

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Service Plan 2002/03-2004/05

Mission

To provide provincial leadership for sustainable economic development of the province's land, water and resources.

Strategic Shifts

The ministry was established in June 2001 to provide a single access point to planning, data and information about Crown land and resources by integrating and streamlining functions previously performed by numerous ministries and agencies. Over the next three years, significant functions will be delivered through partnerships with industry, academia and societies to ensure efficient delivery and enable increased revenues. Strategic shifts include:

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow, rigid and costly land-use planning processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firm timelines for balanced land use plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive, inefficient land and resource information databases and registries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined access to integrated databases, and electronic filing (e-filing) of land titles and surveys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow decisions and a large backlog of land and water applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely, balanced decisions and backlogs eliminated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptive regulations • Unbalanced resource decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance-based regulations • Sustainable and balanced resource management based on sound science-based allocation principles

Core Business Areas

1. Strategic Land-use Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-use planning, monitoring of plans, resource sector strategies and identifying regional development opportunities
2. Integrated Land and Resource Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality of, and access to, integrated registries and resource information
3. Land and Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic policy direction to the BC Assets and Land Corporation (BCAL) and the Land Reserve Commission (LRC)
4. Sound Governance and Organizational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles, policies and legislation to guide sustainable resource management

Major Initiatives

Major initiatives are listed by core business area. See Attachment 1 for details on the indicated New Era commitments and Key Projects.

1. Strategic Land-Use Planning

Continuing: Complete land-use planning for priority areas, and monitor implementation of completed plans. The ministry will also assist in the development of resource sector strategies to facilitate sustainable economic development.

Delivering differently:

- Complete priority land and resource management plans (LRMPs): Central Coast and Sea-to-Sky (March 2003); Morice, North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands (March 2004). Landscape plans will be prepared for priority areas in Atlin-Taku, Chilliwack, Dease-Liard, Merritt and Nass.
- Complete landscape plans with a focus on sustainable economic development by March 2005 for about 90 of the 120-150 planning units that will be amalgamated from the previous 1250 landscape units province-wide.
- Complete coastal plans that will identify shellfish and finfish aquaculture sites for Vancouver Island, the North Coast, Sunshine Coast and the Queen Charlotte Islands by March 2004.
- Develop a working forest land base; implement the Living Rivers Strategy with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; and, determine the feasibility of establishing a 20-year plan for infrastructure rights of way.

Will no longer deliver:

- Four community resource boards will no longer receive provincial government funding after March 2002. Alternative funding sources to support the Muskwa-Kechika and the Central Region (Clayoquot) boards will be investigated during 2002/03.

Budget impacts: The budget will be reduced in this area by 43 percent over the next three years, due to completion of major planning tasks.

2. Integrated Land and Resource Information

Continuing: Provide information to public and private clients from the ministry's resource information databases, land titles and registries.

Delivering differently:

- Integrate databases to improve access efficiency and utility of information.
- Use web-based systems to improve access to land and resource information, and enable clients to submit land titles, land surveys, requests, applications for licences, and fee payments.
- Place greater reliance on partnerships to provide standardized data to public and private sector clients.
- Register archaeological sites with the Land Titles Office.

Will no longer deliver:

- Transfer responsibility for ensuring the quality of land surveys to the land surveying profession.
- Reduce the number of regional land title offices.

Budget impacts: The budget in this area will be reduced by 39 percent over the next three years, due to increased efficiencies and developing public/private partnerships.

3. Sustainable Land and Water Management

Continuing: Provide strategic policy direction for land and water management.

Delivering differently:

Integrate the water and Crown land allocation functions to achieve efficiencies.

- Reduce the backlog of water licence applications that are more than a year old by 90 percent before March 2003.
- Eliminate backlogs and delays in Crown land applications by March 31, 2002.

Will no longer deliver:

- Minimize provincial role in water utility regulation by transferring appropriate regulatory authority to regional or local government.

Budget impacts: The budget in this area will be reduced mainly through efficiencies created by the integration of land and water management functions.

4. Sound Governance and Organizational Excellence

The functions amalgamated under the new ministry will be delivered in a more streamlined, integrated and transparent manner.

- Develop sustainability principles as part of a sustainable resource management strategy to ensure clear interpretation of the government's policy on the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives.
- Review the pricing policy for land and water resource uses.
- Move to an improved regulatory framework that uses performance-based standards.
- Reduce the number of regulatory requirements to streamline decision-making and increase opportunities for economic development.
- Revise provincial consultation framework to ensure that provincial obligations regarding aboriginal rights are considered during development of new regulatory framework.

Budget impacts: The budget in this area will be reduced by 31 percent.

Ministry Resources (millions \$)

	Fiscal Year				Percent Change (%) 2001/02 to 2004/05
	(restated Estimates) 2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
Operating Expenses ¹	118.221	117.754	99.369	75.122	(36)
One-time funding ²	9.000	-	-	-	(100)
One-time funding ³	6.000	-	-	-	(100)
Staff (FTEs)	1,505	1,370	1,195	957	(36)

Notes: ¹ Ministry resources include the Land Reserve Commission. ² Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan ³ Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Agreement

Government Priorities relating to Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

New Era Commitments Included in Service Plan 2002/03-2004/05

1. Eliminate backlog and delays in Crown land applications.
2. Provide faster approvals and greater access to Crown land and resources to protect and create jobs in tourism, mining, forestry, farming, ranching, oil and gas production.
3. Make the Land Reserve Commission more regionally responsive to community needs.
4. Establish a working forest land base to provide greater stability for working families and to enhance long-term forestry management and planning.
5. Adopt a scientifically based, principled approach to environmental management that ensures sustainability, accountability and responsibility.
6. Give property buyers more information about prospective properties by ensuring that notices of known archaeological sites must be registered with the Land Title Office.
7. Deregulation – immediately identify opportunities to eliminate unnecessary and costly regulations.

Key Projects Included in Service Plan 2002/03-2004/05

1. Build a structure for the ministry and prepare a business plan to implement the objectives of the government in this area.
2. Review the status of existing land-use plans and current land-use planning process and develop a strategy to conclude province-wide land-use plans in a manner which is expeditious and balanced and results in plans which can be implemented on the ground without significant delays.
3. Develop a plan to resolve land and water use conflicts between ministries and external interests.
4. Reduce the backlog in applications (land and water licence applications).
5. With Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, develop a program to implement the Living Rivers Strategy.
6. Rationalize the numerous land and resource inventory information systems to create a central source of integrated information that can be accessed by users both within and outside government.
7. Create a central registry for all tenures and other legal encumbrances on Crown land and resources.
8. Optimize the financial return from the use of Crown land and water resources consistent with province's land-use and water policy objectives.
9. Determine the feasibility of establishing a 20-year plan for infrastructure rights of way.
10. Within 18 months, develop a working forest land base on Crown land for enhanced forestry operations, accompanied by effective and streamlined approval processes for forest operations in those zones.