



# Mid-Term Timber Supply

June 11, 2012

## Resource Values Assessment: Recreation

### State of Knowledge:

- Recreation Sites and Trails BC, a branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, develops, maintains and markets a provincial network of 1,319 recreation sites and 818 recreation trails. It addresses safety, public health, and environmental issues at these sites.
- Recreation sites and trails are located on Crown lands outside parks and municipalities, and involve integrated management, with timber harvesting, range, commercial recreation, mining and other activities and uses. They contribute to the following government goals:
  - *Healthy Active Families:* Provide low-cost accessible facilities for physical outdoor recreation, with 9.7 million visits a year. Avoided provincial health care costs range from \$4.4 million to \$6.7 million annually.
  - *Job Creation and a Strong Economy:* Part of B.C.'s tourism infrastructure, contributing economic benefits to communities and the provincial economy through expenditures related to accommodation, transportation, food and equipment. Total value-added GDP is estimated to be \$112 million annually with more than \$23 million in tax revenue to federal, provincial and municipal governments.
  - *Sustainable Environmental Management:* Sites are managed in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.

### Current Conditions:

- About 80% of recreation sites and trails in B.C.'s Central Interior have been impacted by the mountain pine beetle infestation, and dead or dying trees present a safety hazard to users.
- Identification and removal of hazard trees impacted by beetles began in 2006/07 with operational dollars, 2007/08 with federal funding, and has continued with funding through the Forest Investment Account, Job Opportunities Program and the Land Based Investment Strategy.
- Since 2007, 70% of recreation sites and trails in the Central Interior (90% in the Cariboo Region) have had danger trees removed to address public safety or make site improvements. Most will need to be reassessed and treated annually.
- Forested lands within established recreation sites and trails contribute to the timber supply to varying degrees, based on their relative sensitivity and values. 40% to 100% of the timber within the recreation sites has been factored out of the timber supply.
- Overall, timber supply impacts in B.C.'s Central Interior have been negligible because recreation sites and trails represent a small area of the operable timber supply area.
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC has been reforesting affected sites and trails since 2008 through the Forest Investment Account and the Land Based Investment Strategy to manage for their future value.

**Risks:**

- The public and communities expect this mature forest cover will be sustained in the few recreation sites and trails not affected by beetles, and there is greater demand for sites with forest cover.
- Major licensees have little interest in harvesting beetle-affected trees within recreation sites and trails because this involves hauling small quantities of logs and there is fear of imbedded metal (nails, wire, etc.) that could damage mill equipment or risk employee safety.
- Harvesting close to developed portions of the recreation sites in turn leads to long-term blowdown issues within the developed portion of the sites.

**Information**

Recreation Sites and Trails BC [www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/](http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/)