

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

**2021/22
Annual Service Plan Report**



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Ministry of Forests

Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Forests 2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* created in April 2021. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Act*, I am also accountable for achieving the following results for 2021/22:

- (a) Produce a strategic approach to managing B.C.'s coast for its continued sustainability and economic potential, including engagement with local Indigenous nations, local government and other stakeholders;
- (b) Submit a plan with options and implementation considerations for how to create a new ministry focused on lands and natural resources, improving on the model that exists within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development;
- (c) Bring forward changes to wildlife policy that reflect the foundations principles our government has committed to, as part of our [Together for Wildlife Strategy](#);
- (d) Continue to implement our government's partnership approach model to modernizing land use plans with Indigenous nations;
- (e) Provide a progress update on B.C.'s approach to reflecting Indigenous Peoples' history and culture in our provincial parks and wilderness areas;
- (f) Submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (e) on or before March 31, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrine Conroy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Forests
August 12, 2022

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Letter from the Minister

2021/22 was a historic and unprecedented year for our Ministry and the Province of B.C. The devastating drought, wildfires and floods required quick action and support from hundreds of Ministry staff across the province who stepped up to help with immediate response and recovery efforts.

Despite the enormous amount of work dealing with the impacts of such extreme weather events, the Ministry succeeded in advancing other key priorities to support government's overall goals of meaningful reconciliation with First Nations, addressing climate change, and building a strong economy that benefits all British Columbians.

The Ministry introduced significant changes to modernize forest policy to meet today's current challenges and opportunities. Following several years of engagement and consultation with First Nations, industry, communities and stakeholders, these changes include making progress on implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review in partnership with First Nations while developing a new approach to sustainable forest management. As well, legislative changes were made to improve forest practices in B.C., allowing the return of more benefits to people and local communities, and positioning B.C. to take full advantage of future economic opportunities through long-term planning. Changes also enable opportunities for Indigenous Nations to better participate in forest planning and decision-making. As well, steps were taken to increase the use of mass timber and encourage investment in B.C.'s forest bioeconomy.

Many other priorities were advanced, such as the restructuring of the Ministry to focus on forest management and strengthen integrated natural resource decision making at the operational level. I would like to thank my Cabinet colleague, Nathan Cullen, former Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations for his work on this, as well as advancing land-use planning in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, supporting the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on development of a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, and moving forward with wildlife policy changes in support of government's Together for Wildlife Strategy.

Finally, I would like to thank Ministry staff for their dedication, flexibility, and professionalism during an incredibly challenging year.



Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Forests
August 12, 2022

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 (the Ministry) is the Province's agency responsible for the management of forests, lands and range and integrated decision making for water, fish and wildlife, archaeology permits and authorizations and natural resource compliance and enforcement. The Ministry is also responsible for ensuring the province is well positioned to address natural hazards, including wildfire and flood management. The Ministry is working to address climate change by enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks or opportunities to reduce emissions, 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 forest policy modernization and 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 relevant statutes and associated regulations. The Ministry also supports the Minister in her governance responsibilities for the Columbia River Treaty and 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.

Ministry Restructuring

Over the course of 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, the Ministry is undergoing an organizational restructuring. As of April 1, 2022, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development was re-named as the [Ministry of Forests](#). This Ministry, which includes the [BC Wildfire Service](#), flood management and the provincial [River Forecast Centre](#), will continue to be responsible for decision-making on Crown land, as well as natural resource compliance and enforcement, archaeology permits, and water, fish and wildlife management. As well, the Province announced the creation of the new [Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship](#) in order to more effectively support land use policy and objectives that enhance economic activity, environmental sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020, [Minister Katrine Conroy's 2020 Mandate Letter](#), [Minister of State Nathan Cullen's 2020 Mandate Letter](#), and government's coordinated

response to the COVID-19 pandemic shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [2021/22 – 2023/24 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Operating Environment

The following describes the key internal and external factors which affected the Ministry's performance in 2021/22.

Extreme weather events:

B.C. faced significant challenges in 2021/22 due to climate change-related extreme weather events. The province endured record-high temperatures during the June 2021 heat dome, which created drought-like conditions, especially over southern B.C. Ongoing heat and multiple lightning storms led to a severe wildfire season, with more than 1,600 wildfires burning almost 870,000 hectares across the province, including the devastating wildfire that destroyed the Village of Lytton. At the peak of the 2021 wildfire season, nearly 4,000 personnel were involved in B.C.'s wildfire response efforts.

In November 2021, an unprecedented storm pattern of atmospheric rivers and severe weather events occurred, leading to devastating floods and landslides throughout the province. Community impacts were most acute in the lower mainland (Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission) and in the southern interior (Merritt, Princeton and numerous First Nation communities). Thousands of people were evacuated, sections of key bridges and highways were destroyed, and homes, businesses and farms were left in ruins. In response, more than 400 Ministry staff provided flood assistance support to British Columbians and communities impacted by the flood emergency. The Ministry responded with a wide range of supports, including road engineering, flood monitoring, rapid damage assessments, air support, and traffic control. Ongoing flood recovery activities led by the Ministry include re-establishing forest service/resource road and bridge access; repairing important Rail Trail infrastructure; authorizing recovery activities such as debris clean-up within watercourses; assessing and repairing ministry-owned infrastructure (such as on rangelands and recreation sites); and facilitating fish and aquatic habitat assessment and restoration projects.

Modernizing forest policy in British Columbia

B.C.'s forest sector is in an era of change – changing land uses, changing needs and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities, and a changing climate. Timber supply is decreasing and new ways to manage B.C.'s forests are needed.

In June 2021, the Province made a commitment to modernize and transform the forest sector by increasing forest sector participation, enhancing sustainability and stewardship of our forests, and ensuring ongoing support of forestry across B.C. Twenty priority actions have been outlined to create the path to modernization and ensure Indigenous peoples are meaningful partners in how B.C.'s forests are managed. Progress is being made, including significant updates to the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) (FRPA) and the [Forest Act](#) that now provide the framework and

tools that are needed. More work is underway to deliver on other actions to diversify the sector, provide more opportunities for communities and First Nations, and shift from high volume to high value by expanding opportunities for the value-added sector.

Ongoing response and economic supports related to the COVID-19 pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued through 2021/22, the Ministry delivered ongoing support to people and businesses impacted, with a focus on regional and rural communities across B.C. Under the B.C. Government's economic recovery plan, [StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan](#), the Ministry delivered the [Forest Employment Program](#), providing funding to create short term employment to help forest contractors explore new work opportunities. An updated [Bridging to Retirement program](#) was launched as part of a suite of forest industry supports for workers impacted by old growth deferral decisions across B.C. In addition, \$3 million in funding was secured to accelerate the use of mass timber in B.C., and to support jobs and employment recovery in the design, engineering, construction, and product manufacturing sectors.

The Economy

British Columbia's economic recovery strengthened in 2021. B.C.'s real GDP growth of 6.2 per cent was the second highest among provinces (behind Prince Edward Island), following a contraction of 3.4 per cent in 2020. Growth in B.C.'s real GDP was mostly driven by service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing, healthcare and social assistance, and professional, scientific and technical services. Goods-producing industries also experienced growth with gains in most sectors, led by mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction. While B.C.'s recovery broadened in 2021, it remained uneven as sectors such as accommodation and food services, and arts, entertainment and recreation have yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. B.C.'s labour market strengthened in 2021, with employment growth of 6.6 per cent while wages and salaries increased by 11.3 per cent. Consumer spending on goods remained at elevated levels and nominal retail sales posted overall growth of 12.6 per cent. Meanwhile, inflation grew throughout the year and increased by 2.8 per cent on an annual basis, largely due to supply-chain disruptions, resilient demand for goods and services, and high energy prices. Residential construction activity reached a record high in 2021, with housing starts increasing by 25.6 per cent. At the same time, home sales also reached a record high in 2021 while the average home sale price saw double-digit increases. On the external front, B.C.'s international merchandise exports grew by 36.0 per cent, reflecting a combination of the recovery in global demand and higher commodity prices amid impacts from the B.C. floods and landslides in November 2021.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

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

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

Objective 1.1: Strengthen rural community economies, support recovery, and build resilience to economic disruption

Key Highlights

- Provided rural development grants of \$500,000 each to the communities of Merritt and Princeton to support their economic recovery from the effects of climate-related events in 2021.
- Partnered with local government, business and economic development agencies and Indigenous communities to provide [Community Transition Services](#) that supported communities in mitigating and recovering from economic shocks such as a mill or mine closure and natural disasters.
- Provided rural development grants of \$15.7M to 25 new projects throughout B.C. to support economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and rural economic development in communities impacted by COVID-19.
- Ensured safe access to rural communities, residents and recreation sites by upgrading more than 30 forest service roads, as well as repairing over 60 kilometres of forest service roads and replacing 10 bridges damaged by the extreme floods in November 2021.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1 Cumulative percent of Forest Employment Program budget spent. ^{1, 2}	20% (\$3 million)	89% (\$24 million cumulative)	100% (\$27 million cumulative)	111% (\$30 million cumulative) ³	n/a	n/a

Data source: Rural Opportunities, Tenures, and Engineering Division

¹ The Forest Employment Program is implemented over the fiscal years 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22.

² Responsibility for the Forest Employment program shifted to the [Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation](#) as part of the Natural Resource Sector restructuring in February, 2022. This measure has been removed from the Ministry of Forests 2022/23-2024/25 Service Plan.

³ The Forest Employment Program received a funding uplift of \$2.0M in December 2021 to support economic mitigation of old growth deferrals announced on November 2, 2021. In addition, \$0.99M in funding was added to the Program from other funding sources.

Discussion of Results

Government is committed to supporting forestry workers and contractors impacted by mill

closures and curtailments in B.C. As part of this effort, the Province developed and administered the Forest Employment Program (FEP) beginning in 2019/20 to create short-term employment opportunities for affected contractors and workers in B.C.

This performance measure reports on the amount spent using a cumulative percentage, tracking the dollars spent to ensure all funds are allocated. This performance measure demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that the allocated funds are spent in support of B.C.'s impacted workers and communities.

In 2021/22, FEP was initially allocated \$3M and received a funding uplift of \$2M to support the mitigation of economic impacts resulting from old growth deferrals announced on November 2, 2021. In addition, FEP received \$0.99M in funding from other sources. In total, FEP allocated \$6M in 2021/22 to 98 land-based projects.

The 3-year FEP total of \$30M supported 317 projects throughout the province, with an estimated 845 short term employment opportunities created. Staff continue to collect 2021/22 employment data for the program that will now be administered by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation as part of the Natural Resource Sector restructuring effective April 1, 2022.

Objective 1.2: Revitalize the B.C. forest economy and support an innovative, sustainable forest sector

Key Highlights

- Released the [Modernizing Forest Policy in B.C. Intentions Paper](#) in June 2021, setting a new vision for B.C.'s forest sector that is diverse, competitive, and focused on sustainability.
- Introduced and passed two key pieces of provincial legislation, the *Forests Statutes Amendment Act, 2021 (Bill 23)* and the *Forest Amendment Act, 2021 (Bill 28)*. These acts are central to government's commitments to modernize forest policy by increasing local control, prioritizing forest health, and aligning B.C.'s laws with the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).
- Worked with the Ministries of [Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation](#) and [Advanced Education and Skills Training](#) to develop a [mass timber action plan](#) for B.C. that will guide the growth of the industry, create good jobs and support communities by partnering with First Nations, training new workers, modernizing regulations, and raising the profile of mass timber to markets in Canada and around the world.
- Worked with the [Ministry of Finance](#) to increase revenue oversight, specifically by adding the ability to audit or assess fee-in-lieu of domestic manufacturing payments made by companies exporting logs from provincial lands.
- 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)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target ¹	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target ²	2023/24 Target
1.2 Annual timber volume sold through BC Timber Sales.	10.3Mm ³	10.9Mm ³	5.6 Mm ³	10.8Mm ³	10.8Mm ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales Land Resource Management System

¹ Targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 were revised in the 2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan.

² In the [2022/23-2024/25 Ministry of Forests Service Plan](#), this measure was removed and replaced with a new measure: Policy Intentions implemented from the Modernizing Forest Policy initiative.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicates that [BC Timber Sales](#) (BCTS) is effective in supporting the Province's Market Pricing System, and meeting its objectives to sell its apportionment and generate net revenue. In doing so, BCTS is a key part of the Province's economic recovery supporting thousands of well-paying jobs. BCTS also directly contributes to industry sustainability and thriving Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities.

On November 2, 2021, the Province announced that it is working in partnership with First Nations throughout B.C. to defer logging of old growth, a key recommendation in the independent panel's report [A New Future for Old Forests](#), while developing a new approach to sustainable forest management. As a result, about 5.8Mm³ of timber volume previously planned for sale by BCTS in fiscal years 2021/22 and 2022/23 were deferred. In 2021/22, the impact of these old growth deferrals on BCTS timber volume sold was a shortfall of about 4.7Mm³. The impacts of wildfires, floods and wildlife contributed an additional 0.6Mm³ of lost sales.

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

Key Highlights

- Worked to address the impacts of the 2021 wildfires in British Columbia through completion of eight detailed post wildfire natural hazard risk assessments and another 25 initial reports, fire guard rehabilitation, grass seeding, salvage of fire damaged fencing, infrastructure replacement and reforestation.
- Introduced new steps to advance more cultural and prescribed burning as another tool to rebuild B.C.'s resilience to future fires.
- As part of Phase 1 of the Provincial [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#), advanced the B.C. Flood Strategy through engagement with other ministries, Indigenous peoples, local governments, the federal government and external parties towards establishing a vision, principles and priority areas for a flood-resilient B.C.
- Improved drought response coordination including piloting of an updated drought classification system after the June 2021 "heat dome" and dry summer resulted in several streams falling below the Critical Environmental Flow Threshold on Vancouver Island, south coast and southern interior areas.

- In response to the devastating floods in November 2021, worked with partner ministries and diking authorities to support ongoing disaster response and recovery activities, including approvals for temporary repairs to dikes.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals ²	2022/23 Target ³	2023/24 Target
1.3 Number of higher risk Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities ¹ actively engaged in wildfire risk reduction activities.	55%	65%	50%	71%	60%	70%

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

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

² The total number of higher risk communities (as defined above) in 2021/22 was 181. Of these, 129 were actively engaged in wildfire risk reduction activities.

³ In the 2022/23-2024/25 Ministry of Forests Service Plan, this measure was removed and replaced with a new measure: Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations.

Discussion of Results

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

In 2021/22, the Ministry continued to see an increase in the number of higher-risk communities participating in the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program since its release in 2018. Communities are also accessing a broader suite of program opportunities, going beyond education and fuel management into residential FireSmart grant and development planning for risk reduction activities. In addition, there are multiple communities that are participating over the three-year timespan of the initial funding for the CRI program.

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

- Advanced implementation of the recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review panel report "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)," by working in partnership with First Nations to defer harvesting of nearly 1.7M hectares of ancient, rare and priority large stands of old growth forests.
- Informed by consultation and engagement with First Nations, the [Forests Statutes Amendment Act, 2021](#) (Bill 23) and the *Forest Amendment Act, 2021* (Bill 28) were passed to advance new tools to support reconciliation commitments and foster alignment with the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act).
- Provided over \$3 million in Community Resiliency Investment grants to 39 First Nations in the Kamloops, Cariboo, Southeast, Prince George, Coastal and Northwest Fire Centres to support wildfire-risk-reduction initiatives and help keep communities safe.
- Signed the Hith'alis Agreement, a partnership between the B.C. government, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (KHFN) and [Coast Funds](#), which provides \$721,000 to enhance stewardship and management activities in KHFN territory in the Broughton Archipelago.
- Together with partner ministries, reached an initial agreement with the Blueberry River First Nations in response to the historic BC Supreme Court ruling which determined the Treaty 8 rights of the Blueberry River First Nations have been breached by development authorized by the province over many years. The agreement begins to support healing the land while promoting stability and certainty for existing permit holders in Treaty 8 territory.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target ¹	2023/24 Target
2.1 Delivery of planning commitments and reporting obligations related to the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> .	N/A ¹	1	1	1	TBD

Data source: Indigenous Relations Branch

¹ In the 2022/23-2024/25 Ministry of Forests Service Plan, this measure was removed and replaced with a new measure: Number of programs, policies or pieces of legislation modified in response to cooperation and

consultation with Indigenous peoples, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan.

Discussion of Results

This measure highlights the Ministry's commitment to work towards true and lasting reconciliation and strengthening partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous peoples on the management of natural resources and the land base in B.C.

The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* requires the development of an action plan to achieve alignment over time. The Ministry must provide transparency and accountability on progress made toward ensuring that the policies, legislation, and regulations of British Columbia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), and toward achieving the goals of the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#).

The Ministry achieved its 2021/22 target to deliver planning commitments and reporting obligations related to the *Declaration Act* and has taken action to increase opportunities for collaboration in the stewardship of the land, natural, and cultural resources in B.C. through partnership and consultation with First Nations. The *Forests Statutes Amendment Act, 2021* (Bill 23), which received Royal Assent in November 2021, is an example. The amendments introduced transformative shifts to forest and range planning in B.C. by establishing the framework for an approach that is more focused on sustainability and reconciliation.

Improvements made under Bill 23 amendments were informed by the introduction of the *Declaration Act* and represent a step towards bringing provincial laws into harmony, over time, with the UN Declaration. Through the development of forest landscape plans, the amendments to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) create new targeted opportunities for shared decision-making between the Province and First Nations with the inclusion of agreement provisions under section 7 of the *Declaration Act*. This is a direct response to government's commitment to implement the *Declaration Act* and are the first Section 7 related clauses to be legislated through a provincial statute. The amendments also include an alternative approach for consent-seeking in specific decision-making processes should an Indigenous Nation prefer this option.

In addition, as guided by the Modernizing Forest Policy Intentions Paper and the *Declaration Act* Action Plan, the Ministry worked with First Nations partners in all regions of British Columbia in 2021/22 to develop a long-term policy and program framework to remove barriers to reintroducing prescribed and cultural burns as a part of B.C.'s land stewardship and to apply Indigenous knowledge in a respectful and culturally appropriate way. This partnership will re-align provincial policy frameworks and re-build expertise and capacity in First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, and partners. By working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry is improving its programs, policies and legislation and advancing Indigenous involvement in Ministry operations in alignment with the Province's *Declaration Act* commitments.

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, protect wildlife habitat, and support the recovery of species at risk.

Key Highlights

- As part of its commitment to implement the [Together for Wildlife Strategy](#), the Ministry introduced Bill 14, the *Wildlife Amendment Act, 2022* to ensure greater collaboration and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the management of wildlife in the province.
- Co-funded 14 grants through the [Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation](#) for new and ongoing projects to help restore caribou habitat in British Columbia, including more than \$1.65 million to plant more trees to restore areas to a pre-disturbed state and block former roads and other linear features (e.g., seismic lines) to reduce predator access.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Baseline ¹	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1 Wildlife habitat conserved, restored or enhanced through Ministry management activities	117,960 hectares	5% increase from 2020/21 Baseline	121,964 hectares (3.4% increase from 2020/21 Baseline)	10% increase from 2020/21 Baseline	15% increase from 2020/21 Baseline

Data source: Resource Stewardship Division

¹ A baseline for 2020/21 was established in 2021/22 and is published in the [2022/23 Ministry of Forests Service Plan](#).

Discussion of Results

This performance measure demonstrates the result of Ministry efforts to support wildlife populations and help recover species at risk. The Ministry identifies opportunities to manage and protect Crown land to improve the health of the provincial land base. 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.

In 2021/22, the Ministry finalized the methodology to accurately and reliably measure the area in British Columbia that is currently conserved or restored for the benefit of wildlife habitat. A baseline of 117,960 hectares was established using 2020/21 data and will serve as the benchmark for future improvements.

Over the course of 2021/22, the Ministry also focussed on continuing to improve wildlife habitat across B.C. improving an additional 3.4% over the 2020/21 baseline. Working together with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry completed over 130 projects in eight natural resource regions across the Province in 2021/22 with the purpose of conserving, enhancing or restoring habitat for the benefit of fish and wildlife habitat in B.C. These projects are the culmination of

ongoing investments in research, inventory and monitoring work that identifies where and how enhancement and restoration activities can be undertaken to improve the management of wildlife, fish and habitat values across B.C.

Objective 3.2: Revitalize and protect B.C.'s forests, and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to benefit all British Columbians

Key Highlights

- Made changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* that build on government's vision for forest care, complementing ongoing work to preserve old growth and supporting smarter management of forests to benefit all British Columbians.
- British Columbia, together with forestry contractors, planted over 300 million trees for the second consecutive year in 2021/22 and also fertilized over 30,000 hectares of forest land, well over the 10-year historic average of 17,000 hectares per year.
- Through the [CleanBC Industry Fund](#), the Province announced 32 projects that will support the adoption of cleaner technologies and reduce emissions, including 10 efficiency improvement projects at pulp and paper mills, with an estimated emissions reduction of approximately 982,000 t/CO₂e up to 2031.
- In coordination with government's [CleanBC](#) Strategy, the Ministry released a new 2021-2025 Climate Change Strategy in November 2021, providing a vision and framework to guide the Ministry in reducing emissions, preparing for, and responding to the uncertainties and impacts of climate change on B.C.'s natural, cultural, and heritage resources.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target ³	2023/24 Target ³
3.1 Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through FCI activities ^{1,2}	2.4	2.6	3.9	1.0	TBD

Data source: Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch

¹ Emission reductions and sequestration delivered in the current fiscal year are measured in units of MtCO₂e (Millions Tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) and the cumulative benefits of each year's activities are modeled up to the year 2050.

² Targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are based on approved funding commitments and may be adjusted in future plans if additional funding is received.

Discussion of Results

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognizes that land management is critical for mitigating climate change and its impacts. With that in mind, the Province invests in activities that increase greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration and reduce GHG emissions. This includes carbon sequestration from increased fertilization, reforestation of areas impacted by natural disturbance, tree improvement, forest health treatments, and rehabilitation of roads. It also includes increased utilization of waste wood to avoid open burning in slash piles. The performance measure indicates the cumulative GHG emissions reduced by 2050 resulting from

investments in each fiscal year. Estimates are updated annually to reflect changes in program delivery, impacts of disturbances that occur after treatment, and methodological improvements.

This performance measure target was exceeded in 2021/22 primarily due to a higher number of projects being completed during the year than anticipated. Starting in 2021/22, activities are being delivered under the Forest Investment Program. Investments in 2021/22 were also supported by continuation of the federal [Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund](#) and the federal [Two Billion Trees Early Start program](#).

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Ministry's operating budget for 2021/22 was \$887.861M. Through the course of the year, the Ministry obtained access to additional authorizations totalling \$741.112M.

The Ministry's total expenditure of \$1,628.973M is a combination of base budget and other authorizations.

The Ministry's capital budget for 2021/22 was \$80.184M.

The Ministry's total capital expenditure was \$67.559M which was primarily attributable to supply chain issues (vehicles could not be manufactured and received by year end), coupled with underspending in BC Timber Sales roads activity due to a decrease in demand for harvestable timber.

Financial Summary

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Integrated Resource Operations	35,340	3,370	38,710	39,358	648
Resource Stewardship	102,338	4,685	107,023	97,887	(9,136)
Office of the Chief Forester	30,829	3,291	34,120	38,792	4,672
Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering	64,712	40,637	105,349	101,585	(3,764)
Forest Policy and Indigenous Relations	10,473	58	10,531	7,740	(2,791)
Fire Preparedness	43,343	0	43,343	39,459	(3,884)
Regional Operations	157,471	9,340	166,811	167,599	788
Executive and Support Services	73,209	7,389	80,598	94,065	13,467
Sub-Total Ministry Operations Vote	517,715	68,770	586,485	586,485	0
Fire Management	136,310	672,492	808,802	808,802	0
BC Timber Sales	233,816	(150)	233,666	233,666	0
Crown Land Special Account	20	0	20	20	0
Forest Stand Management Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total – Other Appropriations	370,146	672,342	1,042,488	1,042,488	0
Sub-Total – All Appropriations	887,861	741,112	1,628,973	1,628,973	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(13,205)	(13,205)
Total	887,861	741,112	1,628,973	1,615,768	(13,205)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	29,808	0	29,808	23,143	(6,665)
Fire Management	525	0	525	1,619	1,094
BC Timber Sales	49,851	0	49,851	42,797	(7,054)
Total	80,184	0	80,184	67,559	(12,625)

	Estimated	Other Authorizations ¹	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
BC Timber Sales					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	105,816	0	105,816	71,296	(34,520)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	105,816	0	105,816	71,296	(34,520)
Crown Land Administration					0
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	6,382	0	6,382	134	(6,248)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	6,382	0	6,382	134	(6,248)
Crown Land Special Account					0
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism Development					0
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	600	0	600	131	(469)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	600	0	600	131	(469)
Habitat Conservation Trust					0
Total Receipts	(6,500)	0	(6,500)	(5,213)	1,287
Total Disbursements	6,500	0	6,500	5,213	(1,287)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	(6,500)	0	(6,500)	(5,213)	1,287
Total Disbursements	119,298	0	119,298	76,774	(42,524)
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	112,798	0	112,798	71,561	(41,237)

¹ “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.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of (\$13.205) million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Forest Practices Board Financial Report

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, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report found at: <https://www.bcfpb.ca>.

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Total	3,861	0	3,861	3,856	(5)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of August, 2022, the Minister of Forests is responsible and accountable for the following:

[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's 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.