

**Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development**

**2019/20 – 2021/22
SERVICE PLAN**

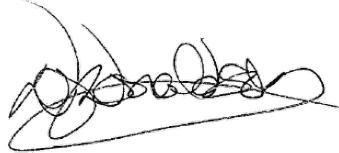
February 2019



Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development 2019/20 - 2021/22 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
February 4, 2019

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Ministry) is the Province's agency responsible for land and resource management in British Columbia, including the protection of the Province's archaeological and heritage resources. Operating on a provincial land base of over 94 million hectares, the Ministry ensures the sustainable management of forest, wildlife, water and other land-based resources, and works with Indigenous and rural communities to strengthen and diversify their economies. It is also responsible for wildfire management and facilitates public access to a wide range of recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and access to B.C.'s wilderness and backcountry. By providing services British Columbians can count on, a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, and through the advancement of new transformational initiatives, the Ministry supports activities that provide environmental, economic, cultural and social benefits to all British Columbians. This work directly contributes to the achievement of the Province's goals of reconciliation, clean growth and a strong, sustainable economy.

The Ministry oversees policy development, operational management and implementation, and administers all or part of over [63 statutes and associated regulations](#).

Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia is putting people at the heart of decision-making by working to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Over the past year, significant government investments in areas including housing, child care and the elimination of fees, such as Medical Service Premiums, have contributed to making life more affordable for British Columbians today and into the future. Ministries are engaged in ongoing work to improve the availability of services citizens rely on including those related to primary medical care, education and training, transportation, the opioid crisis and poverty.

A strong economy that works for all regions of B.C. is diversified, resilient and improves the standard of living for people across the province. With that in mind, government is focusing on sustainable economic growth that strengthens our natural resource sectors, continues the development of the emerging economy, supports small business and uses innovation and technology to solve B.C. problems. A key priority in 2019/20 and beyond will be driving economic growth with cleaner energy and fewer emissions. At the same time, Ministries continue to build prudence into budgets and plan for challenges.

Underpinning the work of all Ministries are two shared commitments: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and consideration of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience our policies, programs and initiatives. As part of these commitments, Ministries are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and Gender-Based Analysis+ policy and budgeting.

In July 2017, each Minister was given a formal mandate letter that identifies both government-wide and Ministry-specific priorities for implementation.

This service plan outlines how the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the

Minister's [Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development made progress on these priorities by:

- Helping communities and First Nations reduce wildfire risk through the new \$50 million [Community Resiliency Investment Program](#);
- Launching the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative, with planned rollout to the Interior later this year, to rebuild the forest sector and process more logs in B.C. to support local jobs;
- Advancing Indigenous partnerships and stakeholder engagement to support development of the land-use planning framework and identify potential land-use planning projects;
- Completing the first phase of engagement with Indigenous peoples, rural communities, wildlife organizations, industry stakeholders, and the public to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation. Phase two is currently underway, and a policy options paper will be released later this year;
- Leading the largest ever forest sector trade mission to Asia to expand markets for B.C. wood products;
- Investing in reforestation and restoring forests affected by wildfires and pests.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Economic Benefits for all British Columbians with Thriving and Resilient Rural Communities

This goal addresses the Ministry’s role in creating conditions that support a vibrant and healthy provincial economy through the forest sector, and promoting community resilience to ensure support through economic disruption and natural hazard events.

Objective 1.1: Revitalize B.C. forests and the forest sector

Key Strategies:

- Deliver the Coast and Interior Forest Sector Revitalization initiatives through policy, regulatory and legislative changes that benefit communities and First Nations, including amending the [Forest and Range Practices Act \(FRPA\)](#);
- Invest in reforestation activities that rehabilitate and restore forests through improving utilization, increasing density, and expanding fertilization;
- Work with other Ministries and Crown Agencies to promote the use of B.C. wood in international markets to diversify economic opportunities;
- Facilitate the growth of B.C.’s bio-economy through key partnerships that advance new and innovative forest product facilities, supporting forest revitalization and the [CleanBC](#) initiative;
- Support the federal government and represent B.C.’s interests in Canada-US litigation on the softwood lumber dispute.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1 Annual timber volume sold through BC Timber Sales ¹	12.1 Mm ³	11.8 Mm ³	11.8 Mm ³	11.8 Mm ³

¹Data Source: BC Timber Sales Cengea Resources System

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Timber supply has been impacted by recent and ongoing events, including consecutive record-breaking wildfire seasons and the mountain pine beetle infestation. Despite these challenges, [BC Timber Sales](#) (BCTS) is committed to achieving consistent targets over the next three years. This measure indicates that BCTS is effective in supporting the Market Pricing System, meeting its objectives to sell its apportionment and generate net revenue. In doing so, BCTS provides forest sector employment and contributes to industry sustainability.

Objective 1.2: Improve community resilience through proactive and collaborative natural hazard management

Key Strategies:

- Reduce risk and increase community resiliency through supporting implementation of the [Government’s Action Plan: Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks](#) in response to [Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia](#);
- Deliver funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program to support work in treating the wildland-urban interface through delivery of the FireSmart program, and strengthen capacity of local emergency authorities and First Nations to prepare and respond to wildfire events;
- Support the development of an Integrated Disaster Recovery Framework to proactively coordinate recovery activity across provincial government agencies, including the important roles of First Nations and other recovery partners;
- Implement a provincial risk reduction strategy to reduce wildfire risk through targeted wildfire management activities in high wildfire risk landscapes.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.2 Number of higher risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities ¹ actively engaged in wildfire risk reduction activities ²	0%	20%	40%	50%

¹ Higher risk communities include: First Nations reserve areas, treaty settlement lands, municipalities and unincorporated areas within regional districts that are located within a Wildland Urban Interface risk class 1 or 2 area or have a locally approved plan that has identified high or extreme threat areas.

² Data Source: BC Wildfire Service

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

This measure tracks the number of higher risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities that are actively involved in [wildfire risk reduction activities](#) aligned with FireSmart disciplines, including vegetation management. These activities address wildfire risk near public and private infrastructure through preventative activities that reduce the negative impacts of wildfires to communities.

Objective 1.3: Work with rural communities to strengthen local economies and build resilience to economic disruption

Key Strategies:

- Strengthen rural communities through continued investments, services and programs, including the [Rural Dividend](#) program;
- Work across government to include considerations of rural and Indigenous communities in the development of provincial policies, programs and services;
- Provide rapid response to economic disruptions to ensure business continuity and maintain economic momentum in rural communities.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.3 Percentage of eligible communities applying for Rural Dividend funding ¹	68%	70%	72%	74%

¹ Data Source: Rural Development, Lands, and Innovation Division

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The Rural Dividend Program provides \$25 million in grant funding annually to assist rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies. The Program is focused on engaging with current and new applicants to support them in submitting applications for projects that contribute to the strength and sustainability of their communities. This measure tracks the efforts to increase the diversity of applicants and ensure that eligible communities across the province are taking advantage of opportunities to participate.

Goal 2: Partnerships that Support Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Furthering Government's commitment to work toward true and lasting reconciliation, the Ministry is taking action to increase opportunities for collaboration in the stewardship of B.C.'s land, natural and cultural resources.

Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and increase engagement with Indigenous peoples in the management of B.C.'s natural resources

Key Strategies:

- Develop a comprehensive Ministry plan that brings the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into action and moves forward on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action;
- Align the Ministry's culture to support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through delivery of staff awareness and education initiatives;
- Partner with Indigenous governments, and engage stakeholders and communities, to identify and set land-use objectives through [Modernized Land-Use Planning](#), ensuring sustainable natural resource management reflects shared social, cultural, economic and environmental values;
- Revitalize the First Nations Forestry Strategy to include First Nations as a full and active partner in the forest sector and support economic development of Indigenous communities.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1a The number of policies that have been reviewed in collaboration with Indigenous communities ¹	10	15	20	20
2.1b Number of programs or policies modified in response to collaboration with Indigenous communities ²	3	5	10	10

^{1,2} Data Source: First Nations Relations Branch

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

This measure highlights the Ministry's commitment to ongoing collaboration with Indigenous communities in the development of policies and programs to ensure that Ministry operations reflect shared values and objectives. Policies and programs include those that fall under the following areas: FRPA, Coast Forest Sector Revitalization, wildfire management, modernized land-use planning, the [Cumulative Effects Framework](#), the Collaborative Stewardship Framework, and an improved wildlife management and conservation strategy.

Goal 3: Sustainable Natural Resource Management

The Ministry is committed to delivering its stewardship responsibilities in the best interest of citizens of the Province.

Objective 3.1: Improve wildlife management and support the recovery of species at risk

Key Strategies:

- Improve wildlife management and habitat conservation by collaborating with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to develop long and short-term strategies that balance multiple interests and values in B.C.'s wildlife and habitat;
- Apply new and existing tools that reflect Indigenous values to recover priority species at risk, and provide certainty to affected natural resource users;
- Continue implementation of the [Provincial Caribou Recovery Program](#) with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, through habitat restoration, maternity penning, captive breeding, predator management, research, monitoring, and enforcement actions;
- Report on the condition of key stewardship values through Cumulative Effects value assessments, the [Forest and Range Evaluation Program](#), and integrated monitoring.

Performance Measure Description:

Furthering its commitment to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, the Ministry is working to develop a new performance measure that will demonstrate the result of efforts taken to support wildlife populations and help recover species at risk. The Ministry is preparing to include this new measure in its 2020/21 Service Plan and will report out on progress made during the current fiscal year in the 2019/20 Annual Service Plan Report.

Objective 3.2: Expand and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

Key Strategies:

- Support the government-wide CleanBC initiative through mitigation activities, and integration of climate change adaptation considerations into the daily business of the Ministry;
- Respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change through targeted investment in activities that reduce unnecessary emissions and support carbon sequestration through the Ministry's

Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI), including reforestation and forest treatment activities in areas affected by natural hazards and pests.

Performance Measure	2017/18 Actuals	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.2 Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through FCI activities ^{1,2}	0.7	1.3	3.4	3.6	3.0

¹ Data Source: Climate Change and Integrated Planning Branch

² Emission reductions and sequestration resulting from FCI activities delivered in the current fiscal year are measured in units of MtCO₂e (Millions Tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) and are modeled up to the year 2050 (cumulative).

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

This performance measure models the amount of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through a host of forest carbon projects managed by the Ministry, including: improved utilization of waste and silviculture treatments. This measure highlights the Ministry’s commitment to sustainable management of forest-based resources to generate healthy forests, and to realize the potential of the province to act as a carbon sink in support of climate change mitigation.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates ¹	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Integrated Resource Operations	36,084	36,955	35,135	35,135
Resource Stewardship	101,676	104,775	111,699	111,699
Office of the Chief Forester	17,084	20,981	21,153	23,707
Rural Development, Lands and Innovation	55,968	54,762	54,700	54,700
Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations	13,634	17,949	17,899	18,899
Fire Preparedness	35,553	46,453	46,327	46,327
Regional Operations	139,278	149,488	150,459	150,459
Executive and Support Services	74,119	76,829	75,992	75,992
Fire Management	63,986	101,122	100,882	100,882
BC Timber Sales Account	196,723	213,462	193,982	201,364
Crown Land Special Account	20	20	20	20
Total	734,125	822,796	808,248	819,184
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	28,599	32,182	29,159	21,871
Fire Management	525	525	525	525
BC Timber Sales Account	45,290	48,689	45,739	41,957
Total	74,414	81,396	75,423	64,353
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
BC Timber Sales Account Disbursements	96,966	108,923	104,224	101,550
Crown Land Administration Disbursements	6,382	6,382	6,382	6,382
Crown Land Administration Receipts	0	0	0	0
Tourism Development Disbursements	600	600	600	600

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates¹	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Habitat Conservation Trust Disbursements	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Habitat Conservation Trust Receipts	(6,500)	(6,500)	(6,500)	(6,500)
Net Cash (Requirements)	103,948	115,905	111,206	108,532
Total Receipts	(6,500)	(6,500)	(6,500)	(6,500)
Total Disbursements	110,448	122,405	117,706	115,032
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	103,948	115,905	111,206	108,532

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary

The Forest Practices Board independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.’s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the [Forest Appeals Commission](#). It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees’ performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board’s mandate is provided by the *FRPA* and the *Wildfire Act*. While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report found at: www.bcfpb.ca.

Forest Practices Board	2018/19 Restated Estimates ¹	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Total	3,845	3,862	3,849	3,849

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Association of BC Land Surveyors

The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors is responsible for setting educational requirements, examining for admission, and regulating professional land surveyors within B.C.

Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals

The Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals registers and regulates professional foresters and forest technologists under authority of the Foresters Act.

BC Land Title and Survey Authority

The British Columbia Land Title and Survey Authority is responsible for managing land title and survey systems, providing the foundation for all real property business and ownership in the province.

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority

The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority manages the conservation of wildlife, particularly waterfowl, in the Creston Valley.

Forest Appeals Commission

The Forest Appeals Commission is an independent tribunal granted authority under the Forest and Range Practices Act to hear appeals from decisions made under a variety of statutes administered by the Ministry.

Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia

The Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) supports the Ministry by identifying, funding, advocating for and advancing environmental and resource stewardship of B.C.'s forests.

Forest Practices Board

British Columbia's Forest Practices Board provides independent oversight of compliance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Wildfire Act.

Integrated Cadastral Information Society

The Integrated Cadastral Information Society is a partnership between local governments, utilities, and the province for the purposes of creating a seamless mapping of all Crown and private parcels.

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board advises government on natural resource management in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Private Managed Forest Land Council

The Private Managed Forest Land Council was established to protect key public environmental values on private managed forest land in B.C.

Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission

The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission works to ensure the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources, and recreational opportunities, of the Upper Skagit Watershed.