

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

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**2020/21  
Annual Service Plan Report**

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

## Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development *2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* created in February 2020. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrine Conroy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural  
Development  
August 9, 2021

## Minister of State's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development *2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* created in February 2020. Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2020/21:

- (a) continue to implement our government's partnership approach model to modernizing land use plans with Indigenous nations;
- (b) continue to engage with all levels of government and across government, with communities, people and business, to deliver the ministry's economic recovery projects for the benefit of rural communities in every corner of this province;
- (c) engage with the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council as they initiate their work informing new strategies for wildlife and habitat;
- (d) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (c) on or before March 31, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Cullen".

Honourable Nathan Cullen  
Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
August 9, 2021

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## Letter from the Minister

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is committed to delivering sustainable management of the Province's Crown land and natural resources for the benefit of all British Columbians. In 2020/21, my Ministry made progress towards many important priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of many British Columbians, in every corner of the province. In response, we came together with our colleagues across government to help ensure that British Columbians were kept safe and informed. We deployed staff to land and air border check-points to ensure that returning travelers completed the required Ministry of Health measures, and supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries by completing over 1,000 farm inspections to ensure safe working conditions for temporary foreign workers.

We also maintained and increased COVID-19 pandemic recovery supports to communities and families. In 2020, through [StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan](#), we implemented approximately \$100 million in funding to create jobs and support local businesses in B.C., advancing forest stewardship, youth employment, natural hazard management and fire prevention, heritage, and a wide variety of other important initiatives. As part of this, the [Forest Employment Program](#) was expanded, delivering a total of \$21 million to 194 projects across the province. This work helped workers in forest-dependent communities, while improving and strengthening B.C.'s forest lands so more people can enjoy them safely.

In 2020 we continued to make investments in our Province's forests and the forest-sector economy. Together with industry, we ensured the safe planting of over 300 million seedlings, a record year and an extraordinary achievement in the midst of a global pandemic. Together with Indigenous peoples and many others, we are taking an inclusive and collaborative approach to protect the province's old-growth forests and the rich biodiversity they support. Significant steps were taken in 2020, with the protection of approximately 353,000 hectares of old-growth and 1,500 exceptionally large, individual trees.

Building on past engagement and consultation with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders, we are taking a coordinated approach to advancing forest policy changes, including changes to the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#), in a way that considers a diversity of perspectives. To ensure the province's forest sector is prepared and supported to face the challenges of the future, we are improving engineered wood opportunities for mass timber and other innovative wood products.

It has been an extraordinary year. I would like to thank all the staff in the Ministry for their resiliency, professionalism and dedication to excellence in the delivery of the services British Columbians rely on.



Honourable Katrine Conroy

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

August 9, 2021

## Letter from the Minister of State

I am proud to be working closely with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to sustainably manage the Province's land and natural resources, in a way that strengthens the economies of Indigenous and rural communities.

A key priority for our Ministry in 2020 was to support communities, in particular rural communities, through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, we delivered approximately \$100 million towards economic recovery initiatives that span many programs and communities. For example, through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure program, \$40 million was provided to support over 100 projects for heritage conservation and to accelerate community recovery. \$4.5 million was delivered to B.C.'s Regional Economic Development Trusts to support rural business and community recovery, and a further \$1 million was provided to deliver five Rural Resident Attraction Pilots.

This past year we continued to work together with Indigenous peoples towards modernizing land-use planning to sustainably manage B.C.'s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth forests. Together we advanced work on land-use plans in Sechelt, Fort St. John, the Nicola Watershed and, most recently, Squamish-Lillooet. In addition, we increased public engagement for active land-use planning projects to ensure active, open and ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities, key stakeholders and the public.

In 2020 we took concrete steps to protect species at risk and their habitat in B.C. by committing to the [Together for Wildlife](#) Strategy. Developed in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and others, the strategy commits \$10 million to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are resilient to a changing climate, and that the province's rich natural diversity is maintained.

Through the newly established Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat, we have begun work to determine if land-use policy and objectives that support our goals of generating economic activity, environmental sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples can be more effectively achieved through restructuring within the natural resource sector.

We have accomplished a great deal in 2020/21. I'd like to thank the dedicated staff of FLNRORD for your ongoing and unwavering dedication to the citizens of British Columbia.



Honourable Nathan Cullen  
Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
August 9, 2021

## **Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report**

The Annual Service Plan Report is designed to meet the requirements of the [Budget Transparency and Accountability Act](#) (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets documented in the previous year's Service Plan.

## **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 forests, wildlife, water and other land-based resources, and works with Indigenous and rural communities to strengthen and diversify their economies. The Ministry 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. The Ministry is working to address climate change by enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks, and by preparing and responding to the impacts of climate change already underway. By a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, and through the advancement of new transformational initiatives, the Ministry supports activities that provide economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to all British Columbians. This work directly contributes to the achievement of the Province's goals of meaningful reconciliation, a strong, sustainable economy and a better future for all British Columbians.

The Ministry oversees policy development, operational management and implementation, and administers all or part of 59 statutes and associated regulations. The Ministry also supports the Minister in her governance responsibilities for associated Crown agencies including the [Columbia Power Corporation](#), [Columbia Basin Trust](#) and the [Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies associated with the Ministry can be found in Appendix A.

## **Strategic Direction**

The strategic direction set by Government in 2017, and expanded upon in Minister Doug Donaldson's 2017 [Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [2020/21 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many shifts in priorities, structures and operations across the public sector. Any changes to Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development goals, objectives, performance measures or financial plan to align with the strategic direction established by Government in late 2020 are presented in the 2021/22 Service Plan.



## Operating Environment

The following describes the key internal and external factors which affected the Ministry's performance in 2020/21.

The COVID-19 pandemic. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges in B.C. and around the world in 2020/21. This past year, FLNRORD acted quickly and adapted to support multiple facets of the Province's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts for communities and families in B.C., all while ensuring that public services continued and was largely uninterrupted across the province. For example, at the outset of the pandemic, the Ministry helped protect public safety and reduce the spread of COVID-19 through providing support at provincial land and air border check points. The Ministry provided valuable data and analytics expertise through [GeoBC](#) to local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders. Together with industry and contractors, extraordinary safety measures were developed and employed to ensure safe silviculture and tree planting operations, resulting in over 300 million seedlings being safely planted, helping to secure our forests for future generations. Through StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan, the Province's economic recovery plan, the Ministry played a key role in supporting communities and businesses to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic through delivering almost \$100 million in funding to communities in support of a wide variety of programs including fire prevention, forest enhancement, heritage, recreation, forest service roads, and forestry job creation.

B.C.'s Forest Sector Economy. B.C.'s forest sector remains the primary employer in many parts of the province, with more than 50,000 British Columbians working directly in the forest industry. B.C. forest products are in demand all over the world, making up about 29 per cent of B.C.'s total exports, equal to \$11.5 billion last year. Challenges such as a shrinking timber supply, and ongoing trade disputes with the U.S., however, continue to affect rural communities across the province. In addition, in 2020/21 the COVID-19 pandemic brought new and unique economic challenges to forest-dependent communities in B.C. In response, the Ministry continues to advance forest policy initiatives, and actively support rural communities in B.C. to help keep their economies strong through initiatives such as the Forest Employment Program, economic recovery funding to accelerate rural community and business recovery, and other economic development strategies. Seeking new ways to modernize forest policy and support local communities by ensuring the growth of good jobs and long-term economic opportunities remains a key priority for the Ministry.

Impacts of Climate Change. B.C.'s natural resource values are, and will continue to be, affected by the impacts of climate change. Wildfires, floods, landslides, droughts and pest outbreaks continue to affect the province's landscape and communities. While B.C. did not experience any significant wildfires or floods in 2020/21, the Ministry continued its focus on supporting communities to improve emergency preparedness and build local capacity and resources for natural disaster readiness, response and recovery through initiative such as the [Community Resiliency Investment \(CRI\) program](#) and [FireSmart](#). The use of cultural and prescribed fire is also playing a vital role in developing wildfire resilient landscapes and communities, with an increased number of local communities participating in cultural and prescribed activities. As of

April 1, 2021, approximately 12 burn projects covering approximately 2,000 hectares were scheduled for implementation in 2021 in partnership with First Nations. The Ministry also supported the Province's [CleanBC](#) strategy by delivering the [Forest Carbon Initiative](#) (FCI), funding projects that improve carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and through work with the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia and Columbia Basin Trust. The Ministry, together with partners such as [FPInnovations](#), is also working to advance mass timber initiatives and other research and development projects to increase the production of value-added, low-carbon wood products, using innovation to improve natural resource management, support communities and generate economic opportunities for British Columbians.

Natural Resource Management. B.C.'s [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and a growing social interest in the management of Crown land and resources point to the continued need for more collaborative approaches to resource management in the province. As the Province's land manager, the Ministry works to balance the multiple interests on the land base in a way that builds partnerships, and advances true and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. For example, in 2020/21, the Ministry worked with First Nations communities to complete cumulative effects assessments through the [Environmental Stewardship Initiative](#) and [Collaborative Stewardship Forums](#) across the North that will help foster better natural resource decision-making. Informed by the independent panel report "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)," government sought the full involvement of Indigenous leaders, among other groups, to work together in conserving biodiversity while supporting jobs and communities, especially on the coast and Vancouver Island. These are some of the ways that a diversity of perspectives is being considered on a wide range of important ministry natural resource management initiatives which will set the path for the future of the Province's natural resource management.

The Economy. British Columbia's economy declined in 2020, as the negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic pushed economies all over the world into deep recessions. B.C.'s real GDP contraction of 3.8 per cent was the fourth smallest among provinces (behind Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick). The decline in B.C.'s real GDP was almost entirely driven by service-producing industries, while goods-producing industries had modest declines. Output in the arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services and transportation were some of the main drivers of the decrease in the service sector. In B.C.'s goods producing sector declines in manufacturing and natural resources were partially offset by increases in the construction sector. Employment in B.C. decreased by 6.6 per cent in 2020. However, wages and salaries remained relatively stable compared to 2019 as low wage workers accounted for the majority of job losses. Retail trade increased by 1.3 per cent in 2020, while consumer prices increased by 0.8 per cent. Residential construction activity slowed but remained relatively strong, with housing starts declining in 2020 after experiencing all-time highs in 2019. In contrast, after declining for three consecutive years home sales reached record levels in late 2020. On the external front, global international trade experienced significant disruptions as the pandemic unfolded. B.C.'s international merchandise exports contracted in 2020 reflecting a combination of weaker global demand and lower commodity prices.

## **Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets**

### **Goal 1: Economic Benefits for all British Columbians with Strong, 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: Work with rural communities to strengthen local economies and build resilience to economic disruption**

##### **Key Highlights**

- Provided on-the-ground economic development advisory and transition services for communities experiencing economic shocks and natural disasters;
- Delivered five Rural Resident Attraction Pilots, providing \$1 million to help communities develop and implement plans to attract and retain new residents;
- Provided \$4.5 million to B.C.'s three [Regional Economic Trusts](#) to support rural business and community recovery;
- Improved access to rural communities and improved critical infrastructure by upgrading over 75 forest service roads in B.C.;
- Delivered the Rural Economic Recovery and Unique Heritage Infrastructure streams of the [Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program](#), which provided \$40 million to support heritage conservation (\$20 million to 77 projects) and accelerate economic recovery in rural communities (\$20 million to 38 projects);
- Through the Forest Employment Program provided approximately \$21 million to 194 land-based projects to create valuable employment opportunities for contractors and workers impacted by mill closures/curtailments as well as the economic impacts of COVID-19;
- Launched the Recreation Sites and Trails Youth Employment program, creating jobs and investing in maintenance and improvements to various forestry campsites and trails throughout the province, including upgrades to hiking, mountain biking and all-terrain vehicle trails.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target <sup>3</sup>	2022/23 Target
1.1 Cumulative percent of Forest Employment Program budget spent <sup>1</sup>	20% (\$3 million)	80% (\$12 million cumulative)	160% (\$24 million cumulative) <sup>2</sup>	100% (\$15 million cumulative)	n/a

Data source: Rural Opportunities, Tenures, and Engineering Division

<sup>1</sup> The Forest Employment Program (FEP) is implemented over the fiscal years 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22.

<sup>2</sup> In September 2020, as part of the StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan, FEP was expanded to include the Coast region and received an additional \$12 million to be spent by the end of fiscal 2020/21 to support community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the Ministry was successful in dispersing the existing and new FEP funding in 2020/21, this resulted in the Ministry exceeding its original 2020/21 target. With this additional funding increase, the overall three-year target has changed to \$27 million.

<sup>3</sup> Target for 2021/22 has been revised in the 2021/22-2022/23 Service Plan.

## Discussion of Results

In September 2019, the Province announced \$69 million to support forestry workers and contractors impacted by mill closures and curtailments in the B.C. Interior. As part of this, the Ministry developed and is administering a three-year Forest Employment Program to create short-term employment opportunities through land-based projects for impacted contractors. In 2019/20, \$3 million in FEP funding was distributed to 25 projects. In 2020/21, FEP was initially allocated \$9 million; however, in September 2020 the program received a funding uplift of \$12 million through the StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan. In total FEP allocated \$21 million in 2020/21 to 194 projects with an estimated 500 short-term employment opportunities created. Program staff continue to finalize the employment data for the FEP program.

### Objective 1.2 Revitalize B.C. forests and the forest sector

#### Key Highlights

- With industry, completed cost-driver and pulp fibre task force recommendation to determine where cost reductions, available economic fibre, and appropriate revenue for the province from B.C.'s forests can occur;
- Encouraged more processing of wood products in B.C. through amendments to the [Manufactured Forest Products Regulation](#) which address export requirements for sawn-wood products and lumber made from western red cedar or cypress on the Coast;
- Continued to modernize B.C.'s forest stewardship planning framework through the transformation of *Forest and Range Practices Act* to advance reconciliation with First Nations and help address local issues;
- Advanced engineered wood opportunities for B.C. mass timber products, including launching a new joint industry-government steering committee which will provide guidance and advice to government, and partnering with FPInnovations on mass timber initiatives and other research and development projects to increase value over volume;
- Continued to represent B.C.'s interests in the Canada-U.S. litigation on the softwood lumber dispute, in cooperation with industry and the federal government.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Target
1.2 Annual timber volume sold through BC Timber Sales	10.1Mm <sup>3</sup>	11.3Mm <sup>3</sup>	10.3Mm <sup>3</sup>	11.0Mm <sup>3</sup>	11.2Mm <sup>3</sup>

Data source: BC Timber Sales Cengea Resources System

<sup>1</sup> Targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been revised in the 2021/22-2022/23 Service Plan.

## Discussion of Results

Timber volume sold by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) supports rural economies and manufacturing sectors and workers, leading to strong, sustainable economies in communities throughout B.C. This performance measure tracks the timber volume that BCTS sells through auction each year and is an indication that that BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is effective in supporting the Market Pricing System and meeting its objectives to sell its apportionment and generate net revenue. Targets are set based on BCTS' annual apportionment, which is determined by the Minister in alignment with the Chief Forester's Allowable Annual Cut for B.C. as a whole and are re-evaluated annually considering a number of factors.

In 2020/21, BCTS adjusted its [timber volume sold target](#) from 11.3Mm<sup>3</sup> to 10.5Mm<sup>3</sup> and achieved 98% of this revised target. The shortfall is primarily due timber supply being impacted by recent and ongoing events including species at risk and old growth management needs, forest health issues, and timber market factors. Delays and deferrals from these factors, as well as supporting meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples will continue to challenge BCTS performance. The likelihood that BCTS will sell its rationalised apportionment over the business cycle ending March 31, 2024 remains high.

BCTS' operations continue to support the Ministry's Market Pricing System and B.C.'s forest sector economies. BCTS earned \$195 million in net revenue for the Province; grew 111.5 million seedlings for the Ministry and planted 66.5 million seedlings; and, supported over 7,000 direct and 11,000 indirect jobs, contributing to rural economies, jobs and families in British Columbia.

### **Objective 1.3: Improve community resilience through proactive and collaborative natural hazard management**

#### **Key Highlights**

- Supported local governments and First Nations to undertake a variety of activities to increase community resiliency to wildfire by providing funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program and FireSmart;
- Worked with Indigenous communities and the Government of Canada to address the emergency need at the Big Bar landslide to transport fish past the barrier to reach spawning grounds by designing and building a haul road up and over the slide and collaborating on improving instream fish passage;
- Provided BC Wildfire Services support for wildfire suppression efforts in the western U.S., with more than 430 B.C. firefighters and related personnel helping battle extreme fire activity;

- Developed the BC Wildfire Service mobile app that provides real-time wildfire information and an interactive map which users can customize to display a variety of fire-related data. The new app gives members of the public, media and stakeholders access to consistent, accurate and timely wildfire information throughout the province;
- Together with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, contributed \$5 million to fund the B.C. Research Chair in Predictive Services, Emergency Management and Fire Science at Thompson Rivers University, supporting research that will improve B.C.’s ability to forecast, prevent and respond to wildfire emergencies.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.3 Number of higher risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities actively engaged in wildfire risk reduction activities <sup>1</sup>	0%	55%	40%	65%	50%	60%

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

<sup>1</sup>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.

## Discussion of Results

Under the CRI program launched in September 2018, the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports stream provides funding for local governments and First Nations to mitigate wildfire risk to their communities through vegetation management, public education, community wildfire resiliency planning, development planning and grants to homeowners to undertake FireSmart activities. This holistic approach to community resiliency is particularly important in the wildland-urban interface, where urban development borders on grasslands and forested areas.

Since launching the CRI program in September 2018, Government has invested more than \$37 million to fund 358 grants throughout British Columbia with 196 communities participating in all risk classes. In 2020/21, a high level of participation in these activities has continued in the “higher risk” communities with 117 higher risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities out of a total of 181 receiving funding. A key focus for the next fiscal will be engagement and outreach to the remaining communities.

The successes of the CRI program support the implementation of the [Government’s Action Plan: Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks](#) in response to [Addressing the New Normal: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disaster Management in British Columbia](#) through a comprehensive and coordinated approach to wildfire risk reduction efforts.



## 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 and economic development 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 and land base

#### Key Highlights

- Together with First Nations partners, advanced work on land-use plans in Sechelt, Fort St. John, the Nicola Watershed and, most recently, Squamish-Lillooet;
- Launched a provincial public engagement hub for active land-use planning projects to ensure active, open and ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities, key stakeholders and the public;
- Contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through application of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, in alignment with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and other Ministries;
- In partnership with First Nations communities, took steps towards better and more collaborative natural resource decision-making with the completion of multiple cumulative effects assessments through the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and Collaborative Stewardship Forums across the Northern Regions of the province;
- Publicly released the final report of the independent Old Growth Strategic Review panel, “A New Future for Old Forests.” As a first step, forest harvesting was deferred in nine areas of the province containing almost 200,000 hectares of old forest, and initiated engagement with Indigenous leaders and organizations to address the recommendations in the report;
- Developed and implemented a new [Special Tree Protection Regulation](#) that protects approximately 1500 of the biggest trees in British Columbia.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Target
2.1a Number of policies that have been reviewed in cooperation and consultation with Indigenous communities	21	20	25	20	20
2.1b Number of programs or policies modified in response to cooperation and consultation with Indigenous communities	7	10	17	10	20

Data source: Indigenous Relations Branch

<sup>1</sup> In the 2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan, this measure was removed and replaced with a new measure: Delivery of planning commitments and reporting obligations related to the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act*.

## Discussion of Results

This measure highlights the Ministry's commitment to ongoing cooperation and consultation with Indigenous communities in the development of policies and programs to ensure that Ministry operations reflect shared values and objectives. Examples of policies and programs include those that fall under the following areas: *Forest and Range Practices Act*, Forest Sector Revitalization, wildfire management, modernized land-use planning, Collaborative Stewardship Framework, and an improved wildlife management strategy.

Measures 2.1a and b track the Ministry's work to undertake reviews of significant natural resource programs and policies in collaboration with Indigenous peoples in order to make improvements. Targets are based on resourcing requirements, capacity of Indigenous communities and the Province, and Indigenous communities' engagement results to determine which programs and policies are relevant to review, and subsequently modify.

In 2020/21, 25 policies were reviewed with Indigenous communities related to ongoing initiatives including forest bioeconomy, heritage conservation, and wildfire prevention. These reviews are intended to further strengthen partnerships with Indigenous peoples in the stewardship of natural resources and the natural resource economy. Subsequently, the Ministry modified 17 programs or policies as a result of this work.

By working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples, the Ministry is improving its programs and policies and advancing Indigenous involvement in Ministry operations.

## Goal 3: Sustainable Natural Resource Management

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

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

#### Key Highlights

- Supported the conservation and stewardship of B.C.'s wildlife and wildlife habitat by committing \$10 million for the implementation of the Together for Wildlife Strategy, and formed a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council to oversee implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy and advise the Minister on province-wide wildlife and habitat issues;
- Invested an additional \$12 million to assist with the detection and removal of invasive species, as part of its economic recovery plan to support jobs and help communities cope with the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target <sup>2</sup>	2022/23 Target
3.1 Wildlife habitat conserved, restored or enhanced through Ministry management activities <sup>1</sup>	TBD	5% increase from 2019/20 Baseline	Baseline under development	10% increase from 2019/20 Baseline	10% increase from 2019/20 Baseline

Data source: Resource Stewardship Division

<sup>1</sup> A baseline will be established in 2021/22, informing future targets for this performance measure.

<sup>2</sup> Targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been revised in the 2021/22-2022/23 Service Plan.

## Discussion of Results

Furthering its commitment to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, the Ministry introduced a new performance measure for 2020/21 to demonstrate the result of efforts taken to support wildlife populations and help recover species at risk. These efforts result in improved habitat for wildlife and fish, while also realizing additional co-benefits including the restoration of forests impacted by wildfire and pests, and increased carbon sequestration. This measure highlights the effectiveness of Ministry management activity to enhance, conserve and restore wildlife habitat.

The timeframe for identification of a baseline for this performance measure has changed from the 2020/21 Service Plan. In the coming year, the Ministry will work to finalize the methodology and data system to accurately and reliably measure the area in British Columbia that is currently conserved, restored, or enhanced for the benefit of wildlife habitat. A baseline is expected to be finalized in 2021/22, and will serve as a benchmark for future improvements.

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

#### **Key Highlights**

- Together with forestry contractors, B.C. planted 300 million seedlings in 2020, more than any other year in the province’s history, while maintaining worker safety during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Together with the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. under the Forest Carbon Initiative, B.C. has diverted more than three million cubic metres of post-harvest residual fibre from slash burning, resulting in an immediate reduction of greenhouse gases. These reductions are accounted for in Performance Measure 3.2. These projects, many of which are being conducted in partnership with First Nations, reduce emissions and create jobs, supporting a strong, sustainable and innovative economy in forestry dependent communities across B.C;
- Began development of an updated Climate Change Strategy for the Ministry to cover the period of 2021-2025 and outline high-level strategic actions the Ministry can take to prepare for the impacts of climate change on B.C.’s natural, cultural, and heritage resources. The strategy provides a vision, goals, and objectives to guide ministry

priorities and climate action for the coming years. The final document is expected to be released in mid-late 2021;

- In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy’s Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) and ministries across government, a [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) was drafted with input from across the Ministry. A series of climate adaptation programs and actions for business areas across the Ministry were identified and scoped to help BC adapt to the unavoidable risks from climate change.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target <sup>3</sup>	2022/23 Target
3.2 Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through FCI activities <sup>1,2</sup>	1.6	3.2	2.4	2.7	N/A <sup>3</sup>

Data source: Climate Change and Integrated Planning Branch

<sup>1</sup> Emission reductions and sequestration resulting from FCI activities delivered in the current fiscal year are measured in units of MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (Millions Tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) and the cumulative benefits of each year’s activities are modeled up to the year 2050. Actual numbers are based on modelling projections using completed project data.

<sup>2</sup> The Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund funding currently ends March 31, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been revised from the 2021/22-2022/23 Service Plan.

## Discussion of Results

This Performance Measure estimates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced or sequestered through forest carbon projects funded through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund and managed by the Ministry and the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C., including silviculture treatments such as reforestation and fertilization, and improved utilization of post-harvest fibre that would otherwise be burned. The FCI program includes a range of project types with short, medium, and long-term carbon benefits. For example, in the case of silviculture projects such as reforestation, the GHG sequestration benefits are more fully realized when the trees have matured. The long-term benefit of the FCI investments will continue to accrue after 2050.

This measure highlights the Ministry’s commitment to sustainable management of forest-based resources to generate healthy, resilient forests and mitigate climate change. In February 2020, a two-year extension to the LCELF and FCI program was announced to more efficiently capitalize on FCI investments and optimize program outcomes. Additionally, the Government of Canada’s announcement of a two billion tree program will affect the magnitude of future program outcomes. The Province is currently working with the federal government to develop the two billion tree program and the targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 will be updated when an agreement is in place.

In 2020/21 the actuals are slightly lower than the targets due to improved accuracy of carbon models that better reflect the silviculture practices used and improved science regarding carbon dynamics.

The Ministry’s 2021-2025 Climate Change Strategy is being developed to align with the BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and CleanBC commitments for all of government. The completion and release of the Strategy in mid-late 2021 will show the Ministry’s continued

commitment to addressing climate change and initiate development or updates to regional or business area Climate Action Plans over the next year. This will involve identification of priority actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change across the breadth of ministry responsibilities.

The Ministry will also continue to work closely with CAS to complete and release a final Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy in 2021-22.

## Financial Report

### Discussion of Results

The Ministry's operating budget for 2020/21 was \$843.968M. Through the course of the year, the Ministry obtained access to additional authorizations totalling \$232.554M. The breakdown of contingencies and other authorizations are as follows:

#### Ministry Operations:

- \$99.830M under Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery for:
  - \$40.000M for the COVID-19 Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program;
  - \$24.905M for Community Job Creation Projects;
  - \$12.000M for the Forest Employment Program;
  - \$11.998M for Invasive Species Detection grants;
  - \$5.604M for Rural and Remote Access;
  - \$4.698M for Converting Underperforming Forests;
  - \$0.425M for Youth Crew Program under Recreation Sites and Trails; and
  - \$0.200M for Permitting Resources for Species and Ecosystem.
- \$10.681M for Contaminated Site Liability increase;
- \$4.348M for costs associated with the Softwood Lumber trade dispute;
- \$2.886M for the Big Bar Landslide Incident Response and Barrier Removal;
- \$1.177M for Cumulative Effects Litigation (Sechelt First Nation/Blueberry First Nation);
- \$1.000M for Road infrastructure improvements (Carrier Sekani 2.0);
- \$0.750M for Elk-Beaver Lake Oxygenator; and
- \$0.650M for K'omoks Estuary Restoration project.

#### Fire Management:

- \$57.405M for fire suppression activities.

#### BC Timber Sales:

- \$53.827M increase to the Special Account authorization.

The Ministry's total expenditure of \$1,076.522M is a combination of base budget and other authorizations.

The Ministry's capital budget for 2020/21 was \$88.497M. Through the course of the year, the Ministry obtained access to additional authorizations totalling \$4.997M to build the Kluskus connector (Pan Crossing Forest Service Road), Zeballos and In-Shuck-ch forest service roads and begin work on the Surrey Tree Seed Centre Facility upgrade.

The Ministry's total capital expenditure was \$82.355M which was primarily attributable to reprofiling Wildfire facilities construction to the out years coupled with underspending in BC Timber Sales roads activity due to a decrease in demand for harvestable timber.

## Financial Summary

(\$000)	Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Integrated Resource Operations	34,791	26,029	60,820	58,661	(2,159)
Resource Stewardship	100,735	1,927	102,662	101,082	(1,580)
Office of the Chief Forester	28,616	4,698	33,314	28,005	(5,309)
Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering	63,902	37,181	101,083	111,221	10,138
Forest Policy and Indigenous Relations	9,087	0	9,087	8,006	(1,081)
Fire Preparedness	42,806	19,405	62,211	55,419	(6,792)
Regional Operations	150,086	27,734	177,820	173,445	(4,375)
Executive and Support Services	59,103	4,348	63,451	74,609	11,158
<b>Sub-Total Ministry Operations Vote</b>	<b>489,126</b>	<b>121,322</b>	<b>610,448</b>	<b>610,448</b>	<b>0</b>
Fire Management	136,310	57,405	193,715	193,715	0
BC Timber Sales	218,512	53,827	272,339	272,339	0
Crown Land Special Account	20	0	20	20	0
Forest Stand Management Fund	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-Total – Other Appropriations</b>	<b>354,842</b>	<b>111,232</b>	<b>466,074</b>	<b>466,074</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sub-Total – All Appropriations</b>	<b>843,968</b>	<b>232,554</b>	<b>1,076,522</b>	<b>1,076,522</b>	<b>0</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	(2,660)	(2,660)
<b>Total</b>	<b>843,968</b>	<b>232,554</b>	<b>1,076,522</b>	<b>1,073,862</b>	<b>(2,660)</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)</b>					
Executive and Support Services	37,343	4,997	42,340	34,542	(7,798)
Fire Management	525	0	525	1,098	573
BC Timber Sales	50,629	0	50,629	46,715	(3,914)
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,497</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>93,494</b>	<b>82,355</b>	<b>(11,139)</b>

(\$000)	Estimated	Other Authorizations <sup>1</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Other Financing Transactions</b>					
BC Timber Sales					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	104,302	0	104,302	87,610	(16,692)
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>104,302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>104,302</b>	<b>87,610</b>	<b>(16,692)</b>
Crown Land Administration					
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	6,382	0	6,382	234	(6,148)
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>(6,148)</b>
Crown Land Special Account					
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Tourism Development					
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	600	0	600	43	(557)
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>(557)</b>
Habitat Conservation Trust					
Total Receipts	(6,500)	0	(6,500)	(5,456)	1,044
Total Disbursements	6,500	0	6,500	5,456	(1,044)
<b>Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(6,500)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,500)</b>	<b>(5,456)</b>	<b>1,044</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>117,784</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>117,784</b>	<b>93,343</b>	<b>(24,441)</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>111,284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111,284</b>	<b>87,887</b>	<b>(23,397)</b>

<sup>1</sup> "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

<sup>2</sup> The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of [\$2.660] million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

## Forest Practices Board Financial Report

The Forest Practices Board spent 96% of its allocated budget in 2020/21. 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 *Forest and Range Practices Act* 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](http://www.bcfpb.ca).

### Forest Practices Board Resource Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
Total	3,861	0	3,861	3,721	(140)
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
Total	0	0	0	0	0

## Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of August 2021, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible and accountable for the following organizations which fall within the Province of British Columbia's government reporting entity:

### [Columbia Basin Trust](#)

The Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust) is mandated under the [Columbia Basin Trust Act](#) to manage Columbia Basin Trust's assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region, without relieving governments of any obligations in the region. The Trust is also mandated under the Columbia Basin Management Plan to include the people of the Basin in planning for the management of the assets and to work with others to coordinate activities related to the purpose of the Trust.

### [Columbia Power Corporation](#)

The Columbia Power Corporation mission is to efficiently develop and operate commercially viable, environmentally sound and safe power project investments for the benefit of the province and the residents of the Columbia Basin. In making power project investments, Columbia Power Corporation's goal is to support the employment, economic development and resource management objectives of the province and Columbia Basin Trust, within the constraints of a commercial enterprise.

### [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*.

### [Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board](#)

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