



Annual Report 2025-26

Natural Resource Officer Service

For the period of April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Prepared for: Province of British Columbia

Prepared by: Ministry of Forests, Natural Resource Officer Service

VISION

Trusted to safeguard and regulate British Columbia's valued cultural and natural resources



THIS REPORT INCLUDES STATISTICS FOR
THE NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICE ACTIVITIES
AS RECORDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS
FROM APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026

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Introduction

The 2025-2026 Natural Resource Officer Service (NROS) Annual Report was produced by the Ministry of Forests¹.

The NROS reports to the Provincial Operations Division (POD) within the Ministry of Forests (FOR) and serves as the enforcement agency for both FOR and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS). Natural Resource Officers (NROs) are granted legal authorities under the Natural Resource Compliance Act² to enforce and investigate legislative contraventions primarily of the Forest Act, Forest and Range Practices Act, Wildfire Act, Land Act, Water Sustainability Act and Heritage Conservation Act.

The NROS organizational structure divides the province into four areas: Coast, Interior, North and South, under the purview of Area Superintendents. To support officers and the province in the delivery of an investigations mandate, two specialized business lines were created within the NROS.

First is the Strategic Engagement Team that incorporates Indigenous Relations and Restorative Justice Natural Resource Officers with a Superintendent that oversees provincial initiatives, provides accredited leadership in restorative justice files and coordinates client relationships. The Strategic Engagement Superintendent works with Area Superintendents to build relationships through engagement with joint management teams, enforcement partners, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders throughout the province.

The other business line is the Integrated Enforcement Team (IET), which assists with the enforcement of the NROS's broad mandate and increases provincial capacity with natural resource and investigative experts for all legislative responsibilities. The IET includes archaeologists, biologists, foresters, investigative experts, a Land Act specialist and Geographic Information System (GIS) support.

¹ Electronic copies of this report are available from the Ministry's Natural Resource Officer Service government website at [Natural Resource Officer Service Reports and Statistics](#)

² https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/11021_01

This report will cover compliance and enforcement activities related to forests, land, water, human-caused wildfire, resource roads, heritage and archaeology. This report summarizes NROS activities from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 and serves as a follow-up to its previous annual reports.

TABLE 1: KEY STATISTICS

1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Enforcement Actions Taken	612
Inspections	2,455
Violation Reports	4,213

Natural Resource Officer Service Priorities for 2025-26

Wildfire Management	• Human-caused wildfire • Fire prevention/preparedness
Emergency Response	• Support for provincial emergencies (fire, flood, drought, landslides)
Indigenous Relations	• Build relationships and trust with First Nations and Indigenous communities • Develop infrastructure to support relationship building for the Indigenous Relations & Restorative Justice Officer team
Land Management	• Unauthorized use and occupation of Crown land and resources, including foreshore development • Conservation of heritage, ancestral belongings (artifacts) and archaeological sites
Forest Management	• Forest harvesting, silviculture and range practices
Water Management	• Water use, changes in and about a stream, and/or surface water use • Dam and dugout construction and maintenance
Revenue Management	• Timber pricing and appraisals, marking and transport
Resource Roads	• Resource road use, maintenance, and construction

Time Spent Investigating and Inspecting

“Time spent” refers to the amount of time that NROs engage in carrying out their core functions and overseeing natural resource activities related to the legislation they are mandated to enforce.

Measuring time spent allows the government to identify where officers are spending their time relative to the NROS operational priorities, the success of its efforts related to effective enforcement, and timely completion of investigations.

TABLE 2: TIME SPENT HOURS BY FUNCTION
1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Function	Inspection/ Patrol (hours)	Investigation (hours)	Total Presence Hours	% Total
Wildfire Management	6,509	14,517	21,026	30%
Forest Management	2,872	14,843	17,715	25%
Water Management	3,097	9,181	12,278	18%
Land Management	2,987	7,985	10,972	16%
Revenue Management	1,104	3,857	4,961	7%
Resource Roads	1,246	1,334	2,576	4%
Provincial Emergency	122	315	436	1%
NRS Support	57	3	60	0%
Total Presence Hours	17,994	52,035	70,024	100%

* 0% is a rounding calculation to the nearest whole number

Inspections

The NROS inspectional activity is generated from multiple sources including information from the public through the Natural Resource Violation Reporting (NRVR) system, and by working collaboratively with our clients and partners to identify problem areas and issues.

NROs conduct targeted inspections where there is a high likelihood of legislative non-compliance, in accordance with Indigenous agreement obligations, or for compliance verification of an identified issue. These issues may be associated with a geographic area, resource activity, specific parties of interest or emerging issues requiring attention.

TABLE 3: INSPECTIONS BY FUNCTION

1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Function	Number of Inspections	% Total
Wildfire Management	738	30%
Forest Management	406	17%
Water Management	380	15%
Land Management	333	14%
Revenue Management	320	13%
Resource Roads	262	11%
Provincial Emergency	9	0%
NRS Support	7	0%
Total Inspections	2,455	100%

* 0% is a rounding calculation to the nearest whole number

Enforcement Actions

NROs have a broad range of enforcement tools and exercise appropriate, legally defensible discretion in determining the appropriate response to any identified non-compliance.

The enforcement option used will vary depending on the gravity and magnitude of the contravention, client history and any safety factors that may exist.

TABLE 4: ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS BY FUNCTION

1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Function	Compliance Notice	Warning Letter	Stop Work Order	Violation Ticket	Trespass Notice	Seizure	Search Warrant	Restorative Justice	Admin Hearing	Prosecution	Remediation Order	Gov't Non-Compliance	TOTAL by Function
Wildfire Management	15	70	1	82	0	2	5	0	7	0	0	3	185
Water Management	21	19	5	39	1	0	20	0	2	9	11	0	127
Land Management	46	8	4	0	26	5	3	3	0	8	0	0	103
Forest Management	17	21	1	25	0	4	17	1	8	0	4	1	99
Revenue Management	2	23	0	46	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	77
Resource Roads	10	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	20
NRS Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Enforcement Actions	112	145	11	196	27	11	45	4	25	17	15	4	612

Enforcement Outcome Summary

As reported in Table 5, administration hearings, court prosecutions and restorative justice forums made up a total of 30 outcomes in the last fiscal year. Of those outcomes, 69% were administration hearings, 16% were court prosecutions and 13% were restorative justice forums. This purpose-built enforcement action approach by the NROS continues to demonstrate the value of using a full range of mechanisms to support deterrence, economic recovery, and culturally or community-based restoration.

Recent enforcement actions by the NROS have marked significant milestones across multiple regulatory regimes. Under the Heritage Conservation Act, record-setting penalties totaling \$264,500 were issued for large-scale site desecration, accompanied by the first provincial court sentencing held in an Indigenous longhouse—an important step toward culturally informed enforcement.

Clarity around the Land Act was strengthened through a Supreme Court decision confirming that long-term moored float homes are structures occupying the foreshore rather than federally regulated vessels, resolving longstanding ambiguity, and enabling consistent enforcement of unauthorized moorage.

The Water Sustainability Act saw its first successful conviction for obstruction of an officer - a critical precedent as resource scarcity drives increased enforcement activity.

Collaboration with program areas also enabled over \$2 million in stumpage recovery, demonstrating how contravention findings directly support revenue outcomes.

Restorative justice processes reached unprecedented impact, reflecting a mature framework that supports meaningful, Nation-led remediation.

Enforcement packages under the Wildfire Act facilitated cost recovery even in cases where contraventions were not ultimately proven, reinforcing the value of using all available legislative tools.

Across all these areas, NROS investigations are increasingly shaping statutory interpretation itself, establishing influential precedents in forestry, land, water, wildfire, and heritage law.

Monetary Penalties

Monetary penalties may be applied by a statutory decision maker if they have determined that an individual or licensee has contravened legislation. Monetary penalties should not be confused with fines, which are imposed by the courts if an individual or licensee is convicted of an offence. The combined total of penalties, fines, orders of costs recovery, and other invoices resulting from investigative effort are considered the monetary impact.

TABLE 5: MONETARY IMPACT SUMMARY

1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Total Number of Outcomes: Admin Hearings, Court Prosecutions, Restorative Justice Forums	30
Monetary Impact	\$6,854,602
Violation Tickets (VT) Issued	196
Monetary Amount from VTs Issued	\$113,369
Total Monetary Impact	\$6,967,971
\$ Amount in Appeals	\$675,267

Natural Resource Violation Reporting

The Natural Resource Violation Reporting (NRVR) system was developed to collect and record reports of alleged violations of natural resource legislation. NRVR is for public use, but the system also allows the ministry's partner agencies and other program areas within the Natural Resource Ministries (NRM) to record issues identified by their staff.

Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. All submitted reports are received by FrontCounter BC staff who administer the intake process. Every violation report is reviewed by an NRO Supervisor and evaluated considering the Service's identified priorities to determine an appropriate response. Reports of alleged violations help the NROS determine where inspections and investigations need to be conducted.

Anyone can report a Natural Resource Violation:

- by telephone: 1-877-952-7277
- online: [Report of a Natural Resource Violation](#)

TABLE 6: VIOLATION REPORT BY FUNCTION

1-Apr-2025 to 31-Mar-2026

Function	# of Reported Violations	% Total
Land Management	1,613	38%
Water Management	1,070	25%
Wildfire Management	748	18%
Forest Management	527	13%
NRS Support	127	3%
Resource Roads	92	2%
Revenue Management	28	1%
Provincial Emergency	8	0%
Total Reports	4,213	100%

* 0% is a rounding calculation to the nearest whole number

Provincial Emergency Support Efforts

Over the years, British Columbia has faced various critical issues such as extreme climate-related events including floods, drought, wildfires and landslides. These events have caused severe consequences for many citizens and significant damage to Crown land across the province. As these occurrences have become more frequent and severe, the NROS continues to prioritize public safety through its emergency response efforts. During these challenging circumstances, the NROS is able to assist with the response to these provincial emergencies by working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations partners to implement emergency response actions.

Indigenous Partnerships

Building on the establishment of the Strategic Engagement Team, the NROS continues to strengthen Indigenous partnerships through strategic agreements, collaborative governance, and shared stewardship initiatives across the province. Working closely with Area Superintendents, the team advanced relationships with Indigenous Nations through formal agreements, joint committees, and coordinated enforcement approaches.

Over the past year, the NROS supported several key agreements and renewals with Indigenous partners, including treaty-related compliance committees, information governance agreements, and Memoranda of Understanding with

Nations such as the Maa-nulth, Haida, Tla'amin, Xeni Gwet'in, K'ómoks, and Skwlāx te Secwépemcúl'ecw. These agreements reinforce a shared commitment to sustainable resource management, improved information sharing, and collaborative enforcement practices that respect Indigenous rights, laws, and stewardship priorities.

The NROS continues to expand joint training opportunities with Indigenous Guardian programs, delivering enforcement-related knowledge and skills training to eleven First Nations. This work builds on previous years' efforts and reflects an ongoing commitment to capacity building, knowledge exchange, and supporting Guardians in their role as land stewards within their traditional territories.

Engagement with Indigenous partners remained grounded in cultural understanding and relationship-building. Through participation in cultural events, collaborative initiatives, and ongoing dialogue, the NROS strengthened trust and advanced reconciliation by integrating Indigenous perspectives into natural resource enforcement and stewardship.

Restorative Justice continued to be a cornerstone of the NROS approach to compliance and enforcement. In 2025–2026, four Restorative Justice files were successfully concluded in collaboration with affected Nations and parties, resulting in meaningful outcomes including reparations, restitution, and commitments to improved practices. Generating over \$1.7 million in reparations to impacted communities and natural resources, these resolutions demonstrate the effectiveness of restorative approaches in addressing harm while fostering accountability and long-term behavioural change.

Additionally, the NROS maintains support for initiatives such as the Aboriginal Liaison Program, further strengthening communication, coordination, and culturally informed enforcement practices throughout the province.

Collectively, these efforts reflect the NROS's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, co-management, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge and governance in protecting British Columbia's natural resources.

Reviews and Appeals

If a person is dissatisfied with the administrative determination made by a statutory decision maker, they may ask for the decision to be reviewed by the decision maker if there is new evidence to consider. Alternatively, the person may challenge the decision by submitting a notice of appeal to the Forest Appeals Commission or to the Environmental Appeal Board.

For more information about the Forest Appeals Commission, visit:

[Forest Appeals Commission](#)

For more information about the Environmental Appeal Board, visit

[Environmental Appeal Board](#)

Learn More

For more information about the Natural Resource Officer Service and the role of Natural Resource Officers, please visit:

[Natural Resource Law Enforcement- Natural Resource Officers](#)

Mission

Provide focused enforcement services that meet the needs of our clients and partners to achieve responsible stewardship. We are committed to doing this with integrity, professionalism, accountability, and genuine collaboration.

