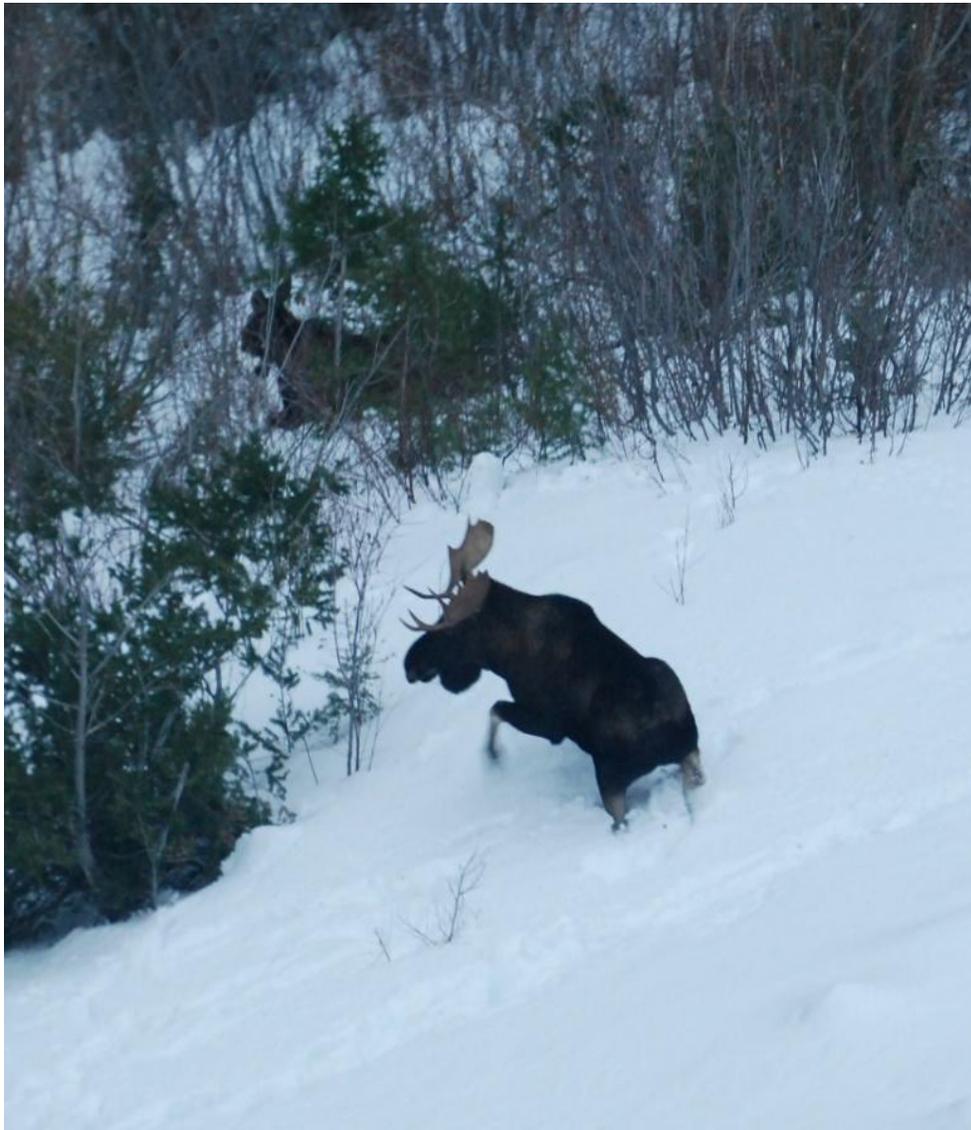


Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

2014/15
to 2016/17



Land Based Investment Strategy

Introduction

The Land Based Investment Strategy is a program that supports investments for a broad range of on-the-ground activities that manage, protect or conserve B.C.'s natural resources.

Purpose:

The purpose of the strategy is to guide ongoing resource investments and short-term targeted investments in British Columbia's natural resources to realize environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

Goals:

The 2014/15 goals of the Land Based Investment Strategy are to:

- Strategically direct funding allotted to Land Base Investment to the highest priorities among a broad range of potential investment options across the natural resource sector.
- Actively manage natural resources to maintain and enhance their value.
- Mitigate impacts from catastrophic disturbances to the economic, social and environmental benefits of natural resources.
- Act on strategic priorities to enable the use of B.C.'s natural resources and contribute to the achievement of economic, social and environmental objectives of government.

Scope:

Eligible investment categories and priorities will be determined annually using the strategic direction from the following sources:

- The Ministry's service plan goals and objectives.
- Annual regional and provincial work plans that identify key priorities and projects.
- Other government commitments and specific initiatives.

Some of the existing activities and projects may have long-term strategies that identify priority work to be completed over a number of years.

As well, projects should meet the following government commitments:

- Eliminate the backlog NSR (pre 1987) by 2015.
- Continue remediating priority fish passage crossings, as per ministerial response to Forest Practices Board Special Investigation Report 25.

- Plant at least 20 million trees annually for the next 15 years on MPB and wildfire impacted lands
- Improving mid-term timber supplies through investments in incremental silviculture and tree improvement.
- Improve provincial forest inventories consistent with the 10 year inventory strategic plan.
- Improve fish and wildlife inventories to ensure sustainable use of these resources.
- Prevent new, and reduce existing invasive plant impacts on forest and range resources to levels that are environmentally and economically acceptable.
- Protect the provinces international trade through the eradication of Gypsy Moth
- 2014/15-2016/17 Ministry Service Plan Performance Goals
- Data Quality Standard must align to meet Performance Measure 4 in the 2014/15 Ministry Service Plan.
- Each investment category must consider how climate change has affected, or will affect, resource values and their associated goals, objectives and targets.

Eligible Investment Categories and Priorities for 2014/15 to 2016/17

Eligible investment categories and priorities are aligned with the overall program goals and purpose described above.

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Forests for Tomorrow Program Current reforestation	Priority given to those areas throughout the province where catastrophic disturbance has caused drops in mid- and long-term timber supply. Eliminate backlog NSR. Service Plan Performance Measure # 7 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reforestation level of 20 million¹ seedlings (at least) with a variety of species², on areas where the mid- and long-term timber supply has been impacted by catastrophic disturbance³. • Maintain adequate growth rates on existing government-funded land based investments through vegetation management. • Meet government obligations under <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> section 108. • Eliminate the provincial backlog (pre-1987) Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR) by 2015. Initial emphasis should be the appropriate re-classification of polygons.

¹ Excludes seedlings planted under FRPA S. 108

² Follow Forest For Tomorrow [Management of tree species composition policy \(#1\)](#), [FFT species and density indicators and targets](#), and [Assisted species migration guidance](#)

³ Requires significant levels of survey of impacted stands to inform decision-making when investing in, and delivering, reforestation and stand tending activities

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Forests for Tomorrow Program - Timber Supply Mitigation	Mitigate impacts on timber supply caused by catastrophic disturbance or constrained ⁴ timber Service Plan Performance Measure # 7 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments) Mid-term Timber Supply Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilization, spacing, and conifer release in the Interior will focus on mitigating the reduction in the mid-term timber supply by targeting these activities within the “economic fibre-baskets⁵” associated with the following areas⁶: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Priority 1: Lakes, Quesnel, Prince George, Williams Lake ○ Priority 2: 100 Mile House, Morice, Kamloops Okanagan ○ Priority 3: Merritt, Cranbrook, , Invermere, Arrow • Fertilization and stand tending (juvenile spacing) on coastal, southeast⁷, and northwest⁸ forest management units with constrained timber supply and where highest return-on-investment will be achieved to improve timber availability and value.
Forest Health	Focus on areas and impacts with significant forest health issues and opportunities to protect short and mid-term timber supplies	Support improved tree growth by managing and preventing the impacts on the forest and range from pests and disease.
Tree improvement	Focus on increasing genetic gain in tree productivity throughout the province as per the Forest Genetics Council Strategic Plan 2009-2014 . Service Plan Performance Measure # 7 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments) Mid-term Timber Supply Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic conservation • Tree breeding • Operational tree improvement, seed production in orchards • Genetic resource Decision support • Seed orchard pest management • Genecology and seed transfer • Other related activities

⁴ Public policy decisions that reduce harvest levels (e.g. Government Action Regulations)

⁵ Economic fibre-baskets defined as: Wood fibre, within a reasonable economical distance (e.g. 8.5 hour cycle time), that might be able to assist in addressing the mid-term timber supply shortfalls in an adjacent management unit.

⁶ All forest management units (e.g. Tree Farm Licences, Woodlot Licences, Community Forest Agreements, Timber Supply Areas, etc.) encompassed by the broader TSA name indicated are eligible for treatment if they meet the overall management objective. Priority designation classifies units by the degree of decrease in potential mid-term timber supply. If all factors are equal, treatment should occur within a higher priority unit before a lower priority unit.

⁷ Districts within the Kootenay-Boundary region.

⁸ Skeena-Stikine and Coast Mountain districts.

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Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Inventory - Vegetation Resource Inventory and Site Productivity	Priority given to inventory activities (e.g. site productivity, vegetation resource inventory) that support land based investment decisions or help mitigate impacts to timber supply as per ten year plan.	Focus site productivity and forest inventory updates on priority units for mid-term timber supply mitigation in the Interior and on ecosystem-based management units on the Coast.
Inventory – Ecosystem Based Management	Priority given to inventory activities (including terrestrial ecosystem mapping, BEC refinement, and site productivity evaluation) that support land based investment decisions, help mitigate impacts to timber and habitat supply, and refine site productivity estimates.	Focus ecosystem delineation and site productivity updates within ecosystem-based management units on the Coast that represent priorities for timber supply mitigation and operational planning.
Inventory – Visual Quality	Priority given to inventory activities (e.g. Visual Quality) that help mitigate impacts to timber supply.	Focus visual quality updates on priority units for mid-term timber supply mitigation in the Interior and on ecosystem-based management units on the Coast.
Fire management	Focus on planning to minimize fire hazard risk on forest resources and investments.	Creation of fire risk planning tools to assist in reducing risk to forest resources and investments.
Fish – Fish passage	Fish Passage: Focus investments by undertaking a systematic, watershed approach to assessing priority watersheds so that the most important fish passage issues can be identified and restored in a cost effective manner (as identified in the Strategic Approach to Fish Passage).	Optimize fish habitat gains by targeting high-value watersheds and sites within those watersheds. Maintain emphasis on culvert assessments in watersheds without fish stream culvert assessment data, to provide a defensible basis for strategic prioritization of sites for remediation. The objective will be to provide unrestricted access to the lowermost parts of the stream network with the emphasis on providing access to the lowest gradient reaches and therefore the most optimal fish habitat. Priority will be given to fish species at risk and salmonids.
Ecosystem Restoration	Target the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed by re-establishing structural characteristics, species composition, and ecological processes. Service Plan Performance Measure # 6 (Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems)	Restore ecosystem function of in-grown open forests and native grasslands.

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Invasive Plants	Focus on preventing new invasive species from establishing in the province, and on areas threatened by increasing economic, environmental and/or social impacts from significant invasive species issues as per the BC Government Invasive Species Strategic Plan . Contributes to Service Plan Performance Measure # 6 (Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems)	Early detection and rapid response to new invasive species is a top priority. Surveys will focus on pathways of introduction and areas threatened by expanding invasive species populations. Preventing and reducing impacts from high risk invasive plant species will be accomplished through strategic containment and control actions.
Water	Support management activities undertaken by government and industry by providing information on risks to water and water related resources	Government will act to ensure our fresh water remains a rich resource that meets economic, social and environmental needs for generations to come.
Fish and Wildlife Inventory	Focus on management priorities to inform environmentally sustainable resource management, including sustainable use of fish and wildlife.	Inventories will focus on the objective of optimized, sustainable use of fish and wildlife to support First Nations needs, recreational hunting and fishing and an economically viable guide industry particularly in light of uncertain environmental conditions (including climate change). Inventories to address First Nations concerns with fish and wildlife populations and enable high priority authorizations to proceed. Specific wildlife inventory and data collection focus on moose populations to identify extent and degree of moose declines throughout BC, support provincial and regional moose management planning, and the provincial moose recovery research program.

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Wildlife (Species at risk)	Focus on developing, reviewing, approving and implementing Recovery Plans and Management Plans, based on Conservation Framework priorities and objectives of the federal Species at Risk Act, including ecosystem-based approaches. Develop and provide scientific advice on habitat needed for survival and recovery, and on management or actions needed to minimize or mitigate threats to species at risk. Lead and support actions to recover and maintain priority species populations, e.g., captive breeding, translocation, predator/competitor management and control of invasive alien species. Conduct compliance and implementation monitoring projects using for priority species, habitats and ecosystems. Maintain and update priority species assessments and the list of species at risk (species category) (e.g., for FRPA), based on priorities for species designations. Develop, maintain and update corporate data sets, information systems and applications and ensure consistency and quality.	The Conservation Framework and federal Species at Risk Act drives prioritization for Species At Risk recovery plans
Wildlife (Habitat)	Focus on identifying and designating protection and management actions for species and ecosystems at risk or of management priority to inform environmentally sustainable resource management, including sustainable use of wildlife.	The Conservation Framework drives prioritization for Government Action Regulation implementation strategies.

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Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
Range	Focus on those range areas impacted by catastrophic disturbance such as mountain pine beetle, wildfire and drought. Service Plan Performance Measure # 6 (Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems)	Restore range areas impacted by catastrophic disturbance such as mountain pine beetle, wildfire, and drought.
Recreation sites and trails	Focus on maintaining recreation sites and trails to keep them open and safe for public use, while providing economic, social, health and environmental benefits to families, the general public, rural communities, and the Province.	Conduct maintenance and rehabilitation efforts to extend the life of existing recreation sites and trails; develop new sites and trails where the opportunity, demand and community support is high; lower operating costs and increase service capacity and the quality of outdoor recreation experiences through effective partnerships.

Budget 2014/15 (

Investment category	Sub Category	2014/15(\$M)
Forests For Tomorrow	Current Reforestation	29.79
	Timber supply mitigation	8.85
Invasive Plants		0.5
Forest Health		6.0
Tree Improvement		2.5
Inventory	VRI/Site Productivity	8.0
	Ecosystem Based Man.	0.5
	Visual	0.1
Fish Passage		1.0
Fire Management		0.25
Ecosystem Restoration		0.75
Range		0.6
Water		0.35
Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Inventory	1.0
	Habitat	0.5
	Species At Risk	1.5
Recreation		0.65
Total		62.84

