Enhancing Our Forest Resources
A Forest Renewal Program
1991-1996

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Forests
Minister's message

Our forests are our most important natural resource. They provide us with a wealth of benefits, both in their natural state, and from the many forest products they provide. To maintain the quality of life that we enjoy in our province, it is extremely important for us to ensure that our forest lands remain productive and wisely managed. I am therefore proud to introduce the Forest Renewal Program, a five-year, $1.4 billion plan designed to lead us into the 21st century.

Claude Richmond
Minister of Forests

Program highlights

The program is designed to:

- ensure and monitor effective reforestation of areas currently being harvested;
- eliminate most of the remaining unsatisfactorily reforested lands, a task to be completed by the year 2000;
- increase the growth rate, quality and value of our second-growth forests through activities such as thinning, fertilizing and pruning;
- improve the accuracy and content of the forest resources inventory; and,
- intensify research into biological diversity, genetic tree improvements, measures of forest growth, and silvicultural practices.

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<th>1991/92 - 1995/96</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures ($ millions)</td>
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<td>Treatments: $1,162.5</td>
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<td>Administration: $65.3</td>
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<td>Research: $90.9</td>
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<td>Second-growth inventory: $97.4</td>
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<td>Total: $1.4 billion over five years</td>
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Why enhance our forests?

Today we are demanding more from our forests. We not only want quality wood products and stable jobs from our forests, but also clean water, clean air, fish
and wildlife habitat, parks and recreation areas, wilderness reserves, grazing areas, and opportunities for tourism.

In response, the Forest Service has undertaken a number of initiatives in recent years to safeguard natural forest values. These initiatives include setting aside and protecting many special areas and increasing restrictions on timber harvesting. The result is a decrease in lands available for growing and harvesting trees.

While we accommodate natural forest values, we must also maintain a reliable timber supply for the forest industry, which continues to be the single greatest contributor to the provincial economy.

In British Columbia, the changing social demands and environmental pressures on the forests are not the only issues. The nature of the forest resource is also changing as we move away from harvesting our inherited forests and depend more on second-growth forests.

Unmanaged, second-growth stands may contain smaller, lower-quality trees. This can result in a reduction in the value and amount of wood available for harvest, which creates new challenges for our foresters and resource managers. To maintain a stable wood supply, we must find a way to produce more and higher-quality wood, from a shrinking land base, in socially, economically and environmentally sustainable ways.

To achieve this, we must invest more in our forests than ever before. We must ensure that all available forest lands are growing trees, and that our young forests are managed wisely and intensively for all resource values. The Forest Renewal Program is designed to do just that.

**Underlying principles**

The Forest Renewal Program will help us to make full use of our forest lands. The following principles will guide the program’s activities:

- **Biological diversity:**

  This is the primary attribute of healthy, natural forests.

  Our biologically diverse forests contain a wide variety of vegetation, trees of varying species, sizes and ages, and a broad range of wildlife.

  Thinning and pruning may enhance biological diversity by increasing light and creating space in the forest for new vegetation. This will, in turn, support more animal species.
Integrated resource management:
This refers to managing forest resources for a combination of values to balance economic, social and environmental considerations.

The forests are shared for a mosaic of uses including fish, wildlife, watersheds, domestic livestock, recreation and tourism, wilderness, timber, and other resources.

Sustainable development:
This refers to managing our forests in a way that will always maintain the quality of the resource. In the long term, forest-growth rates must match or exceed forest-depletion rates.

Program benefits
The program will produce the following benefits:
- improved forest growth of higher-quality wood;
- increased flexibility in land-use options;
- improved biological diversity;
- increased forest revenues in the future;
- more jobs; and,
- community stability.

For more information
Please contact your local forest district office or:
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