

Ministry of Forests

2024/25
Annual Service Plan Report
August 2025



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan published in 2024. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Parmar', written over a light blue circular stamp or seal.

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
August 8, 2025

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Letter from the Minister

As British Columbia's Minister of Forests, I am pleased to submit this 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report. This year, this Ministry advanced many important priorities that support Government's goals of building economic benefits and resilience, advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, proactively preparing for natural hazard events, and strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We continued to keep our focus on supporting a strong, resilient forest industry in B.C., taking bold and innovative action to help prepare the sector, and the communities they support, for a prosperous future. In January 2025, we launched a review of BC Timber Sales to ensure it is evolving to meet the demands of a changing marketplace and to reflect current societal expectations and announced the doubling of dedicated BC Timber Sales volume for value-added manufacturers within the Value-Added Manufacturing Program. We also formed the B.C. Softwood Lumber Advisory Council, which I chair, to step up our fight for B.C.'s interests in the softwood lumber dispute with the U.S. and protect jobs in our province.

In 2024/25, this Ministry maintained its focus and efforts to deliver an inclusive and collaborative approach to managing B.C.'s forests, including old growth forests and the rich biodiversity they support. In May 2024, together with First Nations and many others, we released the Old Growth Action Plan, titled *From Review to Action*, which reports progress towards the 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, and sets out a series of goals and actions to ensure we fulfill our commitments. We also continued to support sustainable forestry and wildfire recovery across the sector by planting more than 280 million trees in 2024 with industry, First Nations and others, reaching a significant milestone of 10 billion trees planted since reforestation programs began in B.C. in 1930.

We also maintained our focus on keeping communities safe from natural hazards. Although last year's fire season was not as severe as previous years, it was still the fourth largest in B.C.'s history, with more than 1,600 wildfires burning over one million hectares, and affecting over 16,000 properties through evacuation alerts or orders. Through the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies, we worked hard to build on the lessons learned from the devastating 2023 wildfire season and began real-time implementation of the Task Force's recommendations, prior to the 2024 season, and this work continues.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all staff in the Ministry for their professionalism and dedication to excellence in service delivery and natural resource management for our province. I am honoured to serve as your B.C. Minister of Forests, and proud of all we have accomplished.



Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
August 8, 2025

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed 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 stated in the Service Plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and the [Minister of Forests 2024 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Forests 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, supporting a robust forest sector, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is managing forests to support healthy ecosystems and working to ensure greater value for B.C.'s resources through a strong primary sector and high-value wood manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with First Nations, and is working closely with other government ministries in conducting this work.

The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the [Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#) and [Forestry Innovation Investment](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies associated with the Ministry can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Operating Environment

On behalf of all people in British Columbia, the Ministry strives to be a world leader in sustainable forestry, managing approximately 90 percent of the province's forest and rangelands. Operating in such a broad and diverse area is complex, and several factors can impact the achievement of the Ministry's goals.

Forestry is a primary economic driver in B.C., providing good jobs, and generating revenue that supports schools, communities, hospitals, housing, and other government services. In 2024, the forest sector supported over 49,000 direct jobs in communities across B.C., and generated \$5.5 billion in gross domestic product (GDP)¹. The forest industry, however, continues to experience compounding challenges associated with a declining timber supply and difficult economic conditions. A recent increase in duties amid the longstanding U.S. – Canada dispute over softwood lumber has also strained the B.C. forest industry, further hindering jobs and opportunities in the province. Despite challenges in the forest industry, the focus on expanding value-added manufacturing has offset the decline in GDP and jobs. This includes many types of wood products, and promising new products such as mass timber and modular construction could further increase the contributions of the value-added sector.

Market conditions also remained challenging for the B.C. forest sector in 2024. The demand for lumber in the U.S. and China decreased, resulting in lower lumber exports to both countries compared to 2023. However, this was offset by an increase in pulp and log exports to other trade partners, resulting in an overall increase in export value of 3 percent. Lumber exports in 2024 totalled \$4.5 billion, up 0.5 percent from 2023, and lumber export volume was down 5 percent. Overall log exports remain well under historic averages, as little as half what they were 10 years ago; it is the diversity in export partners that has increased, not the total value. Total harvest volume in 2024 was 38.9 million cubic metres including private and Crown lands, unchanged from 2023. Log prices decreased by 7.8 percent in 2024 compared to 2023.¹

The impacts of climate change also continue to affect B.C.'s forests, with the hotter and drier conditions leading to longer, more complex, and more intense fire seasons. While 2024 wasn't as severe as previous years, the province still faced more than 1,600 wildfires, which burned an estimated 1.08 million hectares of land at a cost of \$769 million for Fire Management (2024/25), making it B.C.'s fourth-largest wildfire season on record. The beginning of the 2024 wildfire season was particularly challenging, being heavily influenced by compounding, unprecedented drought conditions that allowed some wildfires from the 2023 wildfire season, the worst in B.C.'s history, to burn deep underground and persist overwinter. In Spring of 2024, about 80 overwintering fires from the 2023 fire season remained active in northeastern B.C. Although many were burning at a low intensity and in remote locations, the amount of active fire present on the landscape at the onset of the 2024 wildfire season was notable and posed unique challenges to communities and to those who responded.

¹ B.C. Stats tabulation from Statistics Canada data

Central to the Ministry's mandate and its operations is the ongoing commitment to advancing true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The Ministry recognizes that First Nations' participation in the forest sector plays a critical role towards responsibly and sustainably managing B.C.'s forests and is working with First Nations across B.C. to manage forests in new and innovative ways. This work fosters increased and lasting certainty on the land base while ensuring that the benefits of sustainable forest harvesting are realized equitably by those engaged in and impacted by the forest industry.

Economic Statement

After several years of strong growth, economic activity in British Columbia moderated in 2024 amid high interest rates, persistent price pressures, and ongoing global economic uncertainty. B.C.'s real GDP increased by 1.2 per cent in 2024 and ranked 8th (tied with Ontario) among the provinces following growth of 2.4 per cent in 2023. Last year, economic growth was driven by B.C.'s service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance services; transportation and warehousing; public administration; and educational services. Output for goods-producing industries declined in 2024 due to lower construction and manufacturing activity, which was partly offset by growth in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction; utilities; and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors.

B.C.'s labour market continued to expand in 2024. Employment in B.C. increased by 66,100 jobs (+2.3 per cent), supported by high immigration, and wages and salaries rose by 6.3 per cent. B.C.'s unemployment rate averaged 5.6 per cent in 2024, up from 5.2 per cent in 2023 as strong population and labour force growth outpaced job gains. Elevated interest rates, rising construction costs, and ongoing labour shortages weighed on the construction sector last year. Housing starts totaled 45,828 units in 2024, down 9.2 per cent from the record high in 2023, but remained above the ten-year historical average. B.C. home sales increased by 2.1 per cent and the average home sale price increased by 1.0 per cent compared to 2023. Price pressures in B.C. continued to broadly moderate last year, but shelter price growth remained elevated. Overall, B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 2.6 per cent in 2024, down from 3.9 per cent in 2023. Despite strong population growth, nominal retail sales increased by just 0.6 per cent in 2024, following a 0.1 per cent decline in 2023. On the trade front, weak global demand and lower commodity prices (primarily natural gas and coal prices) last year contributed to a 2.7 per cent decline in B.C.'s merchandise exports relative to 2023 despite increased exports to non-U.S. destinations including China, South Korea, and Australia.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2025/26 – 2027/28, please see the [2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#).

Goal 1: Economic Benefits and Resilience for All People in British Columbia

Objective 1.1: Support a strong economy and strengthen forest policy to create the conditions for an innovative, diverse and sustainable forest sector

This objective directs Ministry efforts towards creating the conditions for a vibrant, innovative forest sector in B.C. that supports workers and communities. Through specific policy changes and initiatives, the Ministry continues to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the sector by leading a forest sector transition to grow forest sector participation and economic resilience in the province.

Key results

- Continued to support B.C.'s forest sector and value-added manufacturing by committing to double the BC Timber Sales (BCTS) volume auctioned dedicated to value-added wood manufacturers, from 10 to 20 percent (effective April 1, 2025), and beginning a comprehensive review of BCTS by an expert external task force.
- In partnership with the [BC Council of Forest Industries](#), BC Value-Added Wood Coalition and [BC First Nations Forestry Council](#), released the [Value-Added Accelerators Shared Action Plan](#) to continue to grow value-added manufacturing in B.C.
- The [Forestry Worker Supports and Community Resiliency Council](#) completed its mandate with the delivery of a report to the Minister, providing recommendations to enhance existing programs and develop new initiatives supporting forestry workers and rural economic resiliency. The Council has since been dissolved.
- The Pulp Fibre Supply Task Force, which includes senior representatives from the seven pulp companies and the Ministry, achieved its three million cubic metre goal of accessing residual fibre from logging and low-value timber in 2024, including 1.2 million cubic metres of fire-affected wood.
- Together with partners in academia, research organizations, industry, First Nations, and the federal government, completed 46 projects to advance the forest bioeconomy and strengthen the bioproducts manufacturing sector in B.C., including 29 projects

completed in direct partnership with Indigenous communities through the [Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program](#).

- Convened the B.C. Softwood Lumber Advisory Council to focus on strategies to address the impacts of the softwood lumber dispute with the U.S., and continue to advocate for B.C.'s interests.
- Continued to defend B.C.'s interests through the sixth administrative review of the countervailing duty order and dispute settlement panels under the [Canada – United States – Mexico agreement](#).

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry continues to support a strong future for the forest industry in B.C., and is taking action to increase the value of every tree in B.C.'s forests, promote the comprehensive utilization of wood fibre, minimize waste by optimizing the use of post-harvest residuals, and expand opportunities for the value-added sector and B.C.'s bioeconomy.

In 2024/25 the Ministry continued its focus on supporting B.C.'s forestry sector to overcome challenges and be prepared for a stronger, more resilient future. In January 2025, the Ministry launched a review of BC Timber Sales which, through an expert task force, will provide recommendations on key priorities for the sector. Engagement with First Nations, industry, and other interest holders is underway to inform recommendations.

This year, the Ministry worked to improve fibre access for secondary manufacturers by creating expanded opportunities for the value-added sector of the forest economy. The Ministry continued work on the [Value-Added Accelerators](#) initiative with partners to grow value-added manufacturing in B.C., including the release of the Value-Added Accelerator Shared Action Plan. Specific actions include: supporting in-person sessions in Quesnel and Nelson, hosting a joint booth at the [Global Buyers Mission](#), supporting the Robson North Thompson Forestry Coalition regional fibre flow forum, and developing a baseline of data of existing value-added manufacturers and their fibre needs.

The Ministry continued its support for the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth's [BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund](#), which is helping forestry companies to grow and stabilize their operations and maximize fibre utilization, while producing more made-in-B.C. engineered wood products. The Ministry is also increasing opportunities for value-added manufacturers by committing to double the dedicated BCTS volume auctioned for value-added manufacturers within the [Value-Added Manufacturing Program](#), and by expanding the eligibility criteria to enable groups of value-added manufacturers to bid together within this program.

The Ministry convened a wildfire salvage leadership committee – bringing together specialists across government, industry and BC First Nations Forestry Council – which has developed key recommendations to improve the salvage of wildfire-damaged timber following wildfires. One of the key outcomes from this group was the [Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance](#) that supports a more consistent and collaborative post wildfire salvage and recovery. [Post-Wildfire Fibre Recovery Guidance](#) was also released to address the

longer-term and non-economic fibre component of post-wildfire timber salvage and recovery of wildfire impacted areas.

The Ministry is creating new opportunities, encouraging innovation and supporting new market development for B.C.'s forest products through its Forest Industry Innovation Research Program and Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program, which include using residual and under-utilized forest resources to make new and innovative products that create good local jobs while increasing the participation of First Nations in the forestry economy. In 2024/25, 46 projects were completed across B.C., supporting forest sector diversification and contributing to the outcomes in the Province's [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#).

The Ministry continues to advance B.C.'s interests in the long-standing softwood lumber dispute with the United States. In January 2025, the Ministry formed the B.C. Softwood Lumber Advisory Council which brings together leaders from the forestry sector and labour, alongside experts on U.S. relations and officials from the B.C. Government. The Council advises the Minister of Forests on the dispute and will help the Province advocate to the federal government as these duties continue to take their toll on B.C.'s forestry sector.

Objective 1.2: Integrated, coordinated and timely delivery of authorizations services to citizens, clients and businesses

This objective promotes effective management of service delivery processes in order to ensure that the Ministry is supporting a strong economy and providing public services that British Columbians can rely on.

Key results

- Worked to improve the timeliness, efficiency and effectiveness of authorizations services and natural resource decisions in accordance with the requirements of service users and Ministry standards.
- Through the Ministry's [Natural Resource Officer Service](#)², completed over 3,000 inspections and managed 300 ongoing investigations to ensure that B.C.'s valued cultural and natural resources are safeguarded for all people in B.C.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry delivers forest, range, and archaeology authorizations services and decisions that support reconciliation with First Nations, a strong economy and world leading environmental standards. In 2024, the Ministry received 11,300 authorization applications and rendered 9,900 decisions, making authorizations services an integral part of the Ministry's public facing activities. The Ministry continued to strive to improve the timeliness and efficiency of its authorizations process, including meeting the internal performance target of issuing 90 percent of cutting permits within 40 business days.³

² In January 2025 the Compliance and Enforcement Branch was renamed the Natural Resource Officer Service.

³ Targets reflect net processing time, calculated in days from when a cutting permit application is received by the Ministry to when it is issued, and deducts time when an application is on hold and time for First Nations consultation.

Through investigative enforcement, the Ministry's Natural Resource Officer Service ensures that natural resource legislation and associated decisions are upheld, protecting B.C.'s environmental and cultural resources, economic and social interests, public health and safety, as well as government revenues. In addition to the many inspections and ongoing investigations in 2024/25, the work of the Natural Resource Officer Service resulted in 20 determinations and court decisions for offenses including unauthorized old growth harvest, criminal mischief, arson, and other activities causing wildfires.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target ²	2024/25 Actual
1.1 Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-add sector ¹	546,782 m ³	750,000 m ³	606,000 m ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales

¹PM 1.1 targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as 670,000 m³ and 680,000 m³, respectively.

²The 2024/25 target for Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-added sector was 707,000 m³, calculated as 10% of the approved rationalized apportionment of 7,074,000 m³. This was a change from the estimated target of 750,000 m³, published in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan.

This performance measure tracks the volume of timber offered at auction to the value-added sector, providing critical data to the Ministry to guide decisions about how to better support the growth of this sector.

In 2024/25, the actual timber volume auctioned for the value-added sector totaled 606,000 m³, comprised of 137,000 m³ from Category 2 and 469,000 m³ from Category 4. Several factors impacted BCTS' ability to achieve the targeted volume including land base constraints, maximizing old growth protection, and advancing reconciliation with First Nations.

Although BCTS did not meet its target, the amount of annual timber volume offered to the value-added sector increased over last year. In 2024/25 there was strengthened interest from Value-Added registrants for Category 2 and 4 volumes, enhanced collaboration and engagement with First Nations, and expanded opportunities to advertise Category 4 sales, all of which contributed to the results.

Goal 2: Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.

This objective is directed at implementing activities that would result in economic development for First Nations communities and people. The Ministry remains committed to advancing

meaningful reconciliation, and to share the sustainable management of the province's natural resources with First Nations.

Key results

- Collaborated with First Nations to enhance forest management by implementing regulations under [Bill 41 \(Forest Statutes Amendment Act, 2023\)](#) to increase discretion in decision-making on cutting and road permits. This purposeful shift enables B.C. to better consider Aboriginal Interests in operational decision making.
- As of February 2025, First Nations hold approximately 19.6 percent of the provincial [Allowable Annual Cut](#) (AAC), with 14 percent issued in replaceable tenures. This reflects substantive progress toward the Province's goal of 20 percent replaceable tenure holdings.
- Completed capital improvements on seven key [forest service roads](#) that provide critical access to First Nations communities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.
- Advanced the [Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project](#), undertaking research and policy analysis based on feedback heard through engagement with First Nations and stakeholders received to date.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry continues to advance implementation of the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#), and is committed to action to expand opportunities for First Nations to participate and benefit from forestry and the forest economy.

In 2024/25, progress continued to advance several priorities to advance reconciliation and the Ministry's Declaration Act Action Plan actions. This included work to better protect Indigenous heritage sites through transforming the [Heritage Conservation Act](#).

This year the Ministry improved access to First Nations communities through forest service road and bridge improvements. In addition to supporting community access, the upgraded forest service roads will also enhance access for industry stakeholders operating in and around these communities and contribute to expanded recreational opportunities for all users of these areas. In total, the Ministry completed improvements to 29 km of forest service roads and replaced or repaired 23 major structures (bridges, major culverts or retaining walls) in 2024/25.

The Ministry's Natural Resource Officer Service, together with the Ministry of Environment and Parks, hosted Guardian training sessions for 10 First Nations in 2024/25, further integrating inspectional and project work with various Indigenous Partners across the province. Sessions included the facilitation of a customized verbal Judo certification course; notetaking; observe; record and report techniques; situational awareness; and contact and cover skills, including scenario-based training. The Ministry recognizes the important role of Guardians to advance stewardship and care for lands, waters and natural resources, among many other cultural responsibilities within their territories.

Objective 2.2: In partnership with First Nations, implement a new vision for forest management that prioritizes B.C.'s ecosystem health and community resiliency

The Ministry recognizes and honours First Nations' rights and title on their traditional territories and continually seeks opportunities to partner with First Nations communities to ensure forest management practices benefit from Indigenous stewardship, values, and knowledge.

Key results

- Completed and released the Old Growth Action Plan, titled [From Review to Action](#), as a response and progress report on addressing the 14 recommendations of the [Old Growth Strategic Review](#).
- Extended [temporary protections](#) in the Fairy Creek watershed until September 30, 2026, allowing discussions on the long-term management of the Fairy Creek watershed to continue in partnership with Pacheedaht First Nation.
- In partnership with Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, established 10 new conservancies, including more than 76,000 hectares of new conservation areas in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, to support reconciliation, conservation of old-growth forests and healthy ecosystems.
- Advanced the co-development of a [cultural and prescribed fire](#) program with First Nations by making amendments to the [Wildfire Act Wildfire Regulation](#), removing barriers to Indigenous uses of fire and created new opportunities for partnerships between the Province and First Nations to carry out cultural and prescribed fire initiatives.
- Completed a total of 48 prescribed burn projects and treated over 3,400 hectares of land. The majority of these projects were either led or co-developed with First Nations.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry is committed to finding new and innovative approaches to enhance forest ecosystem health and resiliency throughout the province and is working to achieve full partnership with First Nations in the management of B.C.'s forests through progress on a number of initiatives.

In May 2024, together with First Nations, interested parties, and others, the Ministry finalized and published the Old Growth Action Plan, titled From Review to Action. The Old Growth Action Plan reports steps already taken to advance the recommendations in the Old Growth Strategic Review, and it provides a path forward towards a new kind of active stewardship in B.C. through a series of goals and actions. Work to advance the goals in the Old Growth Action Plan are well underway, and all associated actions are in various phases of implementation.

In collaboration with First Nations partners, the Ministry continued to expand the use of cultural and prescribed fire in B.C., both as an important Indigenous practice and as a tool for

land stewardship and wildfire mitigation. After formal consultation throughout 2023 with First Nations, and engagement sessions facilitated by the BC First Nations Forestry Council, the Province made amendments to the [Wildfire Act](#) and Regulation to remove barriers to Indigenous uses of fire. These amendments have created new opportunities for partnerships between the Province and First Nations to carry out cultural and prescribed fire initiatives.

The Ministry also delivered B.C.'s first prescribed fire training exchange in partnership with ʔaąam (Ktunaxa Nation), [First Nations' Emergency Services Society](#), and the Southeast Fire Centre. The 12-day pilot trained 33 participants from 13 communities/agencies, expanding capacity for collaborative prescribed burning.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
2.1 Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations ^{1,2,3}	3	23	40	44

Data source: BC Wildfire Service prescribed fire provincial project data tracking spreadsheet

¹PM 2.1 targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as 60 and 85, respectively.

²"Cultural and prescribed fire" is defined by the Wildfire Regulation as Resource Management Open Fire and includes the use of fire by government for purposes established in section 18 of the *Wildfire Act*; "Developed by a First Nations" is a BC Wildfire Service approved independently developed First Nations' burn plan; and "Co-developed with a First Nation" is a First Nation actively engaged in project development, a First Nation is a burn plan co-proponent, or where cultural burning is the primary objective.

³The 2024/25 reporting period for this performance measure is January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

This performance measure reports on the number of approved burn plans developed by or co-developed with First Nations. Tracking partnership-based burn plans allows the Ministry to assess its performance in relationship development, partnership opportunities, and capacity development which are the foundation of program growth.

In 2024/25, a total of 44 projects developed or co-developed with First Nations were completed across all six Fire Centres. The Ministry collaborated with 18 First Nations, with projects targeting all seven legally defined objectives including wildfire risk reduction and purposes identified by Indigenous Peoples.

Amendments to the wildfire regulations increased opportunities to partner with First Nations on cultural and prescribed fire projects in 2024/25. Furthermore, a dedicated effort to foster partnerships with First Nations and Local Governments also supported a significant increase in the number of projects being planned, burns implemented, as well as training opportunities being developed.

Goal 3: Proactive and Collaborative Natural Hazard Management

Objective 3.1: Improve community resiliency and reduce wildfire risk

This objective aims to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires through the implementation of a risk-assessment based approach, including incorporation of Indigenous values, knowledge and practices.

Key results

- Expanded the [FireSmart BC](#) program and worked with the [Union of BC Municipalities](#) to prioritize improving the accessibility of their initiatives by streamlining administrative requirements and offering better long-term certainty for communities working to strengthen wildfire resilience.
- Launched new and improved wildfire preparedness tools, including redevelopment of the [BC Wildfire mobile and web application](#) to help people and communities stay informed and be prepared for wildfire events.
- Through the [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports](#) program, communities across B.C. received support to engage in FireSmart activities through staffing, education, community development, emergency planning and fuel management projects.
- Completed over 5,700 hectares of wildfire risk reduction treatments around communities, critical infrastructure and areas of ecological or cultural importance through the [Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction](#) program.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

In collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, the BC Wildfire Service has launched new and improved preparedness tools to help people plan and stay informed, including redevelopment of the BC Wildfire mobile and web application, which provide users with timely and accurate information on wildfires across the province.

The Ministry is also helping communities reduce wildfire risk and recover from the impacts of wildfire through the FireSmart BC program. The number of recognized FireSmart neighbourhoods grew from 205 (2023) to 250 (2024), and the total number of FireSmart BC Coordinators grew from 66 (2023) to 129 (2024). Six communities directly affected by the 2023 wildfire season were supported through FireSmart BC recovery funding. In addition, a [FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations](#) was introduced to increase regional district community capacity, and build partnerships for wildfire response through training and purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment for local community members in areas that do not fall under structural fire protection.

Objective 3.2: Deliver excellence in natural hazard incident management and support strong, healthy land-based recovery

This objective focuses on the Ministry's efforts to improve natural hazard incident management and wildfire land-based recovery, which includes preparing for and responding to wildfire and natural hazard incidents, and repairing the land base affected by a wildfire.

Key results

- In partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, led real-time implementation of the recommendations and advice of the [Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies](#).
- Continued to make strategic investments in tools and technology to safely and effectively manage wildfires in B.C. such as predictive software to better predict how wildfires behave, and night-vision imaging systems to strengthen the Ministry's ability to anticipate and rapidly respond to wildfire events.
- Developed a [wildfire collaborative partnership guide](#) to support strengthened local involvement and capacity in wildfire response.
- Partnered with [Thompson Rivers University](#) to enhance training and certification opportunities and create new career development pathways for current and future wildland firefighters.
- Supported 28 [Ecological Wildfire Recovery](#) related projects across the province – in partnership with First Nations, government, industry, and other interested parties at the local and regional level – to develop objectives at a landscape scale to address ecological, social, cultural, and economic values disturbed by wildfire.
- Together with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, the Ministry's Natural Resource Officer Service provided immediate technical and enforcement support and ongoing 24-hour monitoring in response to a major landslide event on July 30, 2024, which completely blocked the Chilcotin River.
- Installed 50 post-wildfire natural hazard signs in areas impacted by the 2023 wildfires to ensure public awareness of the risks in these areas, particularly during high precipitation events, which could trigger flooding, debris flows, rock falls and slides.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

In 2024/25, the Ministry continued its efforts to respond to and recover from natural hazard events, including wildfire.

In October 2023, the Province launched the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies to develop action-oriented recommendations on enhancing mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in B.C. following the devastating 2023 wildfire season. The Ministry began real-time implementation of the Task Force's recommendations immediately, in advance of the 2024 season, and this work continues.

The BC Wildfire Service also continued to focus on [wildfire recovery and rehabilitation](#) to mitigate the damage to forest ecosystems from wildfire suppression activities and from wildfires themselves. In 2024/25, the BC Wildfire Service expanded the program which covers [wildfire suppression rehabilitation](#), post wildfire natural hazard risk analysis and now, ecological wildfire recovery. As of March 31, 2025, approximately 61 percent of the 5,400 km of fire guard that was built during the 2023 fire season has been rehabilitated, as well as 43 percent of the 2,300 km built during the 2024 fire season. Implementing permanent wildfire rehabilitation staff around the province and adding provincial coordination and Geographic Information System (GIS) capacity have also contributed to productivity. Additionally, 28 ecological wildfire recovery projects were launched and 10 were completed.

The Ministry is undertaking initiatives to enhance and expand wildland firefighter recruitment. In April 2024, a first of its kind wildfire training and education centre was announced in partnership with Thompson Rivers University, which will offer comprehensive wildfire training and education. A series of enhancements have also been made to the wildland firefighter recruitment strategy to improve the application process for rural and remote communities, including expanding First Nations bootcamps, extending the hiring period for new recruits, and encouraging applicants to indicate desired work locations.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Actual ³	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
3.1 Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure (ha) ^{1,2}	3,000	n/a	5,000	4,959

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹PM 3.1 targets for both 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as 9,000 hectares.

²Includes fuel management activities completed through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), as reported in the [FESBC 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan](#).

³This performance measure was new to the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan.

This performance measure reports the area of completed fuel management activities with a primary objective of reducing wildfire risk. The Community Resiliency Investment program funds wildfire risk reduction activities around at-risk communities and critical infrastructure through two streams: Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction and FireSmart Community Funding and Supports. The Forest Enhancement Society of BC also supports wildfire mitigation through supports for land managers.

In 2024/25, wildfire risk reduction treatments were completed on close to 5,000 hectares across the Province. Fuel treatment activities include thinning, pruning, piling, burning or chipping of fuels, and through planned prescribed burning. Several factors contributed to results, including an expansion of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program criteria, which allowed more activities and projects to be eligible for funding to support wildfire risk reduction.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Actual ³	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
3.2 Rehabilitation plans created for wildfires that require rehabilitation treatment ^{1,2}	80%	n/a	90%	100%

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹PM 3.2 targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as 95% and 100%, respectively.

²This measure has been removed from the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan.

³This performance measure was new to the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan.

This performance measure was introduced to the 2024/25 Service Plan to track the Ministry's creation of wildfire rehabilitation plans in areas affected by wildfire suppression activities, including creation of fireguards, modified roads, trails, and handguards constructed during wildfire response. The amount of fire suppression activities necessary can range from 100 to 5,000 km of disturbances annually, and rehabilitation project planning and completion is a year-round effort.

In 2024/25, a more proactive approach was taken to developing wildfire rehabilitation project plans, resulting in plans being created and approved for all required rehabilitation work. These plans will guide treatments that will address detrimental impacts to the land during wildfire suppression, while promoting ecosystem resiliency.

Goal 4: Sustainable Forest Stewardship for All Values

Objective 4.1: Revitalize and protect B.C.'s forests, and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

Through this objective, the Ministry is advancing towards its goal of sustainable natural resource management. It is taking steps to protect B.C.'s forests by fostering climate change mitigation innovative management activities, transforming forest policies to include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and strengthening the resiliency of B.C.'s forests to the effects of climate change.

Key results

- Together with forestry contractors, planted almost 52 million trees and applied nutrients to over 30,000 hectares of forest through the Ministry's [Forest Investment Program](#).
- Advanced the goals and priorities of the [Future Forest Ecosystems Centre 2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#), focussing on integrating climate change risks into ecosystem management in British Columbia to support the Ministry's legal obligations to account for climate change risks under the [Forest Statutes Amendment Act, 2021](#).
- Initiated the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework to integrate climate adaptation into Ministry policy development.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry continues to strengthen the resiliency of B.C.'s forests and range through investments in forest management activities.

Through the Forest Investment Program, the Ministry is investing in reforestation of areas impacted by natural disturbances, and the application of nutrients to forest stands as climate mitigation strategies. In 2024/25, the Ministry planted approximately 52 million trees, an increase of 10 million over last year. The Ministry also applied nutrients to 30,000 hectares. The benefits of both of these activities equates to an estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) benefit of 2.1 million tCO₂e when cumulatively measured to 2050, or the equivalent of taking 490,000 gasoline powered passenger vehicles off the road for one year.

In 2024/25, tree planting efforts were focussed on wildfire damaged areas to maximize the co-benefits including forest resiliency, wildlife habitat improvements, increased timber supply, improved hydrological recovery, reduced soil erosion, and employment. Trees planted as part of silviculture road rehabilitation resulted in the rehabilitation of 106 km of roads which benefited species at risk such as caribou. Ten thousand whitebark pine seedlings were planted to help restore rare subalpine ecosystems. Tree planting work also brings economic benefits, providing over 600 seasonal job opportunities.

BCTS also supports reforestation in B.C., as well as communities and local jobs, through issuing approximately 40 tree planting contracts to small business operators throughout the province every year. In 2024, BCTS marked a significant milestone, planting more than one billion trees since the organization was founded in 2003.

The Ministry continued work to ensure that climate change considerations are included in natural resource management planning and decision-making, such as timber supply reviews, seed supply, species selection and composition for plantations and reforestation, silviculture and stand management. In 2024/25, the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework was initiated, with actions and recommendations being considered to advance the Ministry's climate strategies, policies, priorities and guidance, and to guide legislative and regulation changes to enable the consideration of climate risks and data in decision-making, in collaboration with First Nations and interest holders. In addition, [BC Timber Sales Climate Change Action Strategy](#) was updated in 2024 to foster the adoption of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into BCTS' business processes, and to support certification to the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Sustainable Forest Management Standard](#).

The Ministry continued to incorporate climate adaptation and mitigation measures into its core operations. It provided guidance documents and materials on climate change adaptation measures, risk assessment, mitigation, and action planning to inform strategic planning, and statutory decision-making. Additionally, training and educational resources, and outreach materials on climate fundamentals and action planning are continually being developed and disseminated to staff and stakeholders to enhance engagement and capacity building.

Objective 4.2: Deliver effective and collaborative forest and range management and planning to support ecosystem health

The Ministry is working to implement a transformative approach to forest stewardship in B.C. with First Nations that supports healthy ecosystems, resilient communities and sustainable economies.

Key results

- Completed amendments to the [Forest and Range Practices Act Forest Planning and Practices Regulation](#) which brings the [Forest Landscape Planning](#) framework into effect and enables a licensee-led [Forest Operations Plan](#) to translate the direction of the forest landscape plan into on-the-ground operations.
- Launched a new [Forest Operations Map](#) online portal for the public to review and comment on proposed cutblocks and forestry roads throughout B.C.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry continues to partner with First Nations governments, communities, and interested parties to develop forest landscape plans in B.C. As of March 31, 2025, there are 15 forest landscape planning tables underway, including three new planning tables initiated with First Nations in 2024/25. Specific progress this year included the conclusion of one of four pilot projects on a proposed forest landscape plan after considering input received through public and stakeholder engagement. The other three pilot projects also progressed with the completion of scenario modelling and plan development. In addition, the Bulkley-Morice Forest Landscape Planning project completed public engagement to identify community values and interests to be addressed in the plan, with approximately 100 people attending open houses and 300 survey responses received.

As part of amendments made to the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) to improve forest and range operational planning and practices, the Ministry introduced a new Forest Operations Map (FOM) online portal. The FOM portal allows for public engagement and comments on proposed cutblocks and forestry roads throughout B.C. As of March 31, 2025, over 150 Forest Licensees have used the FOM portal to post Forest Operations Maps on which over 1,000 public comments were received.

Objective 4.3: Deliver exceptional research and scientific analysis to sustainably manage B.C.'s forests and natural resources

This objective relates to the Ministry's role of conducting [science-based research](#) and analysis that informs the development of policies and regulations that guide sustainable natural resource management and decisions.

Key results

- Invested in 132 research projects focussing on water, timber, ecosystem stewardship, bioeconomy, species and habitat, and ecosystem health and disturbance, to help inform forest operations, policy, and decision-making across B.C.
- Treated about 37,500 hectares of forest in Thompson Okanagan and Cariboo areas for spruce budworm, achieving 90 percent budworm mortality on all treatment sites, contributing to increased forest productivity and resilience, while reducing wildfire risk.
- Completed preliminary mapping of forests along Highway 16 between Prince Rupert to Oliver Creek to identify forests that reduce avalanche, debris flow, and landslide risks. This will aid decision-makers in preserving areas from harvest to maintain public safety along major transportation routes.
- Concluded 30-year measurements at the [Opax Mountain Silvicultural Systems Study](#) to assess the effects of patch cut size on forest stand regeneration, providing valuable long-term data to inform forest management practices.
- The [Future Forest Ecosystems Centre's](#) research-based projects provided climate data and forecasting tools to support forest practitioners, planners, and policymakers to integrate climate change considerations into their operational plans.
- Together with the Climate Action Secretariat and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, signed a new [Atmospheric Benefit Agreement](#) with the Ahousaht First Nation, enabling the deposition of atmospheric benefit rights and the development of a future Forest Carbon [Offset Protocol](#) project.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry continues to invest in scientific research and analysis which play a crucial role in providing timely, relevant, high-quality, science-based information to support complex resource management decisions and policies.

In 2024/25, Ministry researchers, in collaboration with universities and First Nations, are studying how commercial thinning and partial harvesting creates complex stand structures to meet socioeconomic objectives in the region, guiding operational practices about uneven-aged stocking standards for central/northern B.C. forests, and providing information on long-term carbon and timber supply outcomes.

Also, this year, Ministry researchers on the Coast, in collaboration with N̓anwak̓olas member Nations, started work on the first experimental harvest with forest licensees and Ha-ma-yas Guardians for the Coastal Experimental Watersheds project. This work will develop forest harvest practice guidance and inform landscape planning to meet social and ecological objectives of the [Great Bear Land Use Order](#).

As of March 31, 2025, there were five active Forest Carbon Offset Protocol Projects listed on the [BC Carbon Registry](#), which provides a set of instructions on how to quantify GHG emissions reductions from a project. The Ministry of Forests engaged in cross-ministry policy

development and negotiations with First Nations to advance forest carbon offset project development using the new 2024 BC Forest Carbon Offset Protocol.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through forest investment activities (MtCO ₂ e) ^{1,2,3,4}	2.2	2.0	2.1

Data source: Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch

¹PM 4.1 targets for both 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as 2.0.

²Emission 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.

³Targets are based on funding commitments and may be adjusted in future plans.

⁴This measure has been removed from the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan.

Through the Forest Investment Program, the Ministry invests in activities that increase GHG sequestration and reduce GHG emissions. This includes carbon sequestration from forest nutrient management, afforestation and reforestation of areas impacted by natural and human caused disturbances, tree improvement, forest health treatments, and reforestation/rehabilitation of roads.

This performance measure projects the cumulative GHG emissions reduced or sequestered by 2050 as a result of this year's investments. Estimates are updated annually to reflect changes in program delivery, impacts of disturbances that occur after treatment, and methodological improvements.

In 2024/25, a GHG benefit of 2.1 MtCO₂e was modelled from the Forest Investment Program reforestation program, and reflects funding from the federal [2 Billion Tree Program](#) combined with the added carbon sequestration of the Forest Investment Program Nutrient Management program.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
4.2 Number of forest landscape plans initiated with First Nations through government-to-government agreements ^{1,2}	8	3	3

Data source: Office of the Chief Forester

¹PM 4.1 targets for both 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan as TBD.

²Four pilot projects were initiated in 2020/21, and work continues to complete those projects.

This performance measure tracks the Ministry's efforts to successfully engage with First Nations on this initiative, which is a first critical step towards implementing forest landscape plans across B.C. Priorities for new projects are identified in collaboration with First Nations partners and natural resource sector ministries, and are considered initiated once a government-to-government agreement has reached a project Terms of Reference.

In 2024/25 three new forest landscape plans were initiated in collaboration with First Nations in each area – one on Vancouver Island and two in the Kootenays.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3,690	5,256	8,946	11,686	2,740
Integrated Resource Operations	58,468	569	59,037	60,575	1,538
Office of the Chief Forester	131,111	21,484	152,595	149,599	(2,996)
Timber, Range and Economics	11,781	731	12,512	10,343	(2,169)
Fire Preparedness	46,992	906	47,898	42,234	(5,664)
Regional Operations	102,551	3,390	105,941	94,599	(11,342)
Executive and Support Services	59,400	5,432	64,832	82,725	17,893
Fire Management	232,736	536,664	769,400	769,400	0
BC Timber Sales Account	203,941	8,725	212,666	212,666	0
Sub-total	850,670	583,157	1,433,827	1,433,827	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(33,717)	(33,717)
Total	850,670	583,157	1,433,827	1,400,110	(33,717)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	55,448	0	55,448	51,017	(4,431)
Fire Management	16,000	0	16,000	16,276	276
BC Timber Sales Account	54,095	0	54,095	32,807	(21,288)
Total	125,543	0	125,543	100,100	(25,443)
Other Financing Transactions					
BC Timber Sales Account Disbursements	106,017	0	106,017	60,626	(45,391)
BC Timber Sales Account Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	106,017	0	106,017	60,626	(45,391)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganization.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$33.717 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of August 2025, the Minister of Forests is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#)

The purpose of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) is to identify and fund projects that advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.

[Forestry Innovation Investment](#)

Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) is B.C.'s market development agency for forest products. FII helps to develop and diversify markets for B.C. forest products to ensure the forest sector continues to be a key contributor to the provincial economy.

[Forest Practices Board](#)

The Forest Practices Board provides independent oversight of tenure holders' and government ministries' compliance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Wildfire Act through monitoring and reviewing forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands.

[Managed Forest Land Council](#)

The Managed Forest Council is an independent provincial agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. The objective of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land in B.C., taking into account the social, environmental, and economic benefits of those practices.

[Timber Export Advisory Committee](#)

The Timber Export Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Minister regarding the export of timber originating from lands within British Columbia that is regulated for manufacture in British Columbia by the Government of British Columbia.

[Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust](#)

The Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) was created on May 21, 2024, by the Trustee of the Coastal Logging Equipment Support Trust (CLEST) after the purpose of the CLEST was completed. The purpose of the WREST is to help eligible contractors purchase specified equipment that can be used to reduce fire risk by harvesting understory material, that, if left unharvested, would be potential for new wildfires.

Appendix B: Forest Practices Board

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: www.bcfpb.ca.

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Total	3,991	171	4,162	4,149	13

Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in the Minister of Forests' 2022 and 2024 Mandate Letters.

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
Improve timing and transparency of permitting processes to support sustainable economic development while maintaining high levels of environmental protection, aligned with cross-government work on permitting led by the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This mandate letter priority is in progress.• The priority to ensure prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits has carried forward to the Minister of Forests' January 2025 Mandate Letter.• For more information, see Objective 1.1.
Continue work to strengthen and improve forest policy and legislation to ensure a competitive, sustainable future for communities, Indigenous Peoples, workers, and companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This mandate letter priority is complete.• Priority policy work is complete on this commitment; however, the Ministry continues its ongoing focus to strengthen and improve forest policy and legislation.• For more information, see Objective 1.1, Objective 2.2, Objective 4.1, Objective 4.2, and Objective 4.3.

2022 and 2024 Mandate Letter Priorities	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Support the Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation to strengthen and improve the Residual Fibre Utilization Policy to increase fibre security and to address the urgent demand from secondary users and value-added manufacturers for sustainable cost-effective fibre supply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is substantively complete. • The Ministry reviewed the Residual Fibre Utilization Policy, and no significant new policy initiatives in the Interior were identified. A revised waste and residue survey methodology is being developed for the Coast with implementation planned for Fall 2025. The outcome of the review also resulted in the development of other additional policy changes to improve access to timber damaged by wildfire. Fibre utilization remains a high priority for the Ministry. • For more information, see Objective 1.1.
<p>Accelerate the transition of our forestry sector from high-volume to high value production, with fewer raw log exports and more innovative wood products manufactured locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1.
<p>Explore options for enhancing BC Timber Sales to support high value production, dedicating a specific portion of the annual allowable cut to producers creating new jobs for workers in BC, and supporting mills to transition to second and third growth trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is complete. • For more information, see Objective 1.1 and Performance Measure 1.1.

2022 and 2024 Mandate Letter Priorities	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>With support from the Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review and actions to protect important old growth forests, and complete the old growth strategic action plan in 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is complete. • The Ministry released the Old Growth Action Plan, titled <i>From Review to Action</i>, as a response and progress report on addressing the 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review. • For more information, see Objective 2.2.
<p>Accelerate work to re-engineer cut block boundaries to maximize old growth protection and ensure supply of timber and fibre for manufacturing and value-added processing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is complete. • BCTS took steps to re-engineer cut blocks and road developments to meet the Province's old growth deferral commitments and has implemented new initiatives to ensure supply of timber and fibre for manufacturing and value-added processing. Continuing to uphold its commitments to managing old forests in B.C. remains an ongoing priority for the Ministry. • For more information, see Objective 1.1 and Objective 2.2.
<p>Work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation to advance reconciliation and meet our government's obligations under DRIPA, continue to work toward full partnership with First Nations in managing B.C. forest resources, including through the new revenue sharing model being developed by our government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 2.1.

2022 and 2024 Mandate Letter Priorities	Status as of March 31, 2025
In collaboration with First Nations and with support from the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, complete amendments to the Heritage Conservation Act in line with the DRIPA Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 2.2.
With support from the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, strengthen the BC Wildfire Services focus on wildfire prevention and management year-round, including cultural and prescribed fire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is complete. • For more information, see Objective 2.2 and Performance Measure 2.1.
Explore options to improve training, retention, and recruitment in B.C. Wildfire Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is complete. • For more information, see Objective 3.1.
With support from the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and in collaboration with local, federal and Indigenous governments, strengthen the province's flood response through the completion of B.C.'s Flood Strategy, and start the work to translate the strategy into action through the BC Flood Resilience Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority was transferred to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in October 2023.
With support from the Minister of State for Trade, continue work to protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for B.C. wood products in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1.