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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE EVOLUTION OF TIMBERLAND AND  
FORESTRY LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A guide to the history of British Columbia  
forest legislation. For details of any  
particular item, the relevant statutes of  
the time should be examined.

J. A. K. REID

Victoria, B.C., 1985

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SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN TIMBERLAND  
AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 1778 First recorded use of B.C. timber by the white man. Captain Cook cut trees in Nootka Sound for spars and masts.
- 1788 First recorded export of timber. Captain Meares took a deck load of spars to China.
- 1793 Alexander Mackenzie reached Pacific Ocean overland at Bella Coola (North West Company).
- 1805 First trading post in mainland B.C. established at Fort McLeod by Simon Fraser (North West Company).
- 1806 Fort St. James founded (North West Company).
- 1807 Fort Fraser founded (North West Company).
- 1821 Amalgamation of North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company.
- 1836 Coal - first mining of coal on Vancouver Island.
- 1843 Fort Victoria established.
- 1846 Oregon Treaty fixed U.S.-B.C. border.
- 1848 First mechanized sawmill in B.C. established near Victoria.
- 1849 In addition to its existing trading monopoly over British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Hudson's Bay Company acquired proprietary rights over Vancouver Island on condition that a colony be established within five years and all civil and military costs be met from the sale of land, coal and timber. (This was revoked in 1858.)
- 1858 Earliest disposal of Crown lands. Conveyance of land included all trees and timber unless otherwise specifically reserved.
- Land sale prices were 10 shillings per acre.

- 1861 Crown land sale price reduced to 4s. 2d., the equivalent of \$1.00 per acre.
- 1861/2 First sawmill for lumber export, at Alberni.
- 1863/64 Sawmill at Moodyville established.
- 1865 Hastings Sawmill established.
- 1865 Land Ordinance made allowing the leasing of unoccupied Crown land for the purpose of cutting timber subject to rent and terms considered expedient by the Governor.
- 1866 The separate Crown Colonies of the mainland (New Caledonia) and Vancouver Island were united. Both had the same Governor, James Douglas.
- 1867 Confederation of Eastern Provinces of Canada.
- Complicated financial negotiations with Hudson's Bay Company completed and Vancouver Island reconveyed to the Crown.
- 1870 The "Land Ordinance 1865" replaced by the Land Ordinance 1870.
- 1871 Confederation of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada. Province to retain ownership of Crown lands; provision of granting the railway belt lands on the mainland to the Dominion to aid railway construction (Canadian Pacific Railway).
- 1875 The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Act 1875 authorized a grant of public land to the Dominion to aid in the construction of that railway.
- 1883/84 Pursuant to an Act of 1880, agreement was consummated for the grant of the 14,444,000 acres of the mainland railway belt lands including the Peace River block of 3,468,000 acres substituted for certain poor lands in the belt.
- 1884 Sale price of Crown lands \$2.50 per acre but price for pre-empted lands remains at \$1.00 per acre.

- 1885 Completion of transcontinental railway.
- 1870-87 Timber lease rent and terms at the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council varied from 5¢ to 10¢ per acre per year and Royalty 20¢ to 25¢ per M board feet.
- 1887 Public lands chiefly valuable for timber not to be disposed of by public or private sale. Declaration required that the land is not chiefly valuable for its timber. Timber cutting (except for domestic purposes and improvements) prohibited on future Crown grants unless a licence is first obtained requiring payments of 25¢ per M board feet. These lands containing the timber reservation were later defined as patented lands.
- 1888 Special timber licences up to 1000 acres and up to one year, not transferable, at \$50 per licence. Licences staked by applicant.
- Hand logger's licences, one year, \$10 per licence.
- Ground rent 5¢ per acre on all timber leases granted between 1880 and 1888, in addition to royalty.
- Royalty 50¢ per M board feet on timber from all leases, licences and patented lands, based on scale by Doyle log rule.
- Liens and seizure provisions.
- Mills authorized to collect and remit royalties.
- Timber leases up to 30 years at 10¢ per acre rental and 50¢ per M board feet royalty and other provisions, lessee to erect lumber mill to saw 1000 feet of lumber per 12 hour day for each 400 acres in the lease. If two or more persons applied for the same land lease could be issued by competition on a cash bonus basis.

- 1890 Timber Mark Act provided for registered ownership marks to be applied to logs floated or rafted.
- 1891 30-year Hemlock Bark leases authorized for tanning. First leases issued 1905-06. Rental 2¢ per acre for first 5 years and 5¢ per acre thereafter. Conditional upon operation of a tannery.
- Surveyed Crown lands could be sold by public competition.
- 1892 Maximum term for timber leases reduced to 21 years and they must first have been offered for public competition. The required mill to be appurtenant to the lease and if not already erected a deposit of 10¢ per acre required to guarantee the erection of the mill within two years.
- 1894 Person required to stake lands sought for a special timber licence.
- Official Scalers' Act for measurement of timber.
- 1895 Annual rent increased to 15¢ per acre for timber leases issued thereafter.
- 1896 Royalty 25¢ per cord for shingle bolts, 50¢ per Mbm for logs.
- 1899 Agricultural and pastoral lands classified into three classes for sale at \$5.00, \$2.50 and \$1.00 per acre.
- Sale of timber lands (8 Mbm per acre Coast and 5 Mbm per acre Interior of milling timber) prohibited.
- Staking of lease applications required.
- Minimum annual payments for a timber lease including the royalty at 50¢ per Mbm and rent at 15¢ per acre not to be less than 50¢ per acre in total.
- The appurtenant sawmill to be operated six months per year unless relieved by Lieutenant Governor in Council, or lease may be cancelled.
- 1901 Pulp leases up to 21 years at 2¢ per acre rent and 25¢ per Mbm royalty and other provisions, on condition that a pulp or paper mill be erected in the Province capable of producing one ton of pulp or half ton of paper for each square mile in the lease; mill to be operated at least 6 months each year unless relieved.

Pulp mill could be exempted from taxation for five years.

Timber leases made renewable for 21 years.

Conditions of existing leases subject to revision at end of original term.

Special timber licences not to exceed 640 acres.

1902

Timber Measurement Act required the use of the "British Columbia Log Scale" and replace the "Official Scalers' Act" of 1894.

1903/4

Annual rent for timber leases issued by public competition to be 25¢ per acre but reduced to 15¢ per acre if lessee complies with milling requirements.

Annual fees (rent) for special timber licences (640 acres) increased to \$140.00 on the Coast and \$100.00 in the Interior.

A schedule of taxes imposed on timber not subject to royalty with the tax to be rebated if the timber is manufactured in the Province.

Lien provisions extended to mills as well as equipment used in logging and transporting timber.

Patented lands relived from the requirement to obtain a timber licence and royalty increased from 25¢ to 50¢ per M.

1905

Special timber licence fee in the Interior increased to \$115.00 per year.

All existing special timber licences made transferable and renewable annually for 16 years, with 10¢ per Mbm payable for timber in addition to royalty (total 60¢ per Mbm).

New special timber licences to be transferable and renewable annually for 21 years.

1906

All timber cut from leases and licences and from lands granted after March 12, 1906 to be manufactured in the Province. (Timber Manufacture Act, 1906)

Timber Measurement Act replaced.

Specific provision prohibited use of steam power on hand logger's licence.

Third class land classification eliminated leaving the \$5.00 and \$2.50 per acre rates for two classes.

1907

Order in Council, December 17, all unalienated timber lands withdrawn from all forms of alienation.

1908

Hand logger's licence fee increased to \$25.00 per year.

1909

Fulton Royal Commission appointed.

1910

Special timber licences made transferable and renewable so long as the licence contains sufficient merchantable timber to make it commercially valuable; provisions for logging and cancellation of portions required for settlement.

Fulton Report submitted (November 15, 1910).

1911

Leases restricted to not exceed 640 acres.

1912

Forest Act enacted:

- Established the B.C. Forest Service in the Department of Lands.
- Crown timber to be disposed of only under that Act.
- Existing licences and leases could be continued and renewed.
- New applications to be disposed of through special (timber sale) licences to be cruised and advertised for sale subject to specific conditions, an upset price, etc., in addition to royalties, rent, and other charges.
- Pulp (timber sale) licences where the timber was chiefly valuable for wood-pulp, eligible tenderers must have expended \$350,000 to erect a pulp or paper mill.
- Royalties based on potential use of timber - sawlogs, poles and spars, ties and props, pulpwood - for all licences and leases and all Crown lands granted after 1888.
- Extensive provisions for taking rights-of-way over lands for transport of timber.
- Created a forest protection fund supported by a 1¢ per acre levy on timber lands.

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- Many other subjects: forest reserves, timber marking and scaling, fire prevention, manufacture in the Province, liens, seizures, etc.

1913

Provided two years for the conversion of 16-year and 21-year special timber licences into perpetually renewable and transferable licences, by surrender and replacement process.

Timber marking provisions replaced. Forest Protection tax increased to 1 1/2¢ per acre.

Many other administrative amendments.

1914

Panama Canal completed.

Timber Royalty Act enacted which fixed royalties for 5 years and for the succeeding 5 year periods over the next 45 years increased the royalties by an increasing percentage of any surplus in the wholesale lumber prices above \$18.00 per Mbm, the percentage would increase from 25% of the surplus in 1920 up to 40% of the surplus for the 5-year periods commencing 1945 and 1950. (The Act was repealed in 1924.)

The term "stumpage" was adopted and defined as the amount payable for Crown timber in addition to rents and royalties and taxes.

Exempted sales under \$100.00 total stumpage value from advertising.

Provided 6 month period for obtaining 30 year renewals of existing wood-pulp leases at same terms and a royalty of 25¢ per cord; a licence to be required for cutting timber on the lease for other than pulp manufacture.

1915

Forest Act Relief Act made provisions allowing renewals of special timber licences that had expired (for non-payment of fees) upon payment of additional levies based on the length of delay up to one year.

Exemption from advertising increased from \$100.00 to \$500.00 stumpage values.

Provisions for substitution of special timber licences for surrendered or expired leases.

Further provisions for reinstatement of lapsed licences.

Many other administrative amendments to the Forest Act.

1916

Free Use Permits for settlers.

Other administrative amendments.

1917

Provisions for sale of Crown timber replaced and consolidated.

Pulp licences made appurtenant to pulp mills and limitation placed on the total area of pulp licences held in respect of any pulp mill so as not to exceed a 30 year timber supply for the mill.

Provision for advancing government revenue funds to cover deficiency in the forest protection fund.

1918

Provision for reimbursement of applicant for cost of cruising a timber sale licence where the licence is acquired by another person.

Aeroplane Spruce-cutting Act authorized cutting spruce from public or private lands by persons authorized by the Minister by special permit, subject to compensation at \$6.00 per Mbm for No. 1 logs and \$2.50 for No. 2.

1919

Provision for substitution of a pulp licence for a special timber licence where justified by circumstances.

Slash disposal provisions enacted for logging operations.

1920

Lessee or licensee may be compelled by notice to dispose of timber infested by pine-bark beetles, with the expenses shared by the government and licensee.

Provisions made for resin licences.

Provision for elimination of 640 acre blocks from licences upon application of the licensee.

Royalty payable for merchantable timber left uncut in logging operations.

Scaling Fund established for the Coast.

Forest Protection Tax increased from 1 1/2¢ to 2¢ per acre.

Fraser River Tannery Special Licences Act authorized the granting of special timber licences to cover the areas of the tannery leases.

1921

Pulp district may be created by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to secure the establishment or continuance of a pulp mill. Special timber licences held by the owner of a pulp mill could be exchanged for pulp licences. Crown timber tributary to a pulp mill in the district could be reserved for sale to the holder of the pulp mill. Other Crown timber in a pulp district to be disposed of only for the manufacture of wood-pulp. Volumes of timber cut to be limited to the capacity of the pulp mill and not to exceed the "forest producing capacity of the pulp district".

Forest Protection Tax increased to 2 1/2¢ per acre.

Pulp-wood defined for royalty purposes and exempted from the Timber Royalty Act. Royalty set at 25¢ per cord or equivalent.

1922

Free Use Permit provisions enacted.

Forest fire fighting responsibilities modified and clarified with provision for reimbursement of 100% of cost incurred by a person out of the Forest Protection Fund under specified circumstances instead of the former 50% reimbursement.

Provisions for closure of a district due to danger from forest fires and taking emergency actions in the closed district.

1923

Forest Act consolidated and re-enacted.

Form of "Renewable Timber Lease" made a Schedule to the Act.

1924

Forest Act became Chapter 93 of the 1924 Revised Statutes of B.C. - Consolidation of all Acts.

Timber Royalty Act repealed.

Royalties again set out in the Forest Act.

Table of Grades of Timber (Logs) appended as Schedule to the Act.

Royalties varied by species on a regional basis and according to species and log grades for two portions of the Coast.

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- 1925 A fund called the Forest Reserve Account was created based on 3% of gross receipts of timber royalty or tax and stumpage, for the purpose of meeting the cost of development and protection of forest reserves, and the planting of denuded areas and maintaining growth of continuous crops of timber in forest reserves.
- 1927 Authorized the surrender of pulp leases and replacement by special timber licences on payment of any difference between rentals paid and those that would have been paid under a licence.
- Permits required for campfires during the fire season.
- 1928 Provisions for cutting and disposal of sawlogs from wood-pulp leases other than for pulp manufacture on payment of the appropriate difference in rentals and royalties in comparison with a timber licence.
- 1929 Further provisions for replacement of old timber licences by renewable and transferable special timber licences.
- 1930 Repeal of long standing Timber Tax provisions for timber not subject to royalty (the tax had been rebateable if the timber was manufactured in the Province).
- Forest Protection Tax increased to 4¢ per acre.
- Further provisions for reinstatement of licences in arrears for fees.
- Railway Belt Retransfer Agreement Act validated the federal-provincial agreement reconveying the unsold railway belt lands to the Province, the Province to honour all commitments made by the federal government particularly in the matter of federal timber licences granted under federal regulations and known as Timber Berths for the cutting of trees over 10 inches in diameter subject to federal royalty rates.
- 1931 Royalty rate reduced from 75¢ to 60¢ for certain classes of timber from private lands (No. 3 logs on the Coast and species other than pine and spruce in the Interior).
- 1933 Rental fee for special timber licences reduced by 25% for one year.
- Royalty rates for all timber reduced by 15% for one year.

- 1934 Various forest protection amendments.  
Forest Protection Tax reduced from 4¢ to 2 1/2¢ per acre.
- 1936 Forest Act became Chapter 102 of 1936 R.S.B.C.  
Eliminations of land from licences and leases to be not less than 640 acres rather than multiples thereof.  
Provision for renewal of pulp leases in the form of "Wood-Pulp Lease" provided in the Schedule to the Act.  
Further forest protection amendments.  
Forest Protection Tax increased to 3 1/3¢ per acre.
- 1937 Slash disposal provisions revised to include snag disposal and including payment of assessments in lieu of the slash and snag disposal.  
Forest Protection Tax 4¢ per acre.
- 1938 Further forest protection amendments.  
Forest Protection Tax increased to 6¢ per acre.
- 1939 Royalty rates specified for a wide range of minor products - poles, ties, shakes, fence posts, Christmas trees, etc.  
Royalty had been fixed one year at a time now to continue in force until revised in the Act.  
Further forest protection amendments.  
Provincial Parks legislation added to the Forest Act and the former Provincial Parks Act repealed.
- 1943 Chief Forester authorized to designate a licensed scaler to scale timber at a mill in the Interior at the expense of the mill owner.  
Chief Forester may require deposit to guarantee fulfillment of slash and snag disposal requirements.  
Chief Forester may relieve operator of snag disposal due to war conditions on payment of assessment of \$4.00 per acre.  
Royal Commission (G.M.G. Sloan appointed) December 31, 1943.

1945

Deputy Minister of Forests appointed giving Forests a Department status under the Minister of Lands and Forests.

Export of pit props or mining timber to United Kingdom authorized.

Royal Commission Report submitted December, 1945, entitled The Forest Resources of British Columbia 1945.

1946

Silvicultural Fund established to be comprised of a portion not to exceed 50% of stumpage for timber in the Interior to be used for hazard abatement and silvicultural treatment incidental to removing the existing stand.

Provisions strengthened for creating forest reserves.

Royalties increased and revised to provide alternative rates per 100 cubic feet.

Provision for rebate of up to 75% of royalty for salvage of fire-killed timber.

Scaling of timber in either board feet under the B.C. Log Scale or in cubic feet under the B.C. Cubic Scale.

Slash and snag disposal provisions revised and replaced.

Provision made for the Minister to build and acquire roads and trails for forest administration, and to regulate traffic on the roads.

1947

"Forest land" defined in the Forest Act (land which will find its best economic use under forest crop). Sale of "forest land" as well as "timber land" prohibited under Land Act.

Stumpage payments required under timber sale licences to be inclusive of royalty.

Forest Management Licence forms of tenure established by extensive new provisions in the Forest Act.

Provision for agreement for 10,000 acre university forest for teaching and demonstration of forestry practice.

1948

Farm Woodlot Licence provisions enacted in the Forest Act.

Royalty rates increased.

Forest Development Fund of \$2,500,000 established for the building and financing of forest roads, to be replenished at a rate per unit of measurement of timber transported over the road.

Forest Act became Chapter 128 of 1948 R.S.B.C.

1949

Forest Management Licence stumpage provisions amended to allow the licensee an option to pay appraised stumpage with an allowance for forestry costs, instead of the licensee paying a higher stumpage for timber that is merchantable when the licence is issued and 16% of appraised stumpage for other timber (to be cut in future).

Forest protection defined for purposes of the Forest Protection fund to include protection from destructive effects of fire, insects and disease.

Forest Protection Tax for forest management licence to be based on its productive capacity, 9¢ per Mbm or 5¢ per 100 cubic feet.

Log Salvage Districts authorized with licensing of log-receiving stations and log salvors to require permits. All salvaged logs to be disposed of through log receiving station licensee.

1950

Assessment rates in lieu of slash and snag disposal to be fixed by regulation.

Chief Forester authorized to make agreements with private land occupiers for reforestation of the private lands and to supply tree seedlings free or at less than cost for the purpose.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Belt Land Tax Act (following a ruling by the Privy Council of England on a contested court case) imposed a provincial tax of 25% of the actual assessed value of land and timber at the date of alienation in respect of any of those lands alienated after February 20, 1946. (All of the lands have subsequently been alienated and the taxes paid.)

1952

By Minister's policy direction all subsequent timber sale licences and forest management licence cutting permits to require timber to be scaled in cubic feet.

1953

Logging Tax Act imposed a Provincial tax of 10% on the income derived from logging operations in B.C. in excess of \$25,000.

Forest roads on Crown lands deemed owned by the person authorized to build the road during the currency of his authority but revert to the Crown thereafter. Provisions for public use of such roads and for the Minister to authorize other users if permission is unreasonably withheld.

Provisions whereby the Forest Service may examine alienated land and the Minister may direct the owner of unsatisfactorily stocked forest land to stock (reforest) the land or upon failure to do so the Minister may reforest the land at the expense of the owner. (In 1955 this was restricted to the Coast, i.e. west of Cascade Mountains.)

1954

Salvage-sale areas may be established by Order in Council to prevent timber from being lost or destroyed and the Minister may sell the timber as he deems advisable.

At least 3% of the gross receipts from royalty or tax and stumpage to be made available for examination of Crown lands and for maintaining the growth of timber crops in forest reserves. This replaced the provision of the "Forest Reserve Account" established in 1925.

Provision for regulations for the registration of mills and logging camps.

1955

Forest Protection Fund abolished and consolidated with other Crown revenues and appropriations of funds.

1956

Silvicultural Fund abolished and consolidated with other Crown revenues and appropriations.

1957

Provincial Parks provisions removed from the Forest Act and Parks administration moved to the Department of Recreation and Conservation.

1958

Provisions to prevent collusion and unfair bidding practices in the disposal of Crown timber.

Forest Management Licences term changed to Tree Farm Licences.

Revisions to Tree Farm Licence legislation:

- To restrict the term to 21 years, renewable with conditions subject to renegotiation.
- New proposals to be considered by the Government's Forest Advisor.
- Stumpage method election eliminated and all stumpage rates to be based on appraisal with allowance for forestry costs.

Stronger provisions made for requiring licensees and land owners to take measures to control insect infestations.

Provisions for closures within a log salvage district to enable a log owner to recover a log spill.

Provisions for appointment of advisory committees or councils by the Minister.

1960

Where the prospective harvest for the next year in a (public sustained yield) unit will exceed 1 1/2 times the approved allowable annual cut, the area may be designated an emergency area by Order in Council, whereupon:

- the recognized applicant (being an established licensee) may request that his timber sale application be sold by sealed tender procedure, and
- upon submitting a tender at upset prices, may acquire the licence by matching the highest other tender submitted by any other party.

Forest Act became Chapter 153 of R.S.B.C. 1960.

1961

"Matching Bid" provisions for the applicant made applicable in any unit where the prospective harvest for the next year is equal to the approved allowable annual cut of the unit.

Further provisions for calling tenders for a timber sale licence in an emergency area.

Pulpwood Harvesting Area may be designated by the Minister comprising one or more sustained yield units in which pulpwood is available.

- proposals may be invited for the establishment of plants to utilize the pulpwood.
- public hearings to consider proposals and objection.
- may advertise and sell an option to purchase pulpwood under specified conditions for 21 years.
- appraised stumpage to be payable on the pulpwood.

Provided for elimination of portion of a timber licence or lease which does not contain merchantable timber.

Provision made for agreements with other government bodies or corporations to provide forest protection and fire suppression services on their lands.

Forest Development Fund payments may be included in stumpage and the portion credited to the Fund.

1962

Pulpwood harvesting area provisions modified where only one proposal is submitted, and agreement option to be renewable with conditions to be renegotiated after 21 years.

1963

Private Roads Act, 1963 amended the Forest Act, Industrial Transportation Act and Motor Vehicle Act to encourage owners to allow public use of private roads:

- owner relieved of fire responsibilities where fire is caused by a member of the public authorized to use the road
- owner may be reimbursed for his fire fighting costs where a fire is caused by a member of the public
- person using the road not to be eligible for any compensation respecting an injury caused by the condition of the road
- certain exemptions from offences under the Motor Vehicle Act.

1964

Bidding fee required of persons other than the applicant for sales in fully committed public sustained yield units or an emergency area.

Timber Sale Licence may require the licensee to carry out silvicultural work and may provide for compensation for the work as an offset against stumpage or by appropriated funds.

Provided for exchange of certain lands for land to be included in a forest reserve (Provincial Forest).

Tree farm licence defined to include all such licences granted prior to 1958 (presumably relates to the question of the "perpetual" term of such licences before 1958).

Mill permits required for erecting mills with 1/2 mile of forest to set out fireproofing requirements.

Reverted forest roads may be declared by the Minister to be Forest Service Roads.

1965

Timber sale licence may require the licensee to construct primary access road or silvicultural treatment as offset against stumpage.

Minister authorized to require holders of special timber licences, pulp licences, timber and pulp leases to supply timber cruise information and may eliminate areas which do not contain merchantable timber.

Annual rental fees increased to 50¢ per acre, subject to the terms of the licence or lease.

Levies provided for reinstatement of licences in arrears for fees but a two year time limit set for reinstatement.

1966

Royalty may be calculated on a pro rata basis where more than one rate applies (e.g. close utilization component or possibly for weight or sample scaling).

Provisions for controlling distribution of plant nursery stock to prevent spread of insects or disease, or for destruction of such stock with compensation to the owners.

B.C. Forest Development Loan Act of 1948 is repealed.

1967

Pollution Control Act enacted.

Procedure for disposal of beach clearing licences.

1968

Royalty rates revised (increased). Forest Protection Tax rates doubled to 12¢ per acre, or 18¢ per Mbm or 10¢ per 100 cubic feet.

Provision for regulations respecting licencing of all types of mills and wood-manufacturing plants.

Provisions for agreements for reforesting private or alienated lands repealed.

Logging Tax Act amended to increase the tax on logging income from 10% of the income in excess of \$25,000 to 15% of the income in excess of \$10,000.

1970

Provision for election of either board foot or cubic scale eliminated and made at the discretion of the Minister.

Land Act amended to read:

- Except where, in the opinion of the minister, Crown land is required for agricultural settlement and development or other higher economic use, Crown land that is suitable for the production of timber and pulpwood shall not be disposed of by Crown grant under this Act.

1971

Environment and Land Use Act enacted.

All Terrain Vehicle Act enacted.

1972

Portions of old temporary tenures (licences and leases) within a tree farm licence to revert to Crown land status when logged off and become part of the tree farm licence if held by the same licensee but if held by another licensee an Order in Council is required to include the land in the tree farm licence.

Scaling provisions re-enacted to entrench the B.C. Cubic Scale.

Requirement to obtain permits for campfires eliminated and industrial burning permit provisions strengthened.

New provision requiring lessee or licensee of Crown timber to reforest areas logged under the lease or licence.

1974

Task Force on Crown Timber Disposal, appointed January 12, 1974, submitted two reports:

- First report, February 1974, Crown Charges for Early Timber Rights

- Second report, July 1974, Timber Appraisal.

Timber Products Stabilization Act enacted (proclaimed effective January 9, 1975), which authorized:

- establishment of a Forest Products Board (none was ever established)
- regulation of prices paid for wood-chips produced in the Province for manufacture in the Province.

Authorized offsets against stumpage for a primary access road on a tree farm licence and such roads become Forest Service roads.

Improvements on tree farm licence areas no longer exempted from taxation under the Taxation Act.

1975 Royal Commission appointed June 12 to inquire into and report on forest policy matters.

1976 Department of Forests established.

Forest Act became the Department of Forests Act. Subsequently renamed the Ministry of Forests (by Order in Council 3199, October 28, 1976, filed as B.C. Reg. 579/76 and validated by Ministerial Titles Amendment Act, 1977).

Report of the Royal Commission on Forest Resources, Timber Rights and Forest Policy in British Columbia submitted in September.

Forest Policy Advisory Committee appointed in December to deal with implementation of the Royal Commission Report.

1977 Pesticide Control Act enacted.

Plant Protection Act enacted.

1978 Three new forest and range acts enacted:

- Ministry of Forests Act
- Forest Act
- Range Act

They replaced the former Department (or Ministry) of Forests Act (called the Forest Act prior to 1976) and the Grazing Act, and made provisions for:

- the management of the Crown forest resources on an integrated multiple use basis, maintaining forest land under successive forest crops:

- continuation of Provincial Forests to retain the forest land base in public ownership
- replacement of public sustained yield units by larger timber supply areas
- determination of allowable annual cut for each timber supply area
- apportionment of the allowable cut among the forms of tenure
- the regulating of harvesting rates through cut control provisions in the licences
- "use it or lose it" principle in terms of allowable cut utilization and performance
- an assortment of revised tenure agreement forms with varying forest management responsibilities and degrees of tenure security
- consolidation and replacement of former tenures held by a person in a timber supply area
- an "evergreen" basis of periodic replacement of major licences to enable revisions of terms and conditions while retaining tenure security for forest planning and investment purposes and industrial efficiencies
- reserved to the Crown the right to resume without compensation any lands comprised in a licence for public purposes provided that the rights granted are not reduced by more than 10% (up to 5% for each of two discrete categories of public use) during a "deletion period" as defined for the type of licence
- compensation for abnormal deletions of land for public purposes
- elimination of perpetual terms of existing tree farm licences
- continued control over assignments of licences to help retain diversity in industrial structure
- ensuring salvage of dead and damaged timber
- appraising and pricing timber on the most current feasible basis to obtain full current market values

- use of stumpage credits to obtain good silvicultural practices, prompt reforestation and an efficient network of primary access logging roads
- annual rental rates related to the term and security of the licence tenure
- planning and control of access road developments through road permits and the acquisition of Forest Service Roads
- development of facilities for public recreation on Crown forest land
- clarification of forest fire prevention and fire suppression responsibilities in relation to the initiation of fire control action and the costs of fire control action undertaken
- controlling the spread of injurious forest insects and disease
- promoting and controlling the salvage of stray logs on waters and beaches to prevent theft and safeguard ownership rights where possible
- retaining requirements for manufacturing timber in the Province except where timber is surplus to current requirements
- prevention of trespass
- licensing of timber processing plants where appropriate, consistent with the available timber supply
- a formal appeal process respecting certain discretionary decisions and determinations
- regulation of wood-chip prices
- tree nurseries, collection of tree seed and dispersion of seedlings
- reforestation of forest lands
- promulgating regulations for the purposes of the Act, such as fire prevention and protection; the use of Provincial Forests, recreation sites and Forest Service roads; small business enterprises; logging contracting; marine log salvage; minimum stumpage rates; and timber scaling.

1980

The Forest Service was reorganized to decentralize more authority to 43 forest districts under district managers.

District managers were authorized in the Forest Act to perform many functions formerly assigned to regional managers.

Consolidation and subdivision of tree farm licences held by the same person was authorized.

Provisions made for Christmas tree permits to grow and harvest Christmas trees in Crown land.

Section 84 amended to require that timber appraisals and stumpage rates be determined in accordance with the policies and procedures approved by the Minister and varied according to the licence agreement.

Stumpage appeals to be decided on the basis of the approved procedures in effect at the time of the initial stumpage determination.

Credit to stumpage provisions broadened to include forest nurseries and seed orchards.

Wood-chip price regulation repealed April 1, 1980.

1982

Timber sale licences that qualify for replacement with "matching bid provisions" for the licensee may be replaced without being offered for competition.

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