging with the public since 2012 through virtual and in-person meetings, social media, newsletters, emails, letters and one-on-one phone calls with interested citizens.
- We will be hosting ~~two~~ public online events ~~on~~ May 16 and June 15 2022, both accessible by web and by phone. The first one will feature an update on Treaty negotiations by members of the Canadian negotiating delegation, and provide insight into the process for modernizing the CRT in both Canada and the U.S. The second event will provide details on the significant ecosystem research being led by Indigenous Nations in collaboration with federal and provincial agencies and consultants that is informing Canadian negotiating positions.
- These events follow a virtual town hall held in February 2021 and a series of community meetings held in 2018 and 2019, all of which provided updates on Canada-U.S. negotiations and associated work and answered questions from the public.
- These activities build on the public engagement that occurred between 2012 and 2013 as part of the Province's CRT Review process.
- Materials from all public sessions, including recordings of select meetings, can be found on the B.C. Treaty website.

Youth Engagement

45. How is the Province engaging with youth?

- From ongoing feedback from our community meetings, the Province increased its focus on engaging youth.
- We are engaged with Wildsight to support their Columbia River Field School and their recently launched Teach the Columbia curriculum, both of which expand awareness and understanding of the Columbia River Basin and related issues with Basin youth and educators.
- Additionally, we have engaged over the past few years with College of the Rockies and Selkirk College to speak directly to students, help them understand the Treaty historically and today, and talk with them about Treaty-related issues in their region.
- Engaging youth and having them participate in discussions about the Treaty is important as they will be inheriting the Treaty and its implications for the future.

Community Interest Projects

46. Columbia Basin communities have raised issues related to the Treaty that are not part of the CRT negotiations. What is your response?

- Through our ongoing engagement with Columbia Basin communities and local governments, the Province has heard about many community concerns and opportunities, and has been exploring ways of addressing these issues outside of CRT negotiations.
- Some examples of projects the B.C. CRT Team is working on with Basin communities include:
 - Working with diking authorities in Creston Valley to address dike maintenance and construction;
 - Reviewing fish passage at Duncan Dam;
 - Supporting the repair of a portion of the Nakusp marina and breakwater in Nakusp;
 - Collaborating with the Village of Valemount, the Province's CRT Team, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to look at air quality issues;
 - Exploring recreation and other opportunities in Golden, Valemount, and Revelstoke;

- Exploring opportunities for enhancing support for the Basin agriculture sector; and
- Initiating a Basin-wide Columbia River Treaty Heritage Project to provide a platform for local stories about the impact of the Treaty, and to recognize what was lost when the Treaty dams were built.

47. Can you provide more information about the Province contributing funding for repairs to the breakwater system at the Nakusp marina?

- The Province is responding to Treaty-related community interests that have been raised throughout consultation on the Columbia River Treaty, in order to acknowledge what was lost in the Basin due to Treaty implementation.
- While some aspects, such as enhancing Basin ecosystems and reducing reservoir fluctuations, could only be addressed through the Treaty itself, the Province is working to seek improvements on domestic issues, where possible.
- The Nakusp marina is one example: In March 2020, the then provincial Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources provided \$30,000 for engineering and other work relating to the marina.
- In mid-July 2020, 300 feet of the Nakusp Marina's west breakwater was replaced, the first phase of a larger project. The work was finished on budget and on schedule, with funding from the Village of Nakusp (\$200,000), BC Hydro (\$100,000) and the Province's Columbia River Treaty Branch (\$30,000).

Agriculture

48. The CRT caused inundation of prime farmland and its impacts are affecting farmers to this day as they struggle to be economically viable. What is your government doing to assist the agricultural community in the Columbia basin?

- Throughout the Province's public engagement on the Columbia River Treaty, Basin residents have spoken of agricultural losses sustained when valley bottoms were first inundated after construction of the Treaty dams. Many people have indicated that increased support is needed for areas such as accessing land, financial aid for sustainable farming, irrigation, and dikes.
- To help respond to these concerns, the B.C. Columbia River Treaty Team investigated existing federal, provincial and regional agriculture programs and initiatives with the potential to help address some of the interests. The findings were collated in a discussion paper 'Overview of Agricultural Interests in the B.C.

Columbia Basin and Existing Programs and Initiatives', published on the B.C. CRT website for public input in the summer of 2021.

- In Feb. 2022, the B.C. CRT Team published a summary of the responses received, inviting feedback on both the summary report and the discussion paper. There is no time limit to submit input.
- The B.C. CRT Team is also engaging with B.C. agriculture and other experts to better understand the gaps in addressing Columbia River Treaty related impacts on agriculture interests and concerns.
- The B.C. Treaty Team is sharing what was heard through this process with provincial ministries and agencies responsible for specific areas of concern, and together, will explore opportunities for enhancing agriculture support. The Team also continues working with industry experts and federal, provincial, and regional agencies to better understand Basin agriculture issues, in particular those resulting from Columbia River Treaty impacts, and potential courses of action.
- The Columbia Basin Trust currently supports agriculture through programs that offer business planning support, technical training and access to markets. CRT staff are working closely with CBT to find synergies to enhance agricultural development.
- The B.C. Land Matching Program offers personalized and regionally based matchmaking services to farmers who are looking for affordable land, and landowners that have farmland available.
- The provincially funded program has land-matchers in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan, the Columbia Basin and Central and Northern B.C.
- As of Dec. 2021, more than 165 land matches have been completed since the program began, helping farmers access more than 6,300 acres of land, with many of the farms in high value and urban areas.

49. Okanagan farmers are concerned that Washington State farmers have an unfair advantage due to the accessible and stable irrigation provided by the CRT. Can B.C. farmers be compensated?

- Washington agricultural industry relies on water supply from Grand Coulee Dam/Lake Roosevelt, built more than a decade before Columbia River Treaty was signed. However, B.C. believes that the U.S. farming community does benefit from Treaty flows at certain times of the year.
- Canada, including B.C., has raised these and others benefits at the negotiating table.

Koocanusa Weir

50. Why was there a study conducted to assess the feasibility of building a weir across Koocanusa Reservoir?

- In Jan. 2021, the B.C. government released an independent report outlining preliminary costs, benefits and impacts related to the feasibility of building a weir/dam across Koocanusa Reservoir. The report was commissioned by the Province in response to calls from some local residents to construct a weir across Koocanusa Reservoir, which spans the B.C.-Montana border south of Jaffray. The suggestion came as a result of ongoing concerns about summer changes to Koocanusa water levels and their impact on recreation on the Canadian side of the reservoir. Water levels rise and fall as a result of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operations at Libby Dam on the U.S. side of the border.

51. How did the Province share the results of this report?

- The Province presented the results of the report to the Regional District of East Kootenay Board on Jan. 8, 2021, and to the public via a Virtual Town Hall on Jan. 12, 2021.
- The report was published on the B.C. CRT website and shared via Facebook, Twitter and the Regional District of East Kootenay communication channels.
- Public feedback on the report was invited for a period of five weeks.

52. Now that this report is complete, what are the Province's next steps?

- After a detailed review of the preliminary Koocanusa Weir Feasibility Study, all feedback received on the study, and the Aug. 2021 motion by Regional District of East Kootenays, the B.C. CRT Team determined that, at this time, the first priority to most efficiently address concerns about Koocanusa Reservoir water levels is to advocate for increased co-ordination of Libby Dam operations during Canada-U.S. negotiations on the Columbia River Treaty.

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Ministry of Forests

Issue: Revenue Derived From Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- **Total revenue** as from the 2022/23 Budget Estimates Forecast by major category is \$1.77 billion in 2022/23; \$1.54 billion in 2023/24; and \$1.55 billion in 2024/25.
- Forests and Other Natural Resources categories align with Table A9 of the 2022/23 Budget and Fiscal Plan. Crown lands and other revenues do not have their own separate line items and are rolled up with other revenue sources in the Budget and Fiscal Plan.

Ministry Revenue Category	2021/22 Revised Forecast	2022/23 Budget Forecast	Government Financial Information
Forests *	1,847	1,122	
Other Natural Resources**	505	513	
Crown Lands	77	100	
Other Revenues***	57	36	
Total Ministry Revenue	\$ 2,486M	\$ 1,771M	

*. Forests include timber tenures stumpage, BC Timber Sales, other forest revenue, recoveries and logging tax

**. Other Natural Resources include water resources and wildlife act fees and licenses and recoveries

*** Other revenues include land registry fees, Low Carbon Emissions Leadership Fund (LCELF) federal government contributions and other miscellaneous revenue accounts

**** Totals may not add due to rounding

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FORESTS REVENUE - (Millions)

FORESTS REVENUE	2021/22 Revised Forecast	2022/23 Budget Forecast	Government Financial Information
Timber Tenures ¹	1,228	715	
BC Timber Sales	417	260	
Other CRF Revenue ²	35	30	
Logging Tax ³	110	60	
Recoveries ⁴	56	56	
FORESTS REVENUE (A9)	\$ 1,847 M	\$ 1,122 M	

¹ Timber Tenures includes stumpage revenue and annual rent revenue. Recoveries related to revenue sharing payments to Indigenous Peoples are deducted to provide net timber tenures revenue.

² Other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) Revenue includes timber export fees, range permits and fees, waste, penalties, interest and other miscellaneous forestry receipts.

³ Logging tax is administered by the Ministry of Finance and applies to individuals or corporations that have income from logging operations on private or Crown land in BC. Negative forecasts due to corporations filing amended returns to claim their loss carry-backs.

⁴ Recoveries include log export recoveries and wildfire management recoveries. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) recoveries are also included.

Recommended Response – Forests Revenue

Advice/Recommendations

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OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE REVENUE – (Millions)

	2021/22 Revised Forecast	2022/23 Budget Forecast	Government Financial Information
Water Resources	433	441	
Water Recoveries	50	50	
Wildlife Acts Fees and Licenses	9	10	
Fish and Wildlife Recoveries	13	13	
TOTAL	\$ 505 M	\$ 513 M	

Recommended Response – Other Natural Resource Revenue

- Water Resources revenue is 97% from about 250 power producers, and 3% from 30,000 other licensed water users in the province, from domestic usage to the Greater Vancouver Water District supplying all of Vancouver with water.
- The forecast shows an increase in water resources revenue for 2022/23 and 2023/24 from a combination of factors related to power production:
 - Higher initial reservoir storage going into 2022 and above average water inflows to reservoirs in 2021. More power is able to be generated due to the increased pressure from a higher reservoir depth.
 - System re-optimization related to planned outages and balancing among BC Hydro Columbia River facilities and Columbia River Treaty Coordination Partners.
- Decreased water resource revenue estimate for 2024/25 through 2026/27 mainly due to refinement in Site C reservoir filling plan. Site C reservoir filling requires controlled outflows at Bennett and Peace Canyon, thus lowering their flexibility to produce power.
- Water rental rates are indexed to the BC CPI rate annually.
- 100% of net angling revenue is allocated to Freshwater Fisheries Society BC annually.

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CROWN LAND REVENUE - (Millions)

	2021/22 Revised Forecast	2022/23 Budget Forecast	Government Financial Information
Land Tenure	55	56	
Net Land Sales	3	7	
Net SPP Sales	4	24	
Land Royalties	14	12	
Interest & Other Income	1	1	
TOTAL	\$ 77 M	\$ 100 M	

Recommended Response – Crown Land Revenue

Advice/Recommendations

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sonja Martins

Phone: 250 889-1774

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Bennett (Forests)

Phone: 778-974-2407

Name: Trevor Miller (NRO)

Phone: 778-698-9496

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Ministry of Forests

Issue: Economic State of the B.C. Forest Sector – 2021 Review

Recommended Response:

Advice/Recommendations

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Key Facts:

- **In 2020 B.C.'s forest sector GDP²** was \$5.51 billion (down 4.2% from 2019). Forestry and logging was \$1.7 billion (up by 7.4%), support activities for forestry was \$682

¹ The latest employment data from the System of National Accounts, which is considered the most robust estimate.

² In chained 2012 dollars. There is usually a one-year lag in GDP figures.

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million (down by 2.7%), wood product manufacturing was \$2.23 billion (down by 8.5%), and paper manufacturing was \$911 million (down by 12.9%).

- **Forest sector employment in B.C.** was 48,050 in 2020, down 14% from 55,645 in 2019. The sector represented 11% of goods sector employment and 2% of all-industry employment in B.C.
- **The total harvest volume** was 52.6 million cubic metres in 2021 when including private and Crown land, up 1.9% from 2020. Log prices went up by 34% in the Interior, while they increased by 18% on the Coast.
- **Forest manufacturing sales** were \$21 billion in 2021, up 41% from 2020, and represented 33% of B.C.'s manufacturing sales. Overall, the Canadian price index for wood product manufacturing increased by 40% and paper manufacturing increased by 5% in 2021.
- **Softwood lumber** is B.C.'s dominant forest product. In 2021, B.C. produced 9.3 billion board feet of softwood lumber (22 million m³), up 3.8% compared to 2020. Most of B.C.'s production is in the Interior (88%). Lumber exports for 2021 totalled \$8.9 billion, up 64% from 2020. In 2021, the value of softwood lumber exports to the U.S. was up 69% and volume was up 10%, while they declined by 18% and 40% for China.
- **Commodity Prices** are at record highs for lumber, oriented strand board (OSB), and plywood. Western spruce/pine/fir 2x4s averaged US\$870 per thousand board feet in 2021, up by over 50% from 2020, with the latest price at US\$1,400. Pulp prices increased significantly compared to 2020. Northern bleached softwood kraft pulp prices averaged at US\$850/tonne in 2021 (up by 46%). Paper prices also improved in 2021, with newsprint (45 grams per square metre) prices at 623 US\$/tonne (up by 12%). High prices have resulted in healthy profits for B.C. producers of these products.

Export Markets

- **The U.S.** continued to be B.C.'s primary forest product export market. Export value to the U.S. was up 54% in 2021 and accounted for 61% of total B.C. forest product exports. Softwood lumber had the largest share of exports to the U.S. (67%). U.S. housing starts totaled 1.60 million units in 2021, the highest since 2006 and up 16% from 2020.
- **China** continued as B.C.'s second-largest export market for forest products. Pulp had the largest share of exports to China (69%), followed by lumber (15%) and logs (8%). B.C.'s total export value to China was up 9% in 2021. China has suspended log exports from Australia, and Russia banned softwood log exports in early 2022 – it remains to be seen which countries will fill in these gaps in exports to China.
- **Export value to Japan** increased by 80% in 2021. Lumber volumes were 8% above 2020, recovering from 2020's new low for total volume since 1988 (the earliest data available to the Ministry).
- It remains to be seen what the long-term implications of the Russia-Ukraine war would be on forest sector exports. In the short run, rising fuel prices have already started to increase transportation costs. Some companies have ceased production at their wood

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product and pulp mills inside Russia. Russia has halted export of many commodities, which will impact global forest product supplies.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Janna Jessee

Phone: 250-507-7482

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Issue: Feedstocks for BC Wood Pellets

Recommend Response:

- The greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of wood pellets depend on the source and type of material used to produce the pellets. Pellets produced from a fibre source that would otherwise be burned typically have an immediate GHG benefit, while pellets produced from stands that are harvested exclusively for bioenergy do not.
- The 12 wood pellet processing facilities in BC have an estimated combined full capacity of 1.8 million tonnes per year (2022).
- The vast majority of fibre used by wood pellet facilities comes from milling residuals.
- The Province plans on producing guidance on wood pellet production that prioritizes GHG reductions through feedstock selection.

Additional Response points (if needed)

- The pellet sector ensures BC forest resources are fully utilized by reducing waste at sawmills and reducing emissions that would occur if fibre remained in the bush and was burnt in a slash pile.
- FOR is working with industry, researchers, and Indigenous communities to develop new higher value bioproducts that can use lower quality fibre and store carbon as long lived wood products.
- These new bioproducts can provide long-term opportunities to help diversify our forest economy and provide a path for pellet companies to continue to innovate while enhancing GHG benefits.

Key Facts:

- 2021 saw consolidation of the BC sector where Drax is the largest producer.
- (Confidential, for minister's use only) An estimated 75% of fibre for pellet processing facilities comes from sawmill residuals such as sawdust and

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Advice/Recommendations

- Wood pellets are a growing export commodity to Europe and Asia worth \$388 million in 2019. Pellets may displace other energy sources such as coal and be used by countries to meet GHG emissions targets.
- The interior forest industry has been facing a decrease in fibre supply which has lead to sawmill closures and curtailments. The decrease in the supply of residues from these facilities has lead pellet mills to use a higher proportion of harvest residues as feedstocks to meet export commitments.
- Not all harvested logs are suitable as sawlogs, such as where they are damaged by insects, mechanical processing, or fire. Where these logs would otherwise be burned in slash piles, pellets are a way to use them to reduce GHGs.
- High quality timber tends to be delivered to milling facilities that make long lived wood products that store carbon. Low quality, lower-value logs and residuals are used for pulp and paper, domestic bioenergy, and pellet mills.

Carbon Impact of Wood Pellets from Green Trees

- Wood pellets consumed in bioenergy facilities burn at a much higher combustion efficiency than burning wood in slash piles, which avoids the emission of more harmful GHG emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide, and reduces smoke.
- Bioenergy pellets produced by logging green trees (non-salvage) do not produce a carbon benefit, because carbon from the green tree which would otherwise be stored is quickly released into the atmosphere. It takes decades for the equivalent amount of carbon to be recaptured through reforestation.
- Due to the lower energy density of wood pellets, more GHGs are released to produce the same amount of energy as an equivalent unit of coal.
- There is a common misunderstanding that bioenergy is considered “carbon-neutral” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Bioenergy emissions from forest pellets are reported by the Province and the Government of Canada under the Forest Management category. There are ongoing international discussions around GHG accounting of biomass, carbon storage, and emissions of harvested wood products.

Date Prepared: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Carbon/Climate Implications

Name: Heather Stober, Low Carbon Economy Fund Manager Phone: 778-698-4026

Feedstock/Bioprocess Questions:

Name: Emma Driedger, Indigenous Opportunity Manager Phone: 778-704-7109

Tenure Questions:

Name: Patrick Russel, Timber Tenures Manager Phone: 778-974-2483

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Issue: Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Recommend Response:

- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) has been a strong partner in the delivery of projects that contribute to the province's key commitments of managing for climate change, sustainability and reconciliation, leading to continued benefits for BC's forests, Indigenous peoples, and communities.
- In fiscal year 2022-23, \$25 million of new funding will be provided to FESBC to help reduce wildfire risks.
- As of March 31, 2021, FESBC has approved 269 projects throughout BC.
- Approximately 2,200 full time equivalent jobs are created from FESBC funded projects.

Key Facts:

- FESBC was formed in 2016 under the *Society Act*.
- In previous years FESBC received \$238M from government to fund projects to advance and advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests:
 - \$85M initially in 2016;
 - \$150M in 2017 to support reforestation, fertilization, and wood fibre utilization projects to help BC fulfil the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund Agreement between Canada and BC; and
 - \$3M in 2020 under the StrongerBC economic recovery plan.
- In fiscal year 2022-23, new funding of \$25 million will be provided to FESBC, focusing on delivering projects for wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments near higher-risk communities and critical infrastructures.
- These projects will maximize the recovery and utilization of low-value residual fibre resulting from wildfire risk reduction treatments.
- FESBC intends to initiate an intake process in spring 2022 to solicit project proposals.

Date Prepared: March 14, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Vera Sit

Phone: 778-974-3047

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Issue: Improving the *Forest and Range Practices Act*

Recommend Response:

- The ministry is committed to improving the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) framework. By passing the *Forest Statutes Amendment Act, 2021* (Bill 23), the ministry has introduced transformative changes which feature the new Forest Landscape Planning framework.
- Bill 23 was developed through consultation with Indigenous Nations and input from communities, stakeholders and the public.
- The changes in Bill 23 support Government's commitment to reconciliation and begin to align the forestry framework with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act). Amendments in Bill 23 were the first to enable the implementation of decision-making agreements negotiated under s. 7 of the *Declaration Act* for key decisions.
- Bill 23 enables increased opportunities for participation in forest planning by stakeholders and communities; achieves greater government oversight of forest management to protect public safety, the environment and natural resources; and ensures that land managers have the right tools to establish resilient forests and rangelands when faced with the uncertain impacts of climate change upon these ecosystems.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- The ministry has engaged extensively and directly since 2018 with a wide range of groups regarding the proposed changes to FRPA and will continue to do so in development of regulations needed to bring the changes into force on the ground.
- Government is working collaboratively and cooperatively with Indigenous Nations in the development of regulations.

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In addition, further opportunities for engagement will be provided to forest industry and range tenure holder representatives and natural resource stakeholders as regulations proposals to amendments are being developed.

- FRPA is the foundation of the province's world-renowned sustainable forest management regime. It is important to take the time to address the many interests of those who will be impacted by changes to FRPA. We are committed to taking the time to get it right.

Key Facts:

- There are two phases of FRPA improvements currently underway:
 - Incremental changes were introduced in the *Forest and Range Practices Amendment Act, 2019* (Bill 21)
 - Transformative changes that feature the new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) regime were introduced in the *Forest Statutes Amendment Act, 2021* (Bill 23).

Both Amendments require regulations to be deposited before they come into force.

- Work is also underway across provincial ministries to develop a coordinated understanding and approach for the use of new shared decision-making tools, including guidance and recommended timelines for implementing shared decision-making processes.
- There are four (4) Forest landscape Planning pilot projects underway across the province that are intended to inform further policy development and new approaches to collaboration and shared decision-making with First Nations. The four pilots are situated in the following timber management units: Sunshine Coast, Quesnel, Lakes (around Burns Lake), and Tree Farm Licence 37 on the Central Coast.

Date Prepared: March 14, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rachael Pollard

Phone: 250 318-3744

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Issue: Kootenay Timber Supply Area (TSA) Coalition Process

Recommend Response:

- The Kootenay Collaborative has worked diligently for the last two years to develop strategies to improve fibre utilization and enhance forest inventories. I appreciate their efforts.
- In the fall of 2021, the Collaborative endorsed a suite of strategies which they presented to me in January.
- Many of the Collaborative's interests align with the *Modernization of Forest Policies in British Columbia* intentions paper, released by the Ministry in 2021, including improving fibre utilization, reducing waste, and enhancing BCTS policies to further support value added manufacturers.
- The strategies developed by the Collaborative in this regard have been incorporated into the Ministry's on-going work to advance forest sector transformation.
- Ministry staff will be working with the Collaborative to explore how several strategies for improving the forest inventory might be implemented.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- The Ministry's is now focussed on advancing the *Modernization of Forest Policy*, and I have concluded that it is not prudent to initiate new areas of work by the Collaborative under the original initiative.
- I encourage the Collaborative members to continue to work together locally to enhance Indigenous participation and partnership in the forest economy, improve forest stewardship, and build strong communities.

Key Facts:

- The TSA Coalition in the Kootenays, known as the Kootenay Collaborative, was established under Premier Horgan's 2019 invitation to help chart a sustainable

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path forward for the interior forest sector, workers, local government, and First Nations.

- TSA Coalitions are intended to be locally led community processes rather than government driven.
- The Kootenay Forest Sector Collaborative includes the Invermere, Cranbrook and Kootenay Lake TSAs, and Tree Farm License 14.
- As an initial investment, FLNRORD has supported the Inventory Work Group recommendations by investing \$395,000 in the acquisition of LiDAR imagery this spring to enhance forest inventories in the Kootenays.
- Minister Conroy sent a letter to the Collaborative Chair, Ross Lennox in March acknowledging the work of the collaborative, but also concluding the process to further initiatives.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Garth Wiggill

Phone: (250) 551-5353

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brenda Hartley

Phone: (250) 371-1977

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Issue: Intentions Paper: Modernizing Forest Policy (MFP)

Recommend Response:

- In June 2021, the Province made a commitment to modernize and transform the forest sector by increasing forest sector participation, enhancing sustainability and stewardship of our forests, and ensuring ongoing support of forestry across BC.
- We will fulfill our vision for the future of the forest sector by increasing forest sector participation, enhancing stewardship and sustainability and ensuring continued support for forestry in BC. These are the three principles we have heard repeatedly from partners, stakeholders and communities.
- Twenty priority actions have been outlined to create the path to modernization and we are making progress.
- We have updated the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Forest Act* to provide the framework and tools that are needed to achieve this vision.
- We have more work to do to deliver on the other actions to diversify the sector, provide more opportunities for communities and First Nations, and shift from high volume to high value by expanding opportunities for the value-added sector.
- We are committed to working in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Nations, aligned with obligations in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act).
- Modernizing forest management will create opportunities for partnerships with Indigenous peoples, as well as providing predictability across the sector.

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- The Ministry will continue to advance additional changes through ongoing engagement and consultation with industry, communities, and other key stakeholders.
- When taken together, the intentions outlined represent significant change that is appropriate and necessary, however the vision will not be realized overnight.

Key Facts:

Accomplishments to date:

- In 2019, the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) Amendment Act, 2019* (Bill 21) made targeted improvements to support the health and sustainability of BC's public forests and rangelands.
- Further changes in November 2021 under the *Forest Statutes Amendment Act* (Bill 23) made BC's approach to forests more focused on sustainability, allowing the return of more benefits to people and local communities, and positioning BC to take full advantage of future economic opportunities through long-term planning. Changes also enable opportunities for Indigenous Nations to better participate in forest planning and decision-making, including taking steps to align FRPA with the Declaration Act.
- In November 2021, the *Forest Amendment Act, 2021* (Bill 28) enabled tools to redistribute volume to First Nations, community forests, and BC Timber Sales, while helping to meet the Province's goal of doubling the amount of replaceable forest tenure held by Indigenous Peoples. Bill 28 also authorizes the Province to create clear compensation rules that protect British Columbians from potential windfall court settlements and ensure that impacted licence holders are compensated at fair market value.
- Bill 28 also provides the ability to have enhanced revenue oversight for log exports. This policy has been worked on jointly with the Ministry of Finance and is complete.

Engagement:

- The vision to modernize forest policy has been informed by extensive engagements since 2017 with Indigenous Nations, the forestry industry, local governments, stakeholders, and the public.
- During the summer and fall of 2021, the Province heard from 125 Indigenous Nations and organizations on proposed changes to MFP. The Province heard unanimously that the work to modernize forest policy is important, and Indigenous Nations want to be meaningfully involved in the forest sector as Rights and Title holders. Extensive engagements with local governments and the forest sector also occurred.

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Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson, ADM

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Gretchen Prystawik, Indigenous Engagement Lead

Phone: 778-349-5053

Name: Charlean Lehman, Project Manager

Phone: 778-974-2386

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Issue: Mackenzie Timber Supply Area

Recommend Response:

- The Province remains committed to improve the forest industry's economic viability within the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA) to ensure a competitive, sustainable future for the Mackenzie TSA.
- The Mackenzie Timber Supply Review (TSR) is underway and involves a collaborative process with First Nations. The Public Discussion Paper is anticipated to be released this spring.
- The modernized forest legislation will support meaningful reconciliation with First Nations and a competitive forest industry in a way that respects the local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities' dependence on forest resources.
- I want to recognize First Nations, Industry, and the District of Mackenzie for continuing to work together with the Province to look for solutions for the forest industry's economic viability in Mackenzie.
- In the northern part of the Mackenzie TSA, we are working on the stumpage system to ensure that it appropriately recognizes the high transportation costs in Mackenzie.
- Starting in July of this year, industry costs will be reduced for wood harvested in the northern part of the Mackenzie TSA by allowing use of existing inventory data (VRI) to determine Market Pricing Stumpage Rates (MPR)

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- Mackenzie is one of the most forestry-dependent communities in BC.
- All mills in Mackenzie have curtailed operations in the past three years.
- Currently the only mills operating are Conifex and East Fraser Fibre.

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- Canfor closed their Mackenzie mill in June of 2019 and has recently announced an intent to transfer their forest licence in Mackenzie to McLeod Lake Indian Band and Tsay Keh Dene, and to sell their mill in Mackenzie. At this time, it is not known if the mill will reopen, and the potential transfer must go through the public interest consultation and First Nation consultation.
- Concern continues with timber being moved through the community to mills outside of Mackenzie.
- Following the conclusion of the Mackenzie Coalition, ministry staff have been working with the group of First Nations, local government, and industry on some of the items identified by the Coalition including stumpage concerns, upgrades to the Finlay Forest Service Road, engaging with First Nations and the community of Mackenzie in the TSR.
- Two Pricing Policies are being worked on:
 - Inventory based appraisals (rather than using a cruise based model).
 - Payment adjustment for fibre which is manufactured in Mackenzie.
- Inventory policy will save an expected \$2/m³ for the licensees operating in the northern part of Mackenzie TSA, and it is revenue neutral to BC Government.
 - This policy can be used as an example if needed.
- Payment adjustment policy is more complex and is currently working through the Treasury Board preparation and submission process.
 - Trade risks are associated with this policy.
 - Concept is to transfer up to \$5/m³ to licensees manufacturing in Mackenzie.
 - Tied to stumpage, so minimum stumpage of \$0.25/m³ still applies.
 - Lowers costs in good markets, neutral in negative markets.
- The District of Mackenzie and local First Nations continue to request additional forest tenure while also being aware of the decline in timber supply and other constraints to timber harvesting such as caribou management and old growth.
- Ministry of Forests is looking at post TSR to re-examine tenure distribution with modernized forest legislation.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Hykaway, A/Assistant Deputy Minister Phone: 1-250-893-7516

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Lori Borth Phone: 1-250-570-9442

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Issue: Silviculture Investments in BC's Forests

Recommend Response:

- The provincial silviculture program has planted an average of 245 million trees annually over the last ten years.
- Despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, approximately 300 million trees were planted by licensees and government programs in 2020 and, close to 300 million trees were planted in 2021, marking the two largest reforestation years ever in BC.
- Planting is projected to remain well above the historic average as government partners with programs such as the federal 2 Billion Tree Program. The target is to plant 286 million trees in 2022, and in 290 million in 2023.
- The quality of seedlings will continue to increase as tree improvement investments are made in the province's seed orchards. An estimated 67% of the seedlings planted in 2021 were grown from selected, orchard produced seed.
- In 2021/22, government fertilized over 30,000 hectares of forest land, well over the 10-year historic average of 17,000 hectares. A similar sized program of 30,000 hectares is planned for 2022/23.
- The province's partnership with the federal government's Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund will support incremental reforestation and fertilization treatments, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 7.5 million tonnes CO₂ e by 2050.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Reforestation following harvest is required by law in BC and will account for approximately 240 million trees for 2021/22.
- The new Forest Investment Program, formally the Forest For Tomorrow and Forest Carbon Initiative programs, led by the Office of the Chief Forester will plant 46 million trees in 2022/23 with a focus on incremental carbon benefits.

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Key Facts:

- The Minister's mandate letter commits to "A better future through fighting climate change" and specifically to "plant more trees for a healthy industry and province and continue to make significant investments in forest health, wildfire protection, silviculture and revitalizing our forests" as well as to "transition our forestry section from high volume to high value production"

The challenges

- Healthy, productive forests have been put at risk due to a changing climate and large-scale natural disturbances, such as wildfires and insect outbreaks:
 - over 10 million hectares of mature pine were severely impacted by mountain pine beetle over the past 2 decades.
 - over 3 million hectares of forest burned between 2017 and 2021 with 1.5 million hectares inside the Timber Harvesting Landbase including almost 200,000 hectares that are licensee accountability to reforest
 - spruce bark beetle, Douglas fir bark beetle, hemlock looper moth, western balsam bark beetle and tussock moth are all examples of other forest health agents currently impacting timber supply and carbon storage
- The timber harvesting landbase has been constrained in some areas, resulting in pressures on timber supply (for example, Land Use Orders, Species at Risk and Old Growth issues), resulting in a need to maximize productivity.

FOR Response

- The ministry will continue to make investments in innovative silviculture to support maintaining healthy forests and a healthy forest economy while maximizing greenhouse gas benefits.
- Government funded investments in silviculture will be coordinated through the new Forest Investment and Reporting Branch (FIRB) in the Office of the Chief Forester. FIRB will respond to these challenges through focusing on three main program areas:
 - Increasing the salvage and utilization of low value and damaged timber while clearing sites for reforestation.
 - Prompt reforestation with climate adapted species to establish resilient, healthy forests.
 - Increasing carbon sequestration through planting and fertilizing and reducing emissions created by slash pile burning.

Date Prepared: March 4, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rachael Pollard

Phone: 778-362-7156

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Issue: Softwood Lumber Litigation

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

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Ministry of Forests

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Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

Litigation

- The U.S. Department of Commerce published the final AR2 countervailing and antidumping duty orders on November 24, 2021, marking the end of the Second Administrative Review. Most companies are paying a combined average duty of 17.91%.
 - This represents a significant increase in the average rates from the AR1 final, which were 8.99%.
 - The preliminary results for AR3 signal lower rates to come, however final results will not be published until August 2022.
- B.C.'s response to additional US DoC questionnaires on programs not previously investigated in AR3 is ongoing.
- AR4 was initiated by the US Department of Commerce on March 9, 2022.
- As of February 28, 2022, countervailing and anti-dumping duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from B.C. are estimated to be \$3.160 billion CAD (\$6.505 billion estimated for all of Canada). Cash deposits continue to be held in trust by the U.S. Liquidation (or release) of deposits was suspended upon request of the Petitioner.

Ongoing Challenges

- NAFTA – injury determination: The Panel upheld the original finding of material injury May 22, 2020, ending this proceeding.

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- NAFTA – countervailing duty (CVD) determination: the US continues to put forward names of panelists that are egregious in the opinion of Canada.
- CUSMA – CVD: Canada filed notice that it will challenge the AR1 final results under Chapter 10 of CUSMA, but the panel still needs to be established.
- WTO – antidumping (AD) determination: Canada filed a challenge of the April 9, 2019 WTO panel decision on zeroing. However, the WTO Appellate Body does not have enough panelists to hear appeals because the U.S. is blocking appointments.
- WTO – CVD: the panel issued their final report which was very favourable for Canada. The U.S. appealed to the non-functioning WTO Appellate Body.
- While appeals were largely successful for Canada in the previous lumber dispute, they took many years to complete.

Rate history

- This table represents combined CVD and AD duty rates since the investigation.
- AR3 rates are preliminary and the AR3 rates could change with the final determination expected in August 2022.

Company	Investigation	AR1 Final (Cash deposit)	AR2 Final	AR3 <i>Preliminary</i>
Canfor	20.52%	4.62%	19.54%	6.75%
West Fraser	23.56%	8.97%	11.14%	13.09%
Tolko*	17.90%	8.99%	17.91%	11.64%
Resolute	22.07%	20.25%	29.66%	20.24%
JD Irving	9.38%	4.23%	15.05%	7.09%
All Others	20.23%	8.99%	17.91%	11.64%

*While Tolko was a mandatory respondent in the investigation, they were not selected for the Administrative Review, therefore they are subject to the "All Others" rates in AR1, and going forward.

First Administrative Review

- Covered the period April 28, 2017 to December 31, 2018.
- Mandatory respondents were: Canfor, West Fraser and Resolute.
- November 24, 2020 – Final Determination including assessment rates (covering the period of review) and cash deposit rates going forward.

Second Administrative Review

- Covered the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
- Mandatory Respondents were: Canfor, West Fraser and Resolute.
- September 24, 2021 - Final Determination (tolled and fully extended due to COVID-19 delays).

Third Administrative Review

- Initiated March 4, 2021.

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- Mandatory Respondents were: Canfor, West Fraser and Resolute (as in AR1/2).
- January 31, 2021 – Preliminary Determination was issued (fully extended).
- August 8, 2022 – Final Determination (fully extended).

Fourth Administrative Review

- Initiation was announced March 9, 2022 in the US Federal Register.
- Mandatory Respondents not yet selected.
- Covers the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
- January 31, 2023 – Preliminary Determination (fully extended).
- August 7, 2023 – Final Determination (fully extended).
- Preliminary and Final Determinations could be as early as October 3, 2022 and February 7, 2023 respectively, however all deadlines in this proceeding have been fully extended to date.

Date Revised: May 9, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Janna Jessee

Phone: 250-507-7482

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Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Spruce Beetle Outbreak in the North Area

Recommended Response:

- Spruce beetles are endemic insects with periodic outbreaks.
- Ministry of Forests (MOF) is collaborating with communities to mitigate the impact of the spruce beetle. This is largely achieved by directing licensee harvesting into the most impacted areas.
- Licensee operational plans are annually updated with newest MOF monitoring data to show areas of harvest and retention within the spruce beetle infestation.

Additional Response points (if needed):

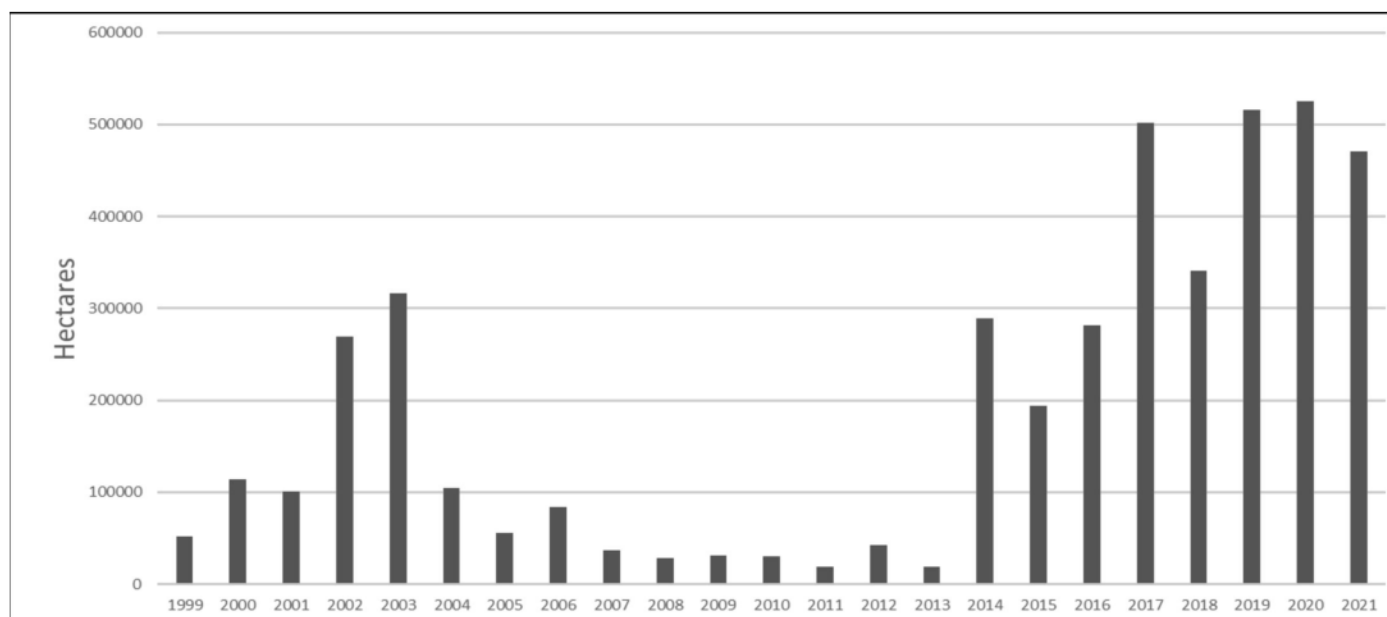
- The outbreak continues to be a major source of risk for the mid-term timber supply in and around Mackenzie and Prince George.
- We have focused licensees' harvesting into the areas most impacted by the beetle. After seven years the trees lose their value.
- MOF staff will continue to engage First Nations and communities through existing working groups and initiatives to ensure operational plans are communicated.
- Ensuring community sustainability is a critical consideration in determining harvest levels. We do not want to harvest too many healthy green trees as the attacked trees are often mixed in with the healthy.
- Spruce beetle is present in many forests outside the timber harvesting land base and therefore unavailable to manage through licensee harvesting.
- The timber market pricing system accounts for spruce beetle volume (cruise data collection) and value reductions (stumpage calculations) resulting from spruce beetle.
- There is an average of \$58 "direct cost recognition" for spruce beetle attacked trees through the market pricing system.

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Key Facts:

- In October 2015, a spruce beetle outbreak was declared in the Omineca Region.
- In 2021, the total provincial area for spruce beetle damage is approximately 471,000 hectares (ha) provincially (slightly lower than 2020 levels - see table below).
- Cumulative area of impact since 2014 is approximately 1.8 million ha. The previous mountain pine beetle outbreak was over 18 million ha impacted over approximately 20 years.



- Spruce beetle attack is predominantly in the North Area; in 2021, 52,000 ha in the Skeena Region, 320,000 ha in the Omineca Region, and 73,000 ha in the Northeast Region.
- This is the largest recorded spruce beetle outbreak for the province and has extended beyond the historical seven-year timeframe of previous outbreaks.

Some of the key actions to date include:

- In 2022, the Director for Provincial Bark Beetle Response (Jeanne Robert) was appointed to coordinate response efforts across the province.
- FLNR hosted annual public summits focused on research and engagement from 2016-2021. The 2021 virtual summit focused on values of unharvested spruce beetle-attacked stands. The next summit is planned for November 2022.
- In 2016, a public information document was created "Working Together: BC's Spruce Beetle Mitigation Strategy".
- The public and First Nations have an opportunity to engage on spruce beetle during these summits to provide input into mitigation actions.

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- Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) funding for the Omineca in fiscal year:
 - 2016/17 was \$1M;
 - 2017/18 was \$1.4M;
 - 2018/19 was \$1.4M;
 - 2019/20 was \$1.4M;
 - 2020/21 was \$.96M;
 - 2021/22 was \$.89M; and
 - 2022/23 proposed \$1.1M

Funding was used for flights to identify impacted areas, surveys to identify priority operational areas, and public engagement.

- MOF and licensees are working to jointly implement best management practices including Chief Forester guidance (e.g., Stand and Landscape-Level Retention Guidance and Spruce Beetle Harvest Prioritization Matrix).
- Where feasible, targeted pest reduction harvesting of spruce beetle-infested stands including collaborative planning of harvest and retention areas within the outbreak and effective prioritization of stands to maximize value.
- Hauling and milling strategies to effectively reduce population spread.

Date Prepared: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Hykaway, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 1-250-893-7516

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeanne Robert

Phone: 1-778-693-3078

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Stumpage

- Budget Forecast

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- 2022/23 Budget Estimates Forecast:
 - Stumpage revenue: \$1.001 B
 - Crown harvest: 40.0 million m³
 - Provincial average rate (including BCTS): \$25.04/m³
- Stumpage forecast assumes US\$575/1000bf price of lumber in 2022
 - Assumptions are discussed, debated and approved with Treasury Board

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Bennett

Phone: 778-974-2407

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Issue: Stumpage

- Detailed Statistics

Volume Billed (m ³ , millions) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average
Coast	Majors	5.6	5.3	6.9
	Other	2.0	1.8	2.4
	BCTS	1.7	1.4	2.0
	Total	9.3	8.6	11.3
Interior	Majors	22.2	21.1	27.0
	Other	5.5	5.3	6.6
	BCTS	8.0	5.1	8.1
	Total	35.7	31.4	41.6
Province	Majors	27.8	26.4	33.9
	Other	7.5	7.1	8.9
	BCTS	9.7	6.5	10.1
	Total	45.0	40.0	52.9

Revenue Billed (\$, millions) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average
Coast	Majors	156.1	128.8	74.3
	Other	44.8	37.0	20.3
	BCTS	96.9	84.0	113.4
	Total	\$297.8	\$249.8	\$208.0
Interior	Majors	941.2	516.3	464.6
	Other	118.1	64.8	58.7
	BCTS	314.0	170.5	276.5
	Total	\$1,373.3	\$751.7	\$799.8
Province	Majors	1,097.3	645.2	538.9
	Other	162.9	101.8	79.0
	BCTS	410.9	254.5	389.9
	Total	\$1,671.1	\$1,001.5	\$1,007.9

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Average Stumpage Rate Billed (\$/m ³) - Estimates and Historical Average				
Region	Tenure type	Q3 Estimate FY 2021/2022	Budget Target FY 2022/23	5 year Average Government Financial Information
Coast	Majors	27.63	24.23	
	Other	22.97	20.14	
	BCTS	57.00	58.00	
	Total	\$32.02	\$29.04	
Interior	Majors	42.45	24.51	
	Other	21.37	12.34	
	BCTS	39.25	33.53	
	Total	\$38.47	\$23.94	
Province	Majors	39.44	24.46	
	Other	21.78	14.36	
	BCTS	42.36	38.96	
	Total	\$37.14	\$25.04	

* all logs, special forest products, species and grades billed to crown land through HBS.

Excludes waste, reject and Christmas trees. For all scale invoiced as of February 15, 2022.

** Majors only include Forest licences and Tree Farm licences

***Other category includes all other licences not Majors or BCTS.

**** 5 year average: FY16/17 to FY20/21

***** Totals may not add due to rounding

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Budget Forecast

	ACTUALS			Q3 ESTIMATE			BUDGET TARGET				
Region and Tenure Type	2020/21			2021/22			2022/23		2023/24		2024/25
	Harvest	Stumpage	Average	Harvest	Stumpage	Average	Harvest	Stumpage	Average	Government Financial Information	
	Volume	Revenue	Stumpage	Volume	Revenue	Stumpage	Volume	Revenue	Stumpage		
	(Mm ³)	(\$M)	Rates (\$/m ³)	(Mm ³)	(\$M)	Rates (\$/m ³)	(Mm ³)	(\$M)	Rates (\$/m ³)		
COAST	10.9	\$226.2	\$20.71	9.3	\$297.8	\$32.02	8.6	\$249.8	\$29.04		
BCTS	1.8	110.6	61.20	1.7	96.9	57.00	1.4	84.0	58.00		
Tenures	9.1	115.6	12.68	7.6	200.9	26.43	7.2	165.8	23.18		
INTERIOR	36.8	\$949.9	\$25.79	35.7	\$1,373.3	\$38.47	31.4	\$751.7	\$23.94		
BCTS	8.7	343.3	39.39	8.0	314.0	39.25	5.1	170.5	33.53		
Tenures	28.1	606.6	21.57	27.7	1,059.3	38.24	26.3	581.1	22.08		
PROVINCE	47.8	\$1,176.1	\$24.63	45.0	\$1,671.1	\$37.14	40.0	\$1,001.5	\$25.04		
BCTS	10.5	453.9	43.14	9.7	410.9	42.36	6.5	254.5	38.96		
Tenures	37.2	722.2	19.40	35.3	1,260.2	35.70	33.5	746.9	22.32		

*Actuals retrieved from HBS as of February 15, 2022

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 778 974-5974

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Stumpage

- General, Lags

Recommend Response:

- Stumpage is the fee government charges when it sells trees. B.C. charges for trees like a private landowner would.
- Licensees pay cash (stumpage) and provide services (obligations) for the trees they purchase. Obligations include silviculture and road building.
 - Stumpage = Estimated Winning Bid (EWB) – Tenure Obligation Adjustments (TOA)
 - The EWB is the value of trees if sold prior to harvest. BCTS auctions standing timber to collect data, which is used to build the EWB equation.
 - The TOA is the value of services licensees provide to the government.
- Stumpage for licensees is updated quarterly based on the latest market conditions.
- The market based pricing system (MPS) uses BC Timber Sales auctions as the cornerstone system for pricing non-auctioned timber.
- B.C. uses the Market Pricing System (MPS) to determine the stumpage rate.
- MPS uses the data collected from auctioning off roughly 20% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to price the remainder.
- The Coast and the Interior of B.C. both use a version of MPS and there are some differences in the details.

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Additional Response points (if needed):

- **Coast**

- The Auction Dataset:

- The auction dataset consists of 15 years of auctions and new auctions are added annually with a 6 month lag.
 - Due to length of the dataset, the model is quite stable and the impact of adding new variables is low, as is the impact of the lag in adding new variables.

- Market variables:

- **Lumber and veneer prices:** Quarterly adjustments using 3 month averages and a 2 month lag.
 - **North American and Japan housing starts and total coast harvest:** North American and Japan housing starts and total coast harvest both use 12 month rolling averages with a 2 month lag.

- **Interior**

- The Auction Dataset:

- The auction dataset consists of 14.25 years of auctions and new auctions are added annually with a 3 month lag.
 - Importantly, the Interior uses a system which places greater weight on the last year of sales in the dataset, which means the impact of adding new sales can be significant.
 - To avoid large changes in stumpage due to annual updates, a change was made in July 2020 to incorporate new bidding behaviour quarterly.
 - This change simulates quarterly updates and reduces large impacts of the annual updates

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Ministry of Forests

as the changing bidding behaviour is incorporated through the year.

- For example, if the system had been in place prior to July 2019, the large stumpage increase at that time (due to extremely high bids in late 2018 and early 2019) would have been replaced by more gradual increases in the preceding quarters.
- Market variables:
 - **Lumber prices:** As on the coast; 3 month, average 2 month lag.
 - **US\$/C\$ exchange rate:** 3 month, average 2 month lag.
 - **Total Interior Harvest:** The overall harvest in the Interior is used as an overall market indicator, with a 12 month rolling averages and a 2-month lag.

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Ministry of Forests

Key Facts:

- YTD FY 2021/2022 Average Billed Stumpage Rates (\$/m³)
 - For volume scaled between April 01, 2021 and March 17, 2022

Actual Billed Stumpage Rates (\$/m ³) - FY21/22 ytd				
Region	Tenure	Volume (m3)	Value (\$)	Weighted Avg. Rate (\$/m3)
COAST	Majors	5,337,865	140,445,539	\$26.31
	Other	1,581,074	33,498,906	\$21.19
	BCTS	1,627,327	95,205,269	\$58.50
	Total	8,546,266	\$269,149,713	\$31.49
INTERIOR	Majors	18,349,409	878,605,094	\$47.88
	Other	5,258,638	124,341,974	\$23.65
	BCTS	5,842,961	286,560,547	\$49.04
	Total	29,451,008	\$1,289,507,615	\$43.78
PROVINCE	Majors	23,687,274	1,019,050,633	\$43.02
	Other	6,839,712	157,840,879	\$23.08
	BCTS	7,470,288	381,765,815	\$51.10
	Total	37,997,273	\$1,558,657,328	\$41.02

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

** Average rate is total revenue divided by total volume. It is a volume weighted average rate.

*** Majors category only includes forest licences and tree farm licences; Other category includes all other licences not Majors or BCTS.

***For all HBS volume scale invoiced as of March 17, 2022.

Date Revised: March 17, 2022	
Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
Name: Melissa Sanderson	Phone: 250-812-7253
Alternate Contact for Issue:	
Name: Allan Bennett	Phone: 778-974-2407

2022/23 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Stumpage

- Old Growth estimated impacts for Stumpage Forecast

Recommend Response:

- The *Budget and Fiscal Plan* projected stumpage revenues will be down \$670 million in the next fiscal year.
- 75% of this decrease is due to the expected decline in lumber prices. We have experienced historically high lumber prices for the past year during the COVID-19 recovery.
- B.C. has a market-based stumpage system and this means the revenue we collect is based on lumber prices.
- While we expect a decline in harvest volumes for a variety of reasons, this also includes the impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation and wildfires.
- Only a fraction is due to old growth deferrals.

Key Facts:

- The recommended deferral areas identified by the Technical Advisory Panel cover 2.6 million hectares, roughly half of which falls within the Timber Harvesting Land Base.
- Government has committed to implementing deferrals where there is agreement with First Nations on the need for a temporary pause in harvesting activities.
- Engagement with First Nations is underway. To date, most First Nations have indicated that they need more time to review the information.
- As most First Nations have asked for more time, it is difficult to estimate what the actual AAC and harvest impact of the deferrals will be.
- See Year over Year Stumpage Revenue Changes (below)

Year over Year Stumpage Revenue Changes

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Ministry of Forests

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Government Financial Information

Date Prepared: April 04, 2022

Date Prepared: February 15, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:	
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Name: Melissa Sanderson	
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Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:	
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Name: Allan Bennett	
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Phone: 778-974-2407

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Ministry of Forests

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Issue: Stumpage

- Year over year estimated stumpage revenue changes

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

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Key Facts:

Stumpage Forecast:

Q3 ESTIMATE			BUDGET TARGET			
2021/22			2022/23		2023/24	2024/25
Harvest Volume (Mm ³)	Stumpage Revenue (\$M)	Average Stumpage Rates (\$/m ³)	Harvest Volume (Mm ³)	Stumpage Revenue (\$M)	Average Stumpage Rates (\$/m ³)	Government Financial Information
45.0	\$1,671.1	\$37.14	40.0	\$1,001.5	\$25.04	

Forest Revenue Forecast as presented in Budget and Fiscal Plan (page 163)

Table A5 Material Assumptions – Revenue (continued)

Revenue Source and Assumptions (\$ millions unless otherwise specified)	Updated Forecast 2021/22	Budget Estimate 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Plan 2024/25	2022/23 Sensitivities
Forests *	1,847	1,121	Government Financial Information		
<u>Prices (calendar year average)</u>					+/- US\$50 change in SPF price equals +/- \$100 to \$150 million
SPF 2x4 (\$US/thousand board feet)	883	575			
<u>Crown harvest volumes (million cubic metres)</u>					+/- 10% change in Interior harvest volumes equals
Interior	35.7	31.4			+/- \$70 to \$80 million
Coast	9.3	8.6			+/- 10% change in Coastal harvest volumes equals
Total	45.0	40.0			+/- \$20 to \$30 million
B.C. Timber Sales (included in above)	9.7	6.5			+/- 1 cent change in exchange rate equals
<u>Stumpage rates (\$Cdn/cubic metre)</u>					+/- \$20 to \$30 million in stumpage revenue
Total stumpage rates	37.14	25.04			
<u>Components of revenue</u>					The above sensitivities relate to stumpage revenue only.
Timber tenures (net of revenue sharing recoveries).....	1,229	715			
Recoveries relating to revenue sharing payments					
to First Nations	46	46			
B.C. Timber Sales	417	260			
Logging tax	110	60			
Other CRF revenue	35	30			
Recoveries	10	10			
* Reflects information as at January 7, 2022					

- Note – there is no single line item for stumpage revenue

Date Prepared: February 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Bennett

Phone: 778-974-2407

2021/22 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Issue: Successorship

Recommend Response:

- Protection of forestry workers rights is critical to this government and the starting point is fair and reasonable approaches to update forestry contract tendering, which improve job security
- As part of our new vision for forestry, we are committed to ensuring workers benefit from sustainable, innovative jobs for generations to come.
- It is essential that any recommendations resulting from the Industrial Inquiry Commission must incorporate and be consistent with the terms of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UN Declaration).

Additional Response points:

- It is important to continue to work with First Nations to support expanding their participation in the Forest sector.

Key Facts:

- The Industrial Inquiry Commission (IIC) made the following recommendations:
 - Successorship rights should not be extended for Parks or Conservancies.
 - Successorship rights should be extended to land or tenure transfers to First Nations.
 - Successorship rights should not be extended to BC Timber Sales auctioned timber.
 - Government should expand compensation for both unionized and non-unionized employees displaced by Government reallocation of forest land or tenure rights.
- The IIC report stated: *"any recommendation to broaden the successorship provisions in the Code to apply to Government-initiated reallocation of forest tenures to First Nations must not undermine or conflict with the Province's commitments to Indigenous peoples."*
- The IIC also acknowledged that any recommendations resulting from the IIC must incorporate and be consistent with the terms of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UN Declaration).

2021/22 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

- The IIC highlighted the following rights recognized in UNDRIP (and enacted provincially in DRIPA) were applicable to the issue of successorship were summarized by the IIC as follows:
 - Indigenous people have the right to determine how to use their own lands and resources (Articles 20, 26 and 32).
 - Indigenous people have the right to economic, employment, and educational opportunities and, crucially, should enjoy all the same rights as other workers under domestic and international labour law (Articles 17 and 21); and
 - Indigenous people have the right to be included and consulted on any government decision-making that could affect their rights (Articles 18 and 19).
- The rationale for the IIC to extend successorship rights to First Nations was based on current law - the *Indian Act* sec. 88 (“General Provincial Laws Applicable to Indians”) and recent case law that both hold provincial labour and employment statutes apply to First Nations.
- The IIC recommendation centered on the view that First Nations retain complete autonomy over how the land is utilized - successorship rights would only apply if the First Nation decided to continue logging.
- The report did not review extension of successorship rights to First Nations land transfer or tenure transfers in the context of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision upholding the Tsilhqot’in Nations claim to aboriginal title and rights over a portion of its traditional territory, and the recent legal opinions on the impact of UNDRIP’s requirement for free prior and informed consent.
- To support protection of First Nations rights the IIC also recommended, if the decision was to continue logging operations, the following actions would be required:
 - the collective agreement would immediately be re-opened to recognize First Nations interests for employment, and
 - a dispute resolution mechanism would be incorporated where either party could submit the disagreement to the Labour Relations Board for resolution.
- The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) in their discussions asserted that imposing successorship rights when tenure is transferred to First Nations would go against First Nations’ right to self-determination and self-government, and that First Nations themselves should get to decide whether to hire unionized workers or contract work out, rather than having those decisions imposed by government.
- The FNLC strongly voiced concerns that the IIC process engaged with First Nations as “just another stakeholder”, which goes against the government’s obligations to meaningfully consult and obtain free, prior, and informed consent.

2021/22 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Date Prepared/Revised: March 23, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250 812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Jacobsen

Phone: 250 415 - 6638

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Issue: Completion of the 100 Mile House Apportionment.

Recommend Response:

- Significant amount of collaborative work with First Nations and Licensees has occurred.
- The Ministry wants to ensure we maximize the opportunities to advance reconciliation through this process.
- The Ministry wants to ensure that social and economic benefits confer to all British Columbians.
- The Ministry remains committed to working with First Nations and industry stakeholders in the apportionment process and subsequent implementation.
- Initial briefings have occurred, and I expect the final briefing shortly and I will be making my decision at that time.

Key Facts:

- In November 2018, the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for the 100 Mile House Timber Supply Area (TSA) dropped from 1,948, 002 m3 to 967,805 m3 (50% drop).
- The province's primary focus in an apportionment process is the volume distribution between major licensees, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and First Nations.
- Due to the significant drop in volume, there will be licence reductions for the major licensees, and they are expecting them.
- Several options were considered for the 100 Mile Apportionment with the current recommended option distributing major licensees 60%, First Nations 20% and BCTS 20%.
- The above option represents a 27% reduction to the major licensees and a 6.5 % increase to First Nations of the TSA AAC.
- Ministry Executive have been briefed on several occasions landing on the above recommended option.
- Legal guidance suggests there is a risk licensees will challenge the apportionment as an uncompensated taking due to them being reduced while First Nations volume has increased.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 25, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Josh Pressey, Regional Executive Director Phone: 250-255-7946

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Larry Henry, Tenures Team Lead South Area Phone: 250-312-7255

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Issue: 2021 wildfire season

Recommend Response:

- After two years of below-average fire activity, the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) faced a challenging wildfire season in 2021, and the tragic impact of fire on the community of Lytton is something that we will not soon forget as we engage in the re-building effort.
- The BCWS significantly altered response operations to adjust to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing requirements and safety protocols brought about changes to fire camps, transportation (ground and air), and crew configurations. It also inhibited the province's ability to import out-of-province wildfire response resources.
- The historic "heat dome" in late June and early July brought record-breaking temperatures that were well above seasonal averages and accelerated the drying and curing of fuels to dangerous levels
- The high number of active wildfires (not only in B.C., but throughout Canada and the western United States), led to multiple agencies competing for firefighting resources, including personnel and equipment.
- It is a testament to BCWS and its many partners, (including First Nations, firefighters from around the world, the forest industry, ranchers etc.) that no lives were lost and we were able to save homes and protect communities.
- Our government has added over \$60 million dollars per year to BCWS base capacity to increase the number of firefighters, to modernize our equipment, and to reduce wildfire hazards into the future.

Key Facts:

- BC experienced over 1,600 wildfires consuming 868,000 hectares of land. Of these, 60% of were natural caused, 35% human, 5% undetermined
- The Province was under a state of emergency for 56 days (July 21-Sept 14)
- There were 181 evacuation orders issued and 304 evacuation alerts impacting a significant number of citizens. Approximately 17,000 evacuees.
- There were 67 wildfires of note identified, indicating high level of impact and interest.

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- Significant impacts were felt in the southern interior of the province with Lytton, Merritt, Kamloops, Logan Lake, Ashcroft, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and the Shuswap all experiencing the effects of wildfire events.
- The expenditure for the wildfire season was over \$700M.
- BCWS relied heavily on partners to support the efforts; first nation, industry, contracted workers, and vendors from BC.
- BCWS drew support from resource sharing partnership agreements including Canadian provinces and territories, Australia, and Mexico.
- Peak activity of the summer 4,500 personnel supported the efforts.
- Many BCWS staff were impacted including fire fighters whose families were evacuated and homes were destroyed due to fires.
- Six weeks after the 2021 wildfire season, many BCWS personnel stepped up to support the Province with Atmospheric River flood assistance. Over 400 employees assisted the efforts.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Todd Nessman

Phone: 778 220-8633

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Issue: Preparation for the wildfire season 2022

Recommend Response:

- In preparation for the 2022 wildfire season, the BC Wildfire Service has taken steps to expand its workforce and build stronger relationships with our partners including First Nations, the forest industry, the ranching community and more.
- In addition, BCWS is undertaking the following:
 - Increased training for all BCWS personnel
 - Modernizing firefighting equipment including more structural protection and mass water delivery systems, remote piloted aircraft system
 - Expansion of cultural and prescribed fire
 - More funding for FireSmart
 - Fuel reduction in the interface including pruning, thinning or prescribed fire.
 - Improved technology to improve fire behaviour forecasting, reporting and communication with the public
 - Enhanced research around fire prediction, prevention and fuel treatment effectiveness.

And this is only a sample what we are doing to improve BCWS ability to respond to wildfire and other hazards.

Key Facts:

- The impacts of climate change have been felt in BC and BCWS has begun to play a larger role on behalf of government providing emergency response capability.
- BC Wildfire Service is transitioning site and incident management response capabilities to a year-round service model to allow more emphasis on all four pillars of emergency management: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Changes will include:

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- Moving to year-round operations will improve our ability to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for cross-training and planning for cultural and prescribed fire projects.
- Initiation of the 365 Readiness project focussing on the modernization of the organization in preparedness, response, and prevention activities.
- Renewed support for the Incident Management Team program with dedicated resources established to advance and support the organization and members.
- Continued modernization in our approach to training our staff and partners through improved access to learning content and lesson learned.
- BCWS will be providing more training opportunities with staff and partners to help with knowledge skills and abilities with a focus on continuous improvement.
- Mental health, well-being and resiliency of our staff remains a priority and includes the development of the Total Worker Health program.
- Additionally, the BCWS Occupational Athlete program will continue to be offered to staff to support their physical and mental well-being.
- Revised the approach to external communications with improved digital and public education campaign to promote awareness of BCWS and wildfire.
- The provincial research and innovation strategy outlines priorities over the next three years including:
 - health and wellbeing of staff, both physical and mental health,
 - fire science research focusing on predictive services and prevention, specifically, fuel treatment efficacy, which involves ongoing collaboration with Thompson River University
 - equipment and technology: Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), detection and remote communications continue to be the main priorities along with finding tools and technology to improve operations and response
- Enhanced technology to enable expedited staff and contractor payments, advanced resource planning, situational awareness, data integration between applications, weather forecasts, and reporting capabilities.
- Public mobile application enhancements allowing for the public to digitally report fires, which will also allow for operational staff to have increased awareness of the fire situation.
- Continued building of external capacity and engagement through sustained engagement with First Nations, rural community and local governments and supporting training for First Nations firefighters.
- This includes funding for local governments and First Nations through the Community Resiliency Investment funding streams to undertake FireSmart activities including priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land and on private land. Examples of fuel management activities include pruning, thinning or prescribed fire.

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Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Todd Nessman

Phone: 778 220-8633

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Issue: Lytton Wildfire Under Investigation (report pending)

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Additional Response points:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- On June 30, 2021, wildfire K71086 ignited near the Village of Lytton
- BC Wildfire partners with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and with all local fire departments to ensure joint-agency support on incidents.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 20, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kathleen Werstiuk

Phone: 778 974 5721

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Issue: Addressing archaeology following wildfires and flooding, including Lytton's rebuild

Recommend Response:

- My heart goes out to the people of BC who have been severely impacted by floods, washouts, and wildfires.
- I also acknowledge that these natural disasters have impacted cultural sites of high significance to Indigenous Communities.
- With respect to Lytton's recovery, we are working with First Nations, the Village of Lytton, government agencies, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders to help guide and support Lytton's recovery.
 - The Province's Archaeology Branch is working with the Village of Lytton and the Kumsheen Heritage Committee to ensure HCA requirements are not hindering progress.
 - Given the urgency of the recovery, HCA processes have been streamlined to allow development to occur lawfully and without delay, and work has begun .
 - The Province has made \$10 million available to support debris removal and archaeology, and additional funds have been committed for recovery work and housing to support Lytton.
- The Province has established HCA permits to support wildfire recovery and rehabilitation since the 2017 fires, and issued a permit to support the emergency works related to 2021's catastrophic rains and resulting floods and landslides.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- On March 7th, 2022, the Archaeology Branch issued a s.12.2 Heritage Investigation Permit, authorising archaeological assessments within the village of Lytton. Private property owners can be added to this permit, and can obtain the services of the qualified archaeologist of their choice.

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- The Archaeology Branch has developed the processes and communications for Lytton's residents; these are expected to evolve. All communication is posted to the village of Lytton's website.
- The Archaeology Branch collaborated with the Kumsheen Heritage Committee to develop a s.12.4 alteration permit, which will authorise necessary, unavoidable impacts to protected archaeological sites. The permit was issued May 12th.
- On March 8th, Emergency Management BC announced funds were made available to support Lytton's recovery including:
 - \$10 million for archaeology support and debris removal for 141 uninsured properties; and,
 - \$970,000 for archaeology support and debris removal for 67 underinsured properties.

Key Facts:

- The Archaeology Branch sits on two of Lytton's recovery committees, which meet weekly:
 - The Land Based Recovery Working Group, a joint Federal/Provincial task force to support Lytton's rebuilding efforts; and,
 - The Kumsheen Heritage Committee (KHC), which includes representatives from Lytton First Nation, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC), the Village of Lytton, and EMBC.
- The roles and responsibilities of the KHC have not been formalised through a heritage-specific agreement or charter; NNTC developed a Heritage Management Plan that incorporated NNTC values and interests, which exceed the authority of the HCA. However, all parties agree the KHC is a well-functioning working group, providing timely advice and supporting the community rebuild.
- On January 13, 2022, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) issued a news release, stating archaeological work and administration of the HCA was negatively impacting the cost and timelines for Lytton's recovery.
- On January 25, 2022, the Archaeology Branch learned that IBC's policies do not cover archaeological assessments. Based on available information, approximately 56% of Lytton's residents did not have insurance; 42% are insured.

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- Following another media story on May 2nd, Dave Peterson (EMBC ADM) reached out to insurance representatives to clarify roles, funding, and next steps
- The Village of Lytton has retained a Project Manager, and signed a contract with AEW (NNTC's archaeological firm). The Village is pleased that the HCA application outlines the archaeological methods, and the KHC will inform the scope of assessments on a property by property basis.
- The Archaeology Branch has requested dedicated funding to support the administration of Lytton's HCA permits and provide property-specific advice to property owners and their contractors.
- The Archaeology Branch's role is currently limited to provide this level of support to Lytton; other communities within the Thompson Rivers Regional District may be proceeding with wildfire recovery, without oversight from the Archaeology Branch.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 12, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, IROD ADM

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Paula Thorogood, A/Director - Operations

Phone: 250-893-9499

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Issue: Wildfire Land Based Recovery

Recommend Response:

- Addressing the impacts of the 2021 wildfires in British Columbia is a top priority for our ministry, including;
 - completion of post wildfire natural hazard risk assessments (PWNHA), fire guard rehabilitation, grass seeding, salvage of fire damaged fence, infrastructure replacement and reforestation.
 - Rehabilitation activities are estimated to be 40 million dollars over the next 3 years.
- All major wildfires undergo a screening by a Regional Geomorphologist to determine which will require additional detailed assessments based on increased risk to public safety or infrastructure.
- Wildfires with high risks undergo more detailed assessments by a qualified professional and mitigation options are identified, and affected Local Governments/First Nations, stakeholders or others, such as utility companies or railways are notified of these results.
- The Province recognizes that wildfires are increasing in size and frequency which impact the land base requiring new approaches with consideration of climate change, cumulative effects and reconciliation with indigenous peoples.
- The Ministry will create a Provincial Wildfire Land Based Recovery Strategy which will provide a strategic framework to guide Land Managers and practitioners on how best to restore the landscape.
- The goal of rehabilitation and restoration after a catastrophic wildfire is to increase the resilience of the land and communities through integrating disaster risk reduction measures.

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- Building BC back better and reducing the risk from future wildfire is critical for our government and we continue investing in building resilient BC communities.
- In the 2021 Forestry Intentions paper, the Ministry introduced new steps to advance more cultural and prescribed burning as another tool to rebuild BC's resilience to future fires.
- Future Forest Landscape Level Plans introduced passed via Bill 23 will further ensure the safety needs of BC's communities for resilient ecosystems and align this work with BC's Climate Action Strategy.

Key Facts:

- In 2021, 1610 wildfires burned 868,203 ha resulting in ~4700 km of machine guard to be rehabilitated, ~1600 km of range fencing to be replaced and ~2500 ha of area to be grass seeded.
- In 2021, approximately 419,521 hectares of the timber harvesting land base were burnt resulting in an estimated 24,489,976 cubic metres being impacted. To put this in perspective the provincial AAC is about 62,200,000 m³
- Building BC back better and reducing the risk from future wildfire is critical for our government and we continue investing in building resilient BC communities.
- We continue to fund the Community Resilience Investment (Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) and FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS). \$14.2M (120 projects) have been approved in 2022 for FCFS going directly to communities (with adjudication of remaining applications ongoing), and Budget 2022 announced a \$20 million per year uplift to support CLWRR's long-term strategy, bringing the total annual budget to \$40 million for resilience treatments in the interface areas around BC towns and communities.
- 54 wildfires were selected for an initial PWNHA, consisting of an aerial reconnaissance. 17 were determined no further action was required.
- 8 fires were selected for a detailed PWNHA.
- As of March 17, 2022, all 8 detailed PWNHA reports and 25 initial PWNHA reports have been completed.
- It is the responsibility of the local government or First Nations governments to further disseminate these reports to local residents.
- Mitigation of natural hazard is the responsibility of the affected part (infrastructure owners, or local governments/First Nations, the latter are funded through Indigenous services Canada for on-reserve mitigation).
- Section 17 of the Wildfire Regulation requires government to rehabilitate crown land damaged due to fire suppression related activities.
- Section 65 of the Wildfire Act outlines what rehabilitation activities government may fund.

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Date Prepared/Revised: April 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: «Ian Meier»

Phone: «250-643-0078»

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Reg Nolander

Phone: 250-371-1884

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Issue: Wildfire Response - Capacity

Recommend Response:

- The BC Wildfire Service relies on many resource sharing partners to support response efforts and is working to build additional capacity internally and externally to meet future needs.

Key Facts:

- During active wildfire seasons, BCWS relies on a wide spectrum of partners to support response efforts including; First Nations communities, the forest industry, federal agencies, contracted workers and vendors from across BC, Canada, and internationally.
- Typically BCWS retains up to 1,800 personnel for a wildfire season. During busier wildfire seasons, there may be close to 5,000 personnel deployed to assist the response.
- BCWS has drawn support in the past from resource sharing partnership agreements including Canadian provinces and territories, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Mexico.
- BCWS has a procurement process in place to hire resource support such as; fallers, danger tree assessors, caterers, Type 2 and 3 wildfire contract crews, structure protection crews and trailers, drone operators, first aid, helicopters, air tankers, and fuel bowzers.
- BCWS has a resource sharing agreement in place with the Fire Chiefs Association of BC to access many of the 400+ structural fire department personnel as well as engines and tenders.
- BCWS works with Emergency Management BC and the Federal Government to access support from the Canadian Armed Forces who have provided crews, and rotary and fixed wing support in the past.
- When BCWS's own personnel and contracted resources are stretched to capacity, BCWS calls on other jurisdictions through national and international partner agreements. BCWS makes every effort to utilize pre-qualified local contractors and resources prior to accessing external resources.
- Requests for out-of-province assistance are made through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), which co-ordinates the sharing of firefighting resources within Canada and internationally.
- BCWS will continue to explore opportunities to build qualified, trained capacity to support response.
- This includes efforts to strengthen partnerships with First Nations, community association, forest industry, BC Cattlemen's Association to increase response capability and capacity.

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- Through this the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) , hundreds of Indigenous wildland firefighters have been trained, and they will continue to develop their skills to increase First Nations firefighting capacity.
- In the past BCWS has organized interested volunteers by providing the S100 Basic Fire Suppression Training and Safety course and deployed individuals as Emergency Fire Fighters (EFF) to undertake non-dangerous activities such as mop up, which frees up qualified suppression personnel to be redeployed to other incidents.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Todd Nessman

Phone: 778 220-8633

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Issue: Clearcutting and Flooding

Recommend Response:

- In addition to forest harvesting, any disturbance that results in the loss of vegetation cover can contribute to an increased risk of flooding, including wildfire, insect attack and other catastrophic events.
- In BC, bark beetles impact an average of 4 million hectares of forest annually. A record 2.7 million hectares have burned in wildfires over the last five years. In comparison, less than 895,000 hectares were harvested in the last five years.
- Prompt reforestation of harvested areas and those areas damaged by wildfire and pests is essential to mitigate potential flooding risk, and address impacts of climate change.
- Forest professionals use a variety of methods to reduce the risk of flooding and landslides, including avoiding harvest and road building on areas identified with unstable slopes; establishing no-harvest zones within cut blocks adjacent to creeks; retaining trees within cutblocks; variable retention harvesting, and prompt reforestation following harvest.
- Recent changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, including the introduction of the new Forest Landscape Planning regime, will improve how we manage our forests to reduce the impacts commonly associated with increased flooding risks.

Key Facts:

- Loss of vegetation cover can happen through harvesting, and also through wildfire, bark beetles and other catastrophic events. The loss or change of vegetation alters the hydrological cycle and water balance of the landscape, and may create soil conditions less conducive to absorbing water.
- The Forest Planning and Practices Regulation requires that “a person who carries out a primary forest activity (e.g. harvesting or road building) does not cause a landslide that has a material adverse effect”.

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- Forest professionals use detailed terrain stability maps to identify and delineate areas of unstable or potentially unstable terrain based on the characteristics of surficial material, landforms and geological processes when planning harvest and forestry road construction. A terrain stability field assessment is completed by a qualified professional to assess the potential impacts of harvesting, including flood and landslide risks.

Date Prepared: March 10, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rachael Pollard

Phone: 250-318-3744

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Issue: November 2021 Flood Response and Recovery

Recommend Response:

- The BC atmospheric river weather events in November 2021 caused extensive losses and damage throughout the province. Community impacts were most acute in the lower mainland (Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission) and in the southern interior (Merritt, Princeton), including numerous First Nation communities in those areas.
- The floods and landslides triggered unprecedented impacts to infrastructure, erosion of land adjacent to watercourses, and debris in aquatic habitats.
- Flood recovery and response are led by First Nation communities and local governments, and supported by Emergency Management BC, our ministry and others.
- The Ministry will continue to re-establish Forest Service Road (FSR) access, ensuring safe passage to our rural communities/residents as one of our highest priorities.
- Our government has made a commitment to “build back better”, consistent with the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that BC adopted in October 2018. This will mean looking at improved designs as well as alternatives for disaster risk reduction in recovery planning.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- A provincially led working group is being established that will engage other levels of government to better inform topics such as “managed retreat” to explore moving people, public facilities, and critical infrastructure out of high-risk floodplains.

Key Facts:

- Flood mitigation, preparedness and response are a partnership between the province, local governments, First Nations communities and other agencies.
- Ministry of Forests is responsible for a variety of flood recovery activities including:

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- re-establishing FSR access
- repairing important Rail Trail infrastructure
- authorizing recovery activities under the *Land Act* and *Water Sustainability Act*, including works to address debris clean-up within watercourses;
- assessing and repairing ministry-owned infrastructure (such as on rangeland, recreation sites); and
- facilitating fish and aquatic habitat assessment and restoration projects.
- Ministry of Forests' activities will require Indigenous engagement and new approaches to support implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Some recovery activities are time-sensitive in advance of the spring freshet, such as removal of debris that poses any safety hazard.
- Other recovery activities will continue over several years due to the need to conduct preliminary assessments, prioritization, and planning, undertake engagement processes, and/or take a phased approach based upon seasonal work windows, internal capacity, and resources.
- Funding for Ministry of Forests-based activities is largely recovered or captured by other ministries/organizations.
- While the November event was unparalleled, a top priority into the future for the ministry remains the ongoing development of resource road engineering design standards that incorporate resiliency in the face of a changing climate.
- Current assessments indicate there was damage to about 320 km (including 48 bridges) of FSRs in the Chilliwack resource district and 200 km (including 12 bridges) of FSRs in the Cascades resource district.
- Recreation trails and fish habitat restoration will require cross ministry coordination under the natural resource ministry restructuring.
- Future flood recovery efforts may be informed by the modernizing of the *Emergency Programs Act* and the development of a BC Flood Strategy.
- While the Province has publicly signalled its intent to "build back better", it will take time to work with partners to develop guidance. Options are being explored to provide local governments with interim decision support.
- BC is continuing to work closely with the federal government to ensure that the role of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in addressing flood-related issues facing salmon is understood.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Johnsrude, Regional Executive Director

Phone: 778-572-2175

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Issue: Provincial Flood Strategy

Recommend Response:

- A BC Flood Strategy (BCFS) will articulate a provincial vision, outcomes, principles, and flood management priorities.
- To date, Indigenous-specific engagements have been held for development of a Discussion Paper, followed by completion of Phase 1 of engagements with Indigenous Nations, local, provincial and federal government representatives.
- A Phase 2 of engagement with non-government organizations, industry partners, and related professionals had been planned for November 2021.
- However, the unprecedented, catastrophic November 2021 flooding events resulted in a pause in the planned development of the strategy.
- My staff will be re-engaging in developing the strategy this summer and fall, while focusing on flood risk reduction alongside current flood recovery priorities.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- The BCFS aligns with government mandates to support communities to prepare for climate impacts, future-proof our province-wide ability to respond to flood crises, protect our land and water, and invest in the infrastructure of tomorrow.
- Completing the BCFS will allow the Province to leverage federal adaptation, resilience, and disaster mitigation funding programs.
- The BCFS will set the direction for more coordinated approaches with other jurisdictions and partners that will enable targeted strategic investments, programs, and policies to achieve a more flood resilient province.

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Key Facts:

- Flooding is a common, costly disaster in BC that often threatens public safety and impacts a range of economic, social, and environmental issues.
- In 2021, emergency flood evacuation alerts were issued to several thousand residents throughout the interior, mainland, Vancouver Island and coastal areas. Every month, except March, had an active flood advisory in place, for a total of 144 days with flood advisories.
- The costs of damage from a major Lower Fraser River flood in the future are estimated at more than \$30 billion without further flood resilience investments.
- Due to ongoing climate change, flooding is becoming more frequent, with flood frequencies on rivers likely to increase by at least 10-20%, and sea levels expected to rise by 1 metre by the end of the 21st century.
- Development of the BCFS supports government's response to the 2018 BC Auditor General's report on BC's management of climate change risks, and the 2018 Abbott Chapman review of the 2017 wildfire and flood season.
- Estimated costs to raise and seismically upgrade the existing Dike Maintenance Act regulated Lower Mainland sea dikes and Lower Fraser River high consequence in the Lower Mainland to meet 1.0 metre sea level rise by 2100 is in the order of \$12B.
- Estimated costs to upgrade all orphan dikes up to provincial standards are \$1B.
- Work is underway to ensure alignment of the BC Flood Strategy and the Lower Mainland Flood Strategy.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 20, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 778-698-3981

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Issue: Spring Freshet 2022 – Flood Preparedness

Recommend Response:

- After experiencing the catastrophic atmospheric river events last fall, we understand that there is heightened awareness and concern with flood risk this spring.
- First Nation communities and local governments are leading local flood preparedness, supported by Emergency Management BC, our ministry and others.
- My ministry is working closely with provincial and federal partners to support First Nations and local governments as we all prepare for spring freshet.
- We are reviewing all information available to ensure we support diking authorities and communities in their preparation for this year's freshet.
- In addition to investments in flood recovery, Budget 2022 allocates more resources to the River Forecast Centre, hydrometric monitoring, and flood risk reduction.
- The River Forecast Centre is producing monthly snow bulletins for watersheds across the Province and refining hydrometric models, forecasts and flood advisories.
- This gives us the information that local governments and First Nations need to warn residents and coordinate emergency works as waters rise.
- Recent wildfires may exacerbate flooding related risks. This is being considered in communication with potentially affected communities to support efforts to reduce flooding impacts.
- We have reached out to diking authorities to request that they identify and address urgent work, and work with us to improve flood protection in a changing climate.
- During freshet the Ministry supports daily coordination calls with First Nations and Local Governments and we have

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developed a Common Operating Picture to share real-time flood information with our partners.

- EMBC also provides preparedness guides for individuals and businesses as part of the whole-of-society approach to flood risk reduction.
- The Province also continues to invest in flood planning and mitigation work, including an announcement to extend the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Roles and responsibilities for flood preparedness and response (as well as mitigation and recovery) are outlined in the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan.

Key Facts:

- During response, each region coordinates a Flood Assessment Unit, with flood observers and assessors who provide technical information to improve situational awareness and decision making.
- River Forecast Centre updates the hydrometric modelling for major watersheds and the Fraser River and issues high streamflow advisories, flood watches and flood warnings based on the best available data from multiple agencies.
- Flood Safety Section has sent two letters to diking authorities connecting them with resources and guidance for dike management.
- The Ministry recently completed a dike crest elevation survey on all regulated dikes. We will compare that survey with several flood scenarios to help determine vulnerable diking areas so that EMBC has a better understanding of where flood mitigation resources may need to be deployed.
- There is continued strong relationship between regional staff and local governments, helping resolve issues on the ground.
- Ministry of Forests also supports EMBC with forecasts and information for seasonal preparedness workshops prior to freshet, and with updated information on daily response coordination calls, as required.
- EMBC Response inventory/pre-positioning response assets (e.g., gabion baskets, tiger dams, sandbags etc).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 778-698-3981

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Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
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Issue: Bill 28 – Introduced a Legislative Framework to Establish Tenure
Redistribution Tools and Define Compensation Valuation

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

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Additional Response points:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- The new compensation legislation **was not enacted upon Royal assessment** and requires the introduction of a regulatory framework to be brought into force. Work on regulations is moving forward and will be ready for introduction in the fall.
- A First Nation consultation approach is being developed along with a letter that will be sent to the 203 Nations in the first week of April. The letter will offer individual nations options to review the development of the regulations through one on one meetings designed to suit their interests.
- A discussion of Bill 23 and 28 was held with First Nations Forestry Council CEO Keith Atkinson on March 18, 2022. A commitment to re-engage once drafting of the regulations has progressed was also offered.
- 83 percent of all compensation settlements since 2010 were achieved through negotiations based on the Net Income Discounted Cash Flow methodology, introduced in Bill 28.
- Over the period January 2010 to February 2022 there have been 23 separate compensation cases, of which only 4 went to arbitration and court.
- A total of \$106.94 million dollars of compensation has been paid over the period January 2010 to February 2022.
- The 4 cases which went to arbitration and court accounted for 29% of the total value of compensation settlements.
- The compensation framework recognizes two heads of compensation, value of tenure rights and the undepreciated value of fixed improvements (i.e., roads, bridges, log dumps, scale sites, etc.).

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- The new legislative framework removes the effect of the 2016 Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Teal case that established roads have an "intrinsic value".
- In the most recent arbitration with Canadian Overseas Log and Lumber the arbiter awarded \$3.3 million for roads located in two Timber Licenses impacted by the introduction of the Great Bear Rainforest Act. The language in the Timber License agreement is unambiguous and states that upon completion of harvest of the Timber License all improvements vest with the Crown. The arbiter disregarded the licence agreement language and cited the Supreme Court decision as the basis for the award.
- A letter outlining the objectives of Bill 28 was sent to 203 First Nations and offered individual meetings to further explore and discuss the rationale for, structure and objectives of Bill 28.
- Individual meetings were arranged for all the 45 First Nations that indicated they wanted further clarity on the objectives and structure of Bill 28. An overview of each meeting was developed and a record of their interests and comments has been maintained.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 23, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250 812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Jacobsen

Phone: 250 415 - 6638

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Issue: Declaration Act Action Plan 2022-2027

Recommended Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- The Ministry of Forests' Action Plan items include:
 - **2.10** Reform forest legislation, regulations, and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights and objectives of the UN Declaration.
 - **2.11** Integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire into wildfire prevention and land management practices and support the reintroduction of strategized burning.
 - **4.35** Work with First Nations to reform the Heritage Conservation Act to align with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites and objects.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson, ADM

Phone: (250) 812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Leonard Munt, ED

Phone: (250) 616-6615

Prepared for 2022/23 Estimates Debate

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Issue: Negotiations with Treaty 8 Nations following the Yahey decision

Recommend Response:

Negotiations

- BC and Blueberry River are in active negotiations on a path forward following the BC Supreme Court decision last June.
- The situation in the northeast, and the infringement of Blueberry River's treaty rights, was many years in the making.
- It is reasonable that addressing this situation and developing a new path forward will take some time.
- It is the province's responsibility to take action in response to the court decision and uphold our treaty obligations.
- BC is also in discussions with other Treaty 8 Nations in response to the court decision.
- Our negotiating team is optimistic we will have further details to share about agreement(s) and next steps, later this spring.

Forestry

- Future agreements with Blueberry River and other Treaty 8 First Nations are expected to include changes to forestry.
- These negotiations and any future agreements are critical for certainty for the forest sector and the other resource sectors in the region.
- Our initial agreement with Blueberry River reached in October 2021 allowed 66 previously approved forestry permits to proceed. These approved permits have been key to the forest sector's operations while negotiations are underway.
- I share the urgency in reaching agreements with Blueberry River and other Treaty 8 First Nations so that severe impacts to the forest sector and to the local communities can be averted.

Permitting

- Provincial natural resource sector agencies have referred a limited number of permit applications to Treaty 8 First Nations since the court decision, to provide space for our joint strategic discussions.

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- Provincial decision-makers have applied caution and scrutiny to applications to ensure they do not authorize activities that have potential to unjustifiably infringe Treaty 8 rights.
- BC and Treaty 8 Nations are re-engaging in application consultation processes now.
- We will be prioritizing applications for discussions with Treaty 8 nations that support the common goal of sustaining a viable Northeast economy and balancing the broad range of environmental, economic, and social considerations, as we collectively develop new approaches to decision-making that carefully consider Treaty 8 rights.

Battling Racism

- Change can be challenging, and uncomfortable. I recognize we all, and especially residents in the Northeast, are facing change.
- We must insist on dialogue that is respectful for everyone. We must focus on our shared interests and what brings us together. We share a care for the land and its resources, sustainable resource development activities, and to uphold our promise as treaty people – we are all treaty people.
- All of us have a role and a responsibility to learn about our shared history and find ways to move toward a more just society. One that acknowledges the truth in our past and commits to a better future for ourselves and future generations.
- Reconciliation means bringing communities together, not dividing them, and finding pathways to move forward collectively.

Additional Response points (if needed):

Negotiations

- BC chose not to appeal the court decision, as we believe reconciliation is best addressed through negotiations and building partnerships.
- I will not be sharing further details about confidential negotiations at this time. Our focus right now is in building our partnerships and trust with these First Nations as partners.

Key Facts:

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Negotiations and Permitting

Advice/Recommendations

- The forest sector has been creative in sourcing fibre supply, though the lack of opportunities from crown land is acute and curtailments and shutdowns are imminent.
- BC's current budget forecasted less oil and gas activity and revenues resulting from the BC Supreme Court decision, given uncertainty with permitting and the forthcoming outcome of negotiations.
- Greater land protections and reductions to the area's Allowable Annual Cut and licenced hunter access to moose and caribou are all anticipated outcomes from negotiations.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Hykaway, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 1-250-893-7516

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Morgan Kennah, Executive Lead

Phone: 1-250-896-6268

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: James Cuell, Executive Director of Regional Operations

Phone: 1-250-877-1615

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Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Issue: Forest Revenue Sharing with First Nations

Recommended Response:

- The Ministry of Forests (FOR) generates on average, over \$1B in revenue per year from activities that span the landscape.
- Since 2003, the Ministry has actively pursued revenue sharing opportunities with First Nations to provide accommodation for impacts to rights and title.
- As part of the Province's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, FOR recently announced our intention to co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model with First Nations as part of a new fiscal relationship.
- At the same time, we also introduced interim changes to the existing Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing (FCRSA) program that at least doubles the amount of forestry revenue shared with First Nations.
- Changes also replace outdated agreement language that we recognize is inconsistent with our reconciliation priorities.
- This interim revenue enhancement will provide stable funding for First Nations governments while we collaborate with First Nations on a new, permanent forestry revenue solution.
 - Under the existing formula, First Nations are eligible to share between 3 and 5 percent of forestry revenues for activities in their territories.
 - The interim formula raises revenue sharing to between 8 and 10 percent with an additional 3 percent on BC Timber Sales volume.
- Engagement on a new forestry revenue sharing model is expected to take at least two years. Interim enhancements and language changes will be in place for two years or

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possibly longer, until a new forestry revenue sharing model is in place.

Key Facts:

- The FCRSA program was developed in 2003 to provide accommodation for the impact of forestry activity within First Nations' traditional territories; providing over \$660M (approximate) in forestry revenue-sharing with First Nations throughout the province.
- Revenue sharing initiatives have been successful in addressing government's legal obligations to consult and accommodate First Nations with respect to forestry activities. However, since the Tsilhqot'in decision in 2014, First Nations have expressed significant dissatisfaction with current revenue sharing efforts, highlighting inadequacy considering the new understanding and extent of aboriginal title.
- As of April 12, 128 First Nations have Forestry Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements and 184 are eligible. Some First Nations have refused to participate in the program as a matter of principle, as the previous rates were seen as inadequate.
- The previous agreement template was created in 2010 and required that First Nations report to government how they were allocating the funding and ensure their members did not protest forestry activity in their territory.
- The interim enhancement is available for all First Nations with a Forest Consultation Revenue Sharing Agreement starting April 1, 2022, including Treaty First Nations.

Date Prepared: March 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ariel Taylor

Phone : 250-883-3374

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Issue: Wildlife Act Amendments to Support Reconciliation

Recommend Response:

- Introduced on March 9, 2022, Bill 14 proposes amendments to the Wildlife Act that represent key early reconciliation-focused steps towards addressing First Nations' concerns.
- Wildlife is vitally important to Indigenous Peoples but for too long, their voices were not being heard in how wildlife is managed.
- This government co-developed the legislation with the Indigenous members of the BC-First Nations Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum to address matters of central importance to First Nations.
- The proposed amendments support better incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in statutory decision-making and establish a process by which the province can align its laws with hunting agreements that have long existed between First Nations by the creation of sheltering agreements between the province and one or more First Nations.
- Sheltering agreements will recognize the traditional practice where a host First Nation permits members of another First Nation to harvest wildlife within the host Nation's traditional territory. This will ensure that Indigenous interests in these practices are accommodated and that First Nations hunters are not subject to improper compliance and enforcement actions.
- Overall, the proposed legislation lays the groundwork towards addressing key concerns from First Nations and, ultimately, aligning the current Wildlife Act with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Further work to align laws, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, will occur through a broader review of the Wildlife Act, beginning this year.

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Key Facts:

- The *Wildlife Act* has not changed to address Indigenous interests since 1966. The static nature of the *Wildlife Act* does little to promote the recognition of Aboriginal rights and Indigenous interests affirmed by the federal Constitution Act of 1982 and case law.
- Two key changes are proposed: (1) incorporating Indigenous knowledge in decision-making; (2) authority to enter into Sheltering agreements with First Nations.
- On November 19, 2019, the *Wildlife Act* Intentions Paper that describes the two proposed changes were sent out to 203 First Nations and 60 key stakeholders for consultation. The Intentions Paper received letters of support signed by 41 First Nations.
- Comments on the proposed amendments were generally supportive. Some First Nations expressed concerns that the amendments didn't go far enough. Some stakeholders expressed concern that the amendments may introduce greater uncertainty in *Wildlife Act* decisions.
- Government provided a consultation draft of the amendments to a subset of the First Nations Forum, Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, and the First Nations Leadership Council. Feedback on the consultation draft resulted in some amendments to the Bill, some items best addressed in policy and other items best addressed in a broader *Wildlife Act* review, which will take place in 2022 through implementation of the Together for Wildlife Strategy.
- MLA Adam Olsen has indicated broadly that changes to the *Wildlife Act* are needed and that he and other Indigenous leaders and hunters look forward to engaging government on such changes.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dennis Paradine.

Phone: 778 974-5493

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Issue: BC Caribou Recovery Program

Recommend Response:

- Caribou recovery is a priority of the government of BC.
- BC has invested approximately \$10 million per year over the last six years and will continue to do so.
- We do this through consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations, local governments, industry, and stakeholders.
- The draft Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan (BCPRP), developed in partnership between BC and Fort Nelson First Nation and in collaboration with the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, exemplifies reconciliation in-action while ensuring communities maintain access to the natural resources that sustain them.'

Add'n Response if pressed:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- On February 21, 2020, BC signed the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou (the

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“Partnership Agreement”) in Northeastern BC and the Canada British Columbia Conservation Agreement for Southern Mountain Caribou (the “Section 11 Agreement”) for all Southern Mountain Caribou.

- Despite earlier investments by BC, all six of the Boreal herds and 23 of the Southern Mountain herds are in decline, 13 of the 54 herds in the province have 25 animals or fewer.
- The main threat to caribou is high rate of predation by wolves, and to a lesser extent, other predators (bear, coyote, wolverine, and cougars).
- High ungulate populations are the primary prey of wolves and cougar. This results in higher density of predators which then impact caribou.
- Recent implementation of intensive management actions (i.e., maternal penning and predator control) in partnership with Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations, have resulted in a reversal of the population decline. Since the initiation of the intensive recovery efforts the population has grown from 162 caribou in 2014, to 289 in 2021.

Section 11 Agreement and Partnership Agreement

- The BC Caribou Program has allotted \$300,000 for clubs to access in support of planning and implementation of enhancement areas for snowmobiling outside the newly established snowmobile closures to support caribou recovery (485,000 hectares of Crown land) in the South Peace. These restrictions are a deliverable of the Partnership Agreement.

Boreal Caribou

- The draft BCPRP provides for a positive long-term outlook to recover local caribou populations.
- The draft BCPRP maintains access to targeted petroleum and natural gas resources, a large-scale fibre supply that supports industrial investment (current proposal from Peak Energy is a pellet plant).
- Total available Allowable Annual Cut for the area would be maintained above 2.3M m³, an increase of 800k m³ from when forestry peaked in Fort Nelson with three local processing facilities. Potential estimated employment more than 1100 jobs and \$187M in Gross Domestic Product maintained.
- Access to an estimated 63 Tcf of Petroleum and Natural Gas reserves are maintained ensuring that current and future jobs in the area are sustained.
- The draft BCPRP is currently out for public and stakeholder engagement and is anticipated to go to decision in Fall 2022.
- Implementation of the BCPRP will be implemented through a co-management approach with Fort Nelson First Nation and will require initial funding of ~\$300k for capacity in the first year. Additional implementation capacity funding will be sought through base funding, the Nature Agreement, and future commitments through Treaty 8.

Predator Reduction

Please refer to the Caribou Recovery Program - Predator Reduction Estimates Note

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Date Prepared/Revised: March 24,
2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mike Hykaway

Phone: (250) 893-7516

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Psyllakis

Phone: (250) 387-5657

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Issue: Proposed hunting regulation changes for moose and caribou in the Peace Region

Recommend Response:

- The Province is working on a suite of management actions in response to the Yahey vs. BC decision. These include changes to wildlife management and hunting regulations.
- Changes to hunting regulations are expected to be announced by the end of May.
- The proposed hunting regulations are aimed at addressing the ability of Treaty 8 First Nations to continue their way of life and begin to address the impacts of industrial development on these guaranteed treaty rights.
- The regulation changes for the Peace Region are an interim measure and will be reviewed after 1 year.
- We will continue to engage more deeply with Treaty 8 communities, industry, stakeholders, local governments, and the public over the next 2 years to support this work to ensure a collaborative path is achieved going forward.
- The Province has a duty to live up to its treaty obligations. Honouring this duty can also help create a pathway to improving wildlife management and establish certainty for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- I appreciate hunting is a way of life for many British Columbians and is important for food security.
- The racism being directed at Indigenous peoples resulting from provincial decisions is intolerable.
- Science based decisions need to incorporate indigenous knowledge which includes information on how hunting and hunting pressure impacts the Treaty 8 Nations way of life. We hope that substantive new investments in monitoring,

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research, and inventories will build a better shared understanding of the status of these wildlife populations.

Key Facts:

- The proposal is an immediate measure addressing the infringement of treaty rights by reducing hunting pressure by 50% and investing in inclusive wildlife co-management.
- Initial proposed hunting regulation changes include:
 - closing all licensed caribou hunting in the Peace Region as precautionary measure
 - reducing moose hunting pressure by 50% across the region
 - closing the Peace Moberly Tract and Moose Lake to moose hunting;
 - replacing the moose general open seasons in the region with Limited Entry Hunting; and,
 - requiring licensed hunters to report each moose harvested in the region.
- These initial proposals underwent online public engagement from March 9-23, 2022. 3,310 comments received, 99% opposed to proposed changes.
- The Minister is considering all feedback and input received, and the initial proposal may undergo modifications.
- A decision is expected to be announced by the end of May 2022.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Morgan Kennah

Phone: 250-896-6268

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Skerik

Phone: 250-876-7062

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Issue: Guide Outfitter Certainty and Annual Allowable Harvest Decisions

Recommend Response:

- Under the Wildlife Harvest Allocation policy, guide outfitters are provided with a notional allocation for a five-year period to provide business certainty and assist in business planning, while ensuring wildlife populations are sustained.
- The 2022-2026 allocation cycle starts on April 1, 2022 and tentative allocations and quotas were provided to outfitters in March. Final decisions will be in spring 2022.
- Delays in providing tentative allocation and quota decisions were due to consultation and collaboration with First Nations and on-going inventory programs.
- Ministry staff are working to review and improve harvest allocation policies, procedures, and processes to advance reconciliation, improve the timelines of decision-making, and improve certainty for guide outfitters.

Key Facts:

- Big game species management and allocation provides hunting opportunities to resident and guided hunters, after conservation values and First Nations' rights are addressed.
- The annual allowable harvest and notional five-year allocation is currently being determined for the 2022-2026 allocation cycle to inform annual quota decisions for the next five years.
- Guide outfitters are provided an annual quota based on their allocation, with some flexibility to account for harvest success and between year variations.
- While the notional allocation can change throughout the allocation period, changes are rare and occur as a result of updated wildlife population information or an improved understanding of First Nations' harvest needs.
- Additional certainty measures requested by the Guide Outfitters Association of BC include:
 - Updating the Control of Species policy,
 - More timely transfer of guiding territory certificates and a standard 25-year term,
 - Wildlife Act change to have quota issued to the guiding territory certificate rather than the guide outfitter licence, and
 - Update to the regulations to allow for guide outfitters to dispatch wounded game

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For additional information on the harvest allocation policy and status, see the Wildlife Harvest Allocation note.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: ADM, Matt Austin

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Burwash

Phone: 250-312-7305

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Issue: Land Based Investment Strategy and Funding Overview

Recommend Response:

- Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) activities focus on the stewardship objectives of the province, supporting sustainable natural resources and the industries that rely on those resources.
- LBIS goals include:
 - Maintaining and enhancing natural resource values;
 - Mitigating impacts from catastrophic disturbances; and
 - Supporting government stewardship priorities.
- LBIS supports the delivery of government commitments and is consistent with the Ministry Service and Action Plan.
- LBIS funding in 2022/23 is anticipated to be \$68.3M with an additional \$2.5M in risk managed funding for a total of \$70.8M. Risk managed funding is expected to be primarily recovered where natural disturbances impact the delivery of field activities.

Key Facts:

- LBIS focuses on improving the sustainability of natural resources, along with the industries dependent upon those resources.
- LBIS is an annual allocation, organized into 18 investment categories.
- LBIS funding can only be used to support Government activities, in its role as the land manager. LBIS funding cannot be used to offset any stakeholder or licensee obligations.
- LBIS investment category leads coordinate cross-ministry planning on the direction of funds to specific projects with allocation criteria reviewed annually.
- Continuous improvement in LBIS is happening in the areas of financial and performance reporting, funding criteria and administration.
- LBIS goals:
 - All LBIS investments must be consistent with Ministry Action Plan and Service Plan commitments.
 - LBIS directs funding to the highest stewardship priorities, as identified by robust funding criteria, among a broad range of potential investment options.
 - LBIS-funded projects actively manage natural resources to maintain and enhance their value.
 - LBIS-funded projects mitigate impacts from catastrophic disturbances to economic, social and environmental values.

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LBIS investment categories, focus and recommended 2022/23 allocation:

Investment Category	Category Focus	Proposed 2022/23 Funding
Provincial Silviculture Program – Reforestation and Timber Supply Mitigation	Rehabilitate forests so they can contribute to future timber supply and other forest ecosystem objectives. Mitigate impacts on timber supply caused by catastrophic disturbance or other constraints.	\$46.67 M
Forest Health	Support healthy forests by managing and preventing impacts from pests and disease.	\$6.39 M
Tree Improvement	Increase forest health, productivity, and value by providing tree seed for reforestation that has increased growth rate and pest resistance, and guiding seed deployment to account for climate change.	\$1.83 M
Forest Inventory	Priority given to forest inventory and growth-and-yield activities as per the 10-year Inventory Strategy.	\$7.43 M
Ecosystem Based Management	Inventory activities that support investment decisions, help mitigate impacts to timber, ecological, and cultural values, and refine site productivity estimates within the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.	\$0.59 M
Visual Resource Management	Ensure the province's visual quality objectives and legal requirements are met on Crown land.	\$0.04 M
Fish Passage Remediation	Remediate blockages that are preventing fish from accessing their natural habitat. Priority is given to projects that reconnect the greatest amount of habitat for fish species at risk and salmonids supporting Indigenous people's rights to fish.	\$0.73 M
Ecosystem Restoration	The recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed by re-establishing structural characteristics, species composition, and ecological processes, with a priority on our dry fire-maintained forests of the interior.	\$0.17 M
Invasive Species	Managing/preventing the impacts of invasive species on Crown land as per the BC Government Invasive Species Strategic Plan. Protecting native ecosystems and reducing impacts in invasive plant infested areas.	\$0.69 M
Range Remediation	Improvements to Riparian and Watershed management for Climate Change Adaptation. Mitigate impacts of catastrophic disturbances. Make targeted improvements in range resources.	\$0.35 M
Water Quality	Support management activities undertaken by government and industry by providing information on risks to water and water related resources.	\$0.61 M
Fish Inventory	Ensure provincial inventories of fish species of concern are up to date and used in management decisions.	\$0.63 M

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Investment Category	Category Focus	Proposed 2022/23 Funding
Species at Risk	Focus on identifying and designating management actions for species and ecosystems at risk.	\$1.11 M
Wildlife Inventory	Provide up to date inventory information on priority wildlife species to inform management decisions.	\$1.37 M
Habitat (Government Action Regulation)	Focus on identifying and designating protection and management actions for species and ecosystems of management concern.	\$0.52 M
Recreation Sites and Trails	Maintain recreation sites and trails to provide economic, social, health and environmental benefits.	\$0.88 M
LBIS Stewardship and Performance	Shift from single- to multi-value stewardship. Address emerging or temporary stewardship and land management needs. Enable fund oversight.	\$0.82 M
Total		\$70.83 M

Date Prepared: March 17, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Name: David Muter

Phone: (250) 217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Matt LeRoy

Phone: (778) 676-0784

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Issue: Wildlife Act Review

Recommend Response:

- As part of the Together for Wildlife Strategy, the Province has committed to review and make recommendations to update the *Wildlife Act*.
- A review of the *Wildlife Act* is also consistent with the commitments in *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* to align provincial laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- The Together for Wildlife Strategy identifies priority areas to be included in the review: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, determination of objectives, improved wildlife stewardship, effective and accessible service delivery, and dedicated funding.
- In addition to these priority areas, there are also a number of administrative updates needed to support the proper functioning of the Act.
- Engagement on the *Wildlife Act* review is expected to begin in 2022, and review and update of the Act is expected to take several years.
- The *Wildlife Act* review would expand upon the early reconciliation sheltering and Indigenous Knowledge amendments made in Bill 14 *Wildlife Amendment Act*, 2022.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Development of the scope and process of the *Wildlife Act* review is underway; however, there are some key categories to be addressed through the review: (1) reconciliation, (2) objective setting, (3) hunting, trapping and commercial activities, (4) fish and wildlife habitat, conservation lands and

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stewardship, (5) compliance and enforcement, and (6) funding and administration.

- Many aspects of the review will be done in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to meet the commitments in the *Declaration Act* and continue to build the relationships that will support wildlife stewardship moving forward.

Key Facts:

- The *Wildlife Act* has not been significantly updated since 1981 and remains largely focussed on extractive activities (e.g., hunting, trapping).
- Recent court decisions such as *R. v. Desautel (2021)* and *Yahey v. British Columbia (2021)* have further highlighted obligations of Government in managing wildlife stewardship and use.
- We have heard from Indigenous leadership that wildlife stewardship is a key priority in reconciliation, and an important venue for developing co-management and shared decision-making processes that will advance the alignment of provincial legislation with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Date Prepared/Revised: April 26, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: ADM, David Muter :

Phone: 250 217-5385

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dennis Paradine, Manager, Policy and Leg.

Phone: 778 974-5493

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Issue: Wildlife Allocation

Recommend Response:

- Wildlife harvest allocation policy establishes the process to provide hunting opportunities to resident and guided hunters, while maintaining healthy and sustainable wildlife populations.
- The Ministry manages wildlife for conservation (first); First Nations' food, social and ceremonial harvest (second); resident opportunity (third); and guided opportunity (fourth).
- Since 2017, harvest allocation decisions have been centralized to the Director of Wildlife to standardize the process and timelines across all areas of the province.
- Determination of annual allowable harvest and notional five-year allocations are underway for the 2022-2026 period; final decisions will be made in spring 2022 with Limited Entry Hunting authorizations (for resident hunters) and quota issued to guide outfitter licences.
- Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations on harvest needs, and collaborating on the annual allowable harvest determination as a step towards reconciliation and co-management.

Key Facts:

- Annual allowable harvest for certain big game species in specified areas of the province is shared among resident hunters and guides.
- The Province's allocation policy is the result of a comprehensive review that engaged both resident hunters and guides with the intent of developing a consistent and transparent policy that is fair to all wildlife users.
- The set allocation splits provide resident hunters with priority for hunting opportunities and provide the guide sector with a level of business certainty.
- Guide outfitters are given a notional allocation for a five-year period to provide business certainty and assist in business planning.
- Statutory decisions on allocation are made annually. Typically, resident allocation is released in May (Limited Entry Hunting authorizations) while guides are provided tentative quotas for planning purposes in December and final allocation and quota numbers in April.

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- April 1, 2022 is the start of a new five-year allocation period (2022-2026). Due to in-depth consultation and collaboration with First Nations and ongoing population inventories, notional allocation and tentative quota numbers for guide outfitters were delayed with some regions complete, while others still in the process of having quotas finalized.
- In recent years, declining wildlife populations in some regions have resulted in reduced hunting opportunities for resident hunters and quotas for guides.
- The next steps in standardizing the wildlife harvest allocation process include formalizing a system for calculating First Nations harvest and coordinating administrative processes (e.g., harvest tracking, decision timelines).

For additional information on guide outfitter concerns and certainty, see the Guide Outfitter Certainty and Annual Allowable Harvest Decisions note.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 10, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: ADM, Matt Austin

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Burwash

Phone: 250-312-7305

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Issue: Wildlife and Habitat Management - Budget

Recommend Response:

- In 2022/2023 the Ministry of Forests, and Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship will spend approximately \$43 million on wildlife and habitat stewardship, not including species at risk recovery.
- This includes an annual budget uplift of up to \$10 million for wildlife and habitat stewardship to support implementation of the Together for Wildlife Strategy.
- Provincial government funding is complemented by and leverages funding other sources such as the Government of Canada, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), and Fish and Wildlife Compensation Programs.
- The province is also making significant investments in wildlife and habitat stewardship through partnerships with First Nations (e.g., Collaborative Stewardship Forums, Indigenous Funding Program, Government to Government agreements).

Additional Response points (if needed):

- In addition to Together for Wildlife funding, Ministry of Forests, and Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship budgets for wildlife and habitat include base budgets (for staffing, inventory, monitoring, service delivery, wildlife health, policy and legislation, and engagement), Office of the Chief Forester Research Program and Land Base Investment Strategy.
- Other ministries (Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Oil and Gas Commission, Environment) also invest in wildlife and habitat stewardship through their programs.

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Key Facts:

- An ongoing program uplift of up to \$10 million was approved to implement the Together for Wildlife Strategy.
- In BC, \$8 to 10 million in annual hunting licence and species licence revenues are allocated to general revenues, the surcharge revenue of approximately \$2.6 million is dedicated to HCTF. Revenues from compatible activities authorized on Conservation Lands are also dedicated to HCTF.
- HCTF's mandate is to improve conservation outcomes for BC's fish and wildlife and their habitats beyond the government program requirements (e.g., habitat enhancement).
- Through engagement on the Together for Wildlife Strategy, concerns were raised about a lack of sufficient and dedicated funding.
- With the support of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, the government is continuing to explore options for sufficient and dedicated funding for wildlife.
- An annual Together for Wildlife spending report, to ensure transparency, has been made publicly available on the Together for Wildlife website.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Burwash

Phone: (250) 312-7305

2022/23 Estimates Debate

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Issue: Old Growth Strategic Review and Deferrals

Recommend Response:

- B.C.'s incredible forests are part of what makes our province a great place to live.
- We all want the forests to be here for future generations – for our grandchildren, and one day, their grandchildren.
- Old growth forests are valued for their economic contribution to the Province including forestry and tourism jobs, recreation, carbon offsets, wildlife habitat, First Nations cultural values, and supporting safe drinking water.
- Government has committed to implementing the 14 recommendations provided by Garry Merkel and Al Gorley outlined in *A New Future for Old Forests*.
- The old growth strategic review did not say there needs to be a moratorium on old growth logging, and as such, we are not considering one.
- In November 2021, Government announced it would engage with First Nations on 2.6 million hectares of ancient, remnant and big-tree old growth at risk of irreversible loss of biodiversity.
- Government has been engaging with all 204 Indigenous Nations to review the “at risk old growth” and determine their interest in deferrals in their territories.
- These are temporary to create time and space for the longer term planning to develop the old growth strategy.
- The majority of First Nations have indicated they want to work with the Province on advancing the 14 recommendations in the Old Growth Strategic Review.
- Where Nations have requested deferrals, government has worked with licensees to voluntarily pause harvest plans, and where a voluntary pause does not occur, a *Forest Act* Part 13 deferral will be applied.

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- We continue to work with First Nations who require more time and analysis and acknowledge that some already believe they have protected old growth in their territories and will not be implementing further deferrals.
- While deferrals are a key component, the path to realizing a new paradigm in old growth management will come through addressing the remainder of the 14 recommendations in the old growth report.
- This will be achieved, in partnership with First Nations, and through extensive engagement with local governments, industry and stakeholders.
- The long term protection of old growth is critical and so is protecting existing jobs and developing new ones through the work of modernizing forestry in BC and adding more value to the forests that are harvested in this province.

Key Facts:

- The Province is working with First Nations on deferral agreements on the remaining, as well as additional areas brought forth by Nations and environmental non-governmental organizations.
- Nine temporary deferrals were implemented August 31, 2020 under Part 13 of the *Forest Act*. These include: Clayoquot Sound, Crystalline Creek, H'Kusam, Incomappleux Valley, McKelvie Creek, Seven Sisters, Skagit-Silver Daisy, Stockdale Creek and Upper Southgate River.
- These will expire later this year, and ministry staff will be discussing the future of these areas with First Nations.
- Two additional temporary deferrals were implemented in June 2021 at Fairy Creek and Central Walbran Area.
- the Province contacted all 204 First Nations in British Columbia and asked them to indicate what steps they are interested in taking on the proposed deferrals, whether that is:
 - ✓ implementing immediate deferrals within their respective territories;
 - ✓ discussing deferrals through existing treaties, agreements, or other government-to government arrangements; and/or
 - ✓ if they require further time and engagement, including to incorporate local and Indigenous knowledge into the maps.
- As of April 2022, Government received responses from 188 out of the 204 First Nations in B.C.

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- Eleven First Nations have either no old growth or no commercial forestry in their territory.
- The Province will continue to reach out to the five remaining First Nations that have not responded.
- 75 First Nations have agreed to defer harvest of at-risk old growth in their territory.
- Only seven First Nations have indicated they are opposed to any deferrals proceeding in their territory.
- More than 60 First Nations have requested more time to decide, including time to incorporate local and Indigenous knowledge. The Province continues to engage with these Nations.
- The area that has been deferred based on First Nations supportive of deferrals is equal to 1.05 million hectares which includes BCTS area that has been paused (see appendix).
- In total, approximately 80% of the 4.0 million hectares of priority at-risk old growth identified by the advisory panel is currently not threatened by logging because they are already protected, covered by deferrals or uneconomic to harvest.
- There are approximately 11.1 million hectares of old growth in B.C., which covers approximately 12% of the entire province and 20% of B.C.'s forested land base. Of this, 3.5 million hectares of old growth, or one-third, is protected. Old growth harvesting in unprotected areas has decreased by 40% over the past five years. In 2020, 33,262 hectares of old growth were harvested; this represents 0.3% of the total old growth in B.C.
- Budget 2022 included \$185 million in funding over three years to support workers, communities, including First Nation communities, and contractors impacted by deferrals and other conservation measures.
- This builds on nearly \$19 million provided in 2021/22 to provide enhanced supports to eligible workers, contractors and communities as deferrals progress.

Date Prepared: March 24, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Eamon O'Donoghue

Phone: 250-847-7495

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Muter

Phone: 250-217-5385

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Appendix

First Nations Deferrals related to Old Growth and TAP

Metrics	TAP *(ha)	All OG (ha)
Total Old Growth* Identified by the TAP	3,982,000	11,512,000
Old Growth Currently Protected (e.g., Parks and OGMA)	1,404,000	3,660,000
Total Old Growth Unprotected	2,578,000	7,852,000
Deferred since Nov.2nd (supported by FN) + Part 13 (unprotected)	766,000	1,385,000
BCTS paused	285,000	164,000
Outside of THLB (unprotected; outside deferrals)	661,000	3,766,000
Old Growth within THLB that can be harvested (unprotected; outside deferrals)	866,000	2,537,000
FN OG deferrals outside TAP		619,000

* Contains TAP older mature

TAP Overview of Ancient, Remnant and Big Tree Old Growth

	Total Area (million ha)	Protected (million ha)	Unprotected (million ha)	Recommended for Deferral (million ha)
Total Forest	56.2	12.5	43.7	
Old Growth	11.4	3.5	7.6	
Big Tree Old Growth	7.2	2.4	4.8	1.7
Ancient Old Growth	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4
Remnant Old Growth	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Total "At Risk" Old Growth (Big, Ancient, Remnant)	7.6	2.6	5.0	2.6

Q/A

Deferrals

- 1. How many hectares of at-risk old growth have been logged since November 2 while the Province was talking with First Nations?**

Advice/Recommendations

- 2. What is your response to the protestors, ENGOs, and First Nation Organizations calling for a moratorium on all old growth logging?**

Advice/Recommendations

3. Are the deferrals you are announcing all already implemented?

Advice/Recommendations

4. Where are these deferrals located? Why are you not releasing more details or maps of the areas being deferred?

Advice/Recommendations

First Nation Engagement

5. Why is the Province not offering compensation to First Nations for any lost revenue from old growth deferrals?

Advice/Recommendations

6. Why do First Nations have to provide consent to defer old growth logging, but consent isn't needed for logging to continue?

Advice/Recommendations

7. Have any First Nations requested a complete moratorium on old growth logging in their territory?

Advice/Recommendations

8. How many First Nations have said categorically NO to any deferrals ever?

Advice/Recommendations

9. How much longer will you give those First Nations that have requested more time? Isn't this more "talk and log"?

Advice/Recommendations

10. What capacity funding has been made available for First Nations?

Advice/Recommendations

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Issue: Old Growth Deferrals – Impacts on the Value-Added Sector

Recommended Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- Sawmill products are key inputs to many value-added facilities. Potential sawmill curtailment or closures as a result of the old growth deferrals can also have cascading effect on the value-added sector.

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- Many value-added manufacturers do not have long-term forest tenures. Instead, they rely on timber sold by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) or logs purchased from the open market. They have expressed concerns about government's direction to cease BCTS sales in the deferral areas.
- BCTS typically targets about 10% of its sales targets (about 1 million cubic metres) to the value-added sector through limited bidding pools (Category 2). The amount offered for 2021/22 is projected to be only 0.9 million cubic metres and for 2022/23 is projected to be 0.65 million cubic metres.

Advice/Recommendations

- The Manufactured Forest Products Regulation (MFPR) was put in place in part to ensure more access to fibre for local manufacturers. At the request of members of the value-added sector, a small working group was formed in late 2021 to review MFPR effects and the report from this working group is currently being reviewed by staff.
- Some value-added industry representatives have requested:
 - an increase in the fee in lieu of manufacture paid for cedar and cypress under the MFPR;
 - removal of the 3000-mile exemption for cedar and cypress; and
 - that interior cedar be subject to the same MFPR rules as the coast (interior cedar is currently exempt).
- In the Minister's March 23rd meeting with the B.C. Value Added Wood Coalition, they discussed the sector's ideas on how to increase fibre supply to the sector, and the Minister indicated support for a joint industry-government working group to explore potential policy changes to support the industry.

Date Revised: March 23, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 778-974-5974

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Janna Jessee

Phone: 250-507-7482

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Issue: Old Growth Implementation and Timeline

Recommend Response:

- Government remains committed to all 14 recommendations in the report *A New Future for Old Forests* by Garry Merkel and Al Gorly. The recommendations range from broad strategic shifts that go far beyond just old forest management to those that are operational in nature.
- Government has engaged with First Nations on 2.6 million hectares priority at risk old growth for deferral as per recommendation 6 of the report. Many of these deferrals are now in place.
- Government is now focusing on the remainder of the 14 recommendations. Through a commitment to meaningful engagement, government will be exploring, with others, options and approaches to fully address each of the recommendations, resulting in a modern Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia by 2024.
- Some recommendations may take many years to fully implement. We knew from the start this was going to be challenging, but no one could have foreseen the COVID-19 global pandemic and the extra challenges it has created, along with other challenges such as wildfire and flooding.

Key Facts:

- The Old Growth Strategic Review was submitted to former Minister Doug Donaldson on April 30, 2020 including 14 recommendations covering broad areas of forest policy.
- The report included a timeline of 3 years to get all 14 recommendations “started”. This timeline was pre-COVID-19.
- Recently, ministry organizational changes (including the establishment of the new LWRS) means continued leadership of the initiative by FOR, but several strategic shift recommendations (such as those on prioritizing ecosystem health, governance, social choice land use, and new frameworks for land use targets) will be led by LWRS in collaboration with FOR.

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Advice/Recommendations

Date Revised: March 24, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: David Muter

Phone: 250-217-5385

Name: Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brian Bawtinheimer

Phone: 778-974-2497

Name: Julie MacDougall

Phone: 250-880-0890

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Issue: Economic Impacts to Old Growth Implementation and associated Community Worker Support Programs

Recommended Response:

- The Ministry has conducted rigorous analysis on the socioeconomic impact of old growth deferrals and continues to actively evaluate the situation as First Nations consultations on old growth deferrals continue.
- The province has announced co-ordinated and comprehensive supports for workers, communities and First Nations through the development of new programs and by continuing and enhancing existing programs to mitigate any potential impact to the workers and communities.
- As decisions on deferrals that flow from consultations with First Nations are made, the Ministry is undertaking additional socio-economic analysis
- I can assure you that transition and support funds will be made available for all regions of the province and for any community experiencing impacts from old growth deferrals.
- We will continue to monitor the impacts as more deferrals are implemented, recognizing that there are many other dynamics impacting fibre supply across the province.
- In addition, some BC Timber Sales auctions will resume in areas where First Nations indicate that old growth management is adequate and does not need additional protection as per the Technical Advisory Panel suggestions.

Key Facts:

- Following the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, the Province announced on November 2, 2021, the intention to work with First Nations to defer old growth harvest within 2.6 million hectares of B.C.'s most at-risk old-growth forests.

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- Careful analysis on the socioeconomic impacts of the old growth deferrals was conducted to inform this decision.
- The Ministry developed B.C. Forest sector economic multipliers in partnership with COFI and Statistics Canada.
- The results from the multiplier model were then divided by the B.C. timber harvest, using three years of data to account for fluctuations through a business cycle, to come up with an estimate of economic impact on a per cubic metre basis.
- This set of economic multipliers is what was applied to the estimated volume impact associated with the old growth deferrals to predict the direct economic impact of the deferrals.
- In November 2021, the Ministry of Forests provided an initial estimate of the old growth deferrals' impact on jobs: 4,500 direct jobs.
- This analysis assumed that licensees will not be able to develop replacement harvest permits, and that all deferrals are agreed to by First Nations. Should these factors change, the impacts may be lower.
- Indirect jobs (such as mechanics, transportation) and in particular, induced jobs (including, for example, restaurants and retail stores) are supported by many different industries, not solely the forest sector.
- The interconnected economy makes it difficult to interpret indirect, and especially induced jobs, which is why the Province generally does not include potential indirect and induced impacts.
- The Ministry of Forests, Labour, and AEST worked to develop the Forest Worker and Community Support Programs (FWCSP), designed to support communities in mitigating the anticipated impacts of old growth deferrals. This program builds on the past three-year Forest Worker Support Programs created to support communities impacted by mill closures and curtailments in 2019. As part of FWCSP, community transition services are being augmented to respond to old growth deferral-related impacts to communities across BC.
- Budget 2022 provides \$1.5 million for the Community Transition Rapid Response Team (moving from FLNR to JERI April 1st) in 2022/23 to increase staff capacity on the ground to provide rapid response services to communities impacted by old growth deferrals, totaling \$4.4 million over three years.
- The province's new and existing support programs will mitigate any potential direct job loss and by consequence, limit impacts to jobs in the induced industries.
- The Council of Forest Industries (COFI) has provided its own estimate of the employment impacts and indicated the deferrals could affect 18,000 jobs in BC. The COFI estimate differs from the Ministry estimate, likely because of difference in the assumptions about the amount of harvest volume affected, and because COFI included their estimate of indirect and induced impacts in their analysis.
- The Ministry is currently undertaking additional socioeconomic analysis as initial decisions that flow from consultations with First Nations are made. An initial assessment of Technical Advisory Panel areas approved by or overlapping with First Nations (approximately 770,000 ha) will impact approximately 2.4 million cubic metres of allowable annual cut, with the biggest impacts in the Omineca (Prince George) region (more than 800,000 cubic metres) and Kootenay Boundary (510,000 cubic metres).

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- Because only about 20 percent of Technical Advisory Panel areas on the Coast are agreed to by First Nations so far, the impact to the Coast at this time is relatively small (about 330,000 cubic metres).

Date Revised: March 22, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 778-974-5974

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Janna Jessee

Phone: 250-507-7482

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Issue: Dike Management

Recommend Response:

- Under the Dike Maintenance Act, local diking authorities are responsible for maintenance and upgrades to their dikes.
- Since the catastrophic atmospheric river events last fall, emphasis has been placed on assessing conditions of infrastructure, constructing temporary works, and preparing for spring freshet.
- Ministry staff have conducted site visits, both by helicopter and on the ground, as part of assessing temporary dike repairs and to assist with freshet preparations.
- Ministry staff have reached out to diking authorities to gather information on dike conditions prior to freshet.
- Diking authorities have also provided further information on action they are taking on preparedness and response coordination, as part of a comprehensive approach to managing flood protection and reducing risk.
- More detailed reviews at the site level are occurring as local recovery plans are completed and permanent works are undertaken in accordance with provincial standards.
- Local governments have access to provincial funding for dike repairs through Disaster Financial Assistance.
- The Province also continues to invest in flood planning and mitigation work, including a Budget 2022 announcement of \$110 million to extend the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Dikes on the Fraser River in the lower mainland were not affected by the November flood events.
- Continued engagement is planned toward a BC Flood Strategy, which will articulate a provincial vision, outcomes, principles and flood management priorities, including dikes.

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- Priority topics for the BC Flood Strategy include flood governance and flood risk reduction approaches, including dikes.
- British Columbia and federal ministers have committed to working together through a committee on Disaster Response and Climate Resilience.

Key Facts:

- In late November 2021, following catastrophic flooding that overwhelmed dikes, Premier John Horgan publicly acknowledged the need for more provincial involvement in flood mitigation and dike management.
- In BC, most river and coastal flood protection infrastructure is regulated under the Dike Maintenance Act (DMA).
- The DMA, enacted in 1950, is a key piece of legislation to reduce flood risk in BC, regulating over one hundred diking authorities that own, operate, and maintain over 1,100 km of dikes and other flood infrastructure in BC.
- The DMA allows the Inspector of Dikes to authorize changes and order repairs or upgrades to dikes when required.
- The overall cost to upgrade all existing dikes to current standards is estimated at roughly \$7-14 billion.
- The Ministry recently completed a dike crest elevation survey on all regulated dikes. This is being compared with several flood scenarios to help determine vulnerable diking areas and support diking authorities to improve flood resilience.
- This Ministry has shared this data with diking authorities through a secured Dike Information Portal.
- Given the high cost of dike upgrades and related impacts in a changing climate (e.g., land acquisition, operating/maintenance costs), a combination of investments in flood protection and work directed towards flood accommodation, risk avoidance, and community-led retreat, can contribute to broader resiliency.
- Vulnerabilities ahead of the 2022 freshet include most dikes not meeting current design standards (province-wide), changes in stream channel morphology causing new flow patterns, sediment and debris build up, fire impacted watersheds and orphan/unregistered poorly maintained dikes.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 11, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 250-812-5823

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Issue: Economic Supports for Guide Outfitters

Recommend Response:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on the adventure tourism sector, including guide outfitters.
- The easing of restrictions on international travel and border closures on September 7, 2021, reduced the largest impact to guide outfitters, however, vaccine mandates remain.
- Forgiveness on annual *Land Act* and *Park Act* rents was offered in 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Quota uplifts were provided to guides in 2021/22 upon request and where assessment showed no conservation or overharvest concerns.
- Determination of 5-year allocations for the 2022-2026 period is underway. Consideration must be given to wildlife conservation and First Nations' rights; therefore, consideration is not being given to carrying over unused quota from the past allocation cycle.
- The Tourism Task Force, led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, is seeking approval for liquidity measures for which guide outfitters would be eligible.
- Guide Outfitters have access to applicable federal and provincial relief programs.

Key Facts:

- In 2021/22, there were 169 licensed guide outfitters. Approximately 26 guide outfitting companies are Indigenous owned.
- The Guide Outfitter Association of BC (GOABC) represents the majority of BC guide outfitters. The Wildlife Stewardship Council is the other representative organization; 50% of their membership is Indigenous.
- Guide outfitters have reported financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a general lack of applicability of current provincial and federal relief programs.
- The implications of COVID-19 on the guiding industry have been substantial.
 - Of the \$48.6M in guided hunting client spending, \$39.3M was from international clients and \$9.3M from Canadian clients.

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- The estimated client breakdown of guided hunting includes 16% from Canada (9% from BC), and 84% internationally (67% American).
 - For the 2020/21 licence year, the estimated client breakdown included 97% from Canada (37% from BC), and 3% internationally (2% American).
- Non-resident hunting licence sales in BC have improved compared to 2020/21, but remain 40% below 2019/20 (pre-pandemic) sales, with an estimated revenue loss of \$700,000.
- The Wildlife Act provides two financial tools that impact guide outfitters: licence fees and royalty payments. Guide outfitters continue to be required to pay their licence fees if they operate their business and pay accrued harvest royalties.
- The GOABC is lobbying for additional options to mitigate impacts and access financial relief programs, including carrying unused quotas into the 2022-2026 allocation period.
- The 5-year allocation for the 2022-2026 allocation cycle is currently being determined. Guide outfitters are provided an annual quota based on their allocation, with some flexibility to account for harvest success and between year variations.
- Timing of when remaining federal travel restrictions and vaccine mandates will be relaxed or removed is unpredictable at this time.
- A 2017 study commissioned by the Canadian Federation of Outfitter Association (CFOA) estimates the following:
 - Guide outfitter clients spend approximately \$48.6M annually in BC on hunting and equipment, helping generate \$194.5M in output and \$93.6M towards the GDP.
 - Donations to habitat or conservation organizations from BC guide outfitters was over \$2M, with another \$510,000 given to other charities.
 - The guide outfitting industry employs approximately 2,500 people, (1,213 of these as for guided hunting with \$55.5M in labour income).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor;

Name: ADM, Matt Austin

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michael Burwash

Phone: 250-312-7305

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Issue: Existing Use Groundwater Licensing

Recommend Response:

- British Columbians who use groundwater for non-domestic purposes (such as irrigation, industrial, waterworks, etc.) when the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) came into force on February 29, 2016, had until March 1, 2022, to apply for a water licence to legalize their groundwater use.
- The deadline has now passed. Government received 7,711 applications of an anticipated 20,000 (44%). Government received applications from 44 First Nations.
- Government made significant outreach efforts since 2016, and particularly in 2021 and 2022 to communicate the licensing requirements and encourage groundwater users to apply.
- Now that the March 1, 2022, has passed, all non-domestic groundwater users who have not already applied for a licence must apply as new applicants.
- There are resources available through FrontCounter BC to help clarify whether to register as a domestic user or apply for a licence.
- Where unauthorized groundwater use is occurring, the focus will be on encouraging compliance. In addition I have asked staff to examine regulations to determine if there is a way to make the application process easier and potentially reduce requirements for the lowest risk lowest volume users.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- The historical date of first use or priority date is significant in times of water scarcity because the oldest water licence gets first access to water.
- Government anticipates many groundwater users who did not apply will continue to use groundwater. Those users may

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be ordered to stop using the groundwater and/or fined for unlawful water use.

- Licensing groundwater gives government a more complete picture of groundwater use and enables government to better manage this important resource.

Key Facts:

- The introduction of groundwater licensing with the WSA was a significant change to water resource management in BC. This change was necessitated by increasing water demand for economic uses, the need to provide for environmental flows, and more variability in supply due to a changing climate.
- The initial application process had some challenges that were addressed through system changes and an extension of the deadline.
- As a result of people delaying their application, many people are receiving bills for back rentals which may be a cause for concern. This is due to the users being liable for rentals for use of water since the WSA took effect in 2016.
- The estimate that 20,000 wells need to be licensed was developed in 2015. There is uncertainty in this estimate. An application may be for more than one well. Staff are reviewing the applications to determine how many wells are covered by the 7711 applications.
- Staff are using the compliance management framework to develop plans to address the non-compliant use. This approach will make the most of the resources available to authorizations and compliance and enforcement staff.
- Any policy changes to the WSA regarding groundwater licensing would have to consider fairness to those who have applied and the objectives of other government strategies regarding water.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 778-698-3981

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Issue: Great Bear Rainforest Implementation and the 2022 Public Engagement

Recommend Response:

- The 2016 Agreements that established ecosystem-based management (EBM) in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) were the result of 20 years of negotiations.
- Our partnerships with First Nations to implement GBR have told us that this balanced approach is essential to economic opportunity and social wellbeing in the GBR and represents a working example of UNDRIP in action.
- During the 2021 Periodic Review (required every 5 years), the Province and First Nation partners engaged with stakeholders to review the effectiveness of the Great Bear Land Use Orders (LUO) and assess how we can improve implementation.
- The proposed changes were developed through a consensus seeking process amongst the partnerships and will be submitted for my consideration following public engagement and First Nation consultation commencing Spring 2022.

Key Facts:

Focus on fiscal aspects of issue:

- The Province's GBR commitments consist of bilateral agreements with 26 First Nations and agreements with Coastal First Nations and Nanwakolas Council, forest licensees and international environmental organizations (ENGOS).
- During 2022, the Ministry will continue to focus on finalizing the draft amendments to the GBR LUO followed by public engagement and First Nation consultation.
- Additional to the LUO amendments, key implementation tasks will remain focused on:
 - Supporting Industry and First Nations on development of the Landscape Reserve Designs that serve as the basis for GBR land-based planning.
 - Furthering our commitments with First Nations on the co-development of Special Forest Management Areas, Biodiversity, Mining and Tourism Areas and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

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- Working with First Nations, Industry and environmental organizations to develop a monitoring program that will ensure our collective commitments are met.
- The implementation of the GBR is guided by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act*, First Nations Agreements and protocols, the GBR Land Use Orders and operationalizes the old growth planning process to a territory-level.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ben Morton

Phone: 778 974-5883

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Montana Goddard

Phone: 778-974-2496

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Issue: Office of the Auditor General's Report – Management of Forest Service Roads

Recommend Response:

- Work is underway on all nine recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG's) report
- Safety is our highest priority. Recent field audits of FSR management by the Forest Practices Board reflect good performance on the ground, and that safety issues are addressed when identified.
- Regarding the specific recommendations from the OAG, the ministry has established an internal policy group, to review and revise the Engineering (Policy) Manual. Some policy manual updates have already been made to address OAG issues, and more are anticipated later this spring.
- The ministry is also working to align ministry FSR data systems to support policy requirements and track and report on inventory, inspection and maintenance activities.
- We continue to work on modernizing information technology systems to ensure FSR information is accessible and accurate to better support decisions and track information.

Key Facts:

- The OAG report, released January 2021, focused on ministry data systems and policy, and did not conduct field confirmation, concluding that the ministry did not manage safety and environmental risks on FSRs in accordance with its policies.
- Ministry documentation and data systems, reviewed by the OAG, could not demonstrate complete inventory, inspection, maintenance, and repairs on FSR roads, bridges and major culverts.
- Information about the inventory of FSRs was inconsistent within existing and in-development information systems regarding both inspections and maintenance.
- Historically, FSRs were built, maintained, and deactivated by the forest industry for log-haul purposes.
- FSR use by the public has dramatically increased and government has had to re-focus its mandate to maintaining FSRs for rural communities and residences, and public wilderness recreational purposes.

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- FSR's are not built or maintained to a public highway standard, and this often leads to perceptions of poor maintenance.
- At all times management of FSRs is rooted in user safety and environmental protection, and funding needs are informed by that priority.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sarah Fraser, ADM

Phone: 778-698-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Wyatt

Phone: 778-974-2422

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Issue: Pender Harbour Docks

Recommend Response:

- Pender Harbour is an important area for the shishalh Nation, as it is an area of high environmental, archeological, and cultural values.
- Dock authorizations in the Pender Harbour Area are being jointly reviewed with shishalh Nation based on the Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan (DMP).
- The majority of dock owners have participated in the DMP licensing process and to date 163 tenure replacements have been issued.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- South Coast Regional Operations, Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) and the shishalh nation have jointly reviewed the unauthorized dock structures that currently reside within the red zone of Pender Harbour for potential CEB action.

Key Facts:

Collaborative Review of Docks in Pender Harbour

- A total of 220 private moorages (docks) in Pender Harbour have been collaboratively reviewed through the joint process: 163 tenures have been issued; 51 files have gone through the joint process and are waiting for MoF sign-off or tenure issuance; 6 files are currently under review with shishalh. Additionally, 34 files have gone through the joint process and are waiting for action from the applicant.
- There are 18 commercial moorages in Pender Harbour, 10 have gone through the joint process and are waiting for MoF sign-off.
- 13 applications for new docks in Pender Harbour have been reviewed and recommended for approval through the BC-shishalh Shared Decision Making Process. Of these, 2 have been issued tenure to date.

Pender Harbour DMP Zones and unauthorized dock structures

- The DMP separates the foreshore within Pender Harbour into three zones, each with different management objectives.

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- Independent environmental and archaeological studies on the impacts of the docks in Pender Harbour provided science-based information for management of critical eelgrass habitats, marine algal cover and diversity and fish abundance as well as the archaeological values.
- Limiting the number of new docks in specific areas (Zone 1) will help protect culturally significant and environmentally sensitive sites from additional degradation. Zone 2 and 3 allow for new docks that follow dock design and construction measures, though in Zone 2 new applications require a communal dock approach.
- There are a number of unauthorized dock structures in Zone 1 that do not have a tenure and under the DMP are not eligible to apply for a tenure. The ministry's Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) has investigated the individual circumstances of each of the unauthorized docks, including sending letters requesting information from the presumed dock owners, followed by a field inventory exercise to gather on-site information.
- Regional Operations, CEB and shishalh met to review the inventory of unauthorized structures and prioritized the unlawful structures for possible removal.
- The joint committee consisting of Regional Operations, CEB and shishalh analyzed the inventory against several criteria including environmental impact, cultural/arch significance, client engagement history and physical condition of the structures. From that analysis the committee identified 21 structures that are eligible for possible removal.
- CEB has commenced *Land Act* enforcement for the 21 unauthorized structures by initiated communication with affected landowners the week of April 11, 2022. Next steps may include issuance of trespass notices and possible removal of structures.

Date Prepared/Revised: April 21, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sarah Fraser

Phone: «Direct Line»

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julia Grant, Senior Authorizations Indigenous Liaison

Phone: 778-572-2242

Issue: BC Timber Sales Herbicide Use in Soo and Fraser Timber Supply Areas

Recommend Response:

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) makes a concerted effort to avoid using herbicides.
- Herbicides are typically only used on areas undergoing reforestation where other options to control brush have not or likely will not be completely successful.
- Applying herbicide does not mean that all vegetation is removed from the site.
- BCTS has reduced its reliance on herbicides to the point that it is rarely used.
- The use of herbicides for reforestation must be identified in a Pest Management Plan and approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- The Pest Management Plan outlines the standards for the protection of human health and property, and the environment when managing vegetation through manual, mechanical, or chemical treatments.

Key Facts:

- BCTS has prepared a draft Pest Management Plan (PMP) for the Soo and Fraser Timber Supply Areas.
- Consultation with First Nations and the public is required.
- Consultation with First Nations occurred between September and December 2021; and the public was engaged in February and late March 2022.
- Being mindful of Chinook's relationships with First Nations and the provincial commitment to reconciliation, sequencing the consultation between Nations and the public was deliberate.
- Under the *Integrated Pest Management Regulation* (s.61[1]) public consultation requires posting notices in community newspapers near areas intended to be treated under the PMP. Chinook did not want Nations to see these notices without being consulted first.
- Chinook received responses from 16 First Nations, and none were opposing/objection comments. All First Nation concerns were mitigated through meetings, field trips, and the development of notification procedures

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- Since posting to newspapers, the public and advocacy groups have steadily increased the volume of negative responses byway of phone calls and emails

Date Prepared/Revised: March 28, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring, DM

Phone: (250) 828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Powelson, Executive Director, BCTS

Phone: (250) 812-5054

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Issue: BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Old Growth Timber Sales blockaded by Revylution protest group in Revelstoke

Recommend Response:

- Government supports the harvest of all awarded Timber Sale Licenses and the ongoing work of developing new timber sales outside of the old growth deferral areas including contract works.
- Governments proposed old growth deferral strikes a balance of ecological and economic values in old growth and First Nations will assist in guiding proposed deferrals forward.
- Government does not support the position that old growth harvesting be stopped in all areas.

Key Facts:

- BCTS has auctioned and awarded three timber sales (approximately 80K m3) located North of Revelstoke which have been blockaded by the Revylution protest group since early July 2021. The protesters are blocking access to the licensees (Downie Timber, Shapol Logging, and Cally Closs), these TSLs will expire between fall of 2022 and winter of 2023.
- BCTS has contract work including silviculture planting, brushing, engineering road construction, maintenance, and deactivation along with timber development contracts that are impacted by this blockade.
- The three awarded timber sales all have minor overlaps with TAP polygons but were awarded prior to November of 2021. Contract work is outside of old growth deferral areas.
- The BCTS contracts are not likely of a scale or magnitude that would support the legal step by the contractor of obtaining a court injunction.
- The Old Growth Revylution is not well-organized, and each member seems to have slightly different agendas and demands. The protestors manning the blockades have no consistent message beyond their desire to stop all old growth harvest. There is additional risk of the blockade expanding to different suspected old growth TSL's creating an inability for licensees to access any timber.
- The Old Growth Revylution demands start with abandoning existing issued timber sales (and major licensee CP's) and expand from that to no old growth harvesting period. Full stop. This makes any kind of productive discussion on a pathway forward very challenging. BCTS has not engaged because of this.
- It is unclear on the level of support for this stance by the Old Growth Revylution in Revelstoke, but it is an extreme position that threatens significant community employment, so the likelihood of significant community support is low.
- Fibre supply to local mills is threatened by this Revylution blockade.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 10, 2022. Updated May 4, 2022.

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Russ Laroche

Phone: 250 551 3925

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Colin Johnston

Phone: 250 309 7423

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Issue: Glyphosate Use in BC

Recommend Response:

- Glyphosate is an herbicide used to support provincial reforestation efforts by controlling brush and other competing vegetation.
- Glyphosate, as with all herbicides used in Canada, is regulated, and registered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).
- PMRA reconfirmed registration for glyphosate in 2019, stating that "products containing glyphosate do not present risks of concern to human health or the environment when used according to the revised label directions."
- If and when Health Canada scientists change their published rulings on the safety of glyphosate, BC would reconsider its current use.
- Glyphosate use must comply with BC's *Integrated Pest Management Act* (IPMA) which states steps that must be taken to minimize impacts on the environment, including fish-bearing streams.
- Using innovative silviculture treatments to achieve diversity and ecosystem resilience are key objectives of this government's Intentions Paper.
- Glyphosate is not widely used, with application declining each year relative to the total area harvested annually.
- Based on current and ongoing research, stocking standards guidance allows for increased levels of broadleaf trees on appropriate sites in managed stands, thus reducing the need for herbicide treatments.
- The ministry is carrying out a review of broadleaved distribution and management in the interior with the intention of creating new management objectives where this is identified as required. The Prince George TSA is being used as a pilot area to study and develop these new strategies.

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Additional Response points (if needed):

- In 2019, in response to public concerns about glyphosate use, the ministry commissioned an independent assessment of peer reviewed forest science related to glyphosate use.
- BC, in conjunction with the University of Northern BC, has carried out two-year studies in the Omineca region to look at the impacts of herbicide spraying on moose habitat and nutritional quality of moose forage. These studies have provided new information about glyphosate's efficacy and impacts in northern forests. We are working to determine the significance of these studies and whether we should amend the existing controls that are in place for the use of this herbicide.
- These studies have informed the Ministry's decision to enact a Ministerial Order to protect critical moose habitat in the Omineca Region. This order includes limiting the use of herbicides on over 420,000ha to only be used to control noxious weeds.

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- Since 1990, herbicide use has declined by 50 percent across the province.
- In 2019 only 4,642 ha of herbicide treatments were applied aerially (less than 3 percent of the Crown area harvested that year and less than 0.5 percent of the area eligible for reforestation treatments).
- In 2020 the area treated with herbicide dropped to 750ha with only 200 ha applied using aerial techniques.
- Free Growing data shows that in the Omineca Region, deciduous trees accounted for 15-21 percent of the stand density in sites that were previously treated with glyphosate. 5-15 years after these treatments the density of deciduous trees has reduced by a small amount but is still well represented.
- Licensees and BC Timber Sales have indicated that the Free Growing policy changes adopted in the Cariboo Region have reduced annual brushing treatments by an average of 17 percent.
- Field studies have shown that:
 - the effects of glyphosate on the environment are minimal when the herbicide is applied according to product's health and safety directions.

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- species richness and diversity of plant communities, small and large mammals, songbirds, and invertebrates, remain within the range of natural variation, and that changes to communities tend be linked to reduced light levels as conifers close canopy.
- BCTS is currently in the process of consulting with First Nations and the public to renew their Pesticide Management Plan for Chilliwack and Squamish. This has drawn extensive criticism from the Stop the Spray campaign which is being dealt with by staff.

Updated: May 11, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Shane Berg

Phone: 250-851-6333

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Rachael Pollard

Neil Hughes

Phone: 250 318-3744

Phone: 778-974-5671

Prepared for 2022/23 Estimates Debate

ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p>CONFIDENTIAL GCPE-FLNR ISSUE NOTE</p> <p>Ministry of Forests Updated: April 7, 2022 Minister Responsible: Hon. Katrine Conroy</p>	<p>Glyphosate Use in forestry</p>
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ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Advice/Recommendations

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

Ads printed in March 2022 by BCTS regarding planning for PMP treatment (using glyphosates) for the Chinook Sea to Sky region had resulted in concerns raised from residents and First Nations in the area. The major species being controlled in the Chilliwack area are typically shrubs and some red alder. Aspen does not occur in any great amount in that area.

“Stop the Spray BC” are opposed to the use of glyphosate (active ingredient: Round-up) as a herbicide in B.C.’s forests. On November 12, 2020, “Stop the Spray BC” and members of the B.C. Liberal and Green parties rallied outside the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations office in Prince George, B.C. They again rallied outside at the same location on August 17, 2021, alleging that the use of glyphosates can:

- be harmful to humans;
- be harmful to moose and moose habitat;
- prevent the growth of functioning aspen for the duration of a rotation, meaning it will not grow back to what its normal viability would have been under natural ecological succession;
- affect wildlife retention trees through ‘spray-drift’;

ADVICE TO MINISTER

- impact temporary swamps, bogs, streams and wetlands (and permanent ones up to 200 square feed) that are oversprayed;

Further, they argue that the growth of aspen should be encouraged – not discouraged, claiming that deciduous trees reduce wildfire risk, diversify forests, create resiliency in the face of uncertain climatic realities, almost double the solar reflectivity of forest canopies, absorb significantly more moisture from precipitation events, and support exponentially more wildlife.

In spring 2019 the Office of the Chief Forester commissioned an independent FPInnovations review, on peer-reviewed science on glyphosate use to help inform future policy development and research needs. The review focused primarily on the context of B.C.'s current forest management value-set (e.g., biodiversity, First Nations, climate change, soil and water, etc.).

The review results found that environmental risks were low when glyphosate was used according to the label. In 2020 Further analysis of deciduous stand components beyond free growing showed that Omineca deciduous components accounted for 8–21% of the stand density on sites that were previously treated with glyphosate. Following on this work, the Ministry's Interior Broadleaf Working Group is collaborating with licensees to develop new strategies to better manage for broadleaves for multiple values and is using the Prince George TSA as a pilot to identify a process that can be used in other parts of the interior.

Background

The effects of glyphosate on human health have been extensively reviewed by international regulatory agencies, including Health Canada, with the conclusion being that exposure to glyphosate does not pose a carcinogenic or genotoxic risk to humans.

Glyphosate used in forests is a small fraction compared to what is used in agriculture. BC Timber Sales and forest licensees, particularly in the north, use glyphosate, in select areas only and, overall, the use of the herbicide is decreasing:

Treatment hectares by the forest sector in B.C.:

- 2015: 18,745
- 2016: 11,378
- 2017: 13,222
- 2018: 13,542
- 2019: 3,367
- 2020: 742

Communications Contact:	Nigel McInnis	250 896-4320
Program Area Contact:	Allan Powelson	778 974-5667
	Neil Hughes	778 974-5671
File Created:	Nov. 17, 2020	

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Issue: Groundwater Users That Did Not Apply for a Licence by March 2022

Recommend Response:

- The period for existing groundwater users to be considered a transition user closed on March 1, 2022.
- All non-domestic groundwater users who did not apply during the transition period must now apply as new applicants.
- The focus currently is to promote compliance, that is to encourage and support groundwater users to apply for a water licence.
- There are resources available through FrontCounter BC to support users with their applications.
- In areas where there is water scarcity there may be a need to restrict or cut-off water use to protect the rights of authorized users or the environment.
- In these cases, the Ministry communicates early with water users to encourage conservation and be clear regarding water supply conditions and if there is a need to take further action.
- The Ministry works with those users to ensure they understand their obligations under the *Water Sustainability Act* and works with them to get into compliance.
- The Ministry will follow the compliance management framework, only escalating to compliance and enforcement action where conditions merit.

Additional Response points (if needed):

- Users who did not apply prior to March 1 will be treated as new users and applications that are received early may receive a higher priority date in licensing.

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- The transition period for existing groundwater users was provided to recognize their ongoing use. It is now fair to begin to licence new users who are applying.
- Licensing groundwater gives government a more complete picture of groundwater use and enables government to better manage this important resource.
- Groundwater users have been liable for water rentals since 2016. Surface and ground water users pay the same rate for water based on the purpose.

Key Facts:

- As the groundwater transition period has closed, all applications are now considered new. New applications undergo a more rigorous process and include additional requirements, such as application fees.
- There are resources available through FrontCounter BC to help clarify whether to register as a domestic user or apply for a licence.
- There are areas in the province where seasonal scarcity or drought occur regularly. In these areas the Province will take action to protect appropriately authorized users and the environment. The Drought Response Plan guides preparation and response to these conditions. Inter-agency working groups are convened to identify streams of concern, action levels, and outreach and communications prior to any action being taken.
- Staff are using the compliance management framework to develop plans to address the non-compliant use. This approach will make the most of the resources available to authorizations and compliance and enforcement staff.
- As a result of people delaying their applications, many are receiving bills for back rentals which may be a cause for concern. This is due to the users being liable for rentals for use of water since the WSA took effect in 2016.
- Any policy changes to the WSA regarding groundwater licensing would have to consider fairness to those who have applied as well as government objectives regarding water.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 10, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 250-812-5823

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Issue: Technical and Financial Assistance for Dams and Dugouts

Recommend Response:

- The Dam Safety Program regulates approximately 2,000 fresh-water dams used for a range of activities including large hydro-electric power generation dams, agricultural irrigation, industrial use, municipal water supply, domestic use, and flood control.
- Dam owners are responsible for the structural integrity and safe operations of their dams.
- The Dam Safety Program provides technical and educational resources regarding regulation, construction, operation, maintenance, and emergency planning of dams. These are available publicly on the program website.
- The Dam Safety Program does not provide direct financial assistance for improvements to dams.
- The Province is committed to mitigating loss of life, damage to property and harm to the environment from dam breaches. There are currently no regulated dams that are in a hazardous condition.

Key Facts:

- It is understandable in the face of climate change that farmers and ranchers would like to store more water on site. However, dams pose a significant risk to public safety and strict regulation is required. Additionally, dams can be prohibitively expensive to operate and maintain properly.
- An alternative to dams and dugouts would be water storage tanks.
- Resources from the Dam Safety Program may be found at: www.gov.bc.ca/damsafety
- There has been funding provided to local governments to support work on dams. However these funding sources have not been available to private dam owners.
- The Dam Safety Program is aware of funding concerns. The BC Cattlemen's Association has approached the program for funding in the past. Provincial funding programs are listed at: www.gov.bc.ca/disastermitigationfunding.

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Ministry of Forests

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Date Prepared/Revised: May 10, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 236-478-1535

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted White, Director Water Management

Phone: 250-812-5823

2022/23 Estimates Debate

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Issue: Sumas Prairie Flood Damage and Mitigation

Recommend Response:

- The November 2021 atmospheric river event caused widespread flooding in the Sumas Prairie, due to the Nooksack River overflow from Whatcom County in the United States.
- Flooding caused extensive losses and damage across the agriculturally intensive Sumas Prairie area of Abbotsford and Semá:th First Nation.
- Our Ministry understands the heightened awareness and concern with reducing flood risk.
- Appropriate actions are being taken now to make immediate investments in flood recovery and emergency works.
- The Ministry of Forests and Emergency Management BC have worked closely with the City of Abbotsford in support of short-term recovery plan development and associated available financial assistance.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has also announced up to \$228 million to support recovery through the Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security.
- A comprehensive Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation approach is also being explored by the City of Abbotsford, which is currently engaging on four options for discussion purposes.
- In March, the Province and Washington State announced furthering of bi-lateral cooperation to address transboundary flooding issues.
- This engagement will include collaboration with Semá:th and other First Nations, plus a range of government, industry and community partners.
- More fulsome engagement is required on these broader approaches toward reducing flood risk in the Sumas Prairie, and other areas, in a way that accounts for changing climate and incorporates the principles in the Sendai Framework.

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Advice/Recommendations

Additional Response points (if needed):

Advice/Recommendations

Key Facts:

- The November flooding was the most impactful agricultural disaster ever in our province, resulting in profound losses for many BC farmers.
- The damages to the agriculture sector are estimated to be over \$200 million.
- Flood mitigation, preparedness and response are a partnership between the Province, local governments, First Nations communities and other agencies.
- Indigenous engagement is required along with new approaches to support implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- While the Province has publicly signalled its intent to “build back better”, it will take time to work with partners to develop the associated guidance and options are being explored to provide local governments with interim decision support.

Date Prepared/Revised: May 10, 2022

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Andrew Giles, Manager River Forecast Centre and Flood Safety

Phone: 778-974-4535