



FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Funding Criteria

August 2024



Ministry of
Forests

CONTENTS

Objective/Purpose.....	2
Background.....	2
Funding Partners.....	3
Clean BC.....	3
2 Billion Trees.....	3
Investment Principles and Priorities	4
Eligible Activities.....	5
Table 1: FIP Primary Activities Eligible for Funding with FIP Approval	5
Table 2: FIP Salvage/Stand Rehab Activities Eligible for Funding with FIP Approval	7
Table 3: FIP Supplementary Activities	8
Table 4: Activities Not Eligible for FIP Funding.....	10
Prioritization	13
Table 5: FIP Overall Priority Ranking Considerations.....	13
Table 6: FIP Priority Ranking Specific to Activities within the Salvage/Stand Rehab Annual Funding Amount	15
Specific Activity Level Considerations	17
Reforestation.....	17
For riparian restoration specific to SAR or SCI or as part of specific wildfire risk reduction strategies:.....	18
For wildfire risk reduction or mitigation:.....	18
For Indigenous and cultural reforestation:	18
For climate driven ecological benefit:	18
Forest Nutrient Management:.....	18
Spacing/Thinning.....	19
Salvage, Overstory Removal and Utilization of Fibre.....	19
Silvicultural Road Rehabilitation	19
Appendix 1: Annual FIP Salvage/Stand Rehab Funding Amount	21
Appendix 2: List of Acronyms.....	22

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

The objective of this document is to describe the criteria that guide funding decisions by the Forest Investment Program (FIP). FIP criteria are based on carefully employing reforestation, forest nutrient management and other silviculture resources to meet provincial goals, federal agreements and to respond to catastrophic events while simultaneously employing climate change mitigation efforts. These criteria relate closely to funding eligibility and project prioritization to meet these goals.

This document provides the main criteria for use in developing, evaluating, and reporting on projects to be delivered through FIP. These criteria relate to priorities of FIP within the context of the provincial and federal funding partners and their combined goals, priorities, and mandates. The document provides priorities and suggested evaluation tools to assist both FIP and funding applicants.

The purpose of FIP is to mitigate climate change, enhance forest resiliency, improve timber supply, and support current, and future, generations through coordinated resource and forest investments.

Over the next three years the focus of the FIP Strategic Plan includes four key goals:

- Advance partnerships with First Nations
- Establish healthier, more resilient forests
- Increase contributions to mitigating climate change
- Provide stronger accountability to the public and program partners

Background

In 2021, the Ministry of Forests committed to a consolidated Forest Investment Program through the newly formed Forest Investment and Reporting Branch (FIRB). This was done by amalgamating incremental government led forest investments previously managed by the Forest Carbon Initiative, the Forests for Tomorrow program and new funding sources. Forest investments come from base program funding, a partnership with CleanBC, and through the 2 Billion Trees program with Natural Resources Canada.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Clean BC

BC has legislated targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 2007 levels by 2030. Clean BC is the government’s plan to meet this target and BC has developed a set of two strategies:

- [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#)
- [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#)

Within these two strategies the following are key objectives:

- Growing and caring for BC’s carbon sinks
- Supporting investment in bioproduct development
- Supporting integrated bioproduct manufacturing
- Minimizing slash pile burning / encouraging fibre utilization

BC uses many mitigation options in our forests which align with these objectives, including reforestation, forest nutrient management, managing forest health, reducing slash pile burning and using more fibre in longer lived products. Conservation of old growth forests as carbon sinks is one of those strategies.

2 Billion Trees

In 2019, the Government of Canada committed to planting an additional two billion new trees over 10 years (2021-22 to 2030-31) as part of a broader approach to nature-based climate solutions, with the objectives of carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement and supporting human well-being.

The 2 Billion Trees Program (2BT), a Government of Canada cost-shared grants and contribution program, has notional allocations to BC for two funding streams:

(1) tree planting activities, afforestation and reforestation

(2) tree planting that supports habitat restoration and conservation related to provincially and federally listed species at risk (SAR), species of conservation interest (SCI)¹, migratory birds (Migratory Birds Convention Act), and culturally significant species, all of which are referred to hereafter as “habitat restoration”.

FIP will prioritize activities where funds can be leveraged through external partners such as the 2BT program. This will guide FIP funding criteria and prioritization of activities.

¹ Such as species assessed by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) or listed provincially as ‘at risk’.

INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

Funds will be allocated to eligible activities based on their potential to contribute to the goals, strategic objectives, and priorities as outlined in the FIP Strategic Plan.

FIP has established targets, based on funding, to plant 40-50 million trees per year and to fertilize 20,000 – 40,000 hectares of forest per year.

The FIP performance measure in the 2024/25 Ministry of Forests Service Plan ([Ministry of Forests 2024/25 - 2026/27 Service Plan \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)) is to reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions by **2 MtCO₂e/year²** (million tons carbon dioxide equivalent) through forest investment activities.

There are important activities that require funding under FIP that may not directly support the provincial recovery from the federal 2BT program or the Ministry of Forests Service Plan greenhouse gas (GHG) emission/sequestration performance measure. These activities meet other FOR goals such as building a strong economy through natural resource management, creating resilient forests in the face of climate change, and responding to catastrophic events. A funding amount has been set aside for these eligible activities based on historical average annual amounts spent on these activities and is called the **salvage/stand rehab funding amount**. See Appendix 1 for current and historic year amounts.

Activities falling into the salvage/stand rehab funding amount include the British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) Innovative Timber Sales License (ITSL), overstory removal when required to establish a new stand, reforestation of overstory removal and culturally burned sites, thinning, and spacing.

² Emission reductions and sequestration delivered in the current fiscal year are measured in units of MtCO₂e (Million Tonnes Carbon dioxide Equivalent) and the cumulative benefits of each year's activities are modeled up to the year 2050.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

FIP has established eligibility criteria that aligns with the specific requirements from funding partners and that aligns with government priorities. A common set of criteria for FIP activities is identified below and is intended to provide clarity and efficiency for both funding partners as well as those wanting to deliver FIP activities.

For the most up to date FIP activity standards, project selection criteria, and guidance, please refer to [Forest Investment Program - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/forest-investment-program).

The activities in Tables 1-3 include activities that are eligible for FIP funding. This work is currently restricted to BC public land and can be conducted on both Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) and non-THLB areas. The activities listed in Table 4 are ineligible for FIP funding.

Some eligible activities identified in Tables 1-3 require a business case. Additionally, where proposed activities include higher than benchmark costs or involve new or innovative practices, a business case may be required. These requirements are in place to ensure the proposed activity aligns with FIP priorities.

If the proposed activities require a business case, please contact the appropriate Forest Investment Specialist to develop the appropriate project rationale for funding. In some cases, a simple conversation might suffice, but in other situations formal documentation may be required.

Not all eligible activities listed will receive funding due to budget limits. If activities are not funded by FIP, there may be funding available for these activities through other programs. Please contact your regional Integrated Investment Specialist for assistance in trying to identify alternative funding sources.

Definitions for eligible activities are consistent with the [Forest Investment Program RESULTS Base Technique Coding](#).

Table 1: FIP Primary Activities Eligible for Funding with FIP Approval

The activities listed are primary activities eligible for funding by FIP. In support of these activities, the following are eligible:

- Eligibility Assessments: An assessment process to determine if a proposed project area meets the specific activity (i.e. reforestation, fertilization) criteria and is eligible for FIP funding. The eligibility assessment includes overview assessment/planning, reconnaissance or surveys, and data collection for prescription development.
- Detailed Treatment Plans or Prescriptions: An overall plan setting out measurable objectives desired to be achieved on specified work areas, together with one or more silviculture or forest health treatments necessary to achieve the objectives, and as further described in the FIP Standards
- Monitoring Surveys: Post tree planting walk throughs and surveys until stands reach a free growing state

Activity Type	Description	Funding Considerations
Afforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion of areas where there was no recent forest cover to forests. E.g., roads, mines, dams, etc. • Site preparation and planting • Stand maintenance to achieve free growing (e.g., brushing and fill planting) 	
Reforestation – underplanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overstory removal • Site preparation and planting • Stand maintenance to achieve free growing (e.g., brushing and fill planting) 	
Reforestation – seed and sowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed collection for FIP tree planting, seed management, seedling costs, transportation, and storage (normally done through FIP) 	Potential eligibility for minor amounts outside FIP led work; requires business case with FIP approval.
Reforestation – SAR & SCI Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat restoration specific to SAR/SCI 	Business case with FIP approval required; for cost recoveries under the federal 2BT agreement, activities must meet agreement requirements.
Reforestation – riparian restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in riparian areas for habitat restoration, stream bank stabilization and water quality values 	Business case with FIP approval required.
Reforestation – overrun purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production overruns may be purchased for reforestation. • Capacity and funding limitations may limit opportunity. 	Limited amount available and must have FIP approval prior to ordering.
Reforestation – silviculture road rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, site preparation and afforestation of road features for wildlife habitat and GHG benefits • Natural regeneration of tree and shrub species on roads must be <5% to be eligible for treatment 	Business case with FIP approval required; partnerships with other funding sources are strongly encouraged.
Forest Nutrient Management – post-free growing aerial or hand application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, approvals, transportation, application, and reporting 	
Forest Nutrient Management – water quality monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required by specific prescriptions for sensitive watercourses and if treatments are planned in areas geographically separated from past treatment areas 	Potential eligibility for minor amounts; requires business case with FIP approval.
Meeting/workshop and associated travel costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRB will pay actual meeting/travel costs directly connected to FIP meetings and workshops as required. 	Yes – not part of AOP process; business case with FIP approval required.

Table 2: FIP Salvage/Stand Rehab Activities Eligible for Funding with FIP Approval

The activities listed are eligible for FIP funding with a combined maximum allocation amount not to exceed the salvage/stand rehab funding amount in Appendix 1.

Activity Type	Description	Funding Considerations
BCTS ITSL Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCTS overstory removal, forest stand rehabilitation, reforestation, and uneconomic fibre utilization 	BCTS MOU, Service Agreement, and ITSL Criteria apply.
Forestry Licence to Cut Section 4 harvesting/ overstory removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvesting timber as part of a government funded contract in order to prepare an area for reforestation under Forestry Licence to Cut Section 4 	Reforestation plans indicating how and when sites will be reforested must be provided to FIP prior to the approval for funding. Priority will be to projects which include fibre utilization and do not include burning.
Spacing and thinning projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any spacing and/or thinning to release tree growth in pre-commercial aged stands 	These will be of low priority for approval by FIP. See Table 6. Business case with FIP approval required. Additional site information and identification of whether spacing is recommended as part of a recently approved integrated stewardship/ silviculture strategy will be requested.
Reforestation – tree planting in areas with overstory removal (including culturally burned areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation of areas where the last disturbance type of area prior to planting is overstory removal by cutting, knock down, cultural burning, etc. Activities in this category include site preparation, planting and stand maintenance to achieve free growing (e.g., brushing and fill planting) 	
Pruning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select stems for highest quality wood production – pruning as per prescription 	These will be extremely low priority for approval by FIP. See Table 6. Business case with FIP approval required; additional site information will be requested.

Table 3: FIP Supplementary Activities

The activities listed in Table 3 will only be considered for funding if they are directly tied to approved FIP primary or salvage/stand rehab activities listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Activity Type	Description	Funding Considerations
Access management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with improving/establishing access to conduct reforestation and fertilization activities for the for the purposes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving safety; ○ Reducing environmental damage; and/or ○ Reducing activity costs 	Business case with FIP approval required; must follow applicable legislation and regulations of the day.
Reforestation – time of planting (tea bag) applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required by specific prescriptions and in treatments with proven success by advice of a Registered Professional Forester to improve survival or reduce future treatment costs such as brushing 	
Reforestation – planting native non-tree species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of native non-tree species in combination with tree species • Cultural and biological values 	Potential eligibility for minor amounts; requires business case with FIP approval: cost must be less than 15% of total project Total annual provincial funding cap of \$1.5M/year
Forest health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of recently established forests. E.g., cone protection from ungulate browse, white pine pruning to reduce white pine blister rust • Reduction of pests/pathogens affecting recently established forests E.g. mistletoe, black army cutworm, etc. 	Business case with FIP approval required.
Strategic reforestation planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis conducted to assist in identifying high priority areas for eligibility assessments. • Coordinated at the regional level in collaboration with all delivery partners operating regionally. • Does not include wildfire recovery planning or other activities not funded by FIP 	Business case with FIP approval required.
Archaeological assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to sites prescribed for FIP activities only. • Overview and impact assessments 	

Activity Type	Description	Funding Considerations
Removal of invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where invasive species may jeopardize FIP outcomes 	Business case with FIP approval required.
Surveys of culturally important plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous People’s Knowledge or other surveys that assist in identifying cultural plants and sites within FIP funded tree planting activity boundaries To aid in understanding the presence and populations of culturally important plant species as part of a tree planting activity To provide information to assist communications to aid in collaboration and operational decision making. Should be conducted simultaneously with Eligibility Assessments to minimize costs Support managing for cultural values in FIP plans, prescriptions, and treatments Not to fund capacity building 	Business case with FIP approval required. Total annual provincial funding cap of \$100,000/year
Utilization of uneconomic fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To aid in the avoidance of slash pile burning and reducing GHG emissions The ITSL program should be used for this work FLTC authorizations required to move fibre 	Business case with FIP approval required after other funding options have been explored; Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) funding should be considered where the ITSL program is not practical.
Mulching/Chipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only considered in connection with FIP tree planting activities 	Business case with FIP approval required; only approved on an experimental and near communities.

Table 4: Activities Not Eligible for FIP Funding

The activities listed are not funded by FIP. There may be funding available for Ministry-led activities through other programs. Please contact your regional Integrated Investment Specialist for assistance in trying to identify alternative funding sources.

Activity Type	Description	Notes
Cutting/harvesting of old growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes cutting, damaging or destroying any tree that could be considered old growth or providing funds that would lead to these types of activities 	Old growth definitions and values - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)
Cultural burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional cultural prescribed burns. Planning and prescriptions Ecosystem restoration and grassland recovery 	Other funding sources are available for this type of work. Please speak to you integrated investment specialist for mor information.
Post-free growing, inventory growth/ yield, range, and backlog non-sufficiently restocked (NSR) surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These surveys are deemed outside the scope of FIP funding and should be done through the Provincial Forest Inventory or range programs. 	
Wildfire Risk Reduction - Cutting, Damaging or Destroying Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting, thinning or harvesting of stems Planning and prescriptions Understory burning 	The Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program provides funding for this type of work.
Commercial Thinning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinning of stands where trees harvested have a commercial value above the cost of harvesting 	This type of thinning will have an obligation associated with it.
Herbicide and/or Pesticide Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes use of glyphosate for brushing purposes 	
Ministry Base Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent Government Staff salaries and benefits 	
Forest health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not directly connected to current FIP activities as identified in Table 3. Reduction of forest pests/pathogens E.g. hemlock looper, spongy moth 	Forest Science Planning and Practices Branch has funding to cover these types of treatments.

Activity Type	Description	Notes
Planting high risk sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation of areas that are not likely to regenerate should be avoided 	Sites and/or species that have been historically unsuccessful due to site factors will need to be approved by FIP and have additional monitoring put in place.
Research		Forestry research should be funded by other sources. Only in exceptional cases which have research objectives directly applicable to improved delivery of FIP activities with timely results will funding for research be considered. Formal business case would be required.
Capacity building activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Indigenous Peoples seek to increase their capacity to lead FIP projects 	The Federal 2BT program has a stream of funding for this type of work. Only in exceptional cases where these activities are part of ongoing operational FIP work will funding be considered. Formal business case would be required prior to consideration.
Forest and Range Practices Act Section 108 Reforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation of an area where an obligation cannot be met without significant extra expense due to an event causing damage. 	Not eligible unless obligation is relieved as a last resort; obligation holder should be encouraged to seek funding from the minister rather than the relief of the obligation.
Honorariums, stipends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate increased participation/engagement/collaboration of key Indigenous leaders in specific aspects of the FIP activity • Not to be used for consultation (including information sharing), FCRSA (Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA)) delineate funding sources to cover consultation 	These should be covered through delivery allowances. . See links below for guidance: - Indigenous Financial Information - Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) (gov.bc.ca) - Financial Guidelines for Speaking/Cultural Services NRS (gov.bc.ca)

Activity Type	Description	Notes
Fixed annual allocations to districts to cover a range of activities such as staff travel, workshops, and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fixed annual allocation historically transferred to districts that received limited forest investment funds 	
Reforestation – Salvage and Forest Management Stand Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting and other activities associated with the small-scale salvage program or openings through the Forest Management Stand Fund. 	These areas have existing obligations.
Direct seeding and drone planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct seeding of areas using drones 	
Capital investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments made to capital expenditures such as building nurseries or buying heavy duty equipment 	

PRIORITIZATION

The Forest Investment Program will prioritize activities based on their ability to contribute to provincial goals, federal agreements and in response to catastrophic events, like wildfire, that are increasingly occurring due to climate change, while simultaneously employing climate change mitigation efforts. Prioritization is directly connected to FIP Strategic Plan key goals within the context of the provincial and federal funding partners and their combined goals, priorities, and mandates.

Tables 5 and 6 provide a ranking of FIP priorities. Table 5 provides ranking for general FIP activities. Table 6 provides ranking for activities within the Salvage/Stand Rehab Annual Funding Amount.

These factors will be used to guide the development of future Annual Operating Plans as well as assist the Forest Investment Program in making funding decisions that benefit all British Columbians.

Table 5: FIP Overall Priority Ranking Considerations

The highest priority for funding is driven by maximization of multiple benefits, including building Indigenous partnerships, GHG benefits, improving timber volumes, wildlife habitat restoration, reducing hydrological impacts and helping create/maintain green jobs. If demand for funding outweighs funds available and with all else remaining equal, priority will be based on the highest GHG benefit.

Activity benefit	Priority	Comments
GHG benefits: - Activities that contribute the highest GHG benefit (emissions reduction, carbon sequestration as modeled by the Office of the Chief Forester) - In most cases within the THLB, increased GHG benefit is directly related to increased timber supply benefit	High	GHG benefits generally follow the lists below from highest to lowest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long lasting benefit > short term benefit • Coast > Southern Interior > North • Outside THLB > Inside THLB • Highest productivity > moderate or low. As measured by Site Index³ • Afforestation>reforestation • No or little clearing of vegetation or overstory prioritized >sites that require these activities

³ A measure of site productivity. The indices are reported as the average height, in meters, that the tallest trees in a stand are expected to achieve at 50 years (age is measured at 1.3 m above ground).

Activity benefit	Priority	Comments
First Nations Involvement	High	New and continued First Nation (FN) Participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with a FN that has not yet been part of FIP • Building partnerships and agreements • Collaborative management and decision making • FN community participation • FN community development, capacity development
Leveraged funding Opportunities – degree to which eligible activities are recoverable/funded under federal or external funding programs/partners	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring maximum funding recovery through the 2BT program and other provincial programs • Confirmed funding partnerships bringing in-kind funds > partnerships with no funds. • Projects that generate a private investment > no investment
Cost effectiveness	High	Overall value for money: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest commercial unit costs with all else being equal. • Lowest cost per ton CO2e • Project scope to create economy of scale
Addresses SAR or SCI – reforestation activities that are specific to improving habitat for SAR or SCI	High	Projects that address SAR or SCI are a higher priority than projects that do not (higher funding recovery opportunity).
Other provincial mandate and/or funding partner goals	High	Alignment with Government goals and objectives.
Employment creation	High	Given the recent downturn in the industry, impacting employment and, as a result, communities throughout BC, the more jobs created, the higher the priority.

Activity benefit	Priority	Comments
Timing – effectiveness	Moderate	Accelerated project completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency with maximum biological window for activity – activities that are dependent on a specific biological window where delays could result in lost opportunities. • Capacity to complete it on time
Past performance	Moderate	Effectiveness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong record of successful completion of similar work • Previously unsuccessful – low
Multiple benefits - additional benefits that can be achieved from the activity, such as recreation, water quality, old growth, and other ecosystem benefits	Moderate	E.g., ecosystem improvements and human wellbeing. More is better.
Geographic distribution of effort, funding, and benefits	Moderate	In districts/regions with low overall funding, lower priority projects may get funded if they are not located in areas with high funding amounts.

Table 6: FIP Priority Ranking Specific to Activities within the Salvage/Stand Rehab Annual Funding Amount

The heaviest weighting for activities listed will be based on improving timber supply and reducing emissions. Activities listed do not generate positive GHG benefits by 2050 and therefore do not contribute to meeting FIP’s GHG Ministry of Forests Service Plan target.

Activity benefit	Priority	Comments
GHG benefit - activities that contribute the least GHG emissions (as modeled by the Office of the Chief Forester)	High	Projects with improved utilization and limited to no pile burning will be prioritized over those that do not include these.

Activity benefit	Priority	Comments
Incremental Internal Rate of Return (Inc-IRR) – financial rate of return of an investment above a base case over equal investment period	High	Fundamentally, the higher the IRR, the higher the priority of the project, all else being equal. This is particularly important for ITSL (Innovative Timber Sale License) opportunities. Inc-IRR is the Ministry's preferred method for assessing investments against its 2% (timber value) return threshold. It is the incremental return on the treatment over and above the base case (without treatment), ignoring sunk costs. TIPSy and FAN\$IER work together to calculate inc-IRR.
BCTS partnerships which result in multiple current and future timber supply benefits	High	BCTS ITSL program activities including overstory removal, forest stand rehabilitation, reforestation and uneconomic fibre utilization will be of the highest priority.
Stand rehab projects which include fibre utilization and limited or no pile burning	Medium/High	Priority will be to projects which include fibre utilization and do not include burning as these projects result in lower GHG emissions.
Stand rehab projects including pile burning with no fibre utilization	Medium	These projects result in higher GHG emissions and therefore will have a lower priority.
Spacing and thinning projects - with mid and long-term GHG benefits due to improved forest health, productivity or overall stand dynamics	Low	Long term GHG benefits result in these activities not being the very lowest.
Spacing and thinning projects connected to SAR or SCI habitat improvement	Low	Habitat improvement co-benefits result in these activities not being the very lowest.
Spacing and thinning projects with minimal co-benefits	Very Low	Minimal co-benefits make these activities the very lowest in priority.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITY LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

This section provides further detail on specific criteria required to be met for successful project eligibility and subsequent consideration for approval.

Reforestation

FIP will prioritize reforestation activities to maximize recovery funds from the 2BT program and meet the FIP [FOR Service Plan](#) performance measure as these goals are mutually beneficial. The reforestation efforts of FIP are part of a much broader nature-based approach to addressing climate change and as a result will be undertaken within both the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) and non-Timber Harvesting Land Base (non-THLB). To maximize recoveries under both 2BT recovery streams, planting opportunities will be prioritized based on net GHG reduction benefit and for SAR or SCI habitat management.

The focus of FIP reforestation activities will allow the province to contribute to the provincial federal 2BT partnership via the Canada/British Columbia Agreement-in-Principle on Tree Planting.

All tree planting and forest and tree management must be demonstrably incremental. This means that it must be in addition to that which would occur without FIP investments, and not legally required following commercial activity or as a condition for impact assessment approval. This is key to achieving the objectives of the 2BT program.

Tree planting that occurs under SAR recovery strategies, conservation agreements and related planning processes (such as range plans) are also considered to be incremental. Restoration of forests on areas without forest due to legacy commercial disturbances such as forestry roads and landings or seismic lines completed in the past, and for which there is no current legal requirement to ensure forest regeneration, will be considered incremental.

Determination of the level of investment in each region of the province will be based upon the level of need and opportunity for mitigation of impacts on overall forest growth (GHG benefit) caused by catastrophic disturbance.

Priority should be given to reforestation of the following types of disturbance in the following order:

1. Protected areas that will not be harvested
2. Burned plantations (no legal reforestation obligations)
3. Catastrophic killed plantations (no legal reforestation obligations)
4. Burned Mature timber
5. Catastrophic killed mature timber

For riparian restoration specific to SAR or SCI or as part of specific wildfire risk reduction strategies:

Priority species may include deciduous as appropriate for the maximization of GHG benefits, timely development of habitat attributes and for stabilization of stream banks, riparian areas, and upland riparian soils and structure.

For wildfire risk reduction or mitigation:

Although the program does not include thinning/cutting for wildfire risk reduction, the program will incorporate reforestation using deciduous species as prescribed to mitigate the risk and severity of wildfires.

For Indigenous and cultural reforestation:

To assist in reforestation associated with Indigenous People's use of fire and other cultural reforestation needs, tree species selection is prioritized for the maximization of both cultural values and GHG benefits. In minor cases, cultural reforestation projects may include non-tree species as supported by a detailed rationale which provides adaptive management approaches for these activities.

For climate driven ecological benefit:

To assist in minor reforestation associated with heavily impacted ecosystems (fires) where co-species reforestation provides improved survival and sustainability, deciduous species may be mixed with primary species.

Forest Nutrient Management:

Determination of the level of investment in each region or combinations of regions of the province will be based upon the level of need for maximizing overall GHG benefits. Additional prioritization of investment will consider mitigation of impacts on timber supply caused by catastrophic disturbance. Consideration will be given to areas where forest nutrient management has been identified as part of a regime within an endorsed integrated stewardship/silviculture strategy or forests landscape plan.

Priority management units for treatment are identified based on maximizing GHG reduction potential as a result of increased tree growth. CleanBC funds have been dedicated to this activity and will be used in areas where GHG benefit can be maximized.

Stand selection criteria have been developed and will continue to be updated as new information regarding forest nutrient management comes to light. Planned treatments will need to consider that maximum benefit is only achieved if left unharvested for preferably 10 years post treatment as per guidance in the [Forest Carbon Initiative Information Note on Fertilization](#).

Spacing/Thinning

The FIP spacing activity is being reviewed. Spacing activities will be included in the salvage/stand rehab funding amount established for each fiscal year. Spacing and thinning activities that are elements of wildfire risk reduction projects or required to establish cultural burning regimes are not currently eligible under FIP. There are other funding sources available for this type of work.

Salvage, Overstory Removal and Utilization of Fibre

FIP will consider activities that include the harvest/salvage of uneconomic timber damaged by wildfire, or forest health issues, for the purpose of re-establishing healthy, resilient forest stands. Primarily, this will be accomplished through the Memorandum of Understanding with BCTS. The main approach will be using ITSLs where silviculture and, in some cases, development costs are covered by FIP for damaged stands. FIP partnership with BCTS ensures this volume is auctioned in an open and competitive market and is focused on utilization rather than disposal through burning.

Stand eligibility criteria have been established, and will continue to evolve, as timber supply changes. FIP will continue to work closely with BCTS to enable any modifications to criteria that are necessary to align with the strategic plans and other guidelines from the Office of the Chief Forester.

In certain cases, Forest License to Cut (FLTC) authorizations may be provided to individuals, where ITSLs are unable to sell competitively. Reforestation activities associated with an FLTC under section 4 of the [Licence to Cut Regulation](#) are eligible for funding under FIP. Before such authorization is provided, there must be a clear plan established regarding how and when the site will be reforested. This plan must take into consideration and address the [Chief Forester Expectations For Improving Residual Fibre Utilization](#).

FIP eligible activities that create uneconomic fibre that would otherwise be burned are highly encouraged to source additional funds such as FESBC to improve utilization. Please reach out to the Regional Integrated Investment Specialist to explore additional funding options. FIP will consider funding activities that improve utilization of fibre resulting from forest management where the fibre would otherwise be burned, and other funding sources cannot be utilized.

Silvicultural Road Rehabilitation

Silvicultural road rehabilitation projects provide afforestation opportunities which includes planting of trees in areas that would otherwise remain unforested. They also often provide habitat restoration benefits.

Roads selected for silvicultural road rehabilitation must have the following conditions to satisfy the funding opportunity:

- Non-status road – no legal obligations.
- Selected roads are part of a plan – such as, but not limited to, watershed restoration plan, road deactivation plan, total chance plan, access management plan, landscape level plan, wildlife management plan, clearly illustrating no future use of the road to be rehabilitated.
- Roads and right of way have limited vegetation. If the road is stocked with deciduous or other tree species, it will not be a priority for rehabilitation as it will require significant recovery time for GHG benefits.

Higher priority roads will include roads with drainage concerns, SAR habitat restoration benefits and/or Indigenous relationship benefits. If other funding sources/partnerships can be accessed in combination with FIP funds (e.g., Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)), these projects will also be given a higher priority.

FIP staff will review and determine the acceptability of silviculture road rehabilitation. As silviculture road rehabilitation projects can be very expensive, proponents are encouraged to identify other sources of funding in addition to FIP such as HCTF to minimize project costs to FIP.

APPENDIX 1: Annual FIP Salvage/Stand Rehab Funding Amount

Year	Salvage/Stand Rehab Funding Amount
2023/24	\$15M
2024/25	\$15M

APPENDIX 2: List of Acronyms

2BT: [2 Billion Trees](#)

BCTS: [British Columbia Timber Sales](#)

FCRSA: [Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement](#)

FESBC: [Forest Enhancement Society of BC](#)

FIP: [Forest Investment Program](#)

FLTC: [Forestry License to Cut](#)

FN: First Nation

GHG: Greenhouse gas

HCTF: Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

IRR: Internal Rate of Return

ITSL: [Innovative Timber Sale License](#)

NSR: Not Satisfactorily Restocked

SAR: [Species at Risk](#)

SCI: Species of Conservation Interest

THLB: Timber Harvesting Land Base