

Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

2013/14
Annual Service Plan Report



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



2013/14 marked the third full year of operations for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations as the province's "one land manager" on natural resource development projects.

Working to fulfill its commitments to the *BC Jobs Plan*, over the past year, our natural resource sectors continued to create new jobs and economic opportunities for families and communities throughout British Columbia. In 2013, over 58,000 workers were directly employed in the forest sector—up from 56,400 in 2012.

In 2013, B.C.'s softwood lumber exports to our top three markets of the U.S., China and Japan steadily increased. B.C.'s forest sector set new records of softwood lumber sales in China—shipping eight million cubic metres of softwood lumber worth over \$1.4 billion. Softwood lumber exports to Japan increased to \$827 million from \$674 million exported in 2012 and softwood lumber exports to the U.S. were \$2.56 billion, up from \$2 billion in 2012. In all, B.C.'s forest product exports totaled \$11.6 billion in 2013, an increase of \$1 billion from 2012.

As government-to-government relationships thrive, so will business relationships in foreign markets. The fall 2013 Forestry Asia trade mission was successful and early planning is underway for the fall 2014 trade mission.

We're working with the forest industry to develop cellulose filament research opportunities. In April 2014, the Ministry announced a contribution of \$2.25 million to support research on cellulose filament and its applications for B.C.'s forest sector. Supporting the national cellulose filament research program will help diversify B.C.'s forest sector and build our bio-economy. Creating this kind of flexibility within our forest economy will help retain jobs, as well as create the potential for future employment opportunities.

In fall 2013, we initiated a two-phase review to examine the effectiveness of BC Timber Sales' role. Recommendations arising out of Phase 1 confirmed that BC Timber Sales' primary goal should be to support the market-based timber pricing system. Phase 2 looked at how to maximize BC Timber Sales' effectiveness in fulfilling its goals and objectives. Recommendations from phase 2 are currently being reviewed.

During April and May 2014, Jim Snetsinger facilitated a public engagement process on the topic of allowing the conversion of some or a portion of some volume-based forest licences to new or expanded area-based forest licences to assist with mid-term timber supply issues in the Interior. Mr. Snetsinger will be submitting a report for my consideration by June 30, 2014.

This Ministry has also done its part in advancing the LNG opportunity by successfully concluding sole proponent agreements on two parcels of land on Grassy Point near Prince Rupert to LNG proponents.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Working in conjunction with the *Ministry of Energy and Mines* we continue to build on our work to streamline mining applications. Beginning in September 2013, project proponents can now electronically submit required information to the Ministry prior to starting an activity that is “deemed authorized” under the *Mines Act* Permit Regulations. The online application for water licences was released in December 2013 and the online application for Crown land applications was released in May 2014.

In March 2014, we began a shift of processing fish, wildlife and park use permit applications from the Permit and Authorization Service Bureau to FrontCounter BC and virtual FrontCounter BC further reducing duplicative services (also see pages 9 and 15).



To bring safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road enthusiasts, the Province was pleased to introduce the *Off-Road Vehicle Act*, which received Royal Assent during this last Legislative Session. Implementation of the new laws will begin once regulations are finalized, and will help ensure these vehicles are driven in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and combat theft of off-road vehicles.

The legislative amendments introduced in *Bill 5 - Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act* further streamline regulations for the natural resource sector. Minor changes to the *Range Act* streamline approvals for permits and licences so that vacant Crown range can be allocated more quickly and efficiently. By improving regulatory processes for range tenure holders, we are fulfilling our commitment to strengthen the economy and create long-term jobs and investment in B.C.

To help ease the regulatory burden for guide outfitters in British Columbia and lower administrative costs for government, the Province introduced a new five-year guide outfitter licence in May, 2014. Earlier amendments to the *Wildlife Act* (also introduced in *Bill 5*) will allow corporations as well as individuals to hold guiding territory certificates helping to increase business certainty for guide outfitters (also see page 8).

As manager for the commercial and recreational activities that occur on Crown land, this Ministry continues to build a natural resource sector in B.C. that is sustainable and environmentally responsible, while contributing to a strong economy and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

The *Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations 2013/14 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the June 2013 revised *Ministry 2013/14 - 2015/16 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
June 20, 2014

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Highlights of the Year



The Ministry's accomplishments towards its goals and objectives in 2013/14 are reported primarily through its performance measures. This section describes progress and achievements on key government initiatives that the Ministry is leading or jointly leading, and on commitments made in the Minister's mandate letter, published on June 10, 2013. In addition, since the operational mandate of the Ministry is very broad, other notable milestones are reported as opportunities in response to challenges in the strategic context, or appear in the message from the Minister.

Progress towards the Minister's Mandate Letter Commitments

Consult with communities about the mid-term timber supply report and a process to address recommendations around area-based tenures.

- A [public engagement process](#), launched in April, sought feedback on the social, economic and environmental benefits from proponents interested in converting their forest licences to Tree Farm Licences. It also sought input on the criteria for evaluating applications and the process for implementing conversions, including specific application requirements and target locations for conversion opportunities.



Examine the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales and bring forward recommendations for improvement to Cabinet.

- The Ministry engaged a consultant to conduct a review of the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales, which included extensive stakeholder consultation.

Monitor and assist with softwood lumber agreement treaty discussions leading up to negotiation in 2016.

- The Ministry is leading the consultations with the B.C. lumber industry, and legal and expert advisors. The Ministry maintains regular contact with Ministry of International Trade, forest industry stakeholders and legal counsel. The Ministry is continuing work to further strengthen forest policy and market system.

Work with Geoscience BC to establish long term, predictable funding to foster oil, gas and mineral exploration and development in B.C.

- The Ministry is working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which is leading the initiative, to establish predictable funding options for decision in 2014.

Streamline all mining application processes to ensure that they can all be done online with faster turnaround times for project proponents.

- A number of streamlining initiatives related to mining applications have been implemented. The online publication of a [Proponents' Guide For Major Mines Projects](#) provides an overview of the regulatory requirements for mines as well as the coordinated authorizations process and other information designed to assist proponents in identifying issues and information requirements to be addressed at permitting. The e-Application System for Notices of Work was



launched in February 2013 and is significantly increasing the efficiency of the application submission process and the quality of applications which contributes to more efficient referrals and First Nations consultation. In addition, e-Applications for Crown land access became available throughout 2013/14.

Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual B.C. trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue diversifying B.C. lumber exports.

- In October 2013, the Minister led a delegation of senior forest company executives on a trade mission to China and Japan, where memoranda of understanding were signed on cooperation with China on the Shanghai Housing Bureau, and with Japan for the third major reconstruction project under the Canada Tohoku umbrella. A joint government-industry trade mission attended the Delhi Wood Show in India in February, and preliminary plans are drawn for a return to India in 2015. Plans were developed with the Ministry of International Trade to include a forestry component in the Premier's visit to south East Asia in spring 2014. Plans for a follow up mission have been initiated.

Work with the forest industry to develop the cellulose filament research opportunity in British Columbia.

- The Ministry announced a funding contribution to [FPInnovations](#) to be used as part of an existing national research and development program. B.C.'s contributions focused on non-traditional applications of cellulose filaments that are most beneficial for BC – specifically for the province's northern bleached softwood kraft pulp producers.

Develop program plans to distribute an additional \$10 million in funding for silviculture and reforestation beginning in 2015/16.

- Planning began in 2013/14 with stakeholders and Ministry staff to determine the most appropriate silviculture investments, and surveys identified specific treatment areas.

Activity is underway in Quesnel, Prince George, 100 Mile House,

Lakes, Morice, Okanagan and Williams Lake natural resource districts. Further consultation plans with other district offices are to be initiated in 2015.



Implement the Outdoor Recreation Vehicle Strategy

- In March 2014, the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* was passed. The Act replaces the province's 40-year-old *Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act* and will provide certainty, safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road enthusiasts. Currently, the Ministry is working with stakeholders to implement the Act.



Work with the B.C. Guides and Outfitters to

ensure continued access to Crown land and continued economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia.

- Working with stakeholders, the Ministry amended the [Wildlife Act](#) to allow corporations as well as individuals to hold guiding territory certificates. This makes guide certificate ownership less risky by reducing liability among co-owners and increasing opportunities for individuals to come together to purchase territories. In addition, these proposed changes will replace the licensing requirement for assistant guides with an authorization issued by the employing guide outfitter, giving guide outfitters more flexibility to hire help in unexpected peak periods.



Undertake a review of the provincial permitting processes to eliminate red tape wherever possible while maintaining rigorous permitting requirements.

- In March, responsibilities for fish, wildlife and park use permits were transferred to FrontCounterBC to continue the 'one window' approach and shift these permits to an electronic process. Policy work is underway to reduce application requirements for low impact *Land Act* investigative permits. Selected *Water Act* and *Land Act* applications have shifted from paper to electronic formats over the course of 2013/14, and all of the following electronic applications support mines projects where multiple authorizations are required to operate: the water change of owner (August 2013); the deemed authorization under mines (September 2013); the new water licence application (December 2013) followed by an amendment to the water licence; and electronic application for 28 programs under Crown Lands (May 2014).



Progress on Key Government Initiatives that the Ministry Leads or Co-Leads

Cumulative Effects Framework

- In early 2014, government approved the phased implementation of B.C.'s [Cumulative Effects Framework](#), in alignment with the natural resource sector transformation to support effective, durable and streamlined decision-making. This interagency project that the Ministry jointly leads with the Ministry of Environment, focuses on developing a more consistent and strategic approach for assessing and managing cumulative effects across the natural resource sector. Cumulative effects assessments that have been completed to date in demonstration projects will provide a foundation for initial implementation of the Framework.

Cumulative effects are changes to economic, environmental and social values on the landscape caused by the combined effect of present, past and reasonably foreseeable human actions or natural events.

Water Sustainability Act

- A joint commitment by the Ministry of Environment and this Ministry to complete the *Water Sustainability Act* was met with the passage of the Act on April 29, 2014. The Act received Royal Assent on May 29th, 2014. This is a major step forward for sustainable management of B.C.'s water, and a milestone resulting from earlier work on modernization of the *Water Act* and related public engagement through [Living Water Smart](#).

Purpose of Ministry



The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations delivers integrated natural resource management services for British Columbians. With a long-term vision of environmental sustainability and economic prosperity, it is the main agency responsible for establishing the conditions for access to and use of the province's forest, land and natural resources. The Ministry incorporates forests and lands policy development with operational resource management while supporting strategic work in all areas of the natural resource sector. This policy alignment and streamlining of operations in delivering services enables effective stewardship and sustainable management of B.C.'s land base for a variety of uses. The Ministry's mandate is supported by [52 statutes and associated regulations](#).

Working with stakeholders, the Ministry develops policies, programs and legislation to promote industry competitiveness, and encourage investment in and development of natural resources. It also ensures that Ministry activities support sustainable development and protect the public's interest in these resources. Bringing provincial natural resource operations together into one ministry enables durable decisions that fully consider the environmental, social and economic factors of land use.

The Ministry auctions Crown timber through [BC Timber Sales](#) to support the timber pricing system. This includes: planning and developing timber by preparing forest stewardship plans; constructing and maintaining logging roads and bridges; selling timber sale licences competitively; undertaking silviculture and forest protection treatments; and ensuring the work is carried out in a safe manner.

Aligning and Streamlining Resource Authorizations with Resource Management

The Ministry holds the legislative authority for provincial permitting and licensing activities which are facilitated through its coordinated, "one-window" service at [FrontCounter BC](#) offices throughout the province. Behind the counter, "One Process" administration melds numerous single agency processes for issuing authorizations, and eliminating overlap and duplication while maintaining environmental standards. These streamlined processes will create predictability in the natural resource sector, better attract global investment, and provide the means to turn proposed projects into worksites and jobs.



Sharing Service Delivery - Provincially and Regionally

The Ministry is a key component of a coordinated sector with provincial oversight through the Deputy Minister level Natural Resource Board and the Cabinet level Environment and Land Use Committee. By working as part of an integrated system that supports shared service delivery regionally and provincially, the Ministry ensures operational decisions on the land base match policy development, and consider regional interests in land use.

Natural Resource Sector Coordination

Government continues to work upon an improved platform for coordination and integration among the natural resource ministries: Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Agriculture; Energy and Mines; Natural Gas Development; Environment; and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Under the direction of the Natural Resource Board, these ministries are making bold changes to service delivery in the natural resource sector. This sector approach promotes streamlined authorization processes and enhanced access to natural resource public services



across the province. The restructuring facilitates more consistent engagement and consultation with industry, stakeholders, partners and clients. It also enhances inclusion of Aboriginal, economic and environmental considerations into decision making. The ministries are working together to make these improvements and meet the commitments of the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15- 2017/18](#) and the [BC Jobs Plan](#).

An integrated approach to permitting improves the Ministry's ability to meaningfully consult with First Nations. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation remains responsible for the overarching Crown-First Nations relationship and consultation policy, and supports all natural resource sector ministries on strategic consultation issues such as proposed policy or legislation changes. Through its New Relationship with First Nations, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, along with government as a whole, remains committed to constructive consultation with Aboriginal peoples on socio-economic issues and opportunities.

Open Data

In keeping with the [Citizens@the Centre: B.C. Government 2.0](#) strategy, the Ministry is a major contributor to the natural resource sector's efforts to improve citizen engagement and open up sector data to the public. [GeoBC](#) provides foundational geographic products through the Province's [Geographic Warehouse](#) as well as delivering the [Integrated Land and Resource Registry](#) to offer users an integrated view of rights and interests on Crown land in British Columbia. This tool provides a comprehensive register of legal interests, rights, designations and administrative boundaries on Crown land, including information on land and resource restrictions and is routinely used for both conservation and natural resource economic development purposes.

Strategic Context



Economic and Environmental Operating Context

The Ministry operates within the most ecologically rich jurisdiction in Canada. British Columbia's natural capital consists of ecosystem resources, land, water, forests, and plant and animal species upon which people's livelihoods depend and which support business and economic development. Resource industries like forestry, agriculture, mining, clean energy production and outdoor recreation require continued, sustainable supplies of ecosystem goods. The Ministry balances the preservation, stewardship and safe use of this natural capital with encouraging a prosperous economy.

Global economic trends include a continuing rise in demand for natural resources, while government faces economic pressures. Land managers are dealing with increasingly complex decisions on use of the land base. The health of B.C.'s natural environment is impacted by various factors. These include habitat fragmentation and invasive species, as well as factors related to climate change impacts such as wildfires, floods, landslides and debris flows, droughts and outbreak of pests, such as mountain pine beetle. The Ministry recognizes, however, that a healthy environment with resilient ecosystems is necessary to support resource development and works diligently to eliminate, reduce or mitigate any impacts from development, and monitors compliance with decisions.

The Ministry oversees a total land base and freshwater area that covers 94.8 million hectares, as well as the adjacent marine environment. The breadth of the Ministry mandate encompasses both the stewardship and sustainable management of multiple resources, and creating a competitive and innovative business environment for natural resource investments. Action within that mandate also include: research, monitoring and assessment, permitting and approvals,

B.C.'s 2013/14 economic performance

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.0 per cent in 2013 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 1.5 per cent in 2012. Annual gains were observed in consumer spending, manufacturing shipments and exports, while modest declines occurred in employment and housing starts. Several risks to British Columbia's economy remain, including slowing domestic activity, weakness in the US economic recovery, the ongoing sovereign debt situation in Europe, slowing Asian demand and exchange rate volatility.



standards and regulation, recreation service, ecosystem renewal, wildfire management, water management, timber sales, monitoring compliance with and enforcement of regulations, and heritage conservation.

Challenges and Opportunities

In response to these global and provincial pressures, the Ministry, and natural resource sector as a whole, has adopted an integrated approach to natural resource management. This sector-wide approach has afforded the opportunity to bring consistency to how B.C.'s resources are managed. The natural resource sector agencies regulate and influence activities



on provincial Crown land, which accounts for 94 per cent of the province's land base. All together, these agencies are responsible for over 130 provincial statutes that provide for the sustainable management, protection and use of B.C.'s natural resources.

The following discussion reflects on how the Ministry responded to the external issues that impacted its operations in 2013/14. Some responses to these issues are discussed in the 'Highlights of the Year'.

Challenge: managing multiple, competing and overlapping demands for natural resources.

The growth in natural resource sectors creates competition for land, water and natural resources and presents challenges when managing the use and stewardship of natural resources. As development levels increase, corresponding pressures are placed upon environmental and social values on the landscape.

Cumulative effects are the combined effect of past, present and foreseeable future actions or events that have or will effect changes to those values, which include wildlife habitats, species-at-risk or sensitive ecosystems, as well as clean air and water. There is a need to recognize and balance the cumulative footprint of development on social, economic and environmental



outcomes that are of primary importance to British Columbians.

The number of major natural resource project proposals continues to increase. This is expected to raise concerns about water use, cumulative effects and corresponding impacts to First Nations' interests.

Opportunities:

Natural resource sector transformation will better enable the ministry to realize its strategic vision to manage the land base holistically, and involves three shifts: the way in which clients interact with sector ministries; the way the land base is managed that considers multiple and often overlapping resource uses and their effects; and the way sector ministries make timely, durable decisions on land use through integrated legislation, systems and processes.

In 2013/14 the Ministry made much progress on its seven year plan to transform the sector. A business case for implementing the new shared model for decision making was developed and approved, and planning is now underway. Under the umbrella of sector transformation, the Natural Resource Permitting Project improves certainty and decision timeliness for clients enabling applications to be processed efficiently, in a shorter time frame. Improved processes, data and tools will reduce duplication and provide reliable information for First Nations, industry and the general public, and result in improved management of natural resources in line with the Province's stewardship and sustainability goals.



B.C. is proceeding with phased implementation of its [Cumulative Effects Framework](#), in alignment with the natural resource sector transformation. This interagency project focuses on developing a more consistent and strategic approach for assessing and managing cumulative effects across the natural resource sector (also see page 9).

The Ministry is also working to harmonize the legal

decision making boundaries of its business lines through the [Administrative Boundaries Project](#). This project is of strategic importance to the Ministry and its stakeholders because it will provide a universally understood boundary for Ministry business and increase the efficiency of Ministry operations by supporting the 'one land manager' concept. Final refinements are being made with delivery of phase one expected in summer 2014.

Challenge: making timely and durable resource decisions in support of jobs and economic recovery.

Forestry, tourism, mining and energy related industries are primary and important employers in many of British Columbia's communities. A thriving resource sector needs resilient communities that enjoy safe, sustainable and economically viable opportunities. With the current economic recovery in the sector creating increased demand for land and resource use, any delay in resolving applications can result in lost opportunities.

The traditional forest sector is recovering. As well, B.C. has an abundance of natural resources encompassing both the fossil fuel economy (coal and natural gas) and the bio-economy (forests, marine and agriculture) which present additional investment and development opportunities.

Opportunities:

The Ministry continues to streamline natural resource permitting process. This includes changes to the *Mines Act* and

Water Regulation, as well as moving to electronic-only applications for various natural resource authorizations to help businesses move their projects forward more quickly. To further assist clients with obtaining permit approvals faster, applications for new water licences and water licence amendments were made available online as of December 2013 and February 2014, respectively.

These changes and improvements to client service via FrontCounter BC support durable decisions. The online system streamlines the application process, promotes more complete applications and enhances client access to government information and services.



Land Act authorization applications are now available electronically through FrontCounter BC. Clients are able to apply for *Land Act* authorizations in 21 different areas, including agriculture, tourism, clean energy, film and commercial and industrial uses. Improving the

accessibility to these applications through the electronic system and streamlining the application process supports faster turnaround times for clients, thus supporting their economic development opportunities.





The ministry released its [Heritage Strategy for British Columbia: Our Heritage, Historic Places](#), a plan that outlines the Province's future goals for heritage conservation. Also announced was \$500,000 to Heritage BC to deliver planning and training services to local governments and heritage organizations.

Completion of another successful trade mission to Japan and China built on existing relationships and created new ones. As well, to the end of October 2013, B.C. set a new record for lumber exports to China. This increased demand for B.C.'s softwood lumber products translates to job security in B.C.'s mills and B.C.'s woods.

Government's continuous improvement method, Lean, was successfully used to streamline existing authorization processes for Site C – if approved, a large and complex BC Hydro project that could require several thousand authorizations over a seven year construction period. The new streamlined process was optimized to avoid delays and render decisions faster, while maintaining stewardship values and acceptable environmental standards. The process benefits both the Ministry and its clients, as it now requires 500 permits instead of an initial inventory in excess of 2,000 and reduces workload by 75 per cent.

Challenge: overseeing safe development and use of natural resources

There are many variables that affect the safe use and development of natural resources. Most risks to public and worker safety are inherent in nature such as floods, wildfires and landslides at various times of the year. Some safety risks are inherent in resource use activity, for example in logging and milling of timber, or mining activity potentially leading to contamination of water or land.

British Columbia has an active history of mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, and many other industrial activities. While development activities have built a modern and vibrant province, there have been some detrimental impacts to public lands. Some historic industrial sites are contaminated with metals, acid rock drainage, hydrocarbons, and other substances harmful to human and environmental health. These sites can become the responsibility of the Government of British Columbia if they are on publicly owned land.



The 2014 Crown Contaminated Sites Program Biennial Report marks a decade of cleaning up sites in B.C. that have been contaminated by historic industrial activity.

Photo: Remediating Emerald Glacier Mill and Tailings

Opportunities:

To protect the public interest, the Ministry undertakes remediation activities such as removing contaminated soils, diverting watercourses away from toxic materials, capping hazardous areas with natural or synthetic materials, and replanting vegetation to create habitats for birds, animals, insects, and fish. The [2014 Crown Contaminated Sites Program Biennial Report](#) was released in 2013/14, and chronicles a decade of remediation to historic contaminated sites. To date, B.C. has committed more than \$277 million to the program, investigated 84 contaminated sites, and identified and managed risks to human health and the environment on 34 sites.



B.C.'s 2013 fire season was statistically average with scattered periods of intense wildfire activity. In 2013/14, over 1,800 wildfires resulted in approximately 18,000 hectares being burned throughout the province. The Ministry successfully contained 95 per cent of unwanted wildfires with a fire ranking of one to four by 10 a.m. the following day. A rank one fire is a creeping surface fire and rank two to four fires are low, moderate and highly vigorous surface fires.

The Ministry's provincial fuel management program conducts planning and treatments to mitigate wildfire risk in the wildland urban interface, which is any area where forest fuels (i.e., combustible vegetation), are found adjacent to homes, farm structures or outbuildings. The Ministry supports work on the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative through a partnership among Wildfire Management Branch, First Nations' Emergency Services Society and the Union of B.C. Municipalities. This fuel management initiative involves the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, treatment prescriptions and operational fuel reduction treatments for all B.C. communities at high or extreme risk from wildfire. This unique cooperative program has reduced wildfire risks on over 65,000 hectares of wildland urban interface since 2005.



In June 2013, the Ministry, in partnership with Emergency Management BC, various agencies and local governments, put the [BC Flood Response Plan](#) into action when the Kootenay Boundary Region had an unprecedented flood event. The flood destroyed or compromised more than \$7 million dollars in roads and bridges in the region, as well as isolating important industrial and recreational activities. With the potential impacts to public safety, and economic and tourism opportunities along the affected bridges and backcountry roads, a timely response was required.



Ministry staff worked with licensees to prioritize, fund and safely implement replacement works. To date \$2 million in reconstruction contracts to replace four bridges, repair six bridges and rebuild five kilometres of road have been completed. Due to the sheer amount of impacted areas, work has continued into 2014.

Under its new Safety Management System, in 2013/14 the Ministry completed its first safety audit of 20 ministry operations. This new system is a common framework and accountability structure across the agency that addresses safety for workers in the natural resource sector, sector clients and the public. Results were used in a management review to inform continuous improvement of safety management, and the Ministry has since begun a focused improvement initiative on internal safety management.

The Ministry also worked closely with its client groups to develop a safety framework to inform the development of the proposed *Natural Resource Road Act*. This will provide more consistent and understandable safety rules for industrial and public use of resource roads.

Challenge: considering climate change impacts and adaptation.

B.C.'s natural resources are both important to climate solutions and sensitive to climate change. Globally, forests and oceans absorb about 60 per cent of the emissions from fossil fuels and land use change. B.C.'s 60 million hectares of forests provide a green advantage in their ability to sequester carbon. However, B.C.'s natural resource values are sensitive to a changing climate and increasing variability. For example, the enormous impact of the mountain pine beetle can be at least partially attributed to a warmer environment. Pressure



on freshwater resources from floods and droughts is intensifying. Internationally, insurance experts now report that drought and weather damage has become the predominant risk factor for insurance. As climate change progresses, wildfire predictions indicate a trend towards increased area burned and extreme fire behaviour.

Opportunities:

Adapting to and mitigating climate change in the natural resource sector requires an understanding of the potential long term impacts of climate change, climate variability, and relationship to the actions we take or forego today. Our natural resource and heritage sectors must prepare for extreme events in the short term, plan activities to best match our long term climate outlook, and pursue mitigation and adaptation opportunities.

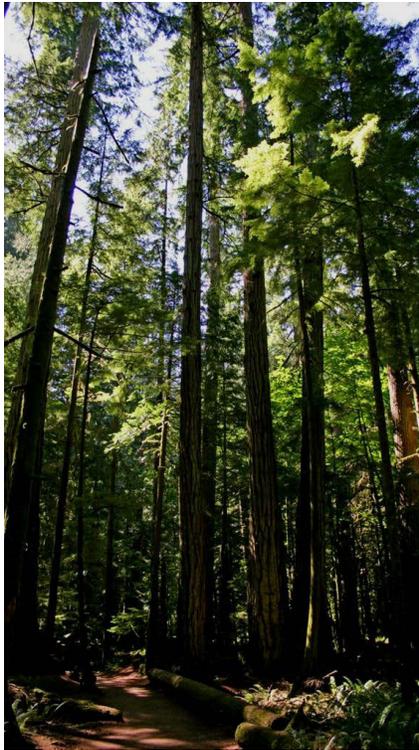
On September 10, 2013 the Ministry endorsed its [Climate Change Strategy 2013-2018](#), marking an important milestone for actions on climate change as well as the integration of its resource mandate supporting the ‘one land manager’ approach. Over the next five years the Ministry commits to plan and implement actions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change in a consistent way across all of its business lines.



In February 2013 the Ministry released a forest inventory strategic plan and announced the implementation of an enhanced Forest Inventory Program that helps address mid-term timber supply issues in mountain pine beetle affected areas. The program provides information on B.C.'s forest resources, including their current state, trends and change over time, and models for forecasting future forest conditions. In 2013/14, Vegetation Resources Inventory photo-interpretation

projects were underway in Lakes, Kamloops, Mid Coast, 100 Mile House, and Haida Gwaii Timber Supply Areas, and Vanderhoof district. New high resolution, digital, aerial photography was acquired for the entire Quesnel and Morice Timber Supply Areas. Long-term monitoring plots were established on a grid over the full extent of the Williams Lake, Quesnel, and Merritt Timber Supply Areas. New approaches to forest inventory were tested, including the increased use of remote sensing data in the production of forest inventory.

B.C.'s Forest Carbon Partnership Program was established in 2013 and aims to restore naturally disturbed public forests (not under legal obligation for reforestation) by unlocking the carbon value of public forests. The program is a partnership between the Ministry, coordinating entities and investors to create and maintain activity-based forest carbon offset projects that mitigate climate change effects by generating atmospheric benefits that can be turned into verified forest carbon offsets. These projects involve any combination of these activities: reforestation, fertilization, improved forest management and salvage. The first project was completed at the end of May 2013; where 19,000 trees were planted by a coordinating entity over six hectares on naturally disturbed provincial forest land in Quesnel. The partnership improves the forest resource without additional cost to taxpayers. The coordinating entity's



role is to manage the work and generate verified carbon offsets and, since they can facilitate multiple projects simultaneously, is able to achieve economies of scale. Investors provide funding for the work and receive validated and verified carbon offsets in exchange.

The Ministry's landscape fire management planning program is critical for reducing wildfire hazards and supporting the development of fire adapted communities and fire resilient ecosystems. This initiative is part of the B.C. Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which aims to reduce risks associated with wildland fire in and around communities, critical infrastructure, and other high value areas. Landscape fire management plans will also ensure that wildfire risks are addressed in land use planning and management activities. In 2013/14, landscape plans were completed for the Vanderhoof portion of the Prince George timber supply area and the Merritt and So0 timber supply areas. The Ministry is also finalizing a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for wildfire management to be released in 2014/15.

Several strategic documents outline in more detail what the Ministry does to consider climate change in all sectors. These include:

- [BC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation](#)
- [Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan](#)
- [B.C. Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#)
- [BC Drought Response Plan](#)
- [Cost of Adaptation – Sea Dikes and Alternative Strategies](#)



Report on Performance

Performance Results Summary Table

Goal 1: Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery For greater detail see pages 24 -26	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
1.1 Streamlined authorizations processes <i>Performance Measure 1: Average number of days turnaround time for new mining Notice of Work (NoW) applications</i>	60 DAYS	44 DAYS EXCEEDED
1.2 Integrated and coordinated client services <i>Performance Measure 2: Client satisfaction success score</i>	82	74.7 NOT ACHIEVED
Goal 2: Coordinated and sustainable management, use and stewardship of B.C.'s natural capital For greater detail see pages 27-35	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
2.1 The development and use of natural resources are accomplished within the standards set out in the Ministry's legislative and regulatory framework <i>Performance Measure 3: Per cent of the regulated community's compliance with statutory requirements</i>	85%	84% SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED
<i>Performance Measure 4: Index: quality of resource monitoring data used for resource stewardship decisions</i>	7.1	7.3 ACHIEVED
2.2 Natural resource productivity is optimized through conservation, stewardship, and effective policy, legislation and external relationships <i>Performance Measure 5: Number of Mountain Caribou herds in recovery</i>	9	7 NOT ACHIEVED
<i>Performance Measure 6: Number of hectares of ecosystems in recovery mode</i>	15,000	16,600 EXCEEDED
<i>Performance Measure 7: Timber volume gain (millions of cubic metres) expected in 65 years from silviculture treatments completed</i>	8.3	8.5 ACHIEVED
2.3 Safe and environmentally responsible natural resource management practices <i>Performance Measure 8: Dam safety inspection compliance</i>	92%	94% EXCEEDED

Table continues on the next page....

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Goal 3: Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities For greater detail see pages 36-40	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual
3.1 Natural resource decisions and dispositions support community needs and provincial priorities, and encourage private investment <i>Performance Measure 9: Number of new mines in operation since release of the BC Jobs Plan</i> <i>Performance Measure 9: Number of expansions to existing mines since release of the BC Jobs Plan</i>	4	2 SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED
3.2 Economic benefits of natural resource development are optimized <i>Performance Measure 10: Total Government revenue derived from the use of Crown land and natural resources</i>	\$1,225 M	\$1,280 M EXCEEDED



Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Government's priorities are focussing on building a strong economy and a secure lasting legacy for future generations. To that end, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations makes timely and durable decisions on the land base, balancing environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. Overall, in 2013/14, the Ministry maintained its attention on the priorities in the [BC Jobs Plan](#) and is focused on:

- Sustaining and enhancing ecosystem health.
- Increasing public confidence in resource management.
- Solidifying the integrated delivery of natural resource management, through the 'one land manager' model, within the economic realities facing Government.
- Supporting and building a strong, durable economy by optimizing resource value to increase industry competitiveness and job creation.

The following three strategic goals of the Ministry are linked to the overall [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2014/15-2017/18](#) and its priorities for British Columbians. The selected performance measures gauge progress towards Ministry goals and associated objectives. The set of ten performance measures established for the [2013/14-2015/16 Service Plan](#) gives a sampling of progress towards current priorities as they relate to the longer term ministry mandate. As there were no organizational changes to the Ministry in June after the provincial election, all performance measures are reported as defined in the [June updated 2013/14-2015/16 Service Plan](#). Of the eleven performance targets, four were exceeded, three were achieved, two were substantively achieved, and two were not achieved.





Goal 1: Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery.

Objective 1.1: Streamlined authorizations processes.

Strategies

- Implement common standards among provincial and federal natural resource sector agencies and a coordinated, streamlined approach to resource use authorizations, particularly for projects requiring multiple approvals.
- Streamline the efficiency of online service delivery and improve timelines, for example by implementing electronic authorizations, licensing, payment and permitting options, and client-directed authorizations.
- Serve clients better by collaborating with natural resource agencies, federal agencies and municipalities to harmonize regulations governing land-based decisions.

Performance Measure 1: Natural resource authorizations turnaround time reduction

Performance Measure	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target ²	2015/16 Target ²	2016/17 Target ²
Average number of days turnaround time for new mining Notice of Work (NoW) applications ¹	110 days	73 days	60 days	44 days EXCEEDED	60 days	60 days	N/A

Data Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines.

¹ The measure differs from previous year's plan in that the former targets for reducing mining NoW applications backlog were achieved so no longer appear in the table.

² The targets for 2014/15 and 2015/16 reflect the *BC Jobs Plan* commitment of an average 60 day turnaround time from 2013 onwards. Target for 2016/17 does not appear as the performance measure is not published in the 2014/15-16/17 service plan.

Discussion of Results

Several key actions have helped the Province achieve and exceed the 2013/14 target for Notices of Work. These include: the launch of the Multi-Year Area-Based Policy for exploration permitting; a move from paper to electronic applications for Notices of Work; introduction of deemed authorization legislation; improvements to First Nations



consultation; contingency funding; and improvements to business processes and performance tracking.

The Ministries of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Energy and Mines continue to collaborate on managing turnaround times for mining Notices of Work. In addition, the Ministry continues to keep its focus on providing timely natural resource authorization decisions with less red tape through the establishment of a new service plan performance measure for 2014/15. The new indicator will assess natural resource authorizations' streamlining by measuring the time it takes for the Ministry to reach a decision on *Land Act* and *Water Act* tenure applications.

Objective 1.2: Integrated and coordinated client services.

Strategies

- Integrate decision making by streamlining authorization processes, harmonizing regulatory requirements and integrating electronic systems.
- Implement an integrated multi-agency strategy to streamline the approval process for multi-agency major projects.
- Focus natural-resource-use-authorizations services on clients' needs by being responsive to the interests of citizens and businesses, exploring new client engagement mechanisms to improve relationships and services, and enhancing access through electronic submission options.
- Develop new geospatial products and services to support resource management decisions, environmental stewardship and the evolving needs of the broad natural resource sector.

Performance Measure 2: Client Satisfaction with natural resource authorizations services

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target ¹	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Client Satisfaction Success Score ²	71	77.4	82	74.7 NOT ACHIEVED	82	82	82

Data Source: FrontCounter BC Authorization Tracking System and BCStats Client Satisfaction Survey.

¹The target was set in comparison to similar organizations across Canada and the Ministry strives to achieve a 'best-in-class' score.

² The success score combines two aspects of FrontCounter BC's client satisfaction survey: business and individual's ability to obtain information and assistance with preparing applications for resource-use authorizations; and client satisfaction with the overall authorization process across natural resource sector ministries.

Discussion of Results

This measure assesses the overall client satisfaction with services provided by FrontCounter BC and natural resource sector business area staff throughout the authorization process. The long term target of 82 is set as a 'best-in-class' benchmark, as compared to other Canadian jurisdictions offering similar services. While the success score of 82 was not achieved in

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

2013/14, over the past six years client satisfaction scores have increased 3.7 since the first survey was completed in 2007/08.

Client satisfaction survey results are used to continuously improve services. Client feedback identifies specific issues which focus Ministry efforts on improving those areas of most importance to our clients. Throughout 2013/14, the Ministry developed and implemented various strategies to improve client satisfaction scores across the province, resulting in the



target score of 82 being exceeded within some months and quarters at the regional level.

Efforts will continue in 2014/15 to implement improvement strategies in response to client feedback and satisfaction scores. Also, the introduction of electronic application forms for additional, various business lines and further streamlining will help to improve communications with clients, enhance access and streamline application processing.



Goal 2: Coordinated and sustainable management, use and stewardship of B.C.'s natural capital.

Objective 2.1: The development and use of natural resources are accomplished within the standards set out in the Ministry's legislative and regulatory framework.

Strategies

- Develop the information, policy, tools and practices necessary to embed climate change adaptation considerations and actions into management of natural and heritage resources.
- Enhance public trust in natural and heritage resource management practices and operations by promoting values-based decision making principles and engaging with stakeholders and communities.
- Develop policy and tools to support assessment and consideration of cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making.
- Enhance natural resource stewardship through effective compliance and enforcement actions that include inspections and investigations on major projects, water use, land use and forestry.



Performance Measure 3: Monitoring statutory requirements within the resource management sector¹

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Per cent of the regulated community's compliance with statutory requirements ²	80%	85%	84% SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Compliance Information Management System. Data are collected, analysed and reported by HQ Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Integrated Resource Operations Division.

¹ The title of this performance measure was changed over the last two years. In the 2011 service plan it was "Compliance with resource laws" and in the 2012 it was "Meeting management and use standards."

² 'Regulated community' includes all persons (including licensees, contractors, public and government) subject to statutory obligations within the Ministry's mandate. With the restructure of the natural resource sector, the Ministry's compliance and enforcement obligations expanded significantly beyond forest-related acts and regulations; including statutes that are new to the program, e.g., *Land Act*, *Water Act* and *Wildlife Act*.

Discussion of Results

This measure demonstrates how well the regulated community is complying with their statutory obligations under various natural resource management acts and their associated regulations. The regulated community includes all companies and persons subject to statutory obligations within these Acts and regulations, including those operating in the forestry, tourism, recreation, mining and energy sectors.

This indicator is measured as the number of inspections that are in compliance against the total number of inspections completed. Inspection priorities are based on an assessment of risk to public health and safety, as well as contributing to significant social and economic values. Enforcement includes a range of actions depending on the severity of the contravention such as fines, stop work orders, remediation orders or incarceration.

The measure was achieved through Natural Resource Officer presence and the education and promotion toward both the regulated community and staff with respect to the expanded compliance and enforcement mandate within the Ministry. In 2014/15, the Ministry redefined



its measure of managing an effective compliance and enforcement program. Compliance and enforcement presence will be the new performance measure for future service plans. The new measure better encompasses the full mandate of compliance and enforcement staff, and is a direct result of ministry action and creation of efficiencies. Data will provide the ability to correlate presence with compliance rates across all functions and activities.

Performance Measure 4: Resource decision data quality index¹

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Quality of resource monitoring data used for resource stewardship decisions ¹	N/A	7.1	7.3 ACHIEVED ²	8.0	8.8	9.3

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Provincial and Regional Operations.

¹ Index is an average of four dataset quality indices to a maximum score of 10: inventory; wildlife; Forest Range Evaluation Program (FREP); and Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System (RESULTS).

² Due to variation in data, this performance measure is stated as “achieved” as the overage is not considered significant enough to warrant “exceeded.”

Discussion of Results



This performance measure highlights the Ministry’s commitment to continually improve the quality and integrity of data from across a broad range of resources. This data is used to inform resource stewardship decisions; the better the quality and integrity of the data, the more informed the decision.

The Ministry collects and monitors various sources of data, and this information is used as the basis for sustainable resource

management decisions. This index assesses improvement in the quality of four key datasets that the Ministry uses to make those decisions: forest inventory, wildlife inventory, resource values, and forest harvesting data. Each of these four information sources are analyzed and scored independently, then combined to form the index reported in this measure. This combination of four data sets into the reported index tells the Ministry how well it is improving the overall quality of data used to inform stewardship decisions.

The achievement of this year’s target reflects the Ministry’s commitment to improve the quality of data to ensure that the best information is available to make sound and durable resource management decisions that will benefit British Columbians for generations to come.



Objective 2.2: Natural resource productivity is optimized through conservation, stewardship, and effective policy, legislation and external relationships.

Strategies

- Work in partnership with natural resource ministries to renew natural resource policy and legislation that recognises requirements for resilient ecosystems and species, while streamlining regulation to improve competitiveness.
- Increase ecosystem health by working collaboratively with multi-sector partner groups and First Nations by restoring degraded ecosystems through invasive plant management, ecosystem restoration, remediation and best management practices.
- Through Government's ['Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan'](#) look for opportunities to improve timber quality and supply through reforestation, forest inventory, fuel management and intensive and innovative silviculture.



Range Management staff being trained on Lichen identification and methods of measuring cover.



Stewardship staff at a tree seed orchard working to enhance the growth and resilience of B.C.'s forests.

- Protect life and values at risk and encourage sustainable, healthy, resilient ecosystems by implementing the B.C. Wildland Fire Management Strategy.
- Advance professional reliance and the use of qualified professionals by establishing clear accountabilities and an environment that supports innovative practices.
- Facilitate bio-economy opportunities through ministry policy, legislation and external relationships.
- Make decisions that consider landscape level condition and cumulative effects on key environmental, social and economic values, including historic and archaeologically significant places.
- Foster engagement with First Nations and local governments in landscape level approaches to management.



A prescribed burn that was conducted in the North Thompson Valley.

Performance Measure 5: Mountain Caribou herds meeting recovery objective

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual ¹	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of Mountain Caribou herds in recovery ¹	4	9	7 NOT ACHIEVED	14	14	N/A

Data Source: Species at Risk Recovery Implementation Section, Fish Wildlife and Habitat Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

¹ Herds were designated as stable or increasing based on most recent aerial surveys conducted in late winter. It does not consider recruitment level. Caution is necessary in interpretation of short term trends.

Discussion of Results

British Columbia is home to all of the world’s mountain caribou. Mountain caribou rely on old forest in south-east interior mountains for winter habitat. Mountain caribou have been in decline over the last decade or more due to habitat loss such as old forest for winter habitat, significant predation pressure from wolves, cougar and bears, as well as stresses due to climate change and human activities.

In 2007, government set goals to stop the decline in mountain caribou by 2014 and set recovery numbers to 2,500 by 2027 in its [Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan](#). The recovery plan supports B.C.’s commitments to the national [Protection of Species at Risk Accord](#).

The target for 2013/14 was not achieved. However, based on survey results over the last four to eight years, depending on the herd, 7 of 14 mountain caribou herds appeared to be stable in 2013/14. The remaining herds appear to be in decline or uncertain. Achieving future performance targets requires strong commitment to the measures recommended in the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan, as well as multi-agency, stakeholder and jurisdictional actions.

The Ministry has completed management action to protect high value habitat, reduce disturbance from motorized winter recreation and reduce predation. A maternal penning pilot project is being implemented to help reduce calf mortality. Education and enforcement patrols are conducted each winter. Augmenting small populations and more aggressive predator control enabled through initiatives such as the [Wolf Management Plan](#) will occur as the need arises over the next few years. Winter surveys of caribou herds, at least every third year, will assess how effective these management actions are at meeting the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan goals.



Performance Measure 6: Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target ¹	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of hectares of ecosystems in recovery mode	13,400	15,000	16,600 EXCEEDED	22,600	28,600	34,600

Data Sources: Land Based Investment Strategy - Categories: Range Remediation; Ecosystem Restoration; and Invasive Plant Management. Invasive Alien Plant Program database. District range reports. Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee reports.

¹ Targets are cumulative over the three year period with an expected increase of 6,000 hectares recovered in 2014/15, and 6,000 hectares recovered per year in 2015/16 and 2016/17 based on current funding levels, and include an aggregate total of Range Remediation, Ecosystem Restoration, and Invasive Plant Management annual targets.

Discussion of Results

This performance measure assesses one aspect of the Ministry’s efforts to maintain natural capital through the recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems, which include riparian and subalpine types that are affected by commercial and recreational use. The Ministry exceeded the 2013/14 cumulative target of 15,000 by 1,600 hectares.

The additional 1,600 hectares were moved into recovery mode by applying range remediation, ecosystem restoration and invasive plant management. The actual performance of 16,600 hectares over the three years (2011/12-2013/14) exceeded the target due to improved funding, and an exceptionally cool spring in 2012 which allowed for a longer time period to use the ‘prescribed fire’ method to restore ecosystems.



Performance Measure 7: Timber volume gain from silviculture investments

Performance Measure	2010/11 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target ³	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Timber volume gain (millions of cubic metres) expected in 65 years from silviculture treatments completed ¹	7.3	7.4	8.3	8.5 ACHIEVED ²	8.5	7.7	8.2

Data Source: Volume gains (millions of cubic metres of wood) estimated using data submitted by licensees and the Ministry to RESULTS (Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System) and SPAR (Seed Planning and Registry System).

¹ Gain as compared to basic reforestation using natural unimproved seed sources; “Timber Volume gain” includes incremental growth associated with silviculture treatment (planting using select seed, rehabilitation, juvenile spacing, and fertilization) and is based on the estimated total accumulated volume gains in 65 years.

² Within the range of statistical precision associated with the calculation, this performance measure is classified as “achieved” as the overage is not considered to be statistically significant.

³ Targets are based in part on Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) funding, and are also influenced by licensee activity. Targets are forecast based on activity from the previous two years as, for example, seedlings sown in fall 2012 for planting in spring and summer 2014 influence targets in 2014/15.

Discussion of Results

In B.C., there is a legal obligation to reforest harvested areas which is part of the basic silviculture program. Silviculture practices support the achievement of timber supply objectives, for example, as set out in [‘Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan’](#). This measure compliments attainment of the [provincial sustainable harvest](#) level targets: 57 million cubic metres per year during the mid-term, and 65 million cubic metres per year for the long-term.





Aerial seeding cutblocks near Postill Lake

The achievement in 2013/14 reflects increased numbers of tree seedlings sown with select seed. Approximately half of the volume produced in the measure is related to future program activities that are not currently accounted for in current allowable annual cut determinations; so is incremental to the 65 million cubic metre per year long-term harvest level target. The measure accounts for [Forests for Tomorrow](#) investments and volume gains from the required use of [select seed](#). The measure reflects the benefit from investments in the land base, forest resource stewardship, and sustainable timber productivity.

The increases in the performance measure targets since the 2010/11 baseline reflects Government's commitment to addressing the substantial long lasting economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from the devastating mountain pine beetle infestations, recent large scale wildfire, and the increasing harvesting activity with associated reforestation by the forest industry.

Objective 2.3: Safe and environmentally responsible natural resource management practices.

Strategies

- Remediate Crown contaminated sites to ensure clean land and water for the protection of human health and the environment.
- In cooperation with industry, enhance collaboration to improve environmental and safety management through ministry business and policy development.
- Continue a management system approach to resource worker safety, sustaining and using the current safety management system.
- Effectively monitor and manage risks to public health, public safety and the environment, such as unwanted wildfire, flood hazard, and contaminated sites.



Site inspection on hydro-seeded former ore chute slope, Emerald Glacier Mill and Tailings

Performance Measure 8: Dam safety inspection compliance

Performance Measure	2002/03 Baseline ²	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Percentage of owners of High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams that complete the required inspections and return the Inspection Compliance Form ¹	62%	98%	92%	94% EXCEEDED	93%	94%	94%

Data Source: Water Management Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

¹ Under the authority of the Dam Safety Regulation, of the *Water Act*, all B.C. dam owners with High, Very High or Extreme Downstream Consequence Classification dams are required to complete an annual compliance form to confirm the status of their dam inspection program. Based on Inspection Compliance Form returns from owners of the approximately 346 High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams in B.C. Number of dams in these classes are subject to change due to reclassification, addition of new, or removal of dams. The accuracy and reliability of the data is dependent on the veracity of the dam owners completing the form.

² Percentage of owners of High and Very High Consequence Classification dams that returned the Inspection Compliance Forms for 2002/03. The ‘Extreme’ classification did not exist at that time.

Discussion of Results

The annual questionnaire to dam owners assists the ministry in meeting its objective of effectively monitoring and managing risks to the environment and public health and safety. The results of the questionnaire are used to determine whether dams are being inspected and maintained by the owners as required. The 2013/14 achievement of 94 per cent exceeded the target by 2 per cent, yet is 4 per cent less than the 2012/13 result. The average over the last 5 years of monitoring dam safety inspection compliance is 95.4 per cent (over a range from 93 – 98 per cent) and shows that achievement is influenced year-to-year by variability in dam owners’ input and cooperation.



Every five years, each high, very high and extreme consequence dam receives a site audit by a Ministry Dam Safety Officer. During these visits, compliance with the Regulation is assessed and dam owners have the opportunity to discuss the status of their dams and their inspection and maintenance programs. The annual compliance reporting by dam owners augments these dam audits and provides the Dam Safety Officer with interim information allowing them to decide whether or not additional information or a site visit is warranted. Those owners that do not



meet the requirements of the BC Dam Safety Regulation may be subject to a process of escalating enforcement until compliance is achieved. Compliance and audit results are available after May 31 in the [BC Dam Safety Annual Report](#).



Goal 3: Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities.

Objective 3.1: Natural resource decisions and dispositions support community needs and provincial priorities, and encourage private investment.

Strategies

- Manage and resolve high value land disposition proposals, often involving multiple government agencies and parties, to advance government priorities and provide broad public benefit.
- Encourage industry and private investment by providing clarity and predictability in permitting.
- Remove barriers and create the conditions that encourage investment, access and development of natural resources and developable Crown land.
- Ensure durable decisions and improved delivery of appropriate natural resource sector major projects.
- Develop and coordinate consistent and effective First Nation consultation function for the natural resource sector to respect First Nation interests in the land base.
- Foster an efficient and innovative market-based operating climate and support the diversification of natural resource product markets and Crown land utilization.
- Continue to engage with communities, First Nations and key stakeholders to address impacts of the mountain pine beetle through [Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan](#).



Performance Measure 9: New mines and expansions to existing mines

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new mines in operation since release of the <i>BC Jobs Plan</i> 	2	4	2 SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED	5	8	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of expansions to existing mines since release of the <i>BC Jobs Plan</i> 	6	7	7 ACHIEVED	8	9	N/A

Data Source: Data analysis by the Ministry of Energy and Mines

Discussion of Results

This performance measure was new in the 2012/13 service plan and is intended to track on a year-by-year basis the [BC Jobs Plan](#) target to have a total of eight new mines in operation and nine expansions to existing mines by 2015. This performance measure is shared jointly between the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The performance targets have both been changed from annual counts to cumulative numbers achieved since the release of the *BC Jobs Plan*. By modifying targets in this way, the performance measure more accurately reflects the two ministries' performance.



With two new mines in production, six mines under construction or approved to begin construction, and seven expansions approved since the *BC Jobs Plan* was released, the Province is now more than halfway to reaching the target of eight new mines and nine mine expansions by 2015. However, it is difficult to predict the exact timing of applications for permits and investment decisions by companies. Thus, although only two new mines have opened since the release of the Jobs Plan by the end of 2013/14, the target has been substantively achieved since six more projects are approved or under construction.

Objective 3.2: Economic benefits of natural resource development are optimized.

Strategies

- Set the operating context, through policy and regulation, to support sustainable use of natural resources and optimize revenue generated by the natural resource sector.
- Support the implementation of initiatives that contribute to a globally competitive and sustainable sector.
- Include First Nations as a full partner in the forest sector through the First Nations Forest Sector Strategy.
- Continue to build partnerships with local governments, other agencies and First Nations to identify sustainable resource development opportunities and support priority treaty and reconciliation initiatives.
- Improve forest fibre utilization to support further manufacturing and bioenergy through Government's [Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan](#).
- Strengthen the contribution of B.C.'s historic places, including provincial heritage sites, to community identity, economic health, and environmental stewardship.
- Develop, maintain and market a system of recreation sites and trails on Crown land to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the public that create social, economic and environmental benefits for local communities and the Province.
- Collaborate with industry and ministries to focus the B.C. Resort Strategy on enabling success of existing all-season resorts.



Performance Measure 10: Government revenue derived from the use of Crown land and natural resources

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual ¹	2013/14 Target ²	2013/14 Actual ³	2014/15 Target ⁴	2015/16 Target ⁴	2016/17 Target ⁴
Forests	\$521 M	\$554 M	\$665 M	\$ 745 M	\$ 785 M	\$ 817 M
Crown Lands	\$69 M	\$123 M	\$136 M	\$ 184 M	\$ 149 M	\$ 74 M
Natural Resource Operations	\$453 M	\$476 M	\$479 M	\$ 441 M	\$ 458 M	\$ 462 M
Total Ministry Revenue	\$1,043 M	\$1,153 M	\$1,280 M EXCEEDED	\$1,370 M	\$1,392 M	\$1,353 M

Data Sources: (See footnotes, below)

¹ Source: Ministry 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report.

² Source: Ministry 2013/14 Estimates Budget.

³ Source: Ministry 2013/14 CAS Oracle General Ledger actuals in period ADJ2-14 run on May 23, 2014. Actual 2013/14 revenue (unaudited) is subject to verification by audit by the Office of the Comptroller General. The 2013/14 revenue will continue to fluctuate minimally until Closing Adjustment #3 is completed by the Office of the Comptroller General on or before June 30, 2014.

⁴ Source: Ministry 2014/15 - 2016/17 Estimates Budgets (excludes logging tax, recoveries, and valuation adjustment).

Discussion of Results

The Ministry’s influence on this measure is from policy, regulation and permitting processes that contribute to an operating environment conducive to revenue generation. A portion of the revenue is realized from Ministry activity that directly supports BC Timber Sales and Crown land sales. This indicator depicts what government can expect to see generated as revenue into the Provincial consolidated revenue fund, based on analysis of Crown forest and land activity under prevailing economic and market conditions.

The forests revenue includes stumpage from timber tenures and BC timber sales, and other forest revenues such as the softwood lumber border tax, log export fees, annual rents, range



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permits and fees, waste and other miscellaneous fees. Crown land revenue is generated from Crown land tenures, Crown land sales, Crown land royalties and application fees. Natural resource operations revenue is generated primarily from water licences and rentals, *Wildlife Act* fees and licences, and land registry fees.

Overall, the 2013/14 Ministry revenue target for forests, Crown lands and natural resources was exceeded. This is primarily attributable to improved lumber product and commodity prices, Crown land sale completions, and water licences and rentals.



Report on Resources: Ministry Summary Table

	2013/14 Estimates ¹	Other Authorizations ²	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Integrated Resources Operations	58,379	0	58,379	64,251	5,872
Resource Stewardship	66,953	0	66,953	70,756	3,803
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	13,469	0	13,469	68	(13,401)
Timber Operations and Pricing	23,642	0	23,642	21,652	(1,990)
Regional Operations	114,777	1,540	116,317	119,310	2,993
Executive and Support Services	63,147	0	63,147	65,870	2,723
Sub-Total – Operating Expenses	340,367	1,540	341,907	341,907	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual³	0	0	0	(15,971)	(15,971)
Total – Operating Expenses	340,367	1,540	341,907	325,936	(15,971)
Direct Fire	63,165	59,051	122,216	122,216	0
BC Timber Sales	157,791	(1,199)	156,592	156,592	0
Crown Land	20	0	20	0	(20)
Forest Stand Management Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual³	0	0	0	(210)	(210)
Total	561,343	59,392	620,735	604,534	(16,202)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	29,952	0	29,952	29,185	(767)
BC Timber Sales	28,800	0	28,800	26,534	(2,266)
Total	58,752	0	58,752	55,719	(3,033)

¹ Estimates amounts correspond to the Estimates as presented to the Legislative Assembly in June 2013.

² Other Authorizations are approved contingencies or statutory appropriations based on actual usage.

³ The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual is a reversal of accruals made in prior years.



Report on Resources: Ministry Summary Table is continued on the next page.

Report on Resources: Ministry Summary Table, continued.

	2013/14 Estimates	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
BC Timber Sales Disbursements					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	64,000	0	64,000	61,695	(2,305)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(64,000)	0	(64,000)	(61,695)	(2,305)
Crown Land Administration					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	6,764	0	6,764	1,717	(5,047)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(6,764)	0	(6,764)	(1,717)	(5,047)
Crown Land Special Account					
Receipts	70	0	70	48	(22)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	70	0	70	48	(22)
Tourism Development					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	600	0	600	513	(87)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(600)	0	(600)	(513)	87
Habitat Conservation Trust					
Receipts	6,000	115	6,115	6,115	0
Disbursements	6,000	115	6,115	6,115	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	6,070	115	6,185	6,163	(22)
Total Disbursements	77,364	115	77,479	70,040	(7,439)
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(71,294)	0	(71,294)	(63,877)	7,417

Report on Resources: Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board is an independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia’s public forests and rangelands. It informs both the British Columbia public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees’ performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements. It also ensures that resource ministries are appropriately monitoring and enforcing forest and range practices legislation.



The Board audits 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. The Board’s mandate is provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*.

While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board independently reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report found at www.fpb.gov.bc.ca

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary Table

Forest Practices Board	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Total	3,815	0	3,815	3,809	(6)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Headquarters

P.O. Box 9361 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9M2
Phone: 250 387-1772
Fax: 250 387-3291

www.gov.bc.ca/for/contacts.html

Media

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Phone: 250 356-5261

BC Timber Sales – Headquarters

Website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/
Contacts: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/contact/

FrontCounter BC:

Call toll free: 1-877-855-3222
Call from outside North America at:
++1-604-586-4400
E-mail: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca
To contact specific Regional Operations
offices, please visit:
www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/

Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry website: www.gov.bc.ca/for/

BC Timber Sales: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan: www.bcjobsplan.ca/

The BC Jobs Plan Progress Reports: www.bcjobsplan.ca/6-month-progress-reports/

Climate Adaptation Strategy: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/adaptation/index.html

EmergencyManagementBC: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/index.htm

FPIInnovations: www.fpinnovations.ca/

GeoBC: geobc.gov.bc.ca/

Integrated Land and Resource Registry: <http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/rsd/ilrr/>

Land Based Investment Strategy: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/landbase/

Major Projects BC: www.for.gov.bc.ca/major_projects/

Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestsectorstrategy/

Wildfire Information: www.bcwildfire.ca www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo
twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo

Working Roundtable on Forestry: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Forestry_Roundtable/

Appendix C: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Crowns

[Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority](#)

In May 2012, a decision was made to change the future governance of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority. As such, the *Creston Valley Wildlife Act* is planned for repeal. Upon repeal, the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area will be designated and managed as a “Wildlife Management Area” under the provincial *Wildlife Act*. This decision transfers management of the site to ministry operations, enabling the Province to enter into a long-term agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada. An interim management committee comprised of the existing Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority and other representatives from the Province and Ducks Unlimited Canada was struck to implement the transition to the new Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority governance model.



Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions

[BC Timber Export Advisory Committee](#)

[Forest Practices Board](#)

[Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board](#)