

# Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

2015/16  
to 2017/18



Land Based Investment Strategy

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## 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 2015/165 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:

- Continue remediating priority fish passage crossings, as per ministerial response to Forest Practices Board Special Investigation Report 25.
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- Increase planting towards 28 million trees annually by 2019 on MPB and wildfire impacted lands
- Improving mid-term timber supplies through investments in incremental silviculture, forest health, and tree improvement.
- Improve provincial forest inventories consistent with the 10 year inventory strategic plan.
- Prevent new, and reduce existing invasive species impacts on forest and range resources acceptable to levels that are environmentally and economically acceptable.
- Protect the provinces international trade through the eradication of Gypsy Moth
- 2015/16-2017/18 Ministry Service Plan Performance Goals
- Data Quality Standard must align to meet Performance Measure 3 in the 2015/16 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 2015/16 to 2017/18

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 <b>Current reforestation</b>	Priority given to those areas throughout the province where catastrophic disturbance has caused drops in mid- and long-term timber supply.  <a href="#">Service Plan</a> Performance Measure # 6 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing reforestation level towards 28 million<sup>1</sup> seedlings with a variety of species<sup>2</sup>, on areas where the mid- and long-term timber supply has been impacted by catastrophic disturbance<sup>3</sup> by 2019.</li> <li>• Maintain adequate growth rates on existing government-funded land based investments through vegetation management.</li> <li>• Meet government obligations under <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> section 108.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes seedlings planted under FRPA S. 108

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 - <b>Timber Supply Mitigation</b>	<p>Mitigate impacts on timber supply caused by catastrophic disturbance or constrained<sup>4</sup> timber</p> <p><a href="#">Service Plan</a> Performance Measure # 6 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments)</p> <p><a href="#">Mid-term Timber Supply Action Plan</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization, spacing, and backlog brushing in the central Interior will focus on mitigating the reduction in the mid-term timber supply by targeting these activities within the “economic fibre-baskets<sup>5</sup>” associated with the following areas<sup>6</sup>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Priority 1: Lakes, Quesnel, Prince George, Williams Lake</li> <li>○ Priority 2: 100 Mile House, Morice, Kamloops Okanagan</li> <li>○ Priority 3: Merritt, Cranbrook, , Invermere, Arrow</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fertilization and stand tending (juvenile spacing) on coastal, southeast<sup>7</sup>, and northwest<sup>8</sup> forest management units with constrained timber supply and where highest return-on-investment will be achieved to improve timber availability and value.</li> </ul>
<b>Forest Health</b>	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.
<b>Tree improvement</b>	<p>Focus on increasing genetic gain in tree productivity throughout the province as per the <a href="#">Forest Genetics Council Strategic Plan 2009-2014</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Service Plan</a> Performance Measure # 6 (Timber volume gain from Silviculture investments)</p> <p><a href="#">Mid-term Timber Supply Action Plan</a></p>	Tree breeding, seed production in orchards, and modifying seed transfer guidance to establish faster growing trees, with more valuable wood, and higher resilience to climate change.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Districts within the Kootenay-Boundary region.

<sup>8</sup> Skeena-Stikine and Coast Mountain districts.

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
<b>Inventory -</b> Vegetation Resource Inventory and Site Productivity	Priority given to forest inventory and growth and yield activities that support resource management, land based investment decisions, or help mitigate impacts to timber supply as per the ministry's Forest Inventory Strategic Plan.	Focus forest inventory and growth and yield activities on improving information for the management of mid-term timber supply in the Interior and addressing priority issues (such as ecosystem-based management) on the Coast.
<b>Inventory –</b> 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.
<b>Inventory –</b> 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.
<b>Fire management</b>	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.
<b>Fish –</b> 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 <a href="#">Strategic Approach to Fish Passage – July 2014</a> ).	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.
<b>Ecosystem Restoration</b>	Target the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed by re-establishing structural characteristics, species composition, and ecological processes. <a href="#">Service Plan</a> Performance Measure # 5 (Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems)	Restore ecosystem function of in-grown open forests and native grasslands.

Eligible Investment Category	Focus	Implementation Priorities
<b>Invasive Species</b>	Focus on areas and impacts with significant invasive species issues as per the Ministry's <a href="#">Invasive Plant Strategy</a> .	Managing and preventing the impacts on the forest and range from pests and disease.
<b>Water</b>	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.
<b>Fish and Wildlife Inventory</b>	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.	Optimized, sustainable use of fish and wildlife to support First Nations needs, recreational hunting and fishing and an economically viable guide industry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventories to address First Nations concerns with fish and wildlife populations and enable high priority authorizations to proceed.</li> <li>• Specific wildlife inventory focus on moose populations to identify extent and degree of moose declines throughout BC, support provincial and regional moose management planning, and a provincial moose recovery research program.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildlife (Species at risk)</b>	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.	Priorities for SAR work will be derived from a combination of a strategic, multi-year vision for conservation (eg Conservation Framework, Ecosystem management Plan, approved Recovery Strategies) and responding to emerging issues that may be driven by rapidly changing conservation status or pressing social or economic pressures.
<b>Wildlife (Habitat)</b>	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 <a href="#">Conservation Framework</a> drives prioritization for Government Action Regulation implementation strategies. <i>Priorities for fish and wildlife habitat work will be derived from a combination of strategic, multi-year vision for conservation (eg Conservation Framework, Ecosystem management Plan ) and responding to emerging issues that may be driven by rapidly changing conservation status or pressing social or economic pressures.</i>
<b>Range</b>	Focus on those range areas impacted by catastrophic disturbance such as mountain pine beetle, wildfire and drought.	Restore range areas impacted by catastrophic disturbance such as mountain pine beetle, wildfire, and drought.

	<a href="#">Service Plan</a> Performance Measure # 5 (Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems)	
<b>Eligible Investment Category</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Implementation Priorities</b>
<b>Recreation sites and trails</b>	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 2015/16

<b>Investment category</b>	<b>2015/16 \$ M</b>
Forest Health	6.0
Current Reforestation	35.64
Timber Supply Mitigation	3.0
Tree Improvement	2.5
Inventory (VRI/Site Prod)	8.0
Visual Quality	0.1
Fish Passage	1.0
water	0.35
Range	0.6
Invasive species	0.7
Ecosystem Restoration	0.75
Recreation	0.65
Fire Management	0.25
Wildlife (Habitat)	0.5
Wildlife (Species at Risk)	1.5
Fish and Wildlife Inventory	0.8
Ecosystem Based Management	0.5
Land Based Investment	0
	<b>62.84</b>

