



FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM

STRATEGY 2023/24 – 2025/26

April 25, 2024



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Forests

FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM STRATEGY 2023/24 – 2025/26

Forests are essential to our quality of life, they are vital to First Nations, provide jobs and support the economy along with delivering a range of wider benefits, from providing habitat for fish and wildlife to mitigating climate change. The province and its partners currently invest close to \$100 million a year to keep B.C. forests healthy and resilient, under the Forest Investment Program (FIP).

Established in November 2021, the program consolidates silviculture funding from several sources including CleanBC, the Forest Carbon Initiative, the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund and the federal 2 Billion Trees initiative, under the leadership of B.C.'s chief forester. This new structure allows the province to better plan, direct and manage its investments in reforestation, forest nutrient management¹ and other activities to:

- Advance partnerships with First Nations and help deliver:
 - Healthier, more resilient forests
 - Greater contributions to mitigating climate change, and
 - Stronger accountability to the public and program partners.

This strategic plan describes the FIP's goals, objectives, and key activities for the fiscal years 2023/24 – 2025/26.

Goal #1: Advance partnerships with First Nations

Forest Investment Program will seek to implement a new vision for forest management, in partnership with First Nations, that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency in B.C. The program will continue to work with First Nations communities to:

- Support increased engagement and partnerships with First Nations and incorporate more traditional knowledge and cultural values to support healthy ecosystems.
- Increase the involvement of First Nations in the delivery of the Forest Investment Program. The FIP will develop policies and best practices which help promote First Nations values in delivering the program.

¹ Forest nutrient management (previously known as fertilization) is the application of nutrients to forest stands to increase tree growth to sequester carbon for climate change and timber supply mitigation.

Goal #2: Healthier, more resilient forests

Every year, the province and its partners in the Forest Investment Program plant millions of trees and fertilize thousands of hectares, helping to restore ecosystems and build healthier, more resilient forests on thousands of hectares of public land. The FIP sets investment criteria and priorities, evaluates proposals, and works with partners to carry out its work on the ground. In the three years covered by this plan, the program will: Advance partnerships with First Nations and help deliver support for:

- Broader ministry and government initiatives, including:
 - The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030
 - The Ministry of Forests Service Plan targets
 - Forest Landscape Planning
 - The Provincial Silviculture Strategy
 - Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- Selecting species and seed for reforestation appropriate for future climates.
- Restoring habitat for species at risk and species of interest.

Goal #3: Greater contribution to mitigating climate change

Because trees absorb carbon as they grow, forests have the potential to help fight climate change. However, in recent years, due to factors including wildfires and the mountain pine beetle outbreak, B.C.'s forests have switched from being a net carbon sink to a source. To help reverse that trend, the Forest Investment Program will:

- Promote investments aimed at mitigating climate change impacts. This includes fertilizing young stands of trees to increase growth and reforesting areas normally not reforested to absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The FIP will work with its partners to fertilize between 20,000 and 40,000 hectares of forest and plant between 40 and 50 million trees in each of the three years covered under this strategy.
- Promote access to residual fibre for value-added manufacturing, supporting both the climate and the economy. This is done through BCTS (BC Timber Sales) Innovative Timber Sales Licenses (ITSLs) and overstory removal that facilitates silviculture rehabilitation.

GOAL #4: Stronger accountability to the public and program partners

Forests are a vital public resource and everyone in B.C. has an interest in their long-term health. To ensure it gets the best value from investments in B.C. forests, the FIP will:

- To confirm intended results, reforestation activities will be monitored within 2 years of completion, followed by continuous monitoring to ensure successful results are achieved. Fertilization will be monitored within 5 years of completion.
- Annually report on the program’s outcomes, adjusting course as needed to achieve its goals and objectives.

Three-year forecast: Planting (millions of trees) and Investment*

2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
47.5 M	44 M	47 M	40–50 M
\$77.6 M	\$71.9 M	\$76.8 M	\$65.3–81.7 M

Three-year forecast: Fertilization area and Investment*

2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
30k ha	20–40k ha	20–40k ha	20–40k ha
\$29.4 M	\$19.6–39.2 M	\$19.6–39.2 M	\$19.6–39.2 M

**Historical figures are based on allocations for 2022/23. Future year estimates are subject to change due to fluctuations in areas such as fertilizer pricing.*