

Ministry of Forests

2025/26
Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests' 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report compares the ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan published in 2025. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "R. Parmar". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
July 28, 2026

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Letter from the Minister

As British Columbia's Minister of Forests, I am pleased to present this 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report. This report highlights the progress our ministry has made to strengthen B.C.'s forest sector while caring for the lands, people, and communities that rely on it. This work reflects our commitment to good jobs, strong communities, reconciliation, wildfire recovery, climate action, and a sustainable future for forestry in our province.

Over the past year, we focused on practical, forward-looking actions to support workers, families, and local businesses. In July 2025 I launched a comprehensive review of BC Timber Sales (BCTS), which concluded in September with 54 recommendations to strengthen BCTS operations. We are focused on advancing elements of these recommendations, including introducing legislative amendments to modernize the program.

Improving fibre flow remains a priority for our ministry. One of my first actions as Minister was to reduce cutting permit turnaround times from 40 days to 25 days. Today, nearly 80% of cutting permits are approved within that standard, and in coastal B.C. nearly all cutting permits meet this standard. This work is helping to stabilize supply for mills and support good jobs in forestry-dependent communities.

Wildfire preparedness and response were also central to our work this year. While the 2025 wildfire season burned more than 886,000 hectares and affected many communities throughout the province, it was less destructive than the previous two seasons. We continued to invest in technology, mitigation and year-round capacity within the BC Wildfire Service, and strengthened coordination with partners across Canada and internationally.

This year, I was honoured to serve as chair of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. Together with my federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues, we advanced shared priorities including wildfire management, reforestation, workforce challenges, and global trade uncertainty. We continue to stand up for workers and communities by pushing for a fair, long-term resolution to U.S. softwood lumber tariffs, while also diversifying markets – including leading the largest forestry trade mission to Asia.

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples remains foundational to our work. This year we expanded Indigenous-led forest management through new and expanded First Nations tenures, improved access to communities with upgrades to key Forest Service Roads, and strengthened shared decision-making through new agreements and progress on forest landscape planning throughout B.C.

I would like to thank the dedicated staff of the Ministry of Forests for their professionalism and commitment to public service. I am honoured to serve as British Columbia's Minister of Forests and proud of the progress we are making together.

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
July 28, 2026

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 2024 and Minister Ravi Parmar's [2025 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Forests [2025/26 – 2027/28 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](#) (FESBC) and [Forestry Innovation Investment](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies and Public Sector Organizations associated with the ministry can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Economic Statement

Economic activity in British Columbia advanced in 2025, after modest growth in 2024, despite facing notable headwinds. Last year, homebuilding activity in the province continued at a steady pace, and lower interest rates and easing inflation supported household spending. Meanwhile, high uncertainty around the impacts of U.S. tariffs and significantly lower population growth tempered economic activity in B.C., and across many provinces. Overall, B.C.'s real GDP rose by 2.0 per cent in 2025, up from 1.2 per cent growth in 2024. B.C. was one of only two provinces that saw an increase in the rate of real GDP growth from 2024 to 2025. On an industry basis, B.C.'s economic growth in 2025 was led by real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance services; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and construction.

B.C.'s labour market moderated in 2025, amid slower population growth and trade-related economic uncertainty. Total employment rose by 1.1 percent (+32,200 jobs), while wages and salaries rose by 3.1 percent. The unemployment rate averaged 6.2 percent in 2025, up from 5.6 percent in 2024, as labour force growth outpaced job creation. Despite rising last year, B.C.'s unemployment rate remained below the national average of 6.8 percent. B.C. housing starts totalled 44,193 units in 2025, down 3.6 percent from 2024, but remained above the 10-year historical average. Meanwhile, B.C. home sales activity declined by 5.7 percent compared to 2024, with muted demand contributing to a 2.9 percent decrease in the average home price. Inflationary pressures continued to moderate in 2025, reflecting slower price growth for services and subdued inflation for goods. Shelter inflation was the largest contributor to headline inflation last year but slowed substantially for both rented and owned accommodation compared to recent years. Lower gasoline prices, partly due to the removal of the B.C. consumer carbon tax, also helped ease headline inflation. Overall, B.C.'s consumer price inflation averaged 2.1 percent in 2025, down from 2.6 percent in 2024. Lower inflation and easing interest rates supported robust retail sales, which grew by 6.4 percent in 2025. On the trade front, B.C.'s merchandise exports remained relatively flat as markets adjusted to shifting global trade conditions. Overall, the value of B.C.'s goods exports edged down 0.1 percent compared to 2024 as increased exports to non-U.S. destinations were offset by a continued decline in goods exports to the U.S.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the 2025/26 – 2027/28 service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current and future performance targets, please see the [latest service plan](#).

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

Objective 1.1: Create the conditions for innovation, diversity and sustainability in the forest sector to support a strong economy

This objective directs ministry efforts towards creating the conditions for a vibrant, innovative forest sector that supports workers and communities. The ministry is responding to the forest sector's challenges and opportunities by leading a transition that expands participation, strengthens economic resilience, and sets a long-range framework for the next century.

Key Results

- Led by an independent task force and informed by extensive engagement, the [BC Timber Sales \(BCTS\) Review](#) was successfully launched and completed, resulting in [54 recommendations](#) to transform BCTS and position it as a leader in an evolving forest sector.
- Expanded three community forests in the [Prince George Timber Supply Area](#) (Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, and Vanderhoof), each with an annual volume of 19,692 cubic metres, providing additional allowable annual cut to support local forest management, wildfire protection, and community-based forestry jobs.
- Published modernized [Thinning Guidance for British Columbia](#) and issued the first commercial thinning timber sales, establishing consistent, science-based direction for designing and approving thinning prescriptions.
- Achieved an important outcome in the softwood lumber dispute when the [North American Free Trade Agreement \(NAFTA\)](#) Chapter 19 panel ruled that the U.S. Department of Commerce had not followed U.S. trade law in its re-determination of the original countervailing duty investigation, requiring a new determination consistent with U.S. law.
- Supported the [Provincial Forestry Advisory Council](#) in delivering its final report, [From Conflict to Care: BC's Forest Future](#), providing nine system-level recommendations to guide a long-term shift toward more sustainable, area-based forest stewardship that supports ecosystems, communities, workers, and reconciliation in B.C.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry strengthened forest management throughout B.C. by empowering BCTS, improving fibre access and utilization, expanding community forests, advancing bioeconomy opportunities, and supporting good forestry jobs, and Indigenous and community participation.

In January 2025, the Minister launched a review of BCTS led by an independent task force, and in July, the task force delivered 54 actionable recommendations to strengthen BCTS. Implementation of the recommendations has already begun, with the introduction of legislative amendments in [Bill 14](#) in Spring 2026 to enable BCTS to expand its fibre generating activities, support jobs for contractors and communities, foster resilient forest ecosystems, and strengthen partnerships with First Nations and local communities. These changes from Bill 14 are expected to add up to 17,700 truckloads (about 800,000 cubic metres) of fibre, supporting jobs, local economies, and sustainable forest stewardship.

Developments in the U.S.–Canada softwood lumber dispute continued to affect B.C.'s forestry sector throughout the year. In response, the ministry advanced a coordinated government approach to support forestry workers and forest-dependent communities and prepare for potential further trade actions. Minister Parmar appointed former deputy premier and former deputy minister of forests Don Wright as a special advisor to strengthen strategic advice on the dispute, alongside ongoing engagement with industry and labour through the Softwood Lumber Advisory Council.

At the community level, [Community Forest Agreements](#) enabled local governments, First Nations, and community partners to manage forests in ways that deliver broad local benefits. As part of the second phase of the Prince George Timber Supply Area apportionment, approximately 60,000 cubic metres of timber was allocated to the Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, and Vanderhoof community forests, strengthening local stewardship through improved wildfire protection, local employment, ecological resilience, and decision making that reflects community and First Nations priorities.

In 2025/26 the ministry continued its work with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth, whose investments through the [BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund](#) (BCMJF) were focused on strengthening B.C.'s wood product manufacturing sector. Throughout the program intake, and as of March 2026, BCMJF committed up to \$91.5 million to 76 forest sector projects, leading to more than 3,500 forestry jobs being created and protected.

The ministry advanced innovation by continuing to create new opportunities to advance forest-based bioeconomy innovation. University led research supported work in clean water treatment, energy storage, and advanced materials, contributing to early commercialization outcomes. In addition, the ministry supported two Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy projects, advancing wood-based product development and strengthening Indigenous participation in the forest bioeconomy.

The ministry also continued to expand opportunities in pulp fibre utilization. Through the Pulp Fibre Task Force, which includes senior representatives from B.C.'s seven pulp companies, the

ministry supported the utilization of an additional 2.7 million cubic metres of residual fibre from logging and low-value timber in 2025, including one million cubic metres of woodchips from fire-affected stands.

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

This objective promotes effective management of service delivery processes to ensure the ministry supports a strong economy and provides public services that British Columbians can rely on.

Key Results

- Continued to improve the timeliness, efficiency and predictability of cutting permit and wildfire salvage cutting permits, including reducing the ministry processing time standard from 40 to 25 business days¹
- Enabled two of the fastest-issued wildfire timber salvage cutting permits for the [Coldwater Indian Band](#)'s recovery efforts within the 2025 Mine Creek wildfire, facilitating salvage across approximately 90 hectares through early collaboration with Stuwix Resources, Coldwater Indian Band, and BCTS.
- Updated and clarified key forestry regulations to reduce the barriers and improve service delivery. These changes strengthened forest stewardship, compliance, and statutory clarity while making government processes more efficient and easier to use.
- Through the ministry's [Natural Resource Officer Service](#), completed 2,455 inspections and managed 419 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 2025/26

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 2025, the ministry received over 11,000 authorization applications and rendered over 10,000 decisions, making authorization services an integral and foundational part of the ministry's work to support economic prosperity for communities and the people of B.C.

On April 1, 2025, the ministry strengthened its service standard for processing cutting permits, targeting 90% of permits to be processed by ministry staff within 25 business days. The ministry continues to improve the efficiency and timeliness of permit issuance by identifying opportunities for improvement across all stages of the application process and by engaging regularly with local industry partners, including First Nations licence holders, through Regional Operational Issues Forums.

¹Targets 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.

In 2025, the ministry advanced wildfire salvage efforts by working with the forestry sector, First Nations, and local governments to reduce the barriers and accelerate the recovery of burned timber, helping protect local jobs and maintain timber supply for B.C. mills. Through faster permitting, early planning, and the use of tools such as satellite mapping and field assessments, forestry professionals were able to quickly identify salvage opportunities before burned wood lost economic value. This approach supported land-base recovery through salvage, retention, and reforestation, and delivered tangible results, including two of the fastest-issued salvage cutting permits for the Coldwater Indian Band, enabling active salvage across approximately 90 hectares affected by the Mine Creek wildfire.

The ministry updated regulations under three statutes to improve clarity and administration. Changes under the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) modernized planning language, corrected enforcement provisions, and aligned recreation references to ensure rules are clear and enforceable. Amendments to the [Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act](#) clarified district-level authority for administering special use permits, while updates to the [Forest Act](#) corrected technical references and removed outdated provisions, improving consistency and day-to-day regulatory efficiency.

The ministry strengthened its approach to ensuring decisions are carried out and upheld by delivering comprehensive monitoring, inspection, and enforcement across Crown land, forestry, wildfire and range practices, water use (including dam safety), and heritage conservation. In addition, it introduced legislative updates to broaden enforcement tools, modernize penalties, and enhance clarity and fairness within the system. A key change was the revision of the limitation period, which now requires that notice of an alleged contravention be issued within three years of its discovery, rather than from the date a decision is made. This adjustment provides additional time to address complex investigations and allows affected parties a more meaningful opportunity to prepare their case, reinforcing procedural fairness.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
1.1 Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-added sector ^{1,2}	606,000 m ³	1,150,000 m ³	1,011,653 m ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales

¹PM 1.1 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 1,270,000 m³ and 1,390,000 m³, respectively.

²Target and Actual do not include re-auctions (first auction only).

This performance measure tracks the volume of timber auctioned to the value-added sector and helps guide ministry decisions on supporting its growth. To demonstrate this commitment to supporting the sector, effective April 1, 2025, BCTS doubled the share of auctions dedicated to value-added manufacturers—from 10% to 20% of its rationalized apportionment—to provide additional opportunities for value-added facilities.

In 2025/26, the annual timber volume auctioned for the value-added sector reached 88% of the target in the first full year of implementation from Category 2 to Category 4 sales. The

underachievement was primarily due to operational and market challenges during the year which reduced interest from value-added registrants, such as mill closures and tariffs, which disrupted the supply chain. Year over year, however, there was a 67% increase in volume auctioned to the value-added sector since 2024/25. BCTS continues to support by advertising licences for Category 4 and aligning sales with manufacturer capacity and demand.

Goal 2: Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

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

This objective is directed at implementing activities that advance economic development for First Nations communities and people. The ministry is committed to reconciliation and to sharing the sustainable management of the province's natural resources with First Nations.

Key Results

- Published a technical policy paper with updated proposals to amend the [Heritage Conservation Act](#), reflecting engagement feedback heard to date, to support further input from First Nations, local governments, and industry.
- Expanded [Lake Babine Nation's](#) role in forest management by increasing the Lake Babine Nation [First Nations Woodland Licence](#) by more than 2,000%, growing it from approximately 5,600 hectares to over 126,000 hectares through a partnership with the Province and West Fraser.
- Supported [Homalco First Nation](#) towards their purchase of two forest tenures totaling 44,000 cubic metres of [allowable annual cut](#).
- Completed road and bridge improvements on six [Forest Service Roads](#) in the North and Coast areas that provide critical access to 13 First Nations communities.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry continued advancing reconciliation and responsible land stewardship by strengthening heritage protection, expanding Indigenous-led forest management, and improving access to forest lands throughout B.C.

Since 2021, the ministry has been working to update the Heritage Conservation Act to improve permitting efficiency, support faster disaster recovery, better protect heritage, and strengthen First Nations' roles in heritage decision-making in alignment with the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#). Following additional engagement announced in January 2026, the ministry released a technical policy paper outlining how proposed reforms to the Heritage Conservation Act have evolved and incorporated feedback received, including the removal of certain proposals. Additional detail and clarity were provided on all policy proposals, including

key measures that strengthen First Nations' role in decision-making on their heritage, such as: heritage management plans, agreements, provisions to protect Indigenous knowledge and heritage data, provisions to support continued use of heritage sites and collection of at-risk heritage, and a First Nations-established deposition framework to guide where ancestral remains, belongings and other heritage objects collected are deposited.

The ministry continued to enhance access to First Nations communities through Forest Service Road and bridge improvements. In addition to supporting community access, the upgraded Forest Service Roads also improved access for industry partners operating in and around these communities and contributed to expand recreational opportunities for all users of these areas. In 2025/26, the ministry spent over \$5 million in road maintenance activities (grading, brushing, gravelling and snow plowing) and over \$8 million in capital upgrades on six Forest Service Roads leading to 13 First Nations. Several of the First Nations have been instrumental in the delivery of these projects providing important employment for their members.

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 claims to title on their traditional territories. To further the government's commitments in this respect, the ministry continually seeks opportunities to partner with First Nations communities to ensure forest management practices benefit from Indigenous stewardship, values, and knowledge.

Key Results

- Through a partnership with the Province, signed a joint shared decision-making agreement with the ['Namgis First Nation](#) to support predictable and sustainable forestry on the North Island, providing shared clarity on forest harvest planning within the portion of [Tree Farm License \(TFL\) 37](#) overlapping 'Namgis territory.
- Together with [Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw \(Squamish Nation\)](#), strengthened cultural stewardship and land-use certainty in Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw territory by establishing 33 cultural sites and six Special Cultural Management Areas, protecting key cultural and ecological values while supporting sustainable forestry and economic opportunities.
- Advanced [forest landscape planning](#) throughout B.C. by progressing technical work, engagement, and co-development with First Nations in all 15 active forest landscape plan areas, including launching engagement on the [Mackenzie forest landscape plan](#) in the Omineca region, and the [West Central Vancouver Island forest landscape plan](#) in the West Coast region.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry focused on advancing collaborative, area-based forest management by strengthening Indigenous-led cultural and land-use protection, progressing forest landscape

planning with First Nations throughout B.C., and continuing work to conserve and manage old-growth forests.

Significant progress was made on forest landscape planning in 2025/26, with 15 plans now underway covering approximately 41% of the provincial land base intended for forest landscape plans. In 2025/26, the Ministry, through a partnership with the Province, signed a joint shared decision-making agreement with the 'Namgis First Nation. This agreement enables the joint establishment of forest landscape plans and the joint approval of [Forest Operations Plans](#), supporting sustainable management, the integration of First Nation values and regional economic opportunities.

The ministry continued to work jointly with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to implement the [Great Bear Rainforest](#) framework, supporting ecosystem-based management across the North and Central Coast. This work included advancing [Landscape Reserve Designs](#) to spatially define biodiversity and timber management targets, contributing to the development of a monitoring framework to assess implementation, and supporting government-to-government engagement with First Nations. Together, these activities support sustainable forest management by maintaining ecological integrity while providing certainty for the forest sector and help inform ongoing adaptive management and future periodic review of the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
2.1 Number of forest landscape plans initiated with First Nations through government-to-government agreements ¹	3	2	0

Data source: Forest Resiliency & Archaeology Division

¹PM 2.1 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as TBD, respectively.

This performance measure tracks the ministry's efforts to engage with First Nations on this initiative. While no new forest landscape plans were formally initiated during the year, the ministry focused on advancing and completing the plans already underway, contributing to the significant overall progress described above.

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

- Completed 269 wildfire risk reduction projects which treated approximately 5,543 hectares. These projects were delivered through [Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction \(CLWRR\)](#), [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports \(FCFS\)](#), and the FESBC.
- Strengthened Indigenous collaboration by deploying eight Indigenous Initial Response crews across the province, fully integrating three- or four-person crews to support initial attack wildfire response within their traditional territories.
- Expanded the [BC Wildfire Service \(BCWS\)](#) wildland firefighter hiring window, attracting more than 2,200 applicants, a new record, while advancing essential training to better prepare staff for increasingly challenging early season conditions.
- Continued to expand First Nations Boot Camps by holding three sessions in 2025 to address community needs, build local capacity, strengthen relationships between local First Nations and Fire Centres, and improve wildfire response.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry continued to strengthen wildfire prevention and preparedness throughout B.C. by expanding firefighter recruitment and training, supporting community-led response capacity, and advancing landscape-level wildfire risk reduction.

[FireSmart](#) funding supported community-led planning and education projects that raised awareness of wildfire risks and practical ways to reduce them. By January 2026, 280 communities throughout B.C. benefited from FireSmart funding, including 132 First Nations and 148 local governments. Investments also supported 189 active FireSmart Coordinators and 113 partner agencies delivering professional home assessments, with more than 8,650 assessments completed—almost 1,900 in 2025 alone. By 2025, 60 per cent of communities in B.C. had developed a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. As of spring 2026, 567 FireSmart-related projects have been completed and another 209 are in progress.

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

- Continued strengthening the partnership with [Thompson Rivers University \(TRU\)](#) through the launch of TRU's inaugural courses in [Wildfire Communications and Media Certificate](#). This is the first formal wildfire-focused academic program offered at the university.
- Strengthened wildfire-response capabilities by investing in and training staff on [new predictive technologies](#), advancing partnerships to develop a provincewide AI-assisted

wildfire camera network, and improved provincial weather stations, supporting decision makers with better data.

- Developed a Rapid Ecological Assessment Process, wherein a team of natural resource specialists assess ecological, hydrological, cultural and other impacts caused by wildfire. This is a new process for the BCWS and was designed to aid land management decisions and land-based recovery post-wildfire.
- Doubled the size of BCWS's night-vision-capable fleet to four helicopters and trained more flight officers to support night operations. This fleet completed 260 missions in 2025, including for wildfire detection, reconnaissance and water delivery.
- Strengthened partnerships with Indigenous governments by enhancing the [Wildfire Collaborative Partnership Guide](#) with a new chapter dedicated to Indigenous leadership and roles in wildfire response.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry continued focusing on strengthening wildfire response and recovery by building workforce capacity, enhancing operational readiness and technology, and supporting post-wildfire recovery planning.

In 2025, approximately 1,370 wildfires burned an estimated 886,300 hectares province wide in B.C. Many regions experienced wildfire impacts, with early season events followed by heightened activity in August and September. To support response efforts, five [Incident Management Teams](#) were deployed to major incidents or wildfire complexes across the province, with teams deployed a total of 27 times to help manage periods of concentrated fire activity. BCWS also provided specialized training for wildland urban interface operations to more than 1,700 municipal, First Nation, and contract structural firefighters. This training allows fire departments to deploy to wildfires through structure protection and structure defence courses in a wildland urban interface setting.

In addition, BCWS strengthened its wildfire-response capabilities by investing in new technology, including advancing research on a province-wide wildfire camera network with AI-assisted smoke detection to improve situational awareness, support faster operational response, and provide data for wildfire research. In 2025, a joint research project with the [University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus](#) worked with communities, local governments, First Nations, and industry to identify potential new camera monitoring locations throughout B.C.

At the same time, BCWS continued to focus on wildfire recovery and rehabilitation to mitigate the damage to forest ecosystems from wildfire suppression activities, including post-wildfire natural hazard risk analysis and ecological wildfire recovery. During 2025 wildfire season, response operations established more than 1,900 kilometres of control lines and access trails. To rehabilitate these landscapes, over 30 rehabilitation specialists were deployed to active wildfires across all six regional fire centres.

Beyond provincial efforts, BCWS demonstrated leadership in wildfire response through national and international collaboration, deploying more than 600 personnel out of province in

2025, including to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador for the first time. In early 2026, BCWS also deployed 37 specialized personnel to Australia, and strengthened coordination at home by hosting a national wildfire symposium with partners to share lessons learned and improve preparedness.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual ²
3.1 Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure ^{1,3}	3,000 ha	4,959 ha	9,600 ha	11,894 ha

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹PM 3.1 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 10,150 ha, respectively.

²Includes fuel management activities completed by FESBC, as reported in the [FESBC 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan](#).

³PM 3.1 does not include 610 ha of maintenance treatments.

This performance measure reports the area of completed fuel management activities with a primary objective of reducing wildfire risk, which is supported through several programs. The [Community Resiliency Investment](#) program funds wildfire risk reduction activities around at-risk communities and critical infrastructure through two streams: CLWRR and FCFS. FESBC also supports wildfire mitigation through supports for land managers.

In 2025/26, 345 wildfire risk reduction projects were completed on 11,894 hectares throughout the province. Fuel treatment activities include thinning, pruning, piling, burning or chipping of fuels, and cultural and prescribe fire. Several factors contributed to results, including the expansion of the FCFS program criteria allowing more projects to be eligible for wildfire risk reduction and the continued revitalization of cultural and prescribed fire as a tool for Indigenous cultural practice, land stewardship and wildfire mitigation.

Performance Measure	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
3.2 Percent of prescribed rehabilitation treatments implemented within 30 months of wildfire occurrence ^{1,2}	n/a	90%	82%

Data source: BCWS Wildfire Service

¹PM 3.2 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 90%, respectively.

²This performance measure was new to the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan.

This performance measure tracks the timely completion of rehabilitation treatments in areas affected by wildfire suppression activities, including creation of fireguards, modified roads, trails, and handguards constructed during a wildfire response.

In 2025/26, the performance target for completing rehabilitation work on affected areas by the 2023 wildfires was not achieved. Reduced operational capacity during the critical fall season work window limited the ability to complete rehabilitation activities before seasonal weather conditions deteriorated and site access became constrained.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
3.3 Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects with an approved burn plan, or which fall under an agreement with an Indigenous governing body ^{1,2,3}	5	44	40	76

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

¹PM 3.3 targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 60 and 70, respectively.

²An approved burn plan is defined as a burn plan that has been developed and submitted to an official, and received the official's approval in writing, per section 23 of the [Wildfire Regulation](#). An agreement with an Indigenous governing body is defined as an agreement referred to in section 23.1 of the Wildfire Regulation.

³The reporting period for this performance measure is January 1 to December 31.

This measure tracks the number of cultural and prescribed fire projects that have an approved burn plan or are carried out under an agreement with an Indigenous governing body.

In 2025/26, a total of 111 cultural and prescribed fire projects were planned across the province, covering 15,914 hectares. Seventy six projects were completed, resulting in about 6,351 hectares being treated. Overachievement of the target is attributed to successful partner-based cross-training initiatives using live fire, which supported First Nations in conducting burns for Indigenous objectives, strengthening capacity and regional programming, and increased the planning of fuels management projects grounded in prescribed fire principles.

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 advances its goal of sustainable natural resource management while taking steps to protect B.C.'s forests by fostering innovative climate change mitigation and management activities, modernizing forest policies to include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and strengthening the resiliency of B.C.'s forests to the effects of climate change.

Key results

- Established and documented a consistent [method for calculating forest carbon projections](#) for allowable annual cut modelling, improving transparency and credibility in forest management following recommendations from the [Auditor General of British Columbia](#).
- Together with BCTS and industry partners, established 2,400 small-scale planting trials assessing how different tree species perform when planted outside of their normal ranges, contributing to a broader climate change adaptation program that will guide future decisions on species selection for more resilient forests.
- Advanced work to enable forest carbon-offset projects on provincial public forest lands by progressing policy development, partnerships, and foundational frameworks to support future project implementation. One new [Atmospheric Benefit Agreement](#) was finalized with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, enabling a future forest carbon-offset 2.0 project.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry is enhancing the health and resilience of B.C.'s forests and range by supporting key forest management activities.

In response to Recommendation 2 of the [Auditor General's March 2025 report](#), the ministry introduced a standardized carbon modelling method for [Timber Supply Reviews](#). Applying a consistent and well documented approach across all Timber Supply Reviews improves the transparency, consistency, and credibility of forest carbon projections and supports allowable annual cut decisions by showing how current forest management may affect forest carbon dynamics over time.

BCTS also contributes to reforestation efforts throughout B.C., supporting community development and local employment. Since 2003, BCTS has managed the production of more than one billion seedlings for government reforestation needs. In 2025/26, [BCTS Seedling Services](#) delivered approximately 73 million seedlings and signed production agreements with two First Nations-owned nurseries in Oliver and Cranbrook.

Objective 4.2: Deliver exceptional research and scientific analysis to sustainably manage B.C.'s forests and natural resources

This objective relates to the ministry's role in conducting research and analysis that inform the development of science-based policies and regulations that guide sustainable natural resource management and decision-making.

Key Results:

- Advanced 130 research projects through a [ministry research program](#), focusing on water, timber, ecosystem stewardship, bioeconomy, species and habitat, and ecosystem health and disturbance.
- Completed two tools through the [Future Forest Ecosystems Centre](#) to support climate informed forest management: the [Climate Change Informed Species Selection tool](#), which showed how tree species suitability may change over time, and [climr](#), which provided climate data and visualizations for both technical users and the public.
- Treated 41,000 hectares of western spruce budworm infested forest in the Thompson Okanagan Region, supporting fire hazard reduction and forest resilience, with results published in the [2025 B.C. Southern Interior Conditions Report](#).
- Improved and expanded the stand-level [Forest Drought Risk Assessment Tool](#), increasing its coverage across the province to better inform drought assessments and support forest planning processes such as Timber Supply Reviews and forest landscape planning.

Summary of progress made in 2025/26

The ministry advanced several innovative forest research and management initiatives in 2025/26, strengthening climate adaptation, operational planning and ecosystem resilience across the province.

Kootenay Boundary Forest Health researchers piloted the “123 Trapping App” to streamline woodborer and beetle trapping data, enabling more efficient data collection and treatment planning to preserve timber value. In the North, the second harvest at the [Date Creek Research Forest](#) tested “expanding gap dynamic harvesting,” an innovative silviculture method designed to maintain culturally important cedar trees and retain forest structure while also supporting old-growth dependent communities.

On the Coast, researchers published the [Land Management Handbook 77 Field Guide to Site Identification and Interpretation for Coastal British Columbia \(excluding Haida Gwaii\)](#), a field guide based on two decades of sampling and analysis that now informs operational decisions, strategic planning, environmental assessments, conservation planning, and projections of climate change effects.

Also, in the central Rocky Mountain Trench, a multi-year study of soil parent materials, was completed, identifying areas with unstable sediments to guide safer road design and reduce risks of soil disturbance and stream sedimentation.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Actual
4.1a Number of trees planted per year through the Ministry's Forest Investment Program ^{1,3}	n/a	40,000,000 ²	44,000,000
4.1b Provincial forest area with nutrients applied per year through the ministry's Forest Investment Program ^{1,3}	n/a	25,000 ha	25,280 ha

Data source: RESULTS Database, Office of Chief Forester

¹PM 4.1a targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as TBD, respectively; PM 4.1b targets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were stated in the 2025/26 service plan as 25,000ha, respectively.

²Subject to approval of resourcing.

³This performance measure was new to the 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan.

This performance measure reports the annual number of trees planted and provincial forest area with nutrients applied per year through the Ministry's [Forest Investment Program](#). This data helps the ministry better understand and manage B.C.'s forests, as well as calculate forest carbon benefits.

In 2025/26, 44 million trees were planted, and nutrients were applied to 25,280 hectares, surpassing the performance targets under the sustainable forest stewardship for all values goal. Despite facing challenges to the forest nutrient management program – including the need to remove many planned treatment areas – contingencies, careful planning, and proactive program management enabled Forest Investment Program to meet its objectives.

By achieving targets of planted trees and nutrient application, the ministry delivered multiple benefits, including climate change mitigation, improved biodiversity, enhanced future timber supply, strengthened wildfire recovery, and added employment.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3,804	83	3,887	9,674	5,787
Integrated Resource Operations	59,017	5,331	64,348	64,986	638
Office of the Chief Forester	130,995	25,462	156,457	143,619	(12,838)
Timber, Range and Economics	12,017	10,202	22,219	20,343	(1,876)
Fire Preparedness	47,744	14,661	62,405	57,891	(4,514)
Regional Operations	101,032	2,981	104,013	97,540	(6,473)
Executive and Support Services	57,975	(10,911)	47,064	66,340	19,276
Fire Management	238,047	407,065	645,112	645,112	0
Statutory: Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd (Transferred from Jobs and Economic Growth)	0	20,366	20,366	19,736	(630)
BC Timber Sales Account	240,147	0	240,147	183,455	(56,692)
Sub-total	890,778	475,240	1,366,018	1,308,696	(57,322)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(23,422)	(23,422)
Total	890,778	475,240	1,366,018	1,285,274	(80,744)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	54,903	0	54,903	55,955	1,052
Fire Management	14,762	0	14,762	14,757	(5)
BC Timber Sales Account	48,843	0	48,843	24,193	(24,650)
Total	118,508	0	118,508	94,905	(23,603)
Other Financing Transactions					
BC Timber Sales Account					
Disbursements	91,419	0	94,419	62,927	(28,492)
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	91,419	0	94,419	62,927	(28,492)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganizations. Supplementary Estimates and Government Reorganization amounts in this column are included in 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 \$23.422 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of July 31, 2026, 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 B.C.'s forests.

[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.

[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.

[Managed Forest 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 purpose of the Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (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	4,162	0	4,162	4,061	(101)

Appendix C: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Ravi Parmar's 2025 Mandate Letter.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Forests programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, support the connection between forests and jobs in our province, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the crisis in the sector, and the threat of expanded American tariffs.	- This mandate letter priority is in progress. - Governments around the world are facing higher costs, global instability and growing demand for services, creating challenging fiscal situations. In response, the B.C. Government introduced expenditure management targets in Budget 2025, with a goal of \$300 million saved over the 2025/26 fiscal year. Ministries have exceeded that goal with more than \$400 million in savings through reduced discretionary spending including travel, office and business expenses, conferences and events, as well as staffing adjustments, voluntary retirements and hiring restrictions.
In light of the threat of American tariffs, the existing softwood lumber tariffs, the price crisis in the timber sector, and the reduction in available annual allowable cut, work with communities, labour, forestry and forest product companies, and Indigenous governments to review BC Timber Sales to ensure that the model is responsive to the new realities of the industry and the need for a strong connection between our forests and sustainable jobs for British Columbians for generations to come.	- This mandate letter priority is complete. - The BCTS review was completed and published in September 2025. Work is ongoing to advance elements of the 54 recommendations and expand BCTS' mandate. - For more information, see Objective 1.1.
Continue to bring together industry, First Nations, and communities through forest landscape planning tables – to chart a path forward for the stewardship of BC's forests and forest industry.	- This mandate letter priority is in progress. - For more information, see Objective 2.2, Objective 4.2, and Performance Measure 2.1.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Work to increase value from BC's forests by supporting value-added and innovative forest products, creating good local jobs and diversifying BC's wood products for local and international markets.	• This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1, and Performance Measure 1.1.
Work with your ministerial colleagues and First Nations to ensure the prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits required by industry while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.	• This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.2.
Work with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic meters per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.	• This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1 and Objective 1.2.
Work to secure a more sustainable future for First Nations and communities that depend on local forests for their economic strength by expanding the community forest program.	• This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1.
With support from the Minister of State for Trade, continue work to protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations and other tariff challenges with the United States.	• This mandate letter priority is in progress. • For more information, see Objective 1.1.