

## What are cumulative effects?

Cumulative effects occur when human activities and natural processes impact the land base over time.

Effects from individual activities may seem small and insignificant. However, when multiple activities and natural processes add up, they create a larger cumulative effect. This may impact various environmental, social, and economic values that are important to people in British Columbia.

## The B.C. Cumulative Effects Framework

The B.C. Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) identifies and assesses cumulative effects on values across the province. Results from assessments help us to understand and manage cumulative effects consistently and transparently across B.C.'s natural resource sector, where activities like forestry, mining, and oil and gas development occur. Additionally, the CEF helps to:

- Provide up-to-date information and improve understanding of the current condition of our values across the province;
- Advance reconciliation with Indigenous partners through co-development, collaboration, and open access data and assessments;
- Provide timely access to information for planning resource activities, large and small; and,
- Guide various management options for statutory decision-makers.



## How are Cumulative Effects Assessed in B.C.?



The CEF uses standardized assessment methodologies to assess the current condition of a value. Assessments use existing data for a defined geographic area to identify the current condition of values relative to objectives, and to identify current and emerging risks based on foreseeable activities and trends information.

Once an assessment is complete, results are described in a report. Each report provides a summary of the current condition of the value and identifies the cumulative effects that may be impacting the value.

Findings from these reports can be used to inform various resource management decisions including how to set benchmarks and objectives to better manage the value for the future.

## What work is currently being done under the B.C. CEF?

The B.C. CEF is focused on developing current condition reports and online data platforms for five environmental values: Grizzly Bear, Aquatic Ecosystems, Old Growth Forest, Moose, and Forest Biodiversity.

## Want to Learn More?

Visit the [B.C. Cumulative Effects Framework website](#) for more information.