

2019/20 Estimates Debate Index

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

TAB	GOAL	LEAD
A	Budget	
1.	Budget 2019 Lock Up Top 3 Issues	CSNR
2.	2019/20 Budget Highlights	CSNR
3.	Estimates Debate: Wildfire Summary Sheet	CSNR
4.	2019/20 - 2021/22 FLNRORD Service Plan	CID
B	Economic Benefits for all British Columbians with Thriving and Resilient Rural Communities <i>Create conditions that support a vibrant and healthy provincial economy through the forest sector and promote resilience to ensure support through economic disruption and natural hazard events</i>	
Forest Sector Revitalization		
5.	2017 and 2018 Wildfire Impact on Allowable Annual Cut	OCF
6.	Allowable Annual Cut Reduction in the Lakes Timber Supply Area	OCF
7.	Coast Forest Sector Revitalization	FPIRD
8.	Contractor Sustainability Review Implementation	FPIRD
9.	Forest Industry Business Pressures within Fraser Timber Supply Area including Western Canadian Timber Products	COAST
10.	Improving the Forest and Range Practices Act	OCF
11.	Forest Revitalization Bioeconomy and Wood Innovation	OCF
12.	Fort Nelson Forestry Strategy	NORTH
13.	BCWS Industry Engagement	BCWS
14.	Log Exports	FPIRD
15.	Revenue Derived from Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	FPIRD
16.	Softwood Lumber Trade Case	FPIRD
17.	Key Statistics Related to the Softwood Lumber Dispute	FPIRD
18.	Spruce Beetle Outbreak in North Area	NORTH
Natural Hazard Management: <i>Recovery</i>		
19.	Wildfire Recovery on the Ground - - Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District - Gustafsen Wildfire - Elephant Hill complex - Quesnel Natural Resource District - Cariboo Region Wildlife Management - Land Base Wildfire Recovery Status Report	SOUTH
20.	Land Based Wildfire and Flood Recovery-Cariboo Region Flood Recovery	SOUTH
21.	Land Based Wildfire and Flood Recovery-Grand Forks Flood Recovery (Kootenay Boundary Region support)	SOUTH
22.	Wildfire Recovery Post Fire Mushroom Picking	SOUTH

2019/20 Estimates Debate Index

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

TAB	GOAL	LEAD
23.	Post Wildfire Building Reconstruction and the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) – Thompson Nicola Regional District	SOUTH
24.	Reforestation	OCF
25.	Rehabilitation of 2018 Wildfires in Skeena Region	NORTH
Natural Hazard Management: <i>Wildfire</i>		
26.	2018 Fire Season	BCWS
27.	Approach to 2019 Fire Season	BCWS
28.	After Action Reviews Implementation (Abbott/Chapman Report)	BCWS
29.	Application of Prescribed Fire	BCWS
30.	Cariboo Community Engagement – How will communities be kept up to date with the wildfire recovery efforts	SOUTH
31.	Cariboo Norbord Inclusion in Fire Salvage Operations	SOUTH
32.	Community Resiliency Investment Program	BCWS
33.	Community Wildfire Risk Reduction	BCWS
34.	Protecting Non-Timber Values – Elephant Hill Wildfire	SOUTH
35.	Ranchers and Guide Outfitters – Elephant Hill	SOUTH
36.	Evacuation Alerts and Orders	BCWS
37.	Grazing and Managing Fine Fuels for Wildfire Risk	SOUTH
38.	Invasive Plant Management – Wildfire Recovery	SOUTH
39.	Outstanding Wildfire Claims for the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons	BCWS
40.	Stay and Defend	BCWS
41.	Timely Payment for Services	BCWS
Natural Hazard Management: <i>Flood</i>		
42.	Progress on Abbott Chapman Flood Recommendations	RSD
43.	Okanagan Lake Flood Recovery Project	SOUTH
44.	Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS) - Freshet	SOUTH
45.	Newsome Creek-Sorrento 2018 Flood Recovery	SOUTH
Rural Development		
46.	Community Transition Services in B.C.	TBD
47.	Rural Development Strategy and Rural Engagement	TBD
48.	Rural Dividend Program	TBD
C	Partnerships that Support Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples <i>Take actions to increase opportunities for collaboration in the stewardship B.C.'s land, natural and cultural resources</i>	
49.	Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action	FPIRD
50.	BCWS First Nations Engagement	BCWS
51.	Snuneymuxw First Nation – Reconciliation Agreement/Mid-Island Forestry Initiative	COAST

2019/20 Estimates Debate Index

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

TAB	GOAL	LEAD
D	Sustainable Natural Resource Management <i>Deliver on stewardship responsibilities in the best interests of the citizens of the Province</i>	
52.	Compliance and Enforcement Statistics	IROD
53.	Cowichan Lake Weir and Cowichan Watershed Board	COAST
54.	Fin Fish Aquaculture - Broughton Archipelago	COAST
55.	Integrated Investment Planning	OCF
56.	Invasive Plant Management - Thompson Nicola Pilot	SOUTH
57.	Invasive Plant Management Funding	SOUTH
58.	Klappan Plan Approval	NORTH
59.	Land Use Planning	RSD
60.	Logging in Sensitive Watersheds - Kootenay Boundary Region	SOUTH
61.	Nicola Water Pilot (Government to Government Forum)	SOUTH
62.	Old Growth on Vancouver Island	COAST
63.	Professional Reliance in the Natural Resource Sector	RSD
64.	Seedling Requests, Seed Supply and Nursery Space	OCF
65.	Shellfish aquaculture – Salt Spring Island and Texada Island	COAST
66.	West Kelowna Water Treatment Tenure – Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant	SOUTH
Wildlife Management		
67.	Caribou Recovery Program	RSD
68.	East Kootenay Wildlife Management	SOUTH
69.	Fraser River Sturgeon Fishery and Habitat	COAST
70.	Implementation of Recovery Strategies for Species at Risk	RSD
71.	Improved Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation	RSD
72.	Interior Fraser Steelhead	RSD
73.	Winter motorized closures (snowmobiling) for caribou management in North Eastern B.C.	RSD
Climate Change		
74.	Climate Change Adaptation	OCF
75.	Forest Carbon Greenhouse Gas Reporting, Slash Pile Burning	OCF
76.	Forest Carbon Initiative and Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund	OCF
E	Additional Ministry Issues	
77.	Barkerville Heritage Trust Funding	IROD
78.	Forest Enhancement Society of BC	OCF
79.	Forest Inventory Program Review - Blue Ribbon Panel	OCF
80.	FrontCounter BC and Natural Resource Permitting	COAST
81.	Use of Glyphosate	OCF
82.	Heritage Conservation Act Ancestral Remains Policy Review	IROD
83.	Heritage Conservation Act - Section 4 Agreement	IROD

2019/20 Estimates Debate Index

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

.....

TAB	GOAL	LEAD
84.	Heritage Properties Sustainability	IROD
85.	Increasing boat moorage/anchorage issues on BC Coast	COAST
86.	Jumbo Glacier Resort	IROD
87.	Kluskus and Anahim Resource Road Connectors	TBD
88.	Delays in Lands and Water Authorizations (South Coast)	COAST
89.	Mount Elphinstone Park Expansion Proposal	COAST
90.	Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)	IIT
91.	Ombudsperson Report on Victoria International Marina	TBD
92.	Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan	COAST
93.	Public Road Access through private land and Douglas Lake Court Decision	TBD
94.	Rail Trail Management	IROD
95.	Site C Dam Construction and Permitting	NORTH
96.	Unauthorized Water Structures (Dugouts) in the North East	NORTH
97.	GCPE-MEMPR Issue Note - Unist'ot'en Camp – Archaeological Artifacts	NORTH

BUDGET 2019 LOCK-UP
FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT – TOP 3 ISSUES

1. FOREST SECTOR REVITILAZATION

Response / Messaging:

s.13

2. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Response / Messaging:

s.13

3. IMPLEMENTING THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

- The UNDRIP mandate is extremely important for FLNR because Indigenous rights, strength of claim and communities touch on almost every land based decision the Ministry is involved in. Indigenous People expect FLNR to incorporate UNDRIP principles into all existing and new work, as well as to engage early to co-develop strategies.
- Land use planning, which was funded with \$16M over three years in *Budget 2018*, is one tool to provide strategic direction and outcomes for the allocation of lands and resources that provides meaningful input for Indigenous People and communities. To address FLNR and other ministries will continue to modernize land use planning through engagement and collaboration with Indigenous People, governments, communities, stakeholders and industry.

Page 007 of 186

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
2019/20 Budget Briefing**

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2018 PLAN

OPERATING

\$000s

	2018/19 Estimates	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
A February 2018 Plan				
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	473,452	494,041	500,408	500,408
Vote 29 - Fire Management	63,986	63,986	63,986	63,986
BC Timber Sales Special Account	196,723	194,871	197,011	197,011
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total February 2018 Plan	734,181	752,918	761,425	761,425
<i>Year-to-year change in 2018/19 Service Plan</i>		18,737	8,507	-
B Inter Ministry Transfers				
Transfer 1 FTE and budget for records/FOI clerk to Environment	(56)	(56)	(56)	(56)
Total Inter Ministry Transfers	(56)	(56)	(56)	(56)
Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Budget lift for the Fire Management vote (which includes \$0.626M under the Sustainable Services Mandate; \$0.252 M under the Economic Stability Dividend; and \$0.244M for the Benefits adjustment of 24.8% to 25.4%)		37,136	36,896	36,896
Sustainable Services Mandate Increase for Ministry Operations		4,561	4,536	4,536
Budget lift to support the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund under the Forest Carbon Initiative		3,396	3,646	6,200
Budget lift to support Forest Revitalization		3,000	3,000	4,000
Economic Stability Dividend Increase for Ministry Operations	-	1,839	1,830	1,830
Benefits adjustment - 24.8% to 25.4% for Ministry Operations		1,411	-	-
BC Timber Sales - Spending Plan updates (which includes \$0.373M under the Sustainable Services Mandate; \$0.150 M under the Economic Stability Dividend; and \$0.122M for the Benefits adjustment of 24.8% to 25.4%)		18,591	(3,029)	4,353
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	69,934	46,879	57,815
Total Transfers and Adjustments	734,125	822,796	808,248	819,184
<i>Change from 2019/20 Service Plan</i>	(56)	69,878	46,823	57,759
	(0.0%)	9.3%	6.1%	7.6%
C February 2019 Plan				
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations	473,396	508,192	513,364	516,918
Vote 29 - Fire Management	63,986	101,122	100,882	100,882
BC Timber Sales Special Account	196,723	213,462	193,982	201,364
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-
Total 2019 Plan	734,125	822,796	808,248	819,184
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2019/20 Service Plan</i>		88,671	(14,548)	10,936
		12.1%	(1.8%)	1.4%

Footnote(s):

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

2019/20 Budget Briefing Book

THREE YEAR BUDGET CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 2018 PLAN

CAPITAL								
\$000s								
		2018/19 Estimates	#	2019/20 Estimates	#	2020/21 Plan	#	2021/22 Plan
A September 2017 Plan								
Vote 27 - Ministry Operations		28,599		27,750		25,438		25,438
Vote 28 - Fire Management		525		525		525		525
BC Timber Sales Special Account		45,290		40,168		35,894		35,894
Total September 2017 Plan		74,414		68,443		61,857		61,857
<i>Year-to-year change in 2017/18 Service Plan</i>				(5,971)		(6,586)		-
B Intra-Ministry Transfers								
		-						
		-						
Total-Intra Ministry Transfers		-		-		-		-
Budget Lifts and Reductions								
Vehicle Lift based on updated replacement scheduled developed by Shared Services BC				3,120		3,120		3,120
Wildfire Facilities funding reprofiled to the out years based on revised spending plan				2,511		1,800		
Road funding reprofiled from previous year based on revised spending plan								75
Wildfire Facilities reduction due to completion of projects								(5,150)
Reduction for temporary funding of Ford 550's which has expired				(1,199)		(1,199)		(1,199)
Reduction for temporary funding of Campsite Expansion which has expired								(338)
Reduction for temporary funding of Specialized Equipment which has expired								(60)
Reduction for temporary funding of Miscellaneous Hardware/Software which has expired								(15)
Increase for road construction and specialized equipment for BC Timber Sales based on service plan				8,521		9,845		6,063
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions		-		12,953		13,566		2,496
Total Transfers and Adjustments		74,414		81,396		75,423		64,353
<i>Change from 2017/18 Service Plan</i>		-		12,953		13,566		2,496
		-		18.9%		21.9%		4.0%
		2018/19 Restated Estimates	#	2019/20 Estimates	#	2020/21 Plan	#	2021/22 Plan
C February 2018 Plan								
Vote 28 - Ministry Operations		28,599		32,182		29,159		21,871
Vote 29 - Fire Management		525		525		525		525
BC Timber Sales Special Account		45,290		48,689		45,739		41,957
Total February 2018 Plan		74,414		81,396		75,423		64,353
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2018/19 Service Plan</i>				6,982		(5,973)		(11,070)
				9.4%		(7.3%)		(14.7%)

Footnote(s):

ESTIMATES DEBATE: WILDFIRE SUMMARY SHEET

1. 2018 WILDFIRE SEASON UPDATE

- Estimated fire suppression costs for the 2018 season are \$555 million. An additional \$60M for the Community Resiliency Investment program will bring total fire costs for 2018/19 to \$615M.
- a total of 2,089 wildfires burned 1,349,602 hectares of land. Approximately 1.4% of the province. There were 111 fires of note – the largest being the Alkali Lake Fire at 121,215 hectares.
- At peak capacity: over 4,756 personnel were engaged; close to 961 out of province resources had been utilized, including personnel from almost every province and territory in as well as from Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and the USA (Washington); approximately 1,700 BC contract personnel; and, 270 aircraft.
- Provincial State of Emergency was declared August 15, 2018 and was extended until September 7, 2018.

2. FIRE SPENDING AND INCREASE TO THE FIRE MANAGEMENT VOTE

Total Fire Spending (\$millions)	18/19 Estimates	18/19 Forecast	19/20	20/21	21/22
Ministry Operations Vote					
Land Based Fire Recovery	5.000	5.000	7.000	10.000	10.000
Fire Preparedness & Resiliency	N/A	35.553	46.453	46.453	46.453
Fire Management Vote					
Fire Management Budget	63.986	555.000	101.122	100.882	100.882
Community Resiliency Investment Program		60.000			
Total	68.986	655.553	154.575	157.335	157.335

s.13

3. FIRE RESILIENCY PROGRAM AND FIRE PREPAREDNESS SUB-VOTE

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

- In *Budget 2018*, government announced \$50M over 3 years to develop and implement a Community Resiliency Investment program (CRI) in partnership with UBCM. Government will now invest \$60M in 18/19 in the CRI program to ensure that all communities will get the necessary Firesmart funding.
- The CRI is designed to support the BC Fire and Flood Review 2017 recommendations to provide a streamlined intake for communities (in partnership with UBCM, FNESS and FESBC) to provide an alignment of wildfire mitigation activities on the land base.

PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM & ENHANCED RESPONSE CAPACITY

- With base budget funding available from the full payment of the CRI program in 2018/19, the ministry will be able to implement a sustained, long-term fire resiliency and recovery program. Starting in 2019/20, the ministry will design and deliver a prescribed fire and fuel treatment program, as well as enhanced response capacity for the BC Wildfire Service.
- A prescribed Fire Program will re-establish fire as a key landscape management tool. The program will train, develop plans, and implement prescribed burns through partnerships to reduce risk to communities through managed use of fire.
- Prescribed Fire and Traditional Burning: Indigenous people have used fire for generations as a tool to enhance their survivability. A prescribed fire program would incorporate traditional indigenous knowledge with western practices.

NEW FIRE PREPAREDNESS SUB-VOTE

- In *Budget 2019*, Fire Preparedness is a core business in the Ministry Operations Vote. The Fire Preparedness budget for 2019/20 is \$46M, which includes funding for Wildfire Resiliency approved in Budget 2018. This is the base funding for the long-term fire resiliency and recovery program.
- The existing base budget for fire preparedness was of \$26M was in the Integrated Resource Operations core business.
- The Fire Preparedness core business recognizes the additional costs to the program that are incurred separately from the Fire Management Vote and enables the public to see the full budget for Wildfire Services.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: 2019/20-2021/22 FLNRORD Service Plan

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The goals, objectives, and strategies have been developed to be consistent with FLNRORD's ministerial mandate letter.
- Strategic work has been consolidated into 3 goals which demonstrate how the ministry will:
 1. Contribute to a healthy and vibrant provincial economy through specific actions that support the forest sector, promote community resilience through proactive natural hazard management, and enable the diversification and growth of local economies;
 2. Drive reconciliation forward through actions that will strengthen partnerships and increase opportunities for engagement with Indigenous peoples in B.C.;
 3. Ensure sustainable natural resource management through actions that improve wildlife management and support the government-wide CleanBC initiative through climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
- New strategies have been added to support priorities, including:
 - Coast and Interior Forest Sector Revitalization initiatives to highlight specific action to support the forest sector;
 - Ministry work in support of the CleanBC initiative to further government's goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - Action plan to address the 108 recommendations from the Abbott-Chapman review of the 2017 wildfire and flood season.
- Two performance measures are maintained from last year, as they continue to align with government goals:
 - *BCTS Timber Volume Sold* – to support the market-pricing system and generate net revenue for the Province, while contributing to forest sector employment;
 - *Indigenous Engagement* – ensuring that the ministry is engaging with Indigenous communities in the development of policies and programs, reflecting shared values and objectives in ministry operations.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- Three performance measures are new and demonstrate ministry progress against key government priorities:
 - *Rural Dividend program* – ensuring all eligible communities have access and the capacity to apply for the Rural Dividend program, supporting Government's priority to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for all British Columbians;
 - *Community resiliency to wildfire* – working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities on wildfire risk reduction, including through the Community Resiliency Investment Program and Forest Enhancement Society;
 - *Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions* – highlighting ministry effectiveness in delivering climate change mitigation activities through the Forest Carbon Initiative
- A new performance measure about wildlife habitat is being developed for the 2020/21 FLNRORD Service Plan.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 14, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Trish Dohan

Phone: 250-812-0008

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brenda Hartley

Phone: 250-828-4443

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: 2017 and 2018 Wildfire Impact on Allowable Annual Cut

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The wildfires impacted approximately 1.2 million hectares of forest (area within fire perimeters) in 2017 and 1.3 million hectares in 2018 to varying levels of intensity.
- In 2017 the majority of area burned was in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs.
- In 2018 the majority of the area burned was in the Cassiar, Morice, Burns Lake and Prince George TSAs with a lesser amount occurring in the Quesnel TSA.
- In 2017 about 700,000 ha of timber harvesting land base (THLB) were within the fire perimeter, and in 2018 about 300,000 ha of THLB were within the fire perimeter.
- The timber supply impacts of both the 2017 and 2018 fires have been assessed for all TSAs with moderate or high fire impacts and it was determined that there was no immediate need to change the AACs.
- s.13
-

Date Prepared/Revised: February 16, 2018

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Albert Nussbaum

Phone: 250 888 5609

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Allowable Annual Cut Reduction in the Lakes Timber Supply Area

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Lakes Timber Supply Review (TSR) began in 2017. The purpose of the TSR process is to determine if the AAC should change.
- There have been significant changes to the forest conditions of the Lakes TSA in the past 20 years included an unprecedented mountain pine beetle outbreak and wildfires that have all reduced the volume available.
- The public and First Nations are being deeply engaged during the TSR process. There is high public concern regarding a potential reduction in AAC.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 4, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-294-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brent May and Albert Nussbaum

Phone: 250-692-2227 and 778-974-5490

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Coast Forest Sector Revitalization

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Government is reviewing changes to log export policy that will allow a proportion of harvest from economically challenging areas (e.g., mid-Coast) available for export through log export exemption Order(s)-In-Council.
- s.13
- To increase utilization of fibre, a 'Fibre Recovery Zone' will be established effective April 1st requiring tenure holders to remove as much fibre as possible or face monetary penalty. This zone will be concentric to existing manufacturers (e.g., pulp and paper mills).

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- Budget 2019 earmarked \$10M over the next three years to support revitalization. This money is allocated to increase staff for policy analysis and implementation and ensure necessary updates to existing systems and technology required to support efficient information exchange between tenure holders and government can occur.
- Forest tenure holders have noted caution on forest policy changes signalling increasing costs to their business may reduce their ability to harvest the profile (i.e., they may not harvest in high cost areas and may not meet allocated harvest levels) or ensure market access for their products (i.e. possible revision of the Manufactured Forest Products Regulation) thus reducing overall economic activity and fibre availability.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Jim Schafthuizen

Phone: 250-320-9198

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Morgan Kennah

Phone: 250-896-6268

Page 018 of 186

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Contractor Sustainability Review Implementation

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Dan Miller, former provincial premier, facilitated the last phase of the Review and developed recommendations for amending the regulation.
- George Abbott and his Circle Square completed the Review in March 2018 following 230 interviews with companies and association representatives.
- The Review provides 13 recommendations ranging from rate models, planning, training, information and technology, and arbitration formats.
- The Truck Loggers Association, Interior Logging Association, North West Logging Association, the Council of Forest Industries, and the Interior Lumber Manufacturing Association all supported the process moving forward.
- s.13
- The process changes identified by Miller will apply only to replaceable contracts arising out of the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 14, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Peter Jacobsen

Phone: 778-974-5849

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jim Schafthuizen

Phone: 250-828-4625

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Industry Business Pressures within Fraser Timber Supply
 Area including Western Canadian Timber Products

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

s.13; s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: March 15, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM

Phone: 778 974-5878

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mike Peters, District Manager

Phone: 604-702-5781

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Improving the *Forest and Range Practices Act*

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....
s.13

s.12; s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-294-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Norah White / Arial Taylor

Phone: 778-974-5654 / 778-974-5521

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Revitalization, Bioeconomy and Wood Innovation

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The concept of a forest bioeconomy is premised on using forest biomass based products, or 'bioproducts', in displacing many of the petrochemical based products. This approach includes conventional forest products (e.g., pulp, paper, lumber) but encourages value growth towards a broader array of products such as engineered wood and bioproducts (e.g., biofuels, biochemicals, and biomaterials). Bioproducts includes forest resources such as botanicals.
- FLNRORD has been working with partners to encourage engineered wood, forest bioeconomy development and forest revitalization with a focus on improving post-harvest residual fibre utilization via the development of high-value products to create new market demand.
- In December 2018, CleanBC; B.C.'s new climate action and clean growth strategy was launched and it commits to a 50% reduction in public sector building-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The Climate Action Secretariat is collaborating with partners across government and the broader public sector to achieve this reduction, including ways to increase the use of low-carbon or sequestering materials in construction of public sector buildings.
- Economic analysis shows that new wood-based cellulosic biomaterials provide high value opportunities.
- Biomaterials have unique and revolutionary physical and chemical properties that can provide new manufacturing opportunities and could displace petrochemical based products such as plastics.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The bioeconomy presents an opportunity to develop regional economies that are more sustainable and lower-carbon consistent with the CleanBC direction.
- As part of the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative, we're encouraging greater use of fibre.
- FLNRORD supports the increased use of residual biomass in B.C. through timber supply area inventory analyses, the development of user-friendly tools to help primary and secondary users estimate the volume, location and cost of available fibre, and an integrated forest GIS platform to support various government initiatives.
- Biomaterial manufacturing pathways may also be profitable at much smaller scale than conventional forest operations.
- Advanced biomaterials such as Nanocellulose materials have application in a wide array of industries such as cement and concrete, plastic composites, paints and coatings, cosmetics, textiles, and paper and packaging.
- FLNRORD works with FPInnovations and the B.C. Pulp and Paper Bioalliance, amongst others, to support research and commercialization.
- FLNRORD also works with Indigenous communities and organizations to explore entrepreneur and business opportunities for small to large community-led enterprises in Indigenous communities.
- More conventional bioproducts such as engineered wood products present an excellent opportunity for B.C.'s value-added forest sector. Products like mass timber (e.g. cross laminated timber panels and glulam beams) are structural materials that can be used in place of conventional materials like concrete and steel.
- FLNRORD works with FPInnovations and Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. to support the expanded use of engineered wood products in building construction. Mid to high-rise buildings represent the greatest potential for mass timber.
- FLNRORD is working with relevant agencies and sector collaborators to develop a plan to expand and advance wood innovation across government.

Date Prepared/Revised:

March 5, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: James Sandland

Phone: 778-974-2490

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Fort Nelson Forest Strategy

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Timber Supply Review IV:

- The Chief Forester is expected to complete her Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) determination this spring.

Community Forest Agreement:

- Expected to be finalized this spring

FNWL:

s.13; s.16

Existing Tenures:

- Both Canfor and BC Timber Sales hold volume based licences

Project Renew OSB:

s.13; s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: ADM – Eamon O'Donoghue

Phone: (250) 877-1087

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Chris Cooper

Phone: (250) 787-6785

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: BCWS Industry Engagement

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In an average fire season, the government can call on over 2,500 private contractor firefighting resources and a multitude of contingency resources.
- Re-established the joint BCWS/Industry working group and are regularly meeting. Membership includes the Chief Foresters of the major forest companies, Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association, Council of Forest Industries and BCWS executive.
- Created a training package that will be offered in every region of the province that brings together industry partners and BCWS staff in a day long workshop format.
- BCWS has signed a letter of intent with the Western Forestry Contractors' Association to form a Wildfire Services Contract Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to provide wildfire contractors and the BCWS an opportunity to collectively address lessons, feedback and challenges to strengthen and improve wildfire preparedness and response.
- Establishing a seasonal liaison position, where required specifically for the forest industry, to help maintain effective communications between BCWS staff, Incident Management Teams and contractors.
- BCWS has had discussions with licensees to use industry representatives as Equipment Branch Directors with Incident Management Teams. This position would oversee contractors and the operation of their equipment.
- BCWS is striving to establish the industry equipment strike team model more broadly across the province.
- BCWS is also reviewing the current system of equipment registration, rate structure and related insurance coverage, with the aim of making it easier and more efficient for contractors.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer

Phone: 250-320-0433

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Log Exports

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2018, 5.1 million cubic metres (federal, private, and crown) of logs was permitted for export permits. This represents an 18% decrease from 2017.
- China is the largest buyer of logs, acquiring 60% of B.C. log exports by volume in 2018, followed by Japan (25%), South Korea (9%), and the U.S. (6%).
- On Crown land, allowing log exports in areas that would otherwise be uneconomic to harvest increases the supply of logs to the domestic manufacturers by increasing the total harvest.
- Companies that export logs from public lands pay both the stumpage fees and a “fee in lieu of manufacturing”, which returns considerable further value to the province s.13
- While B.C. regulates log exports from Crown land, it is the federal government that regulates log exports from most private land.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

BC PERMITTED LOG EXPORT VOLUME (m³) 1998 to 2018

YEAR	CROWN	FEDERAL ¹	TOTAL
2006	1,500,182	2,788,994	4,289,176
2007	925,960	2,614,007	3,539,967
2008	1,001,625	1,926,773	2,928,398
2009	1,295,947	1,403,909	2,699,856
2010	2,483,519	2,022,397	4,505,916
2011	4,014,406	2,667,732	6,682,137
2012	4,061,118	2,298,469	6,359,586
2013	4,132,880	2,802,917	6,935,797
2014	4,059,609	2,592,279	6,651,888
2015	3,433,506	2,479,906	5,913,412
2016	3,974,078	3,087,252	7,061,330
2017	3,691,504	2,594,446	6,285,950
2018	2,744,311	2,384,154	5,128,465

¹Includes permitted log export volume from Indian Reserve lands.

2018 Permitted Log Export Detail (million m³) (% change from 2017)

	Jurisdiction	Harvest Volume ²	Log Export Volume	%Export	Domestic Volume ³
Coast	Federal ¹	4.9 (+19%)	2,328 (-3%)	48%	13.5 (+21%)
	Provincial	13.0 (+6%)	2,012 (-28%)	16%	
	Total	17.8 (+9%)	4,340 (-16%)	24%	
Interior	Federal ¹	1.8 (+112%)	0.06 (-76%)	3%	49.0 (+6%)
	Provincial	48.0 (+2%)	0.7 (-34%)	2%	
	Total	49.8 (+4%)	0.8 (-42%)	2%	
Province	Federal ¹	6.6 (+35%)	2.4 (-9%)	36%	62.5 (+9%)
	Provincial	61.0 (+3%)	2.7 (-30%)	4%	
	Total	67.6 (+5%)	5.1 (-22%)	8%	

¹Includes permitted log exports from Indian Reserve

²Source: Harvest Billing System by Billing Date

³Estimated Domestic Volume is calculated as Harvest Volume less Log Export Volume

Date Prepared/Revised: March 21, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Jim Schafthuizen

Phone: 250-320-9198

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Burleigh

Phone: 778-974-2430

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

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

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

- **Total revenue** as from the 2019/20 Budget Estimates Forecast by major category is \$1.82 billion in 2019/20; \$1.72 billion in 2020/21; and \$1.68 billion in 2021/22.
- Forests and Other Natural Resources categories align with Table A9 of the 2019/20 Budget and Fiscal Plan. Crown lands and other revenues do not have their own separate line items and are rolled up with other revenue sources in the Budget and Fiscal Plan.

Ministry Revenue Category	2018/19 Revised Forecast	2019/20 Budget Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Forests *	1,389	1,155	1,114	1,063
Other Natural Resources**	469	459	463	490
Crown Lands	83	142	89	72
Other Revenues***	51	59	54	59
Total Ministry Revenue	\$ 1,992M	\$ 1,815M	\$ 1,720M	\$ 1,684M

* Forests include timber tenures stumpage, BCTS, other forest revenue, recoveries and logging tax

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

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

**** Totals may not add due to rounding

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

FORESTS REVENUE - (Millions)

FORESTS REVENUE	2018/19 Revised Forecast	2019/20 Budget Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Timber Tenures ¹	811	662	650	620
BC Timber Sales	387	366	347	326
Other CRF Revenue ²	22	23	23	23
Logging Tax ³	115	50	40	40
Recoveries ⁴	54	54	54	54
FORESTS REVENUE (A9)	\$ 1,389 M	\$ 1,155 M	\$ 1,114 M	\$ 1,063 M

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

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

³ Logging tax is administered by the Ministry of Finance and applies to individuals or corporations that have income from logging operations on private or Crown land in B.C.

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

Advice and Recommended Response – Forests Revenue

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE REVENUE – (Millions)

	2018/19 Revised Forecast	2019/20 Budget Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Water Resources	396	388	399	433
Water Recoveries	50	48	41	34
Wildlife Acts Fees and Licenses	10	10	10	10
Fish and Wildlife Recoveries	13	13	13	13
TOTAL	\$ 469 M	\$ 459 M	\$ 463 M	\$483 M

Advice and Recommended Response – Other Natural Resource Revenue

s.13

CROWN LAND REVENUE - (Millions)

	2018/19 Revised Forecast	2019/20 Budget Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Land Tenure	51	52	55	57
Net Land Sales	14	37	22	2
Net SPP Sales	7	41	0	0
Land Royalties	10	11	11	12
Interest & Other Income	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	\$ 83 M	\$ 142 M	\$ 89 M	\$72 M

Advice and Recommended Response – Crown Land Revenue

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: February 26, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Trish Dohan

Phone: 250 953-4745

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Allan Bennett (Forests)

Phone: 250 356-9807

Name: Trevor Miller (NRO)

Phone: 778 698-9496

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Softwood Lumber Trade Case

Recommended Response:

s.13

If asked about the impact of duties on B.C. companies

s.13

If asked about the uptake of federal package in B.C.

s.13

If asked about the implications of log export policies

s.13

If asked about why we have not settled

s.13; s.16

If asked about preference for type of settlement agreement

s.13; s.16

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Key Facts:

Litigation

- On December 7, 2017, the U.S. International Trade Commission ruled that softwood lumber imports from Canada have materially injured the U.S. industry.
- The U.S. Department of Commerce published the countervailing and antidumping duty orders on January 3, 2018, marking the end of the investigation. Combined duties average 20%.
- As of the end of 2018, countervailing and anti-dumping duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from B.C. are estimated to be ^{s.13}
- Cash deposits will be held in trust by the U.S. pending the first administrative review and conclusion of all appeals.

Appeals

- The NAFTA panel that will hear the argument on the issue of injury to the U.S. industry will hold its first hearing May 7, 2019.
- NAFTA panels have not yet been established for the CVD and AD appeals.
- The WTO panel for the AD appeal held their first hearing in September 2018; second hearing early December 2018. The panel expect to issue their report in the first half of 2019.
- The WTO panel for the CVD appeal held their first hearing February 26-28 2019, the second hearing is scheduled for July 16-18. The panels' report is expected late 2019 or early 2020.
- While these appeals were largely successful for Canada in the previous lumber dispute, they took many years to complete.

Administrative Reviews

- The U.S. Department of Commerce performs annual administrative reviews to update the duty calculations.
- The first administrative review will be launched in January 2019 and the earliest it will complete is the spring of 2020.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 14, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Jim Schafthuizen

Phone: 250-828-4625

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Burleigh

Phone: 778-974-2430

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Key Statistics Related to the Softwood Lumber Dispute

Indicator	Unit	2017	2018	YoY %Change
s.13				
-				
-				
-				
-				
=				
-				
-				
-				
=				
-				
-				
=				
-				
=				
-				
-				

Data Sources

- [1] Western Wood Products Association “Lumber Track” reports, various dates (WWPA). Total US imports from Canada provided by Statistics Canada.
- [2] Same as [1]
- [3] Same as [1]
- [4] Random Length’s Framing Lumber Price Composite, Random Lengths annual yardstick report
- [5] Bank of Canada, average daily noon exchange rate
- [6] Same as [1]
- [7] Same as [1]
- [8] Same as [1]
- [9] Statistics Canada, Table 304-0015 Manufacturing sales, by North American Industry Classification System

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

(NAICS) and province, Sales of goods manufactured (shipments), Sawmills (except shingle and shake mills) [321111]

[10] Statistics Canada, International Trade Statistics.

[11] Statistics Canada, International Trade Statistics.

[12] Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Harvest Billing System, includes everything from provincial, federal, and private lands.

[13] Statistics Canada, International Trade Statistics.

[14] Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Stumpage revenues include accruals and are subject to change

[15] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

[16] Table 379-0030 Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), provinces and territories, annual. Chained (2007). Includes: Forestry and logging [113], support activities for forestry [1153], Wood product manufacturing [321], Paper Manufacturing [322].

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Spruce Beetle Outbreak in North Area

Recommended Response:

s.13

Some of the key actions to date include:

- A Spruce Beetle Project Manager is in place in the Omineca Natural Resource Region (Omineca) to ensure efforts are coordinated in the North.
- A Provincial Bark Beetle manager is being hired within the Office of the Chief Forester to ensure efforts are coordinated provincially and to allow for effective communication with federal and independent agencies.
- A public advisory committee is in place to provide input into control actions.
- A public information document was created in 2016, entitled “Working Together: B.C.’s Spruce Beetle Mitigation Strategy.”
- FLNRORD hosted public research and engagement summits in 2016 and 2017. The 2018 summit focused on potential social and economic impacts to communities.
- Funding for fiscal year:
 - 2016/17 was \$1M;
 - 2017/18 was \$1.4M; and
 - 2018/19 \$1.4M was allocated.
- Funding was used for flights to identify impacted areas, surveys to identify priority operational areas, as well as trap tree and wood decay research.
- FLNRORD staff worked with major licensees to jointly develop and implement an ongoing series of plans and management practices, including:
 - Development of best management practices;
 - Specific Chief Forester guidance (e.g. Stand and Landscape-Level Retention Guidance and Spruce Beetle Harvest Prioritization Matrix); and
 - An annual joint licensee action plan that ensures coordinated response through:
 - Targeted pest reduction harvesting of spruce beetle infected stands,
 - Trap tree program to reduce spread,
 - Collaborative planning of harvest and retention areas within the outbreak, and
 - Effective prioritization of stands to maximize value of impacted timber.

Key Facts:

- The spruce beetle is native to B.C., but extreme populations of spruce beetles have been detected in Mackenzie and Prince George and is increasing in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area (TSA).

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- It was declared an outbreak in the Omineca in 2015 due to size and rate of spread. Population increases in subsequent years has made it the largest spruce beetle outbreak ever recorded in the Omineca.
- The 2018 survey indicated that the severity of spruce beetle attacks in the Omineca has decreased and the number of impacted hectares has dropped from about 370,000 in 2017 to about 240,000 hectares in 2018 (over 50% of the 2018 area is 'trace' level of attack – small scattered attack).
- Province wide, the number of affected hectares has dropped from about 500,000 (2017) to about 340,000 (2018).
- Cummulatively, since 2014 the total area impacted by spruce beetle (including 'trace' levels of attack) is 739,182 hectares in the Omineca and 1,080,053.37 hectares provincially. Forest licencees harvested approximately 55,000 hectares of stands impacted by spruce beetle in the timber harvesting landbase by the end of 2018
- Due to the impacts of climate change (warmer and drier conditions) and the number of spruce trees in affected areas, the spruce beetle outbreak is still a significant concern for the forest industry in the Omineca and elsewhere in B.C.

If asked about the spruce beetle's effect on the mid-term timber supply:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Eamon O' Donoghue, ADM – North Area

Phone: 250-847-7495

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: John Huybers, Omineca Spruce Beetle Project Manager

Phone: 250-614-7442

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery on the Ground – Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- There is a total of 2,538 km of fire guard in the district:
 - Precipice -139 km;
 - Kleena Kleene 347 km;
 - Hanceville – 1,183 km;
 - White Lake – 255 km;
 - Wildwood – 206 km;
 - Spokin Lake – 106 km;
 - Big Lake – 81 km;
 - Quesnel Lake – 23 km; and
 - other wildfires – 198 km.
- **Fireguard:** 1,502 km of fire guard rehabilitation is complete.
- **Timber Salvage:** 1.2 million m³ of burned timber is approved for harvest, with 75% of the salvage being taken from the White Lake, Wildwood and Spokin Lake complexes.
- 930,164 m³ of burned timber has been delivered to regional processing facilities.
- **Archaeology Assessments:** 1,200 km of Archaeology Impact Assessment is complete in high archaeology areas along fire guards.
- 71 new archaeology sites have been discovered, with more expected from continued assessment
- **Range Fencing:** 700 km of Crown range fencing was damaged of which 177 km has been replaced.
- **Reforestation:** 3.73 million trees are scheduled for planting in 2019
- 10.7 million trees were sown in Fall 2018 for planting in 2020

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery on the Ground – Gustafsen Wildfire

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- **Land burnt:** 3,252 ha of Crown land was burned in the Gustafsen Wildfire.
- **Fireguard:** 47 km of fire guard has all been rehabilitated.
- 3,200 m³ of timber was cut to build fire guards, all the associated timber was sold through BCTS auction.
- **Timber salvage:** 163,000 m³ of standing burned timber was sold through BC Timber Sales, 133,374 m³ has been delivered to date to local mills.
- **Range fencing:** 33 km of 35 km of Crown fence was replaced in 2018, remaining 2 km of fence to be replaced in spring 2019.
- 3.2 million seeds will be sown in 2019 which will result in the planting of 1,430 ha in 2020.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery on the Ground – Elephant Hill complex

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- **Fireguard: 91 km** of 572 km of fire guard was rehabilitated in 2018. A further 153 km will be rehabilitated following archaeology assessment in 2019.
- **Timber Salvage:** Applications for 1,171,000 m³ of burned timber have been submitted for authorization. 939,000 m³ has been approved to date of which 386,500 m³ has been harvested.
- **Range Fencing:** 47 km of 600 km of damaged range fence was replaced in 2018. 142 km will be replaced in 2019 following archaeology assessments.
- **Reforestation:**
 - 783,000 trees were planted in 2018 to initiate reforestation operations.
 - 7.45 million trees will be planted through ministry-lead projects in 2019. 17,000 hectares of silviculture surveying will be completed in 2019.
 - For the 100 Mile House area of the complex, 5.8 million trees were sown for planting in 2020
 - 805 hectares of site preparation will be carried out in 2019 for 2020 planting.
- **Investments:**
 - s.13; s.16
-

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2018

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery on the Ground – Quesnel Natural Resource District

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- 34 wildfires in the district during the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons covered a total of 624,985 ha.
- **Fireguard:** 957 km of the 4,123 km of fire guard built in 2017 has been rehabilitated, along with 16 km of the 924 km built in 2018.
- **Silviculture:** 12,000 ha surveyed to determine priority areas for reforestation.
- **Reforestation:** 7.25 million trees will be planted under ministry-led projects starting spring 2019.
 - 8 million trees have been sown for 2020 planting.
 - 600 ha of site preparation for 2020 planting will be carried out in 2019.
- **Range fencing:** There was 4 km of range fence lost to 2017 fires that was replaced in 2018. The remaining 2km will be replaced summer 2019.
- **Timber salvage:**
 - There are 3 permits resulting from the 2017 fires totalling 96,429m3 of volume and 652ha, these permits are pending approval
 - There are 6 permits resulting from the 2018 fires totalling 136,779m3 and 851.1ha, these permits are pending approval
 - Permits will be issued within 40 calendar days pending a complete and accurate submission and a Forest Stewardship Plan in good standing

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery on the Ground – Cariboo Region Wildlife Management

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- During late summer 2017, ministry biologists undertook literature reviews on wildfire impacts to wildlife and habitats.
- Engagement with Indigenous communities supported the development of a work-plan to assess the impacts from the Hanceville and Plateau wildfire complexes.
- Caribou habitat has been assessed to evaluate cumulative impact to habitat from wildfires and forest development.
- Caribou inventory was continued for the Itchas Ilgatchuz herd. Telemetry collars were installed on 50 caribou to track movements and habitat use.
- Moose surveys were completed during winter 2018 and winter 2019 to evaluate post-wildfire moose populations in Limited Entry Hunt zone 5-13A (North Chilcotin).
- Surveys for moose were completed in winter 2019 in Limited Entry Hunt zone 5-13C (North Chilcotin-Nazko), which was heavily disturbed by 2017 wildfires.
- Moose composition surveys were undertaken in 2018 and 2019 to monitor bull/cow and calf/cow ratios.
- Fisher inventory is underway to understand the impact of wildfires on fisher habitat use and population density.
- Mule deer winter range assessments are estimating post-wildfire habitat supply and suitability.
- Deer inventories are assessing the pre and post wildfire abundance of mule deer.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Mike Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

Page 045 of 186

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Land Based Wildfire and Flood Recovery-Cariboo Region Flood Recovery

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Significant flooding events occurred in two areas during 2018 freshet:
 - around the community of Nazko, west of Quesnel
 - Lee's Corner/Hanceville, west of Williams Lake.
- Spring flooding around Nazko inundated outlying properties and impacted six Forest Service Roads that provide access to remote communities.
- Lee's Corner/Hanceville experienced flash flooding and debris torrents in June 2018 following an intensive rain event.
 - Ranch holdings sustained significant debris flow onto hayfields.
 - Staff is collaborated with landowners and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to mitigate the impact of future flash flooding events.
- The 2019 forecast indicates normal snow-packs that do not pose elevated flood risk, however flood risk also depends on weather patterns during the spring freshet period.
- Nazko is at risk of repeat flooding due to the large area of severely burned land upstream of the community.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Land Based Wildfire and Flood Recovery - Grand Forks Flood Recovery (Kootenay Boundary Region support)

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Regional Operations staff are supporting priority flood recovery projects (dike repairs, stream bank armouring, stream dredging) located in the Regional District Kootenay Boundary including: Christina Lake, the City of Grand Forks, Village of Greenwood, Midway and West Kettle prior to the 2019 freshet.
- To date operations has issued 16 of 24 *Water Sustainability Act* authorizations.
- Staff will support recovery efforts well into fiscal 2019/20 as new dikes and other supporting infrastructure will be needed to meet current *Dike Maintenance Act* standards and the Flood Hazard Assessment and Mapping that is being completed by the City of Grand Forks.
- Staff will also support *Land Act* authorizations that may be necessary to assist with the potential relocation of North and South Ruckle subdivisions for the City of Grand Forks
- Funding for all recovery projects has been provided by EMBC

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Garth Wiggill, RED- KBR

Phone: 250 551 5353(cell)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ray Morello, Director, Authorisations, KBR

Phone: 250 919 3847 (cell)

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Wildfire Recovery Post Fire Mushroom Picking

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

s.13; s.16

- Permitting was to reduce the impacts to soils, waterways, cultural values, culturally historic sites, wildlife habitats, ecosystems, roads systems and campsites.
- Permits provided garbage removal services and portable toilets/ outhouses at the designated camping sites.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The Province implemented an access closure to off-road vehicles in support of the Indigenous communities efforts to manage the impacts from mushroom buyers and sellers on the Elephant Hill Wildfires, while a *Land Act* closure was established on lands put forward by the Tsilhqot'in Nation bands to protect specific culturally significant areas from commercial harvest.
- The Province provided enhanced compliance and enforcement support to the Territorial Patrols.
- There are currently few legislative tools and regulations in place to control or convey jurisdiction of the harvest of botanical forest products.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Post Wildfire Building Reconstruction and the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) – Thompson Nicola Regional District

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Many homes and cabins were lost in the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons.
- Under the RAR, any new building or rebuilding within 30m of a stream or lake requires property owners to hire a qualified environmental professional to complete a RAR assessment report. The report prescribes a Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area. All development must remain outside of this area.
- 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 Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas.
- 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.
- TNRD staff contacted ministry biologists requesting confirmation that structures would need to be reconstructed further away from riparian areas in this case.
- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jamie Leathem

Phone: 250-490-8294

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Reforestation

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The timber harvesting land base (THLB) is the portion of the Crown land which is available for harvesting. The area of THLB harvested throughout the province is fairly constant from year-to-year and in 2017/18 it was 170,000 hectares. This is less than 0.4% of the total forested land in B.C. and less than 1% of the THLB.
- The 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons have impacted over 1 million hectares (ha) of the THLB. Including area previously impacted by the mountain pine beetle, there is now upwards of 2 million ha that needs to be surveyed to determine the actual amount of area required to be planted.
- The Minister's mandate letter commits to "*renew our forests by expanding investments in reforestation*". The expanded investment will focus on areas of Crown land that have experienced large-scale natural disturbances, such as wildfires and insect outbreaks.

Basic Reforestation

- B.C.'s forest legislation requires all harvested areas to be reforested. To reforest the areas harvested each year, an average of about 210 million trees per year are planted across the province, while about 20% of the area regenerates naturally.
- Natural regeneration is generally used in lower value stands that are ecologically suitable such as lodgepole pine and Western hemlock. It is also used where partial/selection harvesting retains overstory trees for shade and to provide a natural seed source, such as Western larch or Douglas-fir.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Forests for Tomorrow

- In 2005 the province established the FFT Program in response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic and wildfires.
- FFT is anticipating planting 25 million trees in 2019 and 23 million in 2020 to reforest wildfire areas and mountain pine beetle rehabilitation sites.

Section 108

- Should plantations be damaged prior to reverting back to Crown obligation (free growing), Section 108 of FRPA requires the government to either relieve the licensee of their obligation or to pay them to return the plantations to their pre-fire condition. The 2017 and 2018 fires have impacted an area of approximately 190,000 ha of licensee silviculture obligation. The actual liability will be determined by thorough field surveys which started in the 2018 field season. It is anticipated that reforestation of these areas will take 5 to 10 years.

Forest Carbon Initiative

- FCI is aimed at sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in BC through a range of forest management activities including: reforestation, fertilization and improved fibre utilization.
- In 2019, FCI will plant 11 million trees while planning is underway to plant 25 million seedlings in 2020 and over 30 million in 2021.

Summary

- In the 2018 planting season, an estimated 253 million seedlings were planted. This is expected to increase to 265 million in 2019 including some FCI reforestation activity.
- Planting will increase substantially in 2020 to over 300 million trees with a fully implemented FCI program and activities funded through Section 108.
- Planting should return to normal levels (around 250 million trees) by 2026 with the anticipated conclusion of FCI funding, declining mid-term timber harvests and the completion of a significant amount of the FRPA Section 108 commitments related to the 2017 and 2018 fires.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Provincial Crown Land Planting Program 2017-19

Calendar Year	Licensee	BCTS & FSMF	Enhanced Basic	FFT	FCI	Fires 108	Other	<i>Total</i> *millions of seedlings
2017	166	46	0	26	0	6	3	247
2018	176	47	0	25	0	5	0	253
2019	188	37	0	25	11	4	0	265
2020	200	40		23	25	10		298

***Note**

- BCTS – British Columbia Timber Sales
- FSMF – Forest Stand Management Fund;
- Other – no reporting code in results to identify what they were other than licensee planted trees.
- 2020 is estimated from the 2019 nursery crop currently ordered and being sown.
- Approximately 8 million trees will be planted on private land and are not shown here in the total.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 22, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julie MacDougall

Phone: 778 974 5552

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Rehabilitation of 2018 Wildfires in Skeena Region

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- **Rehabilitation** is work done to “rehabilitate” damage caused by firefighting activities, such as building fireguards. Rehabilitation is required by the Wildfire Act and paid by the BC Wildfire Service.
- **Recovery** is work done to restore the land from damage caused by the fire.
- Out of the 14 fires in Skeena Region that need Rehabilitation, one fire, (the Pope) is fully rehabilitated. The remaining 13 fires (Cheslatta, Verdun, Chelaslie Arm, Nadina, Hautete, Gilmore, Perow, Nichyeskwa, Torkelsen, West Babine, Mill Creek, Alkali Lake, and Lutz Creek) are at various stages of completeness see appendix 1.
- All emergency rehabilitation works have been completed on fires that needed emergency works.
- Emergency ground stabilization work has been carried out for all fire guards, and planning is underway on most of the fires that will lead to further rehabilitation work this summer.
- s.13
- Examples of partnerships with impacted First Nations include:
 - Co-development of a rehabilitation and recovery plan with Tahltan Nation, including a comprehensive archaeological assessment;
 - Collaboration with the Daylu Dene Council and Yukon Wildfire Service to develop a rehabilitation plan for the Lutz Creek fire;
 - Grass seeding of fire guards by local First Nations contractors.
- 2018 Skeena wildfire recovery summary:
- About 201,000 hectares of THLB were affected by the 2018 wildfires. The extent of timber salvage:
 - Specific salvage licences for 24,000 cubic metres of wood have been issued in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area to access areas where emergency rehabilitation work has been taking place;

- The remaining, estimated to be over 250,000 cubic metres of fire-damaged wood, will be harvested under existing licences.
- Staff from Regional Economic Operations Branch are determining the economic impact of the wildfires on communities, businesses and individuals, and identifying potential funding sources for economic development.

Appendix 1: Information Bulletin (2018FLNR0337-002463)

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Eamon O'Donoghue

Phone: 250-847-7495

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Andrea Scarth

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2018FLNR0337-002463
Dec. 20, 2018

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

Update on wildfire site rehabilitation in Skeena Region

SMITHERS – The rehabilitation of land impacted by the suppression of wildfires in 2018 is underway throughout the Northwest Fire Centre, with work being done at 12 of the most significant fire sites.

The initial work is referred to as “emergency works,” which is intended to stabilize the area before the onset of winter. These priority works are considered to be essential for public safety and environmental protection and usually begin immediately after a wildfire is declared to be under control. Rehabilitation planning and associated activities are generally undertaken the following year, as weather conditions allow.

Key tasks associated with these emergency rehabilitation works include:

- stabilizing slopes next to highways and bodies of water
- clearing away danger trees (i.e. trees so badly burned that they’ve become unstable and could topple over at any time)
- grass seeding, to re-establish vegetation and help control soil erosion
- removing timber that was cut down (decked timber) to establish fireguards and slow the growth of the fires

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is rehabilitating areas impacted by wildfire suppression operations as the first step in land-based recovery. The B.C. government is collaborating with local governments and First Nations that were impacted by these wildfires. Rehabilitation planning for another two sites in the Northwest Fire Centre will begin in 2019.

Rehabilitation projects underway in the Nadina Fire Zone

Verdun Mountain wildfire, 47,610 hectares, originated 35 kilometres south of Burns Lake:

- about 167 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- rehabilitation work (using machinery) is ongoing, as weather permits
- grass seeding (aerial and by hand) is underway

Nadina Lake wildfire, 86,767 hectares, originated 40 kilometres south of Houston:

- about 303 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- field work for the rehabilitation plan is complete
- grass seeding (aerial and by hand) is underway

Gilmore Lake wildfire, 216 hectares, originated eight kilometres southwest of Topley:

- about 23 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- field work for the rehabilitation plan is complete
- rehabilitation work (using machinery) is ongoing, as weather permits

Cheslatta Lake wildfire, 8,100 hectares, originated 58 kilometres southeast of Burns Lake:

- about 55 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- rehabilitation work (using machinery) is complete
- additional rehabilitation planning will be carried out in spring 2019

Hautete wildfire, 3,366 hectares, originated 35 kilometres southeast of Fort Babine:

- about 53 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- grass seeding (by hand) is underway
- additional rehabilitation planning will be carried out in spring 2019

Rehabilitation projects underway in the Bulkley Fire Zone

Pope Forest Service Road wildfire, 562 hectares, originated 37 kilometres northwest of New Hazelton:

- about 32 kilometres of fireguard required rehabilitation
- all rehabilitation work has been completed and inspected

Torkelsen Lake wildfire, 2,524 hectares, originated 25 kilometres south of Fort Babine:

- about 33 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- decked timber (from the creation of fireguards) is being moved to a local mill
- hand grass seeding for this wildfire site is complete
- a rehabilitation plan has been completed
- rehabilitation work (using machinery) is ongoing, as weather permits

Nichyeskwa Creek wildfire, 884 hectares, originated 25 kilometres northwest of Fort Babine:

- about 13 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- a rehabilitation plan has been completed
- all decked timber (from the creation of fireguards) has been moved to a local mill
- grass seeding is almost completed

West Babine River wildfire, 10,850 hectares, originated 50 kilometres northwest of Fort Babine:

- about 26 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- a rehabilitation plan has been completed
- no emergency rehabilitation work was necessary for this wildfire site
- all decked timber (from the creation of fireguards) has been moved to a local mill

Mill Creek wildfire, 357 hectares, originated 12 kilometres northwest of Kitwanga:

- about half a kilometre of fireguard requires rehabilitation
- a rehabilitation plan has been completed

Rehabilitation projects underway in the Cassiar Fire Zone

Alkali Lake wildfire, 121,215 hectares, originated five kilometres northwest of Telegraph Creek:

- about 57 kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- the ministry is working with the Tahltan Nation and the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation to complete emergency rehabilitation works, as weather permits
- a rehabilitation plan will be prepared for spring 2019

Lutz Creek wildfire, 100,779 hectares, originated 13 kilometres southwest of Lower Post:

- about seven kilometres of fireguard require rehabilitation
- a rehabilitation plan has been approved
- work and site inspections have begun and will be completed in spring 2019

Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
250 356-7506

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: 2018 Fire Season

Key Facts:

- Provincial State of Emergency was declared on August 15, 2018, and was extended until September 7, 2018.
- From April 1 to March 19, 2019, a total of 2,092 wildfires burned 1,353,884 hectares of land. Approximately 1.4% of the province.
 - There were 111 fires of note – the largest being the Alkali Lake Fire at 121,215 hectares.
- At our peak capacity:
 - 4,756 personnel had been engaged;
 - close to 961 out of province resources had been utilized, includes personnel from every province and territory in B.C. (except Manitoba and Nunavut) as well as from Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and the USA (Washington)
 - Approx. 1,719 B.C. contract personnel, and;
 - 270 aircraft.
- Over 200+ military personnel assisted with evacuations, roadblocks, aircraft logistics, aircraft operations and firefighting suppression efforts.
- 73.5% of 2018 wildfires are believed to be lightning-caused. 25.1% of 2018 wildfires are believed to be human-caused. The remainder are unknown/under investigation.
- s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: (250) 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer

Phone: (250) 312-3032

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Approach to 2019 Fire Season

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Implementing more flexible ways to configure, allocate and deploy firefighting resources, including actively seeking to add up to 80 additional Type 2 contract firefighters, bringing that total up to 160. Once contracted, the operating period for these resources will be increased from 80 to 100 days.
- Working with Procurement Services Branch and Legal Services Branch, BCWS has reviewed and modernized numerous contractual vehicles including Fire Crew Services Type 3, Structure Protection, Security, First Aid and Specialized Services contracts. For 2019, contracts are targeted to be fully executed before June 2019.
- Formed a Contract Advisory Committee in partnership with the Western Forestry Contractors Association in an effort to cooperatively evolve procurement processes.
- Increasing forest industry involvement in wildfire response efforts, including holding joint training workshops with the forest industry and streamlining/standardizing the financial process for provided services.
- Improving integration of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to maximize their efficiency, and increase the length of firefighting aircraft contracts. For 2019, the operating/availability period for the Fire Boss skimmer group has been increased from 100 to 120 days.
- The final stages of a Request for Proposal process is nearing completion for five medium-lift helicopters, which will be under long-term contract agreements for the 2019 fire season, (an increase from two in previous seasons). We expect the additional contracts to be awarded at the beginning of April.
- In its current airtanker procurement planning, BCWS will move to increase skimmer and land-based retardant capacity overall. The service period for these new contracts will begin in 2020.
- BCWS and the Office of the Fire Commissioner are working together on an expanded Structural Protection Program, which will provide additional resources in rural and wildland-urban interface areas.
- Structural protection specialists and Office of the Fire Commissioner Command staff continue to work together to support local government emergency operation centres.
- A training program for structural firefighters who respond to wildfire incidents has been created and will be delivered through 2019. Work includes over 40 wildfire

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

training sessions for fire departments throughout B.C. and will be led by Structural Protection Specialists

- Incident Management Guidelines updated to reflect roles and responsibilities of Joint Hazard Management Teams (Natural Resource Land Managers) will improve coordinated decision making in consideration multiple land management objectives and values.
- Continued development and resourcing a Predictive Services section within BCWS operational structure using best available science, technology and human expertise. This unit will provide decision support to business areas in Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery and will develop succession strategies and increased capacity in fire weather fire behaviour.
- Giving staff increased access to technology, including tablet computers in the field and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to assist with fire mapping and infrared scanning.
- Piloting the use of night vision goggles to use in early detection and prioritization of response in the 2019 season. This technology is beneficial following lightning events in interface areas to assist with earlier detection and response.
- Currently supporting BCWS's Research and Innovation Program by working with the academic and business communities to develop new firefighting tools and techniques. For example, BCWS hosted an Innovation Symposium March 4-8, 2019, and invited vendors to make presentations on new technology and determine how they could benefit B.C.'s wildfire response.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 6, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250 643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer

Phone: 250 320-0433

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: After Action Reviews Implementation (Abbott/Chapman Report)

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Specific details on key recommendations are included in separate Estimates notes (e.g., Prescribed Fire, Community Resiliency, 2019 Fire Season Changes, First Nations and Industry Engagement, Evacuations)
- The unprecedented scope of the 2017 wildfire season prompted an all-out response by the B.C. Government. That response included the declaration of a province-wide state of emergency on July 7, 2017 that lasted for 10 weeks
- The Abbott/Chapman Report, “Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia”, was released May 10, 2018, and contains 108 recommendations.

Date Prepared/Revised: «add date»

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250-828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Application of Prescribed Fire

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Key objectives of prescribed fire use in B.C. include:
 - Using prescribed fire more regularly to mitigate wildfire risks to communities, watersheds, critical infrastructure and natural resource values; and
 - Supporting sustainable, healthy and resilient ecosystems through the careful and controlled use of fire, where appropriate.
- Direct wildfire suppression costs were \$649M in 2017 and \$615M in 2018.
- The BCWS works closely with land managers, stakeholders and partners to undertake a variety of fuel management activities such as prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risks, enhance wildlife habitat and for ecological restoration objectives.
- Prescribed burning is just one fuel management strategy that is used to mitigate wildfire risks and reduce the intensity of future wildfires in an area. Other methods include thinning, pruning and mechanical removal. It is often necessary

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

to use a combination of these methods to safely and effectively meet land management objectives.

- Prescribed burning is one of the treatments that is eligible for funding under the new \$60M Community Resiliency Investment program to reduce wildfire risk in and around communities.
- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) also funds prescribed burning projects as a way to reduce wildfire risk on provincial Crown land.
- Many Community Resiliency Investment and FESBC funding applicants have applied for prescribed fire planning and it is expected that future intakes will see a considerable increase in applications proposing prescribed fire to reduce future risk of wildfire.
- BCWS has recently updated its policy and procedures and is currently working on updating and developing tools to streamline the prescribed fire planning process.
- Prescribed burning requires considerable planning. Factors that must be considered when planning a prescribed fire include the expanding wildland urban interface (where urban development borders on grasslands and forested areas), critical infrastructure, and land management objectives related to wildlife habitat and watersheds.
- Prescribed fires are ignited and monitored under the direction of a certified burn boss or other qualified personnel to meet pre-determined land management objectives.
- Prescribed fires are ignited when weather, site and venting conditions are favourable for managing the potential impacts of the resulting smoke.
- The potential risks associated with prescribed fires have contributed, in part, to the reduction of prescribed burning as a land management tool in B.C. in recent decades.
- Given their complexity, planning for prescribed burns can range from six months to many years.
- FLNRORD is working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to ensure flexibility in the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation for prescribed fire.
- Staff are currently consulting with legal counsel and Wildfire Risk staff to understand and address liability concerns.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 847-6640

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer, A/Director

Phone: 250 312-3032

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

Issue: Cariboo Community Engagement - How will communities be kept up to date with the wildfire recovery efforts?

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- All the districts within the Cariboo and Thompson-Okanagan regions that experienced the 2017 and 2018 wildfires are implementing the wildfire recovery plans within their respective district and regional boundaries.
- Key contacts with the CRD, cities, stakeholders and indigenous communities have been developed and are being utilized.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The monthly Wildfire Recovery Project tracker provides up to date information on all the landbase recovery initiatives in response to the 2017 and 2018 wildfires for the Cariboo and Thompson Okanagan Regions.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Cariboo Norbord Inclusion in Fire Salvage Operations

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Norbord owns and operates an oriented strand board facility at 100 Mile House which employs approximately 160 staff and supports a significant proportion of indirect jobs in the community.
- s.13
-
-

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Michael Pedersen

Phone: 250-398-4355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Community Resiliency Investment Program

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Government announced it is investing \$60 million in the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program in 2018/19 to ensure all communities get the necessary FireSmart funding.
- With the base funding made available in 2019/20 from the full payment of the CRI program, the ministry will deliver an enhanced fuel treatment program as well as greater capacity within the BC Wildfire Service.
- Applicants submitted applications for activities that fall within all the FireSmart disciplines including educational initiatives, supporting FireSmart activities on private land, fuel management, and community FireSmart planning.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 26, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 847-6640

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer, A/Director

Phone: 250 312-3032

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Community Wildfire Risk Reduction

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2018 government announced it is investing \$60 million in the CRI program over three years to ensure all communities get the necessary FireSmart funding.
- Prescribed fire is an eligible activity within the CRI program.
- With the base funding made available in 2019/20 from the full payment of the CRI program, the ministry will deliver an enhanced fuel treatment program as well as greater capacity within the B.C. Wildfire Service.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250 847-6640

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rob Schweitzer, A/Director

Phone: 250 312-3032

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Protecting Non-Timber Values – Elephant Hill Wildfire

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Impacted First Nation Communities have created Secwepemcul'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society (SRSS) to coordinate and manage indigenous stewardship and participation in operations.
- The Province and the SRSS have collaborated on monitoring efforts for Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem values.

s.13; s.16

- Despite efforts to mitigate stream flows, the Bonaparte Fishway, downstream of the Elephant Hill Wildfire, has been destroyed, stranding future migrating salmon and steelhead.
- Management options are being developed for the Bonaparte Fishway which is jointly managed by FLNRORD and DFO.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The Section 58, *Forest and Range Practices Act*, Off Road Vehicle Closure has been extended for two more years to prevent negative impacts of off-road vehicle use within the Elephant Hill Wildfire perimeter.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Rachael Pollard

Phone: 250-318-3744

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Ranchers and Guide Outfitters - Elephant Hill

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The 2017 Elephant Hill Fire affected 42 Range agreement holders in 100 Mile House and Thompson Rivers Resource Districts.
- Approximately 19,000 animal unit months (AUMs) were lost annually; affected ranchers have had to rely on other sources of feed or have down-sized their herds; the Agriculture Recovery Program continues to provide support to ranchers to facilitate resumption and recovery of business as soon as possible.
- About 550 km of fence were destroyed by the Elephant Hill fire and need to be replaced for proper livestock management, public health and safety, and protection of ecosystems. In both Resources Districts, 75 km were replaced in 2018, and 148 km will be rebuilt in 2019
- The 2017 fire season was followed by an equally devastating 2018 fire season; the recovery response to these fires has stretched the capacity of fencing contractors and has resulted in increased costs and delays in fence replacement.
- Due to the locations of some of the burned fences and infrastructure, the government is undertaking additional work, in consultation, in and partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure adherence to the *Heritage Conservation Act*, to further reconciliation, and to implement UNDRIP
- Staff continue to monitor ecosystem recovery, and as well as timber salvage activities, and to prioritize infrastructure replacement to ensure the earliest access to crown range by ranchers and guide outfitters

Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall, A/ADM South

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz

Phone: 250-614-7460

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Evacuation Alerts and Orders

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- EMBC is responsible for coordinating with local governments in the declaration of evacuation alerts and evacuation orders.
- The *Wildfire Act* under the jurisdiction of FLNRORD sets out the authority of the government for fire prevention and fire control.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The *Emergency Program Act* under the jurisdiction of the Public Safety and Solicitor General sets out the powers of the minister in emergencies and disasters.
- Indigenous communities with a treaty agreement have the authority of a local government under the *Emergency Program Act*.
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada has the legislated responsibility for emergency management on federal First Nation reserves.
- Amendments to provincial legislation would be required if additional evacuation enforcement powers were considered desirable.
- The BCWS is responsible for providing an advisory role in providing EMBC and local government's evacuation related recommendations with a priority on public safety.
- A prison sentence or monetary penalty may be ordered where a person interferes with or obstructs an official exercising any power under the *Emergency Program Act*.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250-828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Grazing and Managing Fine Fuels for Wildfire Risk

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Two consecutive years of unprecedented and record-breaking wildfires resulted in huge direct and indirect costs, economic, social, and community disruptions:
 - 2017, over 1.2 million hectares burned, direct fire costs - \$568 million;
 - 2018, over 1.3 million hectares burned, direct fire costs - \$555 million.
- While recovery is underway, it may take years for ecosystems, communities and business to recover to their pre-fire conditions.
- Climate models project an increase in extreme weather events such as fire and floods.
- The use of grazing to manage fine fuels around communities complements exiting tools and programs, such as ecosystem restoration, aimed at reducing wildfire risks.
- The cost of recovery - economic and social implications:
 - FLNRORD, Crown Range infrastructure, 2017 \$11 million, 2018 undetermined;
 - AGRI, AgriRecovery 2017, \$9 million, 2018, \$1.0 million).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz, Director, Range Branch

Phone: 250-552-1462

Additional Notes: Grazing and managing fine fuels

- Targeted grazing, “*use of a specified kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation and landscape goals*”
- In managing fine fuels, livestock would,
 - change fire behaviour, prevent crown fires, and if a fire occurs, it would be a low intensity ground fire that would be relatively easy to control;
 - stop or slow wildfire, or assist in fire suppression;
 - an additional tool in the fuel management tool box;
 - a low carbon, less costly and proactive solution;
 - provide economic opportunities for existing ranchers, and new opportunities for new entrants in the livestock sector, for example, new goat and sheep enterprises; and,
 - provide opportunities for stewardship contracts with livestock owners.
- Grazing has been to reduce fine fuels, for example,
 - Ventura County Fire Department uses goats to remove grass below the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library;
 - Carson City, Nevada, has a wildland/urban interface fuel reduction program using sheep;
 - Some wildfire prevention programs in Southern Europe are using livestock to graze fuel breaks around communities;
 - Logan Lake, BC uses livestock to manage fine fuels; and,
 - BC has used sheep for brush management
- Co-benefits:
 - Enhanced wildlife habitat and conservation;
 - lowered threat to life and property;
 - lowered cost for fire suppression and rehabilitation;
 - local food production; and,
 - enterprise diversification, for example, opportunities for some new entrants to agriculture (sheep and goats)
- Targeted grazing is not a solution to all fuel management challenges, but is a powerful tool when used in combination with other tools such as prescribed fire, targeted harvesting of trees

Alignment

1. Ministry goals:
 - ✓ Partnerships that support reconciliation with indigenous people;
 - ✓ Sustainable Natural Resource management; and,
 - ✓ Economic benefits for all British Columbians with thriving and resilient rural communities.
2. Ministry Service Plan Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, and 3.2
3. Others:
 - ✓ Community Resiliency Investment Program
 - ✓ FES 2019 service plan
 - ✓ Improving wildlife habitat and conservation initiative

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Invasive Plant Management – Wildfire Recovery

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The 2017 and 2018 wildfires provide opportunities for establishment and spread of many invasive plant species that are known to respond well to fire, such as St. John's wort, sulphur cinquefoil, cheat grass, meadow salsify, leafy spurge and knapweed.
- Based on literature reviews, areas with high risk invasive plants, high burn severity and disturbed ground (e.g., roads, fireguards, staging areas) will likely benefit from seeding the fall or spring following a wildfire.
- Invasive plants directly impact or threaten forest and rangeland productivity, ecosystem functioning, riparian and aquatic habitats, species at risk, and they affect all of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* resource values.
- Stakeholder concerns continue to increase regarding the likelihood of expanded invasive plant impacts resulting from 2017 and 2018 wildfire disturbance.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz, Director, Range Branch

Phone: 250-552-1462

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Outstanding Wildfire Claims for the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons

Recommend Response:

s.13

s.13; s.17

s.13

Key Facts:

- As per section 9 of the *Wildfire Act* and section 15 of the Wildfire Regulation, if government enters private land for fire control and causes damage the government must compensate the owner or tenant of that land.
- In the Kamloops Fire Centre geographic region, the following offers are outstanding:
s.17; s.22

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- In the Cariboo Fire Centre geographic region, the following offers are outstanding:
s.16; s.17; s.22

Date Prepared/Revised: 2019-02-28

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Richard Manwaring

Phone: (250) 828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kathleen Werstiuk

Phone: (778) 974-5721

Name: Graham Litman

Phone: (778) 267-0589

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Stay and Defend

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- During the past two seasons (2017 and 2018), some communities and individuals have decided not to evacuate after receiving recommendations to do so.
- s.13
-
-

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- s.13

-

-

-

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Rick Manwaring

Phone: 250-828-4449

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

2019/20 Estimates Debate**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**
.....**Issue:** Timely Payment for Services**Recommend Response:**

s.13

Key Facts:

- Invoices are paid via electronic processing at all fire centres throughout the Province. Timely processing is dependent upon all contractors providing up to date and complete information.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

Name: Ian Meier

Phone: 250-643-0078

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mary Myers

Phone: 250 507-9353

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Progress on Abbott Chapman Flood Recommendations

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Given the importance of recommendations from the Abbott/Chapman Report and other After Action Review from the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons, the Province has established the Emergency management Review Office to coordinate cross government efforts.
- Defer to Emergency Management BC on questions related to the cross government response to the recommendations from the Abbott/Chapman Report.
- Phase 1 of the flood risk strategy identified \$625K for consultant costs and \$420K in additional internal resourcing (new hires) to complete Phase 2 of the strategy.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- Development of the strategy supports government's response to the 2018 Abbott Chapman review of the 2017 wildfire and flood season. The report:
 - Highlighted B.C.'s vulnerability to floods.
 - Recommended that RFC regularly evaluates accuracy of operational flood forecast models and has initiated projects to reduce and better communicate uncertainty in model results.
 - Identified inadequacies with the way the province currently manages flood risk and need to re-evaluate design flood levels and construction levels.
 - The need to review and clarify roles and responsibilities for flood management in B.C.
 - Identified the need for a provincial flood risk strategy and made recommendations for several inclusions (including using indigenous knowledge) into the flood risk strategy.
- Floodplain mapping is a local government responsibility. Funding has been provided since 2016 to do mapping, with approximately 20 communities taking advantage of the programs. Up to \$25M in funding (including \$5M in LiDAR acquisition) will be required to assist local governments in re-evaluating flood levels. Funding is slated to end 2020.
- The Province is completing a province wide dike consequence classification by March 2020, and an orphan dike risk assessment by March 2020, and working on climate change impacts for the development of a new hydraulic model and design flood profile for the lower Fraser River by 2021. To complete the recommended risk evaluation on the provinces dikes will require up to \$10M.
- Evaluation of the Nicola Dam and Okanagan Lake Regulatory Structure is expected to cost up to \$100K and modifications up to \$2M.
- RFC is improving calibration of Okanagan inflow forecast model for better estimation of seasonal runoff volume.
- The RFC is also updating snow indices for seasonal runoff forecasting – using more snow stations, updating model to better predict snow volumes from basins, and to reviewing performance of models from past years and revising to provide additional accuracy.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier

Phone: 250-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Mitchell Hahn

Phone: 778 698 7336

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Okanagan Lake Flood Recovery Project

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2017, high water levels and wind storms resulted in damage to approximately 1200 docks on Okanagan Lake. Ministry staff continue to process a high volume of applications to reconstruct or repair these structures.
- Staff has been reassigned to this priority work to ensure government processes these applications promptly.
- There are 5 main dock building companies working full time on the lake and the approval of these applications impacts their ability to work.
- Large dock and foreshore structures are damaging to fish spawning grounds and aquatic habitat.
- Structures blocking public access across the foreshore continue to be targeted as staff are made aware and able to order removal.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Bob Warner

Phone: 250-490-8232

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS) – Freshet

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- 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.
- It is also impractical to keep the lake levels extremely high in low snowpack years since the length of time it takes to lower the lake level.
- In 2017, similar low snowpack levels were reported in mid-February, but a late March snows and spring rains caused Okanagan Lake to peak 76 centimetres above its annual high level target (full pool).
- 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.
- The legislated OLRS 10 year dam safety review has been commissioned and draft reports are currently being written.
- Lidar mapping for the area is being completed in most areas to better identify flood susceptible areas.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Shaun Reimer/Bob Warner

Phone: 250-490-8229/250-490-8232

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Newsome Creek-Sorrento 2018 Flood Recovery

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- High stream flows during wide-spread flooding in 2017 and 2018 have resulted in undercutting and steepening of a ravine along Caen Road.
- Four properties have permanent structures at risk should the slopes of the ravine fail. One structure is a s.22
 - 2018 assessed value of the 4 buildings at \$350K,
 - estimated cost to relocate the buildings \$200K,
 - estimated cost for geotechnical mitigation is \$3M.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) funded one geotechnical assessment in 2017 and two additional geotechnical assessments as well as a danger tree assessment in 2018 for Newsome Creek.
- The CSRD does not have the funds for a geotechnical solution to mitigate the risk, nor do residents.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) is upgrading 12 culverts along the creek.
- An engineer's study, partially funded by EMBC, is due mid-April, 2019.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 27, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Trevor Bohay, Resource Manager-TO Region

Phone: 250-371-6284

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Community Transition Services in B.C.

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2018/19, in support of community resilience /preparedness, REO facilitated ~\$45,000 in Workforce Response Grants for fire suppression/ remediation training required for B.C. Wildfire Service employment, delivered by post-secondary institutions in wildfire impacted Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Woss/Port McNeill worker transition services were initiated in September 2018, when Western Forest Products announced a suspension of their Englewood operations from mid-November 2018 to mid-March 2019, impacting 125 workers and 80 contractors. All workers are confirmed to return on March 18, 2019.
- Mount Polley Mines worker transition services were initiated in January 2019, following the announcement to suspend operations indefinitely effective May 31, 2019. The layoff affects over 200 workers, as well as sub-contractors and suppliers, and impacts a number of surrounding communities. A worker transition team met in Williams Lake on February 1, 2019, and discussed expanding its scope to include the broader regional worker impacts. There have been two additional meetings; the worker transition team will continue to meet to mitigate impacts.
- On February 27, 2019 Neucel Specialty Cellulose mill in Port Alice unexpectedly issued lay-off notices to the 12-13 employees remaining at the mill, citing a poor business environment. As of March 15, 2019, employees were still owed two weeks wages. This final lay-off follows the March 1, 2015 shut down impacting 435 workers.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

The mill has not paid 2018 property taxes and currently owes the Village of Port Alice \$1,047,617.12, including penalty and interest. The mill's taxes account for 73% of Village property tax revenue and 40% of total revenue. (Further details in Appendix 1: Port Alice Community Profile)

- REO is monitoring a growing number of short term and indefinite curtailments, ready to provide community transition services when requested. (See Table 1: Summary Community Transition Monitoring).

Table 1: Summary Community Transition Monitoring

Community	Company (date of curtailment or closure)	Curtailment	Approx. Jobs Impacted
100 Mile House	West Fraser (Jan 14, 2019)	3 wks/3months	150
Williams Lake	Mount Polley Mine (Jan 17, 2018)	Indefinite	200
	Tolko Lakeview (fire - Nov 2, 2017)	Feb 2019 restart extended	150 12
	Parallel 55 (Jan 21, 2019) 3 rd shift Atlantic Power (BC Hydro agreement)	Indefinite June 30, 2019	30
Vavenby	Canfor (Jan 11 - Feb 26, 2019)	6 weeks	180
Quesnel	West Fraser (Jan 17, 2019) 3 rd shift	Indefinite	75
	Tolko Quest Wood (Oct 12, 2018)	Indefinite	120
Mackenzie	Canfor (Jan 30, 2019) 10% reduction in production	Operating days decreased	180
Houston	Canfor (Jan 30, 2019) 10% reduction in production	Operating days decreased	300
Fraser Lake	West Fraser (Nov 13, 2018) 3 rd shift	Indefinite	60
Fort St James	Conifex (Jan 1, 2019)	Mid 2019	70
	Conifex (Feb 4, 2019)	3 weeks	100-130
Chetwynd	West Fraser (Dec 14 – Jan 2, 2019)	3 weeks	160
	Canfor (Jan 14, 2019)	3 wks/3 months	250
Chasm	West Fraser (Jan 14, 2019)	3 wks/3months	170
Approximate Total Direct Jobs Impacted (contractors not included)			2,225

Date Prepared/Revised: February 22, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg

Phone: 778-974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sarah Fraser

Phone: 250-213-5087

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Appendix 1: Port Alice Community Profile

PORT ALICE (NEUCEL SPECIALTY CELLULOSE LTD.)

Community Profile	
GENERAL	
Population	664 (2016)
Unemployment	Regional District of Mount Waddington: 10.4% Village of Port Alice: 30.0%
Regional District	Mount Waddington (population 12,000)
MLA/MP	Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and MLA, North Island Rachel Blaney, MP North Island-Powell River (NDP)
First Nation Government	Quatsino First Nation, specifically the Hoyalas (Hoyalas) and Gusgimukw (Koskimo) peoples. Elected Chief: Tom Nelson
Local Government	Village of Port Alice: Mayor Kevin Cameron
Health	Vancouver Island Health Authority; Port Alice Health Centre
Education	Elementary/Junior Secondary: Port Alice; Secondary: Port McNeill; Post-Secondary: North Island College, Port Hardy
ECONOMIC	
Industry Overview	Port Alice began as a remote “one-industry” town with the opening of the pulp and paper mill in 1918. There is a small amount of other forest sector employment in the area and limited tourism, mainly fishing. Port Alice continues to be primarily dependent on the mill for employment and tax revenue.
Primary Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neucel Specialty Cellulose (Peak employment- 435 workers, 200 residing in Port Alice) Western Forest Products North Island Forest Operation – Jeune Landing Operation and Quatsino Dryland Sort (Employment: 50 workers from the surrounding area)
Past significant layoffs in Port Alice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout its history, the mill has changed ownership and closed several times. In 2004 the mill was shut down when owner Doman Industries declared bankruptcy leaving employees without pay and a large unpaid tax bill to the Village. The provincial government provided approximately \$872,000 to Port Alice in community transition assistance (an \$819,000 grant partially replaced 2004 property taxes not paid by the mill, and the remainder was for transition planning).
Neucel Specialty Cellulose Ltd. (Neucel) Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neucel produces dissolving pulp/cellulose. High purity cellulose is used to produce textiles (rayon), film, cement, paints, inks, lacquers, pharmaceuticals, food additives. In 2005 Neucel acquired the mill, reopening in 2006 with a negotiated reduced salary structure and workforce. Prior to the 2005 purchase Neucel entered into an environmental agreement with the Province providing an indemnity to the purchaser and successors. Outstanding property taxes were extinguished and legislation that would enable future municipal and regional district property tax concessions was introduced. The current owner, Fulida Group Holdings Ltd (Fulida) of China, purchased the mill in 2011 near peak cellulose prices of \$2100/ton. By late 2014 prices were \$850/ton and have only risen slightly since. The break-even point for the mill is \$990/ton. Fulida is one of the leading producers of rayon in the world.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Situational Overview

Recent Layoff Events:

- Citing budget pressures, Neucel curtailed operations between November 7, 2014 and January 8, 2015.
- On February 5th, 2015 the company announced a 6-month curtailment effective March 1 due to global price of pulp, impacting 435 workers (346 hourly, 89 salaried).
- On May 19, 2015 Neucel extended their curtailment into 2016 - 2017. The 2015 curtailment followed three consecutive years of unfavourable pulp prices, higher cost for oil and operating chemicals, and an unfavourable US/CAN\$ exchange rate.
- The mill has remained in curtailment with a few maintenance workers on site.
- The company had identified two key factors needed for the restart of the mill: a collective agreement in place and an identified fibre supply. Neucel reached a tentative agreement with the union on August 28, 2018. FLNR staff has identified sources of long term competitive fibre, including the use of residual fibre and a potential log swap arrangement.
- On February 27, 2019 Neucel unexpectedly issued lay-off notices to the 12-13 employees remaining at the mill, citing a poor business environment. As of March 15, 2019 employees were owed their last two weeks wages.
- Although the mill will require significant improvements before a re-start, the company has indicated they are not walking away from Neucel and are actively seeking another investor for the site. FLNR staff will lead government's support to Fulda in identifying a partner.
- As of March 15, 2019, Neucel property tax arrears to Port Alice were \$1,047,617.12, increasing by 6.95% (\$196.70) per day. Arrears for smaller land holdings are \$40,000.
- Neucel provides 73% of Port Alice's property tax revenue; 40 % of total revenue. Port Alice will continue to cut community services and has been informed the local bank will close in October 2019 and services at the Port Alice Health Centre are being reduced.

Past Provincial Engagement with the Village of Port Alice and Neucel:

- Regional Economic Operations (REO) established a worker transition team in February 2015 which continued to meet regularly until May 2018.
- Six employment information sessions were held for Neucel workers as well as a job fair in Port Hardy and a land development workshop with Port Alice.
- In 2015, North Island College delivered training programs using \$150,000 provided by then Ministry of Advanced Education.
- In 2015, the province provided \$30,000 and Island Coastal Economic Trust provided an additional \$30,000 for two plans: Port Alice Economic Development Plan and a North Island region priorities plan led by the Regional District of Mount Waddington. Reports were completed in 2016.
- The province also provided supports (\$174,000) for a Targeted Initiative for Older Workers program in Port Alice. The program completed in July 2016.
- In FY2016/17, the Rural Dividend Program provided \$80,000 for a 'Village of Port Alice Economic Development and Community Sustainability' project. The funding supported the

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

development of two projects: (1) purchase and development of an RV campground/restaurant; and (2) upgrades to the municipal marina.

- In FY 2017/18, the Rural Dividend Program provided \$498,885 in Special Circumstances funding for further upgrades to the Port Alice Marina.
- FLNR staff has worked with Neucel since 2015 on fiber supply.
- BC Hydro has engaged in discussions with Neucel since at least 2014 on options to help decrease electricity costs.

Next Steps:

- In March 2019 the worker transition team was revived, with the first meeting scheduled for March 15, 2019.
- REO will continue to monitor the potential sale of the Neucel mill and liaise with FLNR and other ministry contacts regarding progress.
- REO will continue to assist Port Alice to implement their Economic Development Plan.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Rural Development Strategy and Rural Engagement

Recommended Response:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Key Facts:

- The Rural Development Engagement conducted between January 29, 2018 and March 7, 2018 resulted in a “What We Heard” report. The input received included over 5,800 online visits and comments, 16 in-person community engagement sessions, and 22 key advisor interviews with 42 key advisors.
- The results of the engagement process were shared across government via presentations and discussions. Government staff inquiries were received from 25 individuals and subject specific data were shared across 15 ministries.
- FLNRORD is providing sound information for policy development and decision making across government. This includes:
 - Working with a contractor to compile rural-specific data and a more accessible mechanism for accessing and analyzing the data.
 - Developing a more nuanced understanding of the differences across rural communities.
 - Working with Simon Fraser University to better understand how to support and measure community resilience in responding and adapting to disruptions in the local economy and environment.
 - Creating an evidence-based framework to incorporate rural considerations and evidence into the decision making process. This work is being done with the support of a Selkirk College led research consortium that explores interjurisdictional best practices and lessons from the application of rural considerations approaches.
- Regional Economic Operations (REO) has 12 Regional Managers based in communities across B.C. Regional Managers provide on-the-ground advisory services to support regional economic development, and proactively support rural communities in building economic development capacity, promoting investment attraction and business development and retention.
- REO is working in collaboration with Simon Fraser University to imbed Community Economic Development practices into its rural development programming and regional economic advisory services.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg, ADM

Phone: 778-974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sarah Fraser, Executive Director

Phone: 778-698-7253

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Examples of B.C. Government Rural Focused Initiatives

Examples of initiatives from across Ministries that are rural-specific or have a rural-specific components:

- The new \$95 million federal-provincial *Rural and Northern Communities Fund*, will address the unique infrastructure needs of rural communities (<25,000). Small rural communities will be able to have 90% to 100% of eligible project costs covered by joint federal-provincial funding.
- LNG Canada, the largest private sector investment in B.C. history, will create jobs and opportunities in communities throughout B.C.
- Changes to taxes will help credit unions reinvest \$15 million a year back in their communities.
- Investments in high speed internet to get rural and remote communities connected to faster broadband speed. More than \$83 million in federal, provincial and partner funding was announced, helping improve high-speed connectivity to 187 rural communities, including 69 Indigenous communities.
- Investment of \$1 million to help support teacher recruitment and retention, including in rural areas.
- Making ferry travel more affordable and reliable by freezing fares on major routes, rolling back fares by 15% on small routes, restoring the Monday to Thursday 100% seniors fare discount, restoring select routes, and increasing sailings on select routes.
- When Greyhound pulled out of Northern B.C., the Province stepped in with B.C. North to enable travel between northern communities. The service has affordable fares of \$35 to \$45 per route.
- Improvements in access to healthcare for rural residents, including plans to open a new hospital in Terrace, redevelopment and expansion of Cariboo Memorial Hospital in Williams Lake, Dawson Creek Hospital, a new hospital in Fort Saint John, and the addition of 21 new full-time paramedic positions serving Northeast B.C., the Central Interior and Castlegar.
- Through partnerships with local governments, the federal government, and the private and not-for-profit sectors, the Province will begin to build 114,000 units of affordable housing across the province. As of November 2018, the approved projected included 1,300 new homes on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, as well as 750 in the Interior and North.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Rural Dividend Program

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Rural Dividend Program, started in 2016, provides a total of \$25 million in funding annually (to 2020/21) to assist rural communities to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies.
- 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 contributes to the strength and stability of rural communities using the principles of Community Economic Development (sustainable, participatory, asset-based, self-reliant and community based).

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

- In the first two years of the Program (2016/17 and 2017/18), 940 applications were received over four intake periods and 26 applications were received through Special Circumstances, for a total funding request of \$86.2 million. Over \$48 million was distributed to 614 projects.
- Based on quantitative analysis for the first four intakes, key program outcomes include:
 - A total of 676 direct jobs have been funded by the Program, including 245 full time jobs, 121 part-time jobs, and 310 temporary/seasonal jobs.
 - There are 464 B.C. communities identified as eligible; 68% have participated in project applications over the first three years of the program. Participation rates from eligible Indigenous communities are similar to participation rates from eligible non-Indigenous communities.
 - Approval rates for Local Government applicants are approximately 73% and 67% for Indigenous, with a 53% approval rate for Not-for-profits.
- The fifth intake was the only intake period for 2018/19. A breakdown of the \$25 million funding allocation for 2018/19 is included below:

Rural Dividend Program Fifth Intake – Funding Allocation	
Annual Funding Allocation for 2018-19 Fiscal Year	\$25,000,000
Operational Costs for Program	\$750,000
Approved Projects	
Project Development	\$673,124
Single Applicant / Partnership Projects	\$18,657,238
Special Circumstances	\$3,773,294
Total Approved Projects	\$23,103,656
Projects Pending Approval	
Special Circumstances	\$876,425
Single Applicant / Partnership Projects	\$269,919
Total Pending Projects	\$1,146,344
Total Balance Remaining	\$0

- FLNRORD has completed a third-party review of the Rural Dividend Program, which identifies opportunities for the continuous improvement that are focussed on applicant experience and program reach, as well as internal efficiencies.
- The review was completed by Deloitte, and the final report and an action plan to implement the review's recommendations, is anticipated to be provided to the Minister by the end of March, 2019.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg, ADM

Phone: 778-974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Sarah Fraser, Executive Director

Phone: 778-698-7253

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Training Plan Overview – Learning for Reconciliation

- There are three core objectives identified in the training plan:
 1. All staff read the relevant materials, pocket sized copies of the Declaration and TRC's Calls to Action have been distributed to all regional staff in the ministry.
 2. All staff receive in person training on the content of the Declaration, the TRC's Calls to Action, and the history that led to the drafting of both documents.
 3. All staff attend in-person training from an indigenous provider that improves the attendees cultural competency.
 - This is currently being prioritized for staff in positions that interact directly with Indigenous communities.
- Some divisions have already completed all aspects of this training.
- Training plan objectives/requirements apply to all staff regardless of classification or job description.

Implementation Plan

- A draft Implementation plan has been developed to enact the *10 Draft Principles*. However, the plan has not yet been implemented pending further direction from MIRR and the UNDRIP legislation.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Date Prepared/Revised: March 13, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Sean Addie

Phone: (778) 974-5758

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Emma Dooley

Phone: (250) 889-4277

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: BCWS First Nations Engagement

Recommend Response:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2018, FNESS provided two training sessions to First Nations fire crews in the Chilcotin through partnership funding with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
- In 2018, BCWS employed 12 First Nations contract crews for a total of 911 deployment days (see attachment).
- In 2019, FNESS is currently delivering four training sessions to fulfill the requirements for Type 3 crews through partnership funding with ISC and BCWS.
- BCWS actively recruited First Nations in the Chilcotin in 2019 and will be implementing this recruitment model provincially in 2020.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 6, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Ian Meier, A/Executive Director

Phone: 250-847-6640

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jamie Jeffreys, Director Strategic Engagement Phone: 250-312-3041

Page 102 of 186

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.16

Page 103 of 186 to/à Page 104 of 186

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13; s.16

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Compliance and Enforcement Statistics

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Number of Inspections and Compliance Actions

April 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Function	Number of Inspections	Number of Compliance Actions ¹
Wildfire Management	1,143	744
Land Management	1,590	505
Forest Management	958	338
Resource Roads	656	265
Water Management	929	302
Revenue Management	656	212
Total	5,932	2,366

¹ – Includes Warning Tickets, Written Notices and other Warnings

Number of Investigations and Violation Tickets

April 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Statute	Number of Investigations	Number of Violation Tickets
Wildfire Act	191	78
Forest and Range Practices Act	223	107
Other Acts	21	6
Forest Act	69	74
Water Sustainability Act	181	81
Land Act	197	N/A
Off Road Vehicle Act	39	52
Heritage Conservation Act	3	N/A
Total	924	398

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

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Historical Fiscal Years Enforcement and Inspections

	Enforcement					Inspections
	Enforcement	Admin OTBH*	OTBH Penalty	Violation Tickets	Amount	
2018/19 YTD**	924	7	\$68,292	398	\$122,816	5,932
2017/2018	808	13	\$305,486	518	\$171,402	7,883
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.

** 2018 is for data from April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Note: The amounts referenced in the table above do not include cost recovery to the Crown or damages. Determined contraventions under the *Wildfire Act* Section 27 allow for the recovery of fire suppression costs. Recovery ranges from \$500,000 to multiple millions of dollars annually, and is not included in the penalties shown.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: 250 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kevin Edquist, Director, CEB

Phone: 250-952-4084 or 250-208-3711

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Cowichan Lake Weir and Cowichan Watershed Board

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- A Water Use Planning exercise, involving multiple stakeholders, was completed in 2018. It identified the need to secure additional storage on Cowichan Lake to support flow and aquatic habitat for a number of fish species (including Chinook salmon) in the Cowichan River especially in light of anticipated climate change impacts to water supply. The Cowichan Watershed Board requested the Province take out a licence and rebuild the weir at Lake Cowichan to enable more storage.
- The cost of a detailed engineering design for a new weir and assessment of impact on the ~ 600 waterfront property owners is estimated to cost about \$1 million.
- The Minister made a decision to not apply for a conservation licence to reconstruct the weir and this was communicated to Co-Chairs of Cowichan Watershed Board in writing on November 22, 2018.
- Since the last Cowichan Watershed Board meeting with Ministers Donaldson and Heyman on October 2, 2018, FLNRORD's West Coast Regional Operations senior staff have been meeting with senior staff from the major stakeholders (Cowichan Valley Regional District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Catalyst Paper (the current operator of the weir) and Cowichan Tribes staff.
- FLNRORD staff have not met with Cowichan Watershed Board or staff since the last Ministers meeting on October 2, 2018; however, a meeting is expected to be arranged in the next few weeks.
- We understand that talks are underway between the Cowichan Watershed Board, Cowichan Tribes and Cowichan Valley Regional District in relation to watershed governance and funding mechanisms in light of the new "Drinking Water and Watershed Protection" service passed by referendum.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 778-698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Larry Barr and Pat Lapcevic

Phone: 250-751-7105; 250-751-3149

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Fin Fish Aquaculture – Broughton Archipelago

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The B.C. salmon farming sector has been operating for more than three decades and operates in marine waterways near small rural and remote coastal communities.
- The majority of the sector uses Atlantic salmon to harvest – a non-native species. It is B.C.'s highest valued seafood product with a wholesale value of \$778 million and associated employment of over 6,600 direct, indirect and induced jobs in 2017.
- Fish farm operators require aquaculture tenures issued under the *Land Act* from the Province, in addition to federal fisheries licences issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and permits issued by Transport Canada under the *Navigation Protection Act*.
- Tenure revenues in fiscal year 2017/18 from 120 plus finfish tenures amounted to \$1.86 million.
- First Nations, non-government organizations and some members of the public have long held concerns about the impact of Atlantic farmed salmon on wild Pacific salmon.
- These concerns include sea lice and pathogen transfers (like PRV - Piscine Reovirus) to Pacific wild salmon, environmental regulations and enforcement of fish farm operations and broader impacts to cultural practices and environmental values.
- The risk the industry poses to the environment and wild salmon is polarized and debated.
- The fish farms in the Broughton area contribute approximately 21% of the total production worth approximately \$163.4 million wholesale value.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- On January 30, 2018, in an effort to initiate a collaborative process to resolve conflict in the Broughton, the Province invited five bands representing six First Nations (Dzawada'eunuw, Kwikwasut'inuxw-Haxwa'mis, Gwawaenuk, 'Namgis, and Mamalilikulla) from the Broughton area to a Ministers' meeting to discuss next steps relating to ongoing disputes with fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago.
- On November 30, 2018 a suite of recommendations were presented to the Provincial and First Nations governments regarding 17 finfish aquaculture tenures in the Broughton Archipelago. The recommendations were submitted via consensus based process between the Province and the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, 'Namgis and Mamalilikulla First Nations (the "Broughton Steering Committee recommendations"). Two First Nations, the Gwawaenuk Tribe and the Dzawada'eunuw First Nation chose not to participate.
- On December 14, 2018 government announced, along with First Nations, industry and the Federal government, its support for the recommendations.
- The Nations, Province, Canada and industry are currently engaged in developing an implementation plan for the recommendations and expect it to be completed by March 31, 2019.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 250-387-0600

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Charlie Short, ED Coast Area

Phone: 778-974-5841

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Integrated Investment Planning

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The province has invested in the potential of British Columbia's forests and land base through programs and initiatives such as:
 - Forest Enhancement Society of BC - \$235 million (since 2016).
 - Forests for Tomorrow Program – more than \$400 million invested since 2005.
 - Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative - \$78 million invested since 2004.
 - Caribou restoration funds of up to \$1.3 million per year
 - Habitat Conservation Trust Fund invests from \$6 - \$11 million annually for habitat enhancement and restoration projects through surcharge revenues and transfers. Since its inception in 1981, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation has invested over \$180 million in grant money to more than 2,800 conservation projects
 - Forest Carbon Initiative is investing \$150 million provincial funding and \$140 million federal funding in projects that sequester carbon and reduce emissions (reforestation, fertilization, genetics and utilization)
 - Community resiliency investment program will invest \$60 million
- These types of programs differ in governance, structure and focus. However, they often have complementary objectives. In most cases, projects funded for one purpose will have significant measurable co-benefits. For example, a project for carbon sequestration may have benefits for wildlife habitat and a tree planting project may be beneficial for carbon sequestration.
- In combination, these funds work together to meet objectives such as:
 - Forest revitalization and stewardship;
 - Improving mid and long-term timber supply;
 - Rehabilitating forests and restoring land;
 - Improving and restoring wildlife and aquatic habitat;
 - Sequestering carbon (including supporting provincial greenhouse gas targets);
 - Supporting climate adaptation;
 - Managing fuel (wildfire);
 - Improving fibre utilization;
 - Creating employment;
 - Encouraging resilient rural economies; and
 - Supporting opportunities for First Nations.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The outcomes are achieved when project decisions are made and implemented on the Crown land base.
- Achieving sustainable decisions requires investment that supports multiple benefits, is funded from the most appropriate source and is implemented effectively.
- The purpose of integrated investment planning is to support the efficient use of funding resources, to coordinate implementation and to realize the combined potential of these initiatives.
- There are provincial, regional and district scale decisions in B.C.'s integrated resource management framework. The governance framework for integrated investment planning includes members from across branches and regions in order to have provincially consistent, operationally viable results and ensure inclusion of local knowledge and priorities. There are also members from a variety of relevant expertise areas including tenures, resource practices, wildfire and forest carbon.
- The development of the integrated investment approach will not hold up ongoing work but will instead support continuous improvement of our investment approach

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Meggin Messenger

Phone: 778-974-5850

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Invasive Plant Management - Thompson-Nicola Region Pilot

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Pilot was established in response to growing concerns from ranchers that knapweed was not being adequately controlled on the grasslands to protect livestock forage and ecosystem values.
- FLNRORD has dedicated \$400K/year to the project.
- The ministry has an active invasive plant biological control program that works collaboratively with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to test, import, and develop agents (primarily insects) for use in reducing target invasive plant populations. This collaboration is expanding this year and will see dedicated applied research on the effectiveness of knapweed biological control agents in grasslands beginning in 2019.
- Expanded herbicide treatments will reduce knapweed populations in the short term; however, continued resources will be necessary to ensure this investment is not lost over time. Continued vigilance and vector control, increased biocontrol monitoring and dispersal, and improved land management practices are necessary for long term success.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz, Director, Range Branch

Phone: 250-552-1462

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Invasive Plant Management Funding

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Ministry spent a total of \$1.2 million on invasive plant management in 2018/19:
 - Initial Invasive Plant Program LBI funded budget \$750,000
 - Additional allocation to help address aquatic invasive plant populations \$50,000
 - Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Pilot Delivery \$400,000
- Funding for 2019/20 will be similar, with additional funding pressures to effectively address emerging aquatic invasive plant threats identified.
- The ministry's commitment to detect and prevent establishment of new invasive plant species in the province will be funded through Land Based Investment (LBI).
- Stopping new invasive plant species from establishing and spreading is the most cost-effective approach to prevent future impacts and large costs to control.
- The ministry recognizes that invasive plants cross all jurisdictions and that a collaborative land manager approach is necessary for success.
- Ministry staff will continue to investigate resourcing opportunities to address priority invasive plant species including aquatic invasive plants.
- The ministry will continue to support the efforts of the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group, collaborating to maximize invasive plant control efficiencies on all Crown land.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Perry Grilz, Director, Range Branch

Phone: 250-552-1462

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Klappan Plan approval

Recommended Response:

- The Klappan Plan (the plan) helps address Tahltan concerns about resource development in a traditional hunting area. The plan helped gain Tahltan support for the Red Chris mine project and enables Tahltan to consider how or if to develop coal deposits close to their hunting grounds.
- The plan is currently being carefully reviewed for final approval. The plan will restrict industrial development for a period of 20 years in one area and encourage development through collaboration with Tahltan in other areas.
- There are no fiscal implications to the Crown associated with the plan approval and subsequent implementation, beyond administrative costs.

Key Facts:

- The plan defines three zones: two zones that allow for resource development (333,000 ha), and the Sacred Headwaters Zone (287,000 ha) that has a development deferral for 20 years.
- The plan content has undergone extensive stakeholder and community engagement.
- A B.C./Tahltan Klappan management board has been established to address management issues related to the Klappan area.

s.16

s.13; s.16

- There is no impact to forestry.
- There are no coal projects or coal tenures within the Sacred Headwaters Zone. The coal tenures abutting the Sacred Headwaters Zone comprising the Arctos coal project are owned by British Columbia Railway Company under the Coal Licence Purchase Agreement (CLPA). The CLPA preserves the value of the Arctos coal tenures and objectives for the long-term use of the CLPA area will be determined collaboratively by B.C. and Tahltan prior to expiry of the agreement in 2025.
- The coal resources are not booked as a provincial revenue; therefore, there is no budget impact because of the plan, other than the administrative cost for implementation.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Eamon O'Donoghue

Phone: 250-847-7495

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Ryan Holmes

Phone: 250-847-7755

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Land Use Planning

Recommend Response:

s.16

Key Facts:

- Land use planning develops the direction for public land to guide provincial management decisions that meet economic, environmental, social and cultural objectives.
- Land use planning also helps to address a number of other government mandates related to Indigenous relations and reconciliation, environmental stewardship and a strong sustainable economy.
- Drivers for land use planning include a strong sustainable economy, reconciliation, landscape level disturbance, water sustainability, climate impacts, and species at risk.

s.13; s.16

- Over 90% of the province has an existing land use plan and these plans remain in effect. Land use planning projects will capture the value of existing land use plans and focus on areas where Indigenous values, a changing landscape and

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

emerging issues require modernized land use plans. New plans may replace all or portions of existing plans.

s.12; s.13

- In the last few years, a number of stewardship initiatives have been developed that include engagement or partnership and can support land use planning including:
 - The Environmental Stewardship Initiative and the Collaborative Stewardship Forum, in which the provincial and Indigenous governments identify key values and management actions to protect those values;
 - The Cumulative Effects Framework, in which the governments engage or collaborate to assess the combined effects of development and natural disturbances on values and identify management actions; and,
 - Integrated Monitoring, where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants monitor environmental conditions and trends.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 7, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, ADM

Phone: 778 974-5804

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brian Bawtinheimer, ED

Phone: 778 974 2497

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Garth Wiggill, RED, KBR

Phone: 205-551 5353(cell)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Tara DeCourcy, District Manager

Phone: 250-505 9864(cell)

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Nicola Water Pilot (Government to Government Forum)

Recommend Response:

s.13; s.16

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Key Facts:

s.16

- The Nicola watershed covers 7,227 km² in B.C.'s Southern Interior. There are 11 significant tributaries along the Nicola, including four important salmon producing stream (Spius, Maka, Coldwater and Spahomin). There are currently approximately 163 stream water licences along these five streams/rivers. The watershed has a 'fully recorded' status for all water use purposes. There is also extensive groundwater use in the area that requires licencing under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA). No new water licences have been issued since 2002 unless fully supported by storage.
- Water use in the watershed is primarily for agriculture as well as municipal water supply and recreation. Demand for these water uses is expected to grow in the future. Resource development demands related to forestry, range, recreation along with tourism including a potential ski resort development are increasing. The climate is also expected to continue to change, resulting in lower water flows and earlier peak flows. Cumulative impacts from watershed activities are also a growing concern.
- The Nicola has been effectively 'ground zero' for drought regulatory management and fish population protection, the government invoking fish protection orders during declared drought in 2009 and 2015- the first in the province. Further extensive flooding occurred during the 2017 freshet in both the upstream and downstream communities of Upper Nicola Band and the City of Merritt.

s.13; s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: March 19, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Patrick Farmer

Phone: 250-378-8432

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Old Growth on Vancouver Island

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The province's old growth forests, including those on Vancouver Island, are managed for competing social, cultural, economic and environmental values.
- The Province uses a suite of legislative and policy tools to deliver conservation outcomes and maintain ecosystems.
- Vancouver Island is about 73 percent Crown land and 27 percent private land. 22 percent of the Crown forest land is protected or reserved.
- 40 percent of Vancouver Island's Crown forest lands are old growth forests, with 38 percent of the old growth currently protected or reserved.
- First Nations have strong interests, rights, and treaty rights in lands and resources on Vancouver Island. Some First Nations are involved in the forest economy whereas others support a halt to old growth harvesting.
- In September 2016, the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed a motion to call upon the Province to protect Vancouver Island's remaining old growth; however, not all communities agreed.
- An Environmental Non-Governmental Organization (ENGO) alliance is advocating for old-growth forest protection that includes the development of: an *Old Growth Forest Protection Act*, an independent science panel, a moratorium on harvest in old-growth 'hotspots', stopping BC Timber Sales harvest in old

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

growth, and establishing a fund to purchase and protect old growth on private land. The Minister has met twice with ENGOs regarding their recommendations.

- An analysis of the 14 'hotspots' on Vancouver Island was undertaken to assess the impacts on the allowable annual cut and financial implications if these areas were protected. The results showed a high economic impact if the areas are protected.
- s.13

- The ministry is reviewing options for a provincial approach to addressing old growth forests.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 7, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland, ADM

Phone: 778-698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Pam Silver, Section Head, Resource Initiatives

Phone: 250-751-7379

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Professional Reliance in the Natural Resource Sector

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Professional reliance is the specific requirement to use a qualified professional (QPs), 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, the B.C. 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.
- On June 28, 2018, ENV released “Professional Reliance Review: The Final Report of the Review of Professional Reliance in Natural Resource Decision-Making” (the Report), an independent report prepared by Mark Haddock. The Report provided 121 recommendations for improvements to the professional reliance model.
- In Fall 2018, ENV introduced in the House the *Professional Governance Act*, which received Royal Assent on November 27, 2018. This Act strengthens governance of professionals who work in B.C.’s natural resource sector and in other sectors. More broadly, government is considering regulatory and statutory changes, some of which will address the Professional Reliance Review recommendations.
- ENV is leading government’s work related to the Professional Reliance Review, and is now moving to implementation of the *Professional Governance Act*.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- FLNRORD is committed to strengthening the regulatory model that relies on QPs, and is acting on the regime-specific recommendations as appropriate.
- Professional reliance is a key element of several pieces of legislation and related regulations FLNRORD is responsible for, including *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), the *Foresters Act*, which governs forest professionals and the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals, and the Riparian Areas Regulations (RAR).
- The ministry made changes to the *Riparian Areas and Protection Act* in May 2018, which are anticipated to come into force late spring 2019, and address several recommendations.
- Policy analysis and stakeholder engagement will continue on other forestry related recommendations as part of a larger suite of contemplated changes under the continuous improvement initiative relating to FRPA.
- The remaining recommendations in the report will inform natural resource ministries' work as they continue to manage sustainable development in B.C. For example, FLNRORD is focused on mandated initiatives that will result in greater clarity and direction for professionals, including revitalizing land use planning and improving wildlife management.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 14, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier

Phone: 778-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Brenda Hartley

Phone: 250-371-1977

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Forest and Range Practices Act

Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
R85.	Improve forest stewardship plan content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The changes to the Act under development aim to restore government authority by introducing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New rules for Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) and Woodlot Licence Plans (WLPs) for plan term, extensions, mandatory amendments collectively enhance the review and approval of the Minister; New requirement for forest operations map and consistency requirements adjudicated by Minister; and Provide delegation of Minister's authority to intervene if operations will infringe upon Indigenous right or title. Changes to enhance review and approval of FSPs and WLPs directly supports recommendation R85, Additional recommendations will be addressed in subsequent amendments to be considered by cabinet throughout 2019.
R86.	Require submission and approval of site plans	
R87.	Enhance decision maker authority	
R88.	Improve minister's authority to make Government Action Regulation (GAR) Orders	
R90.	Improve documentation and rationale	
R91.	Clarify professional tasks and qualifications	
R92.	Remove compliance certification by professionals	
R93.	Professional Certifications and Assurance Statements	

Forest Act

Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
R94.	Initiate a review of professional reliance in timber pricing and measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations are under review.
R95.	To ensure the certificate has value, consider developing a more detailed conformance certificate which identifies the results and strategies that are relevant to the Timber Sale Licence (TSL)	
R96.	Depending on the intended purpose of the conformance certificate, consider the need for assurance that the professional is independent and does not have a conflict of interest in relation to the TSL holder	
R97.	Consider how to address competency issues when assessment of consistency with FSP results or strategies requires specialized expertise, such as meeting visual quality objectives, or perhaps involves expertise from another profession	

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Riparian Areas Protection Act		
Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
R112.	Improve accountability to government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The ministry made changes to the Act in May 2018, which are not yet in force. The amendments and associated changes to the Riparian Areas Regulation are anticipated to come into force late Spring 2019.The Act was amended to improve government oversight and enable the strengthening of the Riparian Areas Regulation.Future amendments to the regulation are proposed to address several of the recommendations presented in the 2014 Ombudsperson Report “Striking A Balance: The Challenges of Using a Professional Reliance model in Environmental Protection – British Columbia’s Riparian Areas Regulation”.
R113.	Qualifications of professionals	
R114.	Introduce a gatekeeper function	
R115.	Clarify riparian objectives	
Water Sustainability Act		
Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
R116.	Consider need and criteria for independent monitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendations are under review.
R117.	Ensure that monitor qualifications and obligations are clear and enforceable	
R118.	Consider regulating use of independent monitors	
Dam Safety Regulation		
Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
R119.	Consider improving guidance/methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendations are under review.
R120.	Professional Rationale	
R121.	Consider a regulatory duty to report	
Groundwater Protection Regulation		
Recommendations:		Recommended Response:
None		<ul style="list-style-type: none">NA

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Seedling Requests, Seed Supply and Nursery Space

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Seed Use and Inventories

- The use of tree seed for growing seedlings for reforestation on Crown land is legislated and standards exist for all aspects of growing, collecting and storing. Improved seed from Orchards, known as class “A” seed, is required to be used whenever it is available. When class “A” seed is not available then wild stand origin seed, (class “B”), is used. Once in storage, seed can remain viable for decades.
- Major licensees collect and own most of their own seed for reforestation. The ministry also owns large amounts of seed that is used for government planting programs.
- The ministry and some of the major licensees own and operate seed orchards to produce class “A” improved seed.
- Continued demand for improved tree seed over the next 3 to 5 years will tax the ability of orchards to supply enough class “A” seed for some species; thus requiring the use of class “B” seed.
- The increased demand for seedlings to be grown in 2019 has stretched the supplies of some seed inventories.
- The 306 million trees grown in 2019 will be made up of 59% class “A” and 41% class “B”.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Seedling Demand and Nursery Capacity

- Seedling demand is determined by annual harvesting rates and natural disturbances (fires and insect infestations) to the forests. A temporary surge in the demand for seedlings is due to recent increases in harvesting due to high lumber prices, two years of extensive wildfire salvage, ongoing mountain pine beetle rehabilitation, and higher than normal plantation mortality due to drought.
- The 2018 nursery crop sowed approximately 275 million seedlings which is well above average but satisfied nearly all the demand. Seedling requests in Fall 2018 will result in approximately 306 million seedlings being grown in nurseries during 2019.
- Licensee and ministry programs fell short of their requests by approximately 20 million seedlings due to insufficient nursery space.
- Approximately 296 million seedlings will be grown in B.C. nurseries and 10 million will be grown in nurseries outside the province.
- Based upon the last few years, current nursery capacity in B.C. is approximately 300 million seedlings. Greenhouses/nurseries are at full capacity and although a small number of new facilities will come on stream in 2019, further expansion may only be possible for open grown crops (pine and larch).
- Seedling demand will likely stay above long term averages until about 2026 then begin to fall as timber harvesting in the B.C. interior declines. The short term demand for additional seedlings is unlikely to cause nurseries to expand further.
- Almost all nurseries are reporting labour shortages (and already using migrant labour) and state this as a further reason why expansion in the short term would be very difficult.
- The increased demand over-and-above capacity has resulted in some price increases for seedlings with a 15% rise seen across the full government forestry program in 2019.
- Offering multi-year contracts is one option to help provide some stability for nurseries. Currently government has 50% of its seedlings growing in long term contracts.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 7, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls, ADM Chief Forester

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julie MacDougall

Phone: 778 974 5552

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Shellfish aquaculture – Salt Spring Island and Texada Island

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Booth Bay, Salt Spring Island

- Penelakut First Nation controls Penelakut Seafood, which has applied for a shellfish aquaculture tenure under the *Land Act* at Booth Bay on Salt Spring Island.
- Approximately 700 public comments have been received regarding this application, which is still under review. The applicant will be imminently submitting an updated application reflective of the public feedback they are aware of.
- Following submission of an updated application package, FLNRORD will work with the applicant and federal agencies to determine next steps for public engagement, including possibly an open house. Decision making on this application will have to balance public concerns with the economic aspirations of a First Nation with rights and title interests.

Northeast Shellfish, Texada Island

- Northeast Bay Shellfish Company has applied for a shellfish aquaculture tenure in a remote bay of Texada Island. The upland is a *Land Act* reserve for the 'use, recreation, and enjoyment of the public'.
- Members of the public have raised concerns that this application is precedent-setting due to the upland designation; however, this application is not an unusual nor precedent-setting situation. All shellfish aquaculture tenures are issued on 'public'/provincial Crown land and there are several examples of aquaculture tenures adjacent to parks.
- The applicant is working with the Texada Island Chamber of Commerce to schedule a public meeting for late March 2019.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 4, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 778-698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Lesley Fettes, Section Head Aquaculture

Phone: 250-897-7541

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: West Kelowna Water Treatment Tenure – Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The City of West Kelowna is concerned that delays in the consultation process with Westbank First Nation will jeopardize their grant under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.
- On September 26, 2018, The City of West Kelowna's former Mayor Doug Findlater sent the Minister a letter requesting a decision as soon as possible so they could begin planning and design of the new facility on Crown land.
- Ministry staff are not yet able to conclude the consultation with Westbank First Nation.
- Considering the delay, the City of West Kelowna began looking at alternative locations and considering purchasing private property.
- The private properties being considered are not ideally located and will substantially increase the overall cost of the project.
- Considering the City of West Kelowna has not purchased any private property to this date, it is believed that a favorable decision on the Crown land application would be accepted by the City and that there is still time for the project to move ahead on the Crown land parcel.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Gerry MacDougall, A/Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-267-8999

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Andy Oetter, Director, Authorizations

Phone: 250 828 4445

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Caribou Recovery Program

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Despite earlier investments by the Province, all 6 boreal herds and 23 of the southern mountain herds are in decline. Fourteen of the 48 herds in B.C. have fewer than 25 animals.
- The main threat to most caribou populations is a high rate of predation by wolves, bears and cougars that is out of balance from the natural cycle. This can happen when natural events (forest fires) and human activity (such as logging, mining) convert large areas of mature forests to young forest landscapes. These young, open forests provide ideal foods for deer, elk and moose. These ungulate species are the primary prey of wolves and cougars. Increases in alternate prey species result in an increase in predators, resulting in more predation of caribou.
- Recent implementation of intensive management actions (e.g., maternal penning, and predator control) have resulted in increases in 3 southern mountain caribou populations.
- In May 2018, the Federal Minister concluded that 10 local population units of Southern Mountain Caribou are at 'imminent threat' of recovery.
- Under SARA, Canada could issue an 'Emergency Order' when an assessment of threat has been confirmed. This could result in billions of dollars of economic losses for B.C.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Section 11 Agreement

- A Section 11 Agreement can minimize the potential for such an Order.
- B.C. has developed a draft Section 11 Agreement with Canada. The Section 11 Agreement applies to 21 local population units of Southern Mountain Caribou (Northern, Central and Southern Groups) in British Columbia,
- The draft Section 11 Agreement is a framework agreement that describes processes and measures that the federal and provincial governments intend to take to support Southern Mountain Caribou recovery.
- Public engagement was launched March 21st and concludes April 26th. Community engagement sessions are also scheduled in potentially affected communities.

Partnership Agreement

- West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations have shown leadership in caribou recovery since the 1970s. B.C. and Canada have worked with West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations to draft a Partnership Agreement for the conservation of the central group of the southern mountain caribou.
- The draft Partnership Agreement is intended to stabilize and recover self-sustaining populations within the Central Group and includes habitat protection, restoration and direct recovery actions.
- This agreement is based on the science and traditional knowledge shared by B.C., Canada, Sauteau and West Moberly First Nations.

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier

Phone: 778-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Muter

Phone: 250-217-5385

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: East Kootenay Wildlife Management.

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- FLNRORD led monitoring has confirmed elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose and bighorn sheep populations have declined in many locations.
- Poor juvenile recruitment seems to be a root cause, but severe winter conditions in two previous years, and increased predation likely played a role.
- In response, hunting regulations were changed including: elimination of spike bull elk season, and reduction of antlerless white-tailed deer harvest.
- Key ongoing regional and provincial actions include:
 - Regional plans with clear objectives for elk and bighorn sheep.
 - Improved operational alignment between Range, Land Authorizations, Species at Risk, Ecosystem Restoration and Forest Management activities.
 - Collaborating on research projects to update our understanding of factors limiting population growth of elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer.
 - Collaborating on multiple habitat enhancement and invasive plant control projects to benefit mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk and moose.
 - Include wildlife habitat priorities into wildfire recovery actions update FRPA Ungulate Winter Range Orders with new information and strategies.
 - Update and improve *Wildlife Act* Access Management areas to ensure important seasonal habitats and migration routes are conserved.

• s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

s.13

○

○

Date Prepared/Revised: 11 March 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Garth Wiggill, KBR RED

Phone: 250 551 5353(cell)

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: John Krebs, Director, Resource Mgt

Phone: 250 919 1385(cell)

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Fraser River Sturgeon Fishery and Habitat

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Information listed below is specific to LFRWS and its associated fishery.

- Juvenile abundance estimates have decreased dramatically since 2004. If these estimates are accurate and the trend doesn't improve, the long-term viability of sturgeon may be at risk.
- Potential threats and stressors include fishery-related stress and mortalities (nets and catch and release) and impacts to spawning habitat.
- Interest in the catch and release fishery has been steadily increasing (e.g., recent net increase of over 1500 (~10%) non-tidal license sales in one year; between 2016/17 and 2017/18).
- Current regulations for non-tidal waters include: a special sturgeon conservation license, catch and release only provision, gear and bait restrictions, night-time closures and proposed spawning area closures.
- There are currently 10 confirmed spawning habitats, two of which occur around Carey and Herrling Islands. There are private bridge proposals at Carey and Herrling Islands that are being considered under the *Water Sustainability Act* and the *Land Act*. A final decision has not been made by the statutory decision maker.
- Decisions under the *Water Sustainability Act*, *Land Act*, and Canada's *Fisheries Act* by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), always account for and address potential impacts to fish habitat.
- Net fisheries and the catch and release fishery downstream of the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge at Mission (tidal waters) are solely managed by DFO.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 778 698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Scott Barrett

Phone: 604 586-2889

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Implementation of recovery strategies for species at risk

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In B.C., the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and FLNRORD share the management of species at risk (SAR) program areas. ENV is primarily responsible for developing and maintaining policy and science and managing SAR data. FLNRORD headquarters is primarily responsible for informing, interpreting and implementing policy and science in conjunction with FLNRORD Regional Operations.
- Once recovery strategies are approved ministry staff will work across ministries and with Canada, Indigenous communities, local governments, stakeholder and business sectors to implement the strategies
- Activities to support recovery of SAR include inventory and monitoring, engaging with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to create opportunities for involvement in the recovery process, development of specific recovery plans, habitat conservation, and implementation of conservation tools (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Areas, Wildlife Management Areas).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 201

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier

Phone: 778-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Name: David Muter

Phone: 250-217-5385

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Improved Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Over the past decade, managing wildlife and habitat conservation while working with Indigenous communities, stakeholders and the public has become increasingly complex. These changes have created a need to examine how wildlife and the habitats they depend upon are managed across the province.
- First Nations engagement is occurring primarily through a First Nation Forum of about 30 First Nations from across the province.
- Having a separate engagement process for Indigenous communities recognizes that they have specific rights and interests that are protected by the Constitution and that they are not 'stakeholders', but instead have a 'government to government' process.
- The First Nations Forum is intended to meet government's commitment to advance the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls-to-action.
- A two day stakeholder session was held on January 30-31, 2019. Stakeholders representing forestry, oil and gas, tourism, guide outfitting, ranching, mining, as well as environmental organizations, conservation partners, wildlife biologists and other professional organizations and academic institutions attended.
- A report of Phase Two engagement recommendations is expected in April 2019.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 778-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Jennifer Psyllakis, Director, Fish and Wildlife

Phone: 250-387-5657

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Interior Fraser steelhead

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Interior Fraser River steelhead are made up of two distinct runs: Thompson and Chilcotin. s.13
s.13
- The Interior Fraser steelhead used to support a high-economic value recreational fishery benefitting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the interior.
- While habitat is not a limiting factor, the Province continues to invest in fish passage remediation, riparian management, managed water-flows from the Nicola Dam, and supporting selective harvesting methods.
- Interior First Nations have voluntarily forgone their DFO authorised fisheries to support recovery. Lower Fraser First Nations continue their salmon fisheries.
- Recovery becomes a joint-responsibility with DFO because steelhead migrate into the ocean and mix with salmon runs.
- Note: As of March 12, DFO staff indicated they will not take any additional protection measure unless the fish are SARA listed. However, the Federal Minister publicly committed to increased protection. A B.C.-DFO task team was initiated March 20.
- A SARA listing could incur significant economic, social and cultural implications. The Province would prefer DFO take actions without requiring SARA listing.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 22, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: 250-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Davis

Phone: 250-974-2336

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Winter motorized closures (snowmobiling) for caribou management in North Eastern B.C.

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Despite ongoing efforts for caribou recovery by B.C. for decades, Caribou populations across B.C. have been in decline.
- The Province has dedicated \$47 million over 5 years to develop a made in B.C. recovery strategy that works for British Columbians.
- The draft Partnership Agreement between Canada, B.C., West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations identifies key measures for the protection of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou. One of these measures is motorized recreation management.
- The draft Partnership Agreement will not identify areas for closures but commits to carrying out an engagement process on motorized recreation.
- These snowmobile management engagements will occur independently of these agreements. Once these are complete, the decision maker will decide on the location of closures based on the engagement process and information provided by caribou experts.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 20, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier

Phone: 778-974-5812

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: David Muter

Phone: 250-217-5385

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Climate Change Adaptation

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

Managing climate risks is necessary for climate change resilience

- Climate change is irreversible. Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ are stopped.
- Both mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the effects of climate change are necessary responses to reduce climate-related risks.
- Climate risk management allows the impacts of climate change, such as floods, wildfires, heatwaves, and species loss, to be assessed and prioritized, and adaptation responses to be targeted to improve resilience and reduce the unavoidable effects of climate change.

Office of the Auditor General Report

- The B.C. Office of the Auditor General (OAG) reviewed government's efforts to manage climate change risks and released "Managing climate change risks: An independent audit" in February 2018. They concluded that "government is not adequately managing the risks posed by climate change" and the government accepted this finding.
- The OAG put forward 17 recommendations, 15 of which were related to climate adaptation. These recommendations included:
 - (#1) Undertake a province-wide risk assessment that integrates existing risk assessment work and provides the public with an overview of key risks and priorities.
 - (#2) Create an adaptation plan for B.C.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- ENV is the lead ministry for climate change adaptation and is leading the response to the OAG report.
- Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) is leading a strategic climate risk assessment for B.C. to address OAG recommendation #1. This project when complete, will lay the foundation to address recommendation #2, supporting development of a new climate change adaptation strategy.
- ENV is coordinating cross-government reporting on the OAG report's recommendations and consolidated annual submissions to the Select Standing Committee of Public Accounts.

The Role of FLNRORD

- FLNRORD is participating in and supporting ENV's work to complete a strategic climate risk assessment and will participate in future work to develop an adaptation strategy as part of CleanBC.
- FLNRORD is responding to the OAG report's recommendations that pertain directly to this ministry and is reporting progress in consolidated annual submissions to the Select Standing Committee of Public Accounts.
- FLNRORD has a 2015-2020 Climate Change Strategy that supports preparation for the effects of climate change and mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is implementing this strategy through business area climate action plans.
- Integrated investment planning supports climate change adaptation and mitigation by identifying land-based investment opportunities that provide a climate benefit. These investments include sequestering forest carbon, wildfire risk reduction, wildlife habitat and timber supply.
- FLNRORD is taking proactive steps to make our forests more resilient to climate change through climate based seed transfer, tree planting in burned areas and using deciduous trees strategically and increasing tree planting density.
- Investing in resilience makes economic sense. For example, enhancing wildfire prevention, controlling pests, and planting climate-resilient forests is projected to reduce the impacts of climate change on timber supply, with benefit to cost ratios of 38:1 to 9:1 depending on the climate change scenarios.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dennis Paradine

Phone: 778-974-5493

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Carbon Greenhouse Gas Reporting, Slash Pile Burning

Recommended Response:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

s.13

Key Facts:

- Including natural disturbances, B.C. forests' annual greenhouse gas balance between 1990 and 2016 has ranged from a net GHG sink of around 65 megatonnes to a net GHG source of around 82 megatonnes. The large variability is due to natural factors such as wildfires and insects.
- Estimates of both 2017 and 2018 wildfire emissions are 150 megatonnes each year, or around 2.5 times the total emissions from all human sources in B.C. in 2016.
- By using 100 cubic metres of lodgepole pine debris for energy or pulp, rather than burning it in a slash pile, about 17 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions can be avoided.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dennis Paradine

Phone: 778-974-5493

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Carbon Initiative & Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Canada and B.C. are jointly investing \$290 million. The federal government is contributing \$140 million on a cost-recovery basis over 5 years, until March 31, 2022.
- The province transferred \$150 million to FESBC, a crown agency established in 2016, to advance environment and resource stewardship of B.C. forests through the treatment of Crown forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
- In addition to the FESBC investments, the ministry has increased the amount of reforestation and fertilization it is conducting under the Forests for Tomorrow program and is investing in fertilization on the coast and developing new seed orchards to increase the production of class A seed.
- Ministry spending includes \$3 million annually for administration, planning, reporting, research and development and extension.
- The total investment in 2017/18 and 2018/19 was approximately \$50 million. The planned investment for 2019/20 is almost \$70 million. These investments are projected to reduce or sequester more than 12 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- Approximately 30% of the work will involve, or be led by, First Nations and their partners.
- The funding includes \$65 million to assist with replanting areas in the Cariboo affected by the 2017 wildfires.
- More than 11 million trees will be planted this spring, with another 25.6 million scheduled for planting in 2020.
- By using 100 cubic metres of lodgepole pine debris for energy or pulp, rather than burning it in a slash pile, about 17 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions can be avoided.

Date Prepared/Revised: **March 11, 2019**

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 250-387-5514

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Heather English

Phone: 778 698-4026

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Barkerville Heritage Trust Funding

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Barkerville Historic Town and Park is a 457 hectare historic town and gold mining landscape near Quesnel. It comprises 160 buildings and three campgrounds open year-round. Cottonwood is an historic farm on the Cariboo Wagon Road near Quesnel.
- The two provincially-owned sites typically receive about 60,000 visitors per year and are operated by the Barkerville Heritage Trust under an agreement to March 2025.
- A 2010 tourism study found that Barkerville generated \$16.9 million worth of annual activity for British Columbia's economy, with \$11.8 million directly affecting the province's North Cariboo region. Today the economic impact is reported by Barkerville Heritage Trust to be \$20M to \$25M.
- The Trust is seeking \$50 million+ for stable predictable operations for the next ten years, including a \$1.3 million one-time grant for emergency management and \$10 million for capital to build, for instance, an Indigenous interpretive centre.
- In the short-term, the Trust wants to see operating assistance rise from \$3.75 million to \$3.90 million per annum. Additional funding would allow the Trust to take on more staff to service Indigenous and Chinatown programming and winter operations.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: (250) 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Goad

Phone: (778) 698-9404

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- FESBC was established on February 16, 2016, with \$85 million of initial funding from the province 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.
- In 2017, the province allocated additional funding of \$150 million for FESBC to support projects that meet Forest Carbon Initiative criteria. The funding is expected to be eligible for 50% cost recovery under the federal-provincial Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund (see Estimates Note on the FCI-LCELF for more details).
- Since June 2017, FESBC has been operating as a Government Reporting Entity and its financial statements are consolidated into Government's Summary Financial Statements.
- Summary of projects approved by FESBC (as of February 2019):

FESBC Purpose	Approved (\$ million)	Number of Projects
Wildfire reduction	38.45	86
Improving damaged forests	23.41	27
Wildlife habitat improvement	3.71	13
Fibre recovery	4.11	11
Forest carbon management	110.31	31
TOTAL	\$179.99	168

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- As of February 2019, of the approved projects, approximately:
 - \$122 million in Cariboo,
 - \$5 million in Skeena,
 - \$5 million in Kootenay Boundary,
 - \$10 million in Thompson Okanagan,
 - \$4 million in Omineca,
 - \$9 million in South Coast,
 - \$1 million in West Coast,
 - \$1 million in North Coast, and
 - \$22 million province-wide.
- Allocations are heavy to the southern interior, reflecting the priorities in the Minister's Mandate letter for FESBC to assist the province in wildfire recovery and risk reduction and mitigation, and in achieving the province's climate change goals.
- Approximately 30% of the projects funded by FESBC are led by First Nations proponents or have significant First Nations participation.
- FESBC has also entered into Letters of Agreement to co-fund projects with:
 - Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (\$2.5 million up to and including 2018),
 - Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (up to \$1 million in 2017), and
 - Community Resiliency Investment Program (up to \$2 million in 2019).

Date Prepared/Revised: March 14, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dan Peterson

Phone: 250-828-4591

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Forest Inventory Program Review – Blue Ribbon Panel

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In 2018/19, the ministry allocated \$8 million (operating) and 33 FTEs to the forest inventory program, consistent with the 2013 Forest Inventory Strategic Plan, which guides \$80 million of expenditures over a 10-year period.
- s.13

•

•

•

Date Prepared/Revised: Feb. 28, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5840

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Tim Salkeld

Phone: 778-974-5612

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: FrontCounter BC and Natural Resource Permitting

Recommend Response:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

s.13

Key Facts:

- FLNRORD is the largest permitting ministry of all the Natural Resource Ministries and delivers client support services through FrontCounter BC on behalf of the Natural Resource Ministries.
- FLNRORD and FrontCounter BC are focused on streamlining permitting processes to reduce processing times for natural resource clients.
 - FLNRORD tracks and monitors authorization permitting times through operational performance measures – the key business areas are Crown lands, water, forestry Parks and Fish & Wildlife. In addition FrontCounter BC tracks and monitors permitting on behalf of EMPR.
 - The performance measures track 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 measured monthly through the FrontCounter BC surveys undertaken by B.C. Stats. Permitting work has a direct impact to the client satisfaction measure through the five drivers that are measured – satisfaction with first contact, ease of access, extra mile, outcome and knowledge of staff. The 2017/18 client satisfaction score was 72.8 up 1 from the 2016/17 score. The Client Satisfaction survey is being updated to align with latest Canadian research on British Columbia drivers of satisfaction.
 - FrontCounter BC's work on behalf of the natural resource ministries continues to grow since its inception in 2005, and business programs continue to want to join the service. Increased work is causing some regions to see a backlog of applications. FrontCounter B.C. will be exploring the development of a sustainable cost-sharing model to ensure future success with application processing, process streamlining and excellence in client service delivery to citizens that is the envy of other jurisdictions.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 13, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Rick Manwaring, Associate DM
Craig Sutherland, ADM, Coast Region

Phone: 250-828-4449
Phone: 778-974-5878

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Mike Kelley, Director FrontCounter BC

Phone: 250-208-8944

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Use of Glyphosate

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- B.C.'s forests are largely comprised of commercially valuable coniferous species such as Douglas-fir, spruce, pine and cedar. When these areas are reforested after harvest it's commonplace for less commercially valuable tree species and vegetation to compete with the desired mix of trees that have been planted and/or that naturally regenerate the site.
- Forest managers use a variety of approaches to manage competing vegetation including manual, mechanical, burning, biological (e.g., sheep) and chemical treatments.
- The herbicide commonly used with this last approach is called glyphosate.
- Glyphosate is a versatile herbicide used - primarily in the agriculture industry - throughout the world to control unwanted broadleaf vegetation and only a very small percentage of the glyphosate used in Canada has a forestry application.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- In B.C. glyphosate users must follow the requirements of the *Integrated Pest Management Act* and take steps to minimize impacts on the environment, including fish-bearing streams.
- Applicants for Pesticide Use Permits must prepare and advertise a pest management plan that includes a map, timing of proposed treatments, monitoring and other measures.
- In April 2017, Health Canada published the results of an extensive re-examination of glyphosate and concluded “...that the products containing glyphosate do not present unacceptable risks to human health or the environment when used according to revised product label directions.”
- Notwithstanding the above, glyphosate use continues to be controversial e.g., *Stop-the-Spray* campaign and several recent news articles suggest that:
 - Glyphosate poses unacceptable risks to humans and wildlife due to its toxicity and carcinogenicity;
 - Glyphosate targets broadleaf species thus increasing wildfire risk and reducing biodiversity; and
 - The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and its regulations promote the eradication of broadleaves and strongly discourage establishment of mixedwood and broadleaf forest cover.
- A recent article in the Prince George Citizen stated that Mike Morris, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Prince George-Mackenzie, is working on a private member’s bill to ban the use of glyphosate in B.C. forests.
- In January 2019, Health Canada released a subsequent statement on glyphosate in response to several notices of objection to its April 2017 re-evaluation decision. The federal department concluded that “...the concerns raised by objectors to the use of glyphosate could not be scientifically supported when considering the entire body of relevant data.”

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Diane Nicholls

Phone: 778-974-5850

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Julie MacDougall or Shawn Hedges

Phone: 778-974-5670 or 250-896-9911

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: *Heritage Conservation Act Ancestral Remains Policy Review*

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- In response to the increasing complexity of situations where land development on private property intersects with Indigenous burial areas, a review of FLNRORD burial policy was undertaken and completed in 2016, but it did not result in any significant change or have any involvement of Indigenous groups.
- To better inform policy changes, Archaeology Branch staff engaged with 109 First Nations in over 20 locations across the province between August 2018 and January 2019. For additional input, questionnaires were also distributed to First Nations and consulting archaeologists.
- The branch is currently undertaking a review of information gathered and will develop a recommendation package for consideration by April 30, 2019.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: 250 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jillian Rousselle, A/Executive Director, IROD

Phone: 250-953-3355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: s.13; s.16

Recommended Response:

s.13; s.16

Key Facts:

s.13; s.16

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: 250 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jillian Rousselle, A/Executive Director, IROD

Phone: 250-953-3355

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Heritage Properties Sustainability

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Funding in 2019/20 for 19 provincially significant heritage properties will be \$6.5M. This is consistent with levels provided since 2016/17.
- This includes a ministry lift for deferred maintenance at Barkerville and Fort Steele set to end in 2019/20 after which it will reduced by \$1.7M to \$4.8M per annum.
- Eight properties are operated under agreements with tenant-operators and three are leased to community societies; a further eight properties, such as Cole Island, Esquimalt, and Hosmer Mine in the Kootenays, are unstaffed and managed directly by Heritage Branch. As well, 43 others are provincially heritage designated, owned by other levels of government or non-profits, and receive no dedicated funding,
- The Heritage Site Management Agreements offer no guaranteed annual funding for operations as they were written in 2002-2004 when it was believed the properties could be made financially self-sufficient through tourism revenues.
- Funding has been provided annually on an ad hoc basis, and has fluctuated significantly; in some years, no funding was provided. Site operators have no assurance of predictable annual government funding, but can benefit from site earned revenues.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

- Funding has been consistent, but from the site managers' perspectives, not predictable for the past three years:

	2016-17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast
Barkerville and Cottonwood	\$3,861,000	\$3,790,000	\$3,405,000	s.13
Fort Steele Historic Town	\$1,542,000	\$1,622,000	\$1,400,000	
Hat Creek Ranch	\$435,000	\$394,000	\$464,000	
Kilby Farm and Store	\$150,000	\$105,000	\$258,000	
Historic Yale	\$70,000	\$83,000	\$93,000	
Point Ellice House	\$95,000	\$96,000	\$290,000	
Emily Carr House	\$36,000	\$30,000	\$144,000	
Unstaffed Properties				
Nine properties	\$158,000	\$380,000	\$261,000	
Leased Properties				
Keremeos Grist Mill	\$94,000	\$40,000	\$89,000	
Craigflower Manor	\$90,000	\$0	\$98,000	
Craigflower Schoolhouse	\$32,000	\$0	\$38,000	
Totals	\$6,543,000	\$6,540,000	\$6,540,000	

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: (250) 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Goad

Phone: (778) 698-9404

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Increasing boat moorage/anchorage issues on B.C. Coast

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Many areas of the B.C. Coast have seen a sharp increase in recent years in the demand for boat moorage, be it short term, seasonal or year-round moorage.
- While dropping of anchor or tie-up at mooring buoys for short periods of time are recognized as being part of the federally regulated right to navigation, longer term 'unauthorized' moorage by vessels, particularly in more populated areas of the province is increasingly causing environmental, safety, social and recreational concerns and conflicts.
- These concerns are exacerbated as vessels are often used as "live-aboards" and/or are in a dilapidated condition, posing hazards to the coastal environment and infrastructure.
- The federal government, through Transport Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Canadian Coast Guard, has stepped up efforts to address 'vessels of concern'.
- As part of the Oceans Protection Plan announced in 2016, funding has been made available under 2 different Abandoned Boats Programs (Transport Canada - \$5.6 million over 5 years; DFO - \$1.325 million over 5 years) for eligible recipients (local government, First Nations and others) to receive reimbursement for costs incurred in the assessment and removal of derelict vessels.
- The Coast Guard currently has 942 vessels of concern on inventory along the Pacific Coast.
- Provincial agencies have been collaborating with their federal counterparts through a federal-provincial working group with a focus on supporting enforcement measures and complementary programs associated with vessel removal and education and outreach.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- To further assist with the vessels of concerns issue, the new federal *Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act* makes it illegal to leave vessels abandoned or adrift or knowingly cause them to sink or be stranded ashore.
- While issues of navigation are in federal jurisdiction, B.C., by virtue of owning the sea floor of “inland seas” such as the Salish Sea and between major headlands, has the ability to authorize moorage either in form of private docks fronting privately owned upland, as group moorage or as marina tenures issued under the B.C. *Land Act*.
- The ministry has seen an increase in number and complexity of such boat moorage applications and has seen extended timelines for review and decision making.
- The ministry, within funding and capacity constraints, has been collaborating with local government and stewardship societies in specific efforts to remove abandoned vessels stranded on Crown foreshore.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 9, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Craig Sutherland, ADM Coast Area

Phone: 778-698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Rudi Mayser, Manager, Authorizations, West Coast

Phone: 250-751-7234

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Jumbo Glacier Resort

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Project is a proposal by Glacier Resorts Ltd. (GRL) for the development of a new all-season 6,250-bed-unit alpine resort west of Invermere in the Purcell Mountains.
- It received an EAC in 2004, Resort Master Plan (resort “blueprint”) approval in 2007, and a Master Development Agreement (MDA, a 60 year contract) in 2012.
- s.13; s.16
- The Ktunaxa have filed several legal challenges against the Project and cite it as a barrier to provincial reconciliation. The Ktunaxa’s interests pertain to their spiritual and cultural attachment to the grizzly bear spirit, Qat’muk, in addition to potential impacts to grizzly bears and other wildlife.
- In 2015, the Minister of Environment determined that the Project had not met the Substantially Start threshold, resulting in the expiry of the EAC.
- GRL filed a petition with the BC Supreme Court for a judicial review of the “Substantial Start” decision, which was successful.
- The Province filed an appeal of the decision which was heard on January 28, 2019. A decision has yet to be rendered. This is a key decision point in determining if the project still holds a valid EAC.
- If GRL is successful in the appeal, the Minister of Environment will have to revisit the “Substantial Start” determination, potentially allowing for reinstatement of the

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

EAC. If the Province is successful in the appeal, the EAC will be considered invalid.

- GRL has notified FLNRORD of its intention to pursue a modified Master Plan involving less than 2,000 bed units, below the EAO threshold for review. FLNRORD has advised GRL of the information required to consider a modified Master Plan. However, any proposed changes to the Master Plan and/or MDA would require further provincial review including First Nations consultation.
- The MDA is still considered to be valid; however, development under the original 6,250-bed-unit Master Plan is no longer permitted due to the expiration of the EAC.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 11, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: 250-360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Goad, ED, Mountains Resorts and Heritage

Phone: 250-821-6826

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Kluskus and Anahim Resource Road Connectors

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Kluskus road will consist of a 45-metre bridge over the Blackwater River and about 7km of new road construction with limited stakeholder issues. The recommended route has the greatest level of support from stakeholders and is the most efficient location considering cost, impact to the environment/wildlife and engineering factors.
- s.13; s.16
- Cariboo and Omineca Regional Executive Directors met in early December and determined that the environment and caribou reports for the Anahim road would be made public. The heritage/ recreation report has not been shared due to confidential information. The release of this data has resulted in further delay, as the public requires additional time to review the complex findings and provide feedback.
- In the case of either road, the road construction timeline will be incumbent upon the assigned road type (egress/ seasonal only or full year round industrial road). With early approvals, an egress road may be built in a field season and a full industrial road will likely take two years to complete.
- The Kluskus road is anticipated to cost \$3 million s.13
s.13 The funding will come from the TRAN Transportation Financing Authority Capital Plan. We are developing a MOU with TRAN to facilitate the funding protocols.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Date Prepared/Revised: March 7, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg

Phone: (778) 974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Peter Wyatt

Phone: (778) 974-2422

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Delays in Lands and Water Authorizations (South Coast)

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Approximately 1200 new WSA applications are received each year. s.13
- South Coast Region receives approximately 300 new *Land Act* Applications and approximately 300 existing tenures come up for replacement each year. There is a backlog of approximately 800 new and replacement authorizations to be processed.
- On January 1, 2015, FLNRORD became responsible for the administration of approximately 295 Crown Land tenures formerly held under a head lease by the Port of Vancouver. The head lease area is known as the Fraser River Transition Area.
- In April 2018, the Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan came into effect, which initiated the replacement of 321 existing docks. These dock tenures were expired since 2001 as the Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan was being finalized with the shishalh First Nation.
- Efficiencies in processing at the regional and provincial level have been ongoing. However, the volume and complexity of applications continue to exceed the ability of land and water staff to avoid generating new backlog applications.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

An example is the recent shift in water authorizations to spend less detailed review time at the front end of the application process and move more through to decision, in order to then monitor and audit the works post approval.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Craig Sutherland

Phone: 778 698-7861

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Kevin Haberl

Phone: 604 586-4420

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Mount Elphinstone Park Expansion Proposal

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- s.13; s.16

-

-

-

-

-

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Allan Johnsrude

Phone: 604 586-2892

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Scott Barrett

Phone: 604 586-2889

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: s.13

Recommended Response:

s.13

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

s.13

Key Facts:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 12, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Denise Rossander

Phone: (778) 698-8312

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Fraser Marshall

Phone (778) 698-7191

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Ombudsperson Report on Victoria International Marina

Recommend Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

In May 2011, FLNRORD approved an application made by the proponent, Community Marine Concepts, to build a commercial marina called the Victoria International Marina.

The public raised concerns to the Province of B.C.'s Office of the Ombudsperson regarding FLNRORD's decision-making process. As a result, the Office of the Ombudsperson launched an investigation.

The final Ombudsperson Report identified gaps in how the land decision was communicated and provided eight recommendations:

- Ensure that Crown land application information, status, and decisions are posted to a website in a timely and consistent manner.
- Develop a policy or procedure for public consultation of Crown land applications.
- Develop a policy to guide decision makers in risk, cost, and benefits analysis.
- Ensure that decision rationale is clearly stated and references the allocation principles.
- Amend procedure to ensure that staff address all outstanding issues before issuing a replacement tenure.
- Amend policies/procedures to identify the land decision maker and their authority.
- Develop policy/guidelines to ensure decision makers explain lease terms in the decision.
- Set out, in policy or guidelines, conditions under which decision makers may consider departing from the standard marina lease term length.

The Victoria International Marina is now operating.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 7, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg, ADM

Phone: 778-974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Michelle Porter, Director

Phone: 778-974-5845

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Pender Harbour has a long and rich history of human habitation. A new archaeological survey concluded that no portion of the project area was assessed as low potential for archaeological resources.
- In 2015, BC and shíshálh jointly prepared and presented a draft Pender Harbour DMP to the public. Neither the draft plan, nor the method of requesting public feedback was well received by residents or existing tenure holders.
- In response to the public backlash, FLNRORD commissioned an independent review (Penner Report) of the DMP. This was followed by independent environmental and archaeological studies of the impacts of docks in the Pender Harbour area to provide science-based information to support completion of the DMP.
- The environmental study found that critical Eelgrass habitats, marine algal cover and diversity, and fish abundance were adversely impacted and associated with increased dock construction and density.

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

- The DMP separates the foreshore within Pender Harbour into three zones, each with different management objectives. In one of these zones, no new applications for docks will be accepted due to the significant natural and cultural resources.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 8, 2018

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Allan Johnsrude

Phone: 604 586-2892

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Richard Elliott

Phone: 604 586-4433

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Issue: Public Road Access through private land and Douglas Lake Court Decision

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- Recently the question of “why some company-owned lakes are still blocked off by gates and have trespass signs in the Cowichan Valley” has been raised.
- There appears to be some heightened expectation regarding public access across private land as a result of the recent (December 2018) Supreme Court of B.C. decision of *Douglas Lake Cattle Company v. the Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club*. However, the decision did not determine public access rights over private lands. Instead, for this case it determined there were already existing public roads and trails which segmented (and did not form part of) the private land and that the public could access these like other public roads and trails
- FLNRORD will continue its approach to addressing inquiries about public access to private land on a case-by-case basis, which is consistent with the determinations made in this decision; FLNRORD will not comment further on the recent decision because it is currently under appeal.
- Provincial policy is unchanged because the current approach to addressing public access to private land is consistent with the decision. In B.C., rights of public access across private land do not generally exist unless they are issued by the landowner or otherwise established for a specific situation, such as an easement.
- Pursuant to the decision, the fish in Minnie and Stony Lakes on the Douglas Lake Ranch are not property of Douglas Lake Cattle Company. Specific to these lakes on the ranch, since the ruling, FLNRORD has implemented further fishing regulations to maintain the quality of the fishing on these lakes..

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

.....

Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2019

For Lands:

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Chris Stagg, ADM

Phone: 778-974-5853

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Vera Vukelich, Manager, Land Policy & Programs

Phone: 250 889-9192

For Fisheries:

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Gerry MacDougall, Executive Director

Phone: 250 828 4239

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Gerard Hales, Fish and Wildlife Section Head

Phone: 250 371 4457

2019/20 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Rail Trail Management

Recommended Response:

s.13

Key Facts:

- The Kettle Valley and Columbia & Western rail trails, managed by FLNRORD, are contiguous rail trails that together make up about 550 km of the B.C. portion of the The Great Trail (formerly the Trans Canada Trail) and constitute a large portion of FLNRORD's rail trail network.
- The rail trails include complex engineered infrastructure and require considerable on-going investments in development as well as operations and maintenance.
- FLNRORD is working with B.C. Parks and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to review the governance and management of provincial rail trails and intend to make recommendations to government in 2020.
- The Province is currently involved in three separate litigations related to engineering and water management on FLNRORD rail trails
- In 2016, the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), completed *Activating Our Potential: Thompson Okanagan Regional Rail Trails Tourism Strategy 2016-2022*.
- TOTA received a \$500,000 grant from the Rural Dividend Fund to implement their Regional Rail Trail Strategy.
- TOTA is currently completing a detailed stakeholder engagement and planning process related to rail trails in the West Boundary and Okanagan.

Date Prepared/Revised: February 23, 2019

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Matt Austin, ADM, IROD

Phone: 250 360-6317

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: John Hawkings, Director, Recreation Sites and Trails

Phone: 604-815-8866

2019/20 Estimates Debate**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**
.....**Issue:** Site C Dam Construction and Permitting**Recommended Response:**

s.13

Key Facts:

- All provincial permits and water licence approvals are on track according to the construction schedule. Approximately 75% of provincial permits have been issued to date, and approximately 57% of water licence approvals. There are no current immediate risks to the construction schedule as a result of permits or approvals for the project.
- Previous legal challenges to the Province's consultation on the project have ruled that the consultation has been adequate.
- On February 5, 2019, the Environmental Appeal Board dismissed an Appeal on the Project's Water Licence.

Date Prepared/Revised: March 1, 2019**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

Name: Eamon O'Donoghue

Phone: 250.847.7495

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dave Francis

Phone: 778.693.3208

2019/20 Estimates Debate**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**
.....**Issue:** s.13**Recommended Response:**

s.13

Key Facts:

s.13

Date Prepared/Revised: March 18, 2019**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

Name: Greg Rawling

Phone: (250) 561-3401

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Dave Francis

Phone: (778) 693-3208

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2019FLNR0013-000162
Feb. 5, 2019

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

Dugout and dam compliance reviewed in Dawson Creek area

DAWSON CREEK – An enforcement operation to protect the Kiskatinaw River watershed in the Dawson Creek area has reviewed 49 water storage structures, including dugouts and dams.

The objective is to ensure that the diversion of water and the construction of dams comply with the Water Sustainability Act. Eight investigations resulting from this work are still underway.

The primary focus of this enforcement operation is on dugouts and dams associated with the Kiskatinaw River watershed, which the city's residents rely on as a source of drinking water. This watershed is subject to periodic droughts, and the waterway's erratic flow patterns make it challenging to manage the water supply and ecosystem health.

Dugouts are human-made structures on the landscape where earth has been moved to create holes or depressions. Water from streams, groundwater, rainwater and water from snowmelt accumulate in these areas and is stored for later use.

Potential uses for this water may include:

- drinking water for people
- fire prevention or fire response
- drinking water for livestock
- irrigation
- industrial activities (including those in the energy and mining sector)

In 2017, natural resource officers worked with provincial dam safety officers and water specialists to complete 192 aerial assessments of dams and other water impoundments in northeast British Columbia. A preliminary analysis indicated that some of those structures needed to be evaluated more closely to determine whether any contraventions of natural resource legislation had occurred.

Over the summer and fall of 2018, natural resource officers conducted a thorough review of 49 structures. This work included educating property owners about their legal obligations regarding the Water Sustainability Act, conducting inspections and gathering information about any suspected violations. The officers then initiated investigations and took enforcement action where warranted. The goal was to stop the diversion of water and construction of dams that had not been authorized under the act and its associated regulations.

Results of the review:

- Forty-two inspections were completed. Some of the inspections included more than one

dugout or other water structure. The purpose of an inspection is to verify compliance with natural resource legislation.

- Eight investigations are underway. An inspection can lead to a formal investigation if a natural resource officer believes that an offence has been committed under the Water Sustainability Act.
- One warning ticket has been issued to date (related to the diversion, storage or use of water).
- Four violation tickets have been issued to date (related to unauthorized changes made in or around a waterway), with total fines amounting to \$920.
- Most of the remaining open investigations are expected to be completed in the spring of 2019 and may result in additional enforcement actions or penalties.
- Monetary penalties for offences under the Water Sustainability Act can run as high as \$1 million for each offence and as much as \$1 million for each day the offence continues.
- If a person is convicted of an offence under the Water Sustainability Act, the court may also impose a fine equal to the court's estimation of the monetary benefit received by that person as a result of committing the offence.

A key goal of this enforcement operation was to educate people about water storage, water use and the need to obtain authorization from the government before diverting streams or groundwater. Most of the people who spoke with the natural resource officers were co-operative and appreciated the officers' efforts to help manage water resources in the area.

The officers took every available opportunity to discuss water-related legislation with landowners, water sellers and industrial users in the region. They explained their obligations under the Water Sustainability Act and related natural resource legislation — including water rights and licensing requirements for non-domestic groundwater users.

To date, only the most significant of the water diversion and impoundment activities in the northeast region have been inspected. Further compliance inspections — and, where necessary, enforcement actions — are planned in this region and elsewhere.

Quick Facts:

- Natural resource officers represent the enforcement arm of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. They help protect the province's land, water, forests and cultural resources from damage.
- Under Section 6 of the Water Sustainability Act (2016), anyone wishing to divert or use water from naturally occurring sources cannot do so unless the person first obtains authorization from the provincial government, or the diversion or use of that water source is authorized under the Water Sustainability Act's regulations.

Learn More:

For more information about water use, water authorizations or application requirements, call FrontCounter BC toll free at 1 877 855-3222.

Read more about the Water Sustainability Act and water licensing at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights>

Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
250 356-7506

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL GCPE-MEMPR ISSUE NOTE Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Updated: March 12, 2019 Minister Responsible: Hon. Michelle Mungall	Unist'ot'en Camp – Archaeological Artifacts
---	--

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13; s.16

ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.13; s.16

ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.13; s.16

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

March 11, 2109:

The Unist'ot'en/Dark House released a rebuttal calling the BC Oil and Gas Commission's (OGC) industry bulletin from March 8, 2019, 'misleading' and 'cryptic'.

The Unist'ot'en release quotes Smithsonian Archaeologist Dr. Chelsey Armstrong who believes the OGC's conclusions should be reviewed by independent archaeologists.

The rebuttal also argues that the OGC has not properly communicated with the Unist'ot'en since the stone artifacts were collected, and calls again for any archaeological work done on Unist'ot'en territory to be conducted with the consent of Unist'ot'en people and under the supervision of their consulting archaeologists.

BACKGROUND:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) is an independent statutory authority responsible for regulating pipelines in British Columbia. The OGC has regulatory authority granted to them under many provincial statutes, including the Heritage Conservation Act.

The OGC considered the AIA findings as part of the permitting process for construction activities on the Camp 9A area and determined no additional archaeological work was required.

Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) – Timeline:

2013	FLNR's archaeology branch issued a Heritage Inspection Permit, which authorized Coastal GasLink (CGL) to complete an AIA.
Dec. 2015	CGL submitted its AIA to the FLNR archaeology branch as required.
Jan. 2016	The archaeology branch reviewed and accepted the AIA.
Aug. 2016	CGL submitted a final report AIA addendum.
Sept. 2016	The final report AIA addendum was reviewed and accepted. CGL later provided copies of its AIA to involved First Nations, including the OW.
	No AIA field work was done in the location of Camp 9 due to access issues. A large portion of the land where CGL proposes to build Camp 9 was previously logged. A desktop review was done of the area and resulted in a finding of low subsurface archaeological potential and low to moderate potential for culturally modified trees (CMTs) and low potential for subsurface archaeological materials. This area was subsequently logged by the forest tenure holder after the AIA was completed.
Jan. 2019	<p>The OW argued that CGL was clearing land without a full Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the area, and a stop work order should be issued.</p> <p>CGL suspended operations the OGC evaluated the evidence and determined the company was in compliance with their permit, including the conditions relating to archaeology.</p>

ADVICE TO MINISTER

	<p>The branch advised the OW that the conditions of CGL's Heritage Inspection Permit had been met. Further, the branch advised that the OW contact the OGC and/or the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to address questions specific to permit and/or authorizations issued by those agencies.</p> <p>The OGC considered the AIA findings as part of its permit decision process, and to determine if additional archaeological work was required. With regards to Camp 9, the OGC determined no additional archaeological work was required, but additional archaeological work is required for the pipeline permit.</p> <p>Just before the complaint was submitted, CGL stopped work because traps were found in the area. CGL said the traps were placed in the construction boundaries raising safety concerns. The Unist'ot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation alleged pipeline contractors drove a bulldozer through the heart of one of their traplines, violating the Wildlife Act by interfering with lawful trapping.</p>
Jan. 29, 2019	An inspection by the OGC determined CGL was in compliance with its OGC permit requirements.
Feb. 1, 2019	the OGC notified both a representative from the OW and CGL that the company was in compliance with their permit, including the conditions relating to archaeology.
Feb. 13, 2019	A post on the Unist'ot'en Camp Facebook page stated multiple artifacts (two stone lithic tools) were found in the Camp 9A area. The artifacts were said to be recovered from 'disturbed ground' at the construction site.
Feb. 14, 2019	<p>The Dark House/Unist'ot'en sent a letter of complaint to Coastal GasLink (CGL); CGL contractors and subcontractors; the BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC); the Environmental Assessment Office; Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), BC Archaeology Branch; and Minister Doug Donaldson.</p> <p>CGL suspended work at the site in accordance with their OGC permit conditions and there is currently no work underway. The company is having a qualified archeologist visit the area – a step that's in compliance with their permit, which has a condition to stop work on the possibility of a chance find. A project update with more details was posted here.</p>
Feb. 15, 2019	<p>An OGC Compliance and Enforcement Officer, as well as the OGC's Senior Archaeologist, inspected the Camp 9A area. The inspection was supported by an Archaeologist from FLNR.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>Internal ONLY:</u></p> <p>Stone lithics were observed on the surface of frozen clay in an area that had been initially taped off by unknown individuals s.13; s.16</p> <p>CGL had established an additional 100m perimeter and has stopped work in accordance with permit conditions. The lithics were not in their original locations and were on top of frozen clay soils which would not be expected to contain artifacts of this type.</p> <p>The origin of the stone lithics and where they are from this site has not been determined. They will be examined by experts in an attempt to determine cultural origin and date, which may take some time.</p> </div>
Feb. 16, 2019	An open letter was sent to Archaeology Branch in FLNR from numerous B.C. archeologists, Archaeology Professors and Chairs from multiple universities, as well as Archaeological Society of BC Board Members. The letter request 'a review of the archaeological overview assessments and all archaeological permits granted to CGL in Wet'suwet'en territory, and that all construction and vehicle activity cease in Talbits Kwa yintah until these legal concerns for cultural heritage are met.' The letter can be found here .

ADVICE TO MINISTER

The Unist'ot'en Camp Facebook was criticizing the OGC and Archaeology Branch for trespassing on Unist'ot'en territory and 'stealing' artifacts. Social media posts revisit the request for Minister Doug Donaldson to issue a stop work order under section 16 of the Heritage Conservation Act.

Any investigation for and removal of artifacts in BC must be performed under Ministerial Order. Prior to investigating the site on February 14th, an Order was provided to the investigating staff. The artifacts were recovered under the care of the OGC.

March 5, 2019

The OGC's permit for Camp 9A required CGL to stop work if heritage objects are found and further, CGL is required to file a Mitigation Plan to the Archaeology Branch at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNROR), before work on the site can resume.

The mitigation plan was accepted by the OGC and the Archaeology Branch on March 5, 2019. It requires CGL to determine if there is additional cultural material on the site by having archaeologists:

- Assess the area surrounding the location where the artifacts were found - if no cultural material is found in this assessment, CGL will be able to resume work on the site.
- Sample the topsoil stockpiled on the edge of the site once it is no longer frozen.
- Supervise construction operations on the site once work restarts.
- Further assess the topsoil when it is spread back on the site during future site reclamation.

March 8, 2019

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) released an information bulletin following its site visit on February 15, 2019. Observations from the site at the time included:

- No work was underway at the site. Work had stopped upon notification artifacts may be present.
- An area of the site had been marked off by parties other than Coastal GasLink (CGL). CGL noted this was the area where artifacts were reported to have been seen.
- CGL had established a 100 m buffer around the area as an additional exclusion zone and had not entered the area, which had been graded down to glacial clay deposits.
- Upon entry into the marked area and after some snow clearing, the team observed lithics (stone artifacts) on top of frozen clay soils.
- The lithics were gathered for their protection and further examination under the proper authority of the Heritage Conservation Act.

Subsequent to the site visit, it has been determined:

- The soils upon which the artifacts were found would not typically contain any such cultural artifacts and this was likely not their original location. However, a definitive determination on their exact location of origin can not be made.
- The number of artifacts found at this location was unusual, particularly given the disturbed nature of the site.
- The artifacts referred to in the complaint as "recovered" were not present.

Initial examination of the artifacts is complete. Additional work is ongoing but is unlikely to definitively determine the culture of origin given the nature and condition of the artifacts. This additional work does not require the further retention of the artifacts. As such, the Archaeology Branch within FLNRORD is working towards the return of the artifacts to the appropriate Indigenous communities.

The OGC's inspection was conducted under the authority of a Heritage Conservation Act ministerial order. These orders must be granted for anyone, including OGC staff, to alter the ground or remove artifacts from any site.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Communications Contact: Darren Beaupre, 250-356-5892
Program Area Contact: Michelle Carr 250-882-1473
File Created: February 19, 2019
File Updated: March 12, 2019

Questions and Answers:

What did the BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) conclude with their site visit?

In addition to the observations made on site, the OGC gathered lithics (stone artifacts) for protection and examination. The initial examination is complete and additional work is ongoing. s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

The experts involved in this case also concluded the number of artifacts found at the location was unusual, particularly given the disturbed nature of the site.

Where can I find specifics about the site visit/examination?

Details are available in an information bulletin on the OGC's website. The bulletin was released on March 8, 2019.

s.13; s.16

What experts?

One of the OGC's senior archeologist conducted the site investigation with a compliance and enforcement officer, supported by an additional archeological specialist from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). Additional experts with the OGC have been involved with the assessment after the stone artifacts were collected for examination.

What authority did the OGC have to remove the artifacts?

The OGC acted on the authority of a Heritage Inspection Order under section 14 of the Heritage Conservation Act to secure the artifacts for protection and further examination. It is an offence under the Heritage Conservation Act to remove or disturb artifacts without having the appropriate permit or order to do so.

Why does the OGC have authority?

The OGC is the independent statutory authority responsible for regulating oil and gas activities, including pipelines, in British Columbia. The OGC has regulatory authority granted to them under many provincial statutes, including the Heritage Conservation Act.

Where are the artifacts now?

The artifacts are under the protection of the BC Oil and Gas Commission. The Archaeology Branch (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) is working towards the return of the artifacts to the appropriate Indigenous communities.

Is Coastal GasLink working on the site now?

There is currently no work underway at the camp 9A site. With that said, Coastal GasLink is preparing a plan to resume construction in accordance with their permits and archaeological mitigation plan.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.13; s.16

Before work can resume, CGL needed to put a mitigation plan together and submit it to the archeological branch with FLNRORD. That plan was submitted and subsequently accepted by both FLNRORD and the OGC. Work going forward must be in accordance with that plan.

What's involved with CGL's mitigation plan?

The mitigation plan required CGL to determine if there were additional cultural materials on the site. They had an archaeologist assess the area surrounding the location in question – and no cultural material was found during this assessment. As part of the mitigation plan, CGL must also:

- Sample the topsoil stockpiled on the edge of the site once it is no longer frozen.
- Supervise construction operations on the site once work restarts.
- Further assess the topsoil when it is spread back on the site during future site reclamation.

Is the mitigation plan available publicly?

The plan was submitted to the Archaeology Branch (FLNRORD) directly. These plans are not publicly available to protect the province's heritage sites.

s.13; s.16

s.13