

Minister Parmar
2025/26 Estimates Index
Ministry of Forests



TAB	TOPIC	LEAD
Section 1: Budget and Service Plans		
1	2025/26 – 2027/28 FOR Service Plan	DMO
2	2025/26 - 2027/28 FESBC Service Plan	DMO
3	Budget 2025 Highlights i. Ministry Summary Operating ii. Ministry Summary Capital	CSNR
4	2025/26 Estimates Debate Financial Briefing Material	CSNR
Section 2: Issues Expected to be Raised		
A) By the Numbers		
5	Permitting	IROD AssocDM
6	Heritage Conservation Act Permitting Timelines	FRA
B) BC Timber Sales		
7	BCTS Performance	TRE
8	BCTS Review	TRE
9	BCTS Unused Volume Status 2025-26	TRE
10	Haida Gwaii - BCTS	Coast
C) First Nations		
11	Anahim Connector Road	South
12	Blueberry River First Nations and Other Treaty 8 Agreements	North
13	Carrier Sekani First Nations Pathway Forward Agreement	North
14	First Nations Revenue Sharing	IRB
15	First Nation Tenure	IRB
16	First Nations Forest Service Road Budget Uplift (2024/25)	IROD
17	Gitanyow and Title Litigation	North
18	Haida Gwaii - Rising Tide Update	Coast
19	Government Financial Information:	IROD
20	Treaty Land Entitlement in the NE	North
D) Forest Industry		
21	Atlantic Power	South
22	Aspen Planers	South
23	Canfor Mill Closures in North Area	North
24	Fibre Supply Economic Outlook and AAC Reductions	OCF
25	Forest Sector Transformation	TRE

26	Log exports	TRE
27	Mill Curtailments & Timber Supply i. North Area ii. South Area iii. Coast Area	TRE North South Coast
28	Mill Investments & Purchases	TRE
29	Manufactured Forest Products Regulation	TRE
30	Shortfall of Fibre for the Pulp Sector	TRE
31	Value-Added Manufacturing in B.C.	TRE
E) Forest Landscape Planning		
32	FLP Overview i. North Area Lakes Resiliency Project ii. South Area iii. Coast Area	FRA North South Coast
33	First Nations Engagement in FLP	FRA
F) Old Growth		
34	Amount of Old Growth Forest in BC	OCF
35	Identified Old Growth Polygons and Fibre for Pellet Production in the North	North
36	Old Growth Strategic Review/Old Growth Action Plan Implementation	OCF
37	Old Growth Deferrals	FRA
38	Old Growth Forest Harvest Risk	OCF
39	Socioeconomic Impacts of Old Growth	TRE
40	Tree Farm Licence 46 and Old Growth in Fairy Creek	OCF
G) Softwood/Tariffs		
41	Defense against US Tariffs – including info on Softwood Lumber Advisory Council	TRE
42	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	TRE
H) Stumpage		
43	Stumpage - General	TRE
44	Stumpage – Budget Forecast	TRE
45	Stumpage - End-Product Pricing	TRE
I) Wildfire		
46	2024 Wildfire Season	BCWS
47	2024 Wildfire Claims & Litigation	BCWS
48	Cooperative Community Wildfire Response in 2024	BCWS
49	Cost of the 2024 Wildfire Season	BCWS
50	Prep for the 2025 Wildfire Season	BCWS

Minister Parmar
2025/26 Estimates Index
Ministry of Forests



51	PETF BCWS Deliverables Implementation Status	BCWS
52	BCWS-TRU Partnership	BCWS
53	Chetwynd/Clearwater IA bases	BCWS
Section 3: Issues that may be raised		
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology (ADM Jillian Rousselle)		
54	Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications	FRA
55	Lytton Recovery and Rebuild	FRA
Integrated Resource Management (ADM Matt Austin)		
56	Community Forests	IROD
	i. Advice/Recommendations:	North
	ii. South Area	South
	iii. Coast Area	Coast
57	Unused volumes, future dispositions	IROD
Office of the Chief Forester (ADM Shane Berg)		
58	Commercial Thinning	OCF
59	Forest Enhancement Society of BC	OCF
60	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental	OCF
61	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	OCF
62	Impacts of 2017-2023 Wildfires on Timber Supply	OCF
63	Provincial Reforestation Outlook	OCF
Timber, Range and Economics (ADM Melissa Sanderson)		
64	Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences	TRE
65	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications	TRE
66	Forest Worker & Community Supports and Council	TRE
67	Wildfire Salvage (provincial)	TRE
	i. North Area	North
	ii. South Area	South
	iii. Coast Area	Coast
BC Wildfire Service (A/ADM Rob Schweitzer)		
68	Wildfire Prevention & Risk Reduction	BCWS
69	Wildfire Control Cost Recovery Under the Wildfire Act	BCWS
North Area (ADM Mike Hykaway)		
70	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	North
71	Advice/Recommendations;	North
72	Mackenzie TSA and Apportionment	North

73	Modernizing Forest Policy – North Area	North
74	Northeast Range Program Tenure Holder Concerns	North
75	Prince George Timber Supply Area	North
76	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	North
77	Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications	North
South Area (ADM Jamie Jeffreys)		
78	Incomappleux road closure	South
79	Utilization of fibre	South

Ministry of Forests

2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



For more information on the Ministry of Forests contact:

PO BOX 9352

STN PROV GOVT

VICTORIA, BC

V8W 9M1

250-387-6121

Or visit our website at

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/for/>

Published by the Ministry of Forests

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Parmar', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
March 4, 2025

Table of Contents

Minister's Accountability Statement	3
Strategic Direction.....	5
Purpose of the Ministry	5
Economic Statement	5
Performance Planning.....	6
Financial Summary.....	16
Forest Practices Board Resource Summary	17
Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations	18
Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter	19

Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, the Government of British Columbia will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective, Government will focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Government will also continue deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples while advancing implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Forests will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's January [2025 Mandate](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land-base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, supporting a robust forest sector, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is managing forests to support healthy ecosystems, and working to ensure greater value for B.C.'s resource through a strong primary sector and high-value wood manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with First Nations, and is working closely with other government ministries in conducting this work.

The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the [Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies associated with the Ministry can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy experienced moderate growth last year amid relatively high interest rates, persistent price pressures and ongoing global economic uncertainty. The labour market ended the year on a positive note, supported by high immigration and strong population growth. Inflation in B.C. continued to moderate as the price growth of goods eased, while inflation for services remained elevated. Consumer spending and home sales activity were weaker for most of 2024 in the wake of still elevated interest rates and high prices. Subdued global demand and lower prices for key commodities led to a decline in the value of the province's merchandise exports in 2024. Meanwhile, B.C. homebuilding activity remained relatively strong following record high housing starts in 2023.

The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP rose by 1.2 per cent in 2024. In the near-term, the EFC expects B.C.'s economy to grow by 1.8 per cent in 2025 and 1.9 per

cent in 2026, in line with the national average. For Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.4 per cent in 2024 and projects national real GDP growth of 1.8 per cent in 2025 and 1.9 per cent in 2026. These projections do not fully include the impact of the evolving U.S. tariff situation.

Restrictive global trade policies, particularly potential U.S. tariffs, pose a risk to the outlook and there is uncertainty over the degree and timing of impacts on B.C.'s economy, and among the province's trading partners. Other risks include lower population growth due to changes to federal immigration policy, as well as the potential for renewed price pressures leading to interest rates remaining elevated for longer, weaker global demand, and commodity market volatility.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Economic Benefits and Resilience for All People in British Columbia

The Ministry is committed to supporting a strong future for the forest sector in B.C. and is taking action to increase the value and resilience of forests and rangelands to achieve economic value for people and to support good jobs for families and communities across the province.

Objective 1.1: Create the conditions for innovation, diversity and sustainability in the forest sector to support a strong economy

This objective directs Ministry efforts towards creating the conditions for a vibrant, innovative forest sector that supports workers and communities. The Ministry is responding to challenges and opportunities facing the sector by leading a forest sector transition to grow forest sector participation and economic resilience and map out the next 100 years.

Key Strategies

- Encourage forest industry diversification through initiatives that strengthen B.C.'s value-added manufacturing sector, including the [BC Timber Sales Value-Added Manufacturing Program](#) that will provide a dedicated supply of fibre to the value-added sector;
- Work with the [Provincial Forestry Forum](#) that includes representatives from communities, labour organizations, forestry and forest product companies and the [First Nations Forestry Council](#) to review BC Timber Sales to ensure a strong connection between B.C.'s forests, a consistent flow of fibre on the market, and sustainable jobs for British Columbians;
- Expand the [community forest program](#) to support a more sustainable future for First Nations communities and communities that depend on local forests for their economic strength;
- Represent B.C.'s interests in Canada-US litigation on the softwood lumber dispute and fight unwarranted softwood lumber duties by working with the federal government to

challenge the duties through the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Canada – U.S. – Mexico Agreement, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the World Trade Organization dispute settlement processes.

Objective 1.2: Integrated, coordinated and timely delivery of permitting services to citizens, clients and businesses

This objective promotes effective management of service delivery processes to ensure the Ministry is supporting a strong economy and providing public services that British Columbians can rely on.

Key Strategies

- Ensure prompt, efficient and effective delivery of forest, range, and archaeology authorizations services and decisions in accordance with the requirements of service users and standards of the Ministry;
- Provide focused compliance and enforcement services to ensure responsible natural resource stewardship.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target¹	2026/27 Target¹	2027/28 Target¹
1.1 Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-add sector	508,000 m ³	1,150,000 m ³	1,270,000 m ³	1,390,000 m ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales

¹Starting in 2025/26, targets have been increased to 20% of BCTS' rationalized apportionment.

Discussion

Under the direction of the Ministry, BC Timber Sales manages about 20 percent of the province's allowable annual cut for Crown timber, operating in 33 communities, directly supporting over 8,000 jobs across B.C.

In order to support a strong forest sector for B.C. it is critical that BCTS maintain a consistent supply of fibre to the open market to support fibre needs for manufacturing facilities. The value-added sector is primarily comprised of small- to medium- sized companies that manufacture a diverse range of specialty products that maximize the value of B.C.'s forests. BCTS increased its target volume specifically dedicated to value-added manufacturers from 10% to 20% to provide additional opportunity for value- add facilities.

One of the contributing factors to the value-added sector's ability to maintain capacity and create new and innovative products and processes is access to fibre (both logs and lumber); however, many value-added manufacturers do not hold replaceable Crown tenure and may source input materials through the open market. In order to support this vital sector of the forest industry, BCTS provides harvest opportunities through competitive auction to Crown timber for non-tenured or minimally tenured timber processing facilities.

This performance measure tracks the volume of timber sold at auction to the value-added sector, providing critical data to the Ministry to guide decisions about how to better support the growth of this sector. An increase in the Value-Added Manufacturing Program (Category 4) Volume Auctioned performance measure target demonstrates BCTS' commitment to enhancing opportunities for value-added manufacturing in British Columbia, aligning with the Province's strategy to modernize forest policy by transitioning from high-volume to high-value forest sector operations. Targets are set based on the amount of volume apportioned to BCTS and may be adjusted annually based on market conditions and government direction.

Goal 2: Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Furthering Government's commitment to work toward true and lasting reconciliation, the Ministry is taking action to expand opportunities for First Nations to participate and collaborate in forest planning, share decision-making, and realize benefits from forestry and the forest economy.

Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with First Nations in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.

This objective is directed at implementing activities that would result in economic development for First Nations communities and people. The Ministry is committed to reconciliation and to share the sustainable management of the province's natural resources with First Nations.

Key Strategies

- Continue implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) through application of the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) in alignment with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and other ministries;
- In collaboration with First Nations and with support from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, reform the [Heritage Conservation Act](#) in accordance with the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#). Additionally, bring forward reforms that support more efficient and effective permitting;
- Continue to reform forest legislation, regulations and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights articulated in the UN Declaration.

Objective 2.2: In partnership with First Nations, implement a new vision for forest management that prioritizes B.C.'s ecosystem health and community resiliency

The Ministry recognizes and honours First Nations' rights and title on their traditional territories. To further the government's commitments in this respect, the Ministry continually

seeks opportunities to partner with First Nations communities to ensure forest management practices benefit from Indigenous stewardship, values, and knowledge.

Key Strategies

- In partnership with First Nations and other interested parties, continue to advance implementation of the recommendations from the [old growth strategic review](#), which will be guided by the [Old Growth Action Plan](#) and advanced in collaboration with partner ministries;
- Continue to work toward full partnership with First Nations in managing B.C.'s forest resources through collaborative management agreements, shared decision-making tables, and [forest landscape planning](#);
- Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and First Nations governments to develop land-use objectives through [modernized land use planning](#) and other stewardship initiatives, ensuring that sustainable natural resource management reflects shared social, cultural, economic, and environmental values.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target ¹	2027/28 Target ¹
2.1 Number of forest landscape plans initiated with First Nations through government-to-government agreements	3	2	TBD	TBD

Data source: Forest Resiliency & Archaeology Division

¹Targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 will be determined over the course of 2025/26, based on resourcing and other criteria.

Discussion

Forest landscape planning was introduced in [Bill 23, the Forest Statutes Amendment Act in November 2021](#) as a new forest management planning regime under the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) that will replace the existing [Forest Stewardship Plans](#) regime over time. Forest landscape plans will be integral in delivering on the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review.

Conducted in partnership with First Nations governments, in collaboration with forest tenure holders and through engagement with local communities and stakeholders, forest landscape plans provide legal direction for where and how forest management activities, such as timber harvesting, road layout, and silviculture activities, can occur on the land-base, for the 10-year life of the plan. These plans will also address values such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, old growth management, species-at-risk and wildlife habitat, wildfire risk reduction and wildfire resiliency management, recreation, cultural values, and watershed health.

This performance measure tracks the Ministry's efforts to successfully engage with First Nations on this initiative, which is a first critical step towards implementing forest landscape

plans across B.C. Priorities for new projects are identified in collaboration with First Nations partners and natural resource sector ministries, and are considered initiated once a government-to-government agreement has been signed by both parties. Four forest landscape plan pilot projects are currently underway in partnership with First Nations, communities, and the forest sector, which will help inform future forest landscape planning processes.

In early 2023 the Ministry identified resourcing to support eight new forest landscape plan projects over a three-year period, and initiated engagement with First Nations to build agreement on priority areas. In mid 2024, the Ministry confirmed additional three-year funding to support two more forest landscape plans projects. As of January 2025, there are 15 forest landscape plans underway across the province at various stages from early scoping discussions with First Nations to final plan preparation.

Goal 3: Proactive and Collaborative Natural Hazard Management

The Ministry is committed to delivering the very best wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response, and land-based recovery to support strong, healthy, and resilient forests and communities. Through collaborating with First Nations, other governments, and agencies, the Ministry continues to implement a year-round, all-hazards approach to address the threat of extreme fire and other climate change induced events.

Objective 3.1: Improve community resiliency and reduce wildfire risk

This objective aims to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires through the implementation of a risk-assessment based approach, including incorporation of Indigenous values, knowledge and practices.

Key Strategies

- Reduce risk and increase community resiliency through the continued implementation of [Government's Action Plan - Responding to wildfire and flood risks](#), and continue implementation of the [Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction](#) program to reduce the wildfire risk in B.C. through targeted fuel management activities in high wildfire risk landscapes;
- Implement the [cultural and prescribed fire](#) program with First Nations and local governments to enable cultural and prescribed fire as an accessible, efficient land management tool that supports the integrated and expanded use of prescribed fire, and enables the use of cultural fire by Indigenous Peoples;
- Support work in treating [the Wildland Urban Interface](#) through delivery of [FireSmart](#) activities, and continue to provide advice, support, and funding to local governments through programs such as the [Community Resiliency Investment program](#) and [FireSmart](#) to strengthen capacity, reduce risk to communities, and improve preparedness for wildfires and other natural hazard events.

Objective 3.2: Deliver excellence in natural hazard incident management and support strong, healthy land-based recovery

This objective focuses on the Ministry's efforts to improve natural hazard incident management and wildfire land-based recovery, which includes preparing for and responding to wildfire and natural hazard incidents, and repairing the land-base affected by a wildfire.

Key Strategies

- Advance the action-oriented recommendations of the [Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies](#), and strengthen capacity of local emergency authorities and Indigenous communities to prepare and respond to wildfire events;
- Continue to make strategic investments in predictive technologies and capabilities to strengthen the Ministry's ability to anticipate and rapidly respond to wildfire events;
- In collaboration with First Nations governments, partners and interested parties, continue the development and implementation of a [wildfire land-based recovery program](#) to enhance ecosystem resilience and reduce future negative impacts from wildfire.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target ¹	2026/27 Target ¹	2027/28 Target ¹
3.1 Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure	3,000 ha	7,500 ha	9,600 ha	10,150 ha	10,150 ha

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹Includes fuel management activities projected to be completed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), as reported in the FESBC 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan with 2,250 hectares in 2025/2026, 2,550 hectares in 2026/2027, and 1,850 hectares in 2027/2028.

Discussion

With the ever-increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in B.C., proactively mitigating the effects of wildfire on public lands around communities is a priority for the Ministry.

Through the BC Wildfire Service, the Community Resiliency Investment program funds wildfire risk reduction activities including cultural and prescribed fire, fuel management planning and treatments, and wildfire risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure such as government owned radio repeaters, weather stations, and airtanker bases. The BC Wildfire Service uses its Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Framework to support and prioritize these wildfire risk reduction initiatives and improve public safety.

Performance measure 3.1 reports the area of completed fuel management activities with a primary objective of reducing wildfire risk by modifying forest fuel attributes around

communities. The targets are set using a trend-based analysis, and data is collected through various programs and initiatives such as BC Wildfire Service spatial databases. The forecast includes fuel management activities funded by the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program, inclusive of cultural burning and prescribed fire and reflects the 2024/2025 forecast which is currently reporting for Q3 as of January 2025.

In the short to medium-term, targets reflect planning activities happening under Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction and [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports](#), which are needed before operational fuel management activities can take place. Over the longer term, treated areas will be maintained (e.g., prescribed fire and brushing to manage surface fuel) to ensure ongoing effectiveness.

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast ¹	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
3.2 Percent of prescribed rehabilitation treatments implemented within 30 months of wildfire occurrence	n/a	90%	90%	90%

Data source: BCWS Wildfire Service

¹This is a new measure for the 2025/26 Service Plan.

Discussion

Government's Wildfire Land-Based Recovery process aims to reduce the negative impacts of select wildfires through repairing the land base affected by a wildfire, and by wildfire suppression activities. One of the areas of work is [wildfire suppression rehabilitation](#), which is a form of deactivation, specific to fire suppression activities. Prescribed rehabilitation treatments address detrimental impacts to the land during wildfire suppression while promoting ecosystem resiliency. The amount of fire suppression activities can range from 100 to 5,000km of disturbances annually, and rehabilitation project completion is a year-round effort.

This performance measure is new to the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan, replacing the previous performance measure reporting the creation of rehabilitation plans created for wildfires that require rehabilitation treatment. This new measure tracks the timely completion of rehabilitation treatments in areas affected by wildfire suppression activities, including creation of fireguards, modified roads, trails, and handguards constructed during a wildfire response. This work helps ensure that the undesirable impacts of wildfire suppression activities, such as surface erosion, soil instability, and impacted natural drainages, are reduced.

Targets are set based on an average wildfire year and are tracked closely by the BC Wildfire Service. Prescribed rehabilitation treatments begin in the following year after a rehabilitation plan is created, or sooner where possible. The Ministry targets to have 90% of all rehabilitation work completed after 30 months of a wildfire occurrence. The Ministry collaborates with First Nations communities, especially when it comes to planning and implementing rehabilitation works on Crown land.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
3.3 Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects with an approved burn plan, or which fall under an agreement with an Indigenous governing body ^{1,2}	5	25	40	60	70

Data source: BCWS prescribed fire provincial project data tracking spreadsheet

¹An approved burn plan is defined as a burn plan that has been developed and submitted to an official, and received the official's approval in writing, per section 23 of the [Wildfire Regulation](#). An agreement with an Indigenous governing body is defined as an agreement referred to in section 23.1 of the Wildfire Regulation.

²The reporting period for this performance measure is January 1 to December 31.

Discussion

Cultural fire is an Indigenous-led practice of using fire on the land as part of First Nations stewardship practices, informed by cultural knowledge and objectives. Prescribed fire is the planned and controlled application of fire to the landscape to achieve objectives, including fuel management (risk reduction), habitat enhancement, ecosystem restoration, climate adaption and resilience, and forest health. These two practices have their roots in different management systems, but each contributes to ecosystem health and resilience, as well as reducing the risk of large-scale wildfire. Partnership-based burn planning for both cultural fire and prescribed fire projects supports the resilience of ecosystems and communities while also allowing multiple agencies and organizations to build collective capacity, expertise and relationships to work with fire on the landscape.

Burn planning helps ensure the use of fire is carried out safely and does not damage environmental and other values, and incorporates considerations including fuel types, weather, topography, fire intensity, rate of spread, smoke management, and various local community values and objectives. Projects are often developed through collaboration among burn proponents, burn practitioners and professionals.

The Ministry's work to expand the use of cultural and prescribed fire on the land continues to be guided by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan. First Nations' values, objectives, and knowledge are incorporated into cultural and prescribed fire projects throughout B.C., and First Nations' participation in burn projects takes many forms depending on each Nation's interest, priorities and capacity.

For the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan, this measure has been updated to reflect recent amendments to the Wildfire Regulation that enable the Province to enter into agreements related to open fire with Indigenous governing bodies. The Ministry takes a collaborative and inclusive approach to burn project planning and delivery, and these updates also better capture the full range of partnerships involved in cultural and prescribed burning, including with First Nations, local governments, community forests and other forest licencees, wildlife and conservation organizations, and other partners.

Goal 4: Sustainable Forest Stewardship for All Values

The Ministry is dedicated to ensuring that the climate, biodiversity, environmental and economic benefits, recreational opportunities, and cultural significance associated with B.C.'s forests, rangelands, and heritage resources are responsibly managed and preserved for future generations.

Objective 4.1: Revitalize and protect B.C.'s forests, and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

The [Intergovernmental panel on climate change](#) recognizes that land management is critical for mitigating climate change and its impacts. In this context, strengthening B.C.'s ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change continues to be an important objective for the Ministry.

Through this objective, the Ministry is advancing towards its goal of sustainable natural resource management while taking steps to protect B.C.'s forests by fostering climate change mitigation innovative management activities, modernizing forest policies to include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and strengthening the resiliency of B.C.'s forests to the effects of climate change.

Key Strategies

- Invest in forest management activities that reduce emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, and rehabilitate and restore forests, such as reforestation using higher densities, improved genetic worth and climate appropriate seed and species, forest nutrient management, forest health treatments and reduced slash pile burning through improved fibre utilization;
- In partnership with Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, continue to work together with First Nations to meet the ecological integrity and human wellbeing commitments under the [Great Bear Rainforest agreement](#);
- Enable forest carbon-offset projects on provincial public forest lands and generate new scientific knowledge on forest carbon and climate change to support decision-making, and support changes in behavior and practices through education, outreach, and development of decision support tools.

Objective 4.2: Deliver exceptional research and scientific analysis to sustainably manage B.C.'s forests and natural resources

This objective relates to the Ministry's role of conducting [research](#) and analysis that informs the development of science-based policies and regulations that guide sustainable natural resource management and decisions.

Key Strategies

- Provide scientific expertise and analysis, and continue to invest in operationally relevant and innovative science-based research to guide resource management decisions and forest landscape planning;

- Advance the goals and priorities of the [Future Forest Ecosystem Centre 2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#), focusing on climate data, ecological forecasting, and capacity building;

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast ¹	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
4.1a Number of trees planted per year through the Ministry's Forest Investment Program	n/a	40,000,000 ²	TBD ³	TBD ³
4.1b Provincial forest area with nutrients applied per year through the Ministry's Forest Investment Program	n/a	25,000 ha	25,000 ha	25,000 ha

Data source: RESULTS Database, Office of Chief Forester

¹This is a new measure for the 2025/26 Service Plan.

²Subject to approval of resourcing.

³Targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 will be determined over the course of 2025/26, based on resourcing and other criteria.

Discussion

The Ministry has a long history of planting trees, with 10 billion trees planted in B.C. since reforestation programs began in 1930, including two billion planted in the past seven years alone. Applying nutrients to the forests is a long-standing silviculture activity that can increase tree growth and forest and wildlife habitat cover, increase carbon sequestration, and accelerate stand development toward older stand structure including old-growth character.

Both planting trees and applying nutrients support government's climate change mitigation goals through enhanced carbon sequestration. These activities also improve biodiversity, enhance future timber supply, and aid wildfire recovery. Both planting and nutrient application provide employment in the forest sector with the investment in reforestation estimated to create more than 400 jobs in 2023/2024.

This performance measure is new to the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan, replacing the previous performance measure reporting greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through forest investment activities. It reports the annual number of trees planted and provincial forest area with nutrients applied per year through the Ministry's [Forest Investment Program](#). This data helps the Ministry better understand and manage B.C.'s forests, as well as calculate forest carbon benefits.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3,690	3,804	3,804	3,804
Integrated Resource Operations	58,468	59,017	59,017	59,017
Office of the Chief Forester	130,293	130,995	130,995	130,995
Timber, Range and Economics	11,781	12,017	12,017	12,017
Fire Preparedness	46,992	47,744	47,744	47,744
Regional Operations	98,994	101,032	101,032	101,032
Executive and Support Services	57,871	57,975	57,975	57,975
Fire Management	232,736	238,047	238,047	238,047
BC Timber Sales Account	203,941	240,147	258,387	237,076
Total	844,766	890,778	909,018	887,707
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	55,448	54,903	34,678	34,678
Fire Management	16,000	14,762	11,001	2,575
BC Timber Sales Account	54,095	48,843	48,288	42,867
Total	125,543	118,508	93,967	80,120
Other Financing Transactions				
BC Timber Sales Account				
Disbursements	106,017	91,419	82,461	84,896
Receipts	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	106,017	91,419	82,461	84,896

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary

The Forest Practices Board (the board) independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the [Forest Appeals Commission](#). It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees' performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board's mandate is provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*. While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report that can be at: www.bcfpb.ca.

Forest Practices Board	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Total	3,991	4,162	4,162	4,162

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of March 2025, the Minister of Forests is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Coastal Logging Equipment Support Trust

The purpose of the Coast Logging Equipment Support Trust is to help eligible contractors that are negatively impacted by the ongoing labour dispute between the United Steel Workers and Western Forest Products, and the continued weakness in key markets for lumber and limited access to logs.

Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia

The purpose of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) is to identify and fund projects that advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.

Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board provides independent oversight of tenure holders' and government ministries' compliance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* through monitoring and reviewing forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands.

Managed Forest Land Council

The Managed Forest Council is an independent provincial agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. The objective of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land in B.C., taking into account the social, environmental, and economic benefits of those practices.

Timber Export Advisory Committee

The Timber Export Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Minister regarding the export of timber originating from lands within British Columbia that is regulated for manufacture in British Columbia by the Government of British Columbia.

Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Parmar:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Forests at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

.../2

**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Forests programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, support the connection between forests and jobs in our province, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the crisis in the sector, and the threat of expanded American tariffs.
- In light of the threat of American tariffs, the existing softwood lumber tariffs, the price crisis in the timber sector, and the reduction in available annual allowable cut, work with communities, labour, forestry and forest product companies, and Indigenous governments to review BC Timber Sales to ensure that the model is responsive to the new realities of the industry and the need for a strong connection between our forests and sustainable jobs for British Columbians for generations to come.
- Continue to bring together industry, First Nations, and communities through forest landscape planning tables – to chart a path forward for the stewardship of BC's forests and forest industry.
- Work to increase value from BC's forests by supporting value-added and innovative forest products, creating good local jobs and diversifying BC's wood products for local and international markets.

.../3

- Work with your ministerial colleagues and First Nations to ensure the prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits required by industry while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- Work with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic meters per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.
- Work to secure a more sustainable future for First Nations and communities that depend on local forests for their economic strength by expanding the community forest program.
- With support from the Minister of State for Trade, continue work to protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations and other tariff challenges with the United States.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



For more information on the Forest Enhancement Society of BC contact:

101-925 McMaster Way, Kamloops B.C., V2C 6K2

1-877-225-2010

Or visit our website at

<https://fesbc.ca/>

Published by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Board Chair's Accountability Statement



The 2025/26 – 2027/28 Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) Service Plan was prepared under the Board's direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. This plan is consistent with government's strategic priorities and fiscal plan. The Board is accountable for the contents of this plan and is responsible for the validity and reliability of the information presented.

All significant assumptions, policy decisions, events and identified risks, as of February 19, 2025, have been considered in preparing the plan. The performance measures presented are consistent with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, FESBC's mandate and goals, and focus on aspects critical to the organization's performance. The targets in this plan have been determined based on an assessment of FESBC's operating environment, forecast conditions, risk assessment and past performance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Peterson".

Signed on behalf of the Board by:

Dave Peterson
Board Chair, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
March 4, 2025

Table of Contents

Board Chair’s Accountability Statement3

Strategic Direction.....5

Purpose of the Organization and Alignment with Government Priorities.....5

Operating Environment6

Economic Statement7

Performance Planning7

Financial Plan11

Appendix: Mandate Letter from the Minister Responsible13

Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, public sector organizations will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective public sector organizations will support Government's focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Public sector organizations will also continue to work as directed to support the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 service plan outlines how the Forest Enhancement Society of BC will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the most recent [Forest Enhancement Society of BC Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Organization and Alignment with Government Priorities

FESBC contributes to the achievement of Government's strategic priorities through the delivery of its constitutional purposes:

- Prevent and mitigate the impact of wildfire,
- Improve damaged or low-value forests,
- Support the use of fibre from damaged and low-value forests,
- Improve habitat for wildlife, and
- Treat forests to improve the management of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

FESBC operates on a proponent-driven model, periodically inviting project funding applications which are then reviewed with input from the Ministry of Forests. Technical staff ensure project proposals are aligned with FESBC's purposes and the provincial government's priorities. FESBC works with service delivery partners to ensure project implementation and treatment on the land base is timely, efficient and provides value for money.

FESBC is supporting projects that mitigate wildfire risks to communities, including reducing fuel loads in dense forests adjacent to communities and infrastructure through various fuel reduction treatments, and when feasible, the residual fibre that is created from these projects is utilized for energy and other forest products rather than burned.

FESBC is also continuing to support projects that increase the use of low-value or residual fibre including trees damaged by recent wildfires and waste left on site after logging that would otherwise be burnt. These projects will be implemented throughout rural B.C. and will meaningfully impact both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities by helping build

prosperous and sustainable economies even as the timber supply continues to decline. By implementing these projects, FESBC partners will be leading the way in developing the knowledge and experience required to create a low carbon forest industry while also supporting the achievement of provincial and federal climate change objectives, including those identified in the Province's [CleanBC](#) plan.

Many of the forest enhancement projects funded by FESBC achieve multiple objectives. When reviewing project proposals, FESBC places a higher priority on projects that address more than one of the purposes articulated in FESBC's constitution.

FESBC will continue to ensure successful and efficient completion of projects. Effective and diligent oversight of projects will ensure FESBC continues to align with the Province's strategic priorities of putting people first, meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and supporting a strong, sustainable economy in B.C. FESBC will continue to communicate its plans and achievements to stakeholders and the general public, recognizing the contributions by the provincial government and Ministry of Forests staff to the success of the program.

Operating Environment

FESBC exists to invest in forest management activities on Crown land that result in more resilient forests, safer communities and improved habitat for wildlife. In addition, FESBC-funded projects play an important role in supporting B.C.'s rural and forest-dependent communities including contractors and workers impacted by the current economic challenges.

In the upcoming fiscal year FESBC will support proactive wildfire risk reduction treatments and continued support for the [FireSmart](#) program both of which help to mitigate the negative impact of wildfires on rural and First Nations. Wildfire risk reduction treatments such as thinning or spacing trees and removing dead and down material in the forest understory, result in a forest structure that is more resilient to climate change and fire, and more hydrologically stable in the long term. FESBC prioritizes funding projects that recover and utilize low-grade residual fibre, as any waste fibre that is directed for use in energy or manufacturing facilities, as opposed to open burning, presents an opportunity to reduce B.C.'s carbon footprint and support rural and indigenous workers and businesses.

In addition, FESBC supports proponents, including pulp, pellets and energy producers, to make use of low-value fibre that is otherwise too far away from their facilities to be economically available. Applications indicate that demand for this support remains high across the province. This demand has been exacerbated by recent sawmill closures and curtailments and the reduction in timber harvesting across the province.

FESBC-funds projects across and prioritizes projects that provide benefits to Indigenous communities and organizations. Approximately 30% of FESBC-funded projects in 2024/2025 provide direct benefits to Indigenous organizations, including employment opportunities.

FESBC is committed to funding and ensuring the completion of high impact projects. To that end, FESBC carries out rigorous project management systems to track and quantify the benefits of these investments in B.C.'s forests.

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy experienced moderate growth last year amid relatively high interest rates, persistent price pressures and ongoing global economic uncertainty. The labour market ended the year on a positive note, supported by high immigration and strong population growth. Inflation in B.C. continued to moderate as the price growth of goods eased, while inflation for services remained elevated. Consumer spending and home sales activity were weaker for most of 2024 in the wake of still elevated interest rates and high prices. Subdued global demand and lower prices for key commodities led to a decline in the value of the province's merchandise exports in 2024. Meanwhile, B.C. homebuilding activity remained relatively strong following record high housing starts in 2023.

The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP rose by 1.2 per cent in 2024. In the near-term, the EFC expects B.C.'s economy to grow by 1.8 per cent in 2025 and 1.9 per cent in 2026, in line with the national average. For Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.4 per cent in 2024 and projects national real GDP growth of 1.8 per cent in 2025 and 1.9 per cent in 2026. These projections do not fully include the impact of the evolving U.S. tariff situation.

Restrictive global trade policies, particularly potential U.S. tariffs, pose a risk to the outlook and there is uncertainty over the degree and timing of impacts on B.C.'s economy, and among the province's trading partners. Other risks include lower population growth due to changes to federal immigration policy, as well as the potential for renewed price pressures leading to interest rates remaining elevated for longer, weaker global demand, and commodity market volatility.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Prevent and Mitigate the Impact of Wildfire

Fire is a natural and essential ecological process in some of British Columbia's forests. Balancing the potential benefits with the inherent risks of fire on the landscape is becoming increasingly challenging, especially within the context of climate change. Returning forests to their normal historical fire regimes can minimize negative impacts from future wildfires.

Objective 1.1: Enhance wildfire risk reduction activities for B.C. communities

Fire can be a natural and essential ecological process in many of British Columbia's forests. Historical suppression activities and ongoing climate change have resulted in more catastrophic fires with severe negative impacts to humans and the environment. Ecologically appropriate forest management activities can reduce the future risk of catastrophic fires. FESBC funds these activities to improve forest resilience and increase community safety.

Key Strategies

- Work with the Ministry of Forests and other responsible organizations to implement strategic wildfire risk management priorities and opportunities,

- Coordinate and support the effective delivery of funds for wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments that reduce risk to communities and critical infrastructure,
- Promote the recovery and utilization of low-value residual fibre resulting from wildfire risk reduction treatments, and
- Support the delivery of the [Community Resiliency Investment](#) (CRI) program in cooperation with existing agencies including Ministry of Forests, Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), and the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) of British Columbia.

Discussion

This objective supports progress towards FESBC's goal of investing in fuel management treatments. FESBC works collaboratively with provincial agencies, local governments, Indigenous communities and partners, and other non-governmental organizations to support both risk reduction and mitigation activities associated with wildfires. Projects include removing dead and down material, thinning and pruning forests adjacent to communities and infrastructure such as transmission corridors and public roads to moderate fire behavior, and create landscape level fuel breaks.

To ensure the continuation of effective risk reduction activities, FESBC invests in fuel management treatment plans. The operational planning and accompanying prescriptions are prerequisites to completing wildfire reduction and prevention treatment activities. FESBC proponents must follow Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program standards as outlined in the [BCWS Tools for Fuel Management](#).

To monitor the impact of this work, FESBC tracks the completion of approved fuel management treatment activities, analyzes volumes of residual fibre being utilized from those activities, and identifies the communities positively impacted by these projects.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast ^{1,3}	2025/26 Target ²	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
1a Priority area of fuel management treatment activities completed (hectares)	5,950	2,250	2,550	1,850

Data source: PwC financial data, FESBC Information Management System (FESIMS) Data, and FESBC staff input

¹Forecast for 2024/25 is based on actual and projected work to be completed as entered into FESIMS.

²Targets are based on proponent project plan data entered into FESIMS, estimates by FESBC staff, and reflect Budget 2025 funding.

³Forecast exceeds [2024/25 target](#) due to a reallocation of funds from prior awarded programs.

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast ^{1,3}	2025/26 Target ²	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
1b Number of higher-risk communities with wildfire risk reduction activities	53	33	31	23

Data source: FESBC Information Management System (FESIMS) Data, and FESBC staff input

¹Forecast for 2024/25 is based on actual and projected work to be completed as entered into FESIMS.

²Targets are based on proponent project plan data entered into FESIMS, estimates by FESBC staff, and reflect Budget 2025 funding.

³Forecast exceeds 2024/25 target due to a reallocation of funds from prior awarded programs.

Goal 2: Increase Utilization of Residual Biomass Generated by Forest Management Activities

This goal supports FESBC's purposes related to supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low-value forests and treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases. Utilizing fibre that would otherwise be burnt helps the forest industry capitalize on the opportunities that residual biomass can provide. Enabling the utilization of this fibre is an important part of how B.C. is redefining the future of forest management.

Objective 2.1: Encourage diversity and innovation by the forest sector to utilize uneconomic waste fibre

Through funding the additional transportation costs needed to have this material shipped to secondary forest products facilities, FESBC is creating more opportunities for fibre utilization and recovery in B.C. and reducing the waste of forest resources and generation of greenhouse gasses caused by open burning. Partnerships with the secondary industry, including producers of pulp, cants, wood pellets and energy, and harvesting contractors helps preserve forest sector jobs while making a significant contribution to the forest industries' efforts to reduce GHG emissions related to forest management activities.

Key Strategies

- Fund only the differential between the cost of operations and the market value of the product,
- Track volumes and calculate the avoided emissions realized from these projects to report out the environmental benefits of the program, and
- Support all secondary manufacturing facilities including pulp mills, cant mills, pellet mills and energy complexes and small tenures holders and contractors that are eligible for funding, provided the fibre they are procuring meets the eligibility criteria including those related to costs.

Discussion

Fibre from conventional timber harvesting or other forest management activities, such as salvaging burned or insect-damaged stands, that is of too low quality to use for lumber or too

far away to be used for pulp or energy is usually piled and burned in the forest. Quality issues that render fibre unusable for lumber include logs being too small, having defects such as rot or large knots, or being too crooked to be processed in a sawmill. Such material still must be removed, however, to reduce fire risk and ensure that cutblocks are adequately reforested.

Strategies under this objective focus on delivering residual fibre to the secondary forest product producers without disrupting normal competitive fibre markets. FESBC funding is available only for the differential between the actual costs of using the fibre and the fair market value. In other words, FESBC aims to increase the amount of residual fibre available, not to reduce the cost of available residual fibre.

FESBC works with proponents to determine whether support is warranted by determining whether the cost of delivering the fibre in a usable form exceeds the market value of the fibre. The delivered log and fibre information, the products made at the receiving sites and other project specific data is also used to calculate the reduction of carbon emissions that are achieved by avoiding slash pile burning.

By supporting a reliable supply of residual fibre, FESBC seeks to normalize higher levels of forest fibre utilization by increasing the confidence of contractors and producers to invest in capital equipment and maintain a stable, well-trained workforce. In addition, providing consistent opportunities to recover residual fibre helps proponents improve efficiency and productivity that will drive down unit costs over time.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast ^{1,3}	2025/26 Target ²	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
2a Forest fibre utilized (cubic metres)	1,950,000	400,000	345,000	465,000

Data source: FESBC Information Management System (FESIMS) Data and FESBC Staff

¹Forecast based on delivered and estimated volume.

²Targets are based on estimated delivery costs, inflation estimations, and Budget 2025 funding.

³Forecast exceeds 2024/25 target due to a reallocation of funds from prior awarded programs. Unused funds for wildfire risk reduction activities were redeployed in 2024/25 to support additional fibre utilization.

Financial Plan

Financial Summary

[\$000s]	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Revenues				
Contributions from the Province	56,203	20,231	20,000	20,000
Other Income	3,535	5,798	502	577
Total Revenue	59,738	26,029	20,502	20,577
Expenses				
Grants	56,203	23,600	18,000	18,000
Operating Costs	3,524	2,417	2,490	2,565
Capital Asset Management	11	12	12	12
Total Expenses	59,738	26,029	20,502	20,577
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	-	-	-	-
Total Debt	-	-	-	-
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-

Note: The above financial information was prepared based on current Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Key Forecast Assumptions, Risks and Sensitivities

The FESBC forecast is based on direction provided by government, mandates and priorities set for the Ministry of Forests, and funding granted and announced to date. Expenditure forecasts rely heavily on grant recipients' estimated completion timelines. FESBC strives to clearly outline its expectations, monitors projects against agreed upon milestones and works with grant recipients' dealing with unforeseen circumstances to mitigate risks of delayed projects.

Management's Perspective on Financial Outlook

FESBC will continue to closely monitor resources and expenditures to ensure funded projects are delivered in an efficient, timely and cost-effective manner. FESBC will continue to consider on a go-forward basis the impacts of inflationary pressures on active projects. FESBC will work collaboratively and in a coordinated way to leverage partnerships, support the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Environment and Parks, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and other Ministerial strategic priorities as applicable, to ensure alignment with key Government commitments and, while doing so, will manage expenditures accordingly.

Appendix: Mandate Letter from the Minister Responsible



June 15, 2023

Dave Peterson, Chair
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
101-925 McMaster Way
Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 6K2

Dear Dave Peterson:

On behalf of Premier Eby and the Executive Council, I would like to extend my thanks to you, your board members, and your organization's leadership, dedication, expertise, and service to the people of British Columbia.

Public sector organizations – including Crowns, Health Authorities and Post Secondary Institution Boards – support British Columbians by delivering vital public services and are accountable to the public through their responsible Minister. Your leadership in advancing and protecting the public interest strengthens trust in public institutions.

You are serving British Columbians at a time when people in our province continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing toxic drug crisis, climate-related natural disasters, and while global inflation is driving up costs. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a prosperous, low-carbon, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – in rural areas, in cities, and in Indigenous communities.

This mandate letter, which I am sending in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, sets out overarching principles relevant to the entire public sector and specific direction on priorities and expectations for your organization for the remainder of Government's term.

Government and public sector organizations must continue to advance results that people can see and feel in these key areas: strengthened health care, safer communities, attainable and secure housing, and a clean and fair economy that delivers affordability and prosperity.

In doing so, you will continue working towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the province we are building together, and delivering on specific commitments as outlined in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* action plan.

As required by the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, please ensure your organization implements targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, and managing

climate risk, including achieving carbon neutrality each year and aligning with the CleanBC target of a 50% reduction in public sector building emissions and a 40% reduction in public sector fleet emissions by 2030. Your organization is expected to work with government to report out on these plans and activities as required by legislation.

Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic, and present-day, barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The public sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every public sector organization has a role in this work. As part of this work, your organization is expected to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure gender equity is reflected in your operations and programs.

British Columbians expect that public sector organizations operate in a responsible manner to deliver quality services equitably in all regions of the province. This requires strategic stewardship of planning, operations, and policies in the areas of financial, risk, and human resource management including information security and privacy protection.

The protection of government data and networks is a priority, especially where it concerns personal information of British Columbians. Public sector organizations must maintain up to date systems and effective cybersecurity practices, including maintaining current information management and cybersecurity policies, guidelines and standards; evaluating your organization against industry standards; and maintaining appropriate security and privacy practices. The Office of the Chief Information Officer within the Ministry of Citizens Services is available to support and offer guidance to your organization in any of these areas.

Public sector organizations must also implement and maintain an effective fraud risk management strategy. The Office of the Comptroller General and the Risk Management Branch in the Ministry of Finance are available for consultation.

The Crown Agencies Secretariat (CAS) in the Ministry of Finance supports public sector organizations to operate effectively, in the public interest, and aligned with government's strategic direction and priorities. Within CAS, the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) will continue to support you and your board on recruitment, appointments and professional development, as well as ensuring Board composition and governance reflects the diversity of our province. CAS can support you in public sector governance best practices, policy and planning.

In addition to continuing to make progress on your [2021 mandate letter](#), I expect you to ensure the important priorities and areas of focus listed in this letter are incorporated into the practices

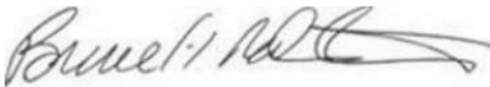
of your organization, and develop plans to address the following new priorities within your approved budget:

- Identify and fund projects that increase the use of low-value or residual fibre including trees damaged by recent wildfires and waste left on site after logging that would otherwise be burned. This increased utilization will help the forest sector across the province through this period of declining timber supply resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- Support projects that mitigate wildfire risks, leading to better protection of communities, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resiliency of B.C.'s forests to the impacts of climate change.

Each board member is asked to sign this letter to acknowledge this direction from government to your organization. The signed letter is to be posted publicly on your website by summer 2023.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to meet the high standards set for us by all British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Honourable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Forests

Date: June 15, 2023

Enclosure

cc: Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier

Shannon Salter
Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the BC Public Service

Heather Wood
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Mary Sue Maloughney
Associate Deputy Minister, Crown Agencies Secretariat
Ministry of Finance

Rick Manwaring
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests

Ken Day, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Trish Dohan, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Sarah Fraser, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Mike P. Kelly, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
John Massier, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Ian Meier, Board Member, Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC



Dave Peterson
Chair
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 16, 2023



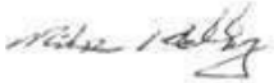
Ken Day
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 16, 2023



Trish Dohan
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 15, 2023



Sarah Fraser
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 15, 2023



Mike P. Kelly
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 15, 2023



John Massier
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 15, 2023



Ian Meier
Board Member
Forest Enhancement Society of BC
Date: June 15, 2023

Ministry of Forests - Budget 2025 Highlights

OPERATING BUDGET: \$890.778M - an increase of \$46.012M or 5.4% from 2024/25 Restated

Ministry Operating budget changes include:

Section A - Pre-Budget 2025 Decisions that increase current Budget - \$20.426M:

- \$ 5.311M - Budget lift for Budget 2024 Decision - BC Wildfire Service Caseload Funding
- \$15.115M - Budget lift in Budget 2024 to align BC Timber Sales Budget with Performance Targets

Section B - Inter-Ministry Program Transfers - No budget impact.

All budget transfers restated to 24/25.

Section C - Budget 2025 Decisions that increase current Budget - \$27.215M:

- (\$0.164M) - Budget Reduction for the Minister of State
- \$4.659M - Budget lift for the Shared Recovery Mandate
- \$21.091M - Budget lift to align BC Timber Sales Budget with Performance Targets

CAPITAL BUDGET: \$118.508M - a decrease of (\$7.035M) or 5.6% from 2024/25 Restated

Ministry Capital budget changes include:

Section A - Pre-Budget 2025 Decisions that reduce current Budget - (\$27.402M):

- (\$20.500M) - Budget reduction to BC Wildfire Services Facilities funding.
- (\$ 2.500M) - Budget reduction to Fire Management due to end of Federal Funding.
- (\$ 4.402M) - Budget reduction in BC Timber Sales due to a decrease in road building.

Section B - Inter-Ministry Program Transfers - \$0.270M

- (\$0.270M) - Transfer to Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship for Fleet

Section C - Budget 2025 Decisions that reduce current Budget - (\$20.637M):

- \$20.225M - Budget lift to BC Wildfire Services for reprofiling of facilities funding.
- \$ 1.262M - Budget lift to Fire Management for reprofiling of Federal Funding.
- (\$0.850M) - Budget reduction to BC Timber Sales to align with Performance Targets

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS AND STAFFING

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

Staff - Headcount as of February 1, 2025 for Ministry Operations, Fire Management and BC Timber Sales is 3,143. This number changes throughout the year, particularly in field and fire season, when additional staff are hired on a temporary basis.

Ministry of Forests - Ministry Summary - Operating
Three Year Budget 2025 Decisions
\$ 000s

Operations	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
A Budget 2024			s.13; s.17	
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	413,993	413,993		
Vote 31 - Fire Management	232,736	238,047		
BC Timber Sales Special Account	203,941	219,056		
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-		
Total Budget 2024	850,670	871,096		
<i>Year-to-year change in 2024/25 Service Plan</i>		20,426		
B Inter-Ministry Transfers				
From Exec and Support Services to WLRS - Fleet	(315)	(315)		
From Exec and Support Services to WLRS - Refinement	(1,214)	(1,214)		
From Regional Operations to WLRS - Refinement	(3,557)	(3,557)		
From Office of the Chief Forester to Environment - Reorg	(818)	(818)		
Total Inter Ministry Transfers	(5,904)	(5,904)		
C Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Reduction for Minister of State		(164)		
Lift for Shared Recovery Mandate (Ministry Operations)		4,659		
Lift to BCTS to align with Performance Targets		21,091		
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	25,586		
Total Budget 2025	844,766	890,778		
<i>Impact from Budget 25 Decisions and Inter Ministry Transfers</i>	(5,904)	19,682		
	-0.7%	2.3%		
D Budget 2025	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates		
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	408,089	412,584		
Vote 31 - Fire Management	232,736	238,047		
BC Timber Sales Special Account	203,941	240,147		
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-		
Total Budget 2025	844,766	890,778		
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2025/26 Service Plan</i>		46,012		
		5.4%		

Table 2

Ministry of Forests - Ministry Summary - Capital

Three Year Budget 2025 Decisions

\$ 000s

Capital	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
A Budget 2024			s.13; s.17	
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	55,448	34,948		
Vote 31 - Fire Management	16,000	13,500		
BC Timber Sales Special Account	54,095	49,693		
Total Budget 2024	125,543	98,141		
<i>Year-to-year change in 2024/25 Service Plan</i>		(27,402)		
B Inter-Ministry Transfers				
Transfer to Water, Land, Resource Stewardship - Fleet	-	(270)		
Total-Inter Ministry Transfers	-	(270)		
C Budget Lifts and Reductions				
Reprofiling for BC Wildfire - Facilities		20,225		
Reduction to BC Timber Sales to align with Performance Targets		(850)		
Reprofiling for BC Wildfire - Federal Funding agreement		1,262		
Total Budget Lifts and Reductions	-	20,637		
Total Budget 2025	125,543	118,508		
<i>Impact from Budget 25 Decisions and Inter Ministry Transfers</i>	-	20,367		
	-	20.8%		
D Budget 2025	2024/25 Restated Estimates	2025/26 Estimates		
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	55,448	54,903		
Vote 31 - Fire Management	16,000	14,762		
BC Timber Sales Special Account	54,095	48,843		
Total Budget 2025	125,543	118,508		
<i>Year-to-Year Change in 2025/26 Service Plan</i>		(7,035)		
		(5.6%)		

Table 3

Table of Contents

Ministry of Forests
3 Year Budget - Core Business
3 Year Budget - Capital
Budget by Vote and STOB
Budget by Core Business and STOB
Ministry Operations - 3 Year STOB Track
Fire Management - 3 Year STOB Track
BC Timber Sales - 3 Year STOB Track
Forest Stand Management Fund - 3 Year STOB Track
Revenue - Budget & Fiscal Plan (Table A9)
Revenue Detail
Revenue Tables
Transfers - Grants
Transfers - Shared Cost Arrangements
Recoveries

Ministry of Forests - 3 Year Budget - Core Business
Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ 000s

Core Business (000's)	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	Change	2026/27 Plan	Change	2027/28 Plan
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3,690	114	3,804	-	3,804	-	3,804
Integrated Resource Operations	58,468	549	59,017	-	59,017	-	59,017
Office of the Chief Forester	130,293	702	130,995	-	130,995	-	130,995
Timber, Range & Economics	11,781	236	12,017	-	12,017	-	12,017
Fire Preparedness	46,992	752	47,744	-	47,744	-	47,744
Regional Operations	98,994	2,038	101,032	-	101,032	-	101,032
Executive & Support Services	57,871	104	57,975	-	57,975	-	57,975
Minister's Office	1,139	(164)	975	-	975	-	975
Corporate Services	56,732	268	57,000	-	57,000	-	57,000
Ministry Operations	408,089	4,495	412,584	-	412,584	-	412,584
Fire Management	232,736	5,311	238,047	-	238,047	-	238,047
BC Timber Sales Special Account	203,941	36,206	240,147	18,240	258,387	(21,311)	237,076
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	844,766	46,012	890,778	18,240	909,018	(21,311)	887,707

TOTAL Percent Change by year

5.45%

2.0%

(2.3%)

Variance Explanations (24/25 to 25/26): \$46.012M Change over year

Forest Resiliency and Archaeology: Net increase of \$0.114M for Shared Recovery Mandate. \$0.030M for Budget 2024 and \$0.084M for Budget 2025.

Integrated Resource Operations: Net increase of \$0.549M for the Shared Recovery Mandate

Office of the Chief Forester: Net increase of \$0.702M for the Shared Recovery Mandate.

Timber, Range and Economics: Net increase of \$0.236M for Shared Recovery Mandate

Fire Preparedness: Net increase of \$0.752M for Shared Recovery Mandate

Regional Operations: Net increase of \$2.038M: \$2.069M for Shared Recovery Mandate offset by Budget 2023 Decisions (\$0.027M) for Permitting, (\$0.004M) for Shared Recovery Mandate

Executive & Support Services: Net increase of \$0.104M: \$0.268M for Shared Recovery Mandate offset by (\$0.164M) for Minister of State

Fire Management Vote: Net increase of \$5.311M for BC Wildfire Service Funding Request

BC Timber Sales: Net increase of \$36.206M to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements.

Variance Explanations (25/26 to 26/27): \$18.240M Change over year

BC Timber Sales: Net increase of \$18.240M to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements

Variance Explanations (26/27 to 27/28): (\$21.311M) Change over year

BC Timber Sales: Net decrease of \$21.311M to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements

Ministry of Forests - 3 Year Budget - Capital Allocation
Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ 000s

Asset Category	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	Change	2026/27 Plan	Change	2027/28 Plan
Ministry Operations - Buildings	27,150	(275)	26,875	(20,225)	6,650	-	6,650
Ministry Operations - Specialized Equipment	603	(60)	543	-	543	-	543
Ministry Operations - Office Furn/Equip	18	-	18	-	18	-	18
Ministry Operations - Vehicles	6,600	(270)	6,330	-	6,330	-	6,330
Ministry Operations - Information Technology	15	(15)	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Operations - Roads	20,225	75	20,300	-	20,300	-	20,300
Ministry Operations - Land Improvements	837	-	837	-	837	-	837
Ministry Operations Total Voted Appropriation	55,448	(545)	54,903	(20,225)	34,678	-	34,678
Fire Management - Buildings	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Fire Management - Heavy Equipment	9,000	(1,238)	7,762	(3,761)	4,001	(1,426)	2,575
Fire Management - Vehicles	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Fire Management Total Voted Appropriation	16,000	(1,238)	14,762	(3,761)	11,001	(8,426)	2,575
BC Timber Sales - Specialized Equipment	650	-	650	-	650	-	650
BC Timber Sales - Information Technology	350	-	350	-	350	-	350
BC Timber Sales - Roads	53,095	(5,252)	47,843	(555)	47,288	(5,421)	41,867
Special Account Appropriation	54,095	(5,252)	48,843	(555)	48,288	(5,421)	42,867
TOTAL	125,543	(7,035)	118,508	(24,541)	93,967	(13,847)	80,120
TOTAL Percent Change by year			(5.6%)		(20.7%)		(14.7%)

Variance Explanations (24/25 to 25/26): (\$7.035M) Change over year

Ministry Operations - Buildings: (\$0.275M) decrease due to \$20.500M in BC Wildfire Services Facilities that was intended to end in 2024/25, which is offset by \$20.225M of this funding that was reprofiled from 2024/25.

Ministry Operations - Specialized Equipment: (\$0.060M) decrease is offset by increase in Roads (\$0.075M).

Ministry Operations - Vehicles - (\$0.270M) decrease due to fleet budget transfer to WLRS

Ministry Operations - Information Technology: (\$0.015M) decrease is offset by increase in Roads (\$0.075M).

Ministry Operations - Roads: \$0.075M increase is offset by decrease in Specialized Equipment (\$0.060M) and decrease in Information Technology (\$0.015M).

Fire Management - Specialized Equipment: (\$1.238 M) decrease to align with approved federal funding

BC Timber Sales - Roads: (\$5.252M) decrease to align with the Performance Targets and Resource Requirements submission

Variance Explanations (25/26 to 26/27): (\$24.541 M) Change over year

Ministry Operations - Buildings: (\$20.225M) decrease due to ending of BC Wildfire Services Facilities funding in 2025/26.

Fire Management: (\$3.761M) decrease to align with approved federal funding for heavy equipment

BC Timber Sales - Roads: (\$0.555M) decrease to align with the Performance Targets and Resource Requirements submission

Variance Explanations (26/27 to 27/28): (\$13.847 M) Change over year

Fire Management: (\$8.426M) decrease to align with approved federal funding for heavy equipment

BC Timber Sales - Roads: (\$5.421M) decrease to align with the Performance Targets and Resource Requirements submission

Ministry of Forests – Budget by Vote and Standard Object of Expense (STOB)

Restated 2024/25 to 2025/26

\$ 000s

		Vote 30 Ministry Operations		Vote 31 Fire Management		Special Accounts BCTS, FSMF		Ministry Total	
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB #	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates
Estimates - Vote									
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	153,221	156,867	87,836	92,071	28,398	31,139	269,455	280,077
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	1,073	1,073	4,247	4,247	197	208	5,517	5,528
Employee Benefits	52	38,971	39,871	22,310	23,386	7,213	7,910	68,494	71,167
Legislative Salaries and Allowances	54	118	60	-	-	-	-	118	60
Salaries and Benefits		193,383	197,871	114,393	119,704	35,808	39,257	343,584	356,832
Public Servant Travel	57	3,281	3,281	2,261	2,261	908	908	6,450	6,450
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59	6,417	6,417	1,000	1,000	550	850	7,967	8,267
Professional Services	60	55,824	55,824	47,967	47,967	62,762	82,164	166,553	185,955
Professional Services - Advisory	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Services	63	11,959	11,959	2,145	2,145	679	679	14,783	14,783
Office and Business Expenses	65	4,682	4,682	3,577	3,577	700	700	8,959	8,959
Advertising and Publications	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Notices, Annual Reports	68	21	21	149	149	20	20	190	190
Utilities, Materials & Vehicle Costs	69	6,593	6,600	14,789	14,789	1,134	1,134	22,516	22,523
Operating Equipment and Vehicles	70	8,619	8,619	55,360	55,360	1,901	1,901	65,880	65,880
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans & Other	72	27,843	27,843	-	-	-	-	27,843	27,843
Amortization	73	22,657	22,657	105	105	37,906	42,846	60,668	65,608
Building Occupancy Charges	75	965	965	-	-	100	50	1,065	1,015
Operating Costs		148,861	148,868	127,353	127,353	106,660	131,252	382,874	407,473
Transfer-Grants	77	11,537	11,537	5,000	2,920	400	400	16,937	14,857
Transfer - Entitlements	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Under Agrmt Inc Shared Costs	80	31,164	31,164	-	7,000	400	400	31,564	38,564
Government Transfers		42,701	42,701	5,000	9,920	800	800	48,501	53,421
Transfers Pymt--Votes/Special Accounts	81	29,880	29,880	-	-	11,906	11,906	41,786	41,786
Other Expenditures	85	18,930	18,930	62	62	79,674	87,839	98,666	106,831
Other Expenditures		48,810	48,810	62	62	91,580	99,745	140,452	148,617
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(10,106)	(10,106)	(1,800)	(1,800)	(29,880)	(29,880)	(41,786)	(41,786)
Recoveries Within Government	88	(6,668)	(6,668)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(6,670)	(6,670)
Internal Recoveries		(16,774)	(16,774)	(1,801)	(1,801)	(29,881)	(29,881)	(48,456)	(48,456)
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(1,188)	(1,188)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1,190)	(1,190)
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(7,704)	(7,704)	(12,270)	(17,190)	(1,025)	(1,025)	(20,999)	(25,919)
External Recoveries		(8,892)	(8,892)	(12,271)	(17,191)	(1,026)	(1,026)	(22,189)	(27,109)
TOTAL		408,089	412,584	232,736	238,047	203,941	240,147	844,766	890,778

		Vote 30 Ministry Operations		Vote 31 Fire Management		Special Accounts BCTS, FSMF		Ministry Total	
CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION	STOB #	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates
Buildings	A02A	27,150	26,875	2,000	2,000	-	-	29,150	28,875
Specialized Equipment	A03A	603	543	9,000	7,762	650	650	10,253	8,955
Office Furniture/Equipment	A05A	18	18	-	-	-	-	18	18
Vehicles	A06A	6,600	6,330	5,000	5,000	-	-	11,600	11,330
Information Technology	A07A	15	-	-	-	350	350	365	350
Roads	A11A	20,225	20,300	-	-	53,095	47,843	73,320	68,143
Land Improvements	A12A	837	837	-	-	-	-	837	837
TOTAL		55,448	54,903	16,000	14,762	54,095	48,843	125,543	118,508

Ministry of Forests – Budget by Core and Standard Object of Expense (STOB)

Restated 2024/25 to 2025/26
\$ 000s

		Forest Resiliency and Archaeology		Integrated Resource Operations		Office of the Chief Forester		Timber, Range and Economics		Fire Preparedness		Regional Operations		Executive & Support Services		Total - Ministry Operations	
STANDARD OBJECTS of EXPENSE (STOB)	STOB	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates
Estimates - Vote																	
Base Salaries and Overtime	50	2,765	2,856	18,236	18,673	23,363	23,923	7,843	8,031	24,992	25,592	67,293	68,912	8,729	8,880	153,221	156,867
Supplementary Salary Costs	51	9	9	89	89	178	178	44	44	9	9	701	701	43	43	1,073	1,073
Employee Benefits	52	703	726	4,632	4,744	5,934	6,076	1,991	2,039	6,348	6,500	17,092	17,504	2,271	2,282	38,971	39,871
Legislative Salaries & Allowances	54													118	60	118	60
Salaries and Benefits		3,477	3,591	22,957	23,506	29,475	30,177	9,878	10,114	31,349	32,101	85,086	87,117	11,161	11,265	193,383	197,871
Public Servant Travel	57	64	64	383	383	597	597	125	125	677	677	1,100	1,100	335	335	3,281	3,281
Centralized Mgmt. Support Services	59											95	95	6,322	6,322	6,417	6,417
Professional Services-Operating & Reg	60	7	7	1,332	1,332	39,124	39,124	1,167	1,167	1,234	1,234	11,052	11,052	1,908	1,908	55,824	55,824
Professional Services - Advisory	61															-	-
Information Systems-Operating	63	83	83	78	78	191	191	129	129	642	642	353	353	10,483	10,483	11,959	11,959
Office & Business Expenses	65	76	76	462	462	585	585	89	89	750	750	1,397	1,397	1,323	1,323	4,682	4,682
Info Advertising & Publications	67															-	-
Statutory Advertising & Publications	68					6	6			1	1	14	14			21	21
Utilities, Materials & Supplies	69			224	224	3,261	3,261	1	1	1,696	1,696	541	548	870	870	6,593	6,600
Operating Equipment Vehicles & Other	70			311	311	1,714	1,714	59	59	544	544	910	910	5,081	5,081	8,619	8,619
Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Trans	72			27,467	27,467	10	10					366	366			27,843	27,843
Amortization	73	150	150	5,614	5,614	19	19					407	407	16,467	16,467	22,657	22,657
Building Occupancy Charges	75					55	55	23	23	606	606	4	4	277	277	965	965
Operating Costs		380	380	35,871	35,871	45,562	45,562	1,593	1,593	6,150	6,150	16,239	16,246	43,066	43,066	148,861	148,868
Transfer-Grants	77			10	10	2,385	2,385			7,000	7,000	2,142	2,142			11,537	11,537
Transfer-Entitlements	79															-	-
Transfers - Shared Costs Arrangements	80					25,796	25,796	281	281	2,500	2,500	2,587	2,587			31,164	31,164
Government Transfers		-	-	10	10	28,181	28,181	281	281	9,500	9,500	4,729	4,729	-	-	42,701	42,701
Transfer Btwn Votes & Special Accounts	81					29,879	29,879							1	1	29,880	29,880
Other Expenditures	85	2	2	34	34	786	786	33	33	32	32	191	191	17,852	17,852	18,930	18,930
Other Expenditures		2	2	34	34	30,665	30,665	33	33	32	32	191	191	17,853	17,853	48,810	48,810
Recoveries--Votes/Special Accounts	86	(1)	(1)	(401)	(401)	(101)	(101)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1,503)	(1,503)	(8,098)	(8,098)	(10,106)	(10,106)
Recoveries Within Government	88	(87)	(87)	(1)	(1)	(362)	(362)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(535)	(535)	(5,681)	(5,681)	(6,668)	(6,668)
Internal Recoveries		(88)	(88)	(402)	(402)	(463)	(463)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2,038)	(2,038)	(13,779)	(13,779)	(16,774)	(16,774)
Recoveries External to Gov't (inside entity)	89	(3)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(752)	(752)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(429)	(429)	(1,188)	(1,188)
Recoveries External to Gov't (outside entity)	90	(78)	(78)	(1)	(1)	(2,375)	(2,375)	(1)	(1)	(36)	(36)	(5,212)	(5,212)	(1)	(1)	(7,704)	(7,704)
External Recoveries		(81)	(81)	(2)	(2)	(3,127)	(3,127)	(2)	(2)	(37)	(37)	(5,213)	(5,213)	(430)	(430)	(8,892)	(8,892)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		3,690	3,804	58,468	59,017	130,293	130,995	11,781	12,017	46,992	47,744	98,994	101,032	57,871	57,975	408,089	412,584

Ministry of Forests - Three Year STOB Track

Ministry Operations

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Estimates - Vote				s.13; s.17	
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	153,221	3,646	156,867		
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	1,073	-	1,073		
52 Employee Benefits	38,971	900	39,871		
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	118	(58)	60		
GAC subtotal	193,383	4,488	197,871		
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	3,281	-	3,281		
59 Centralized Management Support Services	6,417	-	6,417		
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	55,824	-	55,824		
61 Professional Services - Advisory		-	-		
63 Information Systems - Operating	11,959	-	11,959		
65 Office and Business Expenses	4,682	-	4,682		
67 Advertising	-	-	-		
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	21	-	21		
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	6,593	7	6,600		
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	8,619	-	8,619		
72 Roads Infrastructure-Forestry Transfers & Other	27,843	-	27,843		
73 Amortization Expenses	22,657	-	22,657		
75 Building Occupancy Charges	965	-	965		
GAC subtotal	148,861	7	148,868		
77 Transfers - Grants	11,537	-	11,537		
79 Transfers - Entitlements	-	-	-		
80 Transfers Under Agreement	31,164	-	31,164		
GAC subtotal	42,701	-	42,701		
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	29,880	-	29,880		
85 Other Expenses	18,930	-	18,930		
GAC subtotal	48,810	-	48,810		
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(10,106)	-	(10,106)		
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	(6,668)	-	(6,668)		
GAC subtotal	(16,774)	-	(16,774)		
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	(1,188)	-	(1,188)		
90 Recoveries - External	(7,704)	-	(7,704)		
GAC subtotal	(8,892)	-	(8,892)		
Total Voted Operating Expense	408,089	4,495	412,584		

Percent Change by year

1.10%

-

-

Change from 24/25 to 25/26: Net increase of \$4.495M for the Shared Recovery Mandate (\$4.659M) offset by reduction for the Minister of State (\$0.164M)

Ministry of Forests - Three Year STOB Track

Fire Management

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Estimates - Vote				s.13; s.17	
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	87,836	4,235	92,071		
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	4,247	-	4,247		
52 Employee Benefits	22,310	1,076	23,386		
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities		-			
GAC subtotal	114,393	5,311	119,704		
55 Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	-	-	-		
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	2,261	-	2,261		
59 Centralized Management Support Services	1,000	-	1,000		
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	47,967	-	47,967		
61 Professional Services - Advisory		-			
63 Information Systems - Operating	2,145	-	2,145		
65 Office and Business Expenses	3,577	-	3,577		
67 Advertising	-	-	-		
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	149	-	149		
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	14,789	-	14,789		
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	55,360	-	55,360		
73 Amortization Expenses	105	-	105		
75 Building Occupancy Charges	-	-	-		
GAC subtotal	127,353	-	127,353		
77 Transfers - Grants	5,000	(2,080)	2,920		
79 Transfers - Entitlements	-	-			
80 Transfers Under Agreement	-	7,000	7,000		
GAC subtotal	5,000	4,920	9,920		
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	-	-	-		
85 Other Expenses	62	-	62		
GAC subtotal	62	-	62		
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(1,800)	-	(1,800)		
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	(1)	-	(1)		
GAC subtotal	(1,801)	-	(1,801)		
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	(1)	-	(1)		
90 Recoveries - External	(12,270)	(4,920)	(17,190)		
GAC subtotal	(12,271)	(4,920)	(17,191)		
Total Voted Operating Expense	232,736	5,311	238,047		

Percent Change by year

2.3%

-

-

Change from 24/25 to 25/26: Net increase of \$5.311M for BC Wildfire Service Funding Request

Ministry of Forests - Three Year STOB Track

BC Timber Sales

\$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	Change	2026/27 Plan	Change	2027/28 Plan
Estimates - Vote					s.13; s.17		
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	28,398	2,741	31,139	1,426			
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	197	11	208	-			
52 Employee Benefits	7,213	697	7,910	362			
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	35,808	3,449	39,257	1,788			
55 Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	-	-	-	-			
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	876	-	876	-			
59 Centralized Management Support Services	550	300	850	-			
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	62,125	19,402	81,527	5,539			
61 Professional Services - Advisory	-	-	-	-			
63 Information Systems - Operating	679	-	679	-			
65 Office and Business Expenses	690	-	690	-			
67 Advertising	-	-	-	-			
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	20	-	20	-			
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	1,050	-	1,050	-			
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	1,890	-	1,890	-			
73 Amortization Expenses	37,906	4,940	42,846	1,920			
75 Building Occupancy Charges	100	(50)	50	-			
GAC subtotal	105,886	24,592	130,478	7,459			
77 Transfers - Grants	150	-	150	-			
79 Transfers - Entitlements	-	-	-	-			
80 Transfers Under Agreement	400	-	400	-			
GAC subtotal	550	-	550	-			
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	11,906	-	11,906	-			
85 Other Expenses	79,674	8,165	87,839	8,993			
GAC subtotal	91,580	8,165	99,745	8,993			
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	(29,880)	-	(29,880)	-			
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	(1)	-	(1)	-			
GAC subtotal	(29,881)	-	(29,881)	-			
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	(1)	-	(1)	-			
90 Recoveries - External	(1)	-	(1)	-			
GAC subtotal	(2)	-	(2)	-			
Total Voted Operating Expense	203,941	36,206	240,147	18,240			

Percent Change by year

17.8%

Change from 24/25 to 25/26: Net increase of \$36.206M to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements.

Change from 25/26 to 26/27: Net increase of \$18.240M to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements.

Change from 26/27 to 27/28: s.13; s.17 to align with Performance Targets and Resource Requirements.

Ministry of Forests - Three Year STOB Track
 Forest Stand Management Fund Special Account
 \$ 000s

STOB Expenses	2024/25 Restated	Change	2025/26 Estimates	Change	2026/27 Plan	Change	2027/28 Plan
Estimates - Vote					s.13; s.17		
50 Base Salaries and Overtime	-	-	-	-			
51 Supplementary Salary Costs	-	-	-	-			
52 Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-			
54 Legislative Salaries - Indemnities	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	-	-	-	-			
55 Boards, Commissions, Courts Fees	-	-	-	-			
57 Public Servant Travel Expenses	32	-	32	-			
59 Centralized Management Support Services	-	-	-	-			
60 Professional Services - Operational/Regulatory	637	-	637	-			
61 Professional Services - Advisory	-	-	-	-			
63 Information Systems - Operating	-	-	-	-			
65 Office and Business Expenses	10	-	10	-			
67 Advertising	-	-	-	-			
68 Statutory Advertising and Publications	-	-	-	-			
69 Utilities Materials and Supplies	84	-	84	-			
70 Operating Equip, Vehicles and Other Op Exp	11	-	11	-			
73 Amortization Expenses	-	-	-	-			
75 Building Occupancy Charges	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	774	-	774	-			
77 Transfers - Grants	250	-	250	-			
79 Transfers - Entitlements	-	-	-	-			
80 Transfers Under Agreement	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	250	-	250	-			
81 Trsf Pymt Between Votes, Special Accts & Funds	-	-	-	-			
85 Other Expenses	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	-	-	-	-			
86 Recoveries - Btwn Vote/Special Account	-	-	-	-			
88 Recoveries - Within CRF	-	-	-	-			
GAC subtotal	-	-	-	-			
89 Recoveries - Within GRE	-	-	-	-			
90 Recoveries - External	(1,024)	-	(1,024)	-			
GAC subtotal	(1,024)	-	(1,024)	-			
Total Voted Operating Expense	-	-	-	-			

Percent Change by year

-

-

-

Ministry of Forests - Revenue - Budget & Fiscal Plan (Table A9)
2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ millions

Revenue	2023/24 Actuals	Forecast 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Estimates 2027/28
Timber Tenures (net)	239	103	190	s.13; s.17	
BC Timber Sales	201	198	252		
Logging tax (1)	25	(30)	50		
Other Forest Revenues (2)	44	35	31		
Recoveries (3)	160	194	136		
Total - Forest Revenue	669	500	659		
Other Non-Forestry Revenue (4)		1	1		
Total - Other Revenue	-	1	1		
Total - FOR Revenue	669	501	660		

Notes:

A Forests (as per Ministry)	670	501	659
Rounding adjustment by Finance	-	-	-
Forests (per Table A9)	670	501	659

¹ Logging tax is determined by Ministry of Finance. MFIN revenue but included to reconcile to Forest Revenue as reported in Table A5 and A9 of the Budget and Fiscal Plan

² Includes timber export fees, range permits & fees, waste, penalties & interest, and other miscellaneous non-forestry revenues

³ Forest recoveries include forest sciences and wildfire prep recoveries. Also includes FCRSA recoveries to MIRR.

⁴ Other Non-Forestry Revenue excluded from Forest Revenue Table - allow values to align

⁵ Water resources, Wildlife Act fees and licences, Land tenure fees and Crown lands revenue

Ministry of Forests - Revenue Detail
2023/24 to 2027/28 (\$ thousands)

Revenue	Actuals 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28
Timber Tenures					
Stumpage (Incl. Timber Licences)	379,609	273,983	299,940	s.13; s.17	
FCSRA recoveries	(154,533)	(183,740)	(122,487)		
Harvesting Rental & Fees	13,980	13,000	13,000		
Sub-Total Timber Tenures	239,056	103,243	190,453		
BC Timber Sales					
Upset Stumpage	122,522	115,168	147,692		
Bonus Stumpage	72,531	76,778	98,461		
Harvesting Rental & Fees	0	0	0		
Waste	2,905	3,500	3,500		
Penalties	1,046	400	400		
Miscellaneous	2,194	2,000	2,000		
Foreign Exchange Gain/Loss	14	0	1		
Recovery of Prior Year's Expenses	8	0	1		
Miscellaneous - FIA	182	0	1		
Sub-Total - BC Timber Sales	201,402	197,846	252,056		
Other Forests Revenue					
Timber Export Fees	14,121	14,000	14,000		
Range Permits & Fees	2,808	2,600	2,600		
Waste	18,995	13,000	9,000		
Penalties	554	500	100		
Interest	6,636	4,000	4,000		
Miscellaneous	1,119	1,000	1,000		
Softwood Lumber Border Tax	0	0	0		
Subtotal - Other Forests Revenue	44,233	35,100	30,700		
Recoveries					
Forest Recoveries (Wildfire and OCF Forest Sciences)	5,908	10,624	13,599		
FCSRA Recoveries	154,533	183,740	122,487		
Subtotal - Recoveries	160,441	194,364	136,086		
Logging Tax					
Logging Tax	25,000	(30,000)	50,000		
Forest Revenue	670,132	500,553	659,295		
Fines and Penalties					
Water violations	0	0	0		
Other Miscellaneous Revenue					
Other Fees and Licences	143	2	2		
Foreign Exchange Gains/Losses	(77)	100	100		
Rentals - Sundry licences and permits	36	48	48		
Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act	312	365	365		
Subtotal - Other Miscellaneous Revenue	414	515	515		
Contributions from the federal government					
Low Carbon Emissions Leadership Fund (LCELF)	0	0	0		
Ministry Revenue reported under Other Revenue	414	515	515		
Total Ministry Revenue	670,546	501,068	659,810		

Notes:

1. Commissions, AFDA and prior yr's expense recoveries are not included
2. Ministry Revenue reported under Other Revenue is excluded from final Estimates table to fully align with Budget and Fiscal Plan

Ministry of Forests - Revenue Tables

2023/24 to 2027/28

\$ 000s

FORESTS REVENUE					
	2023/24 Actuals	2024/25 Revised Forecast	2025/26 Budget Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
Timber Tenures ¹	239	103	190	s.13; s.17	
BC Timber Sales	201	198	252		
Other Forest Revenues ²	44	35	31		
Logging tax ³	25	(30)	50		
Recoveries ⁴	160	194	136		
Forest Revenue (A9)	670	501	659		

FORESTS REVENUE					
	2023/24 Actuals	2024/25 Revised Forecast	2025/26 Budget Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
Timber Tenures ¹	239	103	190	s.13; s.17	
BC Timber Sales	201	198	252		
Other Forest Revenues ²	44	35	31		
Logging tax ³	25	(30)	50		
Recoveries ⁴	160	194	136		
Forest Revenue (A9)⁵	670	501	659		
Other Non-Forestry Revenue ⁶	-	1	1		
Total - FOR Revenue	670	501	660		

- 1 Timber Tenures includes stumpage revenue and annual rent revenue. Recoveries related to revenue sharing payments to Indigenous Peoples are deducted to provide net timber tenures revenue.
- 2 Other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) Revenue includes timber export fees, range permits and fees, waste, penalties, interest and other miscellaneous forestry receipts.
- 3 Logging tax is administered by the Ministry of Finance and applies to individuals or corporations that have income from logging operations on private or Crown land in BC.
- 4 Recoveries include log export recoveries and wildfire management recoveries. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) recoveries are also included.
- 5 Forest Revenue (A9) aligns with the Budget and Fiscal Plan
- 6 Other Non-Forestry revenues include other fees and licences and foreign exchange gains or losses and are reported elsewhere in the Budget and Fiscal Plan.

Table 12.2

Ministry of Forests - Summary of Grants
Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ 000s

Core Business (000's)	2024/25 Restated	2024/25 Actuals	2025/26 Estimates
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	-	-	-
Integrated Resource Operations	10	20	10
Federation of BC Woodlot Associations	-	10	
British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA)	-	10	
Office of the Chief Forester	2,385	208	2,385
University of British Columbia	-	208	
Timber, Range & Economics	-	-	-
Fire Preparedness	7,000	-	7,000
Regional Operations	2,142	6,020	2,142
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	-	6,000	-
Conference Sponsorship	-	20	-
Executive & Support Services	-	-	-
Fire Management	5,000	1,260	2,920
FP Innovations		1,260	
BC Timber Sales Special Account	150		150
Forest Stand Management Fund	250		250
Total - Ministry of Forests	16,937	7,508	14,857

Ministry of Forests - Summary of Shared Cost Arrangements

Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28

\$ 000s

Core Business (000's)	2024/25 Restated	2024/25 Actuals	2025/26 Estimates
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	-	-	-
Integrated Resource Operations	-	100	-
University of Northern British Columbia	-	100	
Office of the Chief Forester	25,796	21,773	25,796
Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia	-	20,000	-
Bioproduct Development and Research	-	1,165	-
Clean BC Indigenous Accelerator	-	420	-
University of British Columbia	-	118	-
The British Columbia Conservation Foundation	-	48	-
University of Victoria	-	17	-
Future Forest Ecosystems Centre (FFEC)	-	5	-
Timber, Range & Economics	281	-	281
Fire Preparedness	2,500	-	2,500
Regional Operations	2,587	457	2,587
Cariboo Habitat Restoration Fund	-	205	-
Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction	-	85	-
Lillooet Tribal Council	-	62	-
University of British Columbia	-	60	-
University of Northern British Columbia	-	45	-
Executive & Support Services	-	-	-
Fire Management	-	-	7,000
BC Timber Sales Special Account	400		400
Forest Stand Management Fund	-		-
Total - Ministry of Forests	31,564	22,330	38,564

Ministry of Forests - Recoveries by Core Business
Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ 000s

STOB	Explanation of Recovery	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology				s.13; s.17	
86	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
88	Recoveries from other ministries	(87)	(87)		
89	placeholder	(3)	(3)		
9003	Miscellaneous Recoveries	(76)	(76)		
9006	Forest Industry		(2)		
9011	Other Natural Resources	(2)			
Total - Forest Resiliency and Archaeology		(169)	(169)		
Integrated Resource Operations					
86	Engineering services to BC Timber Sales	(401)	(401)		
88	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	Miscellaneous Recoveries	(1)	(1)		
Total - Integrated Resource Operations		(404)	(404)		
Office of the Chief Forester					
86	Seed Sales/Services to BC Timber Sales	(101)	(101)		
88	Seed Sales/Services	(362)	(362)		
89	Plan image product fee collected by BC Online	(752)	(752)		
9003	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9006	Forest Industry	(2,374)	(2,374)		
9011		-			
Total - Office of the Chief Forester		(3,590)	(3,590)		
Timber, Range and Economics					
86	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
88	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
Total - Timber, Range and Economics		(4)	(4)		
Fire Preparedness					
86	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
88	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	Miscellaneous recoveries	(36)	(36)		
Total - Fire Preparedness		(39)	(39)		

Table 15

Ministry of Forests - Recoveries by Core Business
Restated 2024/25 to 2027/28
\$ 000s

STOB	Explanation of Recovery	2024/25 Restated	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Regional Operations				s.13; s.17	
86	Services agreements with BC Timber Sales	(1,503)	(1,503)		
88	Roads serving residences recoveries from MOTI and other recoveries from other ministries	(535)	(535)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	Various agreements for services to local districts and foundations	(2,239)	(2,239)		
9006	Forest Industry		(2,973)		
9011	Other Natural Resources	(2,973)			
Total - Regional Operations		(7,251)	(7,251)		
Executive and Support Services					
86	Services agreements with BC Timber Sales	(8,098)	(8,098)		
88	Services provided to ministries in the NRS	(5,681)	(5,681)		
89	Recoveries within the Government Reporting	(429)	(429)		
9003	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
Total - Executive and Support Services		(14,209)	(14,209)		
Fire Management					
86	Levy paid by BC Timber Sales (based on level of harvest)	(1,800)	(1,800)		
88	Levy paid by BC Timber Sales/placeholder	(1)	(1)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	Various external recoveries (out of province deployments)	(1,870)	(1,870)		
9004	Federal govt recoveries (out of province deployments)	(2,150)	(7,070)		
9006	Various external recoveries (annual rent from forest tenure holders)	(8,250)	(8,250)		
Total - Fire Management		(14,072)	(18,992)		
BC Timber Sales					
86	Work on behalf of FOR with offsetting STOB 81 expense under Office of the Chief Forester	(29,880)	(29,880)		
88	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
89	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
9003	placeholder	(1)	(1)		
Total - BC Timber Sales		(29,883)	(29,883)		
Forest Stand Management Fund					
9003	Recoveries from revenues that licensees have paid for work to be done on their behalf for environmental remediation levies	(1,024)	(1,024)		
Total - Forest Stand Management Fund		(1,024)	(1,024)		

Table 15

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Permitting/Authorizations Status and Performance Measures

Revised: February 27, 2025

Issue: Natural resource permitting and authorization performance impacting economic activity and growth.

Response:

- The efficient delivery of permitting services is essential to economic activity and growth in our province.
- As our population and economy has grown, so has the demand on permitting services.
- As we commit to reconciliation with First Nations, permitting can often be a point of conflict that has resulted in delays. We are working hard to build strategic agreements with First Nations on land management that get us out of the debate over operational permits.
- The Ministry approves an average of 10,700 permits each year.
- Ministry staff are working with our colleagues in the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, to continue streamlining permitting and authorization processes.

Background/Status:

- The Ministry is responsible for over 20 different authorization types. These include, but are not limited to, forests licences, cutting permits, private timber marks, road permits (Forests), heritage inspections, site alterations (Archaeology) and grazing licences (Range).
- On average¹, the Ministry:
 - Receives 11,303 authorizations each year.
 - Approves 10,729 authorizations each year.
 - Processes 95% of authorizations received per year².

¹ 5-year averages

² Authorizations processed may include applications received in previous years

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Challenges to timely processing of permits include:
 - Natural disturbance to the land base caused by events such as floods and wildfire;
 - Wildfire rehabilitation and recovery as the direct responsibility of district permitting staff;
 - Major policy initiatives including DRIPA legislation and deferrals of old growth forests;
 - Requests by licensees to hold permits.
- Cutting Permit (CP) development time varies by complexity but typically takes two years before permit submission. The process includes operational planning, professional assessments (e.g., archaeology, terrain, wildlife, fish streams), timber cruising, and harvest plans. Many companies share assessment data with First Nations through agreements. This is the licensee's responsibility, not the Ministry's.

s.13

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

s.13

Note: Data includes new submissions only.
TTAT: Target Turnaround Time

s.13

Contact:

Ingrid Brooker

Jamie Jeffreys

Associate Deputy
Minister's Office

Phone: 778-
362-4566

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) Permitting Delays
Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Archaeology Branch Capacity and HCA Permitting Timelines

Response:

- The Province takes its role in overseeing the protection and conservation of heritage resources through the administration of the *Heritage Conservation Act* seriously.
- I acknowledge that delays in archaeological permitting are impacting industry, local governments, First Nations, professional archaeologists, and others in B.C.
- As stated in my mandate letter, I am committed to the prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits required by industry while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- The Archaeology Branch is undertaking a thorough review of its permitting processes, and is already taking steps to reduce wait times, in alignment with the cross-government permitting work led by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- The Branch has also secured several new fee-for-service agreements which will allow for additional new resources to support permitting work in the 2025/26 fiscal year.
- Further, the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project continues to work with First Nations and stakeholders to explore amendments to the HCA and its administration to better meet the needs of all people in British Columbia.

Background/Status:

- The Archaeology Branch (the Branch) administers the HCA as it pertains to archaeological heritage resources. This includes issuing inspection and investigation permits to qualified archaeologists to identify and assess protected

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

archaeological sites, issuing alteration permits to developers and property owners to authorize alterations to known sites, maintaining the Provincial Heritage Register of over 62,000 archaeological sites, providing archaeological information to eligible parties to inform land use decisions, and developing related policy and process guidance.

○ s.13

- This operational workload continues to grow rapidly each year.
- Delays in issuing permits can result in development uncertainty, increased project timelines and costs, and can negatively impact the cultural safety of First Nations.

○ s.13

- The absence of a full complement of staff and work term uncertainty negatively impact the Branch's ability to meet permitting demands in a timely way.
- To enhance capacity and improve service delivery, the Branch is actively improving its systems and tools, streamlining business processes, and advancing organizational restructuring.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: Direct line
Katherine Cox	Jillian Rousselle	FRA	Government Financial Information

2025/26 TRE Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Honourable Ravi Parmar

Title: BC Timber Sales Performance

Revised: February 28, 2025

Issue: BCTS 2024-25 Performance Summary

Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 TRE Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Honourable Ravi Parmar

with approximately **20% - or 9 million cubic meters—of this target achieved through BCTS licences**. This ambitious goal reinforces the importance of BCTS' contributions to the province's forestry sector.

- As BCTS strives to meet these targets, we remain dedicated to upholding sustainable land management practices and fulfilling our commitments to old-growth protection.
- BCTS continues to acquire and sell incremental timber volumes through disposition agreements, which allows non-BCTS license holders to temporarily release timber harvesting rights to BCTS for auction in exchange for negotiated benefits.

BC Timber Sales Review

- A comprehensive review of BC Timber Sales is currently underway and is expected to be completed within six-months.
- The review aims to ensure that BCTS continues to align with government priorities and remains an effective mechanism for timber supply and market transparency. The process includes consultation with industry interest holders, First Nations, and community representatives.

BCTS Value-Added Manufacturing Program Expansion

- BCTS is expanding the Value-Added Manufacturing Program to support innovative forest product development and strengthen the economy by creating conditions for an innovative, diverse, and sustainable forest sector.
- **Performance Targets have doubled for Value-Added Timber Auctions:**
 - 2025/26: 1,150,000 m³

2025/26 TRE Estimates Note

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Honourable Ravi Parmar

- 2026/27: 1,270,000 m³
- 2027/28: 1,390,000 m³
- The expansion of the value-added manufacturing program will provide a dedicated fibre supply to the value-added sector, helping small- and medium-sized manufacturers produce specialty products. (See *BCTS Value-add Note*)
- Many value-added manufacturers rely on open-market fibre sourcing. BCTS auctions provide harvest opportunities for non-tenured or minimally tenured facilities.
- The Value-Added program supports the transition from a high-volume to a high-value forest sector, maximizing the economic potential of B.C.'s forests.

Background/Status:

- BCTS continues to play a critical role in the forest sector and the economies of rural communities. Each year, on average, BCTS continues to contribute to over 4,000 well-paying jobs across British Columbia.
- Since inception in 2003, BCTS has:
 - Sold over 238 million cubic metres of timber into the forest economy through competitive auctions.
 - Grown over 1.1 billion trees for planting to support future forests.
 - Earned about \$1.9 billion in net revenue for the province, the majority of which supported other government priorities such as education, health, parks and recreation.
- BCTS is held publicly accountable through quarterly and annual reports. Treasury Board requires these same business plan achievements and also holds BCTS accountable for achieving the requirements of the Forest Acts 109.
- BCTS is projecting a steady increase in net revenue for 2025/26 and beyond. The rates paid for timber harvested are not likely to maintain their level over the next year due to tariff uncertainty in the US export market; however, the amount of timber volume harvested is expected to regain some strength which posed to offset some of the negative impacts on potentially suppressed rates.

2025/26 TRE Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Honourable Ravi Parmar

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- In 2024/25 BCTS is projected to only auction about 14% of the provincial harvest level.

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Allan Powelson	Melissa Sanderson	BCTS -TRE	778 974-5667

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: BCTS Review
Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: BCTS Review: Taking Action to Evolve BCTS: Shaping BC's Forestry Future

Response:

- On January 15, 2025, the Minister of Forests announced a review of BCTS.
- BCTS manages roughly 20% of the province's public timber supply.
- BCTS has an integral role in the success and resiliency of British Columbia's forestry sector.
- The intent of the review is to ensure that the BCTS model is responsive to the new realities of the industry and the need for a strong connection between our forests and sustainable jobs for British Columbians for generations to come.
- The review will be led by the Ministry of Forests with support from the newly formed expert task force consisting of George Abbott, Lenny Joe and Brian Frenkel.

Background/Status:

- The BC government has launched a review of BC Timber Sales (BCTS) to ensure BC's forestry sector is continually evolving to overcome challenges and create a guideline for a stronger, more resilient future.
- BCTS was formed over 20 years ago.
- Periodic reviews are a valuable tool to ensure BCTS is evolving in an ever-changing marketplace while meeting its mandate commitments.
 - Past reviews in 2006 and 2015 provided recommendations which resulted in substantial change that improved performance and revenue potential.
- This review is a positive step toward strengthening operations and ensuring BCTS continues to meet the evolving needs of the forest industry.
- BCTS generates economic prosperity for British Columbians through the safe, sustainable development and auction of public timber.
- BCTS operates in 33 communities and directly supports over 8,000 jobs across BC.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- An evolved BCTS will lay the groundwork for a forestry sector that focuses on the needs of communities, workers and First Nations.
- The review is being initiated because the forest sector is under significant pressure from declining allowable annual cuts, difficulty accessing fibre, global economic conditions and heightened environmental and trade-protection efforts.
- The Council of Forest Industries, Interior Loggers Association and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs have also called for a review of BCTS.
- Goals of the BCTS review:
 - Create forestry-sector growth, competition and diversification.
 - Provide predictable and reliable market access to fibre.
 - Diversify access to fibre for the manufacturing sector, including value-added facilities.
 - Strengthen partnerships with First Nations and communities.
 - Provide more jobs for contractors, workers and communities.
 - Lead in innovative, sustainable forest management and silviculture practices.
 - Generate profit for the province and its partners.
- Recommended actions/changes can include legislative, regulatory, policy and/or BCTS construct changes.
- The review will be supported by a task force, consisting of George Abbott, Lenny Joe and Brian Frenkel.
- Work began on the review on January 15, 2025 and the review is expected to take 6 months.
- When the review was announced, the Minister of Forests also announced:
 - Doubling the amount of BCTS volume that is dedicated to value-added manufacturers, from 10% to 20% (approx. 1.1 cubic meters in 2025).
 - Changing the criteria for the Value-Added Manufacturing program to enable groups of untenured manufacturers to bid together within the program.
- The BCTS Review is identified in the minister's mandate letter as a priority for the ministry.
- The BCTS Review will evolve BCTS to advance this vision and create the hosting conditions that will lead the entire forest sector to grow, in a way that benefits all British Columbians.

Contact:

Jennifer Kardynal Melissa Sanderson TRE

250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: BC Timber Sales Unused Volume Status

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: BCTS Unused Volume Status

Response:

Advice/Recommendations

Background/Status:

- BCTS is not governed by cut control provisions of the *Forest Act*.
- Under certain circumstances BCTS volume apportionment can remain un-auctioned or un-harvested due to reasons such as:
 - Economics (lack of market).
 - Reduction of Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) not yet reflected in apportionment.
 - Imposition of harvesting constraints to protect other resource values.
 - Lack of access due to First Nations concerns.
- Until 2018, government policy had not provided mechanisms for reconciliation or retirement of un-auctioned or un-harvested BCTS volume apportionment, thus, a significant amount of unused BCTS volume has accumulated.
- Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- In 2024/25 BCTS retired 0.2M m³ (TFL 38) and is planning on retiring another 1.2M m³ (Kispiox TSA) in 2025/26.
- Sixty-seven percent (i.e., 32.8 million m³) of current unused BCTS volume has accumulated in ten Timber Supply Areas (TSAs)¹.
- The accumulation of unused volume relates primarily to:
 - Historic Mountain Pine Beetle AAC uplifts that could not be fully attained.
 - Remote/depressed markets (e.g., North Coast).
 - Apportionment decisions delayed following Chief Forester AAC reductions.
 - Impacts from deferrals related to the of the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel polygons.
- BCTS amended (2020) its policy to clarify and streamline the process for retiring unused BCTS volume.
- The process for retirement of BCTS unused volume is aligned with the ministry policy for retirement of non-BCTS unused apportioned volume.
- BCTS is participating in the implementation of the approved (2018) provincial policy that provides guidance on the management of unused volume.
- Initiatives to retire BCTS unused volume are underway in several TSAs.
- BCTS has retired 13.7 million m³ of unused volume since 2018.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Allan Powelson	Melissa Sanderson	BCTS -TRE	25-812-7253

¹ Prince George TSA, Williams Lake TSA, Fort St. John TSA, Kamloops TSA, Dawson Creek TSA, Nass TSA, Kispiox TSA, Fort Nelson TSA, GBR North TSA, Robson Valley TSA.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: BC Timber Sales Volume on Haida Gwaii

Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: The Relationship Between the Haida Nation (CHN) and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and impacts to BCTS auctions on Haida Gwaii (HG)

Response:

- On February 6, 2024, the CHN and BCTS renewed the commitment to:
 - enhance collaborative efforts to address strategic and operational concerns with respect to forest development; and
 - advance Haida Title through the development of an interim BCTS forest strategy in addition to supporting local participation in the forest economy (Timber Sale Licences {TSLs} development, auction and contracting opportunities).
- BCTS is currently moving smaller sized auctions forward in the interest of these commitments, including supporting the local forest economy.
- BCTS will continue to try and engage the CHN on BCTS auctions and land stewardship in general.

Background/Status:

- Intergovernmental Communications
- In 2017, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation requested that BCTS stop auctioning TSLs for six months to provide the province and CHN the space required to advance reconciliation discussions.
- In May 2019, the Reconciliation Table (RT) provided direction to the Solutions Table to cease implementing CHN House of Assembly resolutions and other political directives without written direction from the RT.
- The GayGahlda 'Changing Tide' Framework Agreement was signed in August 2021, and provides a framework for BC and the CHN to negotiate further agreements leading to Haida Title. The framework includes a commitment to not unduly impact HG's economy by implementing the Changing Tide Framework.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Intergovernmental Communications

-
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Interests of an Indigenous People

- BCTS auctioned two sales in 2021 that provided local employment in the forest sector and supported the Market Pricing System to ensure accurate pricing of timber on the islands.
- Following the auction of the two sales in 2021, BCTS spent significant effort to enhance relationships with Haida and non-Haida communities, including: multiple face to face meetings with the Haida Natural Resource Division, Old Masset, Skidegate and Daajing Giids and Port Clements Mayor and Councils.
- Through this community engagement, BCTS heard from the locals that they want to see BCTS better supporting their communities through the issuance of smaller sales geared toward small local mills.
- In March 2023, BCTS and the CHN agreed on the small block approach.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- On February 6, 2024, BCTS met with Haida executive and renewed the commitment to address strategic and operational forest development matters including the potential to advance the three small blocks.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- BCTS will continue to try to work with the Haida and communities to ensure the BCTS program better aligns with expectations.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: Direct line
Stacey Gould Sarah Fraser/Melissa Sanderson	WCR		778.704.7097

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Anahim Lake Connector

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Status of the Anahim Lake Connector Road.

Response:

- FOR and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District (the district) have worked closely with Ulkatcho on the proposed Anahim Connector Road (the connector), and we look forward to continuing this partnership.
- Ulkatcho and the district have completed all planning aspects for the connector and all tasks are identified in the project charter, with the exceptions of a completed Caribou and Wildlife Mitigation Strategy (the mitigation strategy) and consultation with First Nations. These steps must be completed prior to a statutory decision for this proposed project.
- While the mitigation strategy remains the responsibility of WLRS, consultation for this file is the responsibility of FOR.
 - FOR cannot respond to comments received during consultation on behalf of Ulkatcho and we require the community's participation to complete this process.
- I would also like to acknowledge the close working relationship between Ulkatcho and the district and applaud Ulkatcho on the proactive and exceptional efforts to offset any potential future impacts that may result from construction of the connector.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- Ulkatcho requested the connector road as egress in 2003, and emphatically since the 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2023 wildfires near their community.
 - The proposed road will bisect two significant caribou migration routes of the Itcha-Ilgachuz, Rainbow, and Tweedsmuir caribou meta-populations, with further expected impacts to moose and grizzly populations.
 - On February 8, 2022, ^{Personal Information} , Associate Deputy Minister, FOR, confirmed approval to develop the Anahim road corridor and the mitigation strategy.
 - The signed project charter identifies wildlife staff from the former Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Development, which are now WLRS to complete the mitigation strategy.
 - In the interim of WLRS completing a mitigation strategy, the district and JEDI, have contributed roughly ^{Government} for ongoing road rehabilitation and habitat restoration as initial offsets for potential impacts to caribou.
 - Ulkatcho is also contributing 20% of its own source revenue from forestry for this purpose and has secured additional funding from the 2 Billion Tree Program.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

•

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Harold Stolar	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	Government Financial Information
District Manager			
Williams Lake			

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Blueberry River First Nations and Other Treaty 8 Agreements.
Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Overview of Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN) Implementation Agreement and other agreements with Treaty 8 Nations

Response:

- The BRFN Implementation Agreement and other agreements represent significant commitments to work collaboratively with Treaty 8 Nations to mitigate the cumulative impacts from resource development on the exercise of Treaty rights, restore ecosystems, enhance stewardship, and develop land-use plans.
- As Minister of Forests, I support collaboration between the Province and Treaty 8 Nations in the work of balancing cumulative effects management, the meaningful exercise of treaty rights, and a sustainable regional economy.
- My Ministry has an important role to play in supporting a sustainable regional economy by encouraging Treaty 8 Nations' participation in the forestry sector through tenure, forestry planning, wildfire recovery, and aspects of the sector supply chain that supports economic reconciliation.

If asked about permitting:

- I am encouraged by the commitments made in these agreements and my Ministry and First Nations have been collaborating on moving permits forward.
 - As part of the agreements, the parties agreed on approaches to discuss ongoing natural resource activities while land-use planning and a cumulative effects framework is instituted.
 - More collaborative work on planning and permitting is needed, but I am confident that a balanced and shared

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

solution will be reached and provide the long-term stability needed for the forest sector.

Background/Status:

- The 2021 *Yahey v. British Columbia* (BCSC 1287) decision found that the Province infringed on Blueberry River First Nations' treaty rights due to the cumulative impacts of industrial development.
- In response to this decision, the Province entered into the BRFN Implementation Agreement and signed seven individual Letters of Agreement with Treaty 8 Nations (Doig River, Fort Nelson, Halfway River, Prophet River, Saulteau, West Moberly First Nations and McLeod Lake Indian Band) based on the Consensus Document.
- The Implementation Agreement and Consensus Document reflect significant financial commitments to cumulative effects management, restoration efforts and revenue-sharing benefits including:
Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- A key commitment of the Implementation Agreement and the Consensus Document was to issue legally effective direction to decision makers to consider cumulative effects. This led to the Cumulative Impacts Legal Order (Order in Council 255/2024) which came into effect September 1, 2024. The Order is effective until the end of December 2026 and applies only in the Northeast region.
- There will be a significant drop in Allowable Annual Cut levels in the Northeast due to cumulative effects management, conservation and Treaty rights agreements, wildfires, and caribou herd planning. The result is that efforts to manage for cumulative impacts in a complex resource development environment will substantially reduce the region's available fibre supply.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250 893-7516
Karrilyn Vince	RED	Northeast Region	Phone: 778-576-8912

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Carrier Sekani First Nations Pathways Forward Agreement
Revised: April 7, 2025

Issue: Carrier Sekani First Nations Negotiations, including Pathways Forward Agreement

Response:

- Reconciliation with First Nations is integral to creating a resilient and strong forest economy.
- The Province continues to work with CSFNs via a recently signed agreement to explore ways to create further predictability in the forest sector.
- The signing of the new agreement creates opportunities for the Government to engage a variety of topics and Ministries, including on issues related to the forest industry.
- The Province's investment in a new agreement with the Carrier Sekani First Nations (CSFN) intends to assist in the navigation of complex issues.
- CSFNs are now significant forestry tenure holders through previous agreements. We look forward to their success in realizing that volume to support the forest industry.

Background/Status:

- The Province negotiated with CSFN (Tl'azt'en Nation, Takla Nation, Nak'azdli Whut'en, Stelat'en First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en, Saik'uz First Nation and Tsil Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band), to renew the Pathways agreement from January to March 2025, resulting in the signing of a new agreement on March 31, 2025.
- In 2021, the Minister's apportionment and disposition decisions provided CSFN with 877,406 m³/yr in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.
 - This volume has been offered as a key first step in a comprehensive approach to addressing CSFN rights and title in forestry.
 - CSFNs have only harvested approximately 85,000m³ under all licenses

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The Ministry of Forests received agreement from major licensees in the area for significant short-term deferrals with the intent to set the space while working toward broader landuse and forest landscape planning.
 - Government is presently revisiting this commitment.
- CSFN and BC Timber Sales have signed a Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) that establishes a CSFN-led process to develop up to 652,000 m³ of timber sales licences in late 2024.
 - Advice/Recommendations
- Declining timber supplies and mill rationalization may continue along the Highway 16 corridor. 2024 saw the closure announcement of West Fraser's Fraser Lake Sawmills, Canfor's Plateau Mill, and Canfor's Houston Mill (that retooling and reinvestment will not go ahead), among others.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Lori Borth	RED	Omineca Region	Phone: 250-570-9442

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Revenue Sharing with First Nations.

Revised: 2025-02-21

Issue: Overview of forestry revenue sharing program and trends

Response:

- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
-
- After several years of strong revenue generation in the forest sector, conditions have shifted. Forest revenues are declining, driven by industry conditions and reduced harvest rates.
- These declines will impact FCRSA payments starting next fiscal year and into the years ahead.
- We recognize the critical role forestry revenue sharing plays to First Nation governments and understand the challenges posed by declining payments. The Province is committed to working in partnership with First Nations to navigate these shifts.
- Looking ahead, advancing a new fiscal framework will need to reflect the evolving fiscal context and the shared goals of achieving certainty and supporting economic development and job creation.

Background/Status:

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- **Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA)** serve as accommodation for the impacts of forestry activities within First Nations' traditional territories.
 - Intergovernmental Communications
 - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- **Stumpage revenues** peaked in FY22 and FY23 due to strong market conditions but have declined since late 2022.
- In 2022, **FCRSA revenue-sharing percentages increased significantly** as part of BC's commitment to developing a new fiscal framework and forest revenue-sharing program. With high market conditions at the time, payments reached record levels, raising First Nations' expectations for future revenue-sharing.
- **FCRSA payments are calculated using a two-year average of stumpage revenues, with a one-year lag.** As a result, the first major decline in payments will be reflected in **FY25/26**.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Contact:

Joanne Ranson
Director

Ian Meier
Associate DM

Indigenous Relations
Branch

Phone:

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: First Nations Tenure
Revised: February 21, 2023

Issue: Current status of First Nation-held tenure and business-to-business transfer dynamics.

Response:

- Reconciliation includes supporting opportunities for First Nations to get involved in the forest sector so that everyone can benefit from a strong and stable economy.
- By supporting First Nations participation and business partnerships, we can ensure the sector becomes more diverse and benefits our communities.
- First Nations, communities, businesses and the public are all engaged during tenure transfers, so that transfer decisions consider all interests.

Background/Status:

- As of February 2025, First Nations hold tenures representing approximately 19.6% of the provincial Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), with 14% issued in replaceable tenures.
- This reflects substantive progress toward the 2021 Intentions Paper goal of doubling the percentage of First Nations held replaceable tenure from 10% to 20%.
- The proportion of First Nations-held tenure is expected to continue to increase significantly due to ongoing tenure transfers and direct award volume.
- **On business to business (B2B) purchase:**
 - A shrinking AAC and reduced fibre availability are making tenure acquisition increasingly complex.
 - Tenure transfers from major licensees to First Nations-owned businesses are occurring at a faster rate than anticipated, with a growing number of First Nations requesting to transition volume-based tenures into area-based tenures.
 - Fibre supply arrangements between major licencees and First Nations forestry businesses are a key element of B2B arrangements provincially.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- **On area based tenure interest:**
 - Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreements (FTOAs) provide a direct award mechanism for First Nations and are primarily delivered via First Nations Woodland Licences (FNWL).
 - Declining timber supply and differential pricing structures between FNWLs and Community Forest Agreements (CFA) have made delivering new First Nations opportunities increasingly challenging.
 - B2B tenure acquisitions can create consultation and management complexities in areas of shared First Nations territories. Statutory decision-makers must balance competing interests when one Nation opposes another Nation's proposed activities within the same area.
- **On financial support:**
 - FOR provides limited financial support for tenure acquisition through the Strategic Forestry Envelope. Since 2022, \$9.5 million has been allocated (or is in the process of being provided) to support First Nations in purchasing tenure.
 - In 2022, BC more than doubled forestry revenue sharing and messaged these funds could be directed toward tenure purchase. ^{Advice/Recommendation}
Advice/Recommendations
 - *Forest Act* amendments (2023) introduced the 'special purpose area' tool, enabling tenure redistribution and compensation. Financial mandates are required for its implementation, and to date it has not been utilized.

Contact:

Joanne Ranson
Director
Indigenous
Relations
Branch

Ian Meier,
Assoc DM

Associate DMO

Phone:

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: First Nations Community Roads – Budget 2024/25 Uplift

Issue: First Nations Community Roads – Budget 2024/25 Uplift

Response:

- Budget 2024/25 provided the Ministry of Forests increased road maintenance and capital upgrade funding which is already improving 5 key Forest Service Roads that access 10 First Nations communities, making them safer for community members, ambulances, service vehicles and school buses.
- Budget 2024/25 also provided the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation with \$12M in one time funding that it allocated to the FNs to support capacity building, equipment acquisition and training.
- Significant progress has been made this year in the delivery of the entire \$3.2M for road maintenance and \$5.5M for capital upgrades in the two North Area districts and three Coast Area districts.
- Several Nations have used the capacity funding and been involved in the delivery of the road improvements including: Takla, Tl'azt'en, Yekoochee and Douglas First Nation.

Background/Status:

- The FOR road maintenance budget increased by \$3.2M totalling an amount of \$9.6M over the three-year fiscal plan.
- The FOR base capital budget increased by \$5.5M, totalling an amount of \$16.5M over the three-year fiscal plan.
- The 5 FSRs (totalling 443 km) were chosen based on these criteria:
 - Important access route to a major (over 25 members) FN community
 - Extensive FN community traffic often including school buses and ambulances

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Ranked as a high priority in need of better year-round access
- FNs have a strong desire to have their access improved and a willingness to participate in the delivery of these road improvements.
- The majority of roads leading to remote FNs communities are FSRs. There are 1,100km of FSRs leading to FN communities in B.C.

First Nation(s)	FSR(s)	Length (km)	Annual operating funding (\$M)	Annual capital funding (\$M)
Takla FN, TL'azt'en FN, Nak'azdli FN, Binche Whut'en FN	Leo/Driftwood FSR	210	\$1.0	\$1.5
Yekooche FN	Cunningham FSR	66	\$0.5	\$1.0
Uchucklesaht FN	Canal Main FSR/Road Permit segment*	57	\$0.5	\$1.5
Toquaht FN	Maggie Lake FSR	12	\$0.2	\$0.5
Douglas FN, Skatin FN, Samahquam FN	In-SHUCK-ch FSR	98	\$1.0	\$1.0
Total		443 km	\$3.2 M	\$5.5 M

- Engagement with the 10 First Nations:
 - Some FNs currently do not have the capacity to get involved in the delivery and are just interested in the improvements to their roads for their community.
 - Staff continue to seek opportunities for direct awards and promote FNs bidding on other opportunities supported by the funding.
 - Much of the funding in the initial year on the Coast has been used to acquire bridges, culverts and survey work to be prepared for the 25/26 fiscal year.
 - There have been challenges where FSRs go through a FN's territory, but they do not use the road to access their community, so were not contemplated in the funding allocation.

Contact:

Name:
Peter Wyatt

ADM:
Matt Austin

Division:
IROD

Phone:
Government Financial
Information

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Gitanyow Title Litigation

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Despite efforts to place Title Litigation into abeyance, the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs are advancing an Aboriginal Title claim through the courts in 2025.

Response:

- The Ministry of Forests is committed to continue working with Gitanyow in the interim to advance it's Aboriginal Interests including advancing the implementation of portions of the Gitanyow Huwilp Reconciliation and Recognition Agreement.
- The Ministry of the Attorney General is the appropriate ministry to comment on questions related to the ongoing Aboriginal Title litigation.

Background/Status:

- The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs are advancing litigation to seek a declaration of Aboriginal Title across the entirety of their asserted traditional territory. The litigation, *Malii v. British Columbia*, was first initiated in 2003, however, it did not significantly advance until 2016. The first phase of the trial is scheduled to be heard beginning May 5, 2025.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information
-
-
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

s.13; s.16
○

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Jevan Hanchard	RED	Skeena Region	Phone: 250-877-9109

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forestry issues related to the implementation of Haida Title

Revised: February 21, 2023

Issue: Continuity of a forest economy during title implementation is a primary interest to Haida and non-Haida residents on Haida Gwaii.

Response:

- The Province of BC is proud to have a formal path forward to recognize Haida Title on Haida Gwaii.
- The “Rising Tide” Haida Title Land Agreement (HTLA) is the mechanism by which we will work with the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) to reconcile BC and Haida jurisdictions over the lands of Haida Gwaii in a good way.
- Both BC and CHN were very careful in the design of the agreement to not affect private property interests or local and municipal governments on Haida Gwaii.
- The parties have begun a transition period to implement the agreement, at a pace that provides for stability for all island residents and other interest holders on Haida Gwaii.
- In the interim, decisions will remain under provincial jurisdiction, guided by Government to Government agreements.
- Forestry is a key economic driver on Haida Gwaii and supports BC and Haida employment as well as much of its infrastructure, key services and road networks.
- The Province and CHN are working to ensure that the forestry industry continues in a way that meets the needs of BC and CHN, and the residents of Haida Gwaii.

Background/Status:

- In July 2024, provincial legislation gave statutory authority to the *Gaayhlxid/Giihlagalgang* “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands Agreement (HTLA), negotiated between CHN and BC.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The HTLA does not provide for the immediate implementation of CHN jurisdiction.
 - The terms of full jurisdictional transition remain to be negotiated, and it is a process that will be led by agreement between BC and CHN and will initially focus on forestry, fishing lodges and Protected Areas.
 - Advancing CHN's interests in forestry will require significant policy and mandate decisions by government as well as financial support.
 - Intergovernmental Communications
-
- Haida Gwaii has an Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 796,483 m³. Over the past five years, the average actual harvest levels are ~50% of that AAC.
 - CHN's own forestry company holds tenures that account for approximately half of the AAC and harvested volume on Haida Gwaii. The remaining volume is held by two private licensees, BC Timber Sales, a provision for a Community Forest, and several small tenure holders (woodlots etc.).
 - BC negotiators are working with CHN to develop an Interim Forestry plan to bring to government for approval.
 - The Interim Forestry plan will address BC interests in continuity of employment in forestry, and be integrated with other financial matters associated with resolution of the ongoing litigation.
 - On February 17, 2025, the Government of Canada and CHN announced the signing of the *Chiixuujin / Chaaw Kaawgaa "Big Tide (Low Water)" Haida Title Lands Agreement*.
 - Canada's agreement with CHN is similar to the HTLA, and includes Canada's recognition of Haida Aboriginal title to lands and waters on Haida Gwaii that extend to the foreshore and the low-water mark.

Contact:

Jessica Coster

A/ADM

Division

Coast Area - Regional
Operations Division

Phone:

250 739-8180

Page 095 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Intergovernmental Communications ; Security Concern

Page 096 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications ; Legal Information ; Security Concern

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Treaty Land Entitlement in Northeast BC.
Revised: February 20, 2025

Issue: Transfer of Treaty Land Entitlement lands to Treaty 8 Nations represents a positive development with the Province but has some impact on the Allowable Annual Cut in the Region.

Response:

- The transfer of Treaty Land Entitlement lands is led by Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- The Ministry of Forests fully supports the transfer of Crown land to Treaty 8 Nations as part of the Treaty Land Entitlement process and is committed to the fair and effective transfer of lands to First Nations.
- Treaty Land Entitlement lands offer a unique opportunity for Treaty 8 Nations to support social, cultural, and economic opportunities for their communities and has downstream benefits to all communities in Northeast BC.

Background/Status:

- In 1914, a census error resulted in an incorrect allotment of Federal Indian Reserve lands under Treaty 8 to five Nations (Halfway River, West Moberly, Doig River, Blueberry River, and Saulteau) (Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations). This shortfall of reserve lands resulted in a specific claim against Treaty 8.
- The Provincial cabinet approved a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) mandate transferring a shortfall quantum (7,625 ha shortfall lands) of Crown land to Federal Indian Reserve and provides an opportunity for First Nations to acquire an additional quantum (35,689 ha additional lands) of Crown land.
- The Crown land will be transferred over 10 years through either transfer to fee simple land to the Nation or transfer to Canada for addition to reserve.
- Two TLE fee simple parcels transferred completed to date:
 - West Moberly First Nations Summit Lake 5 fee simple parcel
 - West Moberly First Nations Summit Lake 1 fee simple parcel
- BC has completed all provincial steps for the following TLE parcels that will become reserve. The Province is currently waiting for Canada Ministerial Order to accept the parcel and complete the transfer:

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- West Moberly First Nations Moberly Lake South Shore (Addition to Reserve Lands)
- Blueberry River First Nations Charlie Lake 1 & 2 (Shortfall parcels)
- Halfway River First Nation Tsaa Nuna 3 (Shortfall parcels)
- While some parcels have proven controversial in certain communities, some Treaty 8 First Nations and local governments came together as a Community Leaders Group and have strongly supported the timely resolution of TLE claims.
- Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch has assessed the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) contribution of each land parcel currently identified by the First Nations and found 0% AAC impact in the Dawson Creek TSA and 0.6% AAC impact in the Fort St. John TSA. However, not all parcels have been identified, and impacts to AAC are additive to other conservation and cumulative effects measures affecting the two TSAs.
- Future parcels may have further impacts to AAC or range tenures and will be managed to reduce compensation exposure.
- TLE specific claims are not uncommon and have been settled in Alberta and Saskatchewan providing precedent for how TLE can be resolved.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250 893-7516
Karrilyn Vince	RED	Northeast Region	Phone: 778-576-8912

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Atlantic Power Williams Lake
Revised: March 31, 2025

Issue: Atlantic Power rescinds termination for its Electricity Purchase Agreement.

Response:

- The province is pleased that the BC Hydro and Atlantic Power Williams Lake (ALWL) have reached an agreement.
- This will preserve jobs and tax base important to the town of Williams Lake.
- Concerns continue for the supply of biomass fuel as the United States considers further tariff measures that may impact the BC forest sector.
- Since 2018, the government of BC has worked on a number of initiatives to improve utilization of residual fibre:
 - New Waste Survey System which includes reduced requirements for surveys when fibre is sent to secondary fibre users like Atlantic Power.
 - Alternative Methods of Scaling, known as “CRHS” (Concurrent Residual Harvest System) pricing, to simplify the process for licensees to send fibre to secondary facilities (thus reducing barriers).
 - Fund FESBC utilization efforts.
 - District Manager has the authority to issue “Do Not Damage” orders on piles where a secondary user expresses interest in salvaging them.
 - Significant effort has gone into wildfire salvage policy to ensure opportunities are available for secondaries.
 - BCTS can include “pile nicely” clause in Timber Sale Licenses in areas able to support Atlantic Power fibre access.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background:

- On January 16, 2024, Atlantic Power Williams Lake provided BC Hydro with a 12-month notice of termination as permitted under its 10-year Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) of its Northwest Energy facility (the Facility), located in Williams Lake, BC. Business Information
Business Information
- A cross-government working group was assembled in June 2024 to work with APWL to explore sustainable solutions for the continued operations at the Facility.
- On February 15, 2025, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, Adrian Dix, sent a letter to the City of Williams Lake informing Mayor Surinderpal Rathor that he has asked BC Hydro to determine whether the plant owners can operate the Facility in a manner that would ensure it can meet its next four years of contractual obligations.
- BC Hydro currently has a need for energy and the Facility can potentially provide energy and capacity during critical winter months, when BC Hydro needs it the most. BC Hydro entered discussions with APWL to explore contractual mechanisms to address the challenges faced by the Facility and BC Hydro's desire to ensure energy delivery from the facility to the end of the contract term.
- BC Hydro believes that its amended agreement with with APWL will provide benefits to the Williams Lake community, preserve a reliable source of energy for BC Hydro's customers, and potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions.
- On March 6, 2025, APWL rescinded its termination notice for the Facility EPA. As an outcome of the efforts of the cross-ministry working group, APWL has made the decision to continue operations Business Information
Business Information

Contact:

Name
Harold Stolar
District Manager

ADM
Jamie Jeffreys

Division
South Area

Phone:
Government Financial
Information

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Aspen Planers

Revised: February 20, 2025

Issue: Potential Closure of Aspen Planers (AP) Interior Operations due to Lack of Approved Cutting Permits

Response:

- FOR values the contributions AP makes to BC, and the jobs provided and is aware of the social and economic impacts this has on our local and surrounding communities. BC is committed to working in partnership with First Nations (FN) peoples.
- Forestry operations are becoming increasingly complex due to a constrained landbase (including cultural survival areas, old growth and wildfire impacts).
- Local FN communities have concerns around current land management practices and consultation process. AP and local staff are meeting with FNs to understand and address these concerns.
- FOR is working with local FN communities on a Forest Landscape Plan and Timber Supply Review.
- Although AP holds some approved cutting permits and BC Timber Sales Licenses they require more to provide a greater degree of fibre certainty to their operations.
- There are five AP cutting permits currently that have been submitted that BC is consulting on. District staff are prioritizing this work.
- Cascades District meets their 40 day target turn-around on cutting permits 85% of the time.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- AP is the only sawmill in the City of Merritt. Running at full capacity, the mill requires approximately 800,000m³ annually. Their interior operations are highly integrated and includes the Merritt sawmill, the veneer mill in Lillooet, the plywood plant in Savona and the trim-end and Green Energy plant in Merritt. Approximately 270 direct jobs are associated with these operations. Other secondary manufacturers rely upon volume harvested by them.
- AP holds 2 Replaceable Forest Licenses (RFL) for 167,844 m³ in the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA) comprising and 4 RFLs in the Lillooet TSA for 351,312 m³.
- The Merritt sawmill is not running at full capacity (down to one shift with interminant shut downs) and will likely shutdown if permits are not issued and will affect operations at other facilities.
- Cascades District staff have regular meetings with AP staff to discuss ongoing issues, priorities, and keep open communication.
- Currently, 5 cutting permits (estimated 155,000m³) are with the Cascades District with consultation ongoing. Staff are working to move these permits through the consultation and approval process.
- Advice/Recommendations
- The Cascades District has been trying to improve conditions in the Merritt TSA and is currently initiating a Forest Landscape Planning process,
- There have been many articles in the local news about the lack of permits in both the Merritt and Lillooet.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Jenn Reid	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	250-819-2216
RED			
Thompson Okanagan			

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Canfor Mill Closures in the North Area.
Revised: February 26, 2025

Issue: Canfor Mill Closures in the North Area, Impacts and Divestment.

Response:

- Mill rationalization in the North has been anticipated as companies re-assess operations in response to fibre supply impacts from the beetle epidemic, wildfires, land use planning and global market conditions including tariffs.
- Our Hearts go out to the workers and communities impacted by the closures.
- Canfor is citing a decline in availability of economically available fibre, challenging operating conditions, weak markets, and increased US tariffs as the cause of their decision to close.
- Canfor's tenure holdings now exceed their mill capacity and Canfor has indicated intent to divest of surplus tenure.
- The divestment of Canfor tenure is likely to add volume to local and regional log markets or bolster other facilities tenure holdings.

Background/Status:

- Canfor began operations in BC in 1938 and expanded into the North Area in 1963 increasing tenure and mill holdings through to 2004.
- Due to the economic downturn of 2008/2009 and fibre supply challenges realized from the beetle epidemic, Canfor began mill rationalization:
 - 2008 - North Central Plywood (Prince George), not rebuilt after fire
 - 2008 - Mackenzie Sawmill, indefinite curtailment, reopened 2012
 - 2011 - Clear Lake Sawmill (Prince George), closure
 - 2011 - Rustad Sawmill in (Prince George), closure
 - 2011 - Tackama Mill (Fort Nelson) (Plywood), closure
- Mill rationalization continued in 2019 after catastrophic wildfires, enhanced land use planning initiatives, poor markets, and increased tariffs related to softwood lumber rulings.
 - 2019 - Mackenzie Sawmill, closure
 - 2020 - Isle Pierre Sawmill (Prince George), closure

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- 2022 – Taylor Pulp (Taylor), closure
 - 2023 – Chetwynd Sawmill, closure
 - 2023 – PG Pulp and Paper – pulp line closure
- In 2024, Canfor announced permanent closures at 4 of their 5 remaining sawmills and one pulp facility in the North Area with the following impacts based on the 2022 BC Forest Economic Multipliers:
 - Houston Sawmill (closed since 2022- pending rebuild decision) —Busine
Business Information
 - Polar (Bear Lake) Sawmill — Business Information
Business Information
 - Plateau (Vanderhoof) Sawmill — Business Information
Business Information
 - Canfor Northwood Pulp (Prince George) (one line closed) — Business Information
Business Information
- **In Total Canfor has closed 13 Facilities since 2008**
- Canfor's remaining sawmill in the North Area has an input of 883,000 m³ while North Area tenure holdings amount to 5,370,834 m³ allowable annual cut. Canfor also retains one pulp facility with an input estimate of 799,000 m³ and one paper facility.
- Mill closure position PG Saw with surplus tenure. Tenure surplus-to-need is likely up for sale.
- As Canfor divests of tenure in the North Area, there may be recovery of revenue, GDP and employment as other operators seek to solidify their fibre supply and reinstate curtailments and reductions.
- The sawmill closures in the North Area will result in unquantified direct loss of tax base and revenue to communities and regional districts.
- Secondary manufacturers will be impacted such as Vanderhoof Speciality Wood Products which received trim ends and the Nechako Cattleman's Association that received shavings for bedding among others.
- Canfor has existing and planned fibre supply and management agreements with First Nations which will be impacted by closures and divestment.
 - In 2021, 41% of Canfor's operating area was supported by harvesting agreements with willing Nations.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Lori Borth	RED	Omineca Region	Phone: 250-570-9442

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Fibre Supply Economic Outlook and AAC Reductions

Revised: February 15, 2025

Issue: The provincial allowable annual cut is projected to decline to 57 million cubic meters by 2030.

Response:

- The current provincial allowable annual cut (AAC) for all public management units is 61.6 million cubic metres.
- Following current land use designations and standard forest practices, the AAC is anticipated to decline to 57 million cubic metres by 2030.
- This projection does not account for impacts related to the future land-use decisions such as old-growth deferrals or the caribou recovery plan.
- Future land-use decisions may be followed by chief forester determinations that further reduce the AAC for some management units.
- The chief forester's AAC determinations are independent statutory decisions under the Forest Act.
- In addition to timber from public lands, the harvests from privately managed forest in B.C. is just over 6 million cubic metres per year.

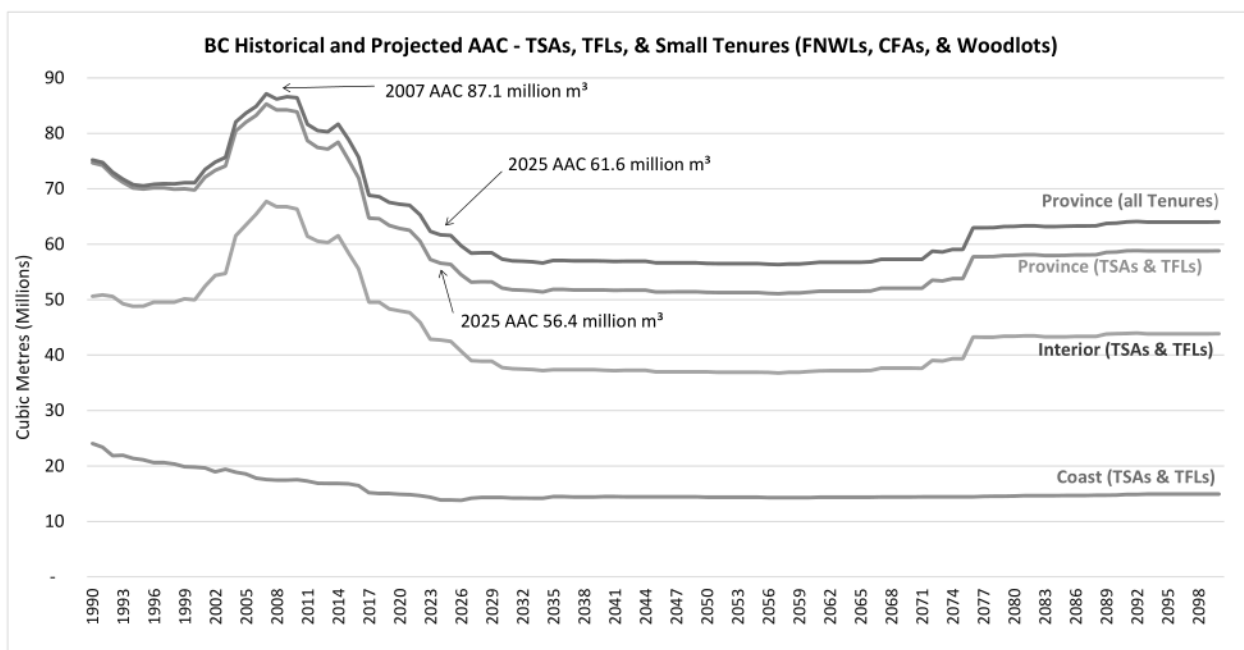
Background/Status:

- The provincial timber supply has been declining over the last 18 years from a peak of 87 million cubic metres per year in 2007 during the mountain pine beetle outbreak.
- The current AAC for all public management units is projected to decline from its current level of 61.6 million cubic meters to 57 million cubic metres by 2030.
- This projection does not account for impacts related to the provincial old-growth deferrals, caribou recovery plan, or other future land use decisions.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- If implemented, changes under these initiatives or other land use decisions may require the chief forester to further reduce the AAC for some management units.
- Over the past five years, forest licensees have harvested only 65 percent of the AAC, with annual levels declining significantly in the last two years.
- In 2024 (calendar year), the harvest for all licences, excluding waste, was 53 percent of the AAC, with performance lower than this average in the northern part of the province.
- There is about 20 million hectares of Crown forestland available to harvest that is currently uneconomic, and therefore not part of the AAC. If economic uses for this timber can be developed, AACs declines could be reduced.
- The timber supply projections illustrated below are based on the most recent timber supply review for all public management units.
- In addition to timber from public land, harvests from privately managed forest land in B.C. is just over 6 million cubic metres per year in the last two years. This is a decline from a high of 9 million cubic meters in 2018.
- A summary of AAC across various licence types and a listing of the AAC for each TSA and TFL in the province is provided in the *Stewardship Factsheet*.



Contact:
Shane Berg Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester Office of the Chief Forester 250 851-6333

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Sector Transformation

Revised: March 4th, 2025

Issue: Forest Sector Transformation

Response:

Vision

- BC's forest sector is in the midst of a transition. As predicted, harvest levels are declining for a variety of reasons, including record wildfires, market conditions, additional conservation measures and the end of the beetle kill harvest.
- The structure and supporting regulatory framework need to evolve to ensure BC gets the most value from the trees harvested, by diversifying and strengthening high-value domestic wood products manufacturing, and supporting a healthy and integrated primary sawmilling and pulp sector.
- The vision is a **robust, diverse and integrated forest sector economy for workers and communities**. While we uphold our commitments to reconciliation and forest stewardship and biodiversity actions.
- We're prioritizing strategies that do more with less, while also getting more timber and residual fibre into the hands of those who can use it.
- We're doing this by:
 - speeding up salvage logging permits of wildfire-damaged wood,
 - supporting more projects that get economic fibre out of the bush instead of burning it in slash piles, and
 - protecting local jobs by curbing log exports

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Intentions Paper

- In June 2021, the Province made a commitment in *Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia* (Intentions Paper) to transform the forest sector by increasing forest sector participation, enhancing sustainability and stewardship of our forests, and ensuring ongoing support of forestry across BC.
 - Twenty priority actions were outlined to create the path to forest sector modernization and transformation. When taken together, these intentions represent significant change that is appropriate and necessary.
 - Delivery of the Intentions is now wrapping up as we look ahead to the change that will be needed to deliver on a strong, stable, and sustainable forest sector that works for everyone.
- We have made meaningful change towards the modernization of forest policy, but the work is not over.
- The vision our government put forward in the Intentions Paper continues to guide the work to evolve our forest policy framework so that it can provide the support we need to meet today's challenges.
- As we continue with this work, we are committed to working in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, aligned with obligations in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act).
- In November 2023 we made significant forest legislation changes including through Bill 41:
 - Amendments to the *Wildfire Act* for cultural and prescribed fire.
 - Amendments to the *Forest Act* for discretion in authorization activities.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Amendments to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* to strengthen compliance and enforcement.

Value-Added

- The new The BC Timber Sales Value-Added Manufacturing Program (Category 4) is now ‘live’ and provides a dedicated fibre supply for value-added manufacturers, and we are committed to continue growing this program. (see BCTS Cat 4 note).
- We have launched the Value-added Accelerator Initiative in partnership with the First Nations Forestry Council, the Value-added Wood Coalition and Council of Forest Industries to engage with Nations and stakeholders on ways to improve fibre flow for value-added manufacturers. (see value-added note).
- To be successful in building a strong, secure, and sustainable forest sector that works for everyone we will need to continue working with partners across the sector.
- With our vision as our guide we will continue to evolve our forest policy framework so that it can provide the support we need to meet today’s challenges and ensure we have healthy forests and a healthy forest sector for generations to come.

Mass Timber

- We are working in partnership with the “Office of Mass Timber” within the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, and we continue to promote the use of BC Wood products and mass timber globally and domestically.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- B.C.'s forestry, manufacturing, and construction sectors have operated siloed from one another, but government is working with industry to bridge these sectors and strengthen the supply chain by creating opportunities for inter-industry connections that make a mass timber sector thrive.
- The province is committed to enabling more mass timber production by working with primary manufacturing industry partners and First Nations to better integrate supply chains. This means working through the Value-Added Accelerators – a collaboration between the Ministry of Forests, the Council of Forest Industries, the Value-Added Wood Coalition and the First Nations Forestry Council – to propose actions that support and grow value-added manufacturing in B.C.

Background/Status:

- Individual priority actions under the Intentions Paper ranged widely in scope, from large-scale and high profile initiatives such as IP 7 which committed to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review (underway with the Action Plan set to be released in February 2024), to targeted projects such as IP 20 to protect good jobs which resulted in the Contractor Sustainability Review project (completed Spring 2021).
- For fiscal year 2025/26, BCTS will be doubling the volume offered in Category 4 to be 20 percent of the rationalized apportionment or approximately 1.2 million m³.
- The Mass Timber Action Plan was developed in consultation with Indigenous leaders and major stakeholders in the forest product manufacturing, development and construction sector, 15 ministries across government and the Mass Timber Advisory Council. The Plan has 3 overarching planks focused on people, the economy, and climate:
 - 1) Demonstrate mass timber in action
 - 2) Maximize mass timber's benefits for people
 - 3) Support a more sustainable, low carbon future

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Contact:
Melissa Sanderson ADM Timber, Range and 250-812-7253
Economics Division

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Log Exports General
Revised: February 20, 2025

Issue: Log Exports General

Response:

- We are committed to building an environmentally and economically sustainable economy that works for all British Columbians.
- While we recognize that log exports play a role in an integrated forest sector, we are committed to getting more value out of every cubic metre of timber harvested.
- Log exports from provincial jurisdiction lands saw a reduction of 55% from 2019 to 2024.

Background/Status:

- Advice/Recommendations

-

- China is the largest buyer of logs, acquiring 56% of British Columbia (B.C.)'s exported logs by volume in 2024, followed by Japan (20%), the United States (17%), and South Korea (6%).
- Companies that export logs from public lands pay both the stumpage fees and a "fee in lieu of manufacturing", which returns considerable further value to the province (the log export fee in lieu is projected to be \$10.4 million in 2024/25).
- While B.C. regulates log exports from Crown land, it is the federal government that regulates log exports from most private land.
- Prior to export, most logs are made available to domestic manufacturers on a weekly advertising list, under the surplus test process. Manufacturers have the ability to submit offers on advertised logs and if the offers are deemed fair by the minister, then the logs are not eligible for export and must be sold domestically.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Log export volumes (cubic metres) permitted by jurisdiction, 2013-2024

Year	Provincial	Federal ¹	Total
2013	4,132,880	2,802,917	6,935,797
2014	4,059,609	2,592,279	6,651,888
2015	3,433,506	2,479,906	5,913,412
2016	3,974,078	3,087,252	7,061,330
2017	3,691,504	2,594,446	6,285,950
2018	2,744,311	2,384,154	5,128,465
2019	2,583,342	2,523,564	5,106,906
2020	1,710,803	1,120,010	2,830,813
2021	1,341,903	2,219,082	3,560,985
2022	959,811	1,863,702	2,823,512
2023	1,057,546	1,698,993	2,756,539
2024 ²	1,153,888	1,740,288	2,894,176

¹Includes permitted log export volume from Indian Reserve lands.

² Subject to corrections and final reconciliation.

2024 Permitted Log Export Detail (millions of cubic metres) (% change from 2023)

	Jurisdiction	Harvest Volume ²	Log Export Volume	% Export	Domestic Volume ³
Coast	Federal ¹	3.5 (-8%)	1.693 (0%)	48%	10.1(-6%)
	Provincial	8.9 (+6%)	0.599(+12%)	7%	
	Total	12.4 (+2%)	2.292 (+3%)	18%	
Interior	Federal ¹	0.7 (+40%)	0.047 (+370%)	7%	27.7 (+2%)
	Provincial	27.6 (+2%)	0.555 (+6%)	2%	
	Total	28.3 (+3%)	0.602 (+11%)	2%	
Province	Federal ¹	4.2 (-2%)	1.740 (+2%)	41%	37.8 (+2%)
	Provincial	36.5 (+3%)	1.154 (+9%)	3%	
	Total	40.7 (+2%)	2.894 (+5%)	7%	

¹Includes permitted log exports from Indian Reserves.

²Source: Harvest Billing System by scale date.

³Estimated domestic volume is calculated as harvest volume less log export volume.

Contact

Janna Jessee

Melissa Sanderson TRE

250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Mill Curtailments and Timber Supply
Revised: February 20, 2025

Issue: Declining timber availability, factors influencing mill curtailments or closures and supports for forestry workers

Response:

- Our hearts go out to the affected workers and their families dealing with curtailments caused by weakening markets and the declining timber supply.
- The Ministry of Forests remains focused on the continuity of fibre supply to mills, stabilizing harvest levels and the sustainability and stewardship that is required to support forest sector transformation, through collaboration with First Nations partners, industry, labour and communities.
- B.C. recognizes that reconciliation with First Nations is integral to bringing stability to the forest sector and is an underpinning in modernizing forest policy.
- B.C. recognizes the challenges facing the forest industry and has developed a suite of Forest Worker and Community Supports programs (*see separate note*).
- We are also focusing on supporting value-added wood products to generate more value from each log. An example of this support is the B.C. Timber Sales Category Value-Added program, which gives small and medium-sized forestry manufacturers the ability to apply for Timber Sale Licences, improving their access to fibre.
- Government will work with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic metres per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- Detailed Closure Information from 2021 to February 20, 2025
Advice/Recommendations

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Melissa Sanderson ADM TRE 250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Advice/Recommendations

Page 118 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 119 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 120 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

Page 121 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Mill Curtailments and Timber Supply in the North Area
Revised: February 20, 2025

Issue: Mill curtailments and closures following actual and forecasted timber supply declines in the North Area

Response:

- I recognize that many forest-dependent communities in the North Area are facing challenges. Mountain pine beetle, wildfires and weakening markets have all contributed to curtailments and closures of mills. I appreciate and share community concerns of the resulting declines in timber supply and an uncertain future of the forest sector.
- FOR remains focused on stabilizing the continuity of fibre supply. Specifically, working with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic meters per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.
- B.C. recognizes the challenges facing the forest industry and has developed a suite of Forest Worker and Community Supports programs and is working to increase value from BC's forests by supporting value-added and innovative forest products, creating good local jobs and diversifying BC's wood products for local and international markets.
- To address timber supply challenges, the Province is acting on multiple fronts. We are conducting a review of BC Timber Sales to ensure it can effectively support the evolving needs of the forest industry. At the same time, we are implementing Forest Landscape Plans to provide clear, locally informed outcomes for managing forest resources and values within defined areas.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- The allowable annual cut (AAC) in the North Area is approximately 26.1 million cubic meters – a 40% decline from mountain pine beetle uplifts over the past decade. The cumulative harvest in the North for 2024 was approximately 11.5 million cubic meters.
- Over the past decade, cumulative harvest levels in the North Area have remained below the AAC due to factors such as fibre supply economics, market conditions, fibre profile demands, land base constraints, and First Nation stewardship interests. At the same time, the AAC itself is declining because of reduced fibre availability from the mountain pine beetle epidemic, catastrophic wildfires, and evolving planning, protection, and stewardship priorities.
- There are several management units scheduled for new AAC determination that are expected to experience additional declines as the timber supply reviews progress: Kispiox, Kalum, Nass, Morice and Bulkley, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John Timber Supply Areas (TSA).
- Forest Landscape Planning processes are underway in the Lakes, Morice, Bulkley, and Mackenzie TSAs to support long term fiber certainty.
- Additionally, in efforts to provide stability to the forest sector FOR continues to build on established relationships to advance the balance between economic and stewardship interests. Examples include Lake Babine Nation, Carrier Sekani First Nations in the Prince George TSA and Blueberry River and Treaty 8 Nations in the Northeast Region.
- Almost all facilities in the North have experienced some form of curtailment in 2024 due to fibre shortages and/or reduced market demand. Fibre supply issues and high costs are often cited as reasons for closure and curtailment decisions.
 - *See attached North Area Mill Metrics and Status by TSA*
 - There have been 13 permanent mill closures since 2016 in the North Area, impacting 2,385 direct jobs.
- Since the last fiscal year, 3 lumber and 1 pulp mill all operated by Canadian Forest Products (Canfor) permanently closed.
 - Canfor's Prince George Sawmill, Pulp Mill and Paper mill are Canfor's only remaining operations in the North Area.
 - Canfor is actively divesting tenure in the North Area which provides an opportunity for First Nations to enter discussions and business partnership on tenure acquisition.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Anthony Giannotti	Director of Tenure and Pricing	North Area	Phone: Government Financial Information

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Mill Curtailments and Timber Supply

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Potential new mill curtailments due to decreasing access to economical fibre.

Response:

- We are working with all our partners toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic metres (m³).
- We are working with our clients, First Nations (FN) and ministerial colleagues to promote effective permit delivery.
- We are undertaking a comprehensive BCTS review to ensure the model is responsive to the new realities of the industry.

Kootenay Boundary Region

- Allowable Annual Cuts in the Kootenay Boundary Region (KBR) are fairly stable. The biggest impacts to accessing fibre are old growth and caribou recovery efforts.
- The Revelstoke TSA is facing substantial fibre supply impacts as a result of old growth and caribou recovery efforts causing significant uncertainty. The city of Revelstoke is working with licensees and FNs to discuss a collaborative long-term solution and have established the Revelstoke Stewardship Initiative.
- All other mills in the KBR are experiencing fibre supply challenges and periodic curtailments

Intergovernmental
Communications

Cariboo Region

- Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch is undertaking an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) rationalization project that is targeting the three Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) in the Cariboo Region. The AAC is expected to remove the existing dead pine partitions and drop from 6,512,314 m³ AAC to 4,640,132 m³.
- In Quesnel, there is one sawmill still functioning which is owned by West Fraser. There are 2 functioning pulp mills in Quesnel currently,

Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Williams Lake TSA sawmills have seen some curtailments over the past couple of years. West Fraser Mills has a sawmill and plywood plant, Tolko has the Lakeview and Soda Creek mills and the Sigurdsons mill with an estimated demand of 3.4 million m³. The AAC is likely to drop significantly below this level and probable curtailments are coming.
- 100 Mile House currently has only one sawmill, West Fraser Mills Ltd. There is a deficit of local sawlogs in the TSA for West Fraser which is largely made up for from their licences in the Kamloops TSA.

Thompson Okanagan Region

- All mills in the Thompson Okanagan Region are experiencing fibre supply challenges. Many of the facilities are key employers in their communities and any downtime will have significant impacts beyond the direct employees. Forestry operations are highly integrated and a shut down at one may impact others.
- There will be further declines in the AAC for Kamloops, Merritt and Okanagan TSAs in the next Timber Supply Review as the recent fires and old growth concerns will be modeled in.
- Specific facilities of concern are:

Advice/Recommendations; Business Information

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Larry Henry Director Pricing & Tenures South Area	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	Government Financial Information

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Coast Area - Fibre Supply and Manufacturing

Revised: February 24, 2025

Issue: Coast Area allowable annual cut, harvest levels and manufacturing operations

Response:

- The Coast has an allowable annual cut (AAC) of just over 14 million cubic metres and a well-established manufacturing hub for primary and value-added development in the lower mainland and on southern Vancouver Island.
- The Coast is not subject to catastrophic wildfire and significant insect outbreaks affecting timber supply, providing an opportunity for stable fibre flow through a transition from old growth to second growth harvesting.
- Recent harvest levels for Coast are down to 55% of the AAC as a result of a high cost structure and planning efforts including old growth and biodiversity.
- Manufacturing facilities are currently operating well below capacity, with some recent closures and challenges including a couple of large companies under creditor protection.
- First Nations on the Coast are increasingly integrated into the forest sector, holding 21.2% of the forest tenures and growing. They are partnering with integrated manufacturing companies and collectively we are working towards increasing certainty of fibre supply.
- Forest Landscape Planning tables will increase certainty for fibre as well as the protection of forest non-timber values including biodiversity and old growth.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- The coast timber supply is relatively stable, less susceptible to catastrophic wildfires and major insect outbreaks. AAC reductions are largely attributable to land use decisions, including the creation of conservancies and ecosystem-based management.
- The Coast fibre supply is in transition to second growth, however currently only 35% of the available timber is second growth. A complete transition to second growth will still take 20+ years as younger fibre comes on line.
- Coastal milling infrastructure is transitioning to diversify for smaller timber and increased second growth. This transition will require significant investment.
- Harvest levels on the Coast are currently 55% of the AAC as a result of high costs and land use uncertainty.
- Increasing fibre availability for manufacturing requires a significant component of the harvest in old growth timber.
- Most coastal manufacturers access their fibre on the open log market.
- Only Western Forest Products and Teal Jones are manufacturers holding forest tenure.
- Log exports play a balancing role on the Coast for manufacturers, increasing the viability of harvest in low or negative margin stands and subsequently increasing the overall access to merchantable fibre for domestic use.
- Primary manufacturing facilities are centred in the lower mainland and on southern Vancouver Island with 16 major sawmills, 200+ small mills and value-added facilities, 3 veneer facilities and 4 pulp and paper operations.
- Port Alberni has seen permanent closure of Western Forest Products sawmill in 2024, and significant curtailment of San Group operations while they are in creditor protection.
- Domtar's paper operations in Crofton have been curtailed for 2+ years.

Contact:

Jessica Coster A/ADM Coast Area Phone: 250 739-8180

2025 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Mill Investments
Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Investment in B.C. Mills 2022 – 2025 (as of February 18, 2025)
Response:

- High-quality wood and innovation continue to keep the British Columbia (B.C.) forest sector competitive and drive industry investment in our communities.
- Capital and repair expenditures in wood product and paper manufacturing in B.C. were \$1.15 billion in 2022, up 8% compared to 2021.
- To date, the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund has committed nearly \$146 million towards 132 projects, unlocking over \$1 billion in other private and public investment, creating and protecting thousands of jobs, and strengthening manufacturing supply chains.
- We have seen partnerships between industry and First Nations to promote greater involvement of Nations in the forest sector.

Background/Status:

- **B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund:**
 - Of the \$146 million committed, \$97.3 million has been committed to 73 forest sector projects, leading to 3,500 forestry jobs being created and protected.
 - Every \$1 million invested results in \$7 million in total direct capital investments in B.C., as well as \$590,000 in tax revenue to the province, and \$5.3 million in provincial Gross Domestic Product during the capital construction phase alone, with additional benefits realized through the expanded operations after project completion.
- **Western Forest Products** – On February 11, 2025, Western Forest Products completed the sale of approximately 14,500 hectares of private land on Northern Vancouver Island to a Canadian subsidiary of Eastwood Climate Smart Forestry Fund for \$69.2 million. Western sold the land to optimize its asset portfolio, reduce debt and focus on higher-value wood product investments. Eastwood Climate, specializing in sustainable forestry and carbon sequestration, plans to

2025 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

manage the land with a focus on environmental and economic benefits, while engaging with Indigenous communities and local stakeholders.

- **Atco Wood Products** – On January 31, 2025, Atco Wood Products received a \$50,000 grant from the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to support the planning of a new veneer production facility. The funding will help the company acquire and install new equipment to improve wood fibre utilization and enhance production efficiency. This initiative aligns with the province's goal of adding value to the forestry sector and supporting local manufacturing jobs.
 - **Stella-Jones** – On January 21, 2025, Stella-Jones, a company specializing in pressure-treated wood products, such as utility poles and rail ties, confirmed plans to establish an operation in Kamloops. The Quebec-based company is in the final stages of setting up a utility pole peeling facility in Mission Flats, which is expected to employ nine people. This facility marks Stella-Jones' first foray into Kamloops, with other operations already established in Prince George, New Westminster and the East Kootenays in B.C.
 - **Kruger** – On September 12, 2024, Kruger, the provincial government and the federal government announced a joint investment of \$32.4 million in the Kamloops Pulp Mill. The funding will support the commissioning of a new pressure diffusion washer with an Artificial Intelligence-powered control system, the first technology of its kind in Canada. The investment includes \$5 million from the B.C. government and \$4.9 million from the federal government.
 - **Richmond Plywood** – On May 9, 2024, Richmond Plywood unveiled its new \$17.4 million Con-Vey Argos panel repair system, funded in part by a \$6.7 million investment from Natural Resource Canada. This state-of-the-art machinery integrates robotic technology and Artificial Intelligence to repair defects on plywood surfaces, replacing manual processes.
 - **Skeena** – On May 1, 2024, the Kitsumkalum First Nation purchased Skeena Sawmills, the Skeena Bioenergy pellet plant, and all relevant assets for \$14.05 million. The previous owners had invested over \$135 million before closing operations in 2023, leaving \$161 million owed to creditors.
 - **West Fraser** – In April 2024, West Fraser replaced one of the three dryers at the Williams Lake plywood facility at a cost of over \$5 million. The new dryer improves efficiency, safety, productivity and reliability.
- Canfor** – In March 2024, Buffalo Rail & Infrastructure Corporation acquired Canfor Pulp Products' pulp mill assets in Taylor, along with more than 300 acres of land, with the goal of developing a multi-use industrial hub. Valued at

2025 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

\$7 million, this acquisition aims to address logistics needs in Western Canada's energy, agricultural and forestry sectors. The first phase, with a more than \$50 million investment, is expected to create 100 construction jobs, 30 permanent jobs and alleviate energy industry bottlenecks in Northeast B.C. and Northwest Alberta by the second quarter of 2025.

- **Kalesnikoff** – On March 7, 2024, Kalesnikoff Mass Timber announced the construction of a third mass timber facility in the West Kootenays, with an investment of \$34 million. The new facility is expected to create up to 90 new jobs and is under construction.
- **Western Forest Products** – In February 2024, Western Forest Products announced a \$35 million investment in B.C. for two additional continuous dry kilns: one at the Duke Point Sawmill in Nanaimo and the other at the Value-Added Division in Chemainus. This comes after a July 2022 announcement of a \$29 million investment in their B.C. operations, with \$12.3 million allocated to the Saltair sawmill in Ladysmith, \$7.9 million to the Duke Point facility in Nanaimo, and \$8.3 million in other capital investments in the province. These investments bring the company's total investment in B.C. to \$64 million over two years.
- **Millar Western Forest Products** – In September 2023, Millar Western Forest Products, owned by Atlas, signed the definitive agreement to purchase West Fraser's Quesnel River Pulp mill in Quesnel and its Slave Lake Pulp mill in Alberta for U.S.\$120 million.
- **Mercer** – On June 15, 2023, Mercer acquired all assets of Structurlam for U.S. \$81.1 million, following Structurlam's bankruptcy filing in April 2023. The acquisition includes three facilities in B.C.'s Okanagan and one in Arkansas.
- **San Group** – In September 2022, San Group announced it would invest \$23 million in the value-added division at Port Alberni and its Acorn sawmill in Delta, acquired in April 2022. The investment focuses on high-quality shelving products for stores like IKEA and will improve the sawmill's efficiency.
- **Pacific Woodtech** – In August 2022, Pacific Woodtech assumed ownership of the Golden mill from LP Building Solutions. The \$210-million acquisition included the veneer, laminated veneer lumber and plywood facilities in Golden, as well as operations in Red Bluff, California and Wilmington, North Carolina.
- **Drax** – In August 2022, Drax announced the acquisition of the Princeton Standard Corp. pellet plant in B.C. The mill produces 90,000 tonnes of wood pellets annually, employs 32 people, and became their eighth plant in B.C.

2025 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- **Kruger** – In June 2022, Kruger purchased Domtar’s Kamloops pulp mill when Domtar had to divest itself of the mill before being acquired by Paper Excellence. The purchase price was \$300 million.
- **Peak Renewables** – In March 2022, Peak Renewables acquired Paper Excellence’s previously closed (2015) Chetwynd Pulp Mill.
 - In February 2022, Peak Renewables entered into an agreement to purchase Canfor’s Mackenzie site, plant, and equipment for \$70 million. This followed several other purchases in recent years:
 - The November 2021 purchase of forest tenures and mill assets from Canfor’s operations in Fort Nelson for \$30 million, with plans to build a 600,000-tonnes-per-year wood pellet plant;
 - The purchase of the previously closed PolarBoard oriented strand board panel plant and Tackama plywood plant in 2020; and
 - The late 2020 purchase of Canfor’s Vavenby plant and its surrounding land.
- **Harmac** – On January 31, 2022, Harmac in Nanaimo announced an investment of more than \$12 million through the CleanBC Industry Fund. According to the president, the investment will benefit all 320 full-time employees. The majority of the funds, \$617,000, will be used to upgrade the largest pulp dryer and ventilation vent.

Contact:
Janna Jessee Melissa Sanderson TRE 250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Manufactured Forest Products Regulation
Revised: February 25, 2025

Issue: Manufactured Forest Products Regulation

Response:

- The Manufactured Forest Products Regulation (MFPR) ensures more access to fibre for local manufacturers, which supports local employment and adds value to timber harvested from public lands.
- Since September 30, 2020, on the Coast, lumber made from western redcedar and cypress has been required to be fully manufactured to be eligible for export. If they have not been fully manufactured, exporters must apply for an exemption and pay a fee in lieu of manufacture.
- Reduced availability of western redcedar and cypress was of particular concern, with this high-value, minimally processed timber being shipped out of the province for further processing.
- We worked with industry associations and companies impacted by these changes on the implementation of the exemption process.
- The fully manufactured requirement was extended to the Interior on December 5, 2023, with an effective date of February 1, 2024.
- These changes support companies and families investing in British Columbia (B.C.), who are creating more high value products from our natural resources and want to employ local workers.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- The MFPR was most recently amended in 2020, to address one of the goals of the Coast Revitalization Initiative: to “rebuild the solid wood and secondary industries to ensure more of our logs and fibre are processed in B.C.”
- The changes to the MFPR reduced the maximum cross section area for timber to be considered manufactured from 0.2 square metres (roughly 17 inches by 17 inches) to 0.1 square metres (m²), or roughly 12 inches by 12 inches.
- Western redcedar and cypress lumber must be fully manufactured, as laid out in the table below. If it has not been fully manufactured, an exporter must obtain an exemption and pay a fee in lieu of manufacture.

Product Category (Coast Area WRC and cypress)		Grade	Processes	Finished	Fee -In-Lieu
Products subject to Exemption and Fee-In-Lieu					
A	Zero processes – exported direct from sawmill	All Grades ¹	Zero	No	Full Fee
B	One process and exported from BC	All Grades	One	Partially	2/3 Fee
C	Two processes and exported from BC	All Grades	Two	Partially	1/3 Fee
Products Finished or “deemed” finished					
D	Three or more processes and exported from BC	All grades	Three +	Yes	No Fee
E	Products exported over 3000 miles	All grades	N/A	Yes	No Fee
F	Rough or surfaced products used in appearance /decorative/architectural end uses as is	All grades	Zero to Two	Yes	No Fee
G	Products less than 6mm in thickness	All grades	N/A	Yes	No Fee

¹ Except products direct from sawmill included under category F deemed finished/used as is.

Note: A process is a physical change, including: change in thickness, width, length, profile, texture, moisture content; a joining together by finger jointing, edge gluing, laminating; turning, chopping; or other processes that produce components for finished cedar/cypress products.

- The total MFPR fee in lieu collected for lumber not meeting these criteria: \$5,090,700 (Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024) on a volume of 126,673 cubic metres. This compares to \$3,936,882 for 84,748 cubic metres in 2023. The increase in volume and fee in lieu dollars is mainly due to recent changes that meant interior mills were subject to the same requirements as coastal mills for cedar lumber, effective February 1, 2024. The latter portion of 2024, also saw an increase in the softwood lumber duty rates, which are used in the calculation of fee in lieu.
- Changes to the *Forest Act* in 2022, enabled audit of fee in lieu for log and lumber export. Regulations were approved by Cabinet June 2023. This is expected to improve compliance with the regulation over time.

Contact:

Director Janna
Jessee

ADM Melissa
Sanderson

Timber, Range and
Economics Division

Phone: 250-
507-7382

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: The Pulp Sector

Revised Date: February 19, 2025

Issue: The Economic Fibre Shortfall for the Pulp & Paper Sector.

Response:

- The BC pulp & paper sector is an integral part of the forest sector supply chain and supports families and rural communities across the province. Sawmills rely on pulp companies buying wood chips to maintain their operations.
- Pulp companies reported that they face a five million cubic metres economical fibre shortfall in 2025. It means that pulp mills must source five million cubic metres of fibre at a higher cost due to sawmill closures and reduced production.
- The pulp sector committed to increase the use of residual fibre from fire-damaged and low-value timber to manufacture pulp and paper products.
- The Pulp Fibre Supply Task Force, comprised of senior pulp sector and ministry staff, achieved its goal of three million cubic metres of residual fibre and low-value timber in 2023 and 2024. The Task Force set their 2025 target for another three million cubic metres.
- This government implemented two key Task Force recommendations. We provided \$80 million to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) to increase the utilization of low-value fibre until the end of fiscal year 2027 and we increased pulp sales from the BC Timber Sales program to support the utilization of residual fibre and burnt timber.

Background/Status:

- The pulp sector processes 21 million cubic metres of fibre annually, 55% of which come from BC sawmills, 32% from BC chip plants, and 13% from the US and Alberta.
- BC pulp and paper, tissue and containerboard mills provide 4,341 direct jobs.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The Chinese pulp market is stable with a price of US\$790 per tonne for Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft pulp, which is profitable if mills operate efficiently.
- The 2025 estimated economic fibre shortfall for the pulp sector is five million cubic metres. In 2024, the closure of sawmills led the sector to increase production of expensive whole log chips and import of US woodchips.
- Pulp companies closed six pulp mills, pulp lines or paper operations since 2020 due to the lack of economical fibre.
- Challenges facing all sawmills and pulp mills in BC are the continuing weak lumber markets, the doubling of the softwood lumber duties in August 2025, the declining Annual Allowable Cut across the province, and the potential Canadian reciprocal-tariffs on 2.2 million cubic metres of US woodchips.
- Five pulp companies provided written commitments to the ministry to buy, at a floor price, a set volume of economic pulp logs from fire-damaged and low-value stands.
- The government renewed the FESBC funding with \$50 million which ends in March 2025 and with \$30 million for three years which ends in 2027 to utilize uneconomical low-value or residual fibre.
- The portion of the FESBC funding going to pulp mills in 25/26 will be approximately \$4.5 million and is not sufficient to fill the fibre shortage needs.
- The BC government supplied \$180 million in funding for the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund for forestry companies that require equipment to support new product lines. Mercer, Kruger, Domtar and other companies who work with pulp companies received \$28.8 million.
- The ministry provided \$1.5 million fiscal year 24/25 for First Nation led Biohub projects and lignin and cellulose research projects that will help the pulp sector in accessing incremental fibre.
- The ministry developed policies to reduce waste and improve access to residual fibre, like the Coast Fibre Recovery Zone, and has taken steps to increase the utilization of fire-damaged timber like the development of the Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning and Administrative guidance.

Contact:

Melissa Sanderson ADM Timber, Range and Economics Phone: 778-974-5974
Division

Prepared by Steve Laberge, Senior Project Manager-Pulp Sector, Timber, Range and Economics Division

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Growing BC's Value-added Sector
Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Growing BC's Value-added Sector

Response:

- Timber supply is decreasing across the province. This has been expected due to Mountain Pine Beetle and has been exacerbated by recent wildfires and the need to better care for our old forests.
- Our government's vision is to build a stronger, more diverse, inclusive and resilient forestry industry through more value-added manufacturing, built on the foundation of a strong primary sector. We want to get the most value from our forests and create more jobs, revenue and investment for every tree harvested in this province.
- While there is more to do, we have already taken action to ensure innovative, secondary manufacturers have access to the fibre and capital they need to invest and grow their operations.
- We have launched the Value-added Accelerator Initiative in partnership with the First Nations Forestry Council, the Value-added Wood Coalition and Council of Forest Industries to engage with Nations and stakeholders on ways to improve fibre flow for value-added manufacturers.
- Through the accelerators we have developed a shared plan that includes actions early actions we can take to support value-added manufacturers, such as hosting regional fibre flow forums, exploring the expansion of log sort yards, ensuring value-added manufacturers have a voice in the softwood lumber dispute, exploring incentives for those that share fibre, developing a toolkit to support business partnership with First Nations – and more.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- We have introduced the BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Value-Added Manufacturing Program (see separate estimates note).
- Updates have been made to the Manufactured Forest Products Regulation to enable auditing of the fee in lieu (export fees) and expanding export restrictions on cedar and cypress.
- Also, the Manufacturing Jobs Fund has been successful in granting businesses up to \$10 million dollars to plan/launch capital projects with a focus on value-added wood products manufacturing in rural communities.

Background/Status:

- The sector produces a wide variety of secondary manufactured wood products that provide many benefits including stable family-supporting jobs in communities, increased tax revenue locally and provincially, diverse and innovative wood products available for consumption that are sustainable and climate friendly, and an opportunity for First Nations to increase their participation in the forest sector.
- The value-added sector provided 11,25512,975 jobs in 2023, down from ^{Advice/Recommendation} 11,25512,975 jobs in 2022.
- The value-added sector contributed \$1.4 billion in GDP in 2023, up slightly from its contributions in 2022.
- Value added jobs have increased 24% since 2012, despite harvest falling 30% over this period.
- For reporting purposes, we define the value-added sector as veneer, plywood and engineered wood products, and other wood product manufacturing.
- Other wood product manufacturing covers windows frames, doors, containers, pallets, prefabricated wood buildings and most other goods made of solid wood (furniture, cabinets, toothpicks, bowls, handles, etc.).
- The value-added sector's performance per cubic meter of harvest has also been growing over the last decade.
- Jobs per cubic meter of harvest have increased over the last decade. This metric has been improving because value-add jobs have been increasing and because harvest has been declining. The growth in total jobs, and in jobs per cubic meter, demonstrates the sector has been expanding despite declining harvest, which is encouraging and illustrates our focus on high value.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: Direct line
Amanda Fouty, RPF	Melissa Sanderson	Timber, Range and Economics	250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Landscape Planning Overview
Revised: February 23, 2025

Issue: Forest Landscape Plans (FLP) support increased certainty and resiliency for BC's forests and communities

Response:

- Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) remains a key priority of the Ministry of Forests, and a vital pathway to increased certainty and resiliency for B.C. forests and communities.
- FLPs identify where and how forest management activities can occur, including establishing direction for important forest values such as biodiversity and old growth, water, fish and wildlife habitat, timber, recreation and culturally significant areas.
- Through planning at a landscape level, FLPs can better address impacts related to cumulative effects and climate change – such as better managing wildfire risks – and establish more resilient forests and rangelands.
- Through collaborative planning with First Nations in alignment with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), FLPs support reconciliation and increase certainty for forestry activities.
- Through meaningful engagement with forest licensees communities and other stakeholders, FLPs will better reflect local interests and values in forest management.
- Today there are 15 FLPs underway at various stages with more than 90 First Nations, and draft or final plans are anticipated for the four pilot projects this year.
- Even where plans are not yet complete, we are seeing increased forest activities resulting from the relationships and agreements being developed through FLP.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- Forest Landscape Planning was enabled through changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (Bill 23) in the fall of 2021. New regulations brought the FLP framework into force in July 2024.
 - The Ministry of Forests (FOR) intends to develop FLP's province-wide in partnership with First Nations and collaboration with forest licensees, and with meaningful engagement with local communities and stakeholders to provide forest management direction that addresses local interests, builds resiliency to climate change and wildfire risks, and increases certainty in where and how forest operations can occur.
 - FLPs will provide direction for Forest Operations Plans (FOP) developed by forest licensees, describing the location of proposed cutblocks and roads and forest practices that will be implemented, based on FLP direction.
 - As FLPs and FOPs are completed in each area they will replace current requirements for licensee led Forest Stewardship Plans and Forest Operations Maps.
 - Today there are 15 FLP projects underway with more than 90 First Nations,
 - Four FLP pilot projects initiated in 2020/21 are aiming to deliver final or draft plans this year – TFL37 (Namgis and Western Forest Products), Sunshine Coast, Quesnel and Lakes TSAs. These projects have been supported by base funding and Indigenous Funding Program (IFP) for First Nations capacity.
 - These pilot projects have been vital for informing the development of FLP related regulations, policy and guidance, which will in turn support more efficient process and timelines for new FLP's.
 - In February 2023, government committed \$25 million in contingency funding over three years, including First Nations capacity funding, to develop eight new FLP's.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

•

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: Direct line
Leah Malkinson	Jillian Rousselle	Forest Resiliency & Archaeology	250-889-8977

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Appendix A: Map of FLPs underway

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Lakes Resiliency Project
Revised: February 25, 2025

Issue: Status and intended outcomes of the Lakes Resiliency Project (FLP)

Response:

- Resilience planning in the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) is a key initiative to address long term timber supply stability, wildfire risk, old growth management, and ecological, cultural and economic stability in the area.
- The project will deliver a plan with objectives and strategies to recover and design forest ecosystems with improved resilience to catastrophic wildfire, insect infestations and other anticipated impacts from a changing climate.
- The Lakes TSA has a mid-term declining timber supply. The economic security of communities in the Lakes is linked to the timber supply, and the plan is needed to safeguard timber values over the long-term.

Background:

- The legal objectives in the Lakes Sustainable Resource Management Plans have been reviewed and the team has developed a first draft of biodiversity legal objectives.
- The project has produced a current condition report and has several technical working groups developing management recommendations. The public was invited to review this report and provide feedback via the govTogetherBC engagement website. A 'what we heard' report was produced and posted to the website.
- The table has drafted several outcomes and strategies that are in the process of being harmonized for inclusion into the draft plan.
- A critical element of the planning process is collaboration with First Nations to ensure their interests and values are captured. Trade-off discussions are likely to strike a balanced approach to forest management in the Lakes.
- The Resilience Plan is a pilot for Forest Landscape Planning under the amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The Planning Table is co-chaired by a First Nation member as well as a provincial rep and includes broad representation from forest and range licensees, First Nations and government.
 - On partnering with First Nations
 - The project has led to the development of a First Nations Steering Committee which provides technical direction to project working groups, and is unique to the Lakes Forest Landscape Planning Pilot.
 - As part of the planning process, government-to-government relationships are being established between the Province and Indigenous groups.
 - On protecting land and water:
 - Water, range and wildlife are examples of non-timber values that have outcomes, indicators and targets under development for inclusion into the Forest Landscape Plan.
 - Managing for ecosystem health and minimizing biodiversity risk are key priorities of its provincial land management framework and are key considerations in the development of the Forest Landscape Plan.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone 250-893-7516
Jevan Hanchard	RED	Skeena Region	Phone 250-877-9109

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Landscape Planning Status in the South Area

Revised: March 31, 2025

Issue: Current status of Forest Landscape Plans (FLP) which can be shared publicly – South Area

Response:

- FLP remains one of the highest priorities for my Ministry and work is well underway in the South Area (SA).
- We will continue to bring First Nations, communities and industry together to collaboratively steward forests that support a healthy forest sector, thriving local communities and safe resilient ecosystems
- We are currently working with over 60 First Nation governments on the FLPs in the SA.
- In the Cariboo Region, there are two FLP projects in the pre-planning phase. As well as, a third project, the Quesnel Pilot FLP which was one of the first projects initiated in the province in 2020. The pilot is in the 3rd phase and is expecting a drafted FLP by fall of 2025.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- This important work can only move forward at the speed of trust as we build the partnerships with our First Nations.

Background/Status:

- Approximately 60% of the SA is covered by 7 FLP projects.
- Funding for the various FLPs are as follows:
 - Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

☐ Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

☐

☐ Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:

Grant Neville, RPF

ADM Jamie
Jeffreys

Division South Area
Operations

Phone: Governm
Government
Financial

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Current FLPs: NB Not all of these FLPs have been publicly announced. In the SA, only the 3 Cariboo FLPs have been made public.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Coast Area Forest Landscape Plans

Revised: February 21, 2023

Issue: Update on the status of Coast Area Forest Landscape Plan Projects

Response:

- The Ministry remains committed to collaborative development of Forest Landscape Plans (FLP) with indigenous governing bodies built through collaboration with local communities and stakeholders.
- In the Coast Area there are 5 FLP projects, all of which, once completed, will enhance predictability for First Nations, local communities and licensees.
- Engagement with local communities and forest sector participants on each of these FLPs is underway or planned.
- Two of the Forest Landscape Plan Projects have been underway since 2020:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The Sunshine Coast Forest Landscape Plan Pilot Project will be available for review by industry and the public this spring or summer.
- Of the 3 additional projects, two are in the Campbell River area: West-Central Vancouver Island and East-Central Vancouver Island received mandates in 2023.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Background/Status:

- There are 5 Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) projects in the Coast Area.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- The Sunshine Coast FLP Pilot Project is a collaborative project with 5 Core Nations (Homalco First Nation, Tla'amin, Shishalh, Squamish Nation and Klahoose First Nation). A draft plan will be shared with licensees late spring 2025, and public engagement subsequent to that. Final draft likely to be submitted in fall 2025.
- West-Central Vancouver Island project is a collaborative project with Ka:'Yu:K'T'H/Ches:K'Tles7t'h First Nations, Ehattesaht Tribe and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. The project is transitioning from initiation to values discussions. Public engagement anticipated for fall 2025.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Coast FLP projects have been selected based on a combination of factors: where we have willing partners, to address long-standing conflicts related to forest management, and where provincial priorities can be met (e.g. old growth deferral, certainty in fibre supply).
- Intergovernmental Communications
- Due to Interfor's exit, the share of volume held by FNs is increasing, many licensees are represented at the FLP tables.
- First Nation capacity funding allocations projects:

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:

Jessica Coster A/ADM Coast Area 250-739-8180

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: First Nations' Role and Participation in Forest Landscape Planning

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: First Nations' Role and Participation in Forest Landscape Planning

Response:

- First Nations are central to the FLP regime.
- The Chief Forester must consult and cooperate with First Nations, and consider how First Nations would like to engage, on the development of FLPs.
- The *Forest and Range Practices Act* enables the implementation of shared decision-making agreements negotiated under section 7 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) for key FLP related decisions.
- FLPs provide a vital opportunity to support reconciliation - to build a shared vision and direction for forest management that reflects the interests of First Nations, local communities and stakeholders in each area – and in turn, increase certainty for all.
- Today there are more than 90 First Nations participating in 15 FLP projects, and a first section 7 agreement being negotiated to support shared decision-making for FLP establishment.
- These plans take time to build and require a foundation of trust and common understanding, but the benefits of this investment are already being seen in some FLP areas, where improved relationships are leading to increased forest operations and certainty even before plans are completed.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- There are 23 First Nations participating in four FLP pilot projects (TFL37/Namgis, Sunshine Coast, Lakes and Quesnel) that have been underway since 2021/22.
- These Nations have been receiving annual funding through the Indigenous Funding Program (IFP) to compensate Nations for their time, skills and knowledge contribution.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- In February 2023, government announced a commitment to initiate 8 new FLPs and committed \$14M in contingency funding over 3 years to support an estimated 56 First Nations to participate in developing these FLP's.
- Recognizing higher than anticipated interest from First Nations, an additional \$3 million was approved for spending over 24/25 and 25/26 to support 10 more First Nations.
- In July 2024, \$4M in contingency funding was committed to support 13 First Nations to collaborate in two more FLPs over three years.
- Capacity funding spent to date across 15 FLP projects, and more than 90 First Nations is summarized below (\$M):

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

¹ Funding requested for 25/26 but not yet confirmed.

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: Direct line
Leah Malkinson	Jillian Rousselle	Forest Resiliency & Archaeology	250 953-3355

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Amount of Old Growth Forest in British Columbia
Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Amount of old growth forest including the amount of at-risk old growth forest.

Response:

- Old growth forest is defined on the coast and the interior wet belt as stands over 250 years old , Interior stands occurring on drier ecosystems, over 140 years old are also categorized as old growth.
- Old growth forests comprise 11.4 million hectares provincially*, about 20 percent of the forested area in B.C.
- 11.1 million hectares of old growth forest occur on public land.
- Of the 11.1 million hectares of old growth forests on public land, 3.8 million hectares are covered by some form of high-level of protection**.
- In 2021, the Province formed an independent Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to apply the best science and data available to identify at-risk old growth ecosystems and prioritize these areas for temporary deferral.
 - The TAP identified 4.0 million hectares of priority at-risk old forest and mature forest, however 1.4 million hectares of these forests were found to be co-located with existing long-term, high-level protection areas.
- TAP focused the remaining 2.6 million hectares of this priority at-risk forest type, for temporary deferral from harvesting.
 - of the TAP
 - As of February 2024, over 2.4 million hectares of old growth have been deferred or recently protected. This

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

includes 1.23 million hectares of at-risk old forest identified by TAP.

* Based on the 2020 provincial vegetation inventory

** Estimate as of February 2024 **Background/Status:**

- Old forests have unique characteristics not found in younger forests as they tend to have more standing dead and fallen trees making them much more biologically diverse than younger forests.
- Old growth forest is defined using the provincial Biodiversity Guidebook (1995) which categorizes old growth stands on the coast and interior wet belt as stands over 250 years old, and other interior stands over 140 years old.
- The characteristics of old growth forests also support the habitat needs for some species at risk such as mountain caribou and marbled murrelet.
- Old growth forests support traditional, spiritual, and cultural values for First Nations communities throughout the province.
- Old growth forests also provide timber for forest industries, nature-based tourism, and store significant amounts of carbon.
- The estimates of the amount of old growth in BC are based on the 2020 provincial vegetation inventory.
- The estimate of the area of old growth that is covered by some form of high-level protection is as of February 2024.
- In 2019, the Province appointed an independent, two-person panel (Garry Merkel and Al Gorley) as part of an Old Growth Strategic Review to engage the public in a conversation about old growth.
- On September 11, 2020, government released the panel's report, *A New Future for Old Forests*, and announced it was embarking on a new, holistic approach to protecting old growth forests.
- One of the immediate measures recommended by the panel was the deferral of harvesting in old growth that is at risk of irreversible loss.
- Priority at-risk old forests identified by the TAP include Big-Treed Old Growth, Remnant Old Ecosystems, and Ancient Forest
- A small portion (15%) of the TAP priority at-risk old forests was older mature forest.

Contact:

Shane Berg

Assistant Deputy
Minister, Chief
Forester

Office of the Chief
Forester

(250) 851-6333

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Identified Old Growth Polygons and Fibre for Pellets

Revised: February 26, 2025

Issue: Drax rejects fibre for pellets if it overlaps with Technical Advisory Panel-identified old growth polygons to comply with EU legislation.

Response:

- A Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) was appointed in 2021 in response to recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review.
- The TAP identified polygons of high value old growth forest were recommended for deferral.
- In response, the Province committed to working with First Nations to temporarily defer old growth areas where supported by First Nations, although many TAP polygons in the North Area do not have the support of First Nations.
- The majority of North Area First Nations are managing old growth through their own best management practices and through formal planning initiatives such as Forest Landscape Planning or modernized land use planning
- Advice/Recommendations
- FOR will continue to engage with Drax to clarify how BC laws and practices are consistent with European Union (EU) legislation to allow for continued operations and acceptance of fibre that overlap with identified old growth stands.

Background/Status:

- On Implementation of the Old Growth Action Plan

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- In June 2021, the Province established a TAP to provide recommendations on priority areas for implementation of deferrals.
- On May 21, 2024, *From review to action* (Old Growth Action Plan) was released after being developed in collaboration with First Nations and through engagement with stakeholders.
- On Old Growth Deferrals
 - As of February 2024, coordination between First Nations and forest licensees has resulted Provincially in close to 2.44 million hectares of old growth being permanently protected or temporarily deferred since November 2021.
 - 1.23 million hectares is “at-risk” old growth identified by the TAP; and
 - An additional ~1.21 million hectares were identified by First Nations.
 - This is on top of the nearly 3.66 million hectares that was already protected.
 - TAP Polygons were intended to be temporary old growth deferrals until Forest Landscape Planning and Modernized Land Use Planning guide old growth management.
- On Drax
 - Drax's Operations in BC: Drax is the primary pellet producer in BC, operating 8 pellet plants and 2 port facilities, including Meadow Bank (south of Prince George), Burns Lake, and the Westview Terminal in Prince Rupert.
 - Concerns Over Old Growth: Environmental groups and the public worry that pellet production contributes to harvesting old growth and primary forests.
 - Policy on Old Growth Fibre: As of August 25, 2023, Drax's Board of Directors decided not to accept logs or ground fibre from BC cutting permits overlapping “Old Growth Polygons” defined by the Technical Advisory Panel.
 - EU Regulatory Changes: On April 3, 2024, Drax informed the Ministry of Forests that evolving EU fibre sourcing laws may impact its ability to export BC forest products.
 - Economic Contribution: Drax's numbers report investment of \$800 million into Canada's forest sector, supporting over 10,000 jobs and contributing \$1.1 billion annually to GDP.
 - Impact on Local Facilities: Drax's decision has removed a market for low-quality fibre and residues in the North Area, affecting local facilities.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Lori Borth	RED	Omineca Region	Phone: 250-570-9442

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Old Growth Strategic Review/Old Growth Action Plan

Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: Implementation of the Old Growth Action Plan, *From Review to Action*, in response to the Old Growth Strategic Review, *New Future for Old Forests*

Response:

- British Columbia is shifting toward a land management approach that focuses on better supporting healthy communities and ecosystems, and creating certainty for the communities who depend on them.
- This is necessary if forests are to continue providing essential benefits, such as clean air and water, carbon storage, food security – and as important, secure, and stable inputs to a sustainable timber industry and more diversified forest sector.
- In May of 2024 the Old Growth Action Plan was released, reporting the significant progress towards the 14 recommendations made through the Old Growth Strategic Review report and outlining the action needed toward achieving a strong sector based on healthy ecosystems.
- We are committed to furthering this work in partnership with First Nations and our natural resource sector partners, including the forestry industry, affected stakeholders, and environmental NGOs.

Background/Status:

- In 2020, the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) report, *A New Future for Old Forests*, was released and all 14 recommendations made by the independent panel were adopted.
- The province and First Nations across B.C. have worked in partnership since 2021 to defer logging of old growth as a temporary measure to prevent biodiversity loss while work continues on a new, long-term approach to forest management founded upon ecosystem health and community resiliency.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- On May 21, 2024, *From Review to Action* (the Old Growth Action Plan) was released after being developed in collaboration with First Nations and through extensive engagement with stakeholders.
- The Action Plan reports on the progress of government towards the OGSR recommendations and establishes further actions for government to advance implementation.
- The Action Plan sets out more than 30 cross-ministry actions toward achieving a vision for a strong sector, organized under three overarching goals relating to stable and inclusive land governance, stewardship for healthy ecosystems, and (community and economic) support for the changing system.
- Most actions continue to advance across all three goals or are directly related to monitoring and reporting. The remaining actions are either considered complete/effectively fulfilled (6 total) or are not likely to advance quickly under the new mandate (5 total).
- FOR is committed to advancing changes that improve the ecological appropriateness of forest management and practices, and that enhance the overall health and biodiversity of forest ecosystems.

Contact:

Shane Berg	Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester	Office of the Chief Forester	Phone: 250 851-6333
------------	---	---------------------------------	------------------------

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Old Growth Deferrals.
Revised: February 13, 2025

Issue: Status of temporary old growth deferrals and the transition to long-term stewardship

Response:

- In September 2020, the B.C. government released its Old Growth Strategic Review titled *A New Future for Old Forests*.
- One immediate response to *A New Future for Old Forests* was to defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at high, near-term risk of irreparable biodiversity loss.
- Deferrals are a temporary measure to create space for discussion on holistic, long-term management approaches for old growth forests.
- Since 2021, we have worked in partnership with First Nations and stakeholders to identify old-growth deferral locations.
- As of February 2025, close to 2.4 million hectares of old growth has been deferred or newly protected. This is in addition to the nearly 3.7 million hectares that were already protected.
- Our focus is now on landing decisions on long-term management plans for these areas.
- Transitioning from temporary deferrals to long-term decisions requires local insights. Planning processes such as Forest Landscape Planning and Modernized Land Use are key tools for this.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- In November 2021, Government announced its intention to work in partnership with First Nations Rights and Title holders to defer development within 2.6 million hectares of old growth forest.
- As of February 2024, coordination between First Nations and forest licensees has resulted in close to 2.44 million hectares of old growth being permanently protected or temporarily deferred since November 2021. This is on top of the nearly 3.66 million hectares that were already protected.
 - 1.23 million hectares of old growth is “at-risk” (as identified by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel); and
 - An additional approximately 1.21 million hectares were identified by First Nations.
- Deferrals can be implemented in three ways:
 - by companies agreeing to voluntarily pause harvest;
 - by a Order in Council and associated minister’s order under Part 13 of the *Forest Act*; or
 - as directed as in the case of the provincial government providing direction to BC Timber Sales to voluntarily defer.
- Voluntary deferrals account for approximately 90% of temporary old growth deferrals and are currently operating effectively over more than 2 million hectares.
- Legal orders, under Part 13 of the *Forest Act*, to specifically protect old growth cover 8,212 hectares of old growth across the province.
- The focus is shifting to old-growth management approaches over the long term.

Contact:

Jillian Rousselle ADM

Forest Resiliency and
Archaeology

Phone: 250-
889-8977

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Minister Estimates 2025 – Old Growth Forest Harvest Risk (Prov)

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Most of the old growth forest located on public lands in B.C. is at low risk for timber harvesting.

Response:

- Old forests comprise 11.4 million hectares provincially*, which is about 20 percent of the forested area in B.C.
- 11.1 million hectares of old forest occur on public land.
- Of the total 11.1 million hectares of old forest, 3.8 million hectares are covered by some form of high-level protection**, leaving 7.3 million hectares unprotected.
- Of these 7.3 million hectares of unprotected old forest, 2.0 million hectares** are currently being deferred from harvest, leaving 5.3 million hectares unprotected.
- Of the 5.3 million hectares of unprotected old that is not deferred, 3.0 million hectares** are unavailable or uneconomic and low risk for timber harvesting.
- In summary, 8.8 million hectares, which is 80 percent of the 11.1 million hectares of old forest on public land, are currently at low risk of harvest.

* Based on the 2020 provincial vegetation inventory, old forest only.

** Estimate as of February 2024

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- “High-level protection” areas are land designations that prohibit or generally-prohibit forest harvesting, such as parks, conservancy areas, ungulate winter ranges, wildlife habitat areas, special forest management areas, legal old growth management areas.
- ‘Deferred’ areas are lands where either First Nations support harvest deferral or harvest is being deferred by B.C. Timber Sales.
- The estimates of the amount of old growth in B.C. are based on the 2020 provincial vegetation inventory.
- The estimate of the area of old growth that is covered by some form of high-level protection is as of February 2024.

●Advice/Recommendations

* Harvest estimates as of January 2024

Contact:

Shane Berg

Assistant Deputy
Minister, Chief
Forester

Office of the Chief
Forester

(250) 851-6333

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Socioeconomic Impacts of Old Growth
Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Socioeconomic Impacts of Old Growth

Response:

- British Columbia forests are part of our natural heritage, and British Columbians care deeply about them and the multitude of social, ecological, and cultural benefits they provide.
- We are reshaping our forest industry and taking action to protect our most at risk old growth forests, species at risk, and addressing other land use decisions.
- Land use decisions do have an impact upon B.C.'s forest sector. These decisions can be wide-ranging and include old growth protection, First Nations claims and negotiations, biodiversity targets, and the creation of protected areas.
- We know there will be impacts to workers, local businesses and communities. That's why we have worked hard to provide comprehensive supports for workers, communities and First Nations through the development of new programs and by continuing and enhancing existing programs to mitigate any potential impacts.
- We know that the forestry industry is in a period of transition and faces significant challenges. With the end of the beetle kill harvest and years of record wildfires, we need to do more with less – and create more jobs for every tree harvested.
- This is why, through the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund, we have committed nearly \$146 million towards 132 projects, unlocking over \$1 billion in other private and public

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

investment, creating and protecting thousands of jobs, and strengthening manufacturing supply chains.

Background/Status:

- On Old Growth Impacts:
 - Initial socioeconomic work on the old growth deferrals announced in November 2021 estimated roughly 4,500 direct forestry workers would be impacted if the deferrals became permanent.
- On the Economic Model:
 - Socioeconomic impacts can include employment, gross domestic product, sales revenue, labour income, and provincial revenue.
 - Results from a special run of Statistics Canada's Input-Output Model are used to calculate the impacts. The Ministry currently uses a model based on 2018 data, with projections for 2019 and 2020 added.
 - For transparency, the model results are available on the Forest Industry Economics page of the Ministry's public-facing website.
 - Ministry staff are working on an updated model based on 2021, 2022, and 2023.
 - The development of the economic multipliers for the model was undertaken with the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) to promote use of a consistent tool when doing analysis.
 - Though the model is based on Statistics Canada work, Statistics Canada is not involved in, nor do they endorse the Ministry's socioeconomic work.
- On the Analysis Process:
 - Typically, land use decisions involve multiple options with differing impacts on the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC), and each option's socioeconomic impacts are estimated based on the AAC impacts.
 - Staff review ministry data such as harvest levels, mill inputs, geographic information, and management unit AACs to inform additional qualitative analysis and to adjust calculated socioeconomic impacts. Project leads and subject-matter experts, such as foresters and biologists, also help inform analysis.
 - 2021 Canadian Census data is sometimes used to support analysis by looking at forest sector's contribution to local or regional household employment and income.

Contact:

Melissa Sanderson ADM Timber, Range and Economics Phone: 250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Tree Farm Licence 46 and Old Growth in Fairy Creek

Revised: February 25, 2025

Issue: The suspension of harvesting in Fairy Creek has been extended to September 30, 2026.

Response:

- The Fairy Creek watershed is within the territory of the Pacheedaht First Nation and part of Tree Farm Licence 46.
- Fairy Creek Designated Area No. 1 includes an area of approximately 300 hectares of timber harvesting land base, where harvesting would normally be considered both acceptable and economically feasible.
- Since June 2021, harvesting of old growth forest within Fairy Creek Designated Area No 1 has been suspended under part 13 of the Forest Act.
- The designated area and order suspending the harvesting of old growth have been extended to September 30, 2026.
- In his allowable annual cut decision for Tree Farm Licence 46, the chief forester made a reduction to account for the management of old growth forest and the associated ecological values.
- The chief forester also temporarily reduced the allowable annual cut to account for the suspension of old growth harvesting in Fairy Creek Designated Area No 1.
- The province is in discussions with the Pacheedaht First Nation regarding the management of forests and forestry operations in the Fairy Creek watershed.

Background/Status:

- Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 46 is held by Teal Cedar Products Ltd.
- The Fairy Creek Watershed Designated Area No.1 was originally established by Order in Council in June of 2021.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- In August 2021, the province provided Pacheedaht with \$500k to complete an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). Pacheedaht requested the funding to complete a community-led process on the long-term management of forests within their territory, improve alignment within the community, and create a shared vision following the significant protests that began in 2021 in the Fairy Creek area.
- Advice/Recommendations
 - The Order in Council 134/2023 establishing the designated area was amended in January 2025 allowing for the extension of the suspension of old growth harvesting in the area to September 30, 2026.
 - The harvest of old growth forest within the designated area has been suspended under Ministerial Order M16/2025.
 - There are two designated areas within TFL 46:
 - Fairy Creek Designated Area No. 1, (1,184 gross hectares) and
 - Central Walbran Valley portion of Old Growth Designated Area No.1. (1,489 gross hectares).
 - Combined, these two designated areas impact approximately 630 hectares, or 1.5 percent of the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) in TFL 46.
 - In May 2024, under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*, the chief forester determined the allowable annual cut (AAC) for TFL 46 to be 360,000 cubic metres.
 - To avoid overharvesting in the remaining portion of TFL 46, the chief forester temporarily reduced the AAC of TFL 46 by 4300 cubic metres to account for the harvest suspension under the two designated areas.
 - The temporary AAC reduction attributable to Fairy Creek Designated Area No. 1 is 1900 cubic metres.
 - The temporary AAC reductions apply as long as the designated areas and ministerial orders remain in effect.

Contact:

Shane Berg	ADM, Chief Forester	Office of the Chief Forester	Phone: (250) 851-6333
Jessica Coster	ADM	Coast Area	Phone: (250) 739-8180

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Defense against United States tariffs
Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: The United States' President Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian exports, on top of existing softwood lumber duties.

Response:

- Any tariffs applied to our softwood lumber products exported to the United States (U.S.) are unwarranted. The prospect of additional 25% tariffs on our forest products in addition to existing softwood lumber duties is a serious threat to the entire forest sector.
- British Columbia's forest policies are trade compliant and government is deeply concerned about the effect these unnecessary, punitive duties and tariffs might have on our forest sector and on the families in communities across British Columbia (B.C.) whose livelihoods rely on it.
- I have formed a new council to advance B.C.'s interests in the softwood lumber dispute. The Softwood Lumber Advisory Council is comprised of forest sector leaders, labour representatives and experts on U.S. relations and has met three times to discuss our strategy and measures to advocate for the province's interests.
- We are working to strengthen and diversify our provincial economy and forestry sector, including building new markets and strengthening existing ones.
- I recently met with Californian officials and business leaders to ensure that they understand the value of B.C. as a trading partner and as a source of quality forest products to assist them with their rebuilding efforts following the devastating fires in Los Angeles.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- U.S. President Trump has signed an Executive Order on February 1, 2025, using the *International Emergency Economic Powers Act* to justify the imposition of a 25% tariff on Canada, basing the action in “the sustained influx of illicit opioids and other drugs”. The order specifically identified B.C.: “With respect to smuggling of illicit drugs across our northern border, Canada's Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre recently published a study on the laundering of proceeds of illicit synthetic opioids, which recognized Canada's heightened domestic production of fentanyl, largely from British Columbia, and its growing footprint within international narcotics distribution”.
- The Executive Order was to take effect on February 4th and apply to all imports from Canada, although energy resources were to be subject to a 10% tariff.
- The Canadian Prime Minister announced retaliatory tariffs of 25% on \$155 billion in U.S. goods, including beer, wine, bourbon, fruits, juices, vegetables, perfume, clothing, shoes, appliances, furniture, sports equipment, lumber and plastics.
- The U.S. paused the planned tariffs on February 3rd, pending negotiations with Canada (the U.S. also paused planned tariffs on Mexico's goods).
- Government formed the Softwood Lumber Advisory Council in January 2025; members include:
 - Ric Slaco: former Vice President and Chief Forester, Interfor
 - Dan Battistella: Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association
 - Dallas Smith, President and CEO of Nanwakolas Council
 - Harry Bains: former Minister of Labour, Province of B.C.
 - Linda Coady: former President and CEO of the B.C. Council of Forest Industries
 - Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, Unifor
 - Scott Lunny, United Steelworkers Western Director
 - Geoff Dawe, Public and Private Workers of Canada
 - Rick Doman, Past Industry

Contact:

Melissa Sanderson ADM

TRE

250-812-7253

Page 167 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 168 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 169 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 170 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Stumpage
Revised: January 30, 2025

Issue: General Stumpage

Response:

- Stumpage is the fee government charges when it sells trees.
- BC charges for trees like a private landowner would.
- Licensees pay cash (stumpage) and provide services (obligations) for the trees they purchase.
- BC uses the Market Pricing System (MPS) to determine the stumpage rate.
- MPS uses BC Timber Sales auctions as the cornerstone system for pricing non-auctioned timber.
- MPS uses the data collected from auctioning off roughly 20% of the annual allowable cut (AAC) to price the remainder.
- Fiscal year 2025/26 stumpage revenue is estimated to be \$546M¹.
- Stumpage revenue is up from an estimated \$466M in fiscal year 2024/25, and down significantly from \$1.45 B in fiscal year 2022/23.
- The main reason for the decrease in stumpage revenues is due to lower expected average stumpage rates and lower harvest volumes.
- The MPS equation includes a lumber variable and it is sensitive to changes in lumber prices.
- The forecast assumes \$US440/mfbm price of lumber for calendar year 2025.

¹ Stumpage Revenue is part of Total Forest Revenue which is \$659 million.

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- Stumpage:
 - Stumpage = Estimated Winning Bid (EWB) – Tenure Obligation Adjustments (TOA).
 - The EWB is the value of trees if sold prior to harvest. BCTS auctions standing timber to collect data, which is used to build the EWB equation.
 - The TOA is the value of services licensees provide to the government such as silviculture and road building.
 - Stumpage for licensees is updated monthly based on the latest market conditions.
 - The Coast and the Interior of BC both use a version of MPS and there are some differences in the details.
- Lumber Prices impacting Stumpage:
 - Prior to 2017, lumber prices had never been above US\$ 500/mfbm.
 - Since then, lumber prices have been extremely volatile.
 - May 2021 - US\$ 1600/mfbm.
 - August 2021 – US\$ 400/mfbm.
 - March 2022 – US\$ 1400/mfbm.
 - April 2023 – US\$ 350/mfbm.
 - January 2025 – US\$ 445/mfbm.
 - The 2025 Budget forecast assumes \$US440 /mfbm price of lumber for calendar year 2025.
 - Up slightly from \$US413 in calendar year 2024.
 - Using all assumptions, Crown average stumpage rates are estimated to be \$12/m³ in fiscal year 2025/26; down from \$13/m³ in fiscal year 2024/25.
 - For every +/- \$US 50/mfbm change in lumber prices (over a full year), there is a stumpage revenue change of approximately +/- C50-70M.

Contact:

Al Bennett	Melissa Sanderson	TRE	250-812-7253
------------	-------------------	-----	--------------

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: FOR Revenue Forecast for 2025/26

Date: January 30, 2025

Issue: Stumpage – Budget Forecast

Response:

- Forest revenue is expected to be \$501M in fiscal 2024/25 and in 2025/26.
- Forest revenue has declined significantly from fiscal 2022/23 due to the impacts of lower stumpage revenue and lower logging tax revenue.
- Lumber prices have fallen from US\$1400/mfbm in March 2022, to a 2024 calendar year average of US\$415/mfbm.
- Low lumber prices impact stumpage revenue through the market pricing system.
- Total Crown harvest volumes are estimated to be 31 million cubic meters in fiscal 2024/25 and 30 million cubic meters in fiscal 2025/26.
- Harvest volumes have declined significantly over the past few years due to declines in annual allowable cut associated with pest epidemics, wildfires, species at risk protection, old growth deferrals and mill curtailments.

Background/Status:

- Forest Revenue has declined from \$1.89B in Fiscal 2022/23 to an estimated \$501M in Fiscal 2024/25 and in Fiscal 2025/26.
- The forest revenue forecast is based on current economic assumptions regarding lumber commodity prices, US housing starts, the Canada-U.S. exchange rate and prevailing stumpage rates.
- Economic assumptions are reviewed and developed jointly with Treasury Board staff.
- Lumber Price assumption:
 - The stumpage forecast assumes \$US440/mfbm price of lumber for 2025.
 - For every +/- \$US50/mfbm change in lumber prices (over a full year), there is a stumpage revenue change of approximately +/- C\$50-70M.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Crown harvest volumes assumption:
 - The stumpage forecast assumes 30 million cubic meters will be harvested in 2025/26.
 - Crown harvest volume has fallen from 60 million cubic meters in 2016/17.

FORESTS REVENUE (\$, Millions)					
	2023/24 Actuals	2024/25 Revised Forecast	2025/26 Target s.13; s.17	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
Timber Tenures ¹	\$239	\$103			
BC Timber Sales	\$201	\$198			
Other Forest Revenues ²	\$44	\$35			
Logging tax ³	\$25	(30)			
Recoveries ⁴	\$160	\$194			
Forest Revenue (A9)⁵	\$670	\$501			

- ¹ Timber Tenures includes stumpage revenue and annual rent revenue. Recoveries related to revenue sharing payments to Indigenous Peoples are deducted to provide **net timber tenures revenue**.
- ² Other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) Revenue includes timber export fees, range permits and fees, waste, penalties, interest and other miscellaneous forestry receipts.
- ³ Logging tax is administered by the Ministry of Finance and applies to individuals or corporations that have income from logging operations on private or Crown land in BC.
- ⁴ Recoveries include wildfire management recoveries. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) recoveries are also included.
- ⁵ Forest Revenue (A9) aligns with the Budget and Fiscal Plan 2025/2026.

NOTE: This Budget Forecast Note is a duplication of the note below.

Title: Ministry of Forests Revenue Estimates

Revised: January 30, 2025

Issue: FOR revenue forecast for 2025/26

Contact: Sonja Martins

Contact:

Allan Bennett

Melissa Sanderson TRE

250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Stumpage
Revised: February 4, 2025

Issue: End-Product Pricing

Response:

- In BC, the auction value of timber is used to set stumpage through the Market Pricing System (MPS) which ensures BC receives market value for trees sold.

Advice/Recommendations

-
- Sawlogs that could be turned into higher value lumber may be chipped for lower value pulp.
- Government will not receive the full value for the log and may be open to further U.S. trade action.
- In the Interior, moving fibre away from sawmills to a pulp mill could increase the scarcity of fibre caused by declines in annual allowable cut associated with pest epidemics, wildfires, species at risk protection, old growth deferrals and reconciliation efforts.
- This may lead to further sawmill closures.
- Government is committed to working with the Pulp and Paper sector and the government has successfully explored short and mid-term options for increased access to fibre for pulp mills.

Background/Status:

- End-product pricing is when stumpage rates are varied depending on the forest product being made where the logs are being delivered (e.g. charge full stumpage at a sawmill and \$0.25/m³ at a pulp mill).

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The MPS uses the real market value of the timber to set stumpage, where end-product pricing uses the ability to pay, as well as the value of products produced to set stumpage.
- End-product pricing may lead to better utilization during harvesting in some circumstances and it may also divert fibre from sawmills to pulp mills or away from pulp mills to pellet plants.
 - Diverting fibre away from sawmills will exacerbate the fibre supply shortages caused by beetle attacked timber, wildfires, species at risk protection, reconciliation efforts and old growth deferrals.
- End-product pricing is not consistent with asserting financial interests of government in a systematic and equitable manner as outlined in the *Forest and Range Act* since different companies will be charged different stumpage rates for the same log.
- Advice/Recommendations
-

Contact:

Allan Bennett

Melissa Sanderson TRE

250-812-7253

2024 Wildfire Season Summary Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: 2024 Wildfire Season Summary

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: 2024 Wildfire Season Summary

Response:

- Following B.C.'s worst wildfire season on record, the BC Wildfire Service began preparing for the 2024 wildfire season by strengthening planning, prevention, and preparedness as well as response and recovery efforts.
- From April 1/24 to February 21/25, 1,688 wildfires burned 1,081,136 hectares of forest and land.
- Hectares burned in 2024 were above the 20-year average of 474,718 hectares, and total wildfires were below the 20-year average of 1,762 wildfires.
- 71 per cent were natural-caused and 28 per cent were human-caused. The remaining 1 per cent are undetermined. Historically, the ratio is 60 natural-caused and 40 percent human-caused.
- There were 26 wildfires designated as Wildfires of Note. This is a decrease from 60 in the 2023 wildfire season.
- Wildfires in 2024 resulted in 51 evacuation orders, which affected more than 4,100 properties, and 112 evacuation alerts, which affected more than 12,500 properties.
- The beginning of the 2024 fire season was heavily influenced by compounding, unprecedented drought conditions, allowing for some wildfires from the season prior to burn deep underground and persist overwinter.
- In spring of 2024, around 80 overwintering holdover fires from the 2023 fire season remained active in northeastern B.C.

Wildfires in 2023 and 2024 within the Prince George Fire

2024 Wildfire Season Summary Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Centre have burned 10 per cent of the land base in the region, which is more than the previous 60 years combined.

- Several new technologies (NVG night tanking, advanced growth modelling, camera network) and response enhancements (additional IA crews, updated recruitment model, equipment purchases, and increased aviation contracts) were implemented for the 2024 wildfire season.
- All six fire centres in British Columbia were impacted by wildfires last season, with community impacts felt in every region of the province.
- Nationally, hectares burned in 2024 (5,378,075) was above the 10-year average (3,512,889).

Background/Status:

- On the 2024 wildfire season – Preparedness
 - Building on the lessons learned from the 2023 wildfire season, the BC Wildfire Service participated in the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies.
 - The BC Wildfire Service began developing a framework for working with local community members who have basic wildfire suppression training and are interested in supporting response efforts around their communities
 - Ahead of the 2024 wildfire season, a series of enhancements were made to the wildland firefighter recruitment strategy to improve the application process for rural and remote communities.
 - The BC Wildfire Service adopted new predictive software, which enhances wildfire predictions by augmenting data from weather models, topography and fuel maps using real-time observations input directly from the field
 - The BC Wildfire Service trialled several new technologies such as Night Vision Imaging System to respond with rotary wing aircraft overnight.
- On the 2024 wildfire season – Prevention
 - The 2024 provincial budget allocated \$40 million to the BC Wildfire Service Prevention program which includes Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR), the Cultural and Prescribed Fire program, FireSmart and other wildfire resiliency partnerships.
 - Prevention initiatives during 2024 consisted of increased funding, planning and implementation of community resiliency and wildfire risk reduction projects, contributions to policy and research development and ongoing

2024 Wildfire Season Summary Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

strategic partnership with First Nations, local governments and municipal fire departments.

- On the 2024 wildfire season – Response
 - Due to the 80 overwintering holdover fires from 2023 into 2024, BC saw a very early start to wildfire season in the Prince George Fire Centre.
 - A large-scale monitoring and response plan was created in the fall of 2023 to address the potential for holdover fires resurfacing and growing beyond their established perimeter. As a result of these efforts, only 12 areas saw growth beyond existing perimeters in 2024.
 - From 2022-2024, B.C. had been enduring a rainfall deficit, most notably in the central and northeast regions of the province with some areas 40-60 per cent of normal from September 2023 to September 2024.
 - Drought conditions steadily heightened from May through September, increasing probability of wildfire starts and challenging suppression efforts.
 - During July and August, the number of lightning strikes were 75 per cent of the 20-year average, showing a lower frequency than usual.
 - However, due to the dry, susceptible fuel, lightning accounted for a higher percentage (over 70 per cent) of wildfires in 2024 compared to previous years (typically about 60 per cent).
 - Early in the year, the BC Wildfire Service was able to provide response support to other wildfire response agencies including Alberta, Yukon, Parks Canada and the United States of America.
 - In July, BC Wildfire Service proactively requested nearly 600 resources through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre to help maintain preparedness and assist with response in all fire centres.
 - Crews and specialized personnel arrived within Canada from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon.
 - Support also came from beyond our borders, with specialized staff coming from the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand.
 - Ahead of the 2024 fire season, the BC Wildfire Service worked with partners to train nearly 430 non-Indigenous rural community members across 21 community response groups. Four of these groups were engaged in active fire response this season, including Venables Community, Argenta Community, Knutsford Community, Chinook Emergency Response Society.
 - Approximately 84 structural fire departments deployed to engage in structure protection and wildfire response efforts around the province.
 - During the core of the 2024 fire season, there were 33 airtanker and birddog aircraft available to the BC Wildfire Service including resources from Ontario, Quebec, Yukon and Alaska. The airtankers completed 457 missions.

2024 Wildfire Season Summary Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- More than 31,000 hours of flight time was recorded by long term and casual hire helicopters. The greatest number of helicopters hired on a single day was 154 on August 14.
- Throughout the 2024 wildfire season approximately 100 - 250 pieces of heavy equipment and their operators were available to be contracted to support the BC Wildfire Service.
- On the 2024 wildfire season – Recovery
 - The BC Wildfire Service expanded the Recovery program in 2024 which covers wildfire suppression rehabilitation, post wildfire natural hazard risk analysis and ecological wildfire recovery.
 - As of October 31, approximately 210 of the 2,061 kilometres of fire guard that was built this season has been rehabilitated, and 28 ecological wildfire recovery projects are underway.

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
----------------	-----	---------------------	--------------

2024/25 Wildfire Claims and Litigation Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: 2024 Wildfire Claims and Litigation

Revised: February 24, 2025

Issue: Outstanding Wildfire Claims and Litigation from 2024

Response:

- The British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS) Wildfire Risk program is responsible for the adjudication of all private land claims province-wide related to wildfire.

Advice/Recommendations

- The BCWS works with the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) to resolve litigation on favourable terms to the province.

Background/Status:

- As per Section 9 of the Wildfire Act and Section 15 of the Wildfire Regulation, if the government enters private land for fire control and causes damage, the government must compensate the owner or tenant of that land.
- Section 6 of the Limitation Act states that a civil court proceeding must not be commenced more than 2 years after the day on which the claim is discovered.

2024/25 Wildfire Claims and Litigation
Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information

- Advice/Recommendations

-

- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information

-

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
----------------	-----	---------------------	--------------

Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Cooperative Community Wildfire Response
Revised: February 24, 2025

Issue: Cooperative Community Wildfire Response

Response:

- Cooperative Community Wildfire Response (CCWR), is an initiative by the BC Wildfire Service to understand existing wildfire response capacity in rural and remote communities. Solutions, or pathways to cooperation, are being explored in collaboration with community response societies, local governments and emergency response agencies.
- The goals of CCWR are to:
 - Understand and support the development of Indigenous and rural non-Indigenous community wildfire preparedness and response capacity.
 - Develop pathways, building on what already exists, for both Indigenous and rural, non-Indigenous community wildfire response, in cooperation with BC Wildfire Service.
 - Improve cooperation between communities, BC Wildfire Service and local authorities. Acknowledging local and traditional knowledge in fire management.
 - Indigenous communities have a direct pathway for response co-operation through Indigenous Initial Response Crews, Entry Level Suppression crews and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Liaisons.
- The new FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations provides funding to regional districts in BC to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response by undertaking training and purchasing Personal Protective Equipment for local

Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

community groups in areas that do not fall within a structural fire protection jurisdiction area.

- This is a voluntary program, and there is no requirement for Regional Districts to apply for the funding.
- The BC Wildfire Service will continue to provide the same service levels and response capabilities to all communities regardless if a CCWR program is implemented or not.
- The BC Wildfire Service will work with communities during fire season when there is desire to be involved in response efforts regardless of having a CCWR crew.
- There are minimum requirements to be involved in community response that are publicly available in the BC Wildfire Service Collaborative Partnership Guide.

Background/Status:

- After the 2023 Fire season, the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies recommended defining clear pathways for organized and trained local people to play a role in wildfire preparedness and response.
- The BC Wildfire Service partnered with the Fraser Basin Council in fall 2023 to engage rural communities as part of the Wildfire Roundtables they facilitate.
- Through this engagement, the Fraser Basin Council received responses from 37 out of 89 electoral area directors. Of the 37 responses, 35 identified existing groups that were outside of structural protection areas. 24 of these groups were organized, and 11 were not organized at the time.
- The feedback received was instrumental in guiding the steps BCWS took leading into the 2024 fire season to invest in the preparedness for these groups by training 430+ community members across 21 groups and engaging them in cooperative response efforts in the 2024 fire season.
- The groups that were hired in the 2024 fire season were engaged in low complexity tasks aligned with their basic training such as mopping-up, cooling ash pits, and patrolling areas to prevent potential flare-ups.
- In recognition of the need to grow this program beyond the initial training intake in 2023, the Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations program was established to assist in funding training and equipment purchasing of rural response groups.
- Indigenous communities were prioritized after the 2021 fire season and continue to be trained. Over 6000 certificates have been issued to 659 individuals.

Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Response teams held by First Nations include Indigenous Initial Response and Entry Level suppression contracts.

Contact:
Rob Schweitzer ADM BC Wildfire Service 250-320-0433

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Cost of the 2024 Wildfire Season

Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: Financial cost of the 2024 Wildfire Season

Response:

- Fire Management expenditures for the 2024 season are forecasted to be \$777.321 Million.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- Previous high in 2023 – \$1.094 Billion.
- 10 years average cost of Fire Season, excluding current year – \$456.96 Million
- Human-caused fires consistently trending downward from high of 59% (2020) down to 26% (2024)
- The total cost includes all expenses authorized under the Wildfire Act, including prevention activities, and Section 108 of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

• Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

• Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	A/ADM	BC Wildfire Service	Phone: 250-320-0433
Dave Fleming	Director Corporate Governance	BC Wildfire Service	Phone: Govern Government

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Preparation for the 2025 Wildfire Season

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: Preparation for 2025 Wildfire Season

Response:

- BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is on track to be fully prepared for the 2025 wildfire and freshet season.
- BCWS works closely with Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, local governments and First Nations in preparation for wildfire season and continues to focus on key partnerships to build capacity in preparedness and response (such as FNESS, the BC Cattlemens Association, industry, and local governments).
- In recognition of the continued disproportionate impacts of wildfires on rural and indigenous communities BCWS is working closely with local governments to identify, source, and pre-position resources for response, including leadership, local knowledge, equipment and infrastructure.
- BCWS has set up the FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response (CCWR) Organizations coordinated through UBCM which provides funding to regional districts in BC to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response by undertaking training and purchasing Personal Protective Equipment for local community members in areas that do not fall within a structural fire protection jurisdiction area.
- CCWR funding is in addition to the training funding available to all local governments and First Nations within the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- BCWS continues to work closely with the BC Fire Chiefs Association (Interagency agreement) to expand interagency cross training efforts with Fire Departments and FNESS through an expanded Wildfire Resiliency Training Summit and local training exercises.
- BCWS has and continues to invest in tools and technology to assist operational decision makers working in a complex and dynamic environment. This includes advanced wildfire growth modeling technology.
- BCWS is continuing to expand the use of Night Vision Goggle (NVG) Technology for aerial rotary night operations including night-time detection and tanking.
- BCWS has expanded its long term rotary wing aircraft for the 2025 fire season to ensure availability and an increased response posture. This is in addition to the aircraft that are hired when required based on hazard and response requirements.
- BCWS has grown its full-time staffing by 55% since 2021 to be able to better plan, prepare respond and mitigate the impacts of wildfires.
- A series of enhancements have been made to strengthen recruitment pathways into BCWS, specifically for applicants in rural and remote communities. This work includes expanding First Nations bootcamps and extending the hiring period for new recruits resulting in more than 1,700 firefighter applicants by January 2025. Applications are open until February 28, 2025.
- During the 2024 season, BCWS:
 - Invested \$16 million to expand BC Wildfire Service's on-the-ground firefighting equipment.
 - Acquired two additional mass water systems.
 - Acquired additional structure protection units.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Began the process of establishing a new equipment depot in Prince George to support northern operations.
- Increased the number of First Nations partners for initial attack for indigenous communities to respond to wildfires.
- Increased from 149 to 162 initial attack crews (4 person).

Background/Status:

- On Wildfire Response – Predictive Services:
 - BCWS continues to invest in the development of enhanced predictive services and more robust planning tools to improve year-round preparedness, prevention, response and recovery activities.
 - BCWS continues to work with international fire agencies, research communities and the private sector to ensure the latest emerging science and technology are directed towards real-world challenges that improve how the threat of wildfire is assessed and managed.
 - In response to the increasing risk of wildfire, BCWS has invested in building internal capacity and expertise to ensure our province is positioned to evaluate and deploy the most advanced science, technology and fire management systems available.
- On Wildfire Response – Tactics, Priorities and Decision Making Protocols
 - Site and Coordination level surge capacity decision making models were co-developed with Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS). (Integrated Support Group, Multi Agency Support Group, Joint Hazard Management Team)
 - Intergovernmental Communications

 - BCWS Flood Preparedness framework established in collaboration with EMCR to ensure resource availability to support flood response operations.
 - BCWS is supporting EMCR in developing Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments.
- On Wildfire Response - Capacity:
 - BCWS continues to collaborate with the contracting community to promote more stable work opportunities amongst the contracting work force.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

BCWS has 25+ contract opportunities in various resource equipment and service areas.

- Type 2 Fire Crew (12 – 8 person crews) fire fighter services contracts are in place for the 2025 wildfire season, and Type 3 Fire Crew fire fighter services remain in place, totalling over 600 personnel.
- BCWS is partnering with FNESS to support fire crew training and is committed to increasing First Nations community capacity.
- BCWS will continue to explore and incorporate new tools and technology including the use of night vision goggles (NVG), (RPAS) and Helicopter Extraction Cargo (HEC) rescue platforms.
- BCWS is collaborating with the FOR Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems program for response and planning activities on wildfires. BCWS will also use this tool to pre-assess high risk areas in the wildland urban interface to assist with fuel mitigation projects.
- BCWS continues to work with academia and industry to develop new firefighting tools and techniques.
- BCWS is focusing on specific research tied to presumptive diseases, smoke inhalation, wildfire health and safety, stress/fatigue, and crisis communications.
- BCWS aviation program consists of air tanker and rotary wing resources consisting of 8 tanker groups with a fleet of 28 fixed wing aircraft over 14 bases throughout the province for deployment. Additionally, there will be, 5 contract medium helicopters, 12 intermediate, 3 rappel medium helicopters, 2 heavy helicopters and 2 parattack jumpships in the fleet.
- BCWS has added camp infrastructure that provides versatility in deployment and increases camp capabilities. Items such as singular housing units, 5 person camp kits and 4 new camp modules
- BCWS continues to build partnerships at the national level to advance priorities for BC and to support the national level shifts to transform wildfire management and facilitate resource exchange.

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
----------------	-----	---------------------	--------------

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies - BCWS
Deliverables Implementation Status

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: PETF BCWS Deliverables Implementation Status

Response:

- The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) has implemented, or has made progress to implement, all recommendations directly relating to BCWS.
- BCWS continues to work with Ministry partners, such as EMCR, to coordinate implementation of joint recommendations.
- Significant implementation outcomes of the PETF for BCWS include:
 - A first-in-Canada wildfire training and education partnership between BCWS and Thompson Rivers University.
 - Enhanced wildfire predictive services technologies such as fire growth modelling, a camera network strategy, partnering with GeoBC for a single portal NRS drone use to increase utilization of drones in wildfires and prescribed fire.
 - Expanded First Nation bootcamps and enhanced recruiting model.
 - Expanded Liaison program with Cattlemens Association and First Nations.
 - Enhanced aviation fleet to increase response capability.
 - Increased opportunity for rural and community response through the 2025 FireSmart Pilot Program

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations in coordination with UBCM.

- Development of a Wildfire Collaborative Partnership Guide to enhance understanding of roles and responsibilities with partners before, during, and after a wildfire.

Background/Status:

- On the Premier's Expert Task Force:
 - The Task Force consisted of experts appointed by the Premier and senior staff from the Premier's Office, Ministry of Forests, and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.
 - The Task Force met thirteen times between October 2023 and February 2024. The Task Force also carried out targeted engagement with over sixty emergency management partners and stakeholders that were impacted by recent emergency events, and with other groups that offered to share their perspectives to the Task Force.
 - The Task Force was given nine deliverables to focus on with each having several related recommendations:
 - Enhancing BC Wildfire Predictive Services current technology, including the use of artificial intelligence and other technologies
 - Planning for incorporation of local volunteer resources for wildfire response
 - Improving integration of rural and municipal fire departments into the BC Wildfire Service response in the wildland urban interface
 - Updating the Wildfire Emergency Response Strategy for B.C.
 - Strengthening community participation in all disciplines of FireSmart BC™
 - Expanding opportunities in wildfire prevention programs
 - Improving Evacuees Registration Assistance (ERA) tool to provide enhanced support for evacuees
 - Modernizing community delivery of Emergency Support Services, including post-wildfire support
 - Identifying opportunities to assist First Nations and local authorities improve evacuation orders and alerts awareness and compliance
 - A summary of 31 recommendations was published in April 2024, with many of the recommendations implemented ahead of the 2024 wildfire and flood season.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- On implementation of recommendations for BCWS:
 - The BC Wildfire Service has completed implementation on most of the short term recommendations within BCWS' authority.
 - Progress has been made on longer term recommendations in coordination with EMCR and other non-governmental partners.
 - Advice/Recommendations
 - Completed recommendations under BCWS authority include: *Better Intelligence, Clear Innovation and Research Priorities, Local and Indigenous Knowledge, Collaborative First Nations Fire Stewardship, Pathway for Local Community Involvement, Build on the Inter-agency Agreement Foundation, Cross-Training and Deployments, Initial Response, Clear and Consistent Roles and Processes, Collaboration Before, During and After Incidents and Seasons, Simplify and Streamline Funding, Measuring and Communicating Progress, Foundation for Continued FireSmart Growth, Building FireSmart Communities, Expand and Empower Local Partnerships, Large Scale Treatments, One Source Once Voice, Temporary Authorized Access to Order Areas, Capacity and Workforce Development.*
 - Recommendations in progress under BCWS authority include: *Shared Learning and Continuous Improvement, Landscape Resilience Strategy, Enhancing a Common Operating Picture, Shared Training.*
- For more information, review the Summary of Recommendations – The Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
----------------	-----	---------------------	--------------

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: BC Wildfire Service, Thompson Rivers University Partnership

Revised: February 21, 2023

Issue: Wildfire Training and Education Centre

Response:

- The escalating frequency and intensity of wildfires in British Columbia necessitates a transformative expansion of wildfire training, education, research and innovation capabilities.
- The BC Wildfire Service and Thompson Rivers University have partnered on a collaborative initiative to establish the Wildfire Training and Education Centre (WTEC).
- The WTEC is a first-of-its-kind program and is a flagship action stemming from recommendations from the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies.
- This seamless connection between practical training and formal education will modernize B.C.'s wildfire response infrastructure while addressing workforce capacity issues.
- The BCWS-TRU Partnership will integrate training and education through a clearly defined and ladderized career pathway from certificates to diplomas, degrees, and beyond.
- Field experience and BCWS-delivered training will be recognized as credits toward TRU academic credentials.
- Program design has already started with intakes for program training beginning in 2025 in existing facilities.
- There are plans also underway to develop a state-of-the-art training facility and building. This allows for crucial wildfire Incident Command System certification courses to take place in BC instead of sending BCWS staff out of province to take required courses and compete for limited spaces.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- In April 2024, the Premier announced plans for a new Wildfire Training and Education Centre (WTEC) at TRU, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative in North America.
- Certificates Sept 2025
 - Wildfire Science
 - Socio-Cultural Dynamics of Wildfire
 - Wildfire Communication and Media
- Diplomas and Degrees 2026
 - BA, Wildfire Studies
 - BSc. In Wildfire Science and Management
- Protection of Lives, Property, and Infrastructure
 - The WTEC will improve wildfire prevention, response, and mitigation, directly protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructure.
 - Proactive measures reduce long-term recovery costs while supporting community safety and economic stability.
- Climate-Adapted Training and Education
 - This initiative modernizes training and education, equipping wildfire professionals with tools to address unprecedented challenges posed by climate change.
 - By delivering on the Premier's Task Force recommendations, it ensures BC remains at the forefront of wildfire response and resilience.
- Establishing Wildfire as a Professional Discipline
 - By uniting municipal fire departments, wildland fire agencies, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders, the WTEC establishes wildfire management as a distinct professional discipline.
 - This integrated approach reduces redundancies, enhances coordination, and fosters innovation in wildfire management strategies.
- Incorporation of Indigenous Fire Knowledge and Addressing Reconciliation
 - The WTEC incorporates Indigenous fire stewardship practices, working with First Nations partners to address the Calls to Action for reconciliation and fostering collaboration at a community level.
 - By integrating traditional knowledge with western degree programs, it creates inclusive and effective wildfire management strategies.

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	Phone: 250 320-0433
David Greer	Executive Director	BC Wildfire Service	Phone: 250 208-4350

Chetwynd, Clearwater IA Bases Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: IA Bases in Chetwynd, Clearwater, etc.

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: BC Wildfire Service resourcing throughout BC

Response:

- Resources, inclusive of crews, will be pre-positioned in communities with forward attack bases such as Clearwater and Chetwynd as determined by the fire hazard and probability of ignition. Other resources pre-positioned and readily available will include aircraft, fire suppression equipment and structure protection equipment.
- Resourcing levels fluctuate through daily assessment using predictive services to support decision making. (E.G. high hazard, forecasted lightning means increased resourcing and readiness posture)
- This model is used in communities throughout the Province to ensure that appropriate resourcing is positioned in closest proximity to the hazard to not delay response times.
- From a preparedness standpoint, the BCWS can work with local fire departments to place them on standby during heightened hazard to ensure availability for response.

Background/Status:

- Forward attack bases are physical BCWS infrastructure/buildings in communities across BC, like Clearwater and Chetwynd, which include equipment caches, trailers and an office for our Initial Attack crews and a storage yard for additional response needs.
- Through the long-standing Interagency Agreement with the Fire Chiefs Association, BCWS works proactively with fire departments such as Clearwater Fire Department in preparedness and response to wildfires.
- BCWS provides a number of courses to fire departments across BC between October and June each year.

Chetwynd, Clearwater IA Bases Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Over the 2023-24 period, 61 courses in Engine Boss Training, Wildland Structure Protection, and Train the Trainer Wildland Firefighter level 1 were offered to a total of 1437 participants.
 - 14 seats were taken by the Clearwater Fire Department over 2 courses.
 - Intergovernmental Communications
-
- Partnering with the First Nation Emergency Services Society, 659 First Nations members across the province have received wildfire training ranging from basic training to advanced training, with many First Nations looking to building their own teams in the future.
 - BCWS is holding 3 First Nations Bootcamps, in order to increase Indigenous participation in Unit Crew and Initial Attack crews.

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
----------------	-----	---------------------	--------------

Page 199 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 200 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Lytton Recovery and Rebuild: Archaeology
Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Archaeological work and impacts to development within Lytton

Response:

- My heart goes out to the people of Lytton who have endured devastating losses, both of their homes and the near-total loss of their village.
- I know that the natural disasters have also impacted cultural sites of high significance to First Nations.
- We continue to work across government to support Lytton in their rebuilding, and the re-establishment of essential infrastructure and services.
- I can report that there are six residences that have been rebuilt to date and another 12 underway and I expect more rebuilding to take place in the coming year.
- I know that the archaeological work required to rebuild on private properties has been a concern for the property owners of Lytton and my Ministry continues to work with local First Nations and the Village of Lytton to streamline the archaeological permits in place for Lytton and assist with questions and concerns for their rebuilds.

Background/Status:

- On June 30, 2021, the Village of Lytton (VoL) was largely destroyed by a wildfire.
- In January 2022, the Province, through EMCR, provided \$41 million in recovery funding to VoL which included debris removal, remediation and archaeological work for uninsured and underinsured private property owners.
- The archaeological work in VoL has transitioned from widescale remediation post-disaster work to private property and village infrastructure rebuilding.
- Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- In 2024, the Ministry of Forests' Archaeology Branch (the Branch) provided Management Direction Letters to property owners of Lytton with properties overlapping archaeological sites.
- Archaeological costs continue to be raised by many Lytton residents as an obstacle to rebuilding and the Branch has been working to reduce the permit administrative burdens on residents specifically.
- Since 2021, the Branch has endorsed 58 archaeological projects for village remediation work, infrastructure and commercial rebuilding activities, as well as residential rebuilding.
- Since 2023, Community Navigators from the Branch have met with over 30 residents to help them navigate and troubleshoot any challenges they were facing in the rebuild process, and permitting staff were sent to Lytton in summer 2024 to further assist residents on-site.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Pascale Knoglinger	Jillian Rousselle	FRA	250-216-1930

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Overview of Community Forest Program

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: Expand the Community Forest Program

Response:

- Community Forest Agreements (CFAs) are area-based licences that typically reside within rural communities and provide those communities with employment and control of the local forest resources.
- They vary considerably in size – from under 500 hectares to over 100,000 hectares – with a range of allowable annual cut (AAC) volumes.
- Government recognizes CFAs have unique characteristics that contribute to a sustainable B.C. economy.
- They are held by communities, including partnerships with Indigenous groups, and some are wholly owned by First Nations.
- 2025 mandate letter has a commitment to expand community forests, we have begun the work to achieve this commitment.

Background/Status:

- The first CFAs were issued in the year 2000 under a probationary model. There are 62 CFAs provincially accounting for 3% (2.36 million cubic metres) of the provincial AAC.
- The Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry is awarded annually by the minister to a CFA at the association's annual general meeting. The recognition includes a grant for \$10,000.
- FOR and the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) have several working groups with a focus on a range of current policy items, and have made substantial progress on wildfire fuel mitigation.
- Each year the BCCFA produces an Indicators Report, which is distributed to MLAs and local governments.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Current priorities for the BCCFA are:
 - **Program Expansion**
 - The BCCFA is working to promote growth of the program and by encouraging partnerships for new CFAs and expansions of existing tenures.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Matt Austin, ADM, IROD is the lead liaison with the BCCFA.
 - Options for expansion or being explored, along with evaluation of financial implications.
- **Discounted Tabular Rates**
 - A BCCFA goal is to maintain the discounted tabular rate stumpage model and the associated one cutting permit administrative model.
 - The Forestry Modernization Intentions Paper (2021) identified harmonization of pricing on area-based tenures as a priority for government. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- **Wildland Urban Interface**
 - Many CFAs have portions of their tenures that overlap with areas in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and have been addressing wildfire risk reduction (WRR).
 - Advice/Recommendations

Contact:

Patrick Russell	ADM: Matt Austin	Division: IROD	Phone: 250-360-6317
A/Director			
Forest Tenures Branch			

Page 205 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 206 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Community Forest Agreements – South Area

Revised: February 21, 2025

Response:

- We are seeking to secure a more sustainable future for communities, including First Nations, that depend on local forests for economic strength.
- To that end we are committed to exploring options to expand the Community Forest program.

South Area:

- There are 24 active Community Forest Agreements (CFA's) in the South Area.
- Total combined Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 552,452 m³/yr.
- Total combined area of 587,061 hectares.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- A First Nations Woodland License (FNWL) is an area based tenure specifically created for First Nations.
- Intergovernmental Communications

-

- There are 14 First Nations proposing new FNWL's in the South.

Cariboo Region

- 8 active CFA
- Total AAC of 227,750 m³
- Total Area of 300,955 ha
- Intergovernmental Communications

-

- Three Rivers Community Forest Limited Partnership issued CFA K3W September 1, 2024 with an AAC of 53,250 m³.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Intergovernmental Communications
-
-

Kootenay Boundary Region

- 7 active CFA's
- Total AAC of 129,900 m³
- Total Area of 130,098 m³
- Intergovernmental Communications
-
-

Thompson Okanagan Region

- 9 active CFA's
- Total AAC of 194,802 m³
- Total Area of 156,008 ha
- Intergovernmental Communications
-
-
-
-

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Larry Henry	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	Government Financial
Director			Information
Pricing & Tenures			
South Area			

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Community Forest Agreements in the Coast Area

Revised: February 19, 2023

Issue: Communities desire to expand or acquire CFAs; the challenge is finding available volume and operating area in a constrained land base.

Response:

- On the Coast, there is strong interest in new community forest agreements or expansion of existing CFAs from a number of communities including Campbell River, Gold River, Tahsis, Cowichan Tribes, North Island, Sunshine Coast, Barkley, Qala:yit, Bamfield, and Port Alberni.
- The ministry has been actively working with the Haida Nation and the Haida communities to establish a CFA for several years. This work is challenging and complex, however a key goal of the Province is ensuring stability for the communities of Haida Gwaii.
- Half of the CFAs on the Coast are managed in partnership between communities and local First Nations. These partnerships are a proven model for success and creating land and operational certainty and stable fibre delivery.
- My mandate letter has a commitment to expand community forests, we have begun the work to achieve this commitment prioritising partnership opportunities with First Nations and communities that depend on local forests for good jobs and economic benefit.

Background/Status:

- There are 18 community forest agreements (CFAs) in the Coast Area, with area of 483,174 hectares, and total Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 519,511 cubic metres (m³), which represents approximately 3.5% of the Coast Area AAC.
- 9 of 18 CFAs on the Coast involve partnerships between non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities. These partnerships are a proven model for success and creating land and operational certainty and stable fibre delivery.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:
Jessica Coster A/ADM Coast Area Phone:
250-739-8180

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Unused Volumes & Future Dispositions
Revised: February 26, 2025

Issue: Unused Volume Policy and Future Dispositions

Response:

- Unused volume is timber that has not been harvested, but was potentially available for harvest at a specific point in time. However, unused volume is not a fixed amount that exists continuously unchanged through time.
- Unused volume can become available from three sources:
 - Unharvested licensee-held volumes – returned to government through licence cut control provisions (e.g., 5-year period),
 - Uncommitted volume – apportioned by the minister but never tenured, and
 - BCTS-related unused volumes – apportioned by the minister but never tenured or sold.
- When the chief forester determines a new allowable annual cut they include all the timber currently available. This allowable annual cut “restart” therefore reincorporates all unused volumes as standing timber contributing to the new allowable annual cut.
- As timber supply changes (e.g., wildfires, insects, old growth deferrals, wildlife conservation, etc.) the perceived availability of unused volume can become outdated and timber sources may no longer be available for harvest.

Background/Status:

- Advice/Recommendations

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Through section 75.8 of the *Forest Act*, unharvested volume from tree farm licences (TFL) and woodlot licences at the end of their cut control periods is returned to government and may be disposed of to a third party.
- Unused volumes within timber supply areas (TSA) have no legal construct or basis and are not formally recognized under the *Forest Act*. This is intentional since the *Forest Act* provides the minister with the authority to flexibly manage the AACs of these management units to meet multiple objectives consistent with the broad purposes of the Ministry found under section 4 of the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*.
- Historically, robust and stable AACs allowed the chief forester or minister to minimize any potential impact on the new AAC from adding incremental, short-term harvest pressure through the issuance of unused volume tenures. However, unlike today, there has never previously been a time where AACs were being significantly reduced simultaneously across many parts of the province.
- Operational decisions on disposition of unused volumes are jointly made for each management unit by the respective regional executive director and BC timber sales manager and they provide the chief forester with unused volume information including unused volume tenure commitments for timber supply review consideration.
- The authority to issue a forest licence within a TFL or TSA is delegated to the regional executive director by the minister. This authority extends to any volume sources used for the licence including apportioned AAC, uncommitted AAC or unharvested volume from an existing licence
- BCTS manages their AAC on a five year business cycle and is focused on achieving their sales goals based on existing commitments.

Proposed Unused Volume Dispositions for 2025 and future years:
Advice/Recommendations

Contact:

Patrick Russell ADM: Matt Austin Division: IROD Phone: 236-478-1535
Forest Tenure Branch

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Thinning and Commercial Thinning

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Commercial thinning provides economic benefits to industry; however, there are potential impacts on timber supply and ecological values.

Response:

- Thinning is the cutting of individual trees from a stand to maintain or improve the health of remaining trees by providing space and resources for growth (e.g., sunlight, water, and nutrients).
- Commercial thinning refers to an intermediate harvest where merchantable volume is removed earlier than final harvest.
- Thinning is included in strategic priorities: e.g., forest policy modernization and the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations to promote opportunities to utilize forest resources within previously harvested landscapes (#3), and to use innovative practices (#12).
- A provincial-level project commenced in 2020. The steering committee is co-chaired with industry and government.
 - Thinning Guidance for BC has been updated and soon to be released by the Office of the Chief Forester.
 - Research Sub-committee is working to fill knowledge gaps and compare BC to other jurisdictions.
 - Policy barriers to thinning are being explored with licensee and staff input, such as permitting and investment security.
 - The concept of using thinning to create higher value logs at final harvest is also being analyzed, with the support of modelling and an economist.
 - On Timber Pricing:

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Interior Appraisal Manual allows a tabular stumpage rate for commercial thinning in younger stands.
- Coast Appraisal Manual does not contain a CT-specific cost allowance at this time.

Background/Status:

- The thinning project is led by a steering committee co-chaired by the Ministry of Forests (FOR) and industry, including representatives from the lumber and pulp and paper sectors, University of BC, and several branches of FOR.
- Thinning treatments prepare the stands to meet future objectives, such as timber production and quality, maintenance of wildlife habitat, provision of resistance to disease or wildfire, or maintenance of visual quality, to name a few. The timing and type of next stand entry is dependent on these objectives and should be part of the description of the expected stand development pathway.
- The goals for thinning include promoting innovation, enhancing fibre utilization and economic value, improving stand condition, maintaining overstory site occupancy and supporting ecosystem resilience.
- In addition to the anticipated early economic benefits of commercial thinning, the potential impacts on long term timber supply must also be considered when planning such treatments.
- Advice/Recommendations

- There is a broad range of scientific opinion as to the benefits of mechanized commercial thinning on wildfire mitigation within a stand. To improve the understanding of the effects of commercial thinning on wildfire risk, operational research trials are being designed to gather information and better assess the post treatment risk reduction.

Contact:

Shane Berg	Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester	Office of the Chief Forester	250 851 6333
------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: Budget 2024 provided annual funding of \$20M per year to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) for 3 years.

Response:

- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) is a proven partner in delivering projects on the ground that benefit communities, workers, and the health of our forests.
- Board members include: Dave Peterson (Chair) Trish Dohan (Treasurer), John Massier (Director), Ken Day (Secretary), Sarah Fraser (Director), Mike P. Kelly (Director), Ian Meier (Director)
- With an investment of \$20 million per year from the Province over the next 2 years (year 1 was in 2024/25), FESBC will continue to fund projects to conduct wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments near higher-risk communities and critical infrastructure.
- The funding will also support projects to increase the use of low-value or residual fibre left on site after logging that would otherwise be burned in slash piles.
- The new funding will help improve community safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase First Nations participation in the forestry economy.

Background/Status:

- FESBC was formed in 2016 under the Society Act. From 2016 to 2025, it has received \$333M from government to fund projects to advance and advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- In 2025/26, FESBC will target 2,250 ha of priority areas to receive fuel management treatments, involving a target of 33 high risk communities (Indigenous communities, municipalities and unincorporated areas within regional districts located within the Wildland Urban Interface).
- In 2025/26, FESBC will target to fund projects to transport about 400,000 cubic meters of low-value fibre to a host of secondary receiving sites where the material will be made into pulp or energy products.
- The 2024/25 performance targets included \$30M of projects initiated in 2023 from funding provided by government from prior fiscal years.
- Advice/Recommendations

Contact:

Shane Berg	Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester	Office of the Chief Forester	250-851-6333
------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------

Page 217 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 218 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 219 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information

Page 220 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

**2025/26 Estimates
Advice to the Minister**

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Impacts of 2017-2024 Fires on Timber Supply and Allowable Annual Cut

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Large wildfires in 2017, 2018, 2021, 2023, and 2024 have reduced timber supply in the interior of British Columbia.

Response:

- The five years with the most area burned by wildfire in B.C. have occurred in the past eight years.
- Since 2017, approximately 7.5 million hectares have been affected by wildfires, with over 94 million cubic metres of mature timber volume in the timber harvesting land base burned.
- The ministry is working with forest industry and First Nations to prioritize the salvage of accessible burned timber.
- The Ministry of Forests has updated forest inventories and assessed the risk to sustainability of the allowable annual cut due to wildfire.
- The chief forester's allowable annual cut (AAC) determinations for heavily impacted areas will consider the volume loss due to wildfires and the extent to which burned volume has been salvaged by licence holders.

Background/Status:

- The total area affected by wildfires in 2017 (1.2 million hectares), 2018 (1.3 million hectares), 2021 (0.9 million hectares), 2023 (2.8 million hectares), and 2024 (1.1 million hectares) were the five largest in 106 years of recorded wildfire history in British Columbia.
- The most significant wildfires were in the central interior of the province. In 2018 fires were spread across the northern interior. In 2021, fires were scattered across the southern interior. In 2023 and in 2024, fires were concentrated in the northeast of the province.
- On average, about half of the trees within the perimeter of a wildfire are killed.
- In the last eight years, over 94 million cubic metres of mature timber volume within the timber harvesting land base were burned.

2025/26 Estimates Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Intergovernmental Communications

-
- Almost all of the management units impacted by wildfires had previously experienced significant levels of tree mortality during the mountain pine beetle epidemic which started to take hold in B.C. in 1999.
- The most recent timber supply reviews for the Lillooet TSA, Lakes TSA, Okanagan TSA and Tolko's TFL 49 near Vernon, have accounted for wildfire impacts. Timber supply review projects underway will account for all past wildfires in heavily impacted management units.
- The ministry is currently assessing whether the cumulative impacts of fires during the past eight years may be affecting the sustainability of the AAC's for the Merritt and Kamloops TSAs.
- Salvage of burnt timber will mitigate fibre supply impacts and reduce fuel loads which helps lower the risk of future fires.

Contact:
Shane Berg Assistant Deputy Office of the Chief Forester (250) 851-6333
Minister, Chief
Forester

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: 2025/26 Provincial Reforestation Outlook
Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: Provincial Reforestation Outlook

Response:

- Provincial reforestation in 2024/25 is estimated at 281M trees, compared to 246M and 265M trees in 2023/24 and 2022/23, respectively.
- The breakdown of estimated planting by delivery agent in 2024/25 is:
 - Licensees: 173M
 - BC Timber Sales (BCTS): 34.5M
 - Forest Investment Program (FIP): 52M
 - Section 108 and other: 21.6M
- As of January 2025, the estimated planting request for the 2025 planting season is 221.5M:
 - Licensees: 140M
 - BCTS: 31M
 - FIP: 42.1M
 - Section 108 and other: 8.4M
- Reforestation in British Columbia has declined recently in large part due to a decrease in harvest levels which has resulted in a reduction in planting by licensees.
- To improve the provincial reforestation outlook, the Province is exploring pathways to:
 - Continue to partner with Natural Resources Canada through the 2 Billion Trees program (2BT)
 - Support efficient planting in Areas of Catastrophic Damage as designated by Section 108

2025/26 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Partner across ministries to deliver more reforestation, e.g. planting for habitat restoration with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Explore practical strategies to ensure the continued success of reforestation through the Reforestation Service Supply Chain Committee and Native Seed & Plant Subcommittee

Background/Status:

- As of 1987, forest licensees and BCTS are legally required to reforest the areas that they harvest. As of 2005, the Province began proactively reforesting areas that are not under legal obligations through government funded programs such as FIP.
- The Province has experienced reduction in the Annual Allowable Cut and actual harvesting by licensees in recent years, which has contributed to a reduction in reforestation.
- The Province is supporting reforestation in Areas of Catastrophic Damage designated by the recent changes to Section 108. Programs such as FIP are aligning themselves to be able to deliver work in these newly designated areas in a timely manner.
- Advice/Recommendations

- Planting through FIP-funded activities has contributed to jobs and employment in rural and First Nations communities with an estimated 600 seasonal worker in 2024/25.
- Maintaining a consistent provincial planting program results in higher quality programs, stability for the industry, and consistent pricing.

Contact:

Shane Berg

Assistant Deputy
Minister, Chief
Forester

Office of the Chief
Forester

Phone:
250 851 6333

Page 225 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences

Page 226 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences

Page 227 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 228 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Forest Worker Community Supports and Council

Revised: March 4th, 2025

Issue: Support programs to mitigate economic disruption in rural B.C. communities as a result of changes in the forest sector

Response:

Forest Worker and Community Support Programs:

- In response to changes in the forest sector and expected job losses, government announced the Forestry Worker and Community Supports (FWCS) in Fall 2021.
- The FWCS was a suite of programs offered by the ministries of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS), and Labour (LBR) to support impacted workers, businesses, and communities.
- The programs were a welcomed and successful suite of supports for workers, communities, and businesses experiencing forest related impacts.
- The whole-of-government approach with ministries and agencies working together to streamline programs, fill gaps in support and address local issues has been recognized and appreciated by those accessing our services.
- The programs had widespread impact including building economic development capacity, diversifying economies, reducing job loss and supporting workers and communities in transition.
- Some of the programs under FWCS are no longer available however, economic development supports, skills funding, employment services and Community Transition services are still accessible by communities that lose a major employer.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Although challenges in the forest sector persist, the evolving economic context necessitates a reconsideration of government support strategies for (any) affected industries.

If asked about specific FWCS programs:

- Refer Bridging to Retirement Program to Ministry of Labour.
- Refer Skills Training to Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS).
- Refer Forest Employment Program, Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, Community Transition to Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation.

Community Transition

- We understand it is a stressful and difficult time when communities are impacted by economic downturns.
- The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, with support from other areas of government, offer responsive services when an area is experiencing an economic disruption, such as the loss of a major employer.
- Community Transition (CT) services are effective in supporting workers, businesses, and communities experiencing significant job loss, especially when combined with other government programs designed to offset economic impacts.
- Support for impacted workers and families is the priority during a community transition event. JEDI staff contact the community within 24 hours to offer CT services to community leadership.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The first step is to ensure socio-economic support is available, such as mental health supports and employment services.
- Once the immediate needs are addressed, ministry staff work with the community on economic planning and diversification to aid in building resilience and prevent future downturns.

Background/Status:

- In response to changes in the forest sector and the expected job loss, government announced the Forestry Worker and Community Supports (FWCS) suite of programs in Fall 2021.
- The FWCS was a suite of programs offered by the ministries of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) and Labour (LBR) to support impacted workers, businesses, and communities. The Ministry of Forests supports JEDI, PSFS, and LBR with the delivery of these programs.
- Funding was allocated towards the FWCS over three fiscal years (FY 2022/23 to FY 2024/25).
- **The Forest Employment Program, Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiatives, Rural Economic and Diversification Infrastructure Program- Forest Impact Transition stream and Bridging to Retirement (BTR) are no longer available programs as of March 31, 2025.**
- The Forestry Worker Supports and Community Resiliency Council (FWSCRC) was formed in October 2022 and comprised of 21 members from local government, Indigenous communities, the forest sector and labour representatives, academia, and non-governmental organizations. The mandate of the Council was to advise on existing and new FWCS programs. The final report that came out of the council has not been released publicly.

Contact:

Melissa Sanderson ADM Timber, Range, and Economics Division 250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Wildfire Salvage – Provincial

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Wildfire Salvage Update

Response:

Impact of recent wildfires and salvage progress:

- In 2024, wildfires damaged approximately 20.3 million cubic meters of valuable timber in our Timber Harvesting Landbase. Of that amount, only an estimated 2.9 million cubic meters – or about 14% – is considered available to harvest due to environmental and economic factors.
- To date in the 2024 wildfires, there have been 72 cutting permits submitted totalling 1.8 million cubic meters (a 62% success rate so far).
- Comparatively, in 2023 wildfires damaged approximately 63.7 million cubic meters of timber in our Timber Harvesting Landbase, with approximately 19.4 million m³ considered economically available to harvest.
- To date in the 2023 fires, there have been 360 cutting permits submitted totalling 9.7 million m³ (50% success rate).

Importance of wildfire salvage:

- Post-wildfire salvage harvesting is an important tool in both landbase and community economic recovery.
- Wildfire salvage – when planned and conducted carefully – can contribute to repairing the damage caused by wildfires on soils, watersheds and ecosystems, accelerating reforestation, reducing forest health issues and reducing the risk of future forest fires by removing fuel.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The province works in partnership with First Nations, communities and licensees after a wildfire to ensure salvage harvesting is planned and conducted to manage for these important values.
- Of the trees that are identified as appropriate to salvage, it is important to maximize economic value and provide a source of much needed fibre for primary and value-added wood manufacturers. This is why we need to start salvage harvesting as quickly as possible after a wildfire.
- Moving harvesting operations away from non-burned forests and into burned, dead stands also means less impact on healthy forests and the benefits they provide.

Expediting wildfire salvage:

- To expedite planning and administration of wildfire salvage, in 2023, the province established the Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee (WSLC), in partnership with industry and the First Nations Forestry Council. This leadership committee was tasked with developing recommended solutions to overcome current barriers getting in the way of faster wildfire salvage.
- Some of the solutions developed by this group include:
 - Publishing the new “Wildfire Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance” which outlines five key phases of salvage to support a more consistent and efficient salvage process.
 - New tool and process for determining the net area available for harvest to better measure salvage progress and success rate, enabling better transparency on salvage operations.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Expedited ‘burn severity mapping’, providing critical information to enable better and faster salvage planning.
- In addition to these important changes from the wildfire salvage leadership committee, the province has also made additional changes in recent years to expediate wildfire salvage, including:
 - Introducing Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements (WSOA) to enable forest licenses to be directly awarded to First Nations in fire damaged areas, which enables Nations to actively manage salvage within their territories and provide additional economic opportunities.
 - Making several timber pricing changes to better reflect the reduced value and increased costs of wildfire salvage.
 - Introducing the ability to use ribbon-less boundaries expedite salvage planning and increase worker safety.
 - Providing additional funding to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to support access to lower valued stands, such as burnt stands.
 - Updating the Forest Cover Inventory maps to reflect fire perimeters to enable better and faster salvage planning.

Background/Status:

- Not all area burned is harvestable – some burned areas are identified to be retained (“retention areas”) due to environmental and/or cultural values. Economic factors such as accessibility and damage also impact the amount of volume available to harvest. In 2024 the WSLC developed a process to better quantify harvestable burnt volume.
- Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements: In response to the 2023 wildfires, licences are being developed under WSOA agreements. Most of the licences are in the North (totaling 1,250,000 cubic metres), with some licences in the South

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

(totaling 50,000 cubic metres). There were 21 WSOAs signed in 2024. In 2024, nearly 1 million cubic meters of timber was salvaged harvested by industry and First Nations partners.

Contact:
Rachael Pollard Melissa Sanderson TRE 250-812-7253

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Wildfire Salvage and Rehab in North Area
Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Wildfire Salvage Harvest and Fireguard Rehabilitation in the North Area

Response:

- The impact of the 2023 and 2024 wildfires across the North Area has been devastating and Ministry staff are actively working with First Nations and industry on wildfire recovery efforts and to expedite salvage harvesting opportunities.
- Approximately 6.6 million m3 of wildfire salvage harvest volume has been issued across the North Area.
- Five First Nations across the North Area have signed licenses under Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements.
- 37 new submitted cutting permits and 215 previously issued permits are targeting wildfire salvage within the 23/24 fire perimeters in the North (BCTS/Industry/First Nations).
- Wildfire recovery planning to date has been focused on rehabilitation of fire guards, salvage harvest planning and reforestation of burned stands. Interests have shifted in the last 6 months to exploring wildfire risk reduction projects to help protect communities.

Background/Status:

- On wildfire impacts in the North Area in 2023 and 2024:
 - Approximately 50 million m3 of timber on the timber harvesting land base (THLB) burnt in 2023, an additional 15.7 million m3 in 2024.
 - All 8 Natural Resource Districts were impacted, the Peace, Fort Nelson, Mackenzie, Nadina and Stuart Nechako sustaining the greatest impacts.
 - A total of 4,128 km of fire guard was built with 1,408 km rehabilitated.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- On wildfire salvage:
 - Due to economics, minimal salvage has occurred in Fort Nelson, Cassiar and Mackenzie
 - Majority of salvage has occurred in Peace and Nadina districts.
 - Only 37% of the THLB volume burnt in 2023 and 12% burnt in 2024 is deemed actionable salvage potential due to access/economics/constraints.
 - Ministry established a Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee in 2023 that includes representatives from FNFC and licensees. The group provides strategic, provincial-level leadership to expedite wildfire salvage in B.C., including identifying barriers, developing actionable solutions, and overseeing implementation. A guide has been developed to support operational process.
- On partnering with First Nations:
Intergovernmental Communications
- On shelf life of damaged timber:
 - The shelf life of timber is dependant on many factors, including the previous condition of the timber, and the intensity of the burn.
 - Initial estimates indicate ability to utilize burnt timber for standard commercial purposes begins to decline quickly within 1 year to 18 months post fire.
- On impacts to timber supply:
 - The province is continuing to assess the impacts of these fires on the timber supply, which will be factored into upcoming timber supply reviews.
- On harvest of green or unburned timber:
 - The ministry set the expectation for the sector to focus on wildfire salvage and the forest sector has responded as quickly as possible.
 - Due to a variety of reasons, including timing, operational planning and resource constraints, harvest of green or undamaged timber has continued. Every effort is being made to maximize salvage harvest opportunity in order to retain undamaged timber for future timber supply.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway ADM North Area (250) 893-7516

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Wildfire Salvage – South Area

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: Continue to enhance our ability to effectively deal with the increasing frequency and intensity of large scale fires.

Response:

- Wildfires are a natural part of forest ecosystems throughout history and we are expecting the trend of more frequent and larger fires to continue and we are taking steps to be ready.
- Wildfire timber salvage and reforestation is one tool to help regenerate healthy new forests.
- The new Wildfire Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance developed with our industry and First Nations partners is a big step taken to coordinate our efforts to ensure timely and effective wildfire salvage.
- We have developed new tracking tools and timely reporting to measure our successes and identify areas where we can do even better.

Background/Status:

- On wildfire impacts in the South Area in 2023 and 2024:
 - Approximately 13 million m³ of timber on the timber harvesting land base (THLB) burnt in 2023, an additional 4.5 million m³ in 2024.
 - All 8 Natural Resource Districts were impacted.
 - A total of 3,130 km of fire guard was built with 1,570 km rehabilitated.
- On wildfire salvage:
 - Salvage has occurred across all districts in the South Area.
 - Only 8.7% of the THLB volume burnt in 2023 and 25% burnt in 2024, is deemed actionable salvage potential due to access/economics/constraints.
 - FOR established a Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee in 2023, that includes representatives from FNFC and licensees. The group provides strategic, provincial-level leadership to expedite wildfire salvage in BC,

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

including identifying barriers, developing actionable solutions, and overseeing implementation. A guide has been developed to support operational process.

- On partnering with First Nations:

Intergovernmental Communications

-

- On shelf life of damaged timber:

- The shelf life of timber is dependant on many factors, including the previous condition of the timber, and the intensity of the burn.
- Initial estimates indicate ability to utilize burnt timber for standard commercial purposes begins to decline quickly within 1 year to 18 months post fire.

- On impacts to timber supply:

- The province is continuing to assess the impacts of these fires on the timber supply, which will be factored into upcoming timber supply reviews.

- On harvest of green or unburned timber:

- FOR set the expectation for the sector to focus on wildfire salvage and the forest sector has responded as quickly as possible.
- Due to a variety of reasons, including timing, operational planning and resource constraints, harvest of green or undamaged timber has continued. Every effort is being made to maximize salvage harvest opportunity in order to retain undamaged timber for future timber supply.

Provincial Dashboard Statistics – 2024 Fire Season Published January 22, 2025

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Larry Henry	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	Government Financial
Director			Information
Pricing & Tenures			
South Area			

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Wildfire Salvage in the Coast Area – 2023 & 2024

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Preparation, tracking, and uptake on Wildfire Salvage opportunities in the Coast Area for 2023 and 2024 fire seasons

Response:

- Coast area staff track wildfires to identify potential salvage opportunities with a focus on recovering value and promoting First Nation and industry partnerships.
- 2023 fire season:
 - There were 14 coast fires of note in the 2023 fire season, the largest being the Kookipi fire in the Chilliwack Forest District.
 - Intergovernmental Communications
- 2024 fire season:
 - There were 8 coast fires of note, but largely located in steep, remote terrain not available for salvage.
- Ministry staff on the coast are actively promoting WSOAs with First Nations to ensure timely salvage where opportunities exist.

Background/Status:

- Fire activity is becoming more prevalent on the coast but still relatively small in comparison to the provincial statistics:
 - 2023 – Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) impacted by fire in the Coast Area was 6,999 ha or 0.8% of the THLB burnt provincially (860,664 ha).
 - 2024 – THLB impacted by fire in the Coast Area was 1,475 ha or 0.4% of the THLB burnt provincially (412,500 ha).

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- Criteria for salvage include accessibility, moderately to severely burnt, moderate slope, outside of reserve areas (e.g. Wildlife Habitat Areas, Old Growth Management Areas, etc.). After applying criteria:
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:
Randy Husband A/ADM: Jessica Coast Area Phone:
Coster 250-739-8352

2025/26 Wildfire Prevention and Risk Reduction Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Prevention and Risk Reduction

Revised: February 25, 2025

Issue: Wildfire Prevention and Risk Reduction

Response:

- The Province has invested approx. \$572.5M across numerous wildfire risk reduction funding streams and initiatives since 2004.
- The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Prevention program administers the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) to address wildfire risk reduction on crown land and in communities across BC with two key complementary funding categories: FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS), and Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR).
- The BC government announced a \$40M per year commitment to reduce wildfire risk as part of Budget 2022, which funds the CLWRR program, wildfire resiliency partnerships, cultural burning and prescribed fire, and the FireSmart BC program.

Background/Status:

- **Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program**
 - FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS):
 - FCFS funds local governments and First Nations for wildfire risk reduction activities. It is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and is coordinated with First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) for applicable communities.
 - As part of Budget 2022 and 2023, the BC government allocated \$100M to support the FCFS program. Advice/Recommendations

FCFS Intake Year	Total Dispersed*
2019	\$ 7,392,741.24
2020	\$ 8,019,936.82
2021	\$ 15,601,598.90
2022	\$ 8,278,663.76
2023	\$ 14,790,635.73

2025/26 Wildfire Prevention and Risk Reduction Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

2024	\$ 11,490,356.70
2025	\$ 570,537.50
Total	\$ 66,144,470.66
<i>* 2025 application review is ongoing with rolling intake; approved applicants can request progress payments, which changes the approved/dispersed funds ratios. \$2.14M approved so far in 2025.</i>	

- **Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR):**
 - CLWRR was launched in 2018 as part of CRI, evolving from the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) which BCWS administered until 2018.
 - CLWRR is coordinated with BC Parks, MoF Regional Operations, Mountain Resorts Branch, and the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship

Fiscal Year	CLWRR Program – Spent Funding (includes salary/overhead)
2019/2020	\$ 7.32M
2020/2021	\$ 15.56M
<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>\$ 16.65M</u>
<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>\$ 15.59M</u>
2023/2024	\$ 19.80M
2024/2025*	\$ 24.00M
Total	\$ 98.92M
<i>*2024/2025 is based on ongoing end of fiscal year-end reporting, includes \$18.7M in operational projects and \$4.8M in salary and overhead.</i>	

- Within the annual budget, BCWS has strategically partnered with the Columbia Basin Trust, Farmland Advantage, BC Cattlemen's Association, Fire Chief's Association of BC, Community Forest Association, Woodlots BC, and the Forest Professionals of BC to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives.
- An overview of major wildfire resiliency investment since 2004:

Program/funding stream	Year(s)	Approximate funding
Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative	2004-2017	\$78M
BCWS wildfire resiliency & risk reduction	2004-2017	\$28M (average \$1-3M per year)
BCWS wildfire resiliency & risk reduction	2018-2022	\$75M
Economic Recovery FireSmart initiatives	2020	\$20M
UBCM funding (CRI: FCFS)	2018-2022	\$60M
UBCM funding (CRI: FCFS)	2023-2028	\$100M
BCWS wildfire resiliency and risk reduction	2022-2025	\$120M
Forest Enhancement Society BC	2016-2025	\$86.5M
FNESS community support	2023	\$5M
Total	2004-present	\$572.5M

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer

ADM, BC Wildfire

Phone:250-320-0433

2025/26 Wildfire Prevention and Risk Reduction Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

2025/26 Fire Control Cost Recovery Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Fire control cost recovery under the *Wildfire Act*.
Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: Fire control cost recovery under the *Wildfire Act*.

Response:

- *Wildfire Act* provides authority for the Minister to order a company or a person to pay government for fire control costs, damage to Crown resources and administrative penalties (similar to fines)
- BC Wildfire Service, Wildfire Risk is responsible for the cost recovery business area. Cost recovery actions are carried out on approximately 16 fires each year.
- From 2013-2025, \$47.6 million in costs, damages and penalties were ordered to be paid
 - Ministry of Finance is responsible for recovering those amounts.

Background/Status:

- Below are significant files in appeal process:
- Forest Appeals Commission (FAC)
 - FAC is an independent tribunal established by the Ministry of Forests to hear appeals of orders and determinations made under the *Wildfire Act*, *Forest Act*, *Forest and Range Practices Act* and *Range Act*
 - Ministry of Forests is represented by the Ministry of Attorney General at these hearings
 - Other parties generally have legal representation
 - Currently eight (8) wildfire files are in the appeal process before the FAC
 - Includes forest licencees, rail companies and private citizens
- BC Supreme Court (BCSC)
 - BCSC hears appeals of decisions made by the FAC
 - BCWS currently has no cost recovery files before the BCSC
- BC Court of Appeal (BCCA)
 - BCCA hears appeals of decisions made by the lower Court
 - BCWS currently has no cost recovery files before the BCCA

2025/26 Fire Control Cost Recovery Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Contact:

Rob Schweitzer	ADM	BC Wildfire Service	250-320-0433
Kathleen Werstiuk	Manager, Wildfire Risk	BC Wildfire Service	Government Financial Information

Page 247 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 248 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 249 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 250 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Mackenzie Timber Supply Area and Apportionment.

Revised: February 21, 2025

Issue: The forest economy in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area

Response:

- The Ministry has taken specific actions to support the forest sector in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA). This includes allocating volume to BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and First Nation Partnerships, piloting cutting permit pricing policies, launching forest landscape planning and approving a tenure transfer from Canfor to Tsay Keh Dene First Nation (TKD) and McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB)
- Pricing policy pilot tests combining cut blocks in remote areas with more economic areas to encourage full utilization of the allowable annual cut.
- BCTS partnership volume will provide opportunity to leverage BCTS marketing and revenue sharing with First Nation developed cutting authorities.
- In July 2024, Canfor's licence was subdivided and transferred to MLIB and TKD who are now major licence holders in the TSA.
- I want to recognize First Nations, Industry, and the District of Mackenzie for continuing to work with the Province in the development of a Forest Landscape Plan that can ensure local benefits from local forest resources.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- The largest tenure holders in the Mackenzie TSA are Conifex, MLIB, and TKD.
- Canfor closed their sawmill and Conifex temporarily curtailed operations over the past five years, creating community and economic uncertainty.
- The 2024 apportionment included two allocations to support First Nations tenure interest: 81,253 m³ per year for First Nations Woodland Licence (FNWL) volume and 92,196 m³ per year of BCTS volume for partnerships.
- FOR intends for BCTS to administer both the FNWL volume and the partnership volume and seek innovative sales options. BCTS and Regional Operations will collaborate with First Nations to develop a strategic plan for developing volumes, including in contentious areas. Disposition of both BCTS and FNWL volume will include conditions and off ramps/stage gates to ensure BC's interests are met while advancing broader shared interest with First Nations.
- In July 2024, the Minister made the decision to allow all licensees in the Mackenzie TSA a one-year opportunity to blend cutting permits within the southern and northern portions of the TSA, resulting in reduced stumpage rates. This is a temporary exemption until August 31, 2025, Advice/Recommendations
- Advice/Recommendations
Mackenzie Forest Landscape Planning Leadership and Planning Tables are meeting. Terms of Reference are under development to determine project milestones, dependencies, and outcomes. Partner First Nations include: Kwadacha, TKD, MLIB, Nak'azdli Whut'en, and Takla. Mackenzie TSA forest licence holders and the District of Mackenzie are participating.
- If Asked about East Fraser Fiber in Mackenzie:
 - East Fraser Fibre (EFF) is a Finger Joint Facility located in Mackenzie. Due to strong competition from Brink Forest Products, EFF has been forced to source trim blocks from Alberta.
 - EFF is seeking tenure rather than establishing local partnerships or BCTS sales.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Lori Borth	RED	Omineca Region	Phone: 250-570-9442

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Modernizing Forest Policy
Revised: February 27, 2025

Issue: North Area advancements enabled by forest policy updates.

Response:

- In June 2021, the Province made a commitment to Modernizing Forest Policy and transform the forest sector by increasing forest sector participation, enhancing sustainability and stewardship of our forests, and ensuring ongoing support of forestry across BC.
- Modernized Forest Policy has enabled the North Area to advancing forestry reconciliation with First Nations by fostering collaborative planning, expanding tenure opportunities, and supporting Indigenous-led stewardship initiatives to ensure sustainable forest management and economic benefits for Indigenous communities.
- Key highlights include: Five Wildlife Salvage Opportunity Agreements with the Donny Creek Wildfire; local input into Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning Administration Guide; Forest Landscape Plans (FLP) in Mackenzie, Lakes and Bulkley and Morice; cumulative impacts considerations within the Northeast District of Treaty 8; tenure transfers like Canfor/Tsay Keh Dene Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band; and supporting North Area First Nations to manage old growth through their own best management practices and through formal planning initiatives such as Forest Landscape Planning or modernized land use planning.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

On increasing First Nations participation in the forest sector:

- There is approximately 4.9 million cubic meters in replaceable First Nations tenures across the North Area.
- Ministry of Forests is supporting First Nation partnerships with industry and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) to create more collaborative opportunities that will support diversifying the forest sector Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- BCTS has disposition agreements in place or is working towards opportunities with First Nations across the North Area. Disposition Agreements can provide revenue sharing contracting opportunities and pricing points through co-developed sales.

On increase fiber certainty and sustainability:

- The "Northeast Cumulative Effects Order" refers to a legal order in British Columbia, specifically focused on the northeast region, that mandates decision-makers to consider the cumulative impacts of industrial and commercial activities on Treaty 8 rights when approving new projects. Intergovernmental Communications
- Wildfire salvage play book develops a clear, consistent wildfire timber salvage process with five key planning phases, supporting First Nations, tenure holders, and government staff by establishing a collaborative framework, clarifying roles, streamlining permit issuance, balancing environmental, cultural, and social values, and consolidating provincial resources for more efficient operations.
- TAP Polygons were intended to be temporary old growth deferrals until Forest Landscape Planning and Modernized Land Use Planning guide old growth management.

On partnering with First Nations on wildfire salvage:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
-

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Anthony Giannotti	Director of Pricing and Tenures	North Area	Phone: Government Financial Information

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Northeast Range Program Tenure Holder Concerns
Revised: February 14, 2025

Issue: Livestock producers in the Northeast region continue to express concerns regarding the future of crownland grazing.

Response:

- The agriculture and livestock industries are key components of British Columbia's economy, are integral to contributing to a stable food supply within the province and are a priority for strengthening the province's rural economy.
- The Ministry is committed to working with First Nations and range tenure holders in a way that upholds Treaty rights and supports continuation of livestock grazing activities in the region.
- The Ministry has developed a Northeast Range strategy for addressing the backlog in range tenure administration that includes opportunities for increased engagement and collaboration with First Nations and range tenure holders.

Background/Status:

- The combined Fort Nelson/Peace District range program manages 244 grazing licenses and 30 grazing leases that support approximately 113,500 Animal Unit Months of grazing across Northeast (NE).
- Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications
-
- The Region has developed a comprehensive strategy to address commitments made in the January 2023 Letter of Agreement between HRFN and the Province. Specifically, the region seeks to improve collaboration with First Nations in range use planning, develop a eco-cultural rangeland monitoring program and improve engagement with range agreement holders.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The Ministry will be collaborating with Treaty 8 First Nations to develop wildlife friendly fencing and seeding specification for the NE as well as working with both Treaty 8 First Nations and range tenure holders to identify areas that require specific actions to protect Treaty rights.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

-

- While long-term impacts to range tenure holders is difficult to quantify at this stage, it is anticipated that the current allocation of forage for Crown land grazing can be maintain through improved stewardship, monitoring and consultation with First Nations.

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250 893-7516
Karrilyn Vince	RED	North Area	Phone: 778-576-8912

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Prince George Timber Supply Area

Revised: February 19, 2025

Issue: Commitments and First Nations Recognition in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

Response:

- The Prince George Timber Supply Area (PG TSA) is the largest TSA in the Province. Salvage of Mountain Pine Beetle Impact Timber over 20 years supported mill expansions that exceeded long term harvest levels but created a temporary economic boom for communities and First Nations.
- Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) reductions following salvage harvest has required mill rationalizations impacting Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Bear Lake and Prince George. The Ministry and First Nations have a shared interest in advancing reconciliation, stewardship and economic approaches that create the fibre flow predictability needed to support industry reinvestment in local and First Nations communities.
- First Nations hold over 1.3 million m³ in AAC and are actively developing permits and partnerships including with BC Timber Sales that support sawmills and the local logging community.
- The Ministry cannot unilaterally take tenure from Canfor and West Fraser following mill closures. I am encouraging First Nations and communities to seek tenure transfer partnerships with Canfor and West Fraser.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Background/Status:

- The PG TSA is the largest TSA in the province and has the largest AAC.
- In October 2017, the Chief Forester set the AAC for the PG TSA at 8,350,000 m³ per year, which is a 33.2% reduction to the 2011 AAC. A further 12% stepdown to 7,350,000 m³ per year was effective October 11, 2022.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
-
- The PG TSA contains seven large lumber mills, two pulp/paper mills, two pellet plants, and one co-generation facility. Two Natural Resource Districts (Prince George and Stuart Nechako) support the TSA, which consumes over 8.5 million m³ of fibre annually. The TSA is a net importer of timber and a significant source of provincial economic activity.
- Large forest companies that hold licences in the TSA include: Canfor, West Fraser, Sinclair Group Forest Products Ltd., Hampton Lumber, Carrier Lumber, and Dunkley Lumber.
- On jobs and training:
 - On May 9, 2024, Canfor announced the permanent closure of their Polar Sawmill in Bear Lake and the indefinite curtailment of one line of production at the Northwood Pulp in Prince George, impacting 400 jobs.
 - On September 4, 2024, Canfor announced the permanent closure of their Engen Sawmill (Plateau) near Vanderhoof, along with the closure of their facility in Fort St. John. These closures impacted 500 jobs.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:

Mike Hykaway	ADM	North Area	Phone: 250-893-7516
Lori Borth	RED	Omineca Region	Phone: 250-570-9442

Page 259 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 260 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 261 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 262 of 266

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Incomappleux Forest Service Road

Revised: February 18, 2025

Issue: Concern around deactivation of the Incomappleux Forest Service Road (FSR) and loss of access for private landowners and miners

Response:

- I am aware of the concerns from landowners and miners regarding loss of access to their properties.
- The road was closed for public safety and is no longer required for operational purposes therefore FOR must relieve itself of our ongoing obligation by meeting the requirements for deactivation outlined in the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
- Stakeholders have been advised of the options available to them if they want to apply to takeover the responsibility of this road through an application under the *Land Act*.

Background/Status:

- The entrance to the Incomappleux Valley is narrow and includes a crevice bridge. This is a cantilevered bridge adjacent to the Incomappleux River with a significant rockfall hazard above it.
- Plans are underway to deactivate the FSR because of the following series of events:
 - Forestry activities ceased in the valley in the early 2000's.
 - In November of 2006, there was a rockslide event that severely damaged the crevice bridge. The structural damage from this rockfall event was never repaired.
 - In the spring of 2023, the upper portion of the Incomappleux Valley became a Conservancy under the *Park Act*. The remaining area accessed by the FSR is under a Part 13 (under the *Forest Act*) which prohibits forestry activity.
- The District Manager closed the Incomappleux FSR in 2021 under Section 22.2(3) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* due to public safety concerns.
- As per the Engineering funding policy, this FSR and its infrastructure do not qualify for funding for repairs or maintenance.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- There are approximately 140 private land parcels owned by 28 landowners. Most of the lots are bare land with approximately 8 seasonal structures. There are also approximately 72 mineral claims held by 10 owners in the valley.
- Stakeholders have been regularly communicated with regarding the planned deactivation and advised of their options under the *Land Act* to apply for a licence of occupation to take over the road; there have been no applications made at this time, that we are aware of.
- There are draft deactivation prescriptions currently available for public review and comment, with the commenting period ending on Feb 28, 2025. Advertisements have been run in a local paper directing public to a website to review plans and provide comments.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone: mobile
Russ Laroche, RED	Jamie Jeffreys	Kootenay Boundary	250 551-3925

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

Title: Utilization of Fibre – South Area

Revised: February 24, 2025

Issue: Encouraging increased utilization of fibre.

Response:

- The Concurrent Residual Harvest System (CRHS) was developed as an alternative method of scale for low quality fibre reducing administrative burden and increasing utilization opportunity (pre-waste assessment).
- In 2019, a new waste manual was released which more accurately measured unutilized merchantable volume promoting increased utilization practices.
- Special Forest Products (SFP) legislation provides for manufacture and utilization of material post waste assessment while on the cut-block.
- The Ministry of Forests is working to facilitate fibre flow and utilization between licensees, value added and secondary manufacturers.

Background

- South Area (SA) receives about 60% of the total waste submissions for the whole province.
- Since 2019, Over 2.4 million cubic meters of CHRS material has been scaled for the SA (about 44% of provincial total).
- Section 94.1 FA - SFP provides authorization to manufacture SFP on site to be scaled instead of timber, increasing utilization opportunity.
- Since 2019, about 890 000 cubic meters of SFP material has been scaled for the SA.
- Forestry Fibre Licence to Cut and the Fibre Supply Licence to Cut tenures are available to access waste piles where short-term sources of fibre are required.
- FESBC has supported increased utilization by providing funding to support incremental haul.

2025/26 Estimates Note Template

Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Forests
Minister Responsible: Ravi Parmar

- The Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee developed the “Post Wildfire Fibre Recovery Guidance” to address the long term and non-economic fibre component of wildfire timber salvage.

Kootenay Boundary Region (RKB)

- DRM had a 2-year backlog on waste submissions because of staffing issues, over the last 6-month progress has been made with SA assistance.
- DSE hired a new person and is making progress on their waste backlog.
- RKB has scaled over 800 thousand cubic meters of CRHS since 2019.
- RKB has scaled over 12 thousand cubic meters of SFP since 2019. Has not scaled any since 2021.

Cariboo Region (RCC)

- DMH had a 2-year backlog on waste submissions but hired someone in 2024, progress is being made with SA assistance.
- DCC had a 1-year backlog but is making progress.
- RCC has scaled over 150 thousand cubic meters of CRHS since 2019.
- RCC has scaled over 820 thousand cubic meters of SFP since 2019.

Thompson Okanagan Region (RTO)

- DOS has a waste backlog should be reduced once an employee returns from leave.
- RTO has scaled over 1.1 million cubic meters of CRHS since 2019.
- RTO has scaled over 55 thousand cubic meters of SFP since 2019.

Contact:

Name	ADM	Division	Phone:
Larry Henry	Jamie Jeffreys	South Area	Government Financial
Director			Information
Pricing & Tenures			
South Area			