**Ministry of Forests & Range**

**LBIS Funding Request Form**

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| **Investment Category:** Range Management |
| **Investment Contact:** Perry Grilz (Ph: 250-962-5168) |
| **Amount Requested:** $2M |
| **Business rationale: (**Describe the issues being addressed)   1. ***The size and general area of impact within the province****:* The MFR manages 2,000 Crown range tenures, covering 34.9 million hectares that provide close to one third of the annual forage supply used by the ranching and guide-outfitting industries. Rangelands provide many goods and services in addition to forage: wildlife habitat; recreation; medicinal plants; and water. Overlapping interests and use on rangelands is increasing the public demand for a more collaborative approach to range management. The mandate for the Range Program flows from the Ministry of Forests and Range Act, Range Act and the Forest and range Practices Act. MFR has been responsible for the stewardship and management since the inception of the BC Forest Service in 1912.   Range infrastructure (fences, water developments, etc.) has aged and/or has been damaged by Mountain Pine beetle killed timber falling on this infrastructure. Much of this infrastructure is in excess of thirty years old and was constructed under previous Federal/Provincial Government programs (ARDA, ARDSA) in the late 1970’s. Most of this older infrastructure is beyond maintenance and it now needs to be replaced. All infrastructures are owned by the Crown.  Serious drought conditions exist in parts of British Columbia. Many naturally occurring watering areas have dried up. As cattle only graze within one kilometer of water, this effectively reduces the size of the area available for grazing and results in those areas that have livestock water receiving disproportionately higher grazing pressure. Many ranchers are now faced with trucking water for the livestock which increases production costs. Drought conditions also effect wildlife and waterfowl use.  Catastrophic Wildfire events in 2009 and 2010 have greatly impacted the short to mid term quantity and quality of available forage. As such, these areas may require rehabilitation seeding.  The Range Program Strategy provides direct to address these issues. Best management practices (BMP) provide a framework for ensuring proper use of range resources, as inappropriate grazing practices can often lead to the environmental deterioration. To implement BMPs, range infrastructure such as fencing and livestock watering facilities and rehabilitation may be needed to optimize use by livestock and protect other values.   1. ***How much total funding would be required to resolve the issue:***$80M 2. ***How long it would take to resolve the issue at the proposed funding level:*** (ongoing) 3. ***Magnitude of the impact in addressing the Land Based Investment Strategy goals, objectives, and strategic priorities; and e) multiple benefits:***The requested amount of $2.0M will help to begin addressing many of the issues identified in the government’s Ranchers Task Force as identified by the BC Cattlemen’s Association. An estimated 100 km of fence reconstruction, 100 livestock watering facilities and 5,000 ha of rehabilitation seeding can be achieved annually with this level of investment to help in meeting provincial goals. Range management and the implementation of BMPs ties directly to the provincial goals, LBIS goals and Range Program Strategy goals of: 1) Encourage maximum productivity of the forest and range resource; 2) Manage, protect and conserve forest and range resources for immediate and long term economic and social benefits; 3) Plan the use of the provinces forest and range resources; 4) Encourage a vigorous, efficient and world competitive timber and ranching sector; and 5) Assert the financial interest of government in its forest and range resources in a systematic and equitable manner. In addition, this funding provides the provinces contribution to possible matching federal funding sources (i.e. AgriFlexility Fund). 4. ***biological windows that would impact success related to the investment:***May to October |
| **Amount Allocated (to be filled out by FPIB):** |
| **Allocation Rationale (to be filled out by FPIB):** |
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