



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

2017/2018

FALL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ESTIMATES BINDER

OCTOBER 2017

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Issue: 2017 Fire Season

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- British Columbia, like the rest of the nation, is experiencing longer, more frequent, higher intensity and costly wildfire events. The causes of this are complex, and the potential answers are equally complex.
- While response and community recovery is our first priority at this point in time, we are eager to work with communities to improve wildfire suppression, prevention and mitigation opportunities.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) undertakes post wildfire natural hazard assessments and conducts rehabilitation of lands impacted by fire control efforts.
- Provincial State of Emergency declared July 7th, 2017, extended until September 15th, 2017.
- The 2017 wildfire season has been unprecedented in regard to the amount of area burned.
- Since April 1, 2017, a total of 1,315 wildfires have collectively burned 1,214,239 hectares of land. Approximately 1.2% of the province.
 - The current estimated size of the Plateau wildfire only (north and south combined) is 521,648 hectares. This is the largest wildfire in the province's recorded history and is the result of 19 other wildfires combining.
- At our peak capacity;
 - over 4,700* personnel had been engaged (*on July 29);
 - close to 1,200** out of province resources had been utilized (**on July 25), includes personnel from Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand;
 - Approx. 1,800 BC contract personnel, and;
 - 235 aircraft.
- Over 300 military personnel have assisted with evacuations, roadblocks, aircraft logistics and firefighting suppression efforts.
- 60% of this year's wildfires are believed to be lightning-caused. 37% of this year's wildfires are believed to be human-caused. The remainder are unknown/under investigation.
- As of October 11, 2017, costs total \$553.3 million for this fire season.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- This fire season has been very challenging;
 - s.16 this year through CIFFC – were successful in receiving assistance from Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, USA and all the provinces (except Nunavut).
 - s.16 suppression efforts.
 - Impacts to the forest industry, mills, ranching, guide outfitters, parks, recreation sites, resorts, etc.
 - Timber supply economic impacts.
- BC Wildfire Service ensured the following proactive preventative measures were in place due to extreme fire behaviour in all fire centres: backcountry closures, area restrictions, off-road vehicles, and providing recommendations on evacuation and alerts.
- In light of the unprecedented fire season this year, the Province will be, and has already initiated, conducting broad reviews of wildfire activities and this will potentially include a review of wildfire prevention activities and opportunities.
- BC Wildfire Service monitors daily costs closely to ensure effective and efficient expenditure of resources.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is responsible for community recovery efforts and emergency social services.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11th, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: BCWS Deployment of Resources

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) relies on a number of sources for resource capacity to meet the fire response and support needs on behalf of the Province, utilizing resource sharing agreements, standing offer contracts, individual service suppliers and statutory hires. The BCWS is unable to manage all facets of wildfire response and requires additional assistance to meet operational needs. The associated costs of additional resources and services are significant, accounting for approximately 30-50% of the Fire Management budget annually depending on the type of fire season.

Advice and Recommended Response:

During the 2017 fire season the BC Wildfire Service relied heavily upon our Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) partners which included all provinces and territories with the exception of Nunavut and our international partners the United States, Australia, New Zealand & Mexico.

The Province utilized a wide variety of British Columbia contracted workers and companies offering a wide variety of services including type two firefighters, helicopters, fixed wing air tankers, danger tree fallers, danger tree assessors, first aid medics.

- At the peak of the 2017 fire season, July 28th, the Province employed:
 - A total of 4769 personnel, which comprised of:
 - 3648 citizens of BC (1527 contracted fire line workers and 2121 BCWS and Wildfire TEAMS personnel)
 - and 1121 out-of-province personnel
 - 312 pieces of heavy equipment
 - and 185 aircraft were hired to support efforts
- Over the course of the summer, BCWS employed 98 emergency firefighters (EFFs), heavy equipment operators, contract crews and medics from multiple First Nations communities across BC.
- In 2017 BCWS utilized Incident Management Teams (IMT) on many large fires and fire complexes.
- BCWS has 6 IMTs and imported 17 IMTs from both Canada and Australia.
- The first IMT was deployed June 6 and last September 17.
- The June 6 deployment was an export to support fire response in the Yukon.
- BCWS deployed IMTs a total of 51 times in 2017 (each deployment is 14 days).
- The BCWS utilizes local qualified resources first before seeking assistance externally.
- When local resources are no longer available or do not meet the operational need, BCWS relies on resource sharing mutual aid agreements to supply trained personnel to meet the demand.

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- BCWS will continue to need effective resource sharing agreements and a robust British Columbia workforce, equipment and service suppliers to meet fire suppression needs for the future.

Date Prepared/Revised: Oct 4, 2017

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Issue: 2017 Wildfire Impacts to Backcountry Access

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- As a result of the 2017 wildfire season being the worst in recorded history, there will be considerable damage to our Forest Service Road (FSR) infrastructure.
- Staff will address the damage in a coordinated and consistent fashion to ensure road user safety and environmental protection.
- Bridges, culverts and retaining walls are likely compromised or destroyed with many primary and secondary access corridors no longer safely passable.
- To date, difficult to accurately assess the extent of the damage, given many FSRs have been closed due to fire activity and helicopter flights for reconnaissance have not been possible.
- According to the GIS fire maps and known locations of capitalized roads/bridges, the potential for impacts are as follows:

Total Bridges – 22

Cariboo Chilcotin – 8
100 Mile House – 5
Quesnel – 5
Rocky Mountain – 4

Total KM of Roads – 313 km

100 mile = 49 km
Cariboo Chilcotin – 174 km
Quesnel – 64 km
Rocky Mtn – 10 km
Thompson Rivers – 15 km
Vanderhoof – 1 km

- As staff are able to access impacted areas by road and by air, we will be able to more accurately assess the actual damage and prioritize works as follows:
1. Community access, 2. Rural Resident access, 3. High Value Rec access.
- Staff will also assess the potential for landslide activity in areas of intense burn and where there are steep slopes above private property and FSRs.
- Known impacts of the fires to date for the program are:

A. Works under road maintenance contracts (grading, brushing, gravelling etc.) have been delayed in the Southern Area.

- (i) Given roads are closed due to fire danger, there has been limited maintenance done on many key FSRs, particularly in the Cariboo region.
- (ii) Roads have been degraded and will take extra efforts to complete necessary

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maintenance by end of operating season.

B. Some capital works (road works and bridge replacements) on FSRs for 2017/18 have been cancelled or delayed.

- (i) It is expected only 80% of capital works will get completed for 2017/18 in the South Area. The North and Coast capital programs will deliver 100% of projects.
- (ii) Funding re-allocated to other critical projects outside of the impacted areas.
- (iii) Capital works not completed this year, re-scheduled next operating season.

C. Resourcing to deliver engineering program goals have been impacted.

- (i) Many staff in branch and district have been participating on W-TEAMS from across the Province, so have not been able to manage road maintenance contracts or capital contracts even outside of the impacted fire area.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- While we believe there have been significant impacts from fires to our FSR road and bridge infrastructure, it is still too early to tell the precise impact.
- The Engineering program is immediately putting in place a provincial Senior Roads Analyst to lead a co-ordinated and consistent approach to assess, plan, prioritize and address fire related damage to our FSR network.
- As roads become open for access, our professional engineers will assess the roads and inspect bridges to determine road user safety risks and provide for timely environmental protection.
- Highest priority is to ensure community (FN and Non FN) and rural resident access is restored expeditiously.
- To date, only known bridge destroyed on an FSR accessing a community was the Kluskus bridge on the Michelle-Coglistiko FSR. Within 10 days of the bridge being destroyed, the ministry had replaced the structure providing access to fire crews (as the Kluskus FN community was still evacuated).

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- Engineering staff are working closely with WSBC and EMBC to facilitate response/recovery works under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) requirements, to maximize cost recovery from the Federal government.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 18, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: BCTS 2017 Wildfire response

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The majority of the impact of the 2017 wildfires have been within the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Kamloops Business areas.
- As of October 10, 2017, this season's wildfires are estimated to have had the following impacts on BCTS:
 - 1.5M m³ lost – includes planned, annual developed volume and sold but not harvested volume;
 - 26 issued Timber Sales Licences (TSL) with a s.17
 - 19 of these TSLs have been sold but harvesting hasn't started
 - 7 of these TSLs have had harvesting started
 - Degree of impact on these TSLs is being assessed
 - 19,000 ha of BCTS burnt plantations
 - 500,000 seedlings were destroyed due to the evacuation of active planting crews^{s.17}
- s.17
- No field operations possible for 2 months;
- 247,245 ha of BCTS operating area; and
- Additional impacts include the potential reduction in the amount volume sold and associated revenue as a result of:
 - Staff deployment to wildfires – 4,900 person days involving 214 staff on 356 deployments;
 - Lack of access to issued TSLs due to fire hazard, and
 - Harvesting associated equipment and personnel deployed to wildfire suppression

Advice and Recommended Response:

While still being assessed, BCTS business objectives are anticipated to be moderately impacted in the medium to long term:

- Sales targets have been compromised due to timber loss of developed timber and timing delays;
- Silviculture and regeneration activities have been delayed/deferred;

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- Salvage logging of damaged timber may result in lower revenues; and
- Heightened demand for available equipment to construct roads and harvest timber may increase costs.

BCTS staff are working with a multi-disciplinary ministry group to plan for post-wildfire activities to ensure there are clear and efficient processes for:

- Managing impacted BCTS and non-BCTS forest tenures and permits
 - developing guidance to provide consistent responses on how to deal with the issued cutting authorities that are directly damaged by the 2017 Wildfires;
- Salvaging impacted timber as expeditiously as possible
 - ensure damaged timber is salvaged in a coordinated manner while considering the impacts on government objectives such as the market pricing system and the management of other natural resource values (Old Growth Management Areas, Wildlife Habitat Areas, GAR orders); and
- Addressing impacted reforestation obligations
 - Assessing impacted plantations and development of reforestation plans for damaged areas
 - Assessing impacts on seed, seedling, and planting capacity

Date Prepared/Revised: September 12, 2017

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Issue: Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) Results: Focus on 2017 Wildfire season

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Natural Resource Officers (NROs) have authority to enforce a broad range of natural resource legislation – include those captured under the FLNRORD ‘umbrella’ as well as legislation that resides in other ministries.
- The majority of NRO efforts are focussed upon: the *Forest Act*; The *Forest and Range Practices Act*; the *Land Act*; the *Water Sustainability Act*; the *Wildfire Act*; the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Act)* and the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- Operational priorities are set by working with business partners across the natural resource sector (e.g. BC Wildfire Service, etc.) and are based emerging issues or in areas where government objectives (environmental protection, revenue protection, public safety and social objectives (such as clear access to Crown land) are unduly impacted.
- CEB measures success on outcomes, such as maximizing positive impact on behaviors, high levels of compliance, and timely enforcement actions on the highest risk situations. This is a change from the previous model of measuring success on outputs (such as number of inspections completed).

Advice and Recommended Response:

- CEB is committed to remaining responsive to changing priorities and situations. In order to maximize that responsiveness, CEB is modelled on a ‘one team’ approach where officers can be routed to priority work, anywhere in the province irrespective of where officers are normally based.
- The tabulated statistics attached to this note show how CEB has responded to the unprecedented 2017 wildfire season, while still working to achieve outcomes in other business areas.
- Approximately 90 weeks of NRO time was spent this fire season through deployments to Emergency Management BC and Wildfire TEAMS.
- NROs also played a significant role in assisting and supporting evacuations, managing roadblocks and providing guidance to members of the public.

	Total as of Sept 5, 2017	Number under Wildfire Act	% under Wildfire Act
Complaints received	2,426	954	39%
Inspections	2,661	795	30%
Compliance Action	621	173	28%
Investigations	637	159	25%
Warning Tickets	119	56	47%
Violation Tickets	229	81	35%

* Data in the above table is sourced from a weekly report to FLNRORD Exec. It is exclusive of patrols.

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: First Nations Engagement

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Many First Nations communities expressed frustration about the lack of government-to-government consultation with BCWS regarding wildfire management and response this summer.
- From their perspective, this emergency crisis demonstrated the critical need to integrate Indigenous communities at every stage of wildfire response and management, from prevention to recovery.
- First Nations want to change wildfire response in a way that incorporates and respects Indigenous jurisdiction, knowledge and cultural values.
- The wildfire situation experienced in 2017 for BC has been extraordinary, in terms of:
 - the aggressive fire behaviour that burned a historical record of 1.2 million hectares;
 - the very dry and hot conditions that much of the province experienced, including historical Buildup Indices (BUIs) for the Cariboo and Chilcotin areas;
 - the large number of fire starts that occurred within a 48-hour period in early July (184 total between July 7 to July 8);
 - the number of individuals displaced from Evacuation Orders (65,000 total);
 - the number of First Nations communities who authorized Evacuation Alerts (7 total) and Evacuation Orders (8 total);
 - the total number of First Nations communities affected by wildfires (23 total);
 - the total cost to date (\$551 million as of October 4, 2017);
 - and the number of structures and homes impacted (502 and 229 respectively).

Advice and Recommended Response:

- s.13,s.16

- Efforts made to better integrate and financially support First Nations communities in wildfire response and management this summer included:
 - employing approximately 92 emergency firefighters (EFFs), heavy equipment operators, contract crews, and medics from multiple First Nations communities;
 - spending approximately \$8.4 million on contract services and \$1.4 million on STAT hires that directly benefited First Nations communities; and
 - s.13,s.16

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s.13,s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: Ian Meier/Aaron Pawlick

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Vendor Complaint - Coulson

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Port Alberni-based Coulson Group of Companies (CG) has a history of providing aviation services for the province. The main component of the relationship to date has been the Mars JRM-3 aircraft, which assisted BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) with a small percentage of wildfire suppression in British Columbia from 1960 to 2015.
- For many years, the Mars' costs were covered by a consortium of timber companies who sold the aircraft to CG in 2006, now operating as *Coulson Flying Tankers*. The CG was provided the opportunity via direct award to provide Mars aviation services for the province from 2007-2013, with the exception of 2009 when the CG elected to pursue a one-year contract with the USFS.
- Based on further analysis of operational needs and efficiency, in 2014, BCWS chose to not renew the Mars contract and instead modernized its firefighting capacity with the addition of a turbine-engine amphibious skimming airtanker group consisting of four Fire Boss aircraft and a birddog. The strategic move away from the Mars best meets the operational needs of the province. For example, only 113 lakes in B.C. are large enough for the Mars to access, whereas the Fire Boss fleet can skim from 1,700 bodies of water. However, during the 2015 fire season, the decision was made to award the CG a 30-day contract for the Mars' services.
- Prior to the 2016 and 2017 fire seasons, the CG was informed of the Province's intention to not engage Mars' services moving forward. The decision to move away from use of the Mars has led to the CG and some members of the public to voice discontent. The CG has at times attempted to politicize the Mars issue through conventional and social media channels, most recently on July 9, 2017. Due to the Mars' service history, many members of the public have a continuing fondness for the Mars.
- The CG continues to operate a fleet of helicopters that are hired on a *casual hire* basis by BCWS to support fire suppression efforts.
- In late 2016, BCWS undertook a *request for proposal* (RFP) competition for land-based airtanker services for the 2017 fire season, which garnered twelve submissions from four vendors: Air Spray (1967), Conair Aviation, Coulson Airplane Ltd., and Coulson Aviation (USA) Inc. Both Coulson Airplane Ltd. and Coulson Aviation (USA) Inc. fall under the CG umbrella. The contract was awarded to Air Spray (1967) Ltd. in October 2016 and vendor feedback was

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provided for all submissions.

- Following the 2016 contract award, the CG submitted a complaint for each of their six proposals via the FLNRO *vendor complaint review process* (VCRP). CG legal counsel highlighted concerns that included the capabilities of the evaluation team, assertions that the RFP process was inherently flawed, and improper assessments of the companies' financial resources, regulatory capacity, and corporate references.
- Phase 1 on the VCRP included an investigative review of the CG proposal evaluation by the BCWS Executive Director. This process resulted in the CG being issued a response highlighting the findings that the procurement was carried out in a "prudent and unbiased manner that fairly treated all bidders". Furthermore, the evaluation team was found to be capable and objective in their evaluations.
- CG proceeded with Phase 2 of the VCRP, escalating their complaints to an ADM review of the RFP process. A response to the Phase 2 complaint was issued re-affirming the Ministry's position that the procurement was conducted appropriately in an unbiased manner.
- The CG did not pursue a Phase 3 (final stage) review of the VCRP within the defined 30 day period following reception of the Phase 2 response. It is anticipated that the VCRP investigations of the CG complaints have concluded.
- The CG currently operates three C-130 land-based (non-water skimming) airtankers, which have been under contract with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre in Australia. The CG is currently converting a fourth C-130 to be an airtanker in addition to six recently procured Boeing-737 aircraft. The CG has approached the BCWS and provided an update to their 737 initiative. It is likely that CG will approach BCWS for contracts for the 737s in the future.
- The Province is currently undertaking the planning phase of an airtanker procurement process to replace six airtanker groups, currently in contract extension years, prior to the 2020 fire season.
- The CG has recently approached the province requesting an opportunity to conduct trials related to helicopter night operations.

Key Messages:

- BCWS consider the matter of the vendor complaint to be complete

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- BCWS hired Coulson during the 2017 Fire Season to provide helicopter services
- BCWS is considering working with Coulson to explore the use of helicopters for night operations

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

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Issue: Backfiring (formerly Backburns)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) defines backfiring as:
 - *“A form of indirect attack where extensive fire is set ahead of the main fire but close enough to the head of the fire to take advantage of indrafts from the main fire. The objective of a backfiring operation is to consume fuels in the path of the fire and thereby halt, retard or steer the progress of the fire front.”*
- BCWS personnel follow nationally consistent controlled burning training developed by CIFFC. This mirrors similar practices used by Wildfire Agencies internationally.
- Over the past 10 years, BCWS personnel have used planned ignitions, including backfiring, with increased frequency due to the number of large fires and extreme fire behaviour. Since July 2017, backfiring operations have been used almost daily.
- Much of the public, stakeholders and special interest groups have expressed immense dissatisfaction this summer regarding the use of backfiring. This sentiment highlights a misunderstanding around the benefits and practical application of this fire suppression ignition tactic.

Advice and Recommended Response:

1. When/Why BCWS uses backfiring

- Backfiring is used when direct attack methods to control the forward rate of spread of the fire are ineffective.
- This operation is normally limited to aerial ignition due to the risk associated with ground ignition in these situations.
- Backfiring requires good visibility for the helicopter at the head of the fire.
- Backfiring is not possible under stronger wind conditions where the smoke column from the head of the fire does not provide good visibility for operations.

2. Planning/Safety Precautions

- The decision to backfire is approved by the Incident Commander on all incidents.
- On larger fires, backfiring operations are supervised by Specialist(s)
- All ignition specialists must take the S-434 National Ignition Specialist Course. This course has been designed to provide a standard curriculum for all Ignition Specialists in Canada. It was developed by CIFFC to ensure the curriculum is comprehensive and meets the needs of all agencies.
- BCWS backfiring operations are well documented. For larger burns, an ignition mission plan is used, which outlines the reason for the burn, its objective,

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strategies used, hazards/risk mitigation, probability of success, ignition go/no-go checklist, etc.

- BCWS personnel often cancel or reschedule controlled burns due to prevailing winds and local weather conditions. They also reassess these conditions immediately before conducting the burn.

3. Benefits of backfiring

- Eliminates fuel in advance of the advancing fire front.
- Reduces fire intensity and spread rate near control lines.
- With enough intensity, a backfire can alter direction of main fire spread.
- Backfiring can also be used to slow down the spread of and join two developing heads, thereby reducing the amount of fireline.
- Backfiring operations can help establish better containment.

4. Issues related to backfiring

- A backfiring excursion is a burn that extends beyond its intended area. All such excursions are reviewed by the burn team, who uses the resulting learnings for training and best practices in the future.
- BCWS has requested that investigations will be undertaken for all backfiring operations done as part of the fire suppression operations for the wildfires in BC that may result in claims for compensation.
- Any claims compensated will be investigated and assessed, and then any compensation will be made in accordance with provincial legislation.

Date Prepared/Revised: Oct 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Mary Sue Maloughney

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ian Meier

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Issue: Pressy Lake, Elephant Hill Wildfire - Information Requests

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner Structure Protection Specialist completed an initial assessment of the structures in and around Pressy Lake on August 8th;
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner attempts to complete these assessments on all structures that may potentially be threatened by a wildfire;
- There was no deployment of structure protection equipment on Pressy Lake structures;
- The fire was estimated to be over 15 kilometers from Pressy Lake on August 11th;
- Strong winds resulted in the fire spotting and breaching the containment lines on August 11th and 12th on the North flank of the fire;
- BCWS could not safely deploy resources into Pressy Lake for structure protection on August 11th and 12th;
- It is estimated that on August 11th and 12th the fire progressed past Young Lake and into Pressy Lake, quickly advancing approximately 10-15 kilometers. The fire was wind driven resulting in spotting and extreme fire behavior; and
- Following the event on August 11th and 12th, when it was deemed safe, BCWS and the Office of the Fire Commissioner conducted patrols in the area to extinguish hot spots that may have further threatened structures in the area.

Freedom of Information process:

- For those who have sought information via the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) process, analysts at the Information Access Operations have been working with applicants to ensure they get information when it's available.
- Those that have made applications under the FOIPPA process will continue to be served by staff at the Information Access Operations. In addition, staff at BCWS and the Information Access Operations will continue to find ways to expedite important information through the FOIPPA process and other channels.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS) understands that residents are anxious to receive information regarding the events leading up to the Elephant Hill Wildfire as it approached Pressy Lake. These questions were articulated at a re-entry meeting for Pressy Lake residents on Saturday September 16th. In response, BCWS released a statement to the residents of Pressy Lake on September 20th.

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- Some have asked for information through the Freedom of Information process and we wanted to provide an update on that process. Originally, some information was not available due to an on-going RCMP investigation. BCWS worked with the RCMP and, while the investigation continues, information was released via an email to residents on September 29th.
 - In addition, the Honourable Jinny Sims, staff from the Ministry of Citizens' Services, and staff from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development met with MLAs Tegart and Rustad. It was a good discussion and it was clear all parties shared the same interest – to help those affected by the Elephant Hill/ Pressy Lake fire.
 - Minister Sims let the MLAs know that FLNRO (BC Wildfire Service) and her ministry had been working hard to support the access to information for residents who had made a freedom of information (FOI) application.

Date Prepared/Revised: «Oct 6, 2017»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: «250 312-3032»

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Name: «Rob Schweitzer»

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Issue: Wildfire Impacts on Provincially-Owned Recreational and Heritage Infrastructure and Associated Tourism

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The 2017 wildfire season has been unprecedented with the number of fires being fought from multiple fronts, the hectares burned, the number of evacuations employed and the number of times area closures were employed.
- The ministry is responsive to wildfire hazards and risk to public safety and infrastructure by active management of public access and recreational activities on Crown Land.
- The ministry supports outdoor recreation activities and heritage conservation across the Province.
- The wildfire season impacted Provincially-owned and managed infrastructure as well as visitation in these areas largely due to area closures, evacuation orders, access constraints, widespread smoke and perceived deterrence due to wildfire activity.
- These impacts, though outside the ministry, also extend to BC Parks.

Rec Sites and Trails:

- In the areas of highest risk, between 150-200 Recreation Sites and Trails were closed during July and August. These closures had impacts on site operator revenue at many of the sites.
- As of September 8, 2018, approximately 30 Recreation Sites may have been directly impacted by the fires. Further assessment will be required to determine extent of damage and impact to site operator revenues. Requests for compensation have been received from operators.
- Recovery focus will be on cleanup, road and bridge repair, some infrastructure replacement and assessment and mitigation of danger trees.

Heritage:

- Specific heritage infrastructure such as Barkerville Historic Town, Cottonwood House and Hat Creek Ranch were impacted through closures and reduced visitation.
- Actions have been initiated to accelerate payment for operations due to hardship reasons.
- Actions were taken to protect the key properties by site operators.
- Specific impacts include:
 - Barkerville Heritage Trust's forecast direct revenues have been reduced by \$448,000 based on 2016 figures following a 54% reduction in visitation to Barkerville Historic Town and Park (since July 7). Businesses licensed to operate also lost \$404,000 in forecast revenue (\$40,000 direct revenue to the Trust included above).

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- Requests for compensation have been made. Without additional funding, the Trust will lay off staff, will not open for the planned winter season, and will exhaust their fiscal reserve on road and heritage structure snow clearance and winter security.
- Laying off staff also jeopardises the Trust's ability to deliver on Northern Development Initiative Trust and Parks Canada Agency cost-shared projects (~\$350,000 in lost matching funds).
- Cottonwood House Historic Site near Quesnel, also operated by the Barkerville Heritage Trust, has suffered from the same fluctuations in visitation and spending. Lost revenues are reported in the order of \$150,000.
- Hat Creek Ranch was closed for 22% of their operating season (July 7-August 11th) resulting in a reduction of forecast direct revenue of approximately \$196,000 to date compared to the same period in 2016.
- McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site was damaged by the Elephant Hill wildfire and associated fire prevention work. A damage assessment will take place when the property can be safely accessed.

Mountain Resort and Commercial Recreation Operators:

- Area closures had an impact on visitation to all seasons resorts, as well as, commercial tenure holders; including, guide outfitters and adventure tourism operators.
- The ministry supports resort clients and stakeholders undertaking wildfire planning and forest treatments, which reduce wildfire hazards within resort Controlled Recreation Areas.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- With all decision making related to wildfire, public safety is paramount.
- As part of the recovery planning process, the ministry will be assessing damage and impacts and responding accordingly.
- The impacts from this season are being felt across the Province by all landbase users and to a number of provincially owned infrastructure and assets.
- We have accelerated the planned payments to operators of Barkerville and Hat Creek in recognition of the hardships they are currently facing and the need to protect the heritage resources.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Fires and Allowable Annual Cuts

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Fire has impacted about 1.2 million hectares of forest to varying degrees with the majority of that impact (over 80%) occurring in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House areas.
- Roughly sixty percent of the impacted land (more than 700,000 ha) was considered available for timber production and harvest.
- Fires are still active and will have implications for both timber and non-timber values such as wildlife and old-growth management areas.
- Fire impacts in these areas are in addition to previous Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) impacts.

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) Impacts and Respose

- Fires will further reduce mid-term timber supply from post-beetle levels and likely futher affect the viability of mills in the region.
- In the near term, the focus will be on salvage of impacted stands using the existing AAC.
- Prior to salvage of burned stands, consideration will be given as to whether areas set aside for wildlife habitat or biodiversity are best left un-harvested to help maintain those values
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and timber supply modelling that has been initiated, AACs will be assessed to determine if and when they need to be re-determined and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- Post salvage harvest levels will also be re-assessed to ensure that communities and stakeholders are aware of what mid-term timber supply will be.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- In the near-term harvesting within the current AAC will focus on salvage of highly impacted stands while preserving non-timber values.
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and modelling, AACs will be re-determined if necessary and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- Post salvage (mid-term) harvest levels will also be re-assessed and conveyed to impacted communities and stakeholders.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Adventure Tourism and Impact of Wildfires

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Communities and adventure tourism operators in the central interior have been hard hit by 2017's unprecedented wildfire season, suffering immediate impacts. Post-wildfire economic recovery is a significant government imperative, and will be the most immediate challenge in rural development, including adventure tourism, for much of central interior BC in the short-term.

The adventure tourism sector includes the Wilderness Tourism Association; Backcountry Lodges of BC Association; Canada West Ski Areas Association; Guide Outfitters Association of BC and the Commercial Bear Viewing Association.

Tenures can be comprised of Intensive Use Sites (e.g. lodge/cabin) and/or Extensive Use (adventure guiding sometimes including 1000's of hectares).

Intensive tenures for lodge and cabin sites are billed annually as a percentage of BC Assessment value. Where property land tenure values have been impacted by wildfire, clients are encouraged to contact the BC Assessment Authority (BCAA). BCAA is planning to revisit the assessed values and may make adjustments for next assessment year. This may result in reduced rentals for adventure tourism for their next rental payment.

Extensive tourism tenures for adventure guiding are billed annually based on the previous year's client days, which mean if there is reduced activity this year due to the fires, they will be paying the corresponding (reduced) rent the following year.

Insurance is a tenure requirement for all adventure tourism tenures on Crown land, hence impacts by wildfires may be covered by their insurance.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Inquiries for rent relief by adventure tourism tenure holders directly impacted by wildfires will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and should be referred to BCAA and Frontcounter BC.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Name: Duncan Williams

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Issue: Fire Origin and Cause Investigations

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Government has a responsibility to ensure that human-caused fires are assessed. BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is the sole provincial agency responsible for Fire Origin and Cause (FOC) investigations. All wildfires are assessed to decide whether a formal Fire Origin and Cause determination is required.
- The BCWS 2016 / 17 Business Plan identifies “*increased emphasis on wildfire prevention*” as one of the six priorities. The BCWS Fire Origin and Cause structure aligns with the Canadian Wildfire Strategy report recommending refocusing efforts to develop capacity in fire prevention.
- The BCWS relies on the completion of defensible Fire Origin and Cause determinations in order to be successful for their cost recovery program. The Fire Origin and Cause investigations also play a significant role in the enforcement of the *Wildfire Act* as well as the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

A Fire Origin and Cause is used for the:

- recovery of wildfire suppression costs and damages from human-caused wildfires;
- defence of the Crown against compensation claims;
- recovery of Federal Disaster Financial Assistance compensation;
- prevention and mitigation strategies of wildfires; and
- support of enforcement agency mandates.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- BCWS launches fire cause and origin investigations to determine if the fire was human-caused;
- There are approximately 110 open Fire Origin and Cause investigations from the 2017 fire season;
- The RCMP are currently involved with 15 active FOC investigations;
- It is our understanding that insurance companies are working with their claimants and are settling their claims resulting from the 2017 fires;
- We do not believe that the BCWS Fire Origin and Cause investigation impacts insurance companies claims process;
- Requests for Fire Origin and Cause reports are made through the Freedom of Information process;

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- Several Fire Origin and Cause reports have been requested, possibly from insurance companies to assist them in recovering monies paid for insurance claims; and
- The Fire Origin and Cause reports are usually requested by the insurance company once the insurance claim has been settled.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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

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Issue: BC Wildfire – Invoice Backlog

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Several contractors have complained that their invoices have not been paid in a timely manner.

There is a large backlog of invoices in the program particularly in the Cariboo and Kamloops Fire Centre due to the unprecedented fire season.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- This is an exceptional and record-breaking fire season.
- As always, the Province relied on – and is grateful for – all the contractors and local businesses and the important job they have been doing to help British Columbians.
- It's estimated that about 800 contractors provided services during the wildfires.
- It's a priority for the BC Wildfire Service to make sure these people are paid for the great work they did.
- That's why the BC Wildfire Service has significantly increased the staff complement available to process invoices by deploying extra resources, having staff work overtime hours, and processing payments remotely.
- There are over 30 staff working on these invoices to reduce the backlog and get these payments to contractors and local businesses as soon as possible.
- More than \$396.410 million has already been paid out for this season.
- Of the 26,765 invoices paid, 21,942 have been paid within 30 days and 4,823 over the 30 days. (This information is current at October 11th).

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Madeline Maley

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Sept. 21, 2017

ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery

Key Messages:

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

Provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused in four areas:

People and communities

- \$100 million allocated to Canadian Red Cross – to date a total of \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals
- To date, funding has been provided for recovery managers for the Ashcroft Indian Band, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District
- A First Nation liaison position has been established
- Support for mental health outreach in 100 Mile House and Quesnel as well as connecting with local organizations that provide mental health supports
- Ministers Adrian Dix, Mike Farnworth and Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice have all met with evacuees in reception centres
- Minister Scott Fraser met with T'kemlups Chief and Council

Economy

- Tourism –
 - \$1.1 million - \$200,000 each to the Cariboo Chilcotin, Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary Tourism Associations and Destination BC is has provided \$500,000 to promote tourism in the Interior
 - Minister Lisa Beare visited the Cariboo Chilcotin

- Agriculture –
 - With the federal government, provided \$20 million under the Agri-Recovery Initiative
 - Working with BC Cattlemen's Association to provide emergency feeds, identifying alternate grazing lands
 - Minister Lana Popham has visited affected areas
- Small business –
 - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures.
- Forestry –
 - Timber harvested in the creation of fireguards has been or is being milled.
 - Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation
 - Minister Donaldson has visited affected areas
- Environment
 - \$140 million over three years for reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and promoting FireSmart
 - Rehabilitation of fireguards and areas damaged by fire suppression activities
 - Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
 - Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
 - Terrain stability assessments almost complete

Infrastructure and Reconstruction

- To date, \$6 million to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

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Issue: Wildfire Rehabilitation and Recovery (IROD – BC Wildfire Response)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Post wildfire rehabilitation is designed to mitigate or eliminate environmental resource impacts, abate any risk to public safety, address fuel/fire hazards, and repair damage caused by the fire suppression/control efforts.
- Rehabilitation does not refer to damage caused due to the wildfire. Eligible rehabilitation activities are outlined in Section 65 of the *Wildfire Act*.
- Rehabilitation is conducted in collaboration with FLNRORD Regional Operations, while damage to private lands due to fire control is managed through the BC Wildfire Service.
- Each Fire Centre is progressing with rehabilitation planning and implementation; to the extent possible given the fire situation, logistics, and availability of resources.
 - Due to the extensive area affected by wildfire (871,027 ha) the Cariboo Fire Center is conducting an inventory of the damage caused by fire control operations for the entire Fire Center.
 - Other Fire Centres (341,615 ha) are completing Rehabilitation Prescriptions (which includes an inventory of the damage caused by fire control operations on a fire by fire basis) where the fire situation, logistics and availability of resources allows.
- Where the fire situation, logistics, and resource availability allows, work has started on a priority basis highest risk areas such as:
 - potential landslide hazards;
 - potential environmental risks such as instances where soil and other material have been deposited in streams; and
 - deactivation of sumps and dams.
- Estimated costs are difficult to predict as fires are still active, and inventories are incomplete.
- All high priority rehabilitation assessments are expected to be completed by the end of the fall 2017 with work associated commencing at the end 2017.
- Lower priority assessments will be completed as time and resources, and may potentially continue into the spring/summer 2018 with implementation occurring as time and resources allow.

Post Wildfire Natural Hazards Assessments (PWNHA):

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- Severe wildfires can damage the forest canopy, understory, and the soil surface which can increase the risk of other natural hazards such as localized floods and landslides.
- A Post Wildfire Natural Hazards Assessments is conducted by qualified specialists to evaluate the hydrologic conditions following a wildfire for potential hazards.
- Section 65 of the *Wildfire Act* allows for activities associated with a PWNHA. The outcomes of assessments are shared with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, through Emergency Management BC, who informs local governments of the risk, who in turn determines appropriate strategies and contacts affected parties. Mitigation works on Crown land, may be funded through the Fire Management Vote.

Process for conducting a Post Wildfire Natural Hazards Assessments:

- Overview Assessments: Regional Operations Specialists continuously monitor wildfires throughout the fire season and identify areas that require a Preliminary Assessment (high level field review usually involving aerial reconnaissance.)
- Preliminary Assessments: Are undertaken when Overview Assessment indicates potential risks to human life and safety, property and/or critical infrastructure.
 - 30 are required in the Province with 13 underway and 6 completed.
- Detailed Assessments: Are undertaken when a Preliminary Assessment indicates potential risks to human life and safety, property and/or critical infrastructure.
 - 10 are required in the Province with 4 underway and 1 completed.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- BC Wildfire Service and FLNRORD are responsible for evaluating damage to, and may undertake recovery efforts, as a result of damage to the land base caused by wildfire events.
- The Province is currently conducting wildfire rehabilitation assessments, focusing on high risk areas first, to determine the mitigation works required to restore damage caused by wildfire suppression and control.
- The BC Wildfire Service is working with private land owners to assess damage and potential restoration compensation due to wildfire control activities.
- The Province is working to identify potential increases to natural hazards as a result of wildfire activity by conducting Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Assessments. These assessments can be detailed, and given the unprecedented fire season this year, may continue well into 2018.
- In light of the unprecedented fire season this year, the Province will be, and has already initiated, conducting broad reviews of wildfire activities and this will potentially include a review of wildfire prevention activities and opportunities.

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Wildfire Recovery(South Operations)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- This season, wildfires have burnt over 1,212,000 hectares of land in the Province . The hardest hit areas of the province are the Cariboo Chilcotin, Quesnel, 100 Mile House and Thompson Rivers Districts.
- Fires will further reduce mid-term timber supply from post-beetle levels in the the Quesnel, 100 Mile House and Williams Lake Timber Supply Areas (TSA) likely futher affecting the viability of mills in the region.
- In the near term, the focus will be on salvage of impacted stands using the existing AAC.
- FLNRORD is exploring policy options to help address salvage of fire-damaged timber to ensure impacts on government objectives and the management of other natural resource values are being considered.
- The ranching sector has been heavily impacted by the loss of over 1M hectares of Crown land that provided summer grazing for 30,000 cow/calf pairs, representing 25% of the provincial beef herd. Private land fall grazing and winter feed supplies have also been impacted.
- An estimated 450km of Crown range fences have been destroyed by the 2017 Wildfires. Reconstruction has already begun on priority fences.
- Area closures related to the fires will impact recreational hunting opportunities and local Guide Outfitters.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- While accurate information of the impact to timber supply is not yet available, it is clear the loss is significant and compounded by the impact of the most recent mountain pine beetle outbreak.
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and timber supply modelling that has been initiated, AACs will be assessed to determine if and when they need to be re-determined and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- The Province has established a Recovery Branch. The Recovery Program will support Local Government and First Nations community-led recovery.

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- The response to impacts to the land base and those industries that rely on that land base is being led by FLNRORD. An Incident Command structure has been established to lead land base recovery and the rural development response efforts across the interior.
- The immediate focus of the Incident Command Team is on:
 - Salvage of damaged timber while protecting other land use values
 - Initiation of a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including reforestation
 - Building a Community Engagement Framework to support dialogue with impacted communities
 - Initiating a comprehensive engagement process with First Nations commencing with salvage and rehabilitation planning
 - Maintaining public safety in impacted areas
 - Assessing wildlife habitat impacts
- The Range Branch of FLNRORD is working with the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) to develop a Crown range fence replacement strategy by March 31, 2018, that will replace fences destroyed by the 2017 Wildfires. The estimated \$9M cost will be shared between the Province and the Federal government under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement.
- Emergency livestock feed is available through Emergency Management BC to commercial livestock producers in both the Cariboo and Thompson-Nicola Regional Districts that have lost grazing areas as a result of wildfires.
- Once the immediate tasks are underway FLNRORD will shift its focus to exploring rural community development opportunities and how we can best support the rural communities and industries as they transition to a changed landscape.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Wildfire Recovery (Economy)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Communities

- The socio-economic impacts of the 2017 wildfire season are not yet fully known. Economic issues that have been identified to date include: substantial decrease in tourism; cancelled events/festivals; minimal log inventories and availability for some mills; impacts to range land resulting in shortages of grazing area and hay availability.
- Regional Economic Operations (REO), in its role as the provincial lead in the coordination of assistance to communities that are undergoing significant economic dislocation, is actively engaged in providing assistance and aligning support to the Wildfire Recovery Branch within FLNRORD who are leading the implementation of overall wildfire response services on behalf of the Province.
- Staff are providing community recovery support and issues resolution through Emergency Management BC, Forest District Offices and other provincial government community connections; outreach and information sharing with local governments and local businesses; co-leading the Provincial Wildfire Recovery economic recovery working group and participating in the Provincial Wildfire Recovery people and communities working group; and, providing advice and expertise regarding all aspects of community recovery.
- \$100 million was provided by the Government of BC to the Red Cross to provide support to impacted individuals and businesses. The Red Cross transferred at least \$600 per household to registered evacuees and the amount can be renewed every two weeks if needed. The Red Cross also has a \$1500 emergency grant to eligible small businesses, First Nations, and non-profit organizations. A total of 32,363 households have registered with the Red Cross along with a total of 54,827 individuals and \$28,669,739 issued as of October 10, 2017. A total of 1662 businesses have registered for small business support and 5 community partnerships have been approved.
- REO has signed a Letter of Expectation with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to provide \$75,000 in funding for training and employment assistance related to the wildfires.
- To date, REO community transition staff have provided \$29,200 in funding to support fire suppression and remediation training through the Rapid Response Fund.
- Provincial agencies including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and REO staff have engaged in mental health and wellness outreach in

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the Communities of 100 Mile House and Williams Lake. Follow-up activities are planned for those communities as well as the Ashcroft area.

- The Province is actively engaging with the First Nations Health Authority to specifically address First Nations health issues following the wildfire event.

Forest Resource

- The 2017 wildfire season has devastated large areas within the Williams Lake, Quesnel and 100 Mile House communities.
- Tolko, West Fraser and BC Timber Sales are the largest operators with approximately 200 active cutting permits (CP) or timber sales licences (TSL) that have been impacted.
- Regional Operations led by the Southern Operations Division will provide overall leadership for land-based recovery and will work in partnership with the Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division to deliver an integrated overall approach.
- A cross-ministry collaborative process is underway to explore a broad range of tools and actions in response to the impacts of the wildfires on communities, First Nations and other stakeholders
- Initial priorities for the ministry are to expedite the harvesting and salvage of fire-damaged timber and to manage impacted harvest authorities.
- First Nations participation will be an important component in the overall salvage strategy.
- There are many issues to resolve but a key objective is to expedite and facilitate fibre moving so mills can start up and individuals can return to work.
- Ensuring damaged timber is salvaged is a priority while not impairing other key government objectives such as the management of other natural resource values and the market pricing system.

AgriRecovery

- Together, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia continue to support British Columbians and First Nations communities facing the immediate and long-term impacts of wildfires.
- The AgriRecovery response will help B.C. ranchers recover from their losses, return to their land and their livelihoods, and continue to be an economic driver in BC.
- Within the AgriRecovery Framework, the 2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative will provide up to \$20 million to assist agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs incurred.

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- The program will support ranchers and farmers with categories under consideration such as:
 - Costs related to ensuring animal health and safety.
 - Feed, shelter and transportation costs.
 - Costs to re-establish perennial crop and tame forage damaged by fire.
 - The Governments of Canada and BC are working with producers, local officials and stakeholders to respond to this emergency as efficiently and collaboratively as possible and will keep working until the job is done.
 - Federal and Provincial government staff are working hard to finalize the program details and criteria, and I very much look forward to seeing applications made available in the coming weeks.

Adventure Tourism

- Adventure tourism tenures include intensive use sites (e.g. lodge/cabin) and/or extensive use (adventure guiding sometimes including 1000's of hectares).
- Intensive-use site tenures for lodges and cabins are billed annually as a percentage of BC Assessment value. Where property land tenure values have been impacted by wildfires, clients are encouraged to contact the BC Assessment Authority (BCAA). BCAA is planning to revisit the assessed values and may make adjustments for next assessment year. This may result in reduced rentals for adventure tourism for their next rental payment.
- Extensive use tenures for adventure guiding are billed annually based on the previous year's client days, which means if there are reduced activities this year due to the wildfires; they will pay the corresponding (reduced) rent the following year.
- Insurance is a tenure requirement for all adventure tourism tenures on Crown land; hence impacts by wildfires may be covered by their insurance.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- REO is engaged on the ground in impacted communities to support the Province's recovery efforts.
- Planning for transition from response-to-recovery is currently underway and being led by the Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division, which will provide overall leadership for recovery in the Province.
- Support measures are in place for individuals and businesses with over \$100 million made available.
- Many challenges exist before a more detailed timber salvage response and action plan can be developed. A priority for our staff is to gather information and review the

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situation to determine the full impact of the 2017 wildfires on timber and non-timber resources, and determine appropriate treatments and application processes. Collaborative local processes with industry, First Nations, communities and stakeholders will follow to formulate salvage plans.

- First Nations participation in salvage opportunities is anticipated.
- For adventure tourism tenure holders, inquiries about rent relief for those directly impacted by wildfires will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and should be referred to BCAA and FrontCounter BC.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative – Funding Prevention

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Province provides funding for wildfire prevention and mitigation activities through the following programs:
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI). Since its initiation in 2004, the B.C. government has provided SWPI with \$78M in funding to local governments and First Nations for wildfire prevention activities, including funding for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), prescriptions, demonstration projects, fuel treatments and FireSmart planning.
- Funding is administered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), and is proponent driven. Nearly 200 communities have accessed funding through SWPI.
- As of June, 2017, 311 CWPP have been completed by local governments and First Nations. Another 60 are in progress and 194 operational treatments have been completed or are underway.
- As of June, 2017, completed fuel treatments and wildfire risk reduction measures covered approximately 92,300 hectares in and around communities that face a significant wildfire risk.
- To address the administrative burden and increase participation in SWPI, changes to the CWPP process were introduced in 2017. These changes included:
 - rationalizing the template and requirements for completing a CWPP;
 - increasing the provincial funding contribution to 75 per cent.
- Additional changes to allow for joint funding of operational treatments with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) were also included to allow for applicants to access funding in excess of the annual SWPI funding maximums and to enable operational treatments within areas both inside and outside the wildland urban interface (WUI).
- The FESBC was created in 2016, and \$235M was allocated to enhance forest health, including wildfire prevention and mitigation. In 2016, FESBC approved \$6M in projects across the range of its purposes. Recently, FESBC approved another \$19 for 41 projects resulting from a third project intake, with several deferred proposals still under review. This brings the total funding allocated thus far to \$25.2M since FESBC's inception.
- Homeowners who live in interface areas can help protect their properties from wildfire threats by using FireSmart principles including: education, vegetation

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management, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency cooperation, emergency planning and cross training.

- The SWPI program includes 100 per cent funding FireSmart Planning grants to local authorities, First Nations and organized community groups and individuals. As of June, 2017, 85 FireSmart planning grants have been processed.
- Local governments also have a role to play by implementing FireSmart bylaws for municipal land in the wildland/urban interface.
- When not occupied with fire response activities, BC Wildfire Service crews throughout the province routinely complete fuel reduction treatments in high-risk areas. Over the past few years, fire crews have assisted with 288 treatment projects.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- While the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative has been instrumental in reducing wildfire risks, it's not the only tool available. Mitigating wildfire risk is a shared responsibility of the B.C. Government, industry stakeholders and private landowners.
- The need for wildfire prevention activities within the province far exceeds funding availability therefore; funding must be targeted to areas of highest priority, consequence while balancing the cost and likelihood of success.
- The Province recognizes that changing wildfire conditions will require enhanced efforts, based on risk and featuring collaboration and integration amongst all stakeholders. The Ministry is working towards this by developing integrated Fire Management Planning processes to identify areas of greatest priority for wildfire prevention activities.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Wildfire prevention is based on the concept of shared responsibility and is structured around the three “E’s”: Education, Engineering and Enforcement:
 1. **Education** - Reduce human caused fire starts and increase awareness of the shared responsibility by communities, homeowners, and stakeholders for wildfire mitigation. BCWS is working to:
 - increase awareness through public education activities;
 - institute open burning bans and prohibitions to minimize human caused fire starts from industrial, private and recreational sources;
 - identify hazardous industrial practices that contribute to human caused fire starts and work with industry to minimize those hazards; and
 - support relationships for the development of biofuel uses to reduce post-harvest debris and create new value and economic certainty.
 2. **Engineering** - Reduce wildfire losses and damages to values at risk including by proactively addressing high fire threat forest fuel.
 - BCWS is working with Ministry Regional Operations Divisions to develop and implement collaborative fire management planning to:
 - prioritize resource values at risk for informed suppression decisions;
 - identify priority fuel management areas to mitigate fire threat to communities, critical infrastructure and natural resource values including timber supply; and
 - identify priority areas where industry can support fire management objectives by utilizing harvesting capacity to reduce fuel loading by removing merchantable timber and other forest fuels.
 - BCWS will work with the forest industry to develop legislation, regulation, policies, standards and practices to increase forest industry participation.
 - BCWS works with other Ministry program areas such as Forests for Tomorrow, Land Based Investment Strategy, Ecological Restoration, BC Timber Sales and the Forest Enhancement Society to realise multiple benefits through fuel treatments.
 3. **Enforcement** - Reduce losses to values at risk by enforcing the *Wildfire Act* and *Regulations*.

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- The Ministry and BCWS enforces open burning bans and exemptions to minimize human caused fire starts.
- BCWS will complete origin and cause on all human caused fires.
- BCWS and Compliance and Enforcement Branch are working together to pursue contraventions and cost recovery on all human caused fires that are deemed to be in contravention and or cost recoverable.
- BCWS is working with the RCMP and Conservation Officer Service on all arson related fires to determine potential prosecutions, cost recoveries and penalties or deterrents.
- The Ministry and BCWS is enforcing disposal of hazardous debris created through inspections, abatement orders and enforcement.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- British Columbia, like the rest of the nation, is experiencing longer, more frequent, higher intensity and costly wildfire events. The causes of this are complex, and the potential answers are equally complex.
- Climate change, continued population expansion into the urban interface, and greater use of forested lands, has led to an increased risk to human life and property. Deteriorating forest health due to pest infestations such as the grey Mountain Pine Beetle has also increased wildfire threat and risk.
- This summer, BC experienced its worst fire season since inception of the BC Forest Fire Service and significant fires are still burning around the province.
- From April 1 to Oct 11, a total of 1,315 wildfires have collectively burned 1,214,239 hectares. At our peak capacity, over 4,700* personnel had been engaged (*on July 29), and close to 1,200** out of province resources had been utilized (**on July 25). Response costs to date are over \$553M.
- This does not account for the emotional strain for our citizens or any other economic losses. And this is in addition to fire seasons of historic proportions in 2015, 2016 and of course, the devastating fires 2003.
- Wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility, of all levels of governments, communities, individuals and businesses. No one method of prevention will be successful if completed in isolation.
- Multiple jurisdictions are responsible for regulations and policies affecting wildfire risk, such as land use planning, construction materials and standards, critical infrastructure and resource planning. The Province will work closely with other jurisdictions to address wildfire threat and risk

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Issue: Compliance and Enforcement (CEB) Statistics

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Focus of CEB is Education/Awareness, Inspections, Investigations, Prosecutions and Presence and statistics are recorded and reported through two main systems.
- Operationally, Natural Resource Officers (NROs) use the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) to record daily work pertaining to inspections and patrols. This system also keeps track of assigned complaints requiring action.
- Complaints are recorded by the general public and other interested parties through the Natural Resource Violation Reporting System (NRVR) then transferred to NRIS. NROs record any investigation information in The Enforcement Reporting and Administration System (ERA).
- The CEB Business Plan contains a number of legislative priorities and proactive planned work. These are based on protecting human health and safety, environment, revenue and social values. The top priorities include:
 - Time sensitive investigations. Specifically: Fire investigations, response to activities impacting archaeological sites and instream works;
 - Fire prevention activities in times of high fire danger;
 - Fulfilling role in Class 4 and 5 drought conditions; and
 - Immediate safety issues such as bridges, user conflicts/road issues.
- There are two main s.15 plans and projects in the Business Plan which include regional and provincial resources to execute. s.15
 - Peace Area dam and dike project
 - Thompson Okanagan Foreshore Project

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Depending on the specific question the answer can be taken from the **attached appendix**. Any specific detail regarding any of the information will be available upon request. Explanation or context of any of the numbers will need to be specific to any question asked.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date Prepared/Revised: September 22, 2017• Ministry Executive Sponsor:
Mary Sue Maloughney, ADM 250 356-1874• Alternate Contact for Issue:
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Appendix

Number of Inspections and Compliance Actions - April 1st – September 8, 2017

Function	# of Inspections	# of Compliance Actions ¹
Wildfire Management	1204	246
Land Management	675	231
Forest Management	456	144
Resource Roads	350	143
Water Management	346	108
Revenue Management	151	49

1 – Includes Warning Tickets, Written Notices and other Warnings

Number of Investigations and Violation Tickets - April 1st – September 8, 2017

Statute	Number of Investigations	Number of Violation Tickets
Wildfire Act	172	80
Forest and Range Practices Act	149	73
Other Acts	130	3
Forest Act	53	23
Water Sustainability Act	48	26
Land Act	46	N/A
Off Road Vehicle Act	27	22
Heritage Conservation Act	7	NA

Wildfire Act = Wildfire Management
Forest Act = Revenue Management
Land Act = Land Management

Forest and Range Practices Act = Forest Management
Water Sustainability Act = Water Management
Heritage Conservation Act = Heritage and Archeological Work

Historical Fiscal Years Enforcement and Inspections

	Enforcement					Inspections
	Enforcement	Admin OTBH*	OTBH* Penalty	Violation Tickets	Amount	
2017/2018**	278	3	\$18,128	237	\$94,396	3,658
2016/2017	607	36	\$166,950	413	\$101,008	6,874
2015/2016	431	27	\$113,009	228	\$40,175	6,326
2014/2015	576	37	\$81,939	345	\$65,538	7,163
2013/2014	595	85	\$48,798	327	\$62,475	7,967
2012/2013	401	89	\$29,265	259	\$48,975	7,278
2011/2012	248	29	\$36,060	191	\$36,525	8,117
2010/2011	414	111	\$115,114	266	\$59,350	8,661

*Admin OTBH is Opportunity To Be Heard **Data for 2017/2018 is for the period April 1, 2017 to September 8, 2017

The amounts referenced in the table above do not include cost recovery to the Crown or damages.

At September 2017, there are a number of OTBH's in progress that are not reflected in the table.

Sept. 21, 2017

ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery

Key Messages:

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

Provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused in four areas:

People and communities

- \$100 million allocated to Canadian Red Cross – to date a total of \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals
- To date, funding has been provided for recovery managers for the Ashcroft Indian Band, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District
- A First Nation liaison position has been established
- Support for mental health outreach in 100 Mile House and Quesnel as well as connecting with local organizations that provide mental health supports
- Ministers Adrian Dix, Mike Farnworth and Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice have all met with evacuees in reception centres
- Minister Scott Fraser met with T'kemlups Chief and Council

Economy

- Tourism –
 - \$1.1 million - \$200,000 each to the Cariboo Chilcotin, Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary Tourism Associations and Destination BC is has provided \$500,000 to promote tourism in the Interior
 - Minister Lisa Beare visited the Cariboo Chilcotin

- Agriculture –
 - With the federal government, provided \$20 million under the Agri-Recovery Initiative
 - Working with BC Cattlemen's Association to provide emergency feeds, identifying alternate grazing lands
 - Minister Lana Popham has visited affected areas
- Small business –
 - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures.
- Forestry –
 - Timber harvested in the creation of fireguards has been or is being milled.
 - Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation
 - Minister Donaldson has visited affected areas
- Environment
 - \$140 million over three years for reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and promoting FireSmart
 - Rehabilitation of fireguards and areas damaged by fire suppression activities
 - Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
 - Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
 - Terrain stability assessments almost complete

Infrastructure and Reconstruction

- To date, \$6 million to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

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Issue: Reforestation and Reforestation Programs

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Provincial forest management is based on sustaining British Columbia's rich forest ecosystems. As a result, reforestation plays a critical role in maintaining our ecosystem dynamics and all the forest resources, including sustainable wood-product production.
- As per law established in October 1987, all areas harvested in BC must be reforested. The area of Crown land disturbed by timber harvesting is fairly constant, and averages about 170,000 hectares per year.
- The Province leads the rejuvenation of non-obligation forests damaged by natural disasters. Since 2005 this work has primarily been delivered through the Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program. Recent investments (e.g. Budget 2017, the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) helping to deliver the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI), will increase these reforestation activities.
- Planting Statistics: In 2016 approximately 247 million trees were planted, and for 2017 approximately 255 million trees are projected to be planted. The Province's overall reforestation program, which began in the 1930's, is on target to plant the 8th billion tree by the end of 2017.
- Carbon. BC forests used to be a carbon sink, but with natural disturbance and forestry, BC's forests are now a carbon source. Various forest carbon management measures, including reforestation, can be used to return forests to a carbon sink. For every one million trees planted, approximately 125,000 tonnes of CO₂ is stored (based on a site index of 18 Pli at age 62 of harvest age).
- Wildfire: 2017 has had unprecedented levels of wildfire. The outside perimeter around the wildfires is about 1.2 million hectares, however the actual area requiring reforestation cannot be accurately determined until the season ends, the smoke clears, and the fire intensity mapping is conducted.

Government-led Reforestation Programs:

- All provincial reforestation programs are coordinated with each other in order to optimize results from the collective investment. Reforestation must manage for the suite of forest values and achieve the collective government goals.

Forests for Tomorrow (FFT)

- FFT was established by the Province in 2005 to respond to catastrophic wildfires and the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- FFT is funded at approximately \$48-50m per year.
- FFT Planting: In 2017/18, FFT is projected to plant over 27 million tree seedlings, reaching an annual planting program of 28 million trees in 2019/2020.
- FFT Fertilization/Stand tending. To help offset economic impacts resulting from setting areas aside for non timber values, FFT identifies areas appropriate for

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fertilization and other stand tending treatments. In 2017/2018 approximately 20,000 hectares will be fertilized.

- FFT S.108. Under the *Forests and Range Practices Act* S.108, forests are reinstated on plantations that have suffered catastrophic damage due to wildfire. S.108 provides two options for government; either to relieve the licensee of their obligation or to pay them to return the plantations to their pre-fire condition.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

- In 2016, the Province established the FESBC to advance environmental and resource stewardship of BC's forests.
- The Province has transferred a total of \$235 million to FESBC for use over several years (\$150million of which is for delivery of the Forest Carbon Initiative).
- The rehabilitation and reforestation of areas affected by fire and beetle are a primary focus for FESBC, as is carbon sequestration.

Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI)

- Announced in August 2016, the FCI is a suite of forest management activities targeted to reduce carbon emissions in the forest sector and capture carbon through the restoration of forests damaged by disease, pests and wildfire.
- The ministry was provided \$3 million internal to government to deliver this initiative, and FESBC was provided \$150m for carbon related projects over the next several years.
- In 2017/2018 FCI plans to sow 8-10 million seedlings, planting in spring of 2019.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The majority of reforestation is delivered by forest licensees (including BCTS) as part of their legal obligations
- Each year, BC's forests are disturbed by natural events such as wildfires and beetle infestations.
- Several programs are in place to address these naturally disturbed areas, the oldest and most established program being the Forests For Tomorrow. The newly created Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), and the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI) are two others.
- The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Reforestation of these areas is one of the Province's top priorities.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 7, 2017

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Issue: Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet Implementation Plans

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Coastal Northern Goshawk is red-listed in BC, also designated as 'Threatened' under *Species at Risk Act*, and requires mature and old-growth forests for breeding and foraging.
- Marbled Murrelet is a species of seabird blue-listed in BC, designated 'Threatened' under the *Species at Risk Act* that nest exclusively in old-growth forests.
- In light of the population status of both bird species, Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet recovery Implementation Plans are required to demonstrate provincial commitment for species at risk.
- Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet Implementation Plans are expected to impact around 1% of the coastal forestry sector activity. The Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) is forecast to decline by about 31,300 hectares, resulting in an Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) reduction of about 204,470 cubic metres, or 1.29% of the total THLB. The economic activity generated by this reduction in this AAC is about \$25M in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This equates to a potential impact to BC's forestry GDP of 0.4%, or 0.01% of BC's total GDP.
- The proposed Implementation Plans will be adaptable to allow application of the best tools coming out of the protection study and best available science. Continued collaboration with the federal government and stakeholders will inform the Implementation Plan(s).
- s.13,s.17
- s.13,s.16
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Advice and Recommended Response:

s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 7, 2017

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Issue: Land Based Investment Funding

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) funding for 2017/18 is \$ 74.84 million, which is the same as the 2016/17 funding level.

LBIS funding can only be used to support Government activities in its role as the land owner. It cannot be used to offset any stakeholder or licensee obligations.

LBIS is an annual allocation. Expenditure by category is determined by the Deputy Minister, and category projects are identified in an annual business plan.

Use of LBIS funds are optimized through a review process that assesses other funding sources, to ensure there is no funding duplication (FESBC, Forest Carbon Initiative, Caribou Funding, Moose Enhancement, Fresh Water Fisheries Society, etc.)

LBIS has provided start-up projects for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC). This has enabled FESBC to have immediate projects once their new investments funds were acquired.

Goals of LBIS Investments

- All LBIS investments must take into consideration the stewardship objectives of the Province and ensure the management of Provincial resources are coordinated and sustainable over time.
- LBIS directs funding to the highest priorities among a broad range of potential investment options across the natural resource sector.
- Projects actively manage natural resources to maintain and enhance their value.
- Projects mitigate impacts from catastrophic disturbances to the economic, social and environmental benefits of natural resources.
- LBIS focuses on Government priorities to enable the use of BC's natural resources and contribute to the achievement of economic, social and environmental objectives of government.

Examples of the LBIS Investment Categories and their focus:

Investment Category	Category Focus
Forests For Tomorrow Reforestation	Rehabilitate non-productive forests so they can contribute to future timber supply and other Government objectives.
Forest Health Protection	Support healthy forests by managing and preventing impacts from pests and disease. Protect the Province's international trade through the eradication of gypsy moth.
Range: Invasive Species	Managing/preventing the impacts on range from pests and disease.
Range Ecosystem Restoration	Target the recovery of range ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed through natural causes.

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Investment Category	Category Focus
Fish Passage Remediation	Remediating blockages in order to provide unrestricted access to the lower parts of the stream network. Priority given to fish species at risk and salmonids.
Wildlife - Species at Risk Mitigation (SAR)	Focus on identifying and designating management actions for species and ecosystems at risk, to inform environmentally sustainable resource management.
Wildlife – Critical Habitat (GAR)	Focus on identifying and designating protection and management actions for species and ecosystems of management concern, supporting sustainable resources now and for future generations.
Visual Resource Protection	Ensure the province's visual quality objectives and legal requirements are met.
Tree Genetic Improvement	Increase growth and higher resilience to pests and climate changes as per the Forest Genetics Council Strategic Plan.
Inventory – Provincial Forest Inventory	Priority given to forest inventory and growth-and-yield activities that support resource management investment decisions as per 10-year Inventory Strategy.
Ecosystem Based Management	Inventory activities to support Great Bear Rainforest implementation.
Fish Inventory	Ensure provincial inventories of species of concern are up to date and used in management decisions. Priority on areas with significant development proposals, adventure tourism or concerns.
Wildlife Inventory	Ensure provincial inventories of species of concern are kept up to date and used in management decisions.
Recreation Sites and Trails	Focus on maintaining recreation sites and trails to provide economic, social, health and environmental benefits.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The use of LBIS is consistent with Government commitments.
- The 2017/18 LBIS activities focus on the highest priority investments
- LBIS funding in 2017/18 is \$74.84 million.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 5, 2017

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Issue: Wildlife Management

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- British Columbia's wildlife is central to the culture and economy of the province.
- Over the past decade wildlife populations and wildlife management activities in BC have changed substantially. Hunting licences have increased by 20%, tourism opportunities have expanded; First Nations continue to express desire to have a greater role in co-management of wildlife; and, populations of some key species have declined. Cumulative impacts on habitat from mountain pine beetle, wildfires, and industrial development also affect species distribution, abundance and management options. These shifts have increased conflicts among interests (e.g., hunters, viewing industry, ranching, First Nations, environmentalists) and increased the complexity of wildlife management.
- Notable priority projects, aimed at improving wildlife management and reducing conflicts among interests, include: developing a new wildlife management strategy for the province, enhancing declining moose populations, and ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt.

Renewed Wildlife Management Strategy:

- Government has committed to develop a renewed Wildlife Management Strategy to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in consultation with British Columbians and First Nations.
- Past discussions with stakeholders identified the dedication of funding from hunting licence and permit revenue back into wildlife management activities annually as a starting point for increased stabilized funding (approximately \$10 million per year).
- The current opportunity to improve wildlife management, increase and stabilize funding to ensure that emerging issues are addressed effectively and in a timely manner, and improve relationships with First Nations will reduce conflicts and create business certainty for all resource users (wildlife, forest, oil and gas, range, etc.).

Moose Management:

- Moose are an iconic species provincially with significant importance to First Nations and hunters.
- Inventory for moose populations is a regular part of the province's wildlife program. Last fiscal, priority moose inventory projects received \$600,000 through the Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS). In addition, the province invests into a provincial coordinated moose research program aimed at providing insights to the causes of moose mortality and effects of landscape changes on populations. Annual funding for moose research was \$240,000/yr for the last six years.
- Inventory surveys conducted for moose over the last decade indicate populations have declined between 50–70% in some areas of interior BC. In response, the ministry and its partners completed a Provincial Moose Management Framework in

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2015 and commissioned the report “A Strategy to Help Restore Moose Populations in British Columbia” (Gorley, 2016).

- Based on the recommendations from the Gorley report for enhancing moose populations and habitat, \$1.2 million was invested in projects in 2016/2017 primarily aimed at access management; predator / prey relationship assessment; and expanding supporting research, inventory and engagement with First Nations and stakeholders.
- Funding in fiscal year 2017/2018 includes \$240,000 for research and \$1 million for enhancement and inventory (from LBIS).
- Work is underway to secure research funding for a minimum of another five years (April 1, 2018–March 31, 2023) and to expand priority population and enhancement work s.17 is necessary to implement priority recommendations identified in Gorley Report).

Grizzly Bear Trophy Ban:

- Government announced that effective November 30, 2017 grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bears will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Depending on the ban's impact on grizzly bear hunting overall, Government's revenues from grizzly bear licence and permit fees may be significantly reduced (past annual revenue was approximately \$540,000).
- During the fall, Government will consult with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms as BC moves to ending the trophy hunt.

Advice and Recommended Response:

Renewed Wildlife Management Strategy:

- Wildlife plays a central role in First Nations' traditional culture, as well as recreational activities that enhance the health and well-being of British Columbians and visitors. Broad consultation on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province will begin this fall that will include identification of dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation and a collaborative process in developing short and long-term plans for wildlife resources.

Moose Management:

- Government will continue using the Provincial Moose Framework to guide and provide a standardized approach to moose management and implement many of the recommendations included in “A Strategy to Help Restore Moose Populations in British Columbia”.
- In 2017/18, Moose management actions will continue to be guided through science-based information gathered through provincial moose research, enhancement and inventory projects, with the input of stakeholders and First Nations.

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Grizzly Bear Trophy Ban:

- Trophy hunting of grizzly bear in BC and all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest will end after November 30, 2017. Consultation on policy will be developed through the fall in consultation with First Nations and key stakeholders to determine the mechanics of implementing the change.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

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Issue: Caribou Recovery and Planning in British Columbia

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

British Columbia is currently working with Canada on recovery strategies for 3 ecotypes of Woodland caribou which have been designated by Canada as a species at risk under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

In addition to work with Canada on each of the boreal, northern and southern ecotypes, the Province has also been developing a comprehensive Provincial Caribou Recovery Program which is intended to provide long term strategic direction and stable funding for the recovery of all caribou in BC.

Boreal Caribou: In October 2012, Cabinet approved the Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan (BCIP). The BCIP outlines requirements for development and implementation of required operating practices for industry, habitat restoration, predator control, inventory and monitoring. Based on five years of monitoring information, BC is currently updating the BCIP to improve the likelihood of meeting recovery goals while minimizing impacts to industrial activities. The revised BCIP is currently out for public review.

Northern Caribou: In March 2013, the ministry released the Implementation Plan for the South Peace Northern Caribou Plan (PNCP) which outlined a management strategy for seven northern caribou herds in the South Peace. The PNCP includes recommendations to conserve and protect habitat, manage predators and reduce the impacts from industrial activity. The ministry plans to update the PNCP in late 2017.

Southern Mountain Caribou: BC and Canada have been working collaboratively to better understand how BC's approach to land protection aligns with SARA. Recent work has indicated that there are a number of substantial spatial gaps in caribou habitat protection and has highlighted that many of BC's legislative tools do not meet Canada's expectations of "effective" caribou habitat protection.

Canada is currently completing a Critical Habitat Protection Assessment under SARA which will ultimately inform decisions by Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change on whether BC has "effectively protected" critical caribou habitat. If Canada determines BC has not effectively protected caribou habitat and BC has not made reasonable efforts to do so, Federal Cabinet may issue a protection order under Section 61 of SARA prohibiting the further destruction of some or all Southern Mountain Caribou critical habitat in BC.

In order to prevent such an order, BC has been working with Canada to develop a Section 11 Conservation Agreement (S.11 Agreement) under SARA to demonstrate our commitment to improving protection for Southern Mountain Caribou. It is hoped that the S.11 Agreement will provide a viable alternative to a protection order. The S.11 Agreement only applies to the PNCP area, s.13

s.13

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The potential economic implications of an order by Canada prohibiting the destruction of caribou critical habitat are substantial. An estimate of the potential impact to economic activity and associated jobs in the mining, wind power, petroleum and natural gas sectors in the Tumbler Ridge area from Canada's caribou-related land use decisions exceeds \$20 billion with an additional \$1 billion to the forest sector.

Provincial Caribou Recovery Program: In order to effectively address Canada's concerns regarding caribou recovery and to positively influence Canada's decisions, BC is considering significant changes to how all three ecotypes of caribou in BC are managed. FLNRO and the Ministry of Environment have developed a five-year Caribou Recovery Program Plan which describes a range of strategic shifts on how caribou are managed. The focus of the plan is on additional habitat protection, more aggressive ecosystem restoration, expanded predator and maternal penning programs, detailed plans for each of the 51 caribou herds and more collaboration with Canada and First Nations.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province has been and continues to be hard at work on the development of a consistent, comprehensive, province-wide caribou recovery plan.
- We have maintained the earlier commitment to fund these efforts at \$27 million over three years.
- This funding will support the necessary recovery measures to revise current plans under our new approach consistent with expectations from the federal government to demonstrate positive population trajectories for our many caribou herds.
- The ministry understands there may be more protections required in specific areas to support caribou recovery. The ministry will consider these proposals carefully when they come before us with an eye to balance fiscal prudence and species-at-risk management.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Chris Hamilton

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Issue: Modernized Land Use Planning

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Minister Donaldson's mandate letter stated "Work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, First Nations and communities to modernize land-use planning and sustainably manage B.C.'s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth".
- Much of existing land use plans in B.C. were developed in the 1990s and early 2000s. Since that time, land use management and relations between the province and Indigenous governments have advanced and evolved, resource activities have diversified, and natural disturbances have altered lands and resources.
- In the last few years, a number of new initiatives related to land use decisions with Indigenous governments have been developed. Examples include:
 - The Environmental Stewardship Initiative in which the governments identify key values and management actions to protect those values;
 - The Cumulative Effects Framework, in which the governments work together to assess the combined effects of development and natural disturbances on values and identify management actions;
 - Integrated Monitoring where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants monitor environmental effects.
- Modernized Land Use Planning may assist in coordinating these initiatives as well as broader land use objectives set by the Province and Indigenous governments.
- s.13,s.16

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Ministry recognizes a full suite of land use planning and implementation approaches can contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by advancing government-to-government decision making on land use issues.
- Modernized land use planning must be developed in collaboration between the provincial and Indigenous governments with input from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- s.13,s.16

environmental stewardship and a strong and sustainable economy.

- The development of strategic land use policy, programs and approaches will be an important focus for the Ministry over the next year.

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 6, 2017

Co Ministry Executive Sponsors:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: Flood & drought response, Site C and water power rates

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Water Management Branch leads the implementation of provincial legislation, policy, regulations and the delivery of services related to the effective management of the provincial water resource, including: water allocation, dam safety, flood safety, drought response, water use planning, River Forecast Centre, and inter-jurisdictional water management.

The River Forecast Centre provides streamflow forecasting. This information is used by provincial, First Nation, and local governments to prepare and respond to seasonal flood and water risks.

The branch leads the coordination of provincial interagency drought response, including supporting impacted communities and taking regulatory and non-regulatory action to protect water user rights, fish and ecosystems.

The Flood Safety program provides standards, approvals, and oversight for the diking authorities in the province, provides expertise on flood hazard management, planning, science and response, and works with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and other agencies to minimize flood risks.

Flood risk and drought management strategies have been initiated. These strategies will help prepare the province for the economic, social and environmental impacts that could result from increased population and development in the province coupled with a changing water environment caused by climate change.

The provincial Dam Safety program is led from Water Management Branch, providing regulation, standards, education to dam owners, regulatory oversight, and supporting emergency planning and response for dam safety incidents.

Major water power licences, including those for BC Hydro, are issued and managed from the Water Management Branch.

- Water Management Branch issued two water licences for Site C. Each phase of construction requires an authorization from the Comptroller before it may be initiated. Eight authorizations, from a proposed 19, have been issued to date.
- The branch works closely with regional operations and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to ensure the project is being developed in accordance with the project's approved Environmental Assessment Certificate.
- Water power projects contribute the majority of the annual \$400 million water rentals. The Comptroller is responsible for determining whether commercial or general power rates should be applied for billing.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

The sustainability of water resources is a shared responsibility across the natural resource ministries. Within the ministry, the Water Management Branch of the Resource Stewardship Division provides provincial leadership for water management.

Flood and drought planning and response

- The Ministry recognizes that BC is susceptible to flood and drought as water supplies and hazards change from season to season and year to year. This may have public safety, economic, and environmental implications.
- Developing flood risk and drought management strategies will be a focus of the Ministry to proactively respond to climate change and better manage these natural hazards.
- The Ministry will continue to prepare for floods and droughts by providing water information, guidance, regulations and standards for public safety, and will continue to provide flood and drought response actions in partnership with other agencies.

Major water power licences, including Site C, are managed by the Comptroller of Water Rights who is the statutory decision maker under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Site C

- The Comptroller of Water Rights will continue to provide regulatory oversight of the licences for the Site C project with regional teams, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- The Comptroller will continue to provide regulatory oversight to ensure any new direction regarding the Site C project is implemented in accordance with the conditions of the water licence.

Setting Water Rental Rates

- The Comptroller will continue to work with Teck Resources to determine if they will continue to qualify for commercial water rental rates following the proposed sale and lease back of the Waneta Generating Station to BC Hydro. The Ministry recognizes that the commercial power rate is important to Teck Resources for the economic viability of the smelter at Trail.

Date Prepared/Revised:

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, ADM Resource Stewardship Division

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Issue: *Forest and Range Practices Act* Modernization

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Long-term economic prosperity is built on a foundation of sustainable resource management, where decisions balance the interests of current and future generations.

How much area is available for forestry in British Columbia?

- BC has approximately 95 million hectares (ha) in total.
- BC has approximately 55 million ha of forested land (57% of the total landbase).
- BC has approximately 22 million ha considered harvestable (23% of the total landbase, and 40% of the forested landbase).

Given the size and scale, forestry is the resource sector with the largest footprint on the natural resources in BC. The legislation that directs stewardship of the suite of forest values is the *Forests and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), which came into effect January 2004. FRPA introduced a more “results based” approach as compared to the former Forests Practices Code (“the Code”). All forest and range licensees’ activities are governed by FRPA and its regulations.

FRPA explicitly identifies 11 values that must be managed: Biodiversity, Water Quality, Wildlife, Cultural/Heritage, Fish/Riparian, Forage/Plants, Recreation, Resource Features, Soils, Timber, and Visual Quality.

FRPA was designed to be a continuous improvement model. Results on the ground were to drive changes to policy, practices, and potentially legislation. When launching FRPA, BC’s forests were facing a mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. Forest management focused on ways to mitigate this economic and environmental catastrophe. Today, the Province is coming to the end of the MPB epidemic, and the FRPA framework remains largely as originally written.

Staff have been reviewing FRPA in order to make immediate improvements, and to identify more substantial changes that Government may wish to consider in the future.

Improvement Area: Increasing the ability of government statutory decision makers (SDM) to require changes when other resource values are of concern.

- Context: FRPA took out a large number of prescriptive requirements from the Code and turned them into non-legal guidance. This established legal minimums and enabled flexibility under professional reliance. When the SDM is concerned, her/his ability to require additional management is legally limited.
- Underway: Many practitioners started less than 13 years ago and have no idea what “Code equivalent” means. Re-educating practitioners and licencees on management expectations is required. The initial focus has been on Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs), Visual Quality, and Spruce Beetle salvage.

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- Additional Opportunities: The education strategy will identify some items that may require legal standing. These will come to Government for consideration.

Improvement Area: Complete FRPA content and incorporate critical new information.

- Context: FRPA continues to contain dormant or unpopulated legal objectives. New information needs to be included. (e.g., information on water supply, carbon, changes to Species at Risk, tourism growth, drought)
- Underway: Work is underway to provide clarity on existing objectives and expectations, as well as completing more results-based monitoring. For example, this summer the Province established updated Timber Objectives, and improved monitoring reports that include management advice.
- Additional Opportunities: Updating the Objectives for all 11 FRPA values, and including new objectives for values such as cumulative effects and carbon.

Improvement Area: Improve public trust by increasing transparency and engagement.

- s.13

- Underway: FSPs are the primary public review tool. Most FSPs were 10-years old. Due to changes on the landscapes, Government directed that new FSPs would be required, which include a public review period.
- Additional Opportunities: Requiring licensees to provide documentation on their operational plans for managing the suite of forest resources, as done for certification, would enable Government to confidently ensure that the use of Crown resources will achieve the Crown's multiple goals. Creating publicly available on-line maps (e.g., Kamloops District) and Public Advisory Committees (e.g., Omineca Region) would support transparency.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- *The Forests and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) came into effect January 2004.
- FRPA needs to be fully implemented as intended, and areas of improvement need to be incorporated.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 7, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, ADM, Resource Stewardship

Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Phone: 250-387-0088

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Issue: Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears in B.C. and ending the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

General

- Grizzly bears are an iconic species. Approximately 25% of the North American population is in B.C. and 50% of the Canadian population is in B.C.
- The total estimated population of grizzly bears in B.C. is 15,000, which is considered to be stable and self-sustaining.
- According to the Center for Responsible Travel, viewing expenditures were \$15.1 million while guided non-resident and resident hunters combined generated \$1.2 million in the Great Bear Rainforest. These numbers have not been assessed by the Province.
- The overall estimated total for grizzly hunting in B.C. is ballparked at between \$6.12 million to \$7.55 million.
- Currently, grizzly bears are harvested by both residents and non-residents (who must employ a licensed guide to hunt in B.C.), as well as by First Nations. For licensed hunters, hunting opportunities are only provided where it is biologically sustainable. This management approach is generally applicable to all game species.
- Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear hunting will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest. At the time of the announcement by government, a commitment to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in the province was reaffirmed.
- Hunting grizzly bear for meat will continue in the province outside of the Great Bear Rainforest boundary.

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

- Currently, approximately 35% of B.C. is closed to grizzly bear hunting. Within the traditional territories of the Coastal First Nations, approximately 58% of the area is closed to grizzly hunting.
 - While more than 3,000 authorizations to hunt grizzly bear are issued each year, on average 250 grizzly bears are harvested by hunters per year.
 - s.12,s.13,s.17
-
- Details of the ban on trophy hunting and the closure of the Great Bear Rainforest to grizzly bear hunting remain to be determined, including: (1) what parts of a grizzly bear will be considered prohibited (2) the boundary of the Great Bear

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Rainforest for the purpose of the hunt closure (3) regulating the trafficking of grizzly bear parts and (4) how to ensure the continued collection of biological data from harvested grizzly bears.

- Government is consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt and stop all grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- In the coming weeks, policy packages will be sent to stakeholders and First Nations to review and provide feedback.

Special Reports

- In mid-October 2017, the Office of the Auditor General will be releasing an audit of grizzly bear management in B.C. The draft audit concludes: "Clear targets and accountabilities are needed in order to ensure that government is meeting its management objectives. We concluded that in the absence of these key elements, government is not able to ensure that its activities will be sufficient to maintain healthy grizzly bear populations throughout British Columbia". The penultimate draft is expected the week of September 18th 2017.

- s.13

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- Trophy hunting of grizzly bear in B.C. and all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest will end after November 30, 2017. The detailed policy for implementing the change will be developed through the fall in consultation with First Nations and key stakeholders.
- It is expected that both the end of the trophy hunt and improved wildlife management will benefit grizzly bear populations in the province and potentially expand opportunities for viewing throughout the province.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 15, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Psyllakis

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Key Messages – grizzly bear trophy hunt

- Effective November 30 this year, the B.C. government is ending grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province, and stopping all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- This acts on our platform commitment.
- Closing the grizzly bear hunt altogether in the Great Bear Rainforest, we believe goes beyond the previous commitments made to Coastal First Nations.
- Hunting grizzly bears for meat will continue.
- We are currently consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine mechanisms to end the trophy hunt.
- Public input is being accepted until Nov. 2, 2017.
- Government will also be launching a broader consultation process to deliver a renewed wildlife management strategy for B.C.
- The key elements of that strategy will include dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation and a collaborative process to develop short- and long-term plans for wildlife resources.
- There are an estimated 15,000 grizzly bears in British Columbia.

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Issue: Rural Dividend and other FLNR Program Linkages to Rural Development

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNR has many existing policy and program linkages to rural development, including: (1) management of forests, lands, range, wildlife, adventure tourism and outdoor recreation; (2) the Rural Dividend funding program that provides grants to assist in rural community diversification; and (3) the Regional Economic Operations team, which is the provincial-lead for communities in transition and provides on-the-ground community economic development and diversification expertise.
- Communities and businesses in the central interior have been hard hit by 2017's unprecedented wildfire season, suffering immediate impacts. Post-wildfire economic recovery is a significant government imperative, and will be the most immediate challenge in rural development for much of central interior BC in the short-term.
- The Regional Economic Operations Branch (REO) – in its role as the provincial lead in the coordination of assistance to communities undergoing significant economic dislocation – is actively engaged in providing assistance and aligning supports to Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) who is leading the implementation of overall wildfire response services on behalf of the Province.
- REO has 20 experienced staff located across BC, and facilitates community economic development at the regional level; specifically:
 - Promotes and strategically assists business attraction and retention, and sector development at the regional level.
 - Works closely with international offices and other ministries to identify and link investors with opportunities in the regions.
 - Supports communities and regions to become investment ready and identifies potential investment initiatives.
 - Provides on-the-ground regional intelligence and expertise to inform the development and implementation of government programs, initiatives and tools related to economic development.
 - Helps build regional economic development capacity and promotes economic diversification, in particular to mitigate resource sector declines and mountain pine beetle impacts, by working closely with municipalities, regional economic trusts and Beetle Action Coalitions.
 - Leads specialized rapid response community transition services for rural communities that are experiencing significant job loss impacts.
- FLNR's Rural Dividend Program (Program) was launched in April 2016, with funding of \$25 million a year over four years to assist rural communities (with a

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population of 25,000 or less) to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies. Local governments, First Nations and not-for-profits are eligible to apply.

- The Program has four broad-ranging project categories that provide applicants with considerable flexibility in developing projects with the best potential for the community: Community Capacity Building; Workforce Development; Community and Economic Development; and Business Sector Development.
- The Program received 500 applications in two intakes for a total funding request of \$39 million. Over 311 projects were approved and over \$24 million was distributed.
- The Program ran a third intake over April and May 2017 received over 210 applications, which are now under review. Priority will be given to projects where the demonstrated needs are greatest, community support is strong and the project can leverage other partnerships within and between communities.
- Now in its' second year, the Rural Dividend Program continues to be a key resource to assist rural communities in economic diversification. **Funding decisions regarding the applications within the third intake have now been announced.** Government will still determine how best to distribute the remaining Rural Dividend funds, taking into account the community impacts of this year's wildfire season and other exceptional circumstances.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Through its' existing programs and expertise, FLNR is well positioned to provide leadership in implementing the Province's rural development mandate.
- FLNR's Regional Economic Operations Branch provides on-the-ground economic development expertise to communities across rural BC, and will continue to play a leadership role with Emergency Management BC in planning for and implementing economic recovery in the wildfires region.
- Now in its' second year, the Rural Dividend Program continues to be a key resource to assist rural communities in economic diversification. **Funding awards within the third intake have now been announced with almost \$11million in funding awarded to successful applicants. This figure includes over \$750,000 to five communities that are experiencing significant economic hardship due to the impact of wildfire.**

Date Prepared/Revised: October 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Dave Peterson

Phone: 250-387-1057

Alternate Contact for Issue:

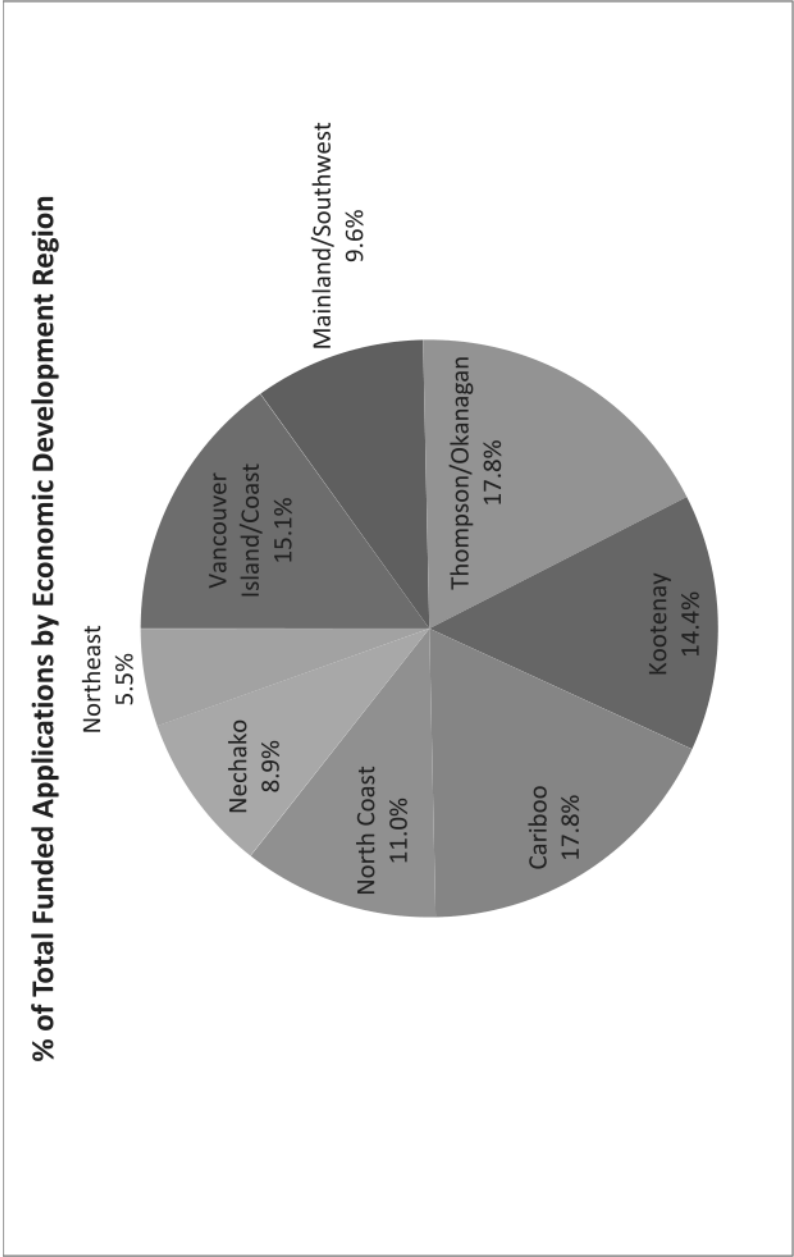
Name: Duncan Williams

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Rural Dividend - Third Intake

Summary of All Funded Applications – Project Development, Project and Special Circumstances

Funded Applications by Economic Development Region					
	Total Funded Applications	% of Total Funded Applications	Total Funding Amount	% of Total Funding	% of Eligible Population
Vancouver Island/Coast	22	15.1%	\$ 1,854,236	16.9%	24%
Mainland/Southwest	14	9.6%	\$ 465,921	4.3%	10%
Thompson/Okanagan	26	17.8%	\$ 2,349,142	21.4%	26%
Kootenay	21	14.4%	\$ 1,224,001	11.2%	15%
Cariboo	26	17.8%	\$ 1,794,473	16.4%	8%
North Coast	16	11.0%	\$ 1,318,333	12.0%	6%
Nechako	13	8.9%	\$ 656,848	6.0%	4%
Northeast	8	5.5%	\$ 1,294,645	11.8%	7%
Total	146	100%	\$ 10,957,599	100%	100%



*All Project Development, Project and Special Circumstances applications funded in the third intake are included in the table, "Funded Applications by Economic Development Region"

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Issue: Value Added Manufacturing in the Forest Sector

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The forest sector is a key driver of BC's economy, with the value added sector comprising companies manufacture specialty products such as finger-jointed lumber, decking, siding, plywood, OSB (oriented strand board) and veneer; cabinets and components; household, commercial and outdoor furniture; windows and doors; architectural millwork; log homes and packaged homes among other products.
- As of 2012, the value added sector provided close to 12,500 full-time jobs with estimated sales of \$2.8 billion.
- Government is working with the three key value added and speciality wood manufacturing sector associations, (i.e., BC Wood, Independent Wood Processor Association, Interior Lumber Manufacturing Association) along with Forestry Innovation Investment and FPInnovations to identify opportunities to advance the minister's mandate letter goals to create more jobs by processing more logs and create new capacity for the next generation of forest products.
- In late 2016, the Wood Secretariat was formed to establish a single point of contact between government and the value added specialty sawmilling sector. The Secretariats' Terms of Reference is action-oriented and focuses on resolving operational issues, provides input into proposed legislation and policy, and to engage in strategic discussions to inform future government initiatives and decisions. It reflects the commitment of government and the sector to work collaboratively to explore the sector's opportunities and interests.
- The Wood Secretariat is formed based on a co-leadership model. Ken Kalesnikoff, of Kalesnikoff Lumber is the value added sector lead and Dave Peterson, FLNR ADM is the government lead.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Wood Secretariat was formed to provide leadership to resolve operational issues, provide input into initiatives and decisions that will grow the sector.
- Government will continue to work with the Wood Secretariat to:
 - Promote the value added and specialty wood manufacturing sector's competitiveness and growth;
 - Bring the leaders of the value added and specialty wood manufacturing sector together to collaboratively work with government to help identify the best approaches to advance development of new and innovative products and create more jobs by processing more logs in BC; and
 - Bring the real life experience of people who work in the value added and specialty wood manufacturing sectors to help resolve operational issues and develop the tools and environment needed to grow the sector.

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

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Phone: 250-387-1810

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Issue: Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda and Revitalizing the Forest Sector

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- This note is specifically designed to respond to any questions on the 2016 *Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda*, and to identify how initiatives under that Agenda are now a component of ongoing work to revitalize B.C.'s forest sector.
- Over the past several years, the forest sector has experienced challenges with the mountain pine beetle infestation, fibre supply, hosting conditions, delivered wood costs, and global market uncertainty; 2017 has brought additional challenges due to the softwood lumber dispute and BC's worst wildfire season.
- In August, 2016, a government-industry collaborative process identified 49 strategic actions to improve forest sector competitiveness. This also included specific action plans for the pulp and paper and value-added sectors, and for forest fibre utilization. Implementation of these actions is ongoing. A significant number of these actions have been implemented. There is a joint industry-government committee structure to monitor BC's forest sector competitiveness.
- There are three competitiveness-related priorities identified in Minister Donaldson's mandate letter from Premier Horgan: (1) Protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States; (2) Work with communities and industry to develop a fair, lasting strategy to create more jobs by processing more logs in BC and to renew our forests by expanding investments in reforestation; and (3) Expand our innovative wood-products sector by addressing regulatory and capital barriers hampering growth of engineered wood production and work with other Ministers to ensure public projects prioritize the use of BC wood.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Government recognizes the importance of revitalizing BC's forest industry, which is a critical economic generator for BC, contributing over 60,000 direct jobs in over 140 communities.
- It is imperative that forest policy supports British Columbians through creating good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and ensuring people from every background have the opportunity to participate in BC's forest economy.
- In building the path forward for our forest sector and forest-dependent communities, we will focus on policies and actions that provide a competitive business environment for the forest sector while ensuring that British Columbians receive a fair rate of return for BC's forest resources, First Nations are meaningful partners, and BC's land, air and water are protected.
- We will ensure that BC's forest activities support and advance government's priority commitments to lead innovation, advance First Nations reconciliation, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.
- We will undertake targeted action to make B.C. a world leader in engineered wood products, and grow our innovative value-added sector. Priorities moving

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forward will include: working with other ministries to ensure public projects prioritize the use of wood; working with communities and industry to develop a fair, lasting strategy to create more jobs by processing more logs in BC; fighting for a fair deal in the Softwood Lumber dispute, and expand investments in reforestation, to ensure effective stewardship of BC's land base and a strong, resilient forest resource.

Post-Wildfire Recovery:

- Current wildfire impacts represent a significant and immediate concern for sector competitiveness. We are working with sector associations on immediate and longer-term opportunities to mitigate these impacts, including developing a timber salvage program to maximize the use of wildfire salvage wood, and ensure mills have the fibre required to keep people working.

Softwood lumber:

- Government will protect and create jobs by continuing to fight for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.
- The province is seeking to utilize federal funding programs such as the \$55 million Investments in Forest Industry Transformation and \$63 million for the Forest Innovation Programs to support Canada's forest communities, workers and companies adversely affected by the ongoing softwood lumber dispute.

Reforestation:

- Through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Forests for Tomorrow program, government is investing in reforestation activities that restore wildlife habitat, improve forest productivity, mitigate climate change impacts and address priority forest health issues.

Pulp & Paper/Value-Added:

- The Wood Secretariat, a joint government and industry committee made up of the key value added and specialty wood manufacturing associations will play an important role in helping expanding our innovative value-added sector.
- Through the BC Pulp and Paper Bio-Products Alliance, we are developing pre-commercial technology, products and applications for BC's pulp and paper sector, pursuing development of new transformative technologies for the BC forest sector, and developing a biomass energy policy framework.
- The ministry is working with the FPInnovations research institution to pursue innovative and science-based forest product development, with the goal of accelerating clean technology to capture the value of carbon, maintain sustainable resource leadership, and promote resilient and prosperous forest-based communities in partnership with First Nations.

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Date Prepared/Revised: Sept 29, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Nikki Lachance, Director of Operations

Phone: 250-356-9060

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Issue: Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) was created in February 2016 with \$85M in granted funds from the Provincial Government to rehabilitate impacted ecosystems, reduce wildfire risk and improve wildlife habitat. FESBC received a further \$150M grant in March 2017 to support the Forest Carbon Initiative to continue forest enhancement.

The purposes of FESBC are to advance and advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests by:

- preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires;
- improving damaged or low value forests;
- improving habitat for wildlife;
- supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests; and
- treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.

FESBC is incorporated under the *Society Act* with five Board Directors, including 2 ADMs.

In 2016, FESBC approved \$6M in projects across the range of its purposes.

Recently, the Board approved another \$19M for 41 projects resulting from a third project intake, with several deferred proposals still under review. This brings the total funding allocated thus far to \$25.2M since FESBC's inception.

FESBC has also entered into Letters of Agreement to co-fund projects with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (up to \$500k this year and FESBC will be expanding this amount in June) and the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (up to \$1M this year).

Recently, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) reviewed the FESBC structure and operating model to determine if additional requirements may be needed regarding public reporting. FLNR along with FESBC, treasury board staff and staff from the Crown Agency Resource Office are implementing the OAG recommendation that improved financial reporting and consolidation into the province's Financial Summary Statements was required; working within the continued model of FESBC functioning as an independent society.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province continues to recognize the need and priority of focus on reducing landbase risk reduction and rehabilitation and supports the continued delivery of FESBC.
- Budget 2017/18 identifies that \$140M has been committed in the fiscal plan to rehabilitation of areas impacted by the 2017 wildfire season; this is not new dollars, and is a confirmation that the dollars already transferred to FESBC in 2016 and early 2017 can be focused on this key priority.
- The organization is still in its infancy. Since its creation in 2016, FESBC has undertaken significant work to establish many foundational pieces for its future operations.
- FESBC has approved about \$25.2M in projects to date.
- As it moves into its second year, FESBC continues to find more efficient ways to generate and administer opportunities to meet its purposes. In addition, improvements to financial reporting as per recent OAG recommendation will be implemented.
- The Ministry will continue to focus on ensuring the highest areas of risk are mapped and prioritized to best leverage the funding sources available, including FESBC.
- The Ministry's work with FESBC will continue to evolve especially to support decision making as integrated plans for land based investment are further developed by the ministry.
- s.12,s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: October 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250-387-1810

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Issue: Brunswick Point land sales

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On November 12, 2014, the Hwlitsum family, who are not a recognized First Nation under the *Indian Act*, filed and served a Notice of Civil Claim seeking a wide range of orders and declarations including Aboriginal title (exclusive, joint and shared) to lands at Brunswick Point in Delta (and other lands in the province).
- The Hwlitsum family were unsuccessful in court and have filed an appeal at the BC Court of Appeals. The appeal is expected to be heard in early 2018.
- Future real estate transactions at Brunswick Point will not proceed until a decision on the Hwlitsum appeal has been rendered.
- The Province owns approximately 648 acres of surplus Crown land (the lands) at Brunswick Point that are part of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- The First Right of Refusal on all these lands was granted to the TFN lands in the 2009 TFN Final Agreement.
- There are 3 phases to this project: **PHASE 1:** farming families expropriated land **PHASE 2:** lands with a signed offer to purchase between the Crown and the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) **PHASE 3:** 3 small parcels.
- All three phases above have been identified as available under the Province's Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) initiative.
- **PHASE 1: Four Farming Families Settlement Agreement lands:**
 - These lands were expropriated in 1968 to support the Roberts Bank port development. A significant amount of this land has now been deemed to be surplus to the Crown.
 - The Phase 1 lands were expropriated from four farming families who are currently leasing the productive farm land.
 - In 2011, the farming families ("petitioners") agreed to settle the legal action they had brought against the Province claiming pre-emptive rights to acquire the lands back from the Province of British Columbia in a Settlement Agreement (SA).
 - The SA terminated in 2013 s.22
 - In accordance with the SA, the Province requested the court to the release the court's judgement relating to the petition (i.e. whether or not the petitions had pre-emptive rights to acquire the land).
 - The court advised the Province, the petitioners, and TFN that it did not prepare a judgement and the litigation could be started afresh if the petitioners so chose. The petitioners renewed their litigation and are relying on their original petition seeking a declaration for pre-emptive rights to acquire the land. This petition is in abeyance until a decision on Hwlitsum case is settled in appeal court.

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- Current leaseholders are authorized to remain on the land for the duration of the existing lease agreements.
- FLNRO will not proceed with the disposition of the SA lands until the claims of the pending court case with the four farming families is resolved.

s.13,s.16,s.17

- **PHASE 3: Three Small parcels (including Rawlins):**

- There are three smaller parcels of land at Brunswick Point in addition to the approximate 648 acres of land listed above that may be marketed once the Hwlitsum appeal decision is rendered (valued at approximately \$1.8M).
 - One of parcels referred to as the s.22 Residence has garnered a great deal of community interest due to the historical nature of the home in Delta. s.16,s.17
- The “Wedge” is an additional parcel not part of Phases 1 to 3 that FLNR applied to Delta to subdivide. TFN has a first-right-of-refusal over the parcel and expressed interest to purchase it. The City of Delta rejected the subdivision. FLNRO staff has instructed Delta and TFN to work out an agreement so the parcel can be subdivided to retain the dyke and riparian access before the surplus land is sold.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Hwlitsum family are not recognized by the federal *Indian Act*.
- The BC Court of Appeal hearing and decision regarding the Hwlitsum family is expected early 2018.
- The court hearing and decision regarding the farming families and Settlement Agreement lands will follow after the Hwlitsum appeal.
- It is inappropriate to comment on the status of either the Hwlitsum case or the Settlement Agreement lands until the court decisions are rendered.
- FLNRO does not intend to remove any lands at Brunswick Point from the ALR prior to any future sale dispositions.
- The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is responsible for preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia.

Date Prepared/Revised:	October 4, 2017
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Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Duncan Williams

Phone: 250 387-1810

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Bonnie Ruscheinski

Phone: 250 387-9746

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations

Date: Sept. 14, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Log Exports

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **We're committed to building a sustainable economy that works for all British Columbians and the environment.**
- **While we recognize that log exports play a role in an integrated forest sector, we're committed to getting more jobs out of every cubic metre of timber harvested.**
- **That means, increasing the use of B.C. wood products in B.C., such as in engineered wood products like cross-laminated timber and glulam.**

Secondary

- **Since it was introduced in 1912, the Forest Act (sections 127-129) has always included provisions for approval of log exports.**
- **Under the surplus test, logs are required by law to be offered for domestic sale first before being considered surplus to B.C.'s manufacturing needs.**
- **When there isn't a domestic buyer, logs may be exported.**
- **Province-wide, the volume of timber harvested from public forests and exported as logs is about 10%.**
- **While B.C. regulates log exports from Crown land, it is the federal government that regulates log exports from most private land.**

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On Sept. 13, 2017, the pulp and paper workers union and Ancient Forest Alliance held a rally at Long Ho mill in Errington protesting log exports. The union alleges that log exports were responsible for the mill's closure.

In 2016, about 7.0 million cubic metres of logs had permits to be exported (which may be higher than amount actually exported). The majority of log exports were from the Coast.

The Minister's mandate letter contains the following forestry-related commitments:

- **Protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for B.C. wood products in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.**
- **Work with communities and industry to develop a fair, lasting strategy to create more jobs by processing more logs in B.C. and to renew our forests by expanding investments in reforestation.**
- **Expand our innovative wood products sector by addressing regulatory and capital barriers hampering the growth of engineered wood production and work with other ministers to ensure public projects prioritize the use of B.C. wood.**

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Tim Bogle/John Cook	

programs\2017\Forests\Log Exports

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Issue: Provincial First Nations Forestry Strategy

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

FLNR plays an active role in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by FLNR through the implementation of the Provincial First Nations Forestry Strategy, including but not limited to the following initiatives:

- **Ownership, Tenure and Access managed through Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement (FTOA) and First Nations Woodland Licence (FNWL):** The provision of volume under the FTOA and FNWL provide opportunities for First Nations to benefit from resource development on their Traditional territory (Article 26). In addition, the FNWL provides First Nations with the ability to manage the development of the lands within the licence by setting priorities and developing strategies (Articles 26 and 32), including managing for non-timber forest products for traditional medicines (Article 24);
- **Capacity Building through First Nations Forest Technician Training Program:** Improving economic and social conditions through training under the First Nations Forest Technician Training Program (Article 21);
- **Capacity Building through (a) First Nation Forest Sector Technical Support Program (FNFSTSP); and (b) the Strategic Forestry Envelope (SFE):** FNFSTSP and SFE provide funding to allow First Nations to engage freely in their traditional and other economic activities (Articles 20 and 38);
- **Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA):** Providing vehicles for consultation (Article 32) and financial assistance (Article 39); and
- **First Nations Forestry Strategy Advisory Group (Advisory Group):** Taking measures to engage, establishing the Advisory Group, with First Nations to achieve the ends of the Declaration (Article 38) by providing a forum for First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) and the Province to discuss the impacts of operational forestry policies on the Aboriginal rights of First Nations.

FLNR, in cooperation with other NRS Ministries, is looking at how to engage with First Nations on a review of its policies, programs and legislation to better implement the principles of UNDRIP.

The costs associated with the implementation of the Provincial First Nations Forestry Strategy include:

- Annual Rent Rebate for FNWLs – the Province provides a rebate to First Nations when they sign FNWLs and the amount of the rebate is dependent upon how much annual rent has been paid by the First Nation;
- FCRSA payments – This is an amount managed under MIRR's budget with an estimated total of \$42 million for 2017/18 for agreements with 104 First Nations;

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- SFE Agreements – This is an amount managed under MIRR's budget with an estimated total of \$18 million for 2017/19 for 73 projects;
- FNFSTSP – FLNR provides \$400,000 to FPInnovations to deliver the FNFSTSP in British Columbia;
- First Nations Forest Technician Training Program – FLNR provides \$125,000 to FNFC to provide funding to 10 students for tuition, books, travel costs and living expenses for the school year for 10 First Nations students. BCTS provides both mentoring support for the students throughout the school year and summer employment opportunities;
- FNFSAG – FLNR provides the FNFC with \$64,000 to participate in the FNFSAG. In addition, the Province provides an additional \$250,000 under SFE to FNFC to host 4 Provincial Forums to engage the Province and First Nations on forestry related issues.

Advice and Recommended Response:

We are engaging with conversations to explore how FLNR can implement the principles of UNDRIP through the First Nations Forestry Strategy Advisory Group and other venues, including providing \$250,000 to support four provincial forums to discuss operational impacts of Forestry on First Nation interests.

FLNR contributes \$189,000 directly to the First Nations Forestry Council to support the First Nations Forest Technician Training Program and First Nations Forestry Strategy Advisory Group.

FLNR contributes \$400,000 to support FPInnovations in delivering the Indigenous Forestry Program in British Columbia.

The Province contributes \$60 million to support revenue sharing and business and capacity support for First Nations to participate in the forestry sector.

FLNR, in cooperation with MIRR, is engaging with First Nations to discuss how we can help implement the principles of UNDRIP in other business lines beyond the forest sector.

FLNR is looking at how to engage with First Nations on its policy, program and legislative review to identify opportunities to implement the principles of UNDRIP.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 12, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg, ADM Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations

Phone: 250-387-4429

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Charles Hunter, Director, First Nations Relations Branch

Phone: 250-387-6719

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Issue: Softwood Lumber Trade Case

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Following the one-year stand still period that occurred following expiration of the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement, the US industry launched a new trade dispute against Canadian lumber in November 2016.
- On April 24, 2017, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued a preliminary determination of countervailing duty rates and on June 26, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced preliminary anti-dumping duties.

Company	Countervailing	Anti-dumping	Total
West Fraser	24.12%	6.76%	30.88%
Canfor	20.26%	7.72%	27.98%
Tolko	19.50%	7.53%	27.03%
Resolute	12.82%	4.59%	17.41%
J.D. Irving	3.02%	6.87%	9.89%
All others	19.88%	6.87%	26.75%

- On April 24, 2017 the Department of Commerce made a preliminary finding of “critical circumstances” (significant increase in Canadian lumber exports, prior to imposition of duties) for all companies, but not for Canfor, Resolute, Tolko and West Fraser. This means all other companies will need to pay countervailing duties on their shipments made since January 28, 2017 and anti-dumping duties on shipments since April 1, 2017.
- The Department of Commerce has extended their final determination until no later than November 13, 2017. This allows additional time for Canada and the U.S. to try and reach a negotiated settlement to the dispute.
- Senior officials from the Government of Canada and the U.S. Department of Commerce have been in negotiations for several months but settlement remains elusive.
- As of August 28, 2017, companies only pay the provisional anti-dumping duty, an average of 6.87% on shipments of lumber to the U.S. Countervailing duties can only be re-instituted following an affirmative final determination by the International Trade Commission.
- As of August 31, 2017 countervailing and anti-dumping duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from B.C. are estimated to be approximately \$238 million.

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- Similar to the last lumber dispute, we expect Canada will file numerous appeals against the imposition of softwood lumber duties under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO), and the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT).
 - While these appeals were largely successful for Canada, they took many years. In the meantime, duties were collected and held by the U.S.
 - In addition to the large amount of internal government resources devoted to the case, the services of U.S. based lawyers, consultants and expert witnesses are required to mount a vigorous defense.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- A managed trade agreement can provide stability and certainty to Canadian lumber producers. The Premier is committed to fighting for a fair deal for British Columbia.
- B.C. is prepared to vigorously defend its forest industry against unfair U.S. decisions in all appropriate venues if an acceptable new agreement cannot be reached.

s.13,s.17

- We expect that, like the last round of lumber litigation, unbiased NAFTA and WTO panels will eventually overturn unfair US decisions.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 10, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-565-4112

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Vera Sit

Phone: 250-356-1019

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Issue: Forest Worker Safety Update

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

In 2005, the Forest Safety Task Force commissioned by government to improve woodlands safety resulted in the creation of the BC Forest Safety Council, a non-profit society dedicated to injury reduction in the sector.

Woodlands Incidents

- From 1999 to 2005, harvesting related fatalities averaged 21.6 per year.
- From 2009 to 2016 averaged fatalities was reduced to 8.4 per year.
- To date in 2017 there have been 6 fatalities
 - 3 from one railroad incident in Woss, BC,
 - 2 log truck drivers, in collisions,
 - 1 faller struck by an adjacent tree.
- Since 1997, serious injury rates in harvesting are also down by about a third.

Log Truck Incidents

- 4 log truck driver fatalities occurred in 2016 and 2 additional this year.
- In 2013, 51 log truck roll overs were identified. In 2016 this type of incidents was reduced to 15.

Sawmill Incidents

- In 2012, combustible dust contributed to 2 mill explosions (Babine and Lakeland).
- Dust management audit programs have since been put in place in over 90 sawmills.
- In 2016, combustible dust compliance was 98%.
- Sawmills and pellet manufacturers have now established BC Forest Safety Council as their safety association.
- Since 2012, serious incident rate in mills has declined by over one third.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Safety is everyone's concern, including government, industry, labour and the public.
- Industry engagement has shown to be effective and necessary.
- FLNR will continue to collaborate with Industry through the BC Forest Safety Council.
- FLNR will continue to apply the Safety Accord Forest Enterprise (SAFE) Companies program to itself and contractors.
- Questions regarding Mill Explosions of 2012 should be referred to the Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour.

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Date Prepared/Revised: Sep 15, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tom Jackson

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Issue: FLNRORD decisions on Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The TMEP is comprised of five end to end pipeline sub-projects worth over \$1B each. FLNRORD is responsible for issuing permits in a number of business areas such as fish and wildlife (F&W), dike maintenance, Forest Service Roads (FSR) Works and Junction Permits, and impacts to forestry area-based tenures. It is important to understand that the FLNRORD permits are ancillary to the major pipeline authorization decisions, which rest with the Oil and Gas Commission. TMEP has been issued Certificates by both the EAO and NEB.

Working with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR), the F&W permits have been identified as the highest FLNRORD priority of the proponent in preparation for clearing Rights of Way for construction purposes. There are several hundred F&W permit decisions required in support of the project. Due to the volume of sites associated with the F&W salvage, TMEP submitted batches of approximately 50 sites per permit despite being made aware of the potential risks with this approach.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- TMEP is a high priority project and FLNRORD staff are continuing to manage the permitting process for these projects as diligently and quickly as possible.
- Statutory decisions will be made in accordance with the principles of administrative law and the applicable legislation and policy.
- Key staff are allocated to reviewing the TMEP applications which includes engaging with the proponent and with other Provincial permitting agencies to ensure accurate information and realistic timelines for decisions are communicated clearly.

s.13,s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kevin Haberl

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Issue: Old Growth on Vancouver Island

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Province has taken significant action in terms of conservation and protection of biodiversity values across BC while continuing to be a world leader in sustainable forest practices.
- The Province's old growth forests, including those on Vancouver Island, are managed for a multitude of resource values. There is approximately 1.9 million hectares of Crown forest land on Vancouver Island and over 840,000 hectares that is considered old growth, half of which will never be logged.
- In 1994, the Vancouver Island land Use Plan (VILUP) designated areas for protection and areas suitable for resource development, including forestry. Over 13% of Vancouver Island's land base is fully protected from development. In addition to parks and protected areas, old growth forests are protected via old growth management areas, wildlife habitat areas, and ungulate winter ranges.
- The Sierra Club, Ancient Forest Alliance, the Wilderness Committee and other environmental non-government organizations have an active campaign to stop old growth logging on Vancouver Island.
- In addition, First Nations also have strong interests in lands and resources on Vancouver Island (about 50 First Nations call Vancouver Island home).
- In September 2016, the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed a motion to call upon the Province to protect Vancouver Islands remaining old growth; however, not all communities agree.
- The former Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations decided not to re-open the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) but instead take some specific actions to bolster old growth protection in targeted areas.
- There is currently a briefing note before the Minister on possible next steps.
- Ministry staff have had separate meetings with industry, communities and select environmental organizations prior to the interregnum period to share ideas on ways to bolster old growth protection without opening the VILUP.
- In June 2017, the Ancient Forest Alliance submitted a proposal to government with 9 recommendations for old growth protection in BC (not just Vancouver Island). The recommendations call for wide-sweeping changes in the management of old growth in all of BC, such as developing an Old Growth Forest Protection Act, stopping BC Timber Sales logging in old growth, and establishing a fund to purchase and protect old growth on private land.
- Approximately 50% of the allowable annual cut on the coast comes from old growth forests and several mills currently only cut old growth timber.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province has taken significant action in terms of conservation and protection of biodiversity values across British Columbia while continuing to be a world leader in sustainable forest practices.
- The Province is aware of increasing concern about old growth protection from the public, communities, local governments, First Nations, environmental groups and stakeholders.
- Old growth forests are valued for their ecological importance, their social, spiritual and cultural significance, and are an important source of economic activity.
- Old growth forest is currently reserved or protected in wildlife habitat areas, ungulate winter ranges, parks, ecological reserves, and wildlife management areas.
- Getting the right balance of protection and development is complex, and a number of factors need to be considered carefully.
- s.13

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director

Phone: 250-751-7161

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Issue: Finfish Aquaculture Industry^{s.15,s.16}

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The finfish aquaculture industry is the focus of ^{s.15,s.16} growing media profile. The BC salmon farming sector has been operating for more than three decades. BC farm-raised salmon is grown in the ocean in open net pens mostly near small rural and remote communities. It is BC's highest valued seafood product (93,000 metric tonnes worth \$797 million in 2016) and number one agricultural export. Each of the 123 fish farms on the BC coast generates on average \$6 million worth of product and provides 40 well paying jobs. The ministry receives approximately \$2 million in annual rental fee revenues from the finfish sector.

On August 22, 2017, a salmon farm failure in Washington State resulted in the escape of thousands of Atlantic salmon into Pacific waters east of Victoria, increasing concerns regarding netpen finfish generally. Subsequently, a peaceful occupation of two finfish farms in the Broughton Archipelago was initiated by First Nations protestors from the Namgis First Nation and the Musgamagw Dzawad'exuxw Tribal Council, demanding that the ministry cancel the aquaculture tenure issued under the *Land Act* for each site. First Nations are expressing concerns about the health of the wild salmon stocks potentially being impacted by the fish farms (sea lice, viruses), as well as concerns about potential escapements. First Nations protestors have indicated that they have not been consulted appropriately or provided consent for these farms.

Marine Harvest Canada operates both occupied sites and has to date chosen to not ask the RCMP to intervene in this trespass matter, however, they have indicated a concern about safety.

A related letter writing campaign by organizers of Sea Shepherd's Operation Virus Hunter II urges that the 20 Broughton Archipelago finfish tenures expiring in June 2018 not be replaced. In addition, Shishalh First Nation (Sechelt) has recently raised concerns with fish farms in their area, as have some First Nations in Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Marine-based net pen finfish operations, in particular in the Broughton Archipelago, have been a focus of concern by First Nations and non-governmental organizations for some time. In 2015, the Province responded to these concerns by announcing a "pause" on approvals for any new salmon aquaculture tenures and established a Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture (MAACFA) to provide strategic advice about the future of marine-based salmon aquaculture. MAACFA includes representation from the aquaculture industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, First Nations and senior government officials, and is expected to submit a final report by the end of 2017.

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Alternative, land-based methods of salmon aquaculture have been underway in trial form, most notably by Kuterra Limited Partnerships, an operation near Port McNeill which the Namgis First Nation is partnering with. These methods seek to eliminate the risk of potential impacts on and interactions with wild salmon. However, the economic viability of land-based salmon aquaculture remains unproven to date.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province is aware of the concerns on part of the protesting First Nations and others, and is thankful for the peaceful nature of the protest.
- BC is actively reviewing options regarding the future of the finfish industry.
- This review is being led through the work of MAACFA, including First Nations representatives.
- While the review is on-going, no new netpen finfish operations are being approved.
- The finfish industry is an important contributor to the BC economy.
- The Province will review and carefully evaluate the recommendations to be provided by the MAACFA, which are due at the end of this year.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rudi Mayser, Resource Mgr Authorizations

Phone: 250-751-7234

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Issue: Status of Flood Safety in the Lower Mainland

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Ongoing development and growth in the floodplain areas of the Lower Mainland (Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver, Howe Sound and Squamish) combined with sea level rise and climate change effects on flood flows, have increased the potential for major flood damage and the frequency at which this may occur. In 2012 it was estimated that it would cost about \$ 1 billion to upgrade the majority of the dikes in the lower mainland, while a major flood could result in damages in the order of \$20 to \$30 billion. Questions continue to be raised about the adequacy of the existing dikes, flood protection standards, the role of local governments and First Nations in flood response, availability of adequate funding programs, the regulation of floodplain development by local governments, and the lack of a Provincial Flood Risk Strategy.

Within the South Coast Region, a significant number of people, development and extensive critical infrastructure in the floodplain rely on 74 separate dikes totaling approximately 500 km in length. These dikes are owned and maintained by over 30 local dikeing authorities, comprised mainly of local governments. Unique to BC, the Province sets the standards for dikes while the dikeing authorities are responsible to maintain and cost share major dike upgrades by leveraging tax and provincial/federal grant funding.

FLNRORD and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, now responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC), have the mandates to address flood preparedness and protection. The South Coast Natural Resource Region is responsible for the administration of the *Dike Maintenance Act* (DMA) in the Lower Mainland. EMBC is mandated to administer the flood mitigation funds available within the National Disaster Mitigation Program Fund.

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is advancing a Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS) from Hope to Richmond and from Squamish to White Rock. The Province has supported this initiative with a \$1 Million contribution. A Lower Mainland Dike Assessment was undertaken as part of this assessment and provided an overview of the dikes compared with current standards. The key deficiencies identified include low crest elevations relative to design flood levels (only 4% of dikes meet the current design flood) and geotechnical instabilities (none fully meet or exceed the seismic standards). The assessment did not evaluate the impacts of climate change induced sea level rise and increased river flows on the level of protection provided.

Elected officials from Local Governments, First Nations and Industry have also been urging the Province to provide clarity on its vision, objectives and financial commitments regarding sediment removal on the Fraser River. Scientific studies published in May 2013, and recent modelling suggests that the near-term flood mitigation benefit gained

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by frequent and large scale sediment removals from the Fraser River is less than was previously expected. Given the study and modelling outcomes, the LMFMS is less focused on sediment removals. However, targeted sediment removals can be effective to address local flooding issues. FLNRORD is reviewing these types of applications on their own merits and has developed application guidelines for proponents to assist them in this process.

Seismic upgrades for dikes to meet the current provincial guidelines can be extremely expensive leaving local governments and private land owners reluctant to commit to these standards without additional provincial financial support. Some are proposing alternate flood protection structures (e.g., “living” dikes or super dikes, which can include man-made structures) for which the Province currently has no or inadequate design standards available. FLNRORD provided \$1.1M in funding to the FBC to undertake geotechnical investigations and develop a regional seismic program including professional practice guidance for seismic assessments and review of existing seismic guidelines by 2021.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- FLNRORD is fully aware of the state of the dike infrastructure in the Lower Mainland and the significant financial and social consequences of a major flood event. The ministry maintains the importance of a functional Provincial Flood Risk Strategy as a major initiative and continues with its development.
- The Province financially supports and is an active partner in the development of a LMFMS. This strategy is developed by the FBC in cooperation with Local Governments, First Nations, Industry and NGOs and is scheduled to be completed in 2019. An intended output of this plan includes an action plan to address the more significant flood safety concerns along the Fraser River.
- FLNRORD acknowledges the challenges of local governments to meet the provincial flood safety standards and with the available funding for dike upgrades.
 - FLNRORD will continue to work with local governments on the development and implementation of their long term flood mitigation strategies, continuously improve its flood safety guidelines and standards and ensure that dike upgrade or maintenance projects comply with these guidelines and standards.
 - To improve flood protection design options, financial and technical support has been provided through FLNRORD to review and improve existing seismic and professional practice guidelines. Sea level rise potential is also being considered in flood safety standards.
 - EMBC is mandated to administer the flood mitigation funds, including those available within the National Disaster Mitigation Program Fund and FLNRORD works closely with EMBC to help identify funding priorities.

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- Large scale dredging is not considered to be an efficient measure to improve flood safety based on current information and therefore the Province is no longer actively leading this work as a priority. Targeted sediment removals are still considered effective in addressing local flooding issues and applications for these projects can be submitted for authorization and will be considered on their own merits.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Remko Rosenboom

Phone: 604-586-2803

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Issue: Great Bear Rainforest Implementation: Re-initiating Forest Management.

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* (GBR Act) came into effect on January 1, 2017. Steps are now underway to finalize the implementation of ecosystem based management (EBM) in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR), and re-initiate forest management based on a new set of objectives.

The implementation activities articulated in the legislation, land use orders, agreements and other commitments from government derive from the consensus understandings developed between the Province, First Nations, forest industry stakeholders and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS).

The remaining implementation activities are:

- 1) Resolving remaining issues with First Nations
- 2) Landscape Reserve Design
- 3) Re-charting of tenures

In addition, the Province's GBR/EBM implementation team is tasked with maintaining strong and coordinated communication linkages across the ministry, government agencies, First Nations, industry and ENGO's.

Complimenting and supporting the delivery of these objectives are a number of priority initiatives led by other FLNRORD divisions (eg: ban on grizzly bear hunting in the GBR).

Advice and Recommended Response:

This government is committed to the implementing the *GBR Act*. The *GBR Act* is product of consensus understandings developed between the Province, First Nations, the forest industry, and stakeholder organizations.

Following through on these activities is essential to renewing the international social license for timber harvesting on the BC coast, and sustaining the long term economic viability of the forest industry for BC coastal communities.

Successful implementation will not be possible without the continued commitment to hard work and problem solving demonstrated by First Nations, the forest industry, stakeholder organizations and government agencies.

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1) Resolving remaining issues with First Nations Agreements:

Over close to two decades, all First Nations within the Great Bear Rainforest have had the opportunity to fully participate in the development of the Great Bear Rainforest management regime. All but a small number of the 26 First Nations in the GBR have concluded agreements with the Province.

The Province continues to work those remaining First Nations to address their interests and concerns.

2) Landscape Reserve Design (LRD):

This is a collaborative process involving licensees and First Nations, and follows the requirements of the *GBR Act*. The process will identify reserve areas to meet the natural forest targets (cultural, ecological, wildlife, parks, conservancies etc.), and areas set aside for timber harvesting (the managed forest target), and is well underway in a number of locations in the GBR.

The Province is supporting this process by providing accurate ecosystem mapping, data and a comprehensive design methodology.

3) Re-charting of licensee tenures:

The re-apportionment of the AAC in the GBR requires a “re-charting” of harvesting tenures on the managed forest land base. This is a collaborative planning process engaged in by all licensees, including First Nations licensees, and the expected result is an agreement among licensees on the location of their operating areas.

This process will provide clear direction to licensees on where they can exercise their harvesting rights. The initial stages of this process are underway and working draft for the GBR North TSA is anticipated in by mid-2018.

The Province is funding a 3rd party facilitator to support successful outcomes.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jeff Sheldrake

Phone: 250-356-7723

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Issue: Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Project

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Over the past few years, various land and resource development applications in the Howe Sound area have prompted some local governments and stakeholders to express strong concern about new industrial activity in the area. A key concern is the potential for cumulative effects (CE) to impact the recovering marine environment and other values in Howe Sound (e.g. ecological health, visual quality, recreation/tourism etc.).
- In 2013, the Future of Howe Sound Society (FHSS), the Howe Sound Community Forum (HSCF) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) asked the Province to initiate and lead a comprehensive land and marine management planning process to ensure ongoing marine ecosystem recovery, coordinated planning and the consideration of CE in the Howe Sound area.
- In 2013/14, FLNRO indicated that the application of the new Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework, along with other management tools and existing public processes, could capture public interests and values to ensure environmental, economic and social interests are considered in government decision-making. FLNRO believed that the use of existing management tools and public processes could take into account public interests and values while being less costly and time-consuming than a comprehensive land and marine use planning exercise.
- In January 2014, the Province approved the phased implementation of the Cumulative Effects Framework in BC in an effort to better inform land and natural resource decision-makers about the current and potential future condition of key provincial land and marine values.
- In October 2014, FLNRO staff proposed to the HSCF and local First Nations a CE assessment project tailored to the Howe Sound area. The project was to assess the current condition of some key provincial land and marine values in the area and make draft management recommendations for consultation.
- In early 2015, local First Nations and governments indicated general support for the proposed Howe Sound CE Project. The Province approved project initiation and then began project scoping and development.
- The final scope of the CE Project was confirmed in 2016 and consists of two phases:
 - **Phase 1:** Completion of Current Condition Assessment reports for 7 CE Values in the Howe Sound (Watershed Condition, Old Growth, Forest Biodiversity, Grizzly Bear, Marbled Murrelet, Elk and Visual Quality).

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- **Phase 2:** Completion of a Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management report for the 7 CE Values.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

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Date Prepared/Revised:	September 8, 2017
Ministry Executive Sponsor: Name: Craig Sutherland	Phone: 250 387-0600
Alternate Contact for Issue: Name: Scott Barrett	Phone: 604 586-2889

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Issue: Fraser River Transition Area

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On January 1, 2015, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) became responsible for the administration of approximately 295 Crown Land tenures formerly held under head lease by the Port of Vancouver. The head lease area is known as the Fraser River Transition Area (FRTA).
- Initially two-year tenures were issued to allow time for completion of First Nations consultation on decisions to replace these tenures.
- In April 2016, Treasury Board approved a joint FLNRORD/Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation request for a mandate to negotiate accommodation agreements with First Nations in the FRTA.
- The negotiation mandate included negotiating a Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA) with the Musqueam Indian Band (MIB), financial accommodations to the Cowichan Nation Alliance and a small amount of financial support for other First Nations to enable input into stewardship measures in the FRTA.
- In March 2017, the Province and MIB signed a CMA which included funding for MIB capacity and for implementing stewardship projects. The agreement also include an engagement process for authorization review and decisions.
- To facilitate the transition for tenure holders from the Port of Vancouver tenure pricing to FLNRORD tenure pricing, several policy variances were approved to ensure that tenure holders were not severely impacted by pricing increases. These variances expire in 2019 and it is expected the tenure holders will transition to paying full provincial policy pricing at that time.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- With the establishment of the CMA, tenure replacements have been steadily progressing;^{s.13}

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- s.13,s.17

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 28, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: (250) 387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Donna Myketa, Manager, Authorizations

Phone: (604) 586-4426

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Issue: Woodlot Licence W1475 near Lantzville

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Woodlot Licence (WL) W1475 is one of 28 woodlots in the South Island Natural Resource District and is one of the smallest on Vancouver Island.
- The WL was issued to John Gregson in 2006 through a competitive process. It is 230 hectares with an allowable annual cut of 1,140 cubic meters a year which is approximately two hectares a year.
- The WL is located near Lantzville and surrounded on three sides by private managed forest land owned by Island Timberlands and on the fourth side by rural residents.
- In 2013, John Gregson was the recipient of the Provincial Woodlot Management Award for demonstrating a commitment to sound forest and environmental practices and exceptional community stewardship.
- The licensee continues to keep the community informed and engaged in its forest management activities through the Lantzville Advisory Group.
- Over the past three years, there has been significant pressure from the Mayor and Council of Lantzville and local residents to stop logging activities and to protect the area of the WL.
- To date, the message back to the community has been that the Province was not supportive of displacing the WL and that there is no other forested Crown land to offer the licensee as replacement land.
- The Save Lantzville Forest (SLF) organization has continued to lobby for protection of the area. In April 2017, a proposal was submitted by this group to Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) requesting permanent protection of 60 hectares within the WL in order to conserve Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) ecosystem (30 hectares) and to create a recreation corridor along Knarston Creek (30 hectares).
- On September 11, 2017, the District of Lantzville passed a motion to send a letter of support for the proposal to the Minister (received September 14, 2017) and that they “will consider a level of compensation, in partnership with other funders possibly, including but not limited to the Province of British Columbia, to the current licensee of WL W1475...”.
- As the WL is already one of the smallest on Vancouver Island, this proposal would reduce its size by 25 percent.
- The WL has approximately 17 percent of its area that will not be harvested because of wildlife tree retention, riparian areas, swaps, lakes and roads.
- The WL is comprised of second growth forest within the CDF ecosystem and the 30 hectares of CDF in the proposal was not selected to be included in previous and current conservation strategies for CDF because of the negative impact to the timber rights of the licensee.
- Public recreation use is an important objective of the Woodlot Licence Program, specifically to include community involvement and access to forested areas. The

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Management Plan for WL W1475 states: “incorporate current recreation use by the public, local user groups and clubs to promote additional recreational opportunities”.

- In addition to the designated Copley Recreation Trail, which is in the WL and maintained by the District of Lantzville through a partnership agreement with FLNRORD Recreation Sites and Trails BC, there is an extensive network of mostly unauthorized trails in the WL that the citizens of Lantzville and Nanaimo currently use for recreation purposes.

- s.13,s.17

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

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province is reviewing the proposal but presently has no plans to reduce the size of the WL.
- WLs are an important form of tenure to the Province. They provide British Columbians with the opportunity to manage small scale forestry operations on Crown land while providing many benefits to the community.
- The Province commends the collaborative and inclusive way this woodlot holder is carrying out its operations in the Lantzville area.
- The licensee has been recognized by the Province for excellence in forest management and continues to manage the woodlot in a sustainable manner.
- Throughout British Columbia, the 870+ established woodlots are demonstrating leadership in managing forest land for all its values: economic, environmental, recreational, educational and more.
- The Province is currently planning to protect an additional 1,000 hectares of CDF in other areas.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 29, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 250-387-9773

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rhonda Morris

Phone: 250-731-3033

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Issue: Thompson Okanagan Drought Response

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- After an extremely wet spring, the region has experienced the driest summer on record, with little to no precipitation since late May. These conditions have caused critically low flows in a number of fish bearing streams throughout the region.
- The streams of primary concern are unregulated, meaning they are not dammed for water storage and run freely throughout the season. Many provide water for both agricultural and domestic use, further compounding low flows.
- Agricultural irrigation is primarily for hay production with corn and fruit production secondary. To date, producers have cut two crops of hay. Corn production is nearly complete. Fruit growers will continue irrigating to end season (September 30).
- In response to deteriorating stream conditions, a regional drought team is working with government drought and policy experts to set drought levels and develop management actions.
- Most of the region is at or pending designation of Drought Level 4, the most severe level under the provincial drought assessment model.
- FLNRORD staff have notified surface water and groundwater licensees of the current drought levels, and have requested them to reduce their water usage.
- The Water Sustainability Act provides regulatory tools to curtail water use during times of water scarcity, however the region is also working with licensees to gain voluntary reductions and will resort to regulation only if voluntary cooperation is not achieved.
- The following summarizes the streams of concern in the region and the measures the Ministry has taken or is contemplating to take to increase water supply for fish:
 - Coldwater River. Drought Level 4. Below critical flows for fish. Excellent cooperation by irrigators and the City of Merritt in responding to FLNRORDs request to voluntarily reduce use.
 - Upper Nicola River. Below critical flows for fish. Good cooperation with major irrigator, the Douglas Lake Ranch. Licensee is releasing stored water from one of their reservoirs to offset effect of irrigating on stream flows, however migrating kokanee salmon are experiencing difficulty reaching safe spawning sites. Major licensee agreed to cease all irrigation September 8.

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- Kettle/ Granby. Below critical flows. Drought level 4 is pending (September 8). Level 3 letters have gone out to all users.
 - Salmon River. Drought level 4. At critical flows for spawning chinook salmon. Ministry has requested licensees curtail water use entirely.
 - Bessette Creek. At extremely low flow level, well below critical threshold. Drought level 4 is pending (September 8). Conservation water has been released from storage dam but is not making it through system as agricultural irrigation is still quite active.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Drought Level 4 designation is pending or has been designated for the entire South Thompson and Kettle Granby basins.
- Level 4 letters requesting 50% reduction for some streams and up to 100% reduction for others will be sent to licensees early this week (September 11).
- Staff will be monitoring level of cooperation with the Upper Nicola, Salmon and Coldwater users and will monitor others once additional Level 4 requests have been received.
- Further regulatory action may be contemplated where staff observe limited cooperation with reduction requests.

Date Prepared/Revised: Sept 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: «ADM or Executive Director»

Phone: «Direct Line»

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: «Project Lead or Subject Matter Expert»

Phone: «Direct Line»

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Issue: Invasive Plant Management Funding and Delivery

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The 2016/17 Invasive Plant Program operational budget was \$1.05 million. This funding was from Land Based Investment (LBI) (\$815,000) and Base (\$235,000) allocations. LBI allocation was increased to help address expanding invasive plant populations and increased costs for control and management.
- LBI funding supports early detection and response to high risk invasive plants that are new to the province, or of limited extent; inventory of threatened habitats; and monitoring invasive plant containment and control results.
- 2016/17 fiscal year-end savings of \$1.865 M was provided to invasive species organizations, local governments, and research collaborators through transfer payments. These funds have enabled invasive plant surveys and treatments, provided support for coordinating activities amongst land managers and resources to increase public awareness of invasive plants and solutions.
- \$235,000 supports the ongoing development of new biological control agents for invasive plants including Japanese knotweed, hawkweed, toadflax, common tansy, oxeye daisy, giant reed, flowering rush, and hoary cress.
- Concern is increasing that not enough invasive plant control is happening on grasslands ecosystems, and invasive plant impacts resulting from wildfires.
- Earlier announcement of increased invasive plant funding (\$7.8 M) for 2017/18 is to provide multi-year funding to partners, support research, and enable enhanced work through a pilot approach in the Thompson-Nicola region.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Stopping new invasive species from establishing and spreading is the most cost effective approach and our top priority.
- New incursions of high risk invasive plant species will be addressed first to prevent establishment and spread.
- Enhanced funding will provide longer term planning and stability for partners and contractors, and increase efforts to reduce risks to threatened habitats.
- Ministry staff will continue to investigate internal resourcing opportunities to address priority invasive plant species and maintain our support of regional invasive species organizations and local government weed programs.
- The Ministry supports the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group, collaborating to maximize invasive plant control efficiencies on Crown land.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250-828-4292

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz

Phone: 250-552-1462

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Issue: Okanagan Lake Flood Recovery Project

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Late and persistent spring rains caused Okanagan Lake levels to overtop most docks, retaining walls and cause flooding along the foreshore of Okanagan Lake.
- Wave action caused by high winds would free the decking off the pilings or cause damage to property protection measures such as retaining walls.
- It is estimated that 1500 docks were impacted and will need repair. This work will range from simple deck repair, replacement to replacing damaged pilings
- The *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)* calls for the landowner to have notifications or approvals depending on the sensitivity of the site. These approvals and or notifications allow government to apply terms and conditions to the rebuild.
- Existing docks range in compliance with current legislation. The strategy has been to make them conforming when it came time for replacement. The flood has accelerated that process.
- Foreshore access has been highlighted in the news by one interest group in Kelowna. Upland homeowners are to ensure that access across the foreshore is not impeded by their dock/wall.
- The financial implications, on tourism and small business is not known at this time. Boaters were asked to voluntarily stay off the lake until levels receded – approximately Aug 1.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has spent close to \$24.5 million to date on the Okanagan Lake Flood Protection and associated clean up.
- A proposal is being prepared for floodplain mapping using LIDAR technology to predict better areas of highest prone flooding and at the same time provide high image ortho photographs to document damage.
- A Flood Recovery Team consisting of the ministry's Lands Officers, Hydrologists, Biologists, Admin staff and Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) to coordinate the response and look for efficiencies in the application process. Five additional auxiliaries have been hired to help with the increased workload. They are currently on –hire until Dec 16, 2017.^{s.17}
- Restrictions are now coming into place as fish are looking for areas to lay their eggs,(typically around tributaries into the Lake). Dockbuilders will be moving to less –sensitive areas shortly.
- A FLNRORD staff member has been posted in the government office on Powick Road in Kelowna to facilitate the face to face demand since late July. After an initial flush of interest when the office opened, personal visits have dwindled to approximately 5 per week.
- Compliance and Enforcement Staff have brought in out of region staff and resources to educate the public and enforce legislation where appropriate.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has spent close to \$24.5 million to date on the Okanagan Lake Flood Protection and associated clean up.
- The Ministry established a flood recovery team to deal with the issues on Okanagan Lake. The team will remain in place until at least mid-December.
- A temporary FrontCounter office was established in Kelowna to assist dock owners in the authorizations necessary to repair and rebuild docks.
- To date, FrontCounter staff have fielded about 1,500 enquiries around flood recovery procedures.
- Authorizations staff have been working closely with dockbuilders to ensure they understand and are following the rules.
- Natural Resource Officers have been patrolling the lake to ensure people are aware of the rules and respecting rights to public access.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall Regional Executive P

Phone: «Direct Line»

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: «Project Lead: Bob Warner»

Phone: 250-490-8232»

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Issue: Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS) Situation for 2018 freshet

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Seasonal Okanagan Lake elevation targets were developed first and foremost for flood control but also take into account drought and fisheries concerns.
- It is impractical to lower the lake each year in anticipation of flooding because of the risk that a drought will develop. A severe drought (or even worse, a multi-year drought) may lead to an inability to service water diversions in the Okanagan which could cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The town of Oliver estimates that the direct annual value of tree fruit and vineyard crops serviced by its main irrigation diversion to be \$130 Million. This does not take into account labour, tourism, or other spin-off industries. It also does not factor in the years of recovery required to replace trees and vines.
- In 2017, Okanagan Lake peaked at 76 centimetres above its annual high level target (full pool) primarily due to extreme spring rains and a late developing snowpack.
- January to April 2017 snow conditions were below average and forecast models could not anticipate the record setting intensity of inflow into Okanagan Lake in May which overwhelmed the ability to drop lake levels by increasing outflow.
- Based on the actual 2017 inflow, outflows through Okanagan Lake Dam would have had to be raised to upper-limit design flow levels (60 m³/s) prior to February 17 to keep the lake level below full pool. Snow and weather conditions at that time indicated a higher likelihood that drought conditions would develop and did not support such a decision. Raising flows at that time would have had a severe impact on sockeye eggs.
- Okanagan Lake inflow forecast models compare existing conditions to historic patterns. The circumstances that developed in 2017 did not match any in the historic record. The ministry commissioned a new inflow forecast model in 2016. Although the new model has many advantages over the pre-existing format, 2017 was the first year it was put in use and more calibration is required. Inflows models continue to be limited by the inability of meteorologists to forecast precipitation in the mid to long term.
- The ministry ordered a new real-time automated snow station within the Okanagan Basin in 2017. This had been planned prior to the flood event and is part of an ongoing effort to improve our ability to assess conditions for forecasting. This station will become part of the Ministry of Environment's Snow Station network.
- Currently Okanagan Lake is approximately eight centimetres below its mid-October target level. This is due to the dry conditions which have developed over the summer and lower levels will likely continue through the winter.

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- An independent engineering company is currently reviewing Okanagan Lake and dam operations of 2017 as well as Nicola Lake operations. This review is due in December 2017.
- The legislated OLRs 10 year dam safety review will be commissioned in 2018.
- Lidar mapping for the area is being proposed (depending on funding through EMBC) to better identify flood susceptible areas.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Ministry water managers continue to aim for seasonal target elevations on Okanagan Lake to balance the potential for both flooding and drought. This need to balance may become more crucial due to climate change predictions of more extreme swings in hydrologic conditions.
- The ministry continues to improve and modernize inflow and lake elevation forecasting computer models.
- The ministry continues to improve and modernize the ability to monitor snow conditions in a real-time manner.
- Both internal and external reviews of 2017 operations will be done over the winter. Recommendations to improve operations on the OLRs will be reviewed and where practical, implemented.
- Okanagan Lake is currently below its seasonal target. This situation is likely to persist through the winter barring significant precipitation.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 10, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall Regional Executive

Phone: 250-828-4239

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Shaun Reimer

Phone: 250-490-8229

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Issue: Post wildfire building reconstruction and the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Many homes and cabins were lost in the 2017 wildfire season
- Under the RAR, any development (e.g. new building or rebuilding) within 30 metres of a stream (this definition includes lakes) requires property owners to hire a qualified environmental professional (QEP) to complete a RAR assessment report. The RAR report prescribes a Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA). All development must remain outside of the SPEA.
- The *Local Government Act* as well as RAR section 3(2) allows for the repair or reconstruction of structures on existing foundations, however the Act specifies that any structure that is damaged beyond 75% of its value must be rebuilt in conformance with current standards, including RAR SPEAs.
- Due to the above condition many landowners will not be permitted to rebuild in the same location and will have to move structures farther away from riparian areas.
- Regina Sadilkova, Director of Development Services for Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has contacted ministry RAR biologists requesting a statement on the application of RAR in this case.
- TNRD reports frustration from some property owners because of the expense of RAR assessments (approximately \$500-\$2000) and that the end result may be that they cannot rebuild in the original location.

Advice and Recommended Response

- The RAR exists to protect fish habitat and the features, functions and conditions which contribute to fish life processes – this includes riparian (lakeside) vegetation.
- Requiring replacement structures to be compliant with RAR standards is consistent with local government requirements where structures have been totally lost (for example rebuilding to the existing building code).
- The province has guidelines to help local government adjudicate rebuilding applications where lots are too small or constrained by unbuildable terrain, which may establish specific parameters where SPEAs may be encroached upon.
- The local government may choose to engage a QEP to pre-establish a setback from lakes in the affected areas, in which case individual landowners would not be required to complete assessments. Ministry staff can assist with this process.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 10, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ted Zimmerman

Phone: 250-828-4164

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Issue: Front Counter BC & Natural Resource Sector / Permitting

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNRORD is the largest permitting Ministry in the Natural Resource Sector and delivers client support services through FrontCounter BC on behalf of the whole Natural Resource Sector.
- FLNRORD and FrontCounter BC are focused on streamlining permitting processes to reduce approval times for natural resource clients.
- FLNRORD tracks and monitors authorization permitting times through operational performance measures – the key business areas being crown lands, water, forestry and fish & wildlife.
- The performance measures for each measure the percent of applications processed within their specified target turnaround time. Targets are set based on historical data and in consultation with Assistant Deputy Ministers of each of the regional areas.
- Client Satisfaction is also measured through FrontCounter BC and the monthly result represents feedback from all Natural Resource Sector clients. Permitting work has a direct impact to the client satisfaction measure through the 5 drivers that are measured – satisfaction with first contact, ease of access, extra mile, outcome and knowledge of staff. The 2016/17 client satisfaction score was 74.2 – up 3.3 from the 2015/16 score.
- The 2017 spring flooding and summer wildfire season resulted in staff being re-prioritized to the emergency response work associated with the events. This had impacts on the resources dedicated to permitting work. Although some business areas saw fewer applications submitted during the floods and fires, fewer authorizations were issued during Q2 of 2017/18 as compared to Q2 of 2016/17.
- As fewer authorizations were issued while applications were still being submitted, this has resulted in some regions seeing a backlog of applications that has built and will need additional resources to catch up.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- In 2016/17 FrontCounter BC handled 48,634 authorizations and 16,358 enquiries on behalf of the natural resource sector.
- Tracking processing times for applications ensures the Ministry is focused on client service and in having efficient processes for both staff and clients.

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- Some regions have met the performance targets – all contribute to the provincial score. Processes are continuous to share best practices, create efficiencies and improve performance in all locations thus contributing to the overall provincial result.
- The data below summarizes the performance targets and results for each of the four primary business areas within FLNRORD:
 - Crown Lands – target 80% - 2016/17 result 53% - Q2 2017/18 – 45%
 - Water – target 80% - 2016/17 result – 81% - Q2 2017/18 – 77%
 - Fish & wildlife – target 80% 2016/17 result 69% - Q2 2017/18 72%
 - Cutting Permits – target 90% - 2016/17 result 94% - Q2 2017/18 93%
- Performance for the land and water business areas has dropped from March 2017 (fiscal 2016/17 end) to the end of Q2 2017/18. Some of this result can be attributed to the impacts of the floods and fires as the numbers of land and water applications received in 2016/17 is very comparable to the number received to date in 2017/18.
- It is anticipated that through Q3 the Ministry will see further impacts to the Performance for authorizations as staff work to catch up on the applications and see additional impacts from fire recovery work.
- FLNRORD is focusing efforts in many areas in order to improve authorizations processes overall and reduce the time it takes to process natural resource applications. Actions include:
 - Supporting the Natural Resource Permitting Project to integrate and increase the efficiency of authorizations activities and services across government's natural resource agencies.
 - Making authorization services more easily accessible to citizens and proponents by providing more options for electronic authorizations, licensing, payment and permitting options, and client directed authorizations.
 - Implementing common standards among natural resource agencies, federal agencies and municipalities to align regulations and coordinate natural resource use decisions.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 10, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Wildfire Recovery(South Operations)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- This season, wildfires have burnt over 1,212,000 hectares of land in the Province . The hardest hit areas of the province are the Cariboo Chilcotin, Quesnel, 100 Mile House and Thompson Rivers Districts.
- Fires will further reduce mid-term timber supply from post-beetle levels in the the Quesnel, 100 Mile House and Williams Lake Timber Supply Areas (TSA) likely futher affecting the viability of mills in the region.
- In the near term, the focus will be on salvage of impacted stands using the existing AAC.
- FLNRORD is exploring policy options to help address salvage of fire-damaged timber to ensure impacts on government objectives and the management of other natural resource values are being considered.
- The ranching sector has been heavily impacted by the loss of over 1M hectares of Crown land that provided summer grazing for 30,000 cow/calf pairs, representing 25% of the provincial beef herd. Private land fall grazing and winter feed supplies have also been impacted.
- An estimated 450km of Crown range fences have been destroyed by the 2017 Wildfires. Reconstruction has already begun on priority fences.
- Area closures related to the fires will impact recreational hunting opportunities and local Guide Outfitters.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- While accurate information of the impact to timber supply is not yet available, it is clear the loss is significant and compounded by the impact of the most recent mountain pine beetle outbreak.
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and timber supply modelling that has been initiated, AACs will be assessed to determine if and when they need to be re-determined and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- The Province has established a Recovery Branch. The Recovery Program will support Local Government and First Nations community-led recovery.

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- The response to impacts to the land base and those industries that rely on that land base is being led by FLNRORD. An Incident Command structure has been established to lead land base recovery and the rural development response efforts across the interior.
- The immediate focus of the Incident Command Team is on:
 - Salvage of damaged timber while protecting other land use values
 - Initiation of a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including reforestation
 - Building a Community Engagement Framework to support dialogue with impacted communities
 - Initiating a comprehensive engagement process with First Nations commencing with salvage and rehabilitation planning
 - Maintaining public safety in impacted areas
 - Assessing wildlife habitat impacts
- The Range Branch of FLNRORD is working with the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) to develop a Crown range fence replacement strategy by March 31, 2018, that will replace fences destroyed by the 2017 Wildfires. The estimated \$9M cost will be shared between the Province and the Federal government under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement.
- Emergency livestock feed is available through Emergency Management BC to commercial livestock producers in both the Cariboo and Thompson-Nicola Regional Districts that have lost grazing areas as a result of wildfires.
- Once the immediate tasks are underway FLNRORD will shift its focus to exploring rural community development opportunities and how we can best support the rural communities and industries as they transition to a changed landscape.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Issue: Caribou Recovery and Planning in British Columbia

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

British Columbia is currently working with Canada on recovery strategies for 3 ecotypes of Woodland caribou which have been designated by Canada as a species at risk under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

In addition to work with Canada on each of the boreal, northern and southern ecotypes, the Province has also been developing a comprehensive Provincial Caribou Recovery Program which is intended to provide long term strategic direction and stable funding for the recovery of all caribou in BC.

Boreal Caribou: In October 2012, Cabinet approved the Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan (BCIP). The BCIP outlines requirements for development and implementation of required operating practices for industry, habitat restoration, predator control, inventory and monitoring. Based on five years of monitoring information, BC is currently updating the BCIP to improve the likelihood of meeting recovery goals while minimizing impacts to industrial activities. The revised BCIP is currently out for public review.

Northern Caribou: In March 2013, the ministry released the Implementation Plan for the South Peace Northern Caribou Plan (PNCP) which outlined a management strategy for seven northern caribou herds in the South Peace. The PNCP includes recommendations to conserve and protect habitat, manage predators and reduce the impacts from industrial activity. The ministry plans to update the PNCP in late 2017.

Southern Mountain Caribou: BC and Canada have been working collaboratively to better understand how BC's approach to land protection aligns with SARA. Recent work has indicated that there are a number of substantial spatial gaps in caribou habitat protection and has highlighted that many of BC's legislative tools do not meet Canada's expectations of "effective" caribou habitat protection.

Canada is currently completing a Critical Habitat Protection Assessment under SARA which will ultimately inform decisions by Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change on whether BC has "effectively protected" critical caribou habitat. If Canada determines BC has not effectively protected caribou habitat and BC has not made reasonable efforts to do so, Federal Cabinet may issue a protection order under Section 61 of SARA prohibiting the further destruction of some or all Southern Mountain Caribou critical habitat in BC.

In order to prevent such an order, BC has been working with Canada to develop a Section 11 Conservation Agreement (S.11 Agreement) under SARA to demonstrate our commitment to improving protection for Southern Mountain Caribou. It is hoped that the S.11 Agreement will provide a viable alternative to a protection order. The S.11 Agreement only applies to the PNCP area, but it is envisioned it will eventually be expanded to include the entire SMC area.

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The potential economic implications of an order by Canada prohibiting the destruction of caribou critical habitat are substantial. An estimate of the potential impact to economic activity and associated jobs in the mining, wind power, petroleum and natural gas sectors in the Tumbler Ridge area from Canada's caribou-related land use decisions exceeds \$20 billion with an additional \$1 billion to the forest sector.

Provincial Caribou Recovery Program: In order to effectively address Canada's concerns regarding caribou recovery and to positively influence Canada's decisions, BC is considering significant changes to how all three ecotypes of caribou in BC are managed. FLNRO and the Ministry of Environment have developed a five-year Caribou Recovery Program Plan which describes a range of strategic shifts on how caribou are managed. The focus of the plan is on additional habitat protection, more aggressive ecosystem restoration, expanded predator and maternal penning programs, detailed plans for each of the 51 caribou herds and more collaboration with Canada and First Nations.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Province has been and continues to be hard at work on the development of a consistent, comprehensive, province-wide caribou recovery plan.
- We have maintained the earlier commitment to fund these efforts at \$27 million over three years.
- This funding will support the necessary recovery measures to revise current plans under our new approach consistent with expectations from the federal government to demonstrate positive population trajectories for our many caribou herds.
- The ministry understands there may be more protections required in specific areas to support caribou recovery. The ministry will consider these proposals carefully when they come before us with an eye to balance fiscal prudence and species-at-risk management.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: *Spruce Beetle Outbreak in Omineca*

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The spruce beetle is native to British Columbia, but higher than normal populations of spruce beetles have been detected in the Omineca Natural Resource Region.
- Warm winters, dry summers and windstorms (resulting in more tree blowdown) have contributed to this increase in spruce beetle populations.
- This outbreak was declared an epidemic in the fall of 2015 due to size and rate of spread and represents the biggest spruce beetle outbreak in British Columbia since the 1980s.
- Overwintering attack data and preliminary field investigations suggest that the outbreak has increased in severity and/or size again this year.
- Existing surveys indicate that more than 220 000 hectares in the region are currently infested by spruce beetles; of that area, potentially 80 000 hectares could be accessible for control efforts.
- Currently the infestation is primarily in the more remote eastern valleys of the Mackenzie Natural Resource District and the northern portion of the Prince George Natural Resource District.
- These areas are commonly located in challenging terrain and have little recent or historic logging so access is being established in an effort to control the rate of spread. Approximately 10 000 hectares of spruce have been harvested last winter in control efforts. The rate of harvest will continue to increase as access is created.
- Some stakeholders and First Nations are requesting additional AAC to address spruce beetle management and salvage. To date, the Chief Forester has indicated that the required harvesting of spruce beetle can be accommodated within the existing AAC and does not require uplifts to address.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The government is closely monitoring the situation and striving to minimize impacts on timber supply and ecosystem function.

Some of the key actions to date:

- A public advisory committee is in place to provide input into the development and implementation of control actions.
- A public information and education document was produced in 2016: "Working together BC's Spruce Beetle Mitigation Strategy."
- \$850 000 was spent in 2015/2016 and \$1 000 000 in 2016/17 for flights to identify areas impacted, surveys to identify priority operational areas, and trap tree and timber decay research.

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- Ministry staff worked with major licensees to jointly develop and implement an ongoing series of incentives, including:
 - Development of best management practices for spruce beetle management.
 - Specific Chief Forester guidance and District Manager letters of expectations to ensure that all values are recognized in the planning process and ensure the efficiency of control efforts.
 - A coordinated regional spruce beetle action plan was produced for 2016/17 and work is being conducted on a revised plan for 2017/18. These plans ensure coordinated licensee actions.
- The B.C. Government is dedicating resources to mitigate impacts of this outbreak.
 - A Spruce Beetle Project Manager is in place in the Omineca Region to ensure efforts are coordinated in the North.
 - Funding has been allocated for 2017/18 totalling \$1 065 000 for flights to identify areas impacted, surveys to identify priority operational areas, and trap tree and timber decay research.
 - A second research summit is planned for October 2017 to review the rate of spread, current and best research, actions to date, rates of timber decay and assist in the development of future action with speakers from across Canada and the Western United States.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Klappan Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Klappan area includes an area known as the “Sacred Headwaters”, which includes the headwaters of the Nass, Skeena and Stikine Rivers.
- The Klappan has been the focus of resource development interest for many years, due largely to significant coal and coalbed methane resources, and has been the subject of a longstanding conflict over land use.
- There have also been conflicts between resident hunters and some Tahltan members, particularly regarding moose hunting in the Klappan. Tahltan members have set up blockades on the Ealue Lake access road into the Klappan on a number of occasions. In 2016, the BC Wildlife Federation was granted a permanent injunction against blockades on the road.
- In 2012, the Province and Shell Canada reached an agreement that saw Shell give up its coalbed gas tenures in the Klappan. In 2015, the Province reached an agreement with Fortune Minerals which saw BC Rail purchase Fortune’s coal tenures in the Klappan.
- Since 2014, the Province and the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) have been working on the Klappan Strategic Initiative, which was intended to establish land use direction in order to resolve conflicts in the Klappan. In March 2017, government and the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) agreed to establish a Klappan Management and Decision Making Board and provided endorsement-in-principle for the Klappan Plan.
- The proposed Klappan Plan protects much of the Sacred Headwaters zone for a period of 20 years, and identifies objectives and strategies for the protection of Tahltan cultural values and environmental values in other areas of the Klappan. The Klappan Plan provides for ongoing public access to the Klappan for all British Columbians.
- The Province has initiated consultation on the Klappan Plan with other First Nations, stakeholders, and the public.
- TCG has an interest in land use planning across Tahltan territory and has linked progress on reconciliation discussions to its support for further resource development.
- A side letter that accompanies the Klappan Plan, outlines a number of commitments by the Province to undertake wildlife-related initiatives with the Tahltan. The Province has also established a Northern Wildlife Roundtable that brings together Ministry, Tahltan, guide-outfitter, resident hunter and local community representatives to discuss and work on wildlife-related matters. The

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Roundtable is preparing to discuss potential regulation change options to address hunting conflicts in Tahltan territory, including in the Klappan.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Ministry is committed to resolving land use conflicts through collaboration where possible, as demonstrated by the Klappan Plan. The Klappan Plan is a tangible milestone as the Province and Tahltan pursue reconciliation on the landbase.
- The Ministry intends to fulfill its commitments to finalize the Klappan Plan, after ensuring proper engagement with other First Nations and with stakeholders.
- The Ministry will be working Tahltan representatives, through the Klappan Board, to identify appropriate legislative and policy tools to give effect to the Klappan Plan.
- The Ministry is working with Tahltan representatives and stakeholders through the collaborative forum of the Northern Wildlife Roundtable to develop options to address hunting conflicts in Tahltan territory, including in the Klappan.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

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Issue: Forecasted Timber Supply Declines in Prince George and Lakes Timber Supply Area

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

The interior of British Columbia is facing an unprecedented reduction in timber supply due mainly to the mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation. The Chief Forester increased allowable annual cuts (AACs) to capture as much timber value as economically possible before dead pine degraded and became unusable. s.13

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Lakes TSA AAC

Year	Source	AAC (millions m3/year)
2001	Reference AAC	1.500
2004	MPB AAC Timber Supply Review	3.162
2011	Timber Supply Review	2.000

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The Village of Burns Lake, with a population of 2,114, is the largest community within the Lakes TSA. The remainder of the TSA's 6,056 residents are located in numerous smaller communities including Decker Lake, François Lake, Grassy Plains and Danskin. The economy is largely resource-based and mostly dependent on the local forest industry.

There are three lumber mills currently operating within the Morice and Lakes TSA, along with smaller secondary fibre users. West Fraser recently closed a mill in Houston and the s.13

Prince George TSA AAC

Year	Source	AAC (millions m3/year)
1996	Reference AAC	9.364
2002	MPB AAC increase	12.440
2004	MPB AAC increase	14.944
2011	MPB AAC reduction	12.500

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The Prince George TSA contains the City of Prince George (population 71,363) and the communities of Vanderhoof (pop. 4,492), Fort St. James (pop. 1,776), and Fraser Lake (pop. 1,149), as well as several smaller unincorporated communities. The Prince George TSA covers approximately 7.97 million hectares, making it one of the largest management units and the largest AAC in the province.

The estimated consumption from the eleven major sawmills in the Prince George TSA is 11.6 million m³/year. The majority of the fibre needs for the pulp mills (estimated at 6.2 million m³/year) comes from mill residues. There are currently three wood pellet facilities in the Prince George TSA with a total fibre consumption of about 1.3 million m³/year, sourced mostly from sawmill residues. The Veolia/Fort Green Energy Bioenergy plant in Ft. St. James will consume approximately 490 000 m³/year of biomass. The Prince George facilities draw fibre from multiple TSAs.

s.13

s.13 A number of projects are underway in both the Prince George and the Lakes TSAs to minimize the impact on the mid-term timber supply. These include:

- Silviculture; the Forests for Tomorrow program has spent between 2 to 3 million dollars per year over the last three years on reforestation activities such as; surveys, thinning, pruning, spacing and fertilization.
- Inventories; new vegetation resource inventories (VRI) have been completed for the entire the Lakes TSA and portions of the Prince George TSA. Work is underway to complete VRI for remainder of the Prince George TSA. VRI vastly improves our estimates of the current state of our forest resource that in turn allows us to forecast available harvest levels with improved accuracy.
- Silviculture strategies; silviculture strategies (Type IV and/or integrated silviculture strategies) improve our understanding of different silviculture management practices on timber supply. In the Fort St. James area, this has led to the identification of areas requiring landscape level retention. The Lakes Type IV was completed in 2014.
- Access to low grade fibre; several initiatives have been undertaken to increase the utilization of residual fibre including; issuance of fibre tenures, encouraging business to business relationships, and streamlined waste assessments.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The ministry will continue to support the efficient use of the timber supply profile including the use of fibre for sawlogs, engineered wood products, pulp and bioenergy.

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- In addition to volumes available from the TSAs, there are also volumes available from area-based tenures (including First Nation Woodland Licences, Tree Farm Licences, Community Forest Agreements and Woodlots) and private sources.
- Due to the large fires this year, significant volumes of partially burned timber may become available for harvest. Although charred timber can be problematic in mills, companies are considering different approaches to manage the impacts on their mills when utilizing this timber.

Date Prepared/Revised:**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

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Issue: Modernized Land Use Planning

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Minister Donaldson's mandate letter stated "Work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, First Nations and communities to modernize land-use planning and sustainably manage B.C.'s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth".
- Much of existing land use plans in B.C. were developed in the 1990s and early 2000s. Since that time, land use management and relations between the province and Indigenous governments have advanced and evolved, resource activities have diversified, and natural disturbances have altered lands and resources.
- In the last few years, a number of new initiatives related to land use decisions with Indigenous governments have been developed. Examples include:
 - The Environmental Stewardship Initiative in which the governments identify key values and management actions to protect those values;
 - The Cumulative Effects Framework, in which the governments work together to assess the combined effects of development and natural disturbances on values and identify management actions;
 - Integrated Monitoring where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants monitor environmental effects.
- Modernized Land Use Planning may assist in coordinating these initiatives as well as broader land use objectives set by the Province and Indigenous governments.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Ministry recognizes a full suite of land use planning and implementation approaches can contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by advancing government-to-government decision making on land use issues.
- Modernized land use planning must be developed in collaboration between the provincial and Indigenous governments with input from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Modernized land use planning can be a significant approach for government to meet a number of mandates related to Indigenous relations and reconciliation, environmental stewardship and a strong and sustainable economy.
- The development of strategic land use policy, programs and approaches will be an important focus for the Ministry over the next year.

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 6, 2017

Co Ministry Executive Sponsors:

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Issue: Research Program and Funding

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

Salary Budget

- The salary budget for research in 2017/18 is anticipated to be maintained at about \$6.2 million (about 73 full-time equivalents) essentially unchanged since fiscal 2011/12.
 - This compares to \$8.1 million for 91 full-time equivalents in the 2010/11 salary budget.
 - The change in funding reflects the transfer of 18 full-time equivalents to the Ministry of Environment in October 2010.

Operating Budget

- The base operating budget for research in 2017/18 is anticipated to be about \$5.2 million which is the same as for 2016/17.

External Research

- In 2017/18, FLNRO is planning to spend about \$2.2 million on external research through FPInnovations, which is the same as for 2016/17.

Research framework

- We have developed a research framework that lays the foundation for us to move toward a more integrated outcome-based approach to research.
- This outcome based research model is entering its fourth year after being successfully implemented in 2014/15.
- This fiscal the leadership and coordination of the research program was consolidated into the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch of the Office of the Chief Forester Division.
 - A new position was created in the branch to provide more effective co-ordination and delivery the program

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- This year we plan to spend about \$13.6 million on research activities in six key areas:
 - Ecosystem Stewardship – Improved Ecological Knowledge for Sustainable Resource Stewardship
 - Ecosystem Health and Disturbance - Improved Ecosystem Health and Reduced Risk From Landscape-Level Disturbance
 - Water - Reduced Hydrogeologic Risk to Infrastructure, Communities and Natural Resource Values and Uninterrupted Water Quality, Quantity and Timing
 - Species and Habitat - Improved Terrestrial and Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
 - Timber Supply - increased Volume and Value of Timber
 - Bioeconomy -advancing Bio-economic and Other Natural Resource Opportunities
- We are committed to an integrated research program that provides credible, evidence-based information for resource management decisions that support environmental sustainability and serves government's one land manager vision.
- We continue to make our research as operationally relevant and responsive to existing and emerging research needs and provide an efficient and direct linkage with operations and policy.
- Current research investments support issues in wildlife, water, soils and cumulative effects.
- This fiscal the ministry has consolidated the leadership and coordination of the research program into the Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch to provide more effective co-ordination and delivery of the program.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 5, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Investment in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions: the Forest Carbon Initiative

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI) is a provincial program to mitigate climate effects to meet Provincial GHG reduction targets. The FCI is aligned with the Ministry's Climate Change Strategy.
- A ten year FCI is expected to lead to a reduction of annual greenhouse gas emissions of up to 11.7 million tonnes at 2050.
- FCI is unrelated to the carbon offset system
- The FCI program currently relies on investments in fertilization, enhanced silviculture, rehabilitation and utilization; new options may be developed
- FCI carbon investments generate co-benefits that may include employment, wildlife habitat, fire risk reduction, pest risk reduction and improved timber supply
- Planned carbon investments can occur in areas outside of the timber harvesting land base and where there have been wildfires or pest damage.
- The program uses a portfolio approach so that investment priorities can be adjusted to take advantage of new opportunities or improved information
- The primary FCI activity funding source is \$150M (funds the FCI for 5 years) through the Forest Enhancement Society; some activities funded through other programs, such as Forests for Tomorrow, also contribute
- FLNR has \$3M/yr. for 3 years for the FCI framework including: forest carbon science, developing forest carbon management best practices, planning the location of forest carbon investment and performance tracking
- FCI relies on Integrated Investment Planning (IIP) to identify land-based opportunities for investments which include forest carbon but also include wildfire risk reduction, wildlife habitat, timber supply and forest rehabilitation.
- The Climate Action Secretariat is leading negotiations with the Federal government on their Low Carbon Economy Fund. The \$150 M FCI program is being proposed for matched federal funding. ^{s.13,s.17}

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- FLRNO is actively supporting Provincial progress on GHG reduction targets through the recently launched Forest Carbon Initiative
- We are investing in researching, developing and implementing forest best-management practices, such as tree planting and fertilization, that avoid carbon loss and improve carbon sequestration
- We are also working with the federal government to explore how these provincial investments fit within the Pan-Canadian framework. We want to have federal and provincial investments working together to deliver GHG reductions.

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- Ministry staff have been directed to work together to achieve job creation, wildlife habitat, forest health, forest rehabilitation and timber supply and risk reduction with a forest carbon management approach.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: Forest Inventory Program and Large Scale Disturbance

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Accurate and current forest inventory information is essential to support sustainable management and use of BC's forest resources.
- In order to provide that critical forest inventory, BC has been active in the collection and maintenance of forest inventory information for about a century.
- The inventory program is complex and involves forest cover mapping and update using conventional air photos and satellite imagery, auditing and monitoring, site productivity estimation, and the modelling of stand growth and development.
- All inventory data is collected to well defined standards and is subject to quality assurance checks both during and after delivery.
- Forest inventory and update techniques have evolved considerably as new technologies including digital mapping, satellite imagery, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and new analysis techniques have become available.
- The Inventory program is guided by a 10 year Strategic Plan that describes strategies that the program will pursue and lists nine program goals with specific 5- and 10-year targets for each goal.
- As example, Goal #7 is to ensure all inventory is verified with ground samples such as Young Stand Monitoring plots and these activities are ongoing.
- The program is into the fifth year of the plan and is on track to achieve the year 5 goals and targets set out in that plan.
- In response to the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic, the Ministry has been updating the forest inventory across the BC interior with a priority on the most heavily impacted areas.
- In fiscal 2017/18 the Ministry is undertaking forest inventory mapping and/or field sampling in 10 of the 20 MPB-affected Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) (Morice, Prince George, Quesnel, Robson Valley, Golden, Invermere, Cranbrook, Kootenay Lake, Arrow, and Boundary TSAs).
- In response to the unprecedented fires in Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Kamloops TSAs the inventory program is working with the regions, BC Wildfire Services and Geo BC to produce fire severity maps using remote sensing data and change detection algorithms.
- These severity maps will be used in the near term to update inventory information.
- In the longer term, existing ground plots will be re-measured in the hardest hit portions of the forest inventory to verify the fire severity estimates.
- In some cases a completely new forest inventory may be required. Such projects require new air photo acquisition; ground calibration and forest cover estimation.

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Advice and Recommended Response:

- The province collects and maintains a comprehensive forest inventory to provide accurate and current information essential to support sustainable management and use of BC's forest resources.
- The program is guided by a 10 year strategic plan that includes nine goals and targets and is on track to meet the plan commitments.
- The program has strategies in place to collect the information required to update the forest inventory for losses caused by MPB and fire.
- These update strategies are designed to provide information to support urgent government decisions while also providing more refined estimates of loss as time progresses.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 8, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Issue: FLNR Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- FLNR has a 2015-20 Climate Change Strategy that supports preparation for the effects of climate change and drives mitigation efforts.
- Mitigation efforts are being driven through the forest carbon strategy and the forest carbon initiative. Adaptation efforts are being driven through the climate adaptation plans developed across FLNR. Both types of activities are accomplished through integrated investment planning done across the ministry.
- BC forests and natural resource values are impacted by climate events and related effects such as fire, pests and drought. These impacts are expected to continue; being proactive can result in significant economic benefits.
- Enhancing forest fire prevention, managing for the control of pests, and planting climate-resilient forests is modelled to reduce the impacts of climate change on timber supply and other values. Modelling of these scenarios shows positive cost/benefit ratios and carbon sequestration benefits.
- FLNR is implementing its Climate Change Strategy through 22 business area climate action plans. These plans are for all aspects of FLNR business from water management, forestry, roads and infrastructure to fire risks.
- We are taking proactive steps to make our forests more resilient to climate change through targeted adjustments to our reforestation programs including: climate based seed transfer, tree planting in burned areas, using deciduous trees strategically and increasing tree planting density.
- Integrated Investment Planning supports climate change adaptation and mitigation by selecting land-based opportunities for climate-considered investments. These investments may include sequestering forest carbon but are also for wildfire risk reduction, wildlife habitat and timber supply. As well, this planning considers investments to reduce wildfire risks to communities through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.
- The Auditor General has nearly completed a climate change audit to determine whether government is adequately managing the risks posed by climate change. FLNR advanced its related work during the audit phase and will continue to make progress--reflecting the priority placed on addressing climate risks.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Our ministry is working with provincial and federal partners to reduce climate change impacts
- Through FLNRs Climate Action Plans, Forest Carbon Strategy, Forest Carbon Initiative and integrated investment planning, the ministry is working to incorporate climate change thinking into the business of the ministry

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

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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Phone: 250-387-1544

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Meggin Messenger

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Issue: Fires and Allowable Annual Cuts

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Fire has impacted about 1.2 million hectares of forest to varying degrees with the majority of that impact (over 80%) occurring in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House areas.
- Roughly sixty percent of the impacted land (more than 700,000 ha) was considered available for timber production and harvest.
- Fires are still active and will have implications for both timber and non-timber values such as wildlife and old-growth management areas.
- Fire impacts in these areas are in addition to previous Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) impacts.

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) Impacts and Respose

- Fires will further reduce mid-term timber supply from post-beetle levels and likely futher affect the viability of mills in the region.
- In the near term, the focus will be on salvage of impacted stands using the existing AAC.
- Prior to salvage of burned stands, consideration will be given as to whether areas set aside for wildlife habitat or biodiversity are best left un-harvested to help maintain those values
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and timber supply modelling that has been initiated, AACs will be assessed to determine if and when they need to be re-determined and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- Post salvage harvest levels will also be re-assessed to ensure that communities and stakeholders are aware of what mid-term timber supply will be.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- In the near-term harvesting within the current AAC will focus on salvage of highly impacted stands while preserving non-timber values.
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and modelling, AACs will be re-determined if necessary and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.
- Post salvage (mid-term) harvest levels will also be re-assessed and conveyed to impacted communities and stakeholders.

Date Prepared/Revised: October 11, 2017

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Issue: Review of Professional Reliance in the Natural Resource Sector

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- Professional reliance is the specific requirement to use a qualified professional (QP), meaning the use of a person registered with a legally established self-governing body that holds members accountable to known work standards and are independently responsible for their actions.
- Since 2013, organizations including the Forest Practices Board, BC Ombudsperson and the Office of the Auditor General have raised concerns with the professional reliance model. These concerns include inadequate oversight of QPs by government and licensing bodies, inadequate work and a lack of accountability for review and monitoring.
- Government has publicly committed to a review of the professional reliance model. The mandate letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOE) directs the Minister to “review the professional reliance model to ensure the legal rights of First Nations are respected, and the public’s expectation of a strong, transparent process is met.”
- MOE has developed a Terms of Reference for the review of the professional reliance model and to make recommendations on whether:
 - a. Professional associations that oversee QPs employ best practices to protect the public interest and whether government oversight of professional associations is adequate.
 - b. There are decisions currently made by QPs that should instead be made by government to protect the public interest.
- Professional reliance is a key element of the *Forests and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). FLNR is also responsible for the *Foresters Act* which governs forest professionals and the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Other regulatory regimes for which FLNR is responsible also rely on professional reliance, such as the *Riparian Areas Regulation*.
- Given that FRPA, the *Foresters Act* and the *Riparian Areas Regulation* are in scope for the professional reliance review, FLNR will work closely with MOE throughout the review of the professional reliance model. FLNR will support the development of recommendations on the future oversight and involvement of QPs in the NRS.

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- The Ministry has already considered opportunities for continuous improvement of FRPA, including the ability to clarify roles, accountabilities and the authorities of Government, licensees and professionals and to modernize FRPA. In particular, FLNR will bring forward the following opportunities as part of the review of professional reliance:
 - a. Provide greater clarity from the Government on the tasks QPs are qualified and authorized to perform under FRPA.
 - b. Strengthen the responsibility of professionals who are given the authority and accountability for decision-making.
 - c. Ensuring that professional associations attract qualified talent and that legislation accurately reflects the modernized professional associations.
- A report with recommendations will be made following the review in May 2018. The report will provide recommendations on how the professional reliance model is working overall, but the Minister of FLNR will receive advice from FLNR directly on any potential changes to the regulatory regimes FLNR is responsible for. This advice will take into account more specific operational considerations for the Ministry and natural resource sector.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The public must have transparency and public trust in government decision making in the Natural Resource Sector.
- Independent organizations such as the Forest Practices Board, BC Ombudsperson and the Office of the Auditor General have investigated how the professional reliance model performs and have provided independent, objective advice to government regulators and have highlighted the need for adequate oversight of QPs by government and professional associations.
- A review, committed to by Government, is already underway^{s.13}
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Date Prepared/Revised: September 7, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Issue: 2017/18-2019/20 FLNR's Service Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Service Plan outlines the ministry's strategic goals, objectives, performance measures and financial forecast for the upcoming three years, in accordance the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA).
- In its Service Plan, FLNR's overall goals are to support the achievement of the government's three key commitments; and true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations.
- The specific objectives and performance targets are to achieve the five ministry-specific priorities outlined in the Minister's mandate letter.
- The ministry's three-year financial plan remains relatively stable from the February budget. Key changes include:
 - the Regional Economic Operations branch transfer (20 FTEs) from the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology;
 - an additional \$15 million over 3 years for capital improvements to BC Wildfire Service facilities. This is in addition to the \$7.5 million announced in the February budget, bringing the total committed for wildfire facilities to \$22.5 million over 3 years.
- This format is a change from previous Service Plans, where the ministry described three ministry-specific goals, along with associated objectives, strategies. Achievement of these goals was monitored through a set of nine performance measures.
- This new format demonstrates the ministry's commitment and alignment to the highest priorities of Government. Progress towards these priorities will be publicly reported in the 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report.
- The ministry will continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures for inclusion in its 2018/19 Service Plan, which will be released with Budget 2018.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- The Service Plan articulates FLNR's highest priorities for the next three years, and demonstrates how it supports and aligns with broader government. Work to achieve these goals, objectives, and performance targets is already underway.
- Achievement of the priorities in the Service Plan, as well as successful delivery of the ministry's overall mandate and core business, is supported by a robust strategic and operational planning and performance framework.

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

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Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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

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Issue: 2017/18-2019/20 Forest Enhancement Society of BC Service Plan

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- On February 26, 2016, the Government of British Columbia announced the formation of the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), with initial funding of \$85 million and a five-member Board of Directors to oversee the delivery of the following purposes:
 - Advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests by:
 - preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires,
 - improving damaged or low-value forests,
 - improving habitat for wildlife,
 - supporting the use of fiber from damaged and low value forests, and
 - treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
 - Advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of B.C.'s forests, and
 - Do all such other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the foregoing purposes and the exercise of the powers of FESBC.
- In February, 2017, an additional grant of \$150 million was provided by government for FESBC to expand its efforts, especially with regard to improving damaged or low-value forests and reducing greenhouse gases.
- In June 2017, with advice from the Auditor General, FESBC's financial statements were consolidated into the Government's Summary Financial Statements. Now that FESBC is part of the Government Reporting Entity, FESBC is considered a Service Delivery Crown Agency.
- The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA) provides the legislative framework for planning, reporting, and accountability for government organizations. Crown corporations (Crowns) are government organizations that are separate legal entities within the Government Reporting Entity (the GRE) which are subject to the BTAA.
- This includes publishing an annual Service Plan, which provides clear, transparent priorities and a fiscal plan for the agency for the upcoming three years.
- In its Service Plan, FESBC outlines its key goals, objectives, and strategies (which are supported by six key performance measures). These articulate FESBC's operating priorities, which support both its constitution and the

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

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achievement of key Government priorities as outlined in FESBC's mandate letter from the Minister.

- In collaboration with its various partners, and together with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) the key areas of focus for FESBC as outlined in its Service Plan include:
 - Preventing and mitigating the effects of wildfire through the provision of funding to support enhanced wildfire risk reduction activities and investments in strategic landscape-level fire management activities;
 - Improving damaged, low-value forests through investments to support an improved, sustainable timber supply;
 - Improving wildlife habitat;
 - Supporting the innovative use of residual fibre to increase the potential value of damaged or low-value forests to local economies;
 - Improving the ability for British Columbia's forests to sequester carbon through supporting initiatives to enhance carbon sequestration in mountain pine beetle and wildfire affected areas.
- FESBC's Service Plan also includes a summary financial outlook which outlines the agency's spending plan for the next three years.

(\$000)	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget
Total Revenue				
Amortization of Provincial Contributions	1,262	29,153	50,096	60,976
Investment Earnings	447	3,044	2,537	1,973
Total Revenue	1,709	32,197	52,633	62,949
Total Expenses				
Carbon-leading projects	0,000	12,300	22,300	24,500
Wildfire risk mitigation, low-value forest and wildlife habitat improvement projects (not carbon-leading)	1,173	18,875	29,291	37,407
Administration	536	1,022	1,042	1,042

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(\$000)	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget
Total Expenses	1,709	32,197	52,633	62,949
Net Income/Excess of Revenue over Expenses/Annual Surplus (Deficit)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total Liabilities/Debt (even if zero)	234,921	205,840	155,744	94,768
Accumulated Surpluses/Retained Earnings/Equity (even if zero)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Capital Expenditures	43	29	0,000	0,000
Dividends/Other Transfers	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

- Progress and achievement towards the published goals, objectives and performance measures, in the FESBC Service Plan will be reported in the 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report, anticipated for release with Public Accounts in Summer, 2018.

Advice and Recommended Response:

- In concurrence with the advice of the Auditor General, the government consolidated FESBC's financial statements with the Government's Summary Financial Statements. This action enhances the accountability and transparency of FESBC to deliver on its priorities, and on its fiscal plan, for the benefit of all British Columbians.
- FESBC's goals and objectives in the Service Plan are consistent with its constitution. Its purposes remain especially relevant to Government's mandate and will continue to guide its operating environment going forward.
- Close cooperation between the Government, FESBC Board and staff will continue to ensure FESBC's work is aligned with Government direction, and the strategic priorities of FLNR, particularly as related to:
 - job creation in the forest industry,
 - renewing the province's forests by expanding investments in reforestation,
 - supporting the modernization of land-use planning and sustainable management of B.C.'s forests, and
 - improving wildlife habitat conservation.

Date Prepared/Revised: September 11, 2017
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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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Issue: Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- The Natural Resource Sector (NRS) is a key driver of economic activity and employment in the province of British Columbia.
- The processes to authorize the use of natural resources in B.C. have been constrained by legislation, systems and processes that historically were developed to support individual ministries and lines of business.
- This has often led to frustration on behalf of clients and staff and has resulted in missed opportunities for economic growth and job creation in the sector.
- The NRPP is a multi-year initiative aimed at improving services, streamlining processes, integrating government decision making, improving access to information and protecting B.C.'s natural resources.
- Individual projects are delivered in a phased approach with new services and benefits added over time.
- Government committed to the foundational phase of NRPP in 2014/15 at a cost of \$57.2 million. An additional \$21 million of funding has subsequently been approved for additional scope components bringing the total funding committed to the project to \$78 million.
- NRPP is on track to deliver the projects included in phase 1 and the additional scope.

Advice and Recommended Response:

Why is this project worth the investment?

- NRPP is helping to streamline and simplify access to natural resource related permitting services within government's natural resource agencies, in order to stimulate economic growth and improve services to citizens and businesses.
- The project is also helping to protect B.C.'s natural resources by better integrating and enhancing resource stewardship.

How many people are working on this project?

- As of September 7, 2017, 53 government employees work at the Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat which is delivering the NRPP as part of its responsibility for Natural Resource Sector transformation. Of those, 41 are permanent employees, six are auxiliary and six are on temporary assignments.
- Contractors are also used to provide specific skill sets and flexibility. The three key vendors are CGI Information Systems and Management Consultants, Deloitte Inc. and Vivid Solutions Inc.

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How is risk being managed?

- NRPP is following the best practice of breaking down large IT projects into smaller, self-contained scope components that deliver value. The NRPP's phased approach was specifically mentioned in the Office of the Auditor General's recent report Getting IT Right: Achieving value from government IT investments as an example of doing things right.
- Strong governance is in place. A Deputy Minister Project Board and an ADM level Steering Committee oversees the project with additional involvement by the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Quarterly reports are also provided to the IM/IT Capital Investment Board to ensure the project continues to deliver on scope and on budget.
- NRPP also has in place strong financial controls and contractual safeguards and is reviewed annually by independent third-parties.

Date Prepared/Revised: Sept. 11, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

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ESTIMATES Q AND A'S 2017

FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. HOW MUCH HAS GOVERNMENT SPENT ON WILDFIRES THIS SEASON?

Response / Messaging:

- The total cost of wildfires as of September 27th is expected to exceed \$750M this year – the highest ever in recorded BC wildfire history. This includes: Direct wildfire fighting and rehabilitation costs currently forecast at \$650M; and the \$100M in disaster relief funding, which is being administered through the Canadian Red Cross, to support communities impacted by wildfires.
- B.C.'s annual fire management costs vary significantly depending on the number of fires; their size and proximity to communities (see Table below). As of September 27th, 2017, there were 1,283 fires in B.C. (since April 1st, 2017) with a burned area of 1.2M hectares and a total estimated cost to date of \$545.4M

Historical fire management costs:

YEAR	TOTAL FIRES	TOTAL HECTARES	TOTAL COST (\$M)
2017/18	1,283 YTD	1,212,438 YTD	\$545.4 YTD
2016/17	931	98,878	\$129.14
2015/16	1,858	280,605	\$277.12
2014/15	1,455	368,786	\$297.90
2013/14	1,857	18,259	\$122.22
2012/13	1,659	102,123	\$133.64
2011/12	655	12,604	\$53.47
2010/11	1,673	337,149	\$212.18
2009/10	3,064	247,419	\$382.13
2008/09	2,023	13,240	\$82.14
2007/08	1,606	29,440	\$98.80
2006/07	2,570	139,265	\$159.04
AVG. 06/07 – 16/17	1,613	137,314	\$172.09

2. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF INVOICES BEING PAID TO WILDFIRE CONTRACTORS THIS SEASON?

- The 2017 fire season is an exceptional and record breaking season, with over 1.2M hectares burned to date and total costs of control, rehabilitation and disaster relief funding expected to exceed \$750M.
- It's estimated that about 800 contractors provided services during the wildfires and it is a priority for the BC Wildfire Service to make sure these people are paid for the great work they did.
- That's why the BC Wildfire Service has significantly increased the staff complement available to process invoices by deploying extra resources, having staff work overtime hours, and processing payments remotely.
- There are over 50 staff working on these invoices to reduce the backlog and get these payments to contractors and local businesses as soon as possible.
- More than \$315.758 million has already been paid out for this season and of the 21,595 invoices paid, 18,011 have been paid within 30 days and 3,584 over the 30 days.

3. WHAT ACTIONS IS GOVERNMENT TAKING TO MITIGATE AND PREVENT WILDFIRES IN THE FUTURE?

- With *Budget 2017 Update*, government invested an additional \$15M (\$5M in each of the next three years) in wildfire fighting infrastructure such as command response buildings, air tanker bases and trailers throughout B.C.
- Government has supported local communities in interface fire prevention efforts through its contributions to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative delivered by UBCM totaling \$78M since 2004– most recently a \$10M contribution in 2015/16.
- In addition, the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) is funding 68 projects in 2017/18 totaling approximately \$15M to help mitigate and reduce the risks of wildfires and many more projects are planned over the next 4 years.

4. WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS WILDFIRE SEASON ON THE FOREST INDUSTRY AND HOW WILL GOVERNMENT RESPOND?

Response / Messaging:

- As of late September, 2017, fire has impacted about 1.2 million hectares of forest to varying degrees, with the majority occurring in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House areas. Approximately sixty percent of that impacted land (more than 700,000 ha) was considered available for timber production and harvest. Impacts in these areas come in addition to previous Mountain Pine Beetle impacts.

- In addition, the fires have impacted over 148,000 ha of licensee silviculture obligation, areas where the licensee has an obligation but are not yet at the free growing stage. Government will provide funding and/or licensee obligation relief to meet requirements of *the Forest and Range Practices Act*.
- In addition, reforestation and fire prevention efforts are already underway to protect timber supply and other forest values for future years. These include efforts by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (with \$235M committed to date by the Province), the Forests for Tomorrow Program and the Forest Carbon Initiative.

5. HOW IS GOVERNMENT RESPONDING TO THE IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE, SOFTWOOD LUMBER AND FOREST INDUSTRY SLOWDOWN ON RURAL COMMUNITIES?

Response / Messaging:

- The 2017 wildfire season will have a significant impact on communities, both now and into the future, especially in the Cariboo. Effects on rural economies will likely be exacerbated by the softwood lumber dispute and the decline in interior timber supply resulting from the mountain pine beetle infestation.
- At the outset of the wildfire season, the province offered an immediate \$100M in disaster relief funding, which is being administered through the Canadian Red Cross, to support communities impacted by wildfires.
- Additionally, the **2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative** will provide up to \$20 million to assist agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs incurred to recover from the adverse effects of this year's wildfires.
- In addition to supporting the Province's commitment to resolving the Softwood Lumber dispute and investing in wildfire prevention, FLNR also has several rural programs underway. These include the \$25M (annual) Rural Dividend and the Regional Economic Operations team to address rural economic development, diversify economies in hard hit areas and assist in post-wildfire recovery.
- Priority for these programs will be targeted where the demonstrated needs are greatest, community support is strong and the project can leverage other partnerships within and between communities.

6. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE SOFTWOOD LUMBER TRADE DISPUTE? WHAT IMPACTS OF U.S. DUTIES ARE WE SEEING ON BC'S LUMBER INDUSTRY?

Response / Messaging:

- Following the expiry of the *2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement* (2006 SLA), the US launched new countervailing (CVD) and anti-dumping (AD) duty trade actions against Canadian softwood lumber imports. These trade actions are baseless and without merit.
- Preliminary CVD duties were imposed in April and AD duties in June 2017, and on average, amount to 27 per cent in total. Unlike the previous four cases, both CVD and AD duties were calculated for specific companies, with other exporters paying the weighted-average "all others" rate.
- As of August 28 2017, companies only have to pay the preliminary AD rate, an average of 6.87% on shipments of lumber to the U.S. CVD duties can only be re-instituted following an affirmative final determination by the International Trade Commission.
- The US Department of Commerce have extended their final determination to no later than November 13, 2017. Final orders will not be made until both the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission have made their final determinations. This allows additional time for Canada and the US to reach a negotiated settlement to the dispute.
- Once the determinations are made, Canada may appeal the rulings in international venues including the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization.
- While BC would prefer free access to US markets, a managed trade agreement that provides market certainty, is a better solution for both countries than ongoing trade litigation. Senior government officials from Canada and the US have been working to find resolution but it is uncertain whether a new agreement will be reached in 2017.
- Higher lumber prices, as a result of a growth in US housing, have partially offset the negative impacts of duties on BC lumber exporters. However, some BC communities and residents that are highly reliant on the BC forest sector may be adversely affected from the increased uncertainty and volatility from the trade dispute.

7. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY OF BC? WHY DID BUDGET UPDATE 2017 ANNOUNCE ONLY \$140M OF SPENDING WHEN \$235M HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN PREVIOUS BUDGETS?

- On February 26, 2016, the Government of British Columbia announced the formation of the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), with initial funding of \$85 million to advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.
- In February, 2017, an additional grant of \$150 million was provided by government for FESBC to expand its efforts, especially with regard to improving damaged or low-value forests and reducing greenhouse gases.
- In June 2017, with advice from the Auditor General, FESBC's financial statements were consolidated into the Government's Summary Financial Statements. Now that FESBC is part of the Government Reporting Entity, FESBC is considered a Service Delivery Crown Agency, with its annual expenditures now reflected as government expenditures.
- As a Crown Agency, FESBC is required to publish a 5 year spending plan from 2017/18 onwards. This plan provides the basis for how FESBC will expend the initial \$235M investment plus interest earned.
- The key areas of focus for FESBC reflected in its spending plan includes:
 - Preventing and mitigating the effects of wildfire;
 - Improving damaged, low-value forests;
 - Supporting the innovative use of residual fibre to increase the potential value of damaged or low-value forests to local economies;
 - Supporting initiatives to enhance carbon sequestration in mountain pine beetle and wildfire affected areas.
- The *Budget 2017 Update* is based on the 3 year fiscal plan and as such reflects only 3 years of the 5 year spending plan, or \$140M, not including interest earned.

8. HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TAXPAYERS TO BAN THE GRIZZLY BEAR TROPHY HUNT? WILL STAKEHOLDERS BE COMPENSATED? HOW IS GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTING ITS NEW APPROACH TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCED IN MARCH?

Response / Messaging:

- Government announced that it was putting an end to grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and will stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, effective November 30, 2017. This announcement was recognition of changing societal values around trophy hunting.
- The Province has committed to consultation with First Nations and stakeholders to determine next steps and mechanisms towards ending the trophy hunt and that this would occur in September and October.
- s.17
- The Province will decide after consultation on whether compensation is appropriate for those stakeholders potentially impacted by the ban. There is no compensation obligation established under the *Wildlife Act*.
- Emerging trends and challenges facing wildlife populations, changing societal values and technology advancements require that management of wildlife is responsive and adaptive. To that end, Government will also launch a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy announced with the Grizzly Bear announcement in August.
- The key elements of that strategy will include dedicated funding for wildlife management and habitat conservation and a collaborative process to develop short- and long-term plans for wildlife resources, governance and delivery model.

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

Vote 28: Ministry Operations

Vote 29: Fire Management

FINAL
October 11, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development 2017/18 Estimates Briefing

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MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
2017/18 Budget Highlights (SEPT)

OPERATING BUDGET: \$1,148.637 M (increase of \$475.352 M or 70.6% from 2016/17 Restated)

The Ministry operating budget changes include:

In Plan Changes - (\$0.119 M)

- o \$4.400 M increase in Ministry Operations for salaries and benefits for negotiated wage increases
- o \$1.113 M increase in Ministry Operations to implement the *Water Sustainability Act* (Year 2 of the program)
- o \$0.990 M increase in Ministry Operations due to adjustment to the benefits rate
- o \$0.003 M increase in Ministry Operations due to changes in the Economic Stability Dividend
- o \$0.150 M increase in Fire Management for salaries and benefits for negotiated wage increases
- o (\$0.245 M) decrease in Ministry Operations due to the conclusion of temporary funding for Liquefied Natural Gas (has been mitigated by new 3 year funding for LNG in the Add to Plan Changes below)
- o (\$6.530 M) decrease in BC Timber Sales. In plan 17/18 costs were lower than 16/17 restated costs as they were based on previous year's costs of goods sold.

Add to Plan Changes - \$477.765 M

- o \$10.000 M increase in Ministry Operations for Invasive Plant and Range activities
- o \$8.000 M increase in Ministry Operations for the Caribou Recovery Program
- o \$3.089 M increase in Ministry Operations for amortization costs associated with Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)
- o \$3.000 M increase in Ministry Operations for the Forest Carbon Initiative
- o \$2.281 M increase in Ministry Operations in 2016/17 (additional \$0.001 M in 17/18) for the transfer of the Regional Economic Operations branch from Jobs, Trade and Technology to FLNR
- o \$0.990 M increase for negotiated salary and benefits from the Economic Stability Dividend; \$0.795 M to Ministry Operations, \$0.120 M to Fire Management and \$0.075 M to BC Timber Sales
- o \$0.510 M increase in Ministry Operations to support Recreation Site Expansion activities
- o \$0.090 M transfer of 1 FTE and salary and benefits from Agriculture to FLNR
- o (\$0.076 M) Transfer of 1 FTE and salary and benefits from FLNR to Energy and Mines
- o (\$1.179 M) Reduction to Benefits rate (24.8% to 24.34%); Ministry Operations - (\$0.949 M), Fire Management - (\$0.141 M) and BC Timber Sales - (\$0.089 M)
- o \$443.000 M increase to Fire Management due to record fire year
- o \$8.059 M increase to BC Timber Sales due to increased sales based on improved demand for timber and expenses reflecting updated costs of goods sold.

CAPITAL BUDGET: \$95.944 M (increase of \$23.291 M or 32.1% from 2016/17 Restated)

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

Changes:

- o \$20.000 M add to plan increase for NRPP
- o \$2.207 M add to plan increase for Recreation Site expansion
- o \$7.000 M add to plan increase for Wildfire facility improvements
- o \$1.746 M add to plan increase for Vehicles based on updated replacement schedule determined by Shared Services BC
- o (\$0.313 M) decrease to add to plan based on updated replacement schedule for Ford 550's from Shared Services BC
- o (\$3.681 M) in plan decrease in buildings as the Cariboo Fire Centre project was completed in 2016/17
- o (\$3.668 M) decrease for road costs in BC Timber Sales per service plan (\$5.956 M) in plan; \$2.288 M add to plan)

FTEs and Staffing

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

Staff - Complement of staff at August 31, 2017 was 5,273 (4,730 FLNR, 482 Corporate services staff supporting the sector and 61 within the Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat). Note this includes 1,372 active temporary employees fighting wildfires.

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

2017/18 Budget Briefing Book (SEPT)

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2016 PLAN

OPERATING

\$000s

	2016/17 Estimates	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
A February 2016 Plan				
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	426,148	432,409	435,459	410,459
Vote 29 - Fire Management	63,164	63,314	63,866	63,866
BC Timber Sales Special Account	181,659	175,129	182,249	182,249
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total February 2016 Plan	670,991	670,872	681,594	656,594
<i>Year-to-year change in 2016/17 Service Plan</i>		<i>(119)</i>	<i>10,722</i>	<i>(25,000)</i>
B Inter Ministry Transfers				
Transfer of 1 FTE and salary and benefits from FLNR to Energy and Mines to provide financial and administrative support	(76)	(76)	(76)	(76)
Transfer of 1 FTE and salary and benefits associated with the responsibility for the wild harvest of aquatic plants from Agriculture to FLNR	89	90	90	90
Transfer of 20 FTEs and salary, benefits and operating budget for Regional Economic Operations from Jobs, Trades and Technology to FLNR in accordance with OIC	2,281	2,282	2,289	2,289
Total Inter Ministry Transfers	2,294	2,296	2,303	2,303
Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Funding for Invasive Plant and Range activities		10,000	-	-
Caribou Recovery Program		8,000	9,000	10,000
NRPP Amortization		3,089	3,089	3,089
Forest Carbon Initiative		3,000	3,000	3,000
Liquefied Natural Gas resourcing			-	(990)
Funding lift to provide support for Recreation Site Expansion Activities		510	-	
Funding lift to implement Environmental Stewardship activities			-	237
Salary and Benefit Changes			-	
Economic Stability Dividend (0.35% increase for union employees); \$0.795 M to Ministry Operations, \$0.120 M to Fire Management and \$0.075 M to BC Timber Sales		990	990	990
Adjustment to Benefits rate (24.8% to 24.34%); (\$0.949 M) to Ministry Operations, (\$0.141 M) to Fire Management and (\$0.089 M) to BC Timber Sales		(1,179)	-	-
Rural Dividend			-	25,000
BC Timber Sales - program changes		8,059	(1,295)	386
Fire Management - Vote 29		443,000		
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	475,469	14,784	41,712
Total Transfers and Adjustments	673,285	1,148,637	698,681	700,609
<i>Change from 2016/17 Service Plan</i>	<i>2,294</i>	<i>477,765</i>	<i>17,087</i>	<i>44,015</i>
	0.3%	71.2%	2.5%	6.7%
C September 2017 Plan				
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	428,442	459,150	453,646	453,893
Vote 29 - Fire Management	63,164	506,293	63,986	63,986
BC Timber Sales Special Account	181,659	183,174	181,029	182,710
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total 2017 Plan	673,285	1,148,637	698,681	700,609
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2017/18 Service Plan</i>		<i>475,352</i>	<i>(449,956)</i>	<i>1,928</i>
		<i>70.6%</i>	<i>(39.2%)</i>	<i>0.3%</i>

Footnote(s):

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – 2017/18 Estimates Briefing
BUDGET BY VOTE and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB)
 \$ 000s

STANDARD OBJECTS OF EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	Vote 28 - Ministry Operations				Vote 29 - Fire Management				Special Accounts (BCTS, Crown Lands, FSMF)				Ministry Total			
		(\$000) RESTATE 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000)	%	(\$000) RESTATE 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000)	%	(\$000) RESTATE 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000)	%	(\$000) RESTATE 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000)	%
2016-17 Estimates - Vote																	
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	200,089	208,801	8,712	4.4%	30,580	190,674	160,094	523.5%	19,391	19,451	60	0.3%	250,060	418,926	168,866	67.5%
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	1,672	1,672	-	-	4,247	5,447	1,200	28.3%	188	188	-	-	6,107	7,307	1,200	19.6%
Employee Benefits	52	48,646	50,847	2,201	4.5%	7,431	47,466	40,035	538.8%	4,712	4,735	23	0.5%	60,789	103,048	42,259	69.5%
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54	54	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	54	-	-
Salaries and Benefits		250,461	261,374	10,913	4.4%	42,258	243,587	201,329	476.4%	24,291	24,374	83	0.3%	317,010	529,335	212,325	67.0%
Public Servant Travel	57	6,183	6,292	109	1.8%	1,261	9,261	8,000	634.4%	589	589	-	-	8,033	16,142	8,109	100.9%
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	5,829	5,829	-	-	1,000	1,500	500	50.0%	-	-	-	-	6,829	7,329	500	7.3%
Professional Services	60	98,701	101,958	3,257	3.3%	3,437	7,437	4,000	116.4%	61,446	67,036	5,590	9.1%	163,584	176,431	12,847	7.9%
Information Services	63	9,549	9,603	54	0.6%	145	4,745	4,600	3174.4%	579	579	-	-	10,273	14,927	4,654	45.3%
Office and Business Expenses	65	7,323	7,438	115	1.6%	577	1,177	600	104.0%	600	600	-	-	8,500	9,215	715	8.4%
Advertising and Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68	28	28	-	-	149	149	-	-	20	20	-	-	197	197	-	-
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	9,220	9,247	27	0.3%	7,882	87,982	80,100	1016.2%	960	960	-	-	18,062	98,189	80,127	443.6%
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	11,057	11,057	-	-	20,465	160,360	139,895	683.6%	1,368	1,368	-	-	32,890	172,785	139,895	425.3%
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	10,422	10,422	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,422	10,422	-	-
Amortization	73	25,367	28,496	3,129	12.3%	-	105	105	-	28,969	27,981	(988)	(3.4%)	54,336	56,582	2,246	4.1%
Building Occupancy Charges	75	999	999	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	1,029	1,029	-	-
Operating Costs		184,678	191,369	6,691	3.6%	34,916	272,716	237,800	681.1%	94,561	99,163	4,602	4.9%	314,155	563,248	249,093	79.3%
Transfer-Grants	77	27,612	27,612	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,567	5,963	(2,604)	(30.4%)	36,179	33,575	(2,604)	(7.2%)
Transfer - Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	8,619	19,019	10,400	120.7%	-	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	8,649	19,049	10,400	120.2%
Government Transfers		36,231	46,631	10,400	28.7%	-	-	-	-	8,597	5,993	(2,604)	(30.3%)	44,828	52,624	7,796	17.4%
Transfers Pymt--Votes/Special Accounts	81	13,001	15,800	2,799	21.5%	-	-	-	-	10,704	10,704	-	-	23,705	26,504	2,799	11.8%
Other Expenditures	85	53,120	50,552	(2,568)	(4.8%)	62	4,062	4,000	6451.6%	66,670	66,299	(371)	(0.6%)	119,852	120,913	1,061	0.9%
Other Expenditures		66,121	66,352	231	0.3%	62	4,062	4,000	6451.6%	77,374	77,003	(371)	(0.5%)	143,557	147,417	3,860	2.7%
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(8,904)	(8,904)	-	-	(1,800)	(1,800)	-	-	(13,001)	(15,800)	(2,799)	21.5%	(23,705)	(26,504)	(2,799)	11.8%
Recoveries Within Government	88	(17,793)	(17,793)	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	(17,795)	(17,795)	-	-
Internal Recoveries		(26,697)	(26,697)	-	-	(1,801)	(1,801)	-	-	(13,002)	(15,801)	(2,799)	21.5%	(41,500)	(44,299)	(2,799)	11.8%
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(1,183)	(1,183)	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,184)	(1,184)	-	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(81,169)	(78,696)	2,473	(3.0%)	(12,270)	(12,270)	-	-	(10,142)	(7,538)	2,604	(25.7%)	(103,581)	(98,504)	5,077	(4.9%)
External Recoveries		(82,352)	(79,879)	2,473	(3.0%)	(12,271)	(12,271)	-	-	(10,142)	(7,538)	2,604	(25.7%)	(104,765)	(99,688)	5,077	(4.8%)
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURES		428,442	459,150	30,708	7.2%	63,164	506,293	443,129	701.6%	181,679	183,194	1,515	0.8%	673,285	1,148,637	475,352	70.6%
CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION																	
Buildings		3,681	7,000	3,319	90.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,681	7,000	3,319	90.2%
Specialized Equipment		1,621	1,308	(313)	(19.3%)	525	525	-	-	150	150	-	-	2,296	1,983	(313)	(13.6%)
Office Furniture/Equipment		18	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18	-	-
Vehicles		5,002	6,748	1,746	34.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,002	6,748	1,746	34.9%
Information Technology		-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	350	350	-	-	350	20,350	20,000	5714.3%
Roads		13,300	13,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,735	42,067	(3,668)	(8.0%)	59,035	55,367	(3,668)	(6.2%)
Land Improvements		2,271	4,478	2,207	97.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,271	4,478	2,207	97.2%
NET CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION		25,893	52,852	26,959	104.1%	525	525	-	-	46,235	42,567	(3,668)	(7.9%)	72,653	95,944	23,291	32.1%

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – 2017/18 Estimates Briefing
BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB) FOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE

STANDARD OBJECTS OF EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	Integrated Resource Operations			Resource Stewardship			Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation		
		(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %
2016-17 Estimates - Vote										
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	34,729	35,864	1,135 3.3%	18,834	21,082	2,248 11.9%	7,726	9,669	1,943 25.1%
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	182	182	-	130	130	-	93	93	-
Employee Benefits	52	8,439	8,728	289 3.4%	4,577	5,132	555 12.1%	1,877	2,354	477 25.4%
Legislative Salaries & Allowances	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and Benefits		43,350	44,774	1,424 3.3%	23,541	26,344	2,803 11.9%	9,696	12,116	2,420 25.0%
Public Servant Travel	57	1,317	1,315	(2) (0.2%)	956	956	-	436	535	99 22.7%
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services-Operating & Reg	60	4,685	4,683	(2) (0.0%)	74,139	76,790	2,651 3.6%	14,706	15,205	499 3.4%
Information Systems-Operating	63	565	565	-	259	259	-	131	131	-
Office & Business Expenses	65	1,471	1,471	-	1,080	1,080	-	177	276	99 55.9%
Info Advertising & Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Advertising & Publications	68	4	4	-	7	7	-	-	-	-
Utilities, Materials & Supplies	69	3,395	3,395	-	3,757	3,757	-	7	7	-
Operating Equipment Vehicles & Other	70	1,019	1,019	-	2,276	2,276	-	18	18	-
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-
Amortization	73	786	786	-	39	39	-	10	10	-
Building Occupancy Charges	75	606	606	-	55	55	-	1	1	-
Operating Costs		13,848	13,844	(4) (0.0%)	82,578	85,229	2,651 3.2%	15,486	16,183	697 4.5%
Transfer-Grants	77	-	-	-	460	460	-	25,010	25,010	-
Transfer-Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	4,463	4,463	-	620	1,020	400 64.5%	3,035	3,035	-
Government Transfers		4,463	4,463	-	1,080	1,480	400 37.0%	28,045	28,045	-
Transfer Btwn Votes & Special Accounts	81	-	-	-	13,000	15,799	2,799 21.5%	-	-	-
Other Expenditures	85	98	99	1 1.0%	50,039	47,567	(2,472) (4.9%)	765	766	1 0.1%
Other Expenditures		98	99	1 1.0%	63,039	63,366	327 0.5%	765	766	1 0.1%
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(1)	(1)	-	(100)	(100)	-	(1)	(1)	-
Recoveries Within Government	88	(585)	(585)	-	(493)	(493)	-	(1)	(1)	-
Internal Recoveries		(586)	(586)	-	(593)	(593)	-	(2)	(2)	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(1)	(1)	-	(1)	(1)	-	(751)	(751)	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(1,935)	(1,935)	-	(62,020)	(59,547)	2,473 (4.0%)	(12,000)	(12,000)	-
External Recoveries		(1,936)	(1,936)	-	(62,021)	(59,548)	2,473 (4.0%)	(12,751)	(12,751)	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		59,237	60,558	1,421 2.4%	107,624	116,278	8,654 8.0%	41,239	44,357	3,118 7.6%

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – 2017/18 Estimates Briefing
BUDGET BY CORE BUSINESS and STANDARD OBJECT OF EXPENSE (STOB) FOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE

	Timber Operations & Pricing			Regional Operations			Executive & Support Services			TOTAL MINISTRY OPERATIONS							
	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %	(\$000) RESTATED 2016/17	(\$000) 2017/18 BUDGET	Changes (\$000) %					
STANDARD OBJECTS OF EXPENSE (STOB)																	
STOB #																	
2016-17 Estimates - Vote																	
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	6,432	6,571	139	2.2%	94,282	96,553	2,271	2.4%	38,086	39,062	976	2.6%	200,089	208,801	8,712	4.4%
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	44	44	-	-	902	902	-	-	321	321	-	-	1,672	1,672	-	-
Employee Benefits	52	1,563	1,599	36	2.3%	22,911	23,501	590	2.6%	9,279	9,533	254	2.7%	48,646	50,847	2,201	4.5%
Legislative Salaries & Allowances	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	54	-	-	54	54	-	-
Salaries and Benefits		8,039	8,214	175	2.2%	118,095	120,956	2,861	2.4%	47,740	48,970	1,230	2.6%	250,461	261,374	10,913	4.4%
Public Servant Travel	57	274	274	-	-	2,679	2,691	12	0.4%	521	521	-	-	6,183	6,292	109	1.8%
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	-	-	-	-	95	95	-	-	5,734	5,734	-	-	5,829	5,829	-	-
Professional Services-Operating & Reg	60	599	599	-	-	4,147	4,257	110	2.7%	425	424	(1)	(0.2%)	98,701	101,958	3,257	3.3%
Information Systems-Operating	63	30	30	-	-	442	448	6	1.4%	8,122	8,170	48	0.6%	9,549	9,603	54	0.6%
Office & Business Expenses	65	67	67	-	-	2,261	2,278	17	0.8%	2,267	2,266	(1)	(0.0%)	7,323	7,438	115	1.6%
Info Advertising & Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Advertising & Publications	68	-	-	-	-	17	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	28	-	-
Utilities, Materials & Supplies	69	20	20	-	-	936	936	-	-	1,105	1,132	27	2.4%	9,220	9,247	27	0.3%
Operating Equipment Vehicles & Other	70	86	86	-	-	1,843	1,843	-	-	5,815	5,815	-	-	11,057	11,057	-	-
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	9,999	9,999	-	-	413	413	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,422	10,422	-	-
Amortization	73	5,477	5,477	-	-	407	407	-	-	18,648	21,777	3,129	16.8%	25,367	28,496	3,129	12.3%
Building Occupancy Charges	75	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	333	333	-	-	999	999	-	-
Operating Costs		16,552	16,552	-	-	13,244	13,389	145	1.1%	42,970	46,172	3,202	7.5%	184,678	191,369	6,691	3.6%
Transfer-Grants	77	-	-	-	-	2,142	2,142	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,612	27,612	-	-
Transfer-Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	81	81	-	-	420	10,420	10,000	2381.0%	-	-	-	-	8,619	19,019	10,400	120.7%
Government Transfers		81	81	-	-	2,562	12,562	10,000	390.3%	-	-	-	-	36,231	46,631	10,400	28.7%
Transfer Btwn Votes & Special Accounts	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	13,001	15,800	2,799	21.5%
Other Expenditures	85	13	12	(1)	(7.7%)	187	191	4	2.1%	2,018	1,917	(101)	(5.0%)	53,120	50,552	(2,568)	(4.8%)
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(400)	(400)	-	-	(1,504)	(1,504)	-	-	(6,898)	(6,898)	-	-	(8,904)	(8,904)	-	-
Recoveries Within Government	88	(1)	(1)	-	-	(535)	(535)	-	-	(16,178)	(16,178)	-	-	(17,793)	(17,793)	-	-
Internal Recoveries		(401)	(401)	-	-	(2,039)	(2,039)	-	-	(23,076)	(23,076)	-	-	(26,697)	(26,697)	-	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(429)	(429)	-	-	(1,183)	(1,183)	-	-
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(1)	(1)	-	-	(5,212)	(5,212)	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	(81,169)	(78,696)	2,473	(3.0%)
External Recoveries		(2)	(2)	-	-	(5,212)	(5,212)	-	-	(430)	(430)	-	-	(82,352)	(79,879)	2,473	(3.0%)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		24,282	24,456	174	0.7%	126,837	139,847	13,010	10.3%	69,223	73,554	4,331	6.3%	428,442	459,150	30,708	7.2%

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

3 Year Budget - Core Program

Restated 2016/17 to 2019/20

\$000s

Division	2016/17 Restated	Change	2017/18 Estimates	Change	2018/19 Plan	Change	2019/20 Plan
Integrated Resource Operations	59,237	1,421	60,658	185	60,843	(176)	60,667
Resource Stewardship	107,624	8,654	116,278	1,382	117,660	550	118,210
Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation	41,239	3,118	44,357	66	44,423	(148)	44,275
Timber Operations, Pricing & First Nations	24,282	174	24,456	147	24,603	-	24,603
Regional Operations	126,837	13,010	139,847	(8,179)	131,668	(363)	131,305
Executive & Support Services	69,223	4,331	73,554	895	74,449	384	74,833
<i>Minister's Office</i>	690	102	792	5	797	-	797
<i>Corporate Services</i>	68,533	4,229	72,762	890	73,652	384	74,036
Ministry Operations	428,442	30,708	459,150	(5,504)	453,646	247	453,893
Fire Management	63,164	443,129	506,293	(442,307)	63,986	-	63,986
BC Timber Sales Special Account	181,659	1,515	183,174	(2,145)	181,029	1,681	182,710
Crown Land Special Account	20	-	20	-	20	-	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY TOTAL	673,285	475,352	1,148,637	(449,956)	698,681	1,928	700,609
TOTAL Percent Change by year	-	-	70.6%	-	39.2%	-	0.3%

Footnote:

Variance Explanations (Restated 16/17 to 17/18): \$475.352 M Change over year

Integrated Resource Operations: Net increase of \$1.421 M: \$0.955 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes, \$0.510 M for Recreation Site expansion funding for 1 year offset by a net decrease of (\$0.044 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services

Resource Stewardship: Net increase of \$8.654 M: \$7.960 M for year 1 of the Caribou Recovery project, \$0.494 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes and \$0.200 M for year 3 under the *Water Sustainability Act*

Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation : Net increase of \$3.118 M: \$3.000 M for implementation of the Forecast Carbon Initiative, \$0.155 M for negotiated salary and benefit changes, \$.001 M increase for Regional Economic Operations transfer (initial transfer of \$2.281 M occurred in 2016/17) offset by a decrease of (\$0.038 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Timber Operations, Pricing & First Nations: Net increase of \$0.174 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes.

Regional Operations: Net increase of \$13.010 M: \$10.0 M for Invasive Plant and Range activities for 1 year, \$2.496 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes, \$0.660 for year 3 under the *Water Sustainability Act* offset by a decrease of (\$0.146 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Executive & Support Services: Net increase of \$4.331 M: \$3.089 M for amortization associated with the Natural Resource Permitting Program, \$0.966 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes, \$0.253 M for year 3 under the *Water Sustainability Act*, \$0.040 M for year 1 amortization associated with the Caribou Recovery project offset by a decrease of (\$0.017 M) in support of Liquefied Natural Gas activities.

Fire Management Vote: Net increase of \$443.129 M: \$443.0 M due to record fire season and \$0.129 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes.

BC Timber Sales: The net increase of \$1.515 M is primarily due to a \$1.432 M increase in expenses associated with increased sales and increased timber volumes harvested plus an increase of \$0.083 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes.

Variance Explanations (17/18 to 18/19): (\$449.956 M) Change over year

Integrated Resource Operations: Net increase of \$0.185 M: \$0.799 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes offset by a decrease of (\$0.510 M) of temporary funding for Recreation Site expansion and (\$0.104 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Resource Stewardship: Net increase of \$1.382 M: \$0.940 M for year 2 of the Caribou Recovery project and \$0.442 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes.

Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation : Net increase of \$0.066 M: \$0.146 M for negotiated salary and benefit changes, \$0.007 M for Regional Economic Branch transfer from Jobs, Trade and Technology which is offset by a decrease of (\$0.087 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Timber Operations, Pricing & First Nations: Net increase of \$0.147 M for negotiated salary and benefits.

Regional Operations: Net decrease of (\$8.179 M): \$2.158 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes offset by a net decrease of (\$10.0 M) in temporary funding of Invasive Plant and Range activities and a decrease of (\$0.337 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Executive & Support Services: Net increase of \$0.895 M: \$0.880 M for negotiated salary and benefits changes, \$0.060 M for year 2 amortization costs associated with the Caribou Recovery project offset by a decrease of (\$0.045 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Fire Management Vote: Net decrease of (\$442.307): \$0.693 M is for negotiated salary and benefits changes which is offset by a decrease of (\$443.0 M) in temporary funding

BC Timber Sales: Net decrease of (\$2.145 M): \$0.407 M for salary and benefits changes offset by a (\$2.552 M) decrease in revenues associated with decreased sales and decreased timber volumes harvested.

Variance Explanations (18/19 to 19/20): \$1.928 M Change over year

Integrated Resource Operations: Net decrease of (\$0.176 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Resource Stewardship: Net increase of \$0.550 M for year 3 of the Caribou Recovery project

Tenures, Competitiveness & Innovation : Net decrease of (\$0.148 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services. Please note that an adjustment reversing the \$25.000 M Rural Dividend fund amount was applied in plan to 2019/20 which has been offset by an add to plan budget lift of \$25.000 M in 2019/20 resulting in a net zero change to the core business.

Regional Operations: Net decrease of (\$0.363 M): \$0.211 M for Environmental Stewardship activities offset by a decrease of (\$0.574 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

Executive & Support Services: Net increase of \$0.384 M: \$0.450 M for year 3 of amortization costs associated with the Caribou Recovery project, \$0.026 M for Environmental Stewardship activities offset by a decrease of (\$0.092 M) in Liquefied Natural Gas contracting services.

BC Timber Sales: Net increase of \$1.681 M increase in expenses associated with increased sales and increased timber volumes harvested

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Three Year STOB Track
MINISTRY OPERATIONS VOTE

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
		Restated	Estimates	Plan	Plan
		Change	Change	Change	Change
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	200,089	208,801	210,897	210,378
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	1,672	1,672	1,660	1,660
52	Employee Benefits	48,646	50,847	52,328	52,199
54	Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	54	54	54	54
GAC subtotal		250,461	261,374	264,939	264,291
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	6,183	6,292	6,271	6,239
59	Centralized Management Support Services	5,829	5,829	5,829	5,829
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	98,701	101,958	100,782	99,706
63	Information Systems - Operating	9,549	9,603	9,603	9,603
65	Office and Business Expenses	7,323	7,438	7,402	7,355
67	Advertising	-	-	-	-
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	28	28	28	28
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	9,220	9,247	9,247	9,247
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	11,057	11,057	11,057	11,057
72	Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Transfers & Other	10,422	10,422	10,422	10,422
73	Amortization Expenses	25,367	28,496	28,556	29,006
75	Building Occupancy Charges	999	999	999	999
GAC subtotal		184,678	191,369	190,196	189,491
77	Transfers - Grants	27,612	27,612	27,612	27,612
80	Transfers Under Agreement	8,619	19,019	9,019	9,019
GAC subtotal		36,231	46,631	36,631	36,631
81	Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	13,001	15,800	16,900	17,500
84	Interest Costs - Non Public Debt	-	-	-	-
85*	Water Remissions	50,001	47,528	42,864	42,864
85	Other Expenses	3,119	3,024	3,028	3,028
GAC subtotal		66,121	66,352	62,792	63,392
86	Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(8,904)	(8,904)	(8,904)	(8,904)
88	Recoveries - Within CRF	(17,793)	(17,793)	(17,793)	(17,793)
89	Recoveries - Within GRE	(1,183)	(1,183)	(1,183)	(1,183)
90	Recoveries - External	(81,169)	(78,696)	(73,032)	(72,032)
GAC subtotal		(109,049)	(106,576)	(100,912)	(99,912)
Total Voted Operating Expense		428,442	459,150	453,646	453,893
Percent Change by year			7.2%	(1.2%)	0.1%

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Three Year STOB Track
FIRE MANAGEMENT VOTE

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		2019/20 Plan
		Restated	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	30,580	190,674	(159,558)	31,116	-
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	4,247	5,447	(1,200)	4,247	-
52	Employee Benefits	7,431	47,466	(39,749)	7,717	-
54	Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal		42,258	243,587	(200,507)	43,080	43,080
55	Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	-	-	-	-	-
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	1,261	9,261	(8,000)	1,261	-
59	Centralized Management Support Services	1,000	1,500	(500)	1,000	-
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	3,437	7,437	(4,000)	3,437	-
63	Information Systems - Operating	145	4,745	(4,600)	145	-
65	Office and Business Expenses	577	1,177	(600)	577	-
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	149	149	-	149	-
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	7,882	87,982	(80,100)	7,882	-
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	20,465	160,360	(140,000)	20,360	-
73	Amortization Expenses	-	105	-	105	-
GAC subtotal		34,916	272,716	(237,800)	34,916	34,916
77	Transfers - Grants	-	-	-	-	-
80	Transfers Under Agreement	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal		-	-	-	-	-
85*	Other Expenses	62	4,062	(4,000)	62	-
GAC subtotal		62	4,062	(4,000)	62	62
86	Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(1,800)	(1,800)	-	(1,800)	-
88	Recoveries - Within CRF	(1)	(1)	-	(1)	-
89	Recoveries - Within GRE	(1)	(1)	-	(1)	-
90	Recoveries - External	(12,270)	(12,270)	-	(12,270)	-
GAC subtotal		(14,072)	(14,072)	-	(14,072)	(14,072)
Total Voted Operating Expense		63,164	506,293	(442,307)	63,986	-
Percent Change by year			701.6%		(87.4%)	-

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Three Year STOB Track
BC TIMBER SALES SPECIAL ACCOUNT

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
		Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change	Plan	
50	Base Salaries and Overtime	19,391	60	19,451	-	19,451	-	19,451	
51	Supplementary Salary Costs	188	-	188	-	188	-	188	
52	Employee Benefits	4,712	23	4,735	89	4,824	-	4,824	
	GAC subtotal	24,291	83	24,374	89	24,463	-	24,463	
57	Public Servant Travel Expenses	549	-	549	-	549	-	549	
60	Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	60,059	5,590	65,649	979	66,628	1,895	68,523	
61	Professional Services - Advisory	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	
63	Information Systems - Operating	579	-	579	-	579	-	579	
65	Office and Business Expenses	590	-	590	-	590	-	590	
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	20	-	20	-	20	-	20	
69	Utilities Materials and Supplies	850	-	850	-	850	-	850	
70	Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	1,340	-	1,340	-	1,340	-	1,340	
73	Amortization Expenses	28,969	(988)	27,981	1,019	29,000	-	29,000	
75	Building Occupancy Charges	30	-	30	-	30	-	30	
	GAC subtotal	92,987	4,602	97,589	1,998	99,587	1,895	101,482	
80	Transfers Under Agreement	30	-	30	-	30	-	30	
	GAC subtotal	30	-	30	-	30	-	30	
81	Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	10,704	-	10,704	-	10,704	-	10,704	
85	Other Expenses	66,650	(371)	66,279	(3,132)	63,147	386	63,533	
	GAC subtotal	77,354	(371)	76,983	(3,132)	73,851	386	74,237	
86	Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(13,001)	(2,799)	(15,800)	(1,100)	(16,900)	(600)	(17,500)	
88	Recoveries - Within CRF	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)	
90	Recoveries - External	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)	
	GAC subtotal	(13,003)	(2,799)	(15,802)	(1,100)	(16,902)	(600)	(17,502)	
Total Special Account Operating Expense		181,659	1,515	183,174	(2,145)	181,029	1,681	182,710	
Percent Change by year				0.8%		(1.2%)		0.9%	

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Three Year STOB Track
CROWN LAND SPECIAL ACCOUNT

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses		2016/17	2017/18	Change	2018/19 Plan	Change	2019/20 Plan
		Restated	Estimates				
68	Statutory Advertising and Publications	-	-	-	-	-	-
77	Transfers - Grants	8,567	5,963	(2,604)	4,399	(225)	4,174
80	Transfers Under Agreement	-	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal		8,567	5,963	(2,604)	4,399	(225)	4,174
85*	Water Remissions	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	Other Expenses	20	20	-	20	-	20
88	Recoveries - Within CRF	-	-	-	-	-	-
89	Recoveries - Within GRE	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	Recoveries - External	(8,567)	(5,963)	2,604	(4,399)	225	(4,174)
Total Voted Operating Expense		20	20	-	20	-	20
Percent Change by year			-		-		-

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Three Year STOB Track
FOREST STAND MANAGEMENT FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2016/17 Restated	Change	2017/18 Estimates	Change	2018/19 Plan	Change	2019/20 Plan
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52 Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	40	-	40	-	40	-	40
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	1,386	-	1,386	-	1,386	-	1,386
61 Professional Services - Advisory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
63 Information Systems - Operating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 Office and Business Expenses	10	-	10	-	10	-	10
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	110	-	110	-	110	-	110
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	28	-	28	-	28	-	28
75 Building Occupancy Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal	1,574	-	1,574	-	1,574	-	1,574
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
85 Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GAC subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 Recoveries - External	(1,574)	-	(1,574)	-	(1,574)	-	(1,574)
GAC subtotal	(1,574)	-	(1,574)	-	(1,574)	-	(1,574)
Total Voted Operating Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Change by year							
			-		-		-

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

2017/18 Budget Briefing Book (SEPT)

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2016 PLAN

CAPITAL				
\$000s				
	2016/17 Estimates	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
A February 2016 Plan				
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	25,893	22,212	22,212	22,212
Vote 29 - Fire Management	525	525	525	525
BC Timber Sales Special Account	46,235	40,279	35,435	35,435
Total February 2016 Plan	72,653	63,016	58,172	58,172
<i>Year-to-year change in 2016/17 Service Plan</i>		(9,637)	(4,844)	-
B Intra-Ministry Transfers				
	-			
Total-Intra Ministry Transfers	-	-	-	-
Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Natural Resource Permitting Project		20,000		
Increase for Recreation Site Expansion		2,207	1,603	728
Increase for Wildfire facility improvements		7,000	7,500	8,000
Increase in Vehicle purchases based on updated replacement schedule determined by Shared Services BC		1,746	1,746	1,746
Decrease in purchase of Ford 550's under Heavy Equipment based on replacement schedule determined by Shared Services BC		(313)	(313)	(313)
Increase in 'Roads' for road construction costs in BC Timber Sales		2,288	710	1,377
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	32,928	11,246	11,538
Total Transfers and Adjustments	72,653	95,944	69,418	69,710
<i>Change from 2016/17 Service Plan</i>	-	32,928	11,246	11,538
	-	52.3%	19.3%	19.8%
C September 2017 Plan				
	2016/17 Restated Estimates	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	25,893	52,852	32,748	32,373
Vote 29 - Fire Management	525	525	525	525
BC Timber Sales Special Account	46,235	42,567	36,145	36,812
Total 2017 Plan	72,653	95,944	69,418	69,710
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2017/18 Service Plan</i>		23,291	(26,526)	292
		32.1%	(27.6%)	0.4%

Footnote(s):

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
3 Year Budget - Capital Allocation
Restated 2016/17 to 2019/20
\$'000's

Asset Category	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Restated	Change	Estimates	Change	Plan	Change	Plan	Plan
Ministry Operations - Buildings	3,681	3,319	7,000	500	7,500	500	8,000	8,000
Ministry Operations - Specialized Equipment	1,621	(313)	1,308	-	1,308	-	1,308	1,308
Ministry Operations - Office Furn/Equip	18	-	18	-	18	-	18	18
Ministry Operations - Vehicles	5,002	1,746	6,748	-	6,748	-	6,748	6,748
Ministry Operations - Information Technology	-	20,000	20,000	(20,000)	-	-	-	-
Ministry Operations - Roads	13,300	-	13,300	-	13,300	-	13,300	13,300
Ministry Operations - Land Improvements	2,271	2,207	4,478	(604)	3,874	(875)	2,999	2,999
Ministry Operations Total Voted Appropriation	25,893	26,959	52,852	(20,104)	32,748	(375)	32,373	32,373
Fire Management - Specialized Equipment	525	-	525	-	525	-	525	525
Fire Management Total Voted Appropriation	525	-	525	-	525	-	525	525
BC Timber Sales - Specialized Equipment	150	-	150	-	150	-	150	150
BC Timber Sales - Information Technology	350	-	350	-	350	-	350	350
BC Timber Sales - Roads	45,735	(3,668)	42,067	(6,422)	35,645	667	36,312	36,312
Special Account Appropriation	46,235	(3,668)	42,567	(6,422)	36,145	667	36,812	36,812
TOTAL	72,653	23,291	95,944	(26,526)	69,418	292	69,710	69,710
TOTAL Percent Change by year	28.9%		32.1%		(27.6%)		0.4%	

Variance Explanations (Restated 16/17 to 17/18): \$23.291 M Change over year

Buildings: The \$3.319 M net increase is due to the completion of the Cariboo Fire Centre in 2016/17 (the project was started in 2015/16 @ (\$3.681 M) offset by a year 1 funding lift of \$7.000 M for Wildfire facility improvements)

Specialized Equipment (Ministry Operations) - The (\$0.313 M) decrease is due to a decrease in Ford 550 (trucks) purchases based on a revised replacement schedule prepared by Shared Services BC

Vehicles: The \$1.746 M change represents the new funding requirement based on the updated vehicle replacement schedule prepared by Shared Services BC.

Information Technology - The \$20.000 M is based on funding for 1 year under the Natural Resource Permitting Program

Land Improvements: The \$2.207 M increase is year 1 funding in support of Recreation site expansion activities

BC Timber Sales - Roads: The (\$3.668 M) decrease is due to a reduction in road building based on an anticipated decrease in the sale of timber and timber volumes harvested

Variance Explanations (17/18 to 18/19): (\$26.526 M) Change over year
Buildings: The \$0.500 M increase is due to year 2 funding for Wildfire facility improvements
Information Technology - The (\$20.000 M) decrease is due to the conclusion of year 1 funding under the Natural Resource Permitting Program
Land Improvements: The (\$0.604 M) decrease applies to year 2 funding for Recreation site expansion activities

BC Timber Sales - Roads: The (\$6.422 M) decrease is due to a reduction in road building based on an anticipated decrease in the sale of timber and timber volumes harvested.

Variance Explanations (17/18 to 18/19): \$0.292 M Change over year
Buildings: The \$0.500 M increase is due to year 3 funding for Wildfire facility improvements
Land Improvements: The (\$0.875 M) decrease applies to year 3 funding for Recreation site expansion activities

BC Timber Sales - Roads: The \$0.667 M increase is due to a increase in road building based on an anticipated increase in the sale of timber and timber volumes harvested.

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

Summary of Grants and Transfers

\$ 000s

Ministry Grants and Transfers	Estimates 2016/17	Actuals for 2016/17	Estimates 2017/18
Ministry Operating (STOB 77)			
Nisga'a Treaty Obligations - Fisheries inventory	85	-	85
Nisga'a Treaty Obligations - Wildlife Management Board	10	10	10
Select Seed Ltd	100	-	-
UBC - Applied Forest Genetics & Biotechnology Program	118	-	-
UBC - Centre for Forest Genetic Conservation	147	121	147
Great Bear Rainforest	-	1,000	-
Program decisions pending	-	-	218
Resource Stewardship	460	1,131	460
Federation of BC Woodlot Association	10	10	10
Forest Service Providers Fund	-	350	-
Rural Dividend Program	25,000	24,182	25,000
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	25,010	24,542	25,010
Ducks Unlimited	51	15	51
Fraser Basin Debris Trap	210	-	210
Langford Lake Aerator	50	-	-
Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committees	104	227	204
Invasive Plant Grants	1,727	1,341	745
Program decisions pending	-	-	932
Regional Operations	2,142	1,583	2,142
Total Ministry Operating (STOB 77)	27,612	27,256	27,612
Ministry Operating (STOB 80)			
Recreation Sites and Trails	160	95	160
Grace Islet	-	40	-
Heritage - Operations	4,303	3,900	4,303
Integrated Resource Operations	4,463	4,035	4,463
Fish and Wildlife - BC Conservation Foundation	20	20	20
Fish and Wildlife - University of Northern BC (UNBC)	30	27	30
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) - The Nature Trust	385	384	385
BC Cattleman's Association	-	-	150
Urban Deer Management	-	53	35
University of Alberta - Experimental Project	-	23	-
University of BC - Experimental Project/Silviculture Treatments	-	39	-
BC Trappers's Training	-	25	-
First Nations Fisheries	-	50	-
BC Cattleman's Association - Livestock Protection	-	150	-
Wildlife Management (FBC)	-	190	-
SFU - Keogh River	-	20	-
FP Innovations - Western Red Cedar	-	100	-
Fish Passage	50	-	-
Support with Forest Stewardship Plans and Community Watersheds	10	-	-
Vancouver Island Marmot Foundation	40	-	-
Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team	35	-	-
Conservation Lands Securement Partnership	50	-	-
Program decisions pending	-	-	400
Resource Stewardship	620	1,081	1,020
FP Innovations	2,285	2,200	2,285
FP Innovations - Cellulose	750	-	-
Futurepreneur	-	170	-
BCCFA Minister's Award - Community Forest Association	-	10	-
Program decisions pending	-	-	750
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	3,035	2,380	3,035

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

Summary of Grants and Transfers

\$ 000s

Ministry Grants and Transfers	Estimates 2016/17	Actuals for 2016/17	Estimates 2017/18
First Nations Policy	81	24	81
Timber Operations and Pricing	81	24	81
Operations Misc. - HCTF	50	-	-
Simon Fraser Univ. Groundwater mapping	25	-	-
UNBC - Skeena	42	-	-
HCTF - Skeena	20	-	-
South - Invasive Species	42	20	42
South - Invasive Alien Species Agreement	100	200	100
South - BC Cattleman's Association	-	100	-
South - Kootenay Livestock Association	-	100	-
South - Nicola Fish Water Management Tool	-	149	-
South - Invasive Species	-	308	10,000
North - Muskwa-Ketchika - Fort St. John	50	109	50
North - HCTF - Omineca	24	-	24
Northeast Municipalities Coalition Event - MNGD	-	5	-
North - West Moberly First Nations	-	25	-
North - Geoscience BC	-	71	-
Coast - Marmot Recovery Foundation	67	52	-
Coast - Fraser Basin Debris Trap	-	210	-
Coast - Forestry Foundation	-	20	-
Program decisions pending	-	-	204
Regional Operations	420	1,369	10,420
Total Ministry Operating (STOB 80)	8,619	8,889	19,019
BC Timber Sales Special Account (STOB 80)			
Implementation of Roles and Effectiveness Review recommendations	30	-	-
Program decisions pending	-	-	30
Total BC Timber Sales Special Account (STOB 80)	30	-	30
Crown Land Special Account (STOB 77)			
Contingency	1	1	2
Energy and Mines	-	-	1
Transportation and Infrastructure	1	1	1
Nominal Rent Tenure Renewals	1,557	1,557	3,149
Housing and Construction Standards	1	1	1
Environment	1	1	1
Education	6,000	6,000	1
Health	1	1	2
Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training	1	1	1
Social Development and Social Innovation	1	1	1
Community, Sport and Cultural Development	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advanced Education	1	1	1
Justice	1	1	1
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	1	1	1,801
Total Crown Land Special Account (STOB 77)	8,567	8,567	5,963
Total Ministry Grants and Transfers	44,828	44,712	52,624

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

Recoveries for 2017/18 by Core Business

Core Business	STOB	Description	16/17 Budget Restated	17/18 Budget	18/19 Budget	19/20 Budget
Integrated Resource Operations						
		86 placeholder to allow for recoveries from special accounts in 2016/17 and onwards	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		88 GeoBC Services	(585)	(585)	(585)	(585)
		89 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		9003 GeoBC Services to external users such as BC Ambulance, BC Assessment, BC Transit, ICBC, RCMP, ECOM, Fortis, StatsCan, etc - decrease of (\$0.042 M) based on anticipated small decrease in service usage	(1,789)	(1,789)	(1,789)	(1,789)
		9004 GeoBC Services to the Federal Government	(146)	(146)	(146)	(146)
		Total	(2,522)	(2,522)	(2,522)	(2,522)
Resource Stewardship						
		86 Seed Sales/Services to BC Timber Sales (Tree Improvement Branch)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
		88 Seed Sales/Services	(493)	(493)	(493)	(493)
		89 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		9003 Seed Sales/Services and Storage	(1,240)	(1,240)	(1,240)	(1,240)
		9010 Water Rental Remissions	(50,000)	(47,527)	(42,863)	(42,863)
		9011 Angling Fees	(10,780)	(10,780)	(10,780)	(10,780)
		Total	(62,614)	(60,141)	(55,477)	(55,477)
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation						
		86 placeholder to allow for recoveries from special accounts in 2016/17 and onwards	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		88 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		89 Plan image product fee collected by BC Online (\$0.750 M)	(751)	(751)	(751)	(751)
		9006 Log Export Fees - Decrease of (\$1.0 M) to align recoveries with Q3 forecast	(12,000)	(12,000)	(11,000)	(10,000)
		Total	(12,753)	(12,753)	(11,753)	(10,753)
Timber Operations and Pricing						
		86 Engineering services to BC Timber Sales	(400)	(400)	(400)	(400)
		88 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		89 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		9003 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		Total	(403)	(403)	(403)	(403)
Regional Operations						
		86 Services agreement with BC Timber Sales	(1,504)	(1,504)	(1,504)	(1,504)
		88 Roads serving residences recoveries from MOTI (\$0.472 M), Ground Water Monitoring (\$0.060 M): Other various recoveries from projects for other ministries	(535)	(535)	(535)	(535)
		9003 Various agreements for services to local districts, foundations including BC Hydro Payments under agreements to the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (\$2.037 M)	(2,239)	(2,239)	(2,239)	(2,239)
		9011 Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation - decrease of (\$0.110 M) based on small decline in HCTF based projects	(2,973)	(2,973)	(2,973)	(2,973)
		Total	(7,251)	(7,251)	(7,251)	(7,251)
Executive and Support Services						
		86 CSNR services provided to BC Timber Sales - increase of (\$0.998 M) in negotiated service agreement costs	(6,898)	(6,898)	(6,898)	(6,898)
		88 CSNR services provided to ministries in the NRS (MARR, MEM, ENV, AGRI) - increase of (\$0.381 M) in service level costs	(16,178)	(16,178)	(16,178)	(16,178)
		89 ESRI - The ministry incurs a licencing cost for this geographic information system (GIS) and recovers costs from other entities who utilize the service (previously reflected under STOB 9003)	(429)	(429)	(429)	(429)
		9003 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		Total	(23,506)	(23,506)	(23,506)	(23,506)

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

Recoveries for 2017/18 by Core Business

Core Business	STOB	Description	16/17 Budget Restated	17/18 Budget	18/19 Budget	19/20 Budget
Fire Management						
		86 Levy paid by BC Timber Sales (based on level of harvest)	(1,800)	(1,800)	(1,800)	(1,800)
		88 Levy paid by BC Timber Sales/placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		89 Placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		9003 Various external recoveries (out of province deployments)	(1,870)	(1,870)	(1,870)	(1,870)
		9004 Federal govt recoveries (out of province deployments) - based on negotiated contract between the Province and the Federal government	(2,150)	(2,150)	(2,150)	(2,150)
		9006 Various external recoveries (out of province deployments)	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)
		Total	(14,072)	(14,072)	(14,072)	(14,072)
BC Timber Sales						
		86 Land Based Investment work for FLNR (silviculture) - increase of (\$7.201 M) to align with projected spending plans	(13,001)	(15,800)	(16,900)	(17,500)
		88 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		9003 placeholder	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
		Total	(13,003)	(15,802)	(16,902)	(17,502)
Crown Land Account						
		9002 Recoveries from free crown grants and nominal rent tenures - decrease of (\$0.815 M) required to align budget with projected spending plans	(8,567)	(5,963)	(4,399)	(4,174)
Forest Stand Management Fund						
		Recoveries from revenues that licensees have paid for work to be done on their behalf for environmental remediation levies	(1,574)	(1,574)	(1,574)	(1,574)
		Grand Total	(146,265)	(143,987)	(137,859)	(137,234)

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - Revenues
As per the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Budget & Fiscal Plan - Table A9 (\$ million)

	2016/17 Actuals	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Timber Tenures	498	509	479	485
BC Timber Sales	336	312	300	292
Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) Border Tax	2	-	-	-
Other Forest Revenues (1)	22	21	20	20
Forests - FLNR Revenue	859	842	798	797
Water Revenues	425	394	411	414
Recoveries for BC Hydro Tier 1 rebate	50	48	43	43
Fish & Wildlife	11	11	11	11
Recoveries for amounts paid to Freshwater Fish Society of BC (FFSBC)	14	14	14	14
Other Natural Resources - FLNR Revenue	499	466	478	482
Crown Lands (4)	68	138	135	74
Other Revenue				
Land Registry Fees (5)	42	47	46	46
Other Revenue	2	2	3	3
	44	49	49	49
FLNR Revenue	1,471	1,497	1,460	1,401

Notes:

A Forests per Ministry Service Plan	859	842	798	797
Recoveries (predominantly log export and fire management recoveries)	23	20	19	18
Logging Tax (2)	30	28	28	28
Rounding adjustment by Finance	1		1	
Forests (per Table A9)	913	890	846	843
B Other Natural Resources per Service Plan	499	466	478	482
Rounding adjustment by Finance	-	1	-	-
Other Natural Resources (per Table A9)	499	467	478	482

- 1 Includes timber export fees, range permits & fees, waste, penalties & interest, and other miscellaneous non-forestry revenues
- 2 Logging tax is determined by Ministry of Finance and is included in their revenue
- 3 Forest revenue in 2017/18 Ministry Service Plan excludes recoveries and logging tax
- 4 Included in "Other energy" line in Table A9 of Budget & Fiscal Plan
- 5 Above figures agree to the Budget & Fiscal Plan; these figures are more current than those reflected on Page 15 of the Ministry's Service Plan

Table A9 Revenue by Source (\$ millions)	Actuals 16/17	Budget Estimates 17/18	Plan 18/19	Plan 19/20
Forests	913	890	846	843
Other Resources	499	467	478	482

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Revenue 2017/18 to 2019/20

(\$000s)				
	Actuals 2016/17	Estimates 2017/18	Forecast 2018/19	Forecast 2019/20
Timber Tenures				
Stumpage (Incl. Timber Licences)	483,135	492,162	462,028	468,703
Harvesting Rental & Fees	15,022	16,500	16,500	16,500
Sub-Total Gross Timber Tenures	498,157	508,662	478,528	485,203
BC Timber Sales				
Upset Stumpage	184,005	184,204	177,030	172,030
Bonus Stumpage	147,177	122,802	118,020	114,686
Harvesting Rental & Fees	50	80	80	80
Waste	3,497	3,580	3,500	3,500
Penalties	142	400	400	400
Miscellaneous	1,455	1,000	1,000	1,000
Foreign Exchange Gain/Loss	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Recovery of Prior Year's Expenses	1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous - FIA	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total - BC Timber Sales	336,326	312,066	300,030	291,696
Softwood Lumber Border Tax	2,404	0	0	0
Sub-Total Softwood Lumber Border Tax	2,404	0	0	0
Ministry of Finance determined Revenues				
Logging Tax	29,700	28,000	28,000	28,000
Sub-Total Logging Tax	29,700	28,000	28,000	28,000
Other Forests Revenue				
Timber Export Fees	10,779	11,000	10,000	10,000
Range Permits & Fees	3,107	3,000	3,000	3,000
Waste	4,807	4,000	4,000	4,000
Penalties	19	50	50	50
Interest	2,001	1,500	1,500	1,500
Miscellaneous	1,524	1,500	1,200	1,200
Subtotal - Other Forests Revenue	22,237	21,050	19,750	19,750
Recoveries	23,000	20,000	19,000	18,000
Subtotal - Recoveries	23,000	20,000	19,000	18,000
Forest Revenue	911,824	889,778	845,308	842,649

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Revenue 2017/18 to 2019/20

(\$000s)				
	Actuals 2016/17	Estimates 2017/18	Forecast 2018/19	Forecast 2019/20
Water Resources				
Water Licences - Major & minor producers	414,699	413,643	434,415	429,318
Water Licences BC Hydro Remission - Tier 3 revenue	(6,090)	(37,271)	(42,683)	(42,863)
Water Rentals - Local Authorities & General	10,763	11,500	11,700	20,856
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	5,350	6,351	7,085	7,182
Subtotal - Water Resources	424,722	394,223	410,517	414,493
Water Resources recoveries	50,000	47,527	42,683	42,863
Subtotal - Water Resources Recovery	50,000	47,527	42,683	42,863
Wildlife Act Fees and Licences				
Angling Permits and Licences	619	600	600	600
Hunting Permits and Licences	10,121	10,350	10,350	10,350
Subtotal - Wildlife Act Fees and Licences	10,740	10,950	10,950	10,950
Fish & Wildlife Recoveries	11,109	10,780	10,780	10,780
Recreation Stewardship Panel Recovery	2,636	2,973	2,973	2,973
Sub-Total Fish and Wildlife Recoveries	13,745	13,753	13,753	13,753
Other Natural Resources Revenue	499,207	466,453	477,903	482,059
Land Tenure Fees				
Land Registry Fees	42,203	46,955	46,486	46,021
Real Estate Earnings of the Crown Land SA				
Land Tenure Revenue	42,563	58,032	58,300	58,355
Land Sales Revenue	6,622	31,847	1,802	1,547
RAEG - Land Sales	6,375	35,900	65,084	0
Interest Earned	389	125	125	125
Land Sales Project Costs	(676)	(551)	(107)	(78)
RAEG - Land Sales Project Costs	(241)	(887)	(4,134)	0
Other Income & Interest earned	1,024	845	845	845
Land Royalty Revenue	12,366	12,803	12,802	12,903
Subtotal - CLSA Real Estate Earnings	68,422	138,114	134,717	73,697
Other Miscellaneous Revenue				
Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act	1,572	1,121	1,121	1,121
Sale of Maps and Air Photos	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Fees, Licenses & Permits (Water)	588	1,052	1,500	1,500
Interest on overdue accounts	0	0	0	0
Prior Year's Expense Recovery	0	0	0	0
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	28	36	36	36
Subtotal - Other Miscellaneous Revenue	2,188	2,209	2,657	2,657
Ministry Revenue reported under Other Revenue	112,813	187,278	183,860	122,375
Total Ministry Revenue	1,523,844	1,543,509	1,507,071	1,447,083

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Classification/Job Stream	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
Aboriginal Youth Intern	2	2	
Aboriginal Youth Intern Prog	2	2	
Administrative Officer	236	198	38
Administrative Officer R14	67	50	17
Administrative Officer R18	60	51	9
Administrative Officer R21	54	46	8
Administrative Officer R24	50	46	4
Administrative Officer R27	3	3	
Administrative Officer R30	2	2	
Biologist	168	168	
Biologist R21	4	4	
Biologist R24	89	89	
Biologist R27	56	56	
Biologist R30	19	19	
Clerk and Clerk Stenographer	570	496	74
Clerk R11	158	116	42
Clerk R14	107	100	7
Clerk R9	283	262	21
Clerk Stenographer R11	3	2	1
Clerk Stenographer R14	1	1	
Clerk Stenographer R9	18	15	3
Communications Officer	15	14	1
Communications Officer R18	12	11	1
Communications Officer R21	2	2	
Communications Officer R24	1	1	
Co-Op Education Train Program	32	32	
Coop Education Train Progm Lv1	32	32	
Economist	8	8	
Economist R30	4	4	
Economist R27	4	4	
Excluded Position	509	408	101
Administrative Coordinator	2	2	
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd B	4	2	2
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd C	8	8	
Associate Deputy Minister	1	1	
Band 1	13	10	3
Band 2	76	24	52
Band 2 MS	1	1	
Band 3	189	173	16
Band 4	144	124	20
Band 5	40	35	5
Band 6	14	14	
Business Leadership	3	3	
Deputy Minister	1	1	
Executive Administrative Asst	11	8	3
Senior Executive Assistant	2	2	
Financial Officer	124	29	95
Financial Officer (TMA) R24	7	3	4
Financial Officer (TMA) R27	2	2	

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Classification/Job Stream	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
Financial Officer R14	22	3	19
Financial Officer R18	64	14	50
Financial Officer R21	24	4	20
Financial Officer R24	5	3	2
Food Production	2	2	
Food Production (Camp Cook) R9	2	2	
Forest Technician	679	679	
Forest Technician R7	678	678	
Forest Technician R9	1	1	
Heritage Resources Officer	5	5	
Heritage Resources Officer R24	4	4	
Heritage Resources Officer R27	1	1	
Information Systems	148	3	145
Information Systems R18	24		24
Information Systems R21	24		24
Information Systems R24	35		35
Information Systems R27	31		31
Information Systems R30	34	3	31
Insp. Fire Commission Officer	13	13	
Insp Fire Commission Off R24	13	13	
Labourer	3	3	
Labourer R6	3	3	
Licensed Science Officer	732	732	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 1	5	5	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 2	19	19	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 3	29	29	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 4	8	8	
Licensed Sc Off Agrologist 5	4	4	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 1	1	1	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 2	1	1	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 3	8	8	
Licensed Sc Off Engineer 4	3	3	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 1	19	19	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 2	189	189	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 3	193	193	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 4	51	51	
Licensed Sc Off Forester 5	5	5	
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 1	1	1	
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 3	2	2	
Licensed Sc Off Geologist 4	1	1	
Licensed Sc Off Other 2	48	48	
Licensed Sc Off Other 3	78	78	
Licensed Sc Off Other 4	22	22	
LSO 3 -Designated Profssnl Eng	35	35	
LSO 4 -Designated Profssnl Eng	7	7	
LSO 5 -Designated Profssnl Eng	3	3	
Machine Operator	9	8	1
Machine Operator R11	1		1
Machine Operator R13	3	3	

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Classification/Job Stream	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
Machine Operator R14	1	1	
Machine Operator R9	4	4	
Mechanic	1	1	
TJ Mechanic Lt Vehicle & Eqpt	1	1	
Office Assistant	48	48	
Office Assistant R7	48	48	
Planning Officer	5	5	
Planning Officer R21	1	1	
Planning Officer R27	3	3	
Planning Officer R30	1	1	
Policy Analyst	32	32	
Policy Analyst - Economics R27	2	2	
Policy Analyst - Finance R27	1	1	
Policy Analyst - Science R27	25	25	
Policy Analyst - Science R30	1	1	
Policy Social/Info/Health R27	3	3	
Research Officer	11	11	
Research Officer R18	1	1	
Research Officer R21	2	2	
Research Officer R24	3	3	
Research Officer R27	5	5	
Science Officer	1	1	
Science Officer R30	1	1	
Scientific/Technical Officer	1808	1782	26
Scientific/Tech Off R11 - Res	12	12	
Scientific/Tech Off R13 - Res	269	269	
Scientific/Tech Off R15 - Res	68	68	
Scientific/Tech Off R18 - Res	298	298	
Scientific/Tech Off R21 - Res	314	312	2
Scientific/Tech Off R24 - FWF	4	4	
Scientific/Tech Off R24 - Res	230	230	
Scientific/Tech Off R27 - Res	102	102	
Scientific/Tech Off R30 - Res	4	4	
Scientific/Technical Off R11	6	6	
Scientific/Technical Off R13	8	8	
Scientific/Technical Off R15	38	38	
Scientific/Technical Off R18	40	40	
Scientific/Technical Off R21	260	238	22
Scientific/Technical Off R24	115	113	2
Scientific/Technical Off R27	34	34	
Scientific/Technical Off R30	6	6	
Stockworker	21	21	
Stockworker R9	21	21	
Technical Enforcement Officer	39	39	
Tech Enforcement Officer R18	18	18	
Tech Enforcement Officer R21	19	19	
Tech Enforcement Officer R24	1	1	
Tech Enforcement Officer R27	1	1	
Veterinary Specialist	1	1	

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Classification/Job Stream	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
Veterinary Specialist	1	1	
Work Able Intern	1		1
Work Able Intern Prog	1		1
Youth Employment Program	50	50	
Youth Employment Program Lv 1	40	40	
Youth Employment Program Lv 2	10	10	
Grand Total	5,273	4,791	482

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Classification/Job Stream	Total	Corporate Initiatives	Deputy Minister's Office	Forest Sector	Integrated Resource Operations	Minister of State's Office	Minister's Office	FINRO				CSNR																	
								Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat	Office of the Chief Forester	Regional Operations - Coast Area	Regional Operations - North Area	Regional Operations - South Area	Resource Stewardship	Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations	FINRO Total	ADM's Office	Client Services Branch	Financial Services Branch	Information Management Branch	People & Workplace Strategies Branch - FINRO	People & Workplace Strategies Branch - MEMAN	CSNR Total						
Aboriginal Youth Intern	2													1	1	2													
Aboriginal Youth Intern Prog																													
Administrative Officer	236	9	2		44		17	17	3	15	20	38	11	18	21	198	1	28	5	2	1	1	38						
Administrative Officer R14	67				9					10	11	18	1	1	1	50	15				1	1	17						
Administrative Officer R18	60	3	2		12		1		3	1	13	4	1	7	5	51	7	1	1	1			9						
Administrative Officer R21	54	1			13		8			2	7	5	3		7	46	5	2	1			8							
Administrative Officer R24	50	4			10		8		3		1	2	2	8	8	46	1	1	2			4							
Administrative Officer R27	3	1											1		1	2													
Administrative Officer R30	2													2															
Biologist	168								4	41	42	64	17			168													
Biologist R21	4									3		1				4													
Biologist R24	89								2	22	22	38	5			89													
Biologist R27	56								2	11	15	17	11			56													
Biologist R30	19									5	5	8	1			19													
Clerk and Clerk Stenographer	570	1	12		197		1	6	7	55	60	72	15	5	65	496	49	21	3		1	74							
Clerk R11	158		8		12			1	4	20	28	24	6	3	10	116	27	14			1	42							
Clerk R14	107		4		29		1	1		10	2	1	1	1	51	100	5	1	1			7							
Clerk R9	283	1			152		3	3	2	34	22	42	3		3	262	16	4	1			21							
Clerk Stenographer R11	3												2		2				1			1							
Clerk Stenographer R14	1												1		1														
Clerk Stenographer R9	18				4		1	1	1			4	3	1	1	15	1	2				3							
Communications Officer	15	2	1		8		3	3								14	1					1							
Communications Officer R18	12	2	1		7		1									11	1												
Communications Officer R21	2				1											2													
Communications Officer R24	1						1									1													
Co-Op Education Train Program	32								1	1	8	15	2		5	32													
Coop Education Train Progm Lv1	32								1	1	8	15	2		5	32													
Economist	8													7	1	8													
Economist R30	4													4		4													
Economist R27	4													3	1	4													
Economist R24	1																												
Excluded Position	509	14	6	2	65	1	2	20	13	44	56	56	27	24	78	408	8	35	24	10	11	13	101						
Administrative Coordinator	2					1	1									2													
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd B	4		1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	2	2				2							
Assistant Deputy Minister Bd C	8				1																								
Associate Deputy Minister	1			1																									
Band 1	13		1		2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	22	13		1	3							
Band 2	76	3	1		2		5	5	3	3			3	2	5	24	1												
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Band 4	144	5			17		5	6	14	20	16	11	7	7	23	124	3	6	9	1	1	20							
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Business Leadership	3				2							1				3													
Deputy Minister	1		1																										
Executive Administrative Asst	11				1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	3					3							
Senior Executive Assistant	2		1	1												2													
Financial Officer	124				2		4	4	1		1	2	1		18	29	47	48				95							
Financial Officer (TMA) R24	7						1								2	3	4					4							
Financial Officer (TMA) R27	2												1		1	2													
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Financial Officer R18	64				1										13	14	33	17				50							
Financial Officer R21	24						1		1						2	4	4	16				20							
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Footnote	2				2											2													

2017 Budget Briefing
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector
Staff Classification by Core Business
Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

[illegible]

2017 Budget Briefing

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Staff by Location

Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Location/City	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
100 Mile House	61	61	
Abbotsford	3	3	
Alexis Creek	22	22	
Bella Coola	5	5	
Burnaby	2	2	
Burns Lake	87	86	1
Campbell River	110	109	1
Cassiar	14	14	
Castlegar	172	165	7
Chetwynd	10	10	
Chilliwack	46	46	
Clearwater	34	34	
Coquitlam	1	1	
Courtenay	7	6	1
Cranbrook	154	150	4
Cultus Lake	41	41	
Dawson Creek	75	75	
Dease Lake	3	3	
Duncan	6	6	
Fort Nelson	29	29	
Fort St. James	35	34	1
Fort St. John	126	124	2
Golden	1	1	
Grand Forks	28	28	
Houston	14	14	
Invermere	22	22	
Kamloops	516	486	30
Kelowna	1	1	
Lillooet	34	34	
Lytton	14	14	
Mackenzie	103	103	
McBride	3	3	
Merritt	97	97	
Mesachie Lake	5	5	
Nakusp	18	18	
Nanaimo	171	151	20
Nelson	110	106	4
Parksville	99	99	
Penticton	56	56	
Port Alberni	38	38	
Port McNeill	72	72	
Powell River	41	40	1

2017 Budget Briefing

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Including Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Staff by Location

Report based on CHIPS data as of August 30, 2017

Location/City	Total	FLNRO	CSNR
Prince George	330	304	26
Prince Rupert	1	1	
Princeton	3	3	
Queen Charlotte City	30	30	
Quesnel	74	74	
Revelstoke	105	105	
Rosedale	41	40	1
Saanichton	6	5	1
Salmon Arm	39	39	
Sechelt	9	9	
Smithers	221	212	9
Squamish	81	81	
Surrey	128	123	5
Tappen	4	4	
Terrace	95	95	
Valemont	8	8	
Vancouver	2	2	
Vanderhoof	96	95	1
Vernon	154	152	2
Victoria	1088	733	355
Williams Lake	272	262	10
Grand Total	5,273	4,791	482



MLA Donna Barnett
Cariboo-Chilcotin



Constituency Office
7-530 Horse Lake Road
P.O. Box 95
100 Mile House, BC
VOK 2E0
Phone: 250.395.3916
Fax: 250.395.3973
Email:

donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.donnabarnettmla.bc.ca

August 2, 2017

Honorable Mike Farnworth

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Farnworth,

Enclosed kindly find correspondence from Chief Ervin Charleboy, Alexis Creek First Nations.

Action on his request is required immediately. The Tsi Del Del Logging Company has great expertise in forestry and supplies timber to local mills. They are also great stewards of the land and employ 60-70 First Nations people.

Thanking you in Advance,

Donna Barnett, MLA

Cariboo Chilcotin

Cc Chief Ervin Charleyboy

/bm

Attachment

ALEXIS CREEK FIRST NATION

August 1, 2017

MLA Donna Barnett
6 – 530 Horse Lake Road
PO Box 95
100 Mile House, BC
V0K 2E0

Dear MLA Barnett:

I am writing to you to express an **“urgent”** need to address the non-salvaged timber from the forest fire situation in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. Without support, timber will go un-harvested, government revenues will fall and the mid-term supply of timber will be threatened.

Government has the opportunity to address and minimize the negative impacts to our devastated forests. I propose a plan that will:

- Remove forest fire fuels that threaten communities;
- Minimize decreases in annual allowable cut;
- Maintain logging, forestry and manufacturing related jobs;
- Maintain the tax base to cities, communities, and the province.

To be successful, this initiative requires:

- Immediate removal and delivery of the dead fibre to a processing facility;
- Reestablishment of a future forest.

There is currently a significant volume of viable timber close to the fire areas. Much of this timber has not yet been burnt and is in between the fire guards and the fires edges. I propose we utilize existing First Nations contractors (i.e. Tsi Del Del) to remove this timber rather than simply back-burning it.

The forest land base will require a significant salvage (harvest of dead timber) and rehabilitation operation to restore ecosystems and wildlife habitat and bring damaged and uneconomic forests back into production. I also want to protect communities from wildfire with fuel management treatments recognizing the ongoing and significant risk of wildfire.

Mechanics of Program Delivery:

- Government (FLNRO), with input from the ACFN and industry, will determine specific local areas for priority fuel management and rehabilitation treatment based on stand assessment criteria.
- Targeted actions (harvesting) would occur on areas that would not normally be harvested and rehabilitated but do have potential for providing several future values, such as restoring/enhancing wildlife habitat.
- Rehabilitation and fuel treatment on these designated areas would be delivered by utilizing a suite of government funding options.
- All activities that affect ACFN's Traditional Territories should be directly awarded to ACFN.

Box 69, Chilanko Forks, BC V0L-1H0 Phone (250) 481-3335 Fax (250) 481-1197

Page 1 of 2

ALEXIS CREEK FIRST NATION

FLNRO has established the Forest Enhancement Society, to undertake salvage harvesting of dead timber, wildfire risk reduction and fuel management operations, and to enhance reforestation efforts and wildlife habitat restoration in stands severely impacted by wildfires and mountain pine beetle in the Interior. Funding required could be accessed from this Society. Further funding could be acquired from the Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) funding to improve salvage operation economics and in doing so, expedite salvage and rehabilitation of the landbase.

Please do not allow this opportunity to pass by. It is imperative that we undertake these initiatives immediately to properly manage our forests.

I can be contacted at (250)481-3335

Sincerely,



Chief Ervin Charleyboy
Alexis Creek First Nation



MLA Donna Barnett
Cariboo-Chilcotin



Constituency Office
7-530 Horse Lake Road
P.O. Box 95
100 Mile House, BC
VOK 2E0
Phone: 250.395.3916
Fax: 250.395.3973
Email:

donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.donnabarnettmla.bc.ca

August 3, 2017

Honorable Doug Donaldson

Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Dear Minister,

As per our conversation of yesterday regarding the Tautry Fire C51784 in the Chilcotin I received a call from the Fire Center in Williams Lake. The Staff at the center have been working tirelessly and I understand are doing all they can to fight the fires in the region and the Province.

However, the people in the Chilcotin are exhausted, have been there for generations ranching and logging, they know how to survive in times like this. They do not want to speak to someone on the issue, they want some assistance fighting this fire. Many have lost almost everything but their home place feel Government has completely pulled resources to send elsewhere. I have been working on this file since first small fire and know their frustration.

On another matter the Mar's Bomber topic is appearing daily as to why the Government is not utilizing it.

Lastly I have been working with Regional office to have ban on all back country use with ATV's, motorized vehicles etc. and I am told the ban on all activities on Crown Land will occur today or tomorrow. Hopefully it does and it needs to Province wide.

Yours Truly,

MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo Chilcotin

Cc Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition

J Tegart MLA

C Oakes, MLA

J Rustad, MLA

S Bond, MLA

P Milobar, MLA

D Clovechuck, MLA

/bm



August 25, 2017



Ms. Donna Barnett, MLA
Cariboo-Chilcotin
530 Horse Lake Road, Suite 7
PO Box 95
100 Mile House BC V0K 2E0

Dear Ms. Barnett:

I am responding to your letter of August 8, 2017, regarding the temporary use of cellular technology to assist with firefighting efforts in the Cariboo region.

The Ministry of Citizens' Services will be responding to your request as they hold responsibility over this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Jennifer Rice
Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness

pc: The Honourable Jinny Sims
The Honourable Mike Farnworth
✓ The Honourable Doug Donaldson



Legislative Office:
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 387-3655
Fax: 250 387-4680
Email: Jennifer.Rice.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Constituency Office:
818 3rd Avenue West
Prince Rupert BC V8J 1M6
Phone: 250 624-7734
Fax: 250 624-7737



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donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.donnabarnettmla.bc.ca

August 8, 2017

MLA Jennifer Rice

Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness

Dear MLA Rice,

It is my understanding in the Chilcotin some BC Forest Service wildfire forestry camps such as Puntzi, Big Creek, Alexis Creek have had installed Telus Towers so cell and internet communications are available for those working for BC Forest Service.

Citizens living in these and other areas know how important cell and internet service is. On behalf of my constituents I am requesting all towers in rural BC that have been put in for this wildfire season be left permanently in these communities.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Barnett", with the date "8/8/17" written below it.

MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo Chilcotin

Cc Rich Coleman Leader of the Official Opposition

J Rustad, MLA

S Bond, MLA

J Tegart, MLA

P Milobar, MLA



Constituency Office
7-530 Horse Lake Road
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Fax: 250.395.3973
Email:

donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.donnabarnettmla.bc.ca

September 6, 2017

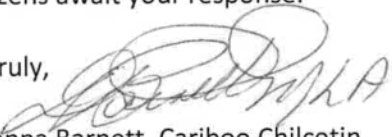
Premier John Horgan
Honorable Doug Donaldson

Dear Minister,

As our communities are receiving no updated information on the Elephant Hill Fire which is in our back yards they have sent me an email requesting your attendance, and if possible the Premier, at a public meeting on September 09/17. Time to be determined at your convenience.

The meeting location would be Interlakes Corner at Sheridan Lake. The Interlakes Economic Association and citizens await your response.

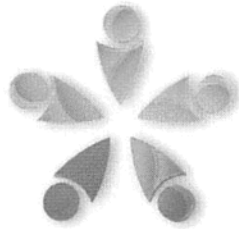
Yours Truly,


MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo Chilcotin

CC Steve Brown, President Interlakes Economic Association
Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition

Attachment

bm /



INTERLAKES ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Interlakes Economic Association - 7251 Levick Road, Lone Butte BC, V0K 1X1

September 4, 2017

MLA Donna Barnett:

Email: s.17

The Interlakes Economic Association has been asked by many residents from Green Lake, Canim Lake, Watch Lake, Horse Lake and the surrounding area to see if we could organize a public meeting at the stage at the Interlakes Corner. We are asking you to see if you could get the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister in charge and/or the Premier to attend.

Tensions are mounting and I won't be able to keep people calm for much longer without some help. Most residents saw the blip on BCTV and have heard about the water system we discussed days ago and wonder why nothing is being done to pursue it.

Many residents feel now that they will just try to make us feel good or ignore us until winter arrives or that the NDP is getting even with us for our lack of support. If 60 structures had been lost in their ridings, would they be attending meetings with the affected parties? Shaking hands with the local politicians and fire fighters in front of the camera is not going to cut it anymore.

Pease feel free to contact me:

WORK s.22 / HOME: s.22 / CELL: s.22 / FAX: s.22
s.22

email: interlak@bcinternet.net.

Regards

Steven Brown

From: [Clovechok, Doug](#)
To: [Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Loganberg, Rachel LASS:EX](#); [Coleman, Rich EM:EX](#); [Shypitka, Tom](#)
Subject: 230271 - Closing East Kootenay back country
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 5:50:25 PM

Hello Minister Donaldson. Doug Clovechok MLA for Columbia River Revelstoke here. My question to you is when does FLNRO plan to shut down the back country here in the East Kootenays and put a complete ban on all motorized vehicles. We at critical mass out here with a fire burning south of Canal Flats. In all the years I have lived here I have never seen it this dry! With a long weekend on the horizon and hundreds of Albertans heading this way we need to have a closure asap. I sincerely appreciate your immediate attention to this and look forward to your solution. Thank you!

Doug Clovechok
MLA Columbia River Revelstoke



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 2, 2017

Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations, and Rural Development
Room 248, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4



Sonia Furstenau MLA
Cowichan Valley

Dear Minister Donaldson,

I have received a number of letters from community members in Ymir, BC, who are concerned about their limited supply of drinking water being further impacted by proposed logging in their local Quartz Creek watershed. One reads:

“BCTS plans to log the Ymir watershed. While I have no opposition to the notion of responsible logging, I have done research on Quartz Creek Watershed, and this plan seems extremely shortsighted. Ymir’s drinking water supply is very limited. They barely have enough water to drink. Quartz Creek is very shaded; any more heat would lead to evaporation and put Ymir in a position where it doesn’t have enough drinking water. This water is also Ymir’s firefighting water. If they don’t have enough firefighting water it is a public health and safety issue. Please help us. We have no other viable drinking water source.”

Can you please advise if this situation has been noted by your ministry? And if so, what is being done to evaluate or address the community’s concerns?

Many thanks,

Sonia Furstenau
MLA Cowichan Valley

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Constituency Office

164 Station Street
Duncan BC V9L 1M7
Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office

Room 028 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
T 250-387-8347
Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

From: [Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Hansen, Lucy FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Minister Donaldson to meet with Knox First Nation chief negotiator, Mark Stevenson
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 11:49:05 AM

I see this email now

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison
Manager
Correspondence Services
250 356-9638

-----Original Message-----

From: Leonard.MLA, Ronna-Rae [<mailto:Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Cc: Minister, IRR IRR:EX; mark@aboriginallaw.ca
Subject: Request for Minister Donaldson to meet with Knox First Nation chief negotiator, Mark Stevenson

Hello Minister Donaldson,

I have been requested to ask for a meeting with you for Mark Stevenson, chief negotiator for K'omox First Nation. He wishes to discuss timber sales with respect to their treaty negotiations.

I was unsure of protocol, but in the spirit of respect and inclusion, I am awaiting confirmation from K'omox First Nation Chief Rempel. I expect to receive word from her that they want the meeting to proceed shortly, but since time has passed since I met with Mr. Stevenson, I am submitting this request in advance, to get an earlier meeting date.

Respectfully,
Ronna-Rae Leonard
MLA for Courtenay-Comox

Sent from my iPhone

Rosche, Kimberly FLNR:EX

From: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 10:29 AM
Subject: RE: Letnick, MLA for Kelowna Lake Country - BACK COUNTRY ACCESS (Ref: 229939)

From: Vivian, Jessica FLNR:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Driscoll, Lesley LASS:EX
Cc: Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX; Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX; Robinson, Gordon FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Letnick, MLA for Kelowna Lake Country - BACK COUNTRY ACCESS

Hi Lesley,

Shihang Cao at the Ministry of Environment sent us your request regarding information on access to the backcountry. Staff have provided the following information:

- The Province of British Columbia continues to monitor the situation very closely and to implement area restrictions where necessary, while continuing to consider full region closures.
- Given the current wildfire situation, BC Wildfire Service has, along with local government and other provincial agencies, limited high risk activities based on the Fire Danger Rating, implemented campfire bans, and implemented area restrictions under the *Wildfire Act* (Section 11) including ordering people to leave these restricted areas (*Wildfire Act*, Section 13) as the situation demands.
- BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC have closed parks and recreation sites in areas of active wildfires as well as in certain areas of high and extreme wildfire risk.
- There has also been an increase in the presence of regional staff and officers in the Interior, from both this ministry's Compliance and Enforcement Branch, and from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Conservation Officer Service.

Thanks,
Jessica

Jessica Vivian
Issues and Administrative Coordinator
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
Phone: (250) 387-1526

From: Driscoll, Lesley [<mailto:Lesley.Driscoll@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Cao, Shihang ENV:EX
Subject: Letnick, MLA for Kelowna Lake Country - BACK COUNTRY ACCESS

Hi Shihang,

Further to my phone call this morning, Norm has received another email (see below) from a constituent regarding access to the backcountry during these tinder dry conditions.

I would appreciate any help you can provide our office so we can respond to our constituents.

Thanks again. I will wait to hear back from you.

Kind regards,

Lesley Driscoll

Constituency Assistant
Kelowna-Lake Country

101-330 Highway 33 West
Kelowna, BC. V1X 1X9
Tel: (250) 765-8516
Fax: (250) 765-7283



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From: s.22

Date: July 17, 2017 at 2:21:17 PM PDT

To: <norm.letnick.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: BACK COUNTRY ACCESS

Hello Norm or whomever monitors his email. Can someone talk to Ministry of Forests and have a ban put in place re back country access. People are going up into this dry bush with quads, dirtbikes and firearms to enjoy themselves which is normally not a problem. One small spark or hot exhaust touching a flammable material and we will have same problems as the Caribou district. We need a total ban on back country access now instead of after it is too late. People do not use common sense so they must be told what to do. Please pass this on to someone who could consider this or implement it. Thanks

s.22

BETTER CALL s.22

Rosche, Kimberly FLNR:EX

From: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 3:38 PM
Subject: 230896 Foreshore Access

From: Driscoll, Lesley [<mailto:Lesley.Driscoll@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 1:50 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Foreshore Access

Good Morning s.22 ,

Thank you for contacting MLA Norm Letnick. We have provided Mr. Letnick with a copy of your email in his daily briefing file. On your behalf, we have forwarded your email to the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for a reply.

Kind regards on behalf of MLA Norm Letnick,

Lesley Driscoll
Constituency Assistant



Norm Letnick, MLA
Kelowna - Lake Country
101-330 Highway 33 West
Kelowna, BC V1X 1X9
Office: 250.765.8516
www.normletnickmla.bc.ca

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: s.22
Date: September 6, 2017 at 4:04:52 PM PDT
To: Norm Letnick <norm.letnick.mla@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Foreshore Access

Hi Norm Letnick,

As you are likely aware, here in Kelowna with the flooding this spring, some of the private docks along the beach were displaced. I understand many of these docks were built illegally, and impeded public access along the foreshore. Since the flooding, our waterfront has been receiving a little bit of a reset. Having public access along the waterfront in Kelowna seems like a no brainier to me.

Our mayor has been quick to point out it is the province's responsibility to enforce the laws on crown land such as the foreshore, and to ensure waterfront property owners' docks are in compliance with the rules.

Recently I participated in the walk along the foreshore (where possible) that was held in Kelowna to raise awareness, and inform citizens about the issues surrounding waterfront access for the public.

Can you tell me what is currently being done by the province to aid in improving public access along the foreshore, specifically in Kelowna, and how I can encourage the provincial government to assist where it has jurisdiction?

Thank you,

s.22



August 22, 2017

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

Re: Boat Access by Residents of Tyee Lake – Crown Land Restriction

Residents of Tyee Lake, BC have called our office with concerns over restrictions that have been placed on them with regards to boat access on Tyee Lake during the Crown land restrictions in the Cariboo Fire Centre.

They have been informed that they cannot access the lake by boat during this restriction. They understand that this is for safety reasons, however they are concerned that commercial operators, eg. resorts, can have their guests operate boats on the lake. Why would guests at a resort be allowed to the lake when residents, who are fully aware of the dangers of accessing the back country and respect the restriction, are not allowed?

Residents have contacted the Ministry of Forest Services and Natural Resources and BC Wildfire Service to voice their concerns.

Residents would like to see restrictions lifted for them to have boat access immediately.

I await your response.

Yours Truly,

Coralee Oakes, MLA Cariboo North

c.c. s.22

Al.Richmond@cariboo.bc.ca



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ian Paton, MLA
Delta South

August 31, 2017

The Honourable Doug Donaldson,
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations,
and Rural Development
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: Elephant Hill Fire

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Agriculture Critic with an urgent request from a hay rancher named s.22, who resides in the Cariboo region.

As you know, the Elephant Hill forest fire in Ashcroft is now just south of Highway 24. The Cariboo Regional District has issued another evacuation order, and an emergency social services centre has been set up in 100 Mile House. Due to heavy winds in recent days, the fires are now threatening s.22 hay ranch on s.22, as well as several other farm and ranch properties in the area.

This is a matter not just of food security, but also of the livelihoods of hundreds of hardworking agricultural workers in the Cariboo region. Already, the Cariboo ranchers are struggling with hay shortages to maintain their herds through the coming winter. If the fires reach s.22, his entire way of life will be decimated.

Minister, I implore you to do everything in your power to support firefighters in their efforts to contain the Elephant Hill wildfire. If there is anything that I can do personally to assist you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I was encouraged to see that you visited the evacuation centres earlier this week. I hope you also take the time to hear from farmers and ranchers on the ground who have lost so much and are at risk of losing even more.

Sincerely,

Ian Paton
MLA, Delta South

Constituency Office
4805 Delta Street
Delta, BC V4K 2T7
Ian.Paton.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office
Room 201 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
T 250-356-6171 F 604-940-7927

Enclosure

cc: The Honourable John Horgan, Premier
The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
Rich Coleman, Leader of the Opposition
John Rustad, Critic for Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
Norm Letnick, Critic for Agriculture
Jackie Tegart, MLA for Fraser-Nicola
Donna Barnett, MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ian Paton, MLA
Delta South

From: [Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX](#); [Lloyd, Clair FLNR:EX](#); [Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX](#); [Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: 230427 - Re: Gitxaala (Kitkatla) fire fighters
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 7:55:31 AM

Checking

M

Madeline L. Maley, RPF
Executive Director
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 312-3032 | Cell: 250 318-8441
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555

----- Original message -----

From: "Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX"
Date: 2017-08-14 7:25 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX" , "Lloyd, Clair FLNR:EX" , "Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX" , "Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX"
Subject: Fwd: Gitxaala (Kitkatla) fire fighters

Has this item been actioned?

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX"
Date: 2017-08-13 8:02 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX"
Subject: Fwd: Gitxaala (Kitkatla) fire fighters

See below. Can we chat about this in the morning?

Tim Renneberg, Ministerial Assistant
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
250-387-6240
tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rice, Jennifer" s.17
Date: August 13, 2017 at 7:59:37 PM PDT
To: "Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX" <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Gitxaala (Kitkatla) fire fighters

Jennifer Rice | MLA - North Coast
Parliamentary Secretary, Emergency Preparedness

P: 250-624-7734 | TF: 1-866-624-7734
818 3rd Ave West, Prince Rupert, BC
V8J 1M6 |
Newsletter <<http://jenniferrice.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7fa2de192520fb652617483d5&id=affc7fe4dc>> | Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NDPJenniferRice/?modal=media_composer&ref=aymt_homepage_panel> | Twitter
<<https://twitter.com/JenniferRice6>> | Website <<http://jenniferrice.ca/>>

On 2017-08-13, 7:39 PM, "Rice, Jennifer" s.17 wrote:

Jennifer Rice | MLA - North Coast
Parliamentary Secretary, Emergency Preparedness

P: 250-624-7734 | TF: 1-866-624-7734
818 3rd Ave West, Prince Rupert, BC
V8J 1M6 |
Newsletter <<http://jenniferrice.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7fa2de192520fb652617483d5&id=affc7fe4dc>> | Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NDPJenniferRice/?modal=media_composer&ref=aymt_homepage_panel> | Twitter
<<https://twitter.com/JenniferRice6>> | Website <<http://jenniferrice.ca/>>

On 2017-08-13, 11:34 AM, "TRAN EMBC PECC Liaison 1 TRAN:EX" s.17 wrote:

Jennifer s.22
I'm wanting to close the loop on two of your inquiries including your inquiry about the Gitxaala fire fighters. This was forwarded to the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Officer in Kamloops but I've yet to receive a reply. If this is still an issue in your constituency, I'm wondering if you might get a speedier response by discussing this with your colleague Minister Donaldson. On the other hand, they may have since been deployed.
Kind regards Carolyn Heiman, MLA Liaison

-----Original Message-----

From: Rice, Jennifer s.17]

Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 08:49

To: TRAN EMBC PECC Liaison 1 TRAN:EX

Subject: Gitxaala (Kitkatla) fire fighters

Good morning again,

I have been contacted by a constituent of mine from Gitxaala First Nation who is currently in Prince George with 14 other firefighters.

They have been phoning and emailing around trying to get deployed for work but aren't getting anywhere.

He said they "went and got the tickets they need" but aren't working yet.

They are concerned because they are seeing in the media that out of Province/country firefighters are working and they are not.

My constituent's name is s.22 and can be reached s.22

Jennifer



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

John Rustad, MLA
Nechako Lakes

Minister Doug Donaldson
Room 248
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X7

August 31st, 2017

Dear Minister Donaldson

With hunting season of many species set to open in just a couple of days, many British Columbians are concerned whether there will be a hunting season this year. If hunting is to proceed then hunters will need to know what restrictions on the season will be in place so they may adapt for this coming year. For many people in rural British Columbia, this is how they feed their families through winter.

The Ministry made a commitment to communicate with hunters well ahead of September's season. The season is set to begin and still hunters have no concrete communications from the Ministry. It is important that Government let resident hunters and Guide Outfitters, who will be faced with potential losses, know whether there will be restrictions or a cancellation of hunting season anywhere in the province.

I ask that you immediately clarify for hunters across British Columbia whether hunting season will proceed, be canceled or modified.

Given the urgent nature of this matter, I ask for an expedited response.

Regards,
John Rustad

MLA Nechako Lakes

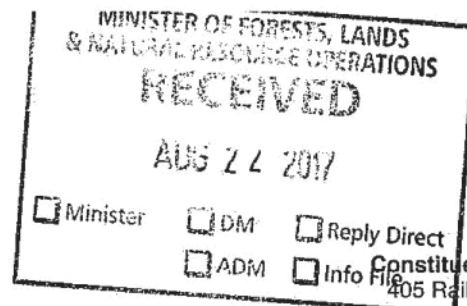
Legislative Office

Room 101A Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8T 2T8
T 250-387-8161
John.Rustad.mla@leg.bc.ca



Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly

Jackie Tegart, M.L.A.
Fraser-Nicola



Legislative Office:
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 952-7616
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Constituency Office:
405 Railway Avenue
PO Box 279
Ashcroft, B.C. V0K 1A0
Phone: 250 453-9726
Fax: 250 453-9765
e-mail: jackie.tegart.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honorable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Victoria, BC

RE: Wildfires 2017

I am writing to express the extreme concerns I am hearing in my riding of Fraser Nicola in regards to the 2017 wildfire season. I want to start my remarks acknowledging the incredible work being done by staff and volunteers on the ground.

We are now more than six weeks into this challenging event and these are the concerns that are being expressed by constituents in my area:

1. What is the plan to bring these fires under control in the near future? Elephant Hill fire has gone from 30% contained to out of control; with another weather event being expected this coming weekend.
2. Is there currently any discussion evaluating what is being done and how it is working at this time? My constituents have expressed many concerns and it would be helpful for me to share with them what options have been discussed as we look forward. I am including a copy of a concern sent to my office by s.22
3. Is there a resourcing issue? And is it being addressed?
4. Is local knowledge being utilized at all?
5. When will my constituents know what the long term plan is to extinguish these challenging fires?

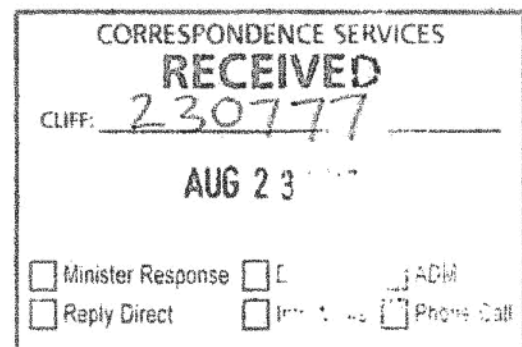
It is important that local people know they are being heard and their concerns are being addressed. I look forward to a timely response. This event is having a devastating effect on all of my area and the areas to the north and east.

Sincerely

Jackie Tegart
Jackie Tegart, MLA

Fraser Nicola
Cc: MLA John Rustad
MLA Donna Barnett
MLA Coralee Oakes
s.22

Attachment:
s.22



Name

s.22

Email

s.22

Riding

fraser nicola

Comments & Feedback

Hello Jackie,

My names s.22

I am writing to you because I am not sure who else to contact in the government to try and bring some immediate oversight to the fire situation around the Cache Creek area it has become out of control and I don't mean the fires alone. almost 2 weeks ago the highways, 99, 97 and hwy1 were all back open after our evacuation. The Skies were clearing up and we were attempting to get our clients back to this area. The Forest Service will not openly say that they are allowing the burning to continue in this area on purpose as a management tactic. There is evidence of this happening. In times like this who oversees the Fire Service and holds them accountable for their Controlled burns that get out of control?. s.22

s.22

s.22

We handled the first evacuation order in strides. How does a fire get from Ashcroft to Clinton in over a month without check? The air is now almost unbreathable as of yesterday, the 3 main highways 99, 97 and hwy1 are closed at the same time? and the local economies have come to a complete stand still again for the second time this summer. How is that allowed to be possible to happen. These controlled burns are not a game they are a risk s.22

s.22

s.22

How was Loon Lake able to burn down 2 weeks after the fire started in ashcroft? s.22

s.22

s.22

If you have any way to help put an end to these ongoing delays of extinguishing the Cache Creek area fires that would go a long way, they were almost out and definitely were away from the town but are once again causing this town to retreat. This area is a main artery of BC. Many of us made it through the brunt of the fire and felt lucky, how are we now still affected by a fire that was past us 4 weeks ago?. Others like Loon Lake residence never needed to feel the brunt at all or Clinton, s.22

s.22

s.22

Thank you for your time Jackie,

Regards,

s.22

Laurie Throness
MLA Chilliwack-Kent



Province of
British Columbia



July 19, 2017

Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations,
and Rural Development
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

CORRESPONDENCE SERVICES		
RECEIVED		
AUG 01 2017		
<input type="checkbox"/> Minister Response	<input type="checkbox"/> DM	<input type="checkbox"/> ADM
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct	<input type="checkbox"/> Info & File	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call

MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS		
RECEIVED		
JUL 28 2017		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> DM	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct
<input type="checkbox"/> ADM	<input type="checkbox"/> Info File	

Dear Minister:

I want to offer you my sincere congratulations on your appointment as Minister. As you settle into your new portfolio I want to make you aware of a longstanding issue in the Chilliwack River Valley in my riding that continues to plague our residents.

Some years ago Recreation and Trails staff approved the construction of a staging area for quads and motorbikes at Tamihi Creek where it meets the Chilliwack River. Liumchen Forest Service Road linked to the staging area, and some lower-level trails, run along the river across from a community called Bell Acres. As there are 35,000 quads and motorbikes within a couple of hours' travel of the place, and as the Chilliwack River Valley is the closest wilderness spot to the urbanized areas of the Fraser Valley, the staging facility is heavily used. The noise on the FSR is becoming intolerable to residents of Bell Acres, as is the destruction of forest habitat.

I learned of this about three years ago and have been working on it ever since. Your predecessor came to visit and all agreed, after sound tests were completed, that an alternate series of trails could be built up the mountain south of the staging area, and the FSR in question closed to recreational motorized traffic. However, negotiations between FLNRO staff and local First Nations over the alternate trails have been ongoing for some time now with no end in sight. Although I commend your staff for their efforts, residents are understandably frustrated with the continuing loss of quality of life.

Legislative Office:
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 952-7270
Fax: 250 387-9100

Laurie.Throness.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Chilliwack Office:
10-7300 Vedder Road
Chilliwack BC V2R 4G6
Phone: 604 858-5299
Fax: 604 858-5290

www.lauriethronessmla.ca

It is my hope that you will continue to support and even redouble FLNRO efforts to finalize negotiations to the satisfaction of all parties, build an alternate trail, and to close the FSR to recreational motorized traffic.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter in my constituency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Throness". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" being more prominent than the last name "Throness".

Laurie Throness

cc: FVRD