Program Goals

The Forest Investment Account (FIA) was established in 2002 to assist in developing a globally recognized, sustainably managed forest resource. The Land Base Investment Program (LBIP) is the largest of the five programs under FIA and creates value by encouraging land base planning, accountability and investment.

The LBIP is an efficient means of investment requiring minimal government involvement. The program provides for collaboration among licensees, engaging them in the planning, selection, implementation and outcome for eligible forest land base activities in an effort to improve the forest asset base and support sustainable forest management practices within each of the timber supply areas (TSAs) and tree farm licences (TFLs).

Program Objectives

By directly investing in the land base and contributing to the goals of FIA, program investments are expected to improve the forest asset base and support sustainable forest management practices in British Columbia through:

- higher level strategic decision-making and planning;
- increased timber volume and value;
- increased site productivity;
- restored terrestrial, aquatic and riparian environments;
- better decision-making information and tools;
- infrastructure that protects public safety and mitigates environmental hazards.

Program Accomplishments

Since 2002, $276 million has been invested in 5788 projects with an additional $52 million budgeted for projects in 2008/09.

Investments in the forest land base are made across five component areas focusing on:

- strategic planning and strategy development;
- information gathering in the form of inventories and monitoring;
- stand establishment and forest treatments;
- maintaining infrastructure of roads and recreation areas;
- restoration of areas damaged by landslides / invasive plants as well as aquatic areas (fish passage).
Coast Forest Region

Invested 2002 – 2008: $75.8M
Projects Completed: 1629

Planned 2008/09:

The majority of investment to September 30, 2008, in the Coast Forest Region has focused on fertilization, vegetation resources inventory, aquatic restoration of in-stream structures and treatments, terrestrial ecosystem mapping and permanent road deactivation work.

Project Highlight:
Permanent Road Deactivation – B Mainline

Location:
Sunshine Coast Forest District TSA 39

The B mainline, which is located approximately four kilometres east of Orford Bay and traverses the western slope above Algard Creek, was constructed in the mid to late 1980’s and the adjacent areas were logged during that period.

Permanent deactivation of the B Mainline was carried out to reduce the likelihood of landslides or sedimentation affecting Algard Creek and the Orford River.

Other objectives of road deactivation work are to:

- Restore hillslope hydrology to the fullest extent practical along the road corridor;
- Stabilize roadfill at locations where indicators of instability were observed, or landslides may occur in the future; and
- Enhance site productivity, where appropriate.

This project was completed by International Forest Products Ltd. on behalf of the Sunshine Coast TSA licensees.
Northern Interior Forest Region

Invested 2002 - 2008: $110.3M
Projects Completed: 1561

Planned 2008/09:

In the Northern Interior the majority of funding to September 30, 2008 has been focused on vegetation resources inventory work, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and fertilization.

Project Highlight:
Caribou Monitoring & Wolf Survey

Location:
Mackenzie TSA 16

Mountain Caribou & Lichen:
Supporting the northern caribou recovery implementation plan, aerial telemetry of northern caribou was conducted to determine population sizes, juvenile recruitment, and population age structure of northern caribou herds.

In addition, field verification was undertaken to examine the inconsistencies between modeled and observed distribution of high-elevation winter range (HEWR) arboreal lichens. New data collection led to the application of a revised model that generated improved map data. This project addresses the need for an assessment of predicted HEWR for woodland caribou in north-central BC.

Caribou Monitoring and Wolf Survey:
Radio GPS collars were used to monitor wolf and caribou animal movements and habitat selection. The objective was to estimate the spatial extent and size of wolf packs and caribou. Related FIA projects analyzed the response of caribou to predation management efforts. The wolf survey examines population and spatial distribution using scat/track transects and supports the northern caribou recovery implementation plan as a priority project.
Project Highlight:
Fish Passage

Location:
Okanagan Shuswap Forest District TSA 22

The province has identified issues with fish passage through culverted road crossings, including turbulence and culvert perching issues.

The goals of the provincial fish passage program are to:

- Conduct assessments of high priority watersheds and complete fish passage re-establishment design prescriptions;
- Facilitate fish passage through removal of structural barriers and installation of new fish passage structures;
- Improve fish passage along streams and across watersheds.

Eleven barriers to fish passage were removed from roads constructed prior to 1995. At each crossing the original stream gradient was re-established prior to installing new fish friendly open bottom structures. Innovative construction techniques were also tested such as gravel reinforced structure foundations.
Overview:
In each year, the number and types of the activities completed within the LBIP is at the discretion of the individual forest licensees. The level of funding available for licensees to undertake these discretionary activities has fluctuated with approximately $75.6 million being available in the first year of the program, dropping down to $26.5 million between 2004 and 2006, increasing to $45 million from 2006 to 2008.

Information Gathering and Management:
For this component the expenditures generally mirrored the trend of the available LBIP funding. The percentage of the total available budget that was spent on this component increased from less than 40% in the first year of the program to almost 55% in the most recent year shown. This may have been due to the 2006 inception of focused forest inventory funding, allowing licensees to supplement the focused funding with their available discretionary funding.

Stand Establishment and Treatment & Restoration and Rehabilitation:
For each of these components the expenditures also followed the trend of the total available LBIP funding, but the percentage of the total budget that was spent on these two components decreased slightly from the beginning of the program to 2008. The total number of projects undertaken by the forest licensees in each of these components also decreased significantly when comparing the first year of the program to 2008. The average expenditure per project increased over this time period.

As of September 2008, the highest priority activities planned for completion in 2008/09 were wildlife and wildlife habitat inventories, vegetation resources inventory, and recreation site maintenance.

The following graphs reflect the top three components from 2002 to 2008.
Forest Investment Account
Land Base Investment Program
2008/09 Update

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Forest Investment Account Website:
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/

Land Base Investment Program Website:
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/landbase.htm

E-mail questions or comments:
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/feedback.htm

Ministry of Forests and Range Repository:
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hcp/fia/searchreports.htm