
From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 10:06 AM
To: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX; Berg, Shane FOR:EX; Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX
Cc: Reed, Matt FIN:EX; Martins, Sonja CSNR:EX
Subject: RE: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Thank you Tiffany.

From: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 10:03 AM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Reed, Matt FIN:EX <Matt.Reed@gov.bc.ca>; Martins, Sonja CSNR:EX <Sonja.Martins@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Thanks.

I have received approval from the Minister of Finance for your ministry to proceed with the \$10M one-time grant. Your ministry is responsible for ensuring this expenditure aligns with existing policies and does not create ongoing costs for government.

A formal decision letter will follow shortly.

Thanks.

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From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Sorry Tiffany, the morning got away on me.

It's the Bulkley Valley Research Center.

From: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 8, 2023 6:20 PM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Who is the recipient?

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From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:05:02 PM
To: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

This is to develop new strategies for how we operate in the Forest (Silviculture) to be more in balance with governments old growth objectives. I predict it's a one time need. Professional foresters will then utilize these new strategies to guide Forest harvesting. Once they are developed they become the standard of practice and the Foresters Act sets them out as the practice of professional forestry.

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From: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:25:00 AM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Thanks. and I see it's for a new program. What will happen when the funds are used up?

From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 6, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Sorry, yes it's the same item. I thought we had submitted an amendment to reduce it to \$10M. s.13

From: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 6, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

This is the only item I could find on the list your ministry submitted. Can you describe what the \$10M will do in a few sentences? Thank you.

						TBS Risks
OCF - Silviculture Innovation Program	50.000	Funding to establish a new "Silviculture Innovation Program" to support implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) Recommendation #12 (Innovative Silviculture). The Program will support development and implementation of new and innovative silviculture practices related to each of the three specified zones recommended by the OGSR, and will support the transformation of the natural resource sector including successfully managing for ecosystem health & wellbeing.	Funding would be dispersed to a third-party delivery agent to administer the new Silviculture Innovation Program fund, under guidance from FOR.	The new Silviculture Innovation Program will support the transition from a focus on clearcut harvesting to a diversity of silviculture practices across BC, spanning the entire life cycle of a forest. This is a commitment in the OGSR (recommendation 12). In addition, these new/innovative practices will ensure forestry practices are developed and implemented to manage forests in BC for the objectives important to the people of BC, including: recruiting and managing for Old Growth characteristics; forest health concerns; fish and wildlife habitat; watershed values; etc. The Program will benefit communities across BC by supporting a healthy forest sector (i.e. allowing harvesting to continue) at the same time as transforming the natural resource sector and successfully managing for ecosystem health & wellbeing.	The new Silviculture Innovation Program will benefit Indigenous communities by supporting the development and implementation of the type of innovative forestry (silviculture) practices that they have been requesting.	- Funding recipient not yet identified. - Cabinet/TB approval of new program required.

From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: February 6, 2023 7:43 AM

To: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FOR Silviculture Innovation Program - Old Growth

Hi Tiffany. Doug Caul was speaking with you on this item I believe. Its tied to the Premiers announcement on OG on the 15th if we can get it approved.

To confirm, its \$10M we are asking for, not \$50M.

Do you need anything further from us? Thanks

Rick Manwaring, RPF

Deputy Minister of Forests

Silviculture Innovation Fund

What will the funding achieve?

- The Silviculture Innovation Fund will support operational silvicultural research projects that will address forest resilience, ecosystem adaptation, and sustainable forest management in the face of climate change. Projects will be co-developed with First Nations and strive to encompass Indigenous knowledge into silviculture practices.
- These research trials will be transformed into operational opportunities that will benefit rural communities.
- The fund will also be used to provide extension services to practitioners and decision makers to advance silviculture practices.
- Example of alternative silvicultural treatments may include:
 - Management of hardwoods to make ecosystems more resilient.
 - Silviculture treatments to address forest Health.
 - Treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics.
 - Treatments that focus on restoration of wildlife and aquatic habitat.

How will this fund support the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations?

- The Old Growth Strategic Review report recommended the creation of a silviculture innovation program to develop harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that would maintain old forest values (Recommendation 12).
- The report authors proposed partnerships with existing research organizations and other operations practitioners to test and demonstrate silviculture systems and encourage new practices via knowledge sharing.
- This fund will expand existing research trials at the landscape level to inform forest practices across BC and support forest landscape planning, one of the tools for implementing several of the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Where will funding go to?

- The fund will be provided to the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers.
- Ministry of Forests has a long and productive relationship with this organization, spanning decades that has resulted in high quality and operationally relevant research on forest management, including wildlife habitat, silvicultural systems and stand development modeling, supporting government objectives.
- This funding will leverage existing research program structure within Ministry of Forests.

RE: Bulkley Research Center contact information

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
To: O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 14, 2023 12:08:00 PM PST
Eamon,

Staff just told me that GCPE (Stephen Binder) also asked for Dawn's contact information last Friday to get a quote from her.

Vera

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX
Sent: February 14, 2023 12:06 PM
To: O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Bulkley Research Center contact information

Hi Eamon:

Here is the contact information for the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management:

Executive Director - Dawn Hanson – Tel 1-250-846-5755
Dawn.Hanson@bvcentre.ca

Two of our lead researchers have given Dawn a head up that such funding might be coming and shared in confidence the outline of the Silviculture Innovation Program bullets such that she wouldn't be blindsided.

During exploratory capacity discussions with Dawn we needed to be sure that they had the capacity/contractor connections to be able to do the work.

Below are the Silviculture Innovation Program bullets in case you did not see it previously:

What will the funding achieve?

- The Silviculture Innovation Fund will support operational silvicultural research projects that will address forest resilience, ecosystem adaptation, and sustainable forest management in the face of climate change. Projects will be co-developed with First Nations and strive to encompass Indigenous knowledge into silviculture practices.
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Vera Sit, Executive Director
 Office of the Chief Forester — *Caring for B.C.'s Forests*
 Ministry of Forests
 Office: 778-974-3047
 Cell: 250-888-0934

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 11:43 AM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX; Berg, Shane FOR:EX; Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX; White, Norah J FOR:EX; Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX; Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX
Cc: MacMillan, Karin GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Final - PREM/FOR NR + BG - B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship
Attachments: 2023FOR0009-000191.pdf

Final attached. I will relay the kmqa once we receive it.
p

From: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX <Linda.Stagg@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX <Linda.Stagg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/28240>

News ID: NEWS-28240
NR Number: 2023FOR0009-000191
NR Type: News Release
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: February 15, 2023 at 6:22 pm
Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, 069.0 - Smithers, BUSIN_BUSINESS, CCM_ALL CULTURAL COMMUNITY, CCID_INDIGENOUS, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, LMain, MEDIA, MMVAN_MMVAN, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE
Lead Organization: Ministry of Forests
Headline: B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

NEWS RELEASE
B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

VICTORIA - The B.C. government is launching new measures to protect more old growth by fast-tracking innovation and co-developing new local plans with First Nations to better care for B.C.'s forests.

"Our forests are foundational to B.C. In collaboration with First Nations and industry, we are accelerating our actions to protect our oldest and rarest forests," said Premier David Eby. "At the same time, we will support innovation in the forestry sector so our forests can deliver good, family-supporting jobs for generations to come."

At the centre of the eight-point plan is \$25 million for new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables that will drive improved old-growth management while incorporating local knowledge and community priorities. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, forest landscape plans are a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to forest stewardship that will replace existing, industry-developed plans.

In response to requests from First Nations for more in-depth discussions about old growth, this funding will support eight new regional FLP tables with the participation of approximately 50 First Nations. These tables will prevent harvesting in old-growth forests important for ecosystem health, biodiversity, clean water, carbon storage and Indigenous values. They will also provide greater certainty about the areas where sustainable harvesting can occur to support jobs and investment.

The announcement also includes ramping up government investments to support innovation in the forestry industry. The Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and expanding eligibility provincewide. The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund will, for example, support mills to process smaller-diameter trees and manufacture higher-value wood products, such as mass timber. It will accelerate shovel-ready projects across the manufacturing ecosystem that will bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to communities throughout the province. Previously, the fund was restricted to projects outside of the Metro Vancouver and the Capital regional districts.

"As we work to protect more old growth, we know we need to accelerate our efforts to build a stronger, more innovative forestry industry that better shares the benefits with workers and communities. Forestry is a foundation of B.C.'s economy," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. "That's why we are doubling provincial investments to help mills retrofit to get off old-growth logs and manufacture more high-value wood products right here in B.C., so we create more jobs from every tree."

Additional actions to accelerate implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review during the next year include:

- * developing and implementing alternatives to clear-cutting practices, such as selective harvesting techniques, that better support forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation, through a new \$10-million silviculture innovation program;
- * repealing outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, like water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- * increasing Indigenous participation in co-developing changes to forest policy through \$2.4 million provided to the First Nations Forestry Council;
- * protecting more old-growth forests and biodiverse areas by leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars of philanthropic donations to fund conservation measures supported by the Province and First Nations, through a new conservation financing mechanism to be set up within six months;
- * enabling local communities and First Nations to finance old-growth protection by selling verified carbon offsets that represent long-term emission reductions through the new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0, which will be finalized this year; and
- * completing the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2023, to be developed in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders.

Since November 2021, the Province has been engaging with First Nations about deferring harvest within old-growth forests. Deferrals have now been implemented on approximately 2.1 million hectares of old growth. As recommended by the Old Growth Strategic Review, deferrals are intended to prevent biodiversity loss while the Province, First Nations and other partners develop a new, long-term approach to forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency.

The Technical Advisory Panel recommended that the Province implement deferrals within 2.6 million hectares of forests identified as most at risk of biodiversity loss. An additional 1.4 million hectares was already permanently protected.

Since November 2021, 11,600 hectares have been harvested while engagements with First Nations were underway. This is equal to less than 0.5% of the area recommended for deferral.

Quotes:

Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship -

"Old-growth forests are a part of who we are and we want to share all the benefits they offer for many generations to come. In the coming months, our government will develop a new conservation-financing mechanism that ensures British Columbians, as well as those individuals who share our love for B.C.'s iconic forests, can join in supporting protection of biodiverse areas throughout our province."

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy -

"Our government is committed to working together with First Nations and communities to build a better future where forest ecosystem health is at the heart of forest stewardship and management. We are developing new transparent and verifiable rules for B.C. forest carbon offsets projects so Indigenous Peoples and communities can benefit through the large-scale storage of carbon that occurs in old-growth forests."

Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation -

"By expanding the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to include the entire province and doubling its funding, we're ensuring more help is available for the needs of people and communities throughout B.C. This fund will create good-paying jobs for British Columbians by driving long-term economic diversification and sustainability as we build a clean and inclusive economy that works for everybody."

Garry Merkel, independent coach and mentor for Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) implementation -

"When creating the Old Growth Strategic Review, Al Gorley and I had the honour of listening to people from all backgrounds and from all corners of the province as they shared their values on forests and forestry. One overriding theme was the need to ensure the continuity and integrity of our natural systems. Also clear was that we needed to have many voices around the table while doing so, in particular those of First Nations. As the Province continues to implement the OGSR recommendations and associated Forest and Range Practices Act changes - in this case, forest landscape-level planning - we are collaborating with First Nations as full partners to meaningfully engage stakeholders and manage the land to create healthy ecosystems with resilient forests that continue to provide many benefits for B.C. communities."

Leonard Joe, CEO, First Nations Forestry Council -

"The BC First Nations Forestry Council is looking forward to continue working with the Province to modernize forest policy in B.C. The forestry council will continue to support Nations in efforts to increase their role in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources. The Province's commitment to continue implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review and to increase Forest Landscape Planning opportunities for First Nations are both vital to increasing the participation of First Nations in the forest sector as full partners."

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

James Smith
Deputy Communications Director
Office of the Premier
Jimmy.smith@gov.bc.ca

Nigel McInnis
Media Relations
Ministry of Forests
nigel.mcinnis@gov.bc.ca
250 896 4320

BACKGROUNDER
Information on the eight-point plan to protect old-growth forests

The B.C. government is taking action through an eight-point plan to accelerate action on old-growth protection, innovation and forest stewardship:

Forest Landscape Planning (\$25 million)

Developed in partnership with First Nations and full engagement of local governments and stakeholders, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) better incorporates local knowledge and values into sustainable forest management. FLP establishes clear objectives for the long-term management of old growth, biodiversity, climate change and wildfire risk. By providing direction about where harvesting and roadbuilding may occur, FLPs also provide greater certainty for industry, communities and workers. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, FLPs will replace existing industry-developed forest stewardship plans. Four FLP tables are underway. This new funding will allow eight more regional tables to be established with participation from approximately 50 First Nations.

BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (additional \$90 million)

First announced in January 2023, the Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and making it open to projects provincewide. For example, it may provide funding to a forestry company that needs to buy new equipment to support new product lines, such as mass-timber production or paper packaging, or for smaller-diameter tree processing and manufacturing, or a company that wants to build or expand a plastics-alternative manufacturing facility. The fund is in addition to the \$185-million support package announced in Budget 2022 to ensure that co-ordinated and comprehensive supports are in place to offset any economic impacts from a changing forestry industry.

Silviculture Innovation Program (\$10 million)

The new Silviculture Innovation Program will support new research and innovative practices that better address forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation. This could include selective harvesting approaches or treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics, make ecosystems more resilient, or restore wildlife or aquatic habitat. The Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers, will manage the \$10-million program. It is expected to be up and running in fall 2023. This investment directly responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to create a Silviculture Innovation Program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

Updating Forest and Range Practices Act Regulations

Government has repealed outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, such as water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. This change will allow statutory decision-makers to better consider and balance a broader range of forest objectives. It responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to shift from a management approach focused on timber supply to managing for multiple values, recognizing that a shift to prioritize ecosystem health is necessary if forests are to continue to provide essential benefits, such as clean air, clean water, carbon storage, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable timber.

Support for First Nations Forestry Council (\$2.4 million)

The Province is providing \$2.4 million to support the continued participation of the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) in modernizing B.C. forestry policy and legislation. Founded in 2006 by the First Nations Leadership Council, the FNFC will be a key partner in developing the old-growth strategic action plan and finalizing the regulatory framework for FLP. With this funding, FNFC will design and deliver a series of provincial and regional-level engagement sessions open to all First Nations and Indigenous organizations. The Old Growth Strategic Review recommended fully engaging with First Nations about its findings, policy development and implementation.

Conservation financing mechanism

The Province is working to protect more old-growth forests and other biodiverse areas at risk of irreversible loss. The Province recognizes that there is significant interest from British Columbians in supporting this objective. In the coming months, the Province will establish a new conservation financing mechanism aimed at leveraging its investments by attracting private and philanthropic funds to support conservation measures aligned with provincial and First Nation interests. This will be key to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Province's commitment to protect 30% of the land base by 2030.

Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0

As part of its CleanBC 2030 Roadmap, the Province is developing renewed rules to govern how forest carbon offsets are developed to ensure they support local communities, promote ecosystem health and represent verifiable, long-term reductions of emissions. A final version of the protocol will be released this year. The new protocol will enable First Nations and others to finance new conservation projects, such as permanently protecting old-growth forests by earning verified carbon credits.

Old-growth strategic action plan

The Old Growth Strategic Review advised that the Province develop a formal, comprehensive implementation plan in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders. Provincial forums were held early this year and a series of regional sessions is planned for the coming months. To be completed by the end of this year, the old-growth strategic action plan will outline the shared vision, key priorities and timeline of actions to implement the remaining recommendations and paradigm shift envisioned by the Old Growth Strategic Review. As part of this engagement process, the Province is engaging about the ecosystem health and biodiversity of B.C.'s forests as an overarching priority for all sectors, in response to Recommendation 2 of the review.

Contacts:

James Smith
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Jimmy.smith@gov.bc.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

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In response to requests from First Nations for more in-depth discussions about old growth, this funding will support eight new regional FLP tables with the participation of approximately 50 First Nations. These tables will prevent harvesting in old-growth forests important for ecosystem health, biodiversity, clean water, carbon storage and Indigenous values. They will also provide greater certainty about the areas where sustainable harvesting can occur to support jobs and investment.

The announcement also includes ramping up government investments to support innovation in the forestry industry. The Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and expanding eligibility provincially. The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund will, for example, support mills to process smaller-diameter trees and manufacture higher-value wood products, such as mass timber. It will accelerate shovel-ready projects across the manufacturing ecosystem that will bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to communities throughout the province. Previously, the fund was restricted to projects outside of the Metro Vancouver and the Capital regional districts.

“As we work to protect more old growth, we know we need to accelerate our efforts to build a stronger, more innovative forestry industry that better shares the benefits with workers and communities. Forestry is a foundation of B.C.'s economy,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. “That’s why we are doubling provincial investments to help mills retrofit to get off old-growth logs and manufacture more high-value wood products right here in B.C., so we create more jobs from every tree.”

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Contacts:

James Smith
Deputy Communications Director
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BACKGROUND

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BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (additional \$90 million)

First announced in January 2023, the Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and making it open to projects provincewide. For example, it may provide funding to a forestry company that needs to buy new equipment to support new product lines, such as mass-timber production or paper packaging, or for smaller-diameter tree processing and manufacturing, or a company that wants to build or expand a plastics-alternative manufacturing facility. The fund is in addition to the \$185-million support package announced in Budget 2022 to ensure that co-ordinated and comprehensive supports are in place to offset any economic impacts from a changing forestry industry.

Silviculture Innovation Program (\$10 million)

The new Silviculture Innovation Program will support new research and innovative practices that better address forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation. This could include selective harvesting approaches or treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics, make ecosystems more resilient, or restore wildlife or aquatic habitat. The Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers, will manage the \$10-million program. It is expected to be up and running in fall 2023. This investment directly responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to create a Silviculture Innovation Program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

Updating Forest and Range Practices Act Regulations

Government has repealed outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, such as water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. This change will allow statutory decision-makers to better consider and balance a broader range of forest objectives. It responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to shift from a management approach focused on timber supply to managing for multiple values, recognizing that a shift to prioritize ecosystem health is necessary if forests are to continue to provide essential benefits, such as clean air, clean water, carbon storage, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable timber.

Support for First Nations Forestry Council (\$2.4 million)

The Province is providing \$2.4 million to support the continued participation of the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) in modernizing B.C. forestry policy and legislation. Founded in 2006 by the First Nations Leadership Council, the FNFC will be a key partner in developing the old-growth strategic action plan and finalizing the regulatory framework for FLP. With this funding, FNFC will design and deliver a series of provincial and regional-level engagement sessions open to all First Nations and Indigenous organizations. The Old Growth Strategic Review recommended fully engaging with First Nations about its findings, policy development and implementation.

Conservation financing mechanism

The Province is working to protect more old-growth forests and other biodiverse areas at risk of irreversible loss. The Province recognizes that there is significant interest from British Columbians in supporting this objective. In the coming months, the Province will establish a new conservation financing mechanism aimed at leveraging its investments by attracting private and philanthropic funds to support conservation measures aligned with provincial and First Nation interests. This will be key to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Province's commitment to protect 30% of the land base by 2030.

Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0

As part of its CleanBC 2030 Roadmap, the Province is developing renewed rules to govern how forest carbon offsets are developed to ensure they support local communities, promote ecosystem health and represent verifiable, long-term reductions of emissions. A final version of the protocol will be released this year. The new protocol will enable First Nations and others to finance new conservation projects, such as permanently protecting old-growth forests by earning verified carbon credits.

Old-growth strategic action plan

The Old Growth Strategic Review advised that the Province develop a formal, comprehensive implementation plan in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders. Provincial forums were held early this year and a series of regional sessions is planned for the coming months. To be completed by the end of this year, the old-growth strategic action plan will outline the shared vision, key priorities and timeline of actions to implement the remaining recommendations and paradigm shift envisioned by the Old Growth Strategic Review. As part of this engagement process, the Province is engaging about the ecosystem health and biodiversity of B.C.'s forests as an overarching priority for all sectors, in response to Recommendation 2 of the review.

Contacts:

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Jimmy.smith@gov.bc.ca

Nigel McInnis
Media Relations
Ministry of Forests
nigel.mcinnis@gov.bc.ca
250 896 4320

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

Re: BC Gov News - B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

From: Caul, Doug D PREM:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, Sanford, Donna L PREM:EX <Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca>, O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, Copage, Caitlin PREM:EX <Caitlin.Copage@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 5:26:28 PM PST
Congratulations everyone. This looks great!
Dc

From: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:14:57 PM
To: Sanford, Donna L PREM:EX <Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>; Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D PREM:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Gov News - B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

Thanks Donna. Special thanks to you Donna, Doug and Don. I know you made a big difference as we tried to keep this on the right path.

I just de briefed with our validators, Garry and Lenny. Both are pleased.

From: Sanford, Donna L PREM:EX <Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>; Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BC Gov News - B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship
Importance: Low

Big congratulations to you. This took lots of patience and persistence on your parts!

From: noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca <noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:22 PM
To: Sanford, Donna L PREM:EX <Donna.Sanford@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Gov News - B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

NEWS RELEASE

B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

VICTORIA - The B.C. government is launching new measures to protect more old growth by fast-tracking innovation and co-developing new local plans with First Nations to better care for B.C.'s forests.

"Our forests are foundational to B.C. In collaboration with First Nations and industry, we are accelerating our actions to protect our oldest and rarest forests," said Premier David Eby. "At the same time, we will support innovation in the forestry sector so our forests can deliver good, family-supporting jobs for generations to come."

At the centre of the eight-point plan is \$25 million for new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables that will drive improved old-growth management while incorporating local knowledge and community priorities. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, forest landscape plans are a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to forest stewardship that will replace existing, industry-developed plans.

In response to requests from First Nations for more in-depth discussions about old growth, this funding will support eight new regional FLP tables with the participation of approximately 50 First Nations. These tables will prevent harvesting in old-growth forests important for ecosystem health, biodiversity, clean water, carbon storage and Indigenous values. They will also provide greater certainty about the areas where sustainable harvesting can occur to support jobs and investment.

The announcement also includes ramping up government investments to support innovation in the forestry industry. The Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and expanding eligibility provincewide. The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund will, for example, support mills to process smaller-diameter trees and manufacture higher-value wood products, such as mass timber. It will accelerate shovel-ready projects across the manufacturing ecosystem that will bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to communities throughout the province. Previously, the fund was restricted to projects outside of the Metro Vancouver and the Capital regional districts.

"As we work to protect more old growth, we know we need to accelerate our efforts to build a stronger, more innovative forestry industry that better shares the benefits with workers and communities. Forestry is a foundation of B.C.'s economy," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. "That's why we are doubling provincial investments to help mills retrofit to get off old-growth logs and manufacture more high-value wood products right here in B.C., so we create more jobs from every tree."

Additional actions to accelerate implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review during the next year include:

- * developing and implementing alternatives to clear-cutting practices, such as selective harvesting techniques, that better support forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation, through a new \$10-million silviculture innovation program;
- * repealing outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, like water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- * increasing Indigenous participation in co-developing changes to forest policy through \$2.4 million provided to the First Nations Forestry Council;

- * protecting more old-growth forests and biodiverse areas by leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars of philanthropic donations to fund conservation measures supported by the Province and First Nations, through a new conservation financing mechanism to be set up within six months;
- * enabling local communities and First Nations to finance old-growth protection by selling verified carbon offsets that represent long-term emission reductions through the new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0, which will be finalized this year; and
- * completing the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2023, to be developed in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders.

Since November 2021, the Province has been engaging with First Nations about deferring harvest within old-growth forests. Deferrals have now been implemented on approximately 2.1 million hectares of old growth. As recommended by the Old Growth Strategic Review, deferrals are intended to prevent biodiversity loss while the Province, First Nations and other partners develop a new, long-term approach to forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency.

The Technical Advisory Panel recommended that the Province implement deferrals within 2.6 million hectares of forests identified as most at risk of biodiversity loss. An additional 1.4 million hectares was already permanently protected.

Since November 2021, 11,600 hectares have been harvested while engagements with First Nations were underway. This is equal to less than 0.5% of the area recommended for deferral.

Quotes:

Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship -

"Old-growth forests are a part of who we are and we want to share all the benefits they offer for many generations to come. In the coming months, our government will develop a new conservation-financing mechanism that ensures British Columbians, as well as those individuals who share our love for B.C.'s iconic forests, can join in supporting protection of biodiverse areas throughout our province."

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy -

"Our government is committed to working together with First Nations and communities to build a better future where forest ecosystem health is at the heart of forest stewardship and management. We are developing new transparent and verifiable rules for B.C. forest carbon offsets projects so Indigenous Peoples and communities can benefit through the large-scale storage of carbon that occurs in old-growth forests."

Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation -

"By expanding the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to include the entire province and doubling its funding, we're ensuring more help is available for the needs of people and communities throughout B.C. This fund will create good-paying jobs for British Columbians by driving long-term economic

diversification and sustainability as we build a clean and inclusive economy that works for everybody."

Garry Merkel, independent coach and mentor for Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) implementation -

"When creating the Old Growth Strategic Review, Al Gorley and I had the honour of listening to people from all backgrounds and from all corners of the province as they shared their values on forests and forestry. One overriding theme was the need to ensure the continuity and integrity of our natural systems. Also clear was that we needed to have many voices around the table while doing so, in particular those of First Nations. As the Province continues to implement the OGSR recommendations and associated Forest and Range Practices Act changes - in this case, forest landscape-level planning - we are collaborating with First Nations as full partners to meaningfully engage stakeholders and manage the land to create healthy ecosystems with resilient forests that continue to provide many benefits for B.C. communities."

Leonard Joe, CEO, First Nations Forestry Council -

"The BC First Nations Forestry Council is looking forward to continue working with the Province to modernize forest policy in B.C. The forestry council will continue to support Nations in efforts to increase their role in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources. The Province's commitment to continue implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review and to increase Forest Landscape Planning opportunities for First Nations are both vital to increasing the participation of First Nations in the forest sector as full partners."

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

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Deputy Communications Director
Office of the Premier
Jimmy.smith@gov.bc.ca

Nigel McInnis
Media Relations
Ministry of Forests
nigel.mcinnis@gov.bc.ca
250 896 4320

BACKGROUND

Information on the eight-point plan to protect old-growth forests

The B.C. government is taking action through an eight-point plan to accelerate action on old-growth protection, innovation and forest stewardship:

Forest Landscape Planning (\$25 million)

Developed in partnership with First Nations and full engagement of local governments and stakeholders, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) better incorporates local knowledge and values into

sustainable forest management. FLP establishes clear objectives for the long-term management of old growth, biodiversity, climate change and wildfire risk. By providing direction about where harvesting and roadbuilding may occur, FLPs also provide greater certainty for industry, communities and workers. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, FLPs will replace existing industry-developed forest stewardship plans. Four FLP tables are underway. This new funding will allow eight more regional tables to be established with participation from approximately 50 First Nations.

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Jimmy.smith@gov.bc.ca

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250 896 4320

► [READ MORE](#)

ID: 33094, Title: Innovative Silviculture Fund Bullets Feb 9 2023 Requested by PO for today

Full Name:

Approval Route: Director>ED>ADM>DM>PO

Assigned To: Robertson, Anastasia FLNR:EX Rush: Yes Communications Materials - DM/ADM Speaking Notes

Signature: Assistant Deputy Minister

Branch: CF-ADM Other Number: N/A

Link: N/A

Due Date: 2/9/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 2/9/2023 N/A

Item History

2/13/2023 01:04 PM

Pike, Shannon [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Robertson, Anastasia FLNR:EX for action

Back to you for filing (with history) and closing of log(s). Note that there is no CLIFF log due to the rush nature of this ask. If you want to go ahead and create a CLIFF number for this item it would be great. Please let me know what it is once you have it as I have also saved a copy in the ADMO records.

Thanks!

2/10/2023 03:01 PM

Carneiro, Daniela [Site Admin] forwarded an eApprovals item to Pike, Shannon for action

2/10/2023 02:33 PM

Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Deputy Minister's Office - DMO for action

No Comment

2/9/2023 04:57 PM

Iwanow, Melanie FLNR:EX [Site Admin] has shared an eApprovals item with Tripp, Allison.

Sharing with Allison as requested.

2/9/2023 04:41 PM

Carneiro, Daniela [Site Admin] forwarded an eApprovals item to Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX for action

For DM review/approval. Rick, few bullets prepared for your pre-brief with the Premier on next week's announcement. Thx.

2/9/2023 04:37 PM

Pike, Shannon [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Deputy Minister's Office - DMO for action

For DM review and to the PO as per the Premier's request from this morning please.

2/9/2023 04:32 PM

Sit, Vera FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Pike, Shannon for action

Approve on behalf of Shane Berg

2/9/2023 04:27 PM

Pike, Shannon [Colleague of Berg, Shane FLNR:EX] forwarded an eApprovals item to Sit, Vera FLNR:EX for action

Shane asks that you approve in his stead as he is busy at ABCFP.

2/9/2023 04:26 PM

Pike, Shannon made some changes to this item's details

2/9/2023 04:26 PM

Pike, Shannon made some changes to this item's details

2/9/2023 04:25 PM

Pike, Shannon [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Berg, Shane FLNR:EX for action

To you for approval. Assuming they need to go to the DMO next as per normal procedure.

2/9/2023 02:23 PM

Nussbaum, Albert F FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Pike, Shannon for action

Over to Shane for his approval

2/9/2023 01:54 PM

Snetsinger, James Andrew FLNR:EX added a document: Silviculture Innovation Fund Bullets Feb 2023.docx

2/9/2023 01:54 PM

Snetsinger, James Andrew FLNR:EX created this item

For your review and comment; bullets to address questions posed by Deputy Minister in relation to the proposed Innovative Silviculture Fund. Please let me know if you have any questions.

2/9/2023 01:54 PM

Snetsinger, James Andrew FLNR:EX has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to Nussbaum, Albert F FLNR:EX

Re: Urgent info request: FOR year-end list TBS questions

From: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>, Kortum, Melissa CSNR:EX <Melissa.Kortum@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Oliveira, Gustavo FOR:EX <Gustavo.Oliveira@gov.bc.ca>, Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>, Malkinson, Leah FOR:EX <Leah.Malkinson@gov.bc.ca>, Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX <Andrew.Snetsinger@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2023 7:51:14 PM PST

I chatted with Melissa Sanderson about this proposal as I was leaving the TLA conference. ^{s.13}
s.13

Shane Berg, RPF

Chief Forester - Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of the Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests
Kamloops Office (cell) [250-851-6333](tel:250-851-6333)
Email: Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca

"Caring for BC's Forests"

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:04:35 PM
To: Kortum, Melissa CSNR:EX <Melissa.Kortum@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>; Oliveira, Gustavo FOR:EX <Gustavo.Oliveira@gov.bc.ca>; Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>; Malkinson, Leah FOR:EX <Leah.Malkinson@gov.bc.ca>; Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX <Andrew.Snetsinger@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent info request: FOR year-end list TBS questions

Hi Melissa,

Apologies for getting this to you late. Please note we have made a couple suggestions to reduce the \$ amount based on the proposed recipients' capacity. For the Cluster item, Shane is checking in with Eamon on the proposed recipient. We will let you know if that will change.

Thanks.

Vera Sit, Executive Director, Office of the Chief Forester Division
BC Ministry of Forests

From: Kortum, Melissa CSNR:EX <Melissa.Kortum@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>; Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FOR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Meier, Ian R FOR:EX <Ian.Meier@gov.bc.ca>; Jeffreys, Jamie FOR:EX <Jamie.Jeffreys@gov.bc.ca>; Fraser, Sarah W FOR:EX <Sarah.Fraser@gov.bc.ca>; Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Martins, Sonja CSNR:EX <Sonja.Martins@gov.bc.ca>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>; Bigalke, Rob FOR:EX <Rob.Bigalke@gov.bc.ca>; Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>; Salley, Jean-Paul FOR:EX <JeanPaul.Salley@gov.bc.ca>; Fleming, Dave FOR:EX <David.Fleming@gov.bc.ca>; Myers, Mary E FOR:EX <Mary.Myers@gov.bc.ca>; Walker, Mark FOR:EX <Mark.Walker@gov.bc.ca>; Sheldrake, Jeff FOR:EX <Jeff.Sheldrake@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent info request: FOR year-end list TBS questions
Importance: High

Hi all,

I met with TBS this morning on our ministry list and need some additional information. Items and questions listed below, please populate the division response column with the requested information.

Responses are appreciated ASAP as the TBS internal briefing with the Finance DM is happening today and with MKC tomorrow.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks.
Melissa

#	Item	Amount \$m	TBS question	Division response
s.12; s.13; s.17				
3	OCF - Silviculture Innovation Program	50	Is this a new program? Has it been endorsed by cabinet (any outstanding approvals before the program can be implemented)? This is a significant amount of funding that links with OGSR and a number of references to it being “new”. Confirm the delivery agency.	Shane This new program supports research and extension on the innovative application of silviculture practices with operational needs firmly in focus. This work will be fundamental to implementing recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review that have been endorsed by government. This program will benefit Indigenous communities by supporting the development and implementation of innovative forestry practices that they have been requesting. Recommend changing the funding request to \$8M. Receiving Entity: Buckley Valley Research Centre.

				This entity has a track record of excellent research and extension that support operational questions in forestry and other disciplines. It has a long standing collaborative relationship with the OCF.
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s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13; s.17

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13; s.17

Page 030 of 110

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

Melissa Kortum CPA, CA (she/her)
Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Forests
W: 778 698-0401
C: 250 893-1357

Together, we acknowledge with gratitude all Indigenous Peoples on whose territories we live, learn and work. We honor their ongoing connection to the land and respect the importance of the diverse teachings, traditions and practices within these territories.

Fwd: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day

From: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
To: Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>, Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX <Andrew.Snetsinger@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pike, Shannon FOR:EX <Shannon.Pike@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 9:52:42 AM PST
Gents, the PO is asking for some bullets that will provide more operational details on the Silviculture Innovation Fund.

Will need by EOD. Please send draft via Shannon, to me.

Thanks

Shane Berg, RPF

Chief Forester - Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of the Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests
Kamloops Office (cell) [250-851-6333](tel:250-851-6333)
Email: Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca

"Caring for BC's Forests"

From: Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:49 a.m.
To: Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>; Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day

Will do.

Shane Berg, RPF

Chief Forester - Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of the Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests
Kamloops Office (cell) [250-851-6333](tel:250-851-6333)
Email: Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca

"Caring for BC's Forests"

From: Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:48:22 AM
To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day

Hi, Rick has a pre-brief with the Premier on next week's announcement and he has asked for a few bullets on the above. I'm thinking:

- What will the money do?
- Tie to OGSF recommendation
- Where will money go?
- Anything else you think is critical for this purpose.

Rick has also asked for FLP bullets and I will do those.

Thx!

Jillian Rousselle

RE: Need by 4 pm today --- RE: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund-by end of day

From: Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX s.15
To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Berg, Shane FLNR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>, Axelson, Jodi FOR:EX <Jodi.Axelson@gov.bc.ca>, Sherwood, James FOR:EX <James.Sherwood@gov.bc.ca>, Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>, Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 10:44:06 AM PST
Hi Vera

See bellow for answers to Rick questions bellow (thank you Jodi and James!). The information contains in the 'Anything Else' bullet might be too much so feel free to trip as you see fit.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

- *What will the money do?*
 - *The Innovative Silviculture Program will fund operational silvicultural research projects that will address forest resilience, ecosystem adaptation, and sustainable forest management in the face of climate change. Projects will be co-develop with First Nations and communities and strive to encompass indigenous knowledge.*
 - *Example of alternative silvicultural treatments may include:*
 - *Management of hardwoods to make ecosystems more resilient.*
 - *Silviculture treatments to address forest Health*
 - *Treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics*
 - *Treatments that focus on restoration of wildlife and aquatic habitat.*
- *Tie to OGSR recommendation*
 - *The Old Growth Recommendations Action Plan requires evidence-based information and actions that recognize that old growth forests are part of a dynamic and changing landscape. The research and extension services provided by this program will be key to providing practitioner and decision makers with the information necessary to align forest management in BC with the recommendations committed to by Government in the OGSR.*
- *Where will money go?*
 - *The Silviculture Innovation Program will be made a reality in partnership with the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers.*
- *Anything else you think is critical for this purpose.*
 - *The Innovative Silviculture Program will expand existing research trials at the landscape level to inform forest practices across BC and support FLP implementation*
 - *These research trials will be transformed into operational opportunities that will benefit that will benefit rural communities*
 - *Critical need for knowledge mobilization through extension has been identified by a variety of forest professionals across BC*
 - *This program will leverage existing research program structure within the OCF and Regions and an existing collaborative relationship with a non-profit research centre in BC.*
 - *FOR has a long and productive relationship with BVRC spanning decades that has resulted in high quality and operationally relevant research on forest management, including wildlife habitat, silvicultural systems and stand development modeling (e.g., SORTIE). This relationship has been key in supporting government objectives.*

Thanks

Andrew Snetsinger, RPF
Manager, Harvesting and Silviculture Practices

Forest Science, Planning & Practices Branch/ Office of the Chief Forester
Caring for BC's Forests
Ministry of Forests
Phone: (250) 378-0520
Cell: (250) 315-7389

From: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 10:10 AM
To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>; Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>; Axelson, Jodi FOR:EX <Jodi.Axelson@gov.bc.ca>; Sherwood, James FOR:EX <James.Sherwood@gov.bc.ca>; Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX <Andrew.Snetsinger@gov.bc.ca>; Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Need by 4 pm today --- RE: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day

I also looped Andrew and Albert into this request earlier...thaks Vera.

Gang...please use Vera as point for this today.

Shane Berg, RPF
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Ministry of Forests
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"Caring for BC's Forests"

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:59:41 AM
To: Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>; Axelson, Jodi FOR:EX <Jodi.Axelson@gov.bc.ca>; Sherwood, James FOR:EX <James.Sherwood@gov.bc.ca>; Snetsinger, James Andrew FOR:EX <Andrew.Snetsinger@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Need by 4 pm today --- RE: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day

I will work with the team to get this.

Jodi, James: I know you have sent some bullets to Andrew yesterday for the communications team – please start with those bullets and expand where needed.

Need it by 4 pm today.

Thanks.

VEra

From: Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: few bullets needed on Silviculture innovation fund- by end of day
Importance: High

Hi, Rick has a pre-brief with the Premier on next week's announcement and he has asked for a few bullets on the above. I'm thinking:

- What will the money do?
- Tie to OGSR recommendation

- Where will money go?
- Anything else you think is critical for this purpose.

Rick has also asked for FLP bullets and I will do those.

Thx!

Jillian Roussele

Executive Lead, Forest Renewal

Deputy Minister's Office

Ministry of Forests

KMQA for PO Announcement

From: Holdijk, Eric FOR:EX <Eric.Holdijk@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 12:08:36 PM PST
Attachments: KMQA_OG Acceleration Announcement_14Feb_MO.docx, image001.png
Hi Expanded Exec,

Eamon has asked that these KMs and Q&A be distributed to you ahead of the announcement happening shortly.

This will provide a clearer picture of the announcement and some good Q&As.

Thank you,



Eric Holdijk
Senior Executive Assistant
Associate Deputy Minister's Office
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Ministry of Forests
(he/him/his)

Page 038 of 110 to/à Page 051 of 110

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Final package for acceleration announcement

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>, Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>, Hykaway, Mike R FOR:EX <Mike.Hykaway@gov.bc.ca>, Austin, Matt FOR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 12:15:14 PM PST
Attachments: KMQA_OG Acceleration Announcement_15Feb_FINAL.docx, 2023FOR0009-000191.pdf
Hi all,

Hereâ€™s final package.

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>; Patrick, Andrew GCPE:EX <Andrew.Patrick@gov.bc.ca>; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX <Sonia.Lowe@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; MacMillan, Karin GCPE:EX <Karin.MacMillan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Final package for acceleration announcement

Hi all,

Thank you for your patience! Please find attached the final KMQA and News Release for this afternoonâ€™s announcement.

Stephen

Stephen Binder | Communications Manager
Ministry of Forests
Government Communications and Public Engagement
C: 778-677-2174

Page 053 of 110 to/à Page 066 of 110

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

VICTORIA – The B.C. government is launching new measures to protect more old growth by fast-tracking innovation and co-developing new local plans with First Nations to better care for B.C.'s forests.

“Our forests are foundational to B.C. In collaboration with First Nations and industry, we are accelerating our actions to protect our oldest and rarest forests,” said Premier David Eby. “At the same time, we will support innovation in the forestry sector so our forests can deliver good, family-supporting jobs for generations to come.”

At the centre of the eight-point plan is \$25 million for new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables that will drive improved old-growth management while incorporating local knowledge and community priorities. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, forest landscape plans are a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to forest stewardship that will replace existing, industry-developed plans.

In response to requests from First Nations for more in-depth discussions about old growth, this funding will support eight new regional FLP tables with the participation of approximately 50 First Nations. These tables will prevent harvesting in old-growth forests important for ecosystem health, biodiversity, clean water, carbon storage and Indigenous values. They will also provide greater certainty about the areas where sustainable harvesting can occur to support jobs and investment.

The announcement also includes ramping up government investments to support innovation in the forestry industry. The Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and expanding eligibility provincially. The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund will, for example, support mills to process smaller-diameter trees and manufacture higher-value wood products, such as mass timber. It will accelerate shovel-ready projects across the manufacturing ecosystem that will bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to communities throughout the province. Previously, the fund was restricted to projects outside of the Metro Vancouver and the Capital regional districts.

“As we work to protect more old growth, we know we need to accelerate our efforts to build a stronger, more innovative forestry industry that better shares the benefits with workers and communities. Forestry is a foundation of B.C.'s economy,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. “That’s why we are doubling provincial investments to help mills retrofit to get off old-growth logs and manufacture more high-value wood products right here in B.C., so we create more jobs from every tree.”

Additional actions to accelerate implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review during the

next year include:

- developing and implementing alternatives to clear-cutting practices, such as selective harvesting techniques, that better support forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation, through a new \$10-million silviculture innovation program;
- repealing outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, like water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- increasing Indigenous participation in co-developing changes to forest policy through \$2.4 million provided to the First Nations Forestry Council;
- protecting more old-growth forests and biodiverse areas by leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars of philanthropic donations to fund conservation measures supported by the Province and First Nations, through a new conservation financing mechanism to be set up within six months;
- enabling local communities and First Nations to finance old-growth protection by selling verified carbon offsets that represent long-term emission reductions through the new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0, which will be finalized this year; and
- completing the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2023, to be developed in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders.

Since November 2021, the Province has been engaging with First Nations about deferring harvest within old-growth forests. Deferrals have now been implemented on approximately 2.1 million hectares of old growth. As recommended by the Old Growth Strategic Review, deferrals are intended to prevent biodiversity loss while the Province, First Nations and other partners develop a new, long-term approach to forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency.

The Technical Advisory Panel recommended that the Province implement deferrals within 2.6 million hectares of forests identified as most at risk of biodiversity loss. An additional 1.4 million hectares was already permanently protected.

Since November 2021, 11,600 hectares have been harvested while engagements with First Nations were underway. This is equal to less than 0.5% of the area recommended for deferral.

Quotes:

Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship –

“Old-growth forests are a part of who we are and we want to share all the benefits they offer for many generations to come. In the coming months, our government will develop a new conservation-financing mechanism that ensures British Columbians, as well as those individuals who share our love for B.C.’s iconic forests, can join in supporting protection of biodiverse areas throughout our province.”

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy –

“Our government is committed to working together with First Nations and communities to build a better future where forest ecosystem health is at the heart of forest stewardship and management. We are developing new transparent and verifiable rules for B.C. forest carbon offsets projects so Indigenous Peoples and communities can benefit through the large-scale

storage of carbon that occurs in old-growth forests.”

Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation –

“By expanding the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to include the entire province and doubling its funding, we’re ensuring more help is available for the needs of people and communities throughout B.C. This fund will create good-paying jobs for British Columbians by driving long-term economic diversification and sustainability as we build a clean and inclusive economy that works for everybody.”

Garry Merkel, independent coach and mentor for Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) implementation –

“When creating the Old Growth Strategic Review, Al Gorley and I had the honour of listening to people from all backgrounds and from all corners of the province as they shared their values on forests and forestry. One overriding theme was the need to ensure the continuity and integrity of our natural systems. Also clear was that we needed to have many voices around the table while doing so, in particular those of First Nations. As the Province continues to implement the OGSR recommendations and associated Forest and Range Practices Act changes – in this case, forest landscape-level planning – we are collaborating with First Nations as full partners to meaningfully engage stakeholders and manage the land to create healthy ecosystems with resilient forests that continue to provide many benefits for B.C. communities.”

Leonard Joe, CEO, First Nations Forestry Council –

“The BC First Nations Forestry Council is looking forward to continue working with the Province to modernize forest policy in B.C. The forestry council will continue to support Nations in efforts to increase their role in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources. The Province’s commitment to continue implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review and to increase Forest Landscape Planning opportunities for First Nations are both vital to increasing the participation of First Nations in the forest sector as full partners.”

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

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250 896 4320

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

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

Information on the eight-point plan to protect old-growth forests

The B.C. government is taking action through an eight-point plan to accelerate action on old-growth protection, innovation and forest stewardship:

Forest Landscape Planning (\$25 million)

Developed in partnership with First Nations and full engagement of local governments and stakeholders, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) better incorporates local knowledge and values into sustainable forest management. FLP establishes clear objectives for the long-term management of old growth, biodiversity, climate change and wildfire risk. By providing direction about where harvesting and roadbuilding may occur, FLPs also provide greater certainty for industry, communities and workers. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, FLPs will replace existing industry-developed forest stewardship plans. Four FLP tables are underway. This new funding will allow eight more regional tables to be established with participation from approximately 50 First Nations.

BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (additional \$90 million)

First announced in January 2023, the Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and making it open to projects provincewide. For example, it may provide funding to a forestry company that needs to buy new equipment to support new product lines, such as mass-timber production or paper packaging, or for smaller-diameter tree processing and manufacturing, or a company that wants to build or expand a plastics-alternative manufacturing facility. The fund is in addition to the \$185-million support package announced in Budget 2022 to ensure that co-ordinated and comprehensive supports are in place to offset any economic impacts from a changing forestry industry.

Silviculture Innovation Program (\$10 million)

The new Silviculture Innovation Program will support new research and innovative practices that better address forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation. This could include selective harvesting approaches or treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics, make ecosystems more resilient, or restore wildlife or aquatic habitat. The Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers, will manage the \$10-million program. It is expected to be up and running in fall 2023. This investment directly responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to create a Silviculture Innovation Program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

Updating Forest and Range Practices Act Regulations

Government has repealed outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, such as water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. This change will allow statutory decision-makers to better consider and balance a broader range of forest objectives. It responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to shift from a management approach focused on timber supply to managing for multiple values, recognizing that a shift to prioritize ecosystem health is necessary if forests are to continue to provide essential benefits, such as clean air, clean water, carbon storage, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable timber.

Support for First Nations Forestry Council (\$2.4 million)

The Province is providing \$2.4 million to support the continued participation of the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) in modernizing B.C. forestry policy and legislation. Founded in 2006 by the First Nations Leadership Council, the FNFC will be a key partner in developing the old-growth strategic action plan and finalizing the regulatory framework for FLP. With this funding, FNFC will design and deliver a series of provincial and regional-level engagement sessions open to all First Nations and Indigenous organizations. The Old Growth Strategic Review recommended fully engaging with First Nations about its findings, policy development and implementation.

Conservation financing mechanism

The Province is working to protect more old-growth forests and other biodiverse areas at risk of irreversible loss. The Province recognizes that there is significant interest from British Columbians in supporting this objective. In the coming months, the Province will establish a new conservation financing mechanism aimed at leveraging its investments by attracting private and philanthropic funds to support conservation measures aligned with provincial and First Nation interests. This will be key to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Province's commitment to protect 30% of the land base by 2030.

Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0

As part of its CleanBC 2030 Roadmap, the Province is developing renewed rules to govern how forest carbon offsets are developed to ensure they support local communities, promote ecosystem health and represent verifiable, long-term reductions of emissions. A final version of the protocol will be released this year. The new protocol will enable First Nations and others to finance new conservation projects, such as permanently protecting old-growth forests by earning verified carbon credits.

Old-growth strategic action plan

The Old Growth Strategic Review advised that the Province develop a formal, comprehensive implementation plan in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders. Provincial forums were held early this year and a series of regional sessions is planned for the coming months. To be completed by the end of this year, the old-growth strategic action plan will outline the shared vision, key priorities and timeline of actions to implement the remaining recommendations and paradigm shift envisioned by the Old Growth Strategic Review. As part of this engagement process, the Province is engaging about the ecosystem health and biodiversity of B.C.'s forests as an overarching priority for all sectors, in response to Recommendation 2 of the review.

Contacts:

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FYI -- Silviculture Innovation Program Bullets

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX <Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca>
To: White, Norah J FOR:EX <Norah.White@gov.bc.ca>, Nussbaum, Albert F FOR:EX <Albert.Nussbaum@gov.bc.ca>, Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>, MacDougall, Julie FOR:EX <Julie.MacDougall@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 1:21:09 PM PST

Below were the bullets provided to Jillian/Rick/Eamon/Paul Corns last week on the Silviculture Innovation Program. These bullets were jointly developed by Jodi/James/Andrew/Vera. While we used the term Silviculture Innovation Fund in the bullets below, the announcement is a Program.

I spoke with Andrew last night and suggested to him that the next step would be to develop a work plan for the program by Fall 2023.

Vera

What will the funding achieve?

- The Silviculture Innovation Fund will support operational silvicultural research projects that will address forest resilience, ecosystem adaptation, and sustainable forest management in the face of climate change. Projects will be co-developed with First Nations and strive to encompass Indigenous knowledge into silviculture practices.
- These research trials will be transformed into operational opportunities that will benefit rural communities.
- The fund will also be used to provide extension services to practitioners and decision makers to advance silviculture practices.
- Example of alternative silvicultural treatments may include:
 - Management of hardwoods to make ecosystems more resilient.
 - Silviculture treatments to address forest Health.
 - Treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics.
 - Treatments that focus on restoration of wildlife and aquatic habitat.

How will this fund support the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations?

- The Old Growth Strategic Review report recommended the creation of a silviculture innovation program to develop harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that would maintain old forest values (Recommendation 12).
- The report authors proposed partnerships with existing research organizations and other operations practitioners to test and demonstrate silviculture systems and encourage new practices via knowledge sharing.
- This fund will expand existing research trials at the landscape level to inform forest practices across BC and support forest landscape planning, one of the tools for implementing several of the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Where will funding go to?

- The fund will be provided to the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers.

- Ministry of Forests has a long and productive relationship with this organization, spanning decades that has resulted in high quality and operationally relevant research on forest management, including wildlife habitat, silvicultural systems and stand development modeling, supporting government objectives.
- This funding will leverage existing research program structure within Ministry of Forests.

KMQA for PO Announcement

From: Holdijk, Eric FOR:EX <Eric.Holdijk@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 12:08:36 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, KMQA_OG Acceleration Announcement_14Feb_MO.docx
Hi Expanded Exec,

Eamon has asked that these KMs and Q&A be distributed to you ahead of the announcement happening shortly.

This will provide a clearer picture of the announcement and some good Q&As.

Thank you,



Eric Holdijk
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Ministry of Forests
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Page 076 of 110 to/à Page 089 of 110

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Final package for acceleration announcement

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
To: Manwaring, Richard G FOR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, O'Donoghue, Eamon G FOR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>, Berg, Shane FOR:EX <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melissa FOR:EX <Melissa.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Rousselle, Jillian FOR:EX <Jillian.Rousselle@gov.bc.ca>, Hykaway, Mike R FOR:EX <Mike.Hykaway@gov.bc.ca>, Austin, Matt FOR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 12:15:14 PM PST
Attachments: KMQA_OG Acceleration Announcement_15Feb_FINAL.docx, 2023FOR0009-000191.pdf
Hi all,

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Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX <Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>; Patrick, Andrew GCPE:EX <Andrew.Patrick@gov.bc.ca>; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX <Sonia.Lowe@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; MacMillan, Karin GCPE:EX <Karin.MacMillan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Final package for acceleration announcement

Hi all,

Thank you for your patience! Please find attached the final KMQA and News Release for this afternoon's announcement.

Stephen

Stephen Binder | Communications Manager

Ministry of Forests

Government Communications and Public Engagement

C: 778-677-2174

Page 091 of 110 to/à Page 104 of 110

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2023FOR0009-000191
Feb. 15, 2023

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

B.C. introduces new measures on old growth, innovation, forest stewardship

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At the centre of the eight-point plan is \$25 million for new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables that will drive improved old-growth management while incorporating local knowledge and community priorities. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, forest landscape plans are a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to forest stewardship that will replace existing, industry-developed plans.

In response to requests from First Nations for more in-depth discussions about old growth, this funding will support eight new regional FLP tables with the participation of approximately 50 First Nations. These tables will prevent harvesting in old-growth forests important for ecosystem health, biodiversity, clean water, carbon storage and Indigenous values. They will also provide greater certainty about the areas where sustainable harvesting can occur to support jobs and investment.

The announcement also includes ramping up government investments to support innovation in the forestry industry. The Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and expanding eligibility provincially. The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund will, for example, support mills to process smaller-diameter trees and manufacture higher-value wood products, such as mass timber. It will accelerate shovel-ready projects across the manufacturing ecosystem that will bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to communities throughout the province. Previously, the fund was restricted to projects outside of the Metro Vancouver and the Capital regional districts.

“As we work to protect more old growth, we know we need to accelerate our efforts to build a stronger, more innovative forestry industry that better shares the benefits with workers and communities. Forestry is a foundation of B.C.'s economy,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. “That’s why we are doubling provincial investments to help mills retrofit to get off old-growth logs and manufacture more high-value wood products right here in B.C., so we create more jobs from every tree.”

Additional actions to accelerate implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review during the

next year include:

- developing and implementing alternatives to clear-cutting practices, such as selective harvesting techniques, that better support forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation, through a new \$10-million silviculture innovation program;
- repealing outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, like water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- increasing Indigenous participation in co-developing changes to forest policy through \$2.4 million provided to the First Nations Forestry Council;
- protecting more old-growth forests and biodiverse areas by leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars of philanthropic donations to fund conservation measures supported by the Province and First Nations, through a new conservation financing mechanism to be set up within six months;
- enabling local communities and First Nations to finance old-growth protection by selling verified carbon offsets that represent long-term emission reductions through the new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0, which will be finalized this year; and
- completing the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2023, to be developed in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders.

Since November 2021, the Province has been engaging with First Nations about deferring harvest within old-growth forests. Deferrals have now been implemented on approximately 2.1 million hectares of old growth. As recommended by the Old Growth Strategic Review, deferrals are intended to prevent biodiversity loss while the Province, First Nations and other partners develop a new, long-term approach to forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency.

The Technical Advisory Panel recommended that the Province implement deferrals within 2.6 million hectares of forests identified as most at risk of biodiversity loss. An additional 1.4 million hectares was already permanently protected.

Since November 2021, 11,600 hectares have been harvested while engagements with First Nations were underway. This is equal to less than 0.5% of the area recommended for deferral.

Quotes:

Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship –

“Old-growth forests are a part of who we are and we want to share all the benefits they offer for many generations to come. In the coming months, our government will develop a new conservation-financing mechanism that ensures British Columbians, as well as those individuals who share our love for B.C.’s iconic forests, can join in supporting protection of biodiverse areas throughout our province.”

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“Our government is committed to working together with First Nations and communities to build a better future where forest ecosystem health is at the heart of forest stewardship and management. We are developing new transparent and verifiable rules for B.C. forest carbon offsets projects so Indigenous Peoples and communities can benefit through the large-scale

storage of carbon that occurs in old-growth forests.”

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“By expanding the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to include the entire province and doubling its funding, we’re ensuring more help is available for the needs of people and communities throughout B.C. This fund will create good-paying jobs for British Columbians by driving long-term economic diversification and sustainability as we build a clean and inclusive economy that works for everybody.”

Garry Merkel, independent coach and mentor for Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) implementation –

“When creating the Old Growth Strategic Review, Al Gorley and I had the honour of listening to people from all backgrounds and from all corners of the province as they shared their values on forests and forestry. One overriding theme was the need to ensure the continuity and integrity of our natural systems. Also clear was that we needed to have many voices around the table while doing so, in particular those of First Nations. As the Province continues to implement the OGSR recommendations and associated Forest and Range Practices Act changes – in this case, forest landscape-level planning – we are collaborating with First Nations as full partners to meaningfully engage stakeholders and manage the land to create healthy ecosystems with resilient forests that continue to provide many benefits for B.C. communities.”

Leonard Joe, CEO, First Nations Forestry Council –

“The BC First Nations Forestry Council is looking forward to continue working with the Province to modernize forest policy in B.C. The forestry council will continue to support Nations in efforts to increase their role in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources. The Province’s commitment to continue implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review and to increase Forest Landscape Planning opportunities for First Nations are both vital to increasing the participation of First Nations in the forest sector as full partners.”

A backgrounder follows.

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BACKGROUND

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests

Information on the eight-point plan to protect old-growth forests

The B.C. government is taking action through an eight-point plan to accelerate action on old-growth protection, innovation and forest stewardship:

Forest Landscape Planning (\$25 million)

Developed in partnership with First Nations and full engagement of local governments and stakeholders, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) better incorporates local knowledge and values into sustainable forest management. FLP establishes clear objectives for the long-term management of old growth, biodiversity, climate change and wildfire risk. By providing direction about where harvesting and roadbuilding may occur, FLPs also provide greater certainty for industry, communities and workers. Enabled by 2021 amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act, FLPs will replace existing industry-developed forest stewardship plans. Four FLP tables are underway. This new funding will allow eight more regional tables to be established with participation from approximately 50 First Nations.

BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (additional \$90 million)

First announced in January 2023, the Province is doubling the new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and making it open to projects provincewide. For example, it may provide funding to a forestry company that needs to buy new equipment to support new product lines, such as mass-timber production or paper packaging, or for smaller-diameter tree processing and manufacturing, or a company that wants to build or expand a plastics-alternative manufacturing facility. The fund is in addition to the \$185-million support package announced in Budget 2022 to ensure that co-ordinated and comprehensive supports are in place to offset any economic impacts from a changing forestry industry.

Silviculture Innovation Program (\$10 million)

The new Silviculture Innovation Program will support new research and innovative practices that better address forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation. This could include selective harvesting approaches or treatments that retain and promote old-growth stand characteristics, make ecosystems more resilient, or restore wildlife or aquatic habitat. The Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management, a world-class research institute based in Smithers, will manage the \$10-million program. It is expected to be up and running in fall 2023. This investment directly responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to create a Silviculture Innovation Program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

Updating Forest and Range Practices Act Regulations

Government has repealed outdated wording in the Forest and Range Practices Act regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, such as water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. This change will allow statutory decision-makers to better consider and balance a broader range of forest objectives. It responds to the recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review to shift from a management approach focused on timber supply to managing for multiple values, recognizing that a shift to prioritize ecosystem health is necessary if forests are to continue to provide essential benefits, such as clean air, clean water, carbon storage, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable timber.

Support for First Nations Forestry Council (\$2.4 million)

The Province is providing \$2.4 million to support the continued participation of the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) in modernizing B.C. forestry policy and legislation. Founded in 2006 by the First Nations Leadership Council, the FNFC will be a key partner in developing the old-growth strategic action plan and finalizing the regulatory framework for FLP. With this funding, FNFC will design and deliver a series of provincial and regional-level engagement sessions open to all First Nations and Indigenous organizations. The Old Growth Strategic Review recommended fully engaging with First Nations about its findings, policy development and implementation.

Conservation financing mechanism

The Province is working to protect more old-growth forests and other biodiverse areas at risk of irreversible loss. The Province recognizes that there is significant interest from British Columbians in supporting this objective. In the coming months, the Province will establish a new conservation financing mechanism aimed at leveraging its investments by attracting private and philanthropic funds to support conservation measures aligned with provincial and First Nation interests. This will be key to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Province's commitment to protect 30% of the land base by 2030.

Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0

As part of its CleanBC 2030 Roadmap, the Province is developing renewed rules to govern how forest carbon offsets are developed to ensure they support local communities, promote ecosystem health and represent verifiable, long-term reductions of emissions. A final version of the protocol will be released this year. The new protocol will enable First Nations and others to finance new conservation projects, such as permanently protecting old-growth forests by earning verified carbon credits.

Old-growth strategic action plan

The Old Growth Strategic Review advised that the Province develop a formal, comprehensive implementation plan in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders. Provincial forums were held early this year and a series of regional sessions is planned for the coming months. To be completed by the end of this year, the old-growth strategic action plan will outline the shared vision, key priorities and timeline of actions to implement the remaining recommendations and paradigm shift envisioned by the Old Growth Strategic Review. As part of this engagement process, the Province is engaging about the ecosystem health and biodiversity of B.C.'s forests as an overarching priority for all sectors, in response to Recommendation 2 of the review.

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