Forestry in British Columbia

How is it organized?

Paul Lawson
How can these issues be addressed?

1) Who manages BC’s forests?
2) What is the role of foresters?
3) What is the role of government?
4) What rules and regulations exist?
Who manages BC forests?

1. Ownership
   a. No federal ownership
      • Canada is a confederation (not a Union)
      • Natural resources under jurisdiction of provinces
   b. Most is Crown land, not private
      • Over 95% of BC forest land is “crown” land
      • Question of aboriginal vs crown title is very much in flux (think of a see-saw)
### Name Changes of the B.C. Departments and Ministries (which have contained the Forest Service, 1912 - )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Cause</th>
<th>Start Date - End Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Lands, Forest Branch</td>
<td>Feb. 1912 - April 5, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Lands and Forests, Forest Service</td>
<td>April 5, 1945 - March 30, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests, Forest Service</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 1975 - Nov. 6, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests and Lands, Forest Service</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 1986 - July 6, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests, Forest Service</td>
<td>July 6, 1988 - June 16, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests and Range, Forest Service</td>
<td>June 16, 2005 - October 25, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands</td>
<td>October 25, 2010- March 14, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations</td>
<td>March 14, 2011-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2017 – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Chief Forester

As chief forester, Diane Nicholls is responsible for determining timber harvest levels for each timber supply area and tree farm licence in the province.

Reporting to the deputy minister, she also provides key strategic guidance and direction on forest stewardship to forestry practitioners in the ministry and industry.
95% of BC's forest land is publicly owned
Who manages BC forests?

2. Tenures
   a. Area based tenures
      • Tree Farm Licenses (TFLs)  13 million $m^3$
      • Woodlot Licenses  3 million $m^3$
      • Community Forests  1 million $m^3$
      • First Nation Woodland Licenses (FNWLs) *first offered in 2011 and rapidly expanding as First Nation participation in forestry begins to take hold* – at least 13 have been awarded ~ 1 million $m^3$
   b. Volume based tenures
      • Timber Supply Areas (TSAs)  53 million $m^3$
Responsibilities of the licensees

Area based tenures (TFL’s, CF’s, WL’s, FNWL’s)
- Management of a given area on a long term basis
- Harvest according to a development plan accepted by the government
- Pay stumpage to the government
- Reforest the area
- Build and maintain roads and bridges
Responsibilities of the licensees

Volume based tenures (TSL’s, FL’s)
• Usually shared by a number of licensees
• Harvest according to a development plan accepted by the government
  • A cutting plan, not a management plan
• Pay stumpage to the government
• Reforest the area
• Build and maintain roads and bridges
Responsibilities of the licensees

- Reforestation liability is held by the licensee until the cutblock area is deemed “free-to-grow” by the government.

- On TSAs all responsibility then reverts back to the Crown

- Tenures (except FNWL) carry only the right to harvest timber - Licensees are only tenants
What is the role of foresters

• The **Foresters Act**
  • Right to title
    • ABCFP is governing body
  • Right to practice

• ‘Land Ethic’ is the basis for professional decision making

• Report on professional reliance
  • “the practice of accepting and relying upon the decisions and advice of resource professionals who accept responsibility and can be held accountable for the decisions they make and the advice they give.”
What is the role of government?

• Acts as the landowner on behalf of the citizens
• Must balance values, objectives and constraints (eg: see-saw)
• Forest activities come under the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD)
• Chief Forester
  • responsible for determining timber harvest levels for each timber supply area and tree farm licence in the province. Reporting to the deputy minister, she will also provide key strategic guidance and direction on forest stewardship to forestry practitioners in the ministry and industry.
What is the role of government?

• Oversight is through FRPA (Forest and Range Practices Act)
  [Monitored through FREP (Forest and Range Evaluation Program)]
  1. Biodiversity,
  2. Cultural Heritage,
  3. Fish/Riparian,
  4. Forage & Associated Plant Communities,
  5. Recreation,
  6. Resource Features,
  7. Soils,
  8. Timber,
  9. Visual Quality,
  10. Water
What rules and regulations exist?

• FRPA........FPPR
  1) GARs
  2) FSPs
• Wildfire Act
What are **Forest Stewardship Plans**?

- Results or strategies designed to meet government’s objectives
- Measures for invasive plants and natural range barriers, if applicable
- Stocking standards (a listing of suitable tree species for restocking, and criteria for acceptability of these at free growing age).
- Maps showing boundaries of forest development units (FDUs), designations in effect, such as ungulate winter ranges, scenic areas, and reserves, as well as existing cutting permits and roads.
- All under consideration for change at present time
Types of decisions supported by the GAR:

Decisions about categories of species, including

• Species at risk
• Regionally important wildlife
• Ungulates
Types of decisions supported by the GAR:

Decisions that trigger practice requirements for protection of

• Wildlife
• Natural resource features (eg caves)
• Wildlife habitat features
• Temperature sensitive streams
Types of decisions supported by the GAR:

Land use decisions for managing, protecting or designating
  • Wildlife habitat areas
  • Ungulate winter ranges
  • Community watersheds
  • Fisheries sensitive watersheds
  • Lakeshore management zones
  • Scenic areas
Visual Quality Objectives

There are 5 classes of visual quality objectives used in BC. Photographic examples are shown here. Definitions are adapted from the FPPR section 1.1.

Preservation
Alteration is very small in scale, and not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape (0% of ground may be visible).

Retention
Alteration is difficult to see, small in scale, and natural in appearance. (0% to 1.5% of ground may be visible).

Partial Retention
Alteration is easy to see, small to medium in scale, and natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape. (1.5 to 7% of ground may be visible).

Modification
Alteration is very easy to see, and is large in scale and natural in its appearance, or small to medium in scale but with some angularity (7.1% to 18% of ground may be visible).

Maximum Modification
Alteration is very easy to see. It is very large in scale, rectilinear and geometric in shape or both (18.1% to 30% of ground may be visible).

The established VQO for this area is partial retention.

The achieved VQO, after logging, is modification, but near partial retention from some viewpoints.
C&E (Compliance and Enforcement)

A key role of government is making sure that all aspects of FRPA, GARs and the Wildfire Act are enforced
Forest Practices Board

Established under FRPA

Mission Statement

The Forest Practices Board serves the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in British Columbia.
Forest Practices Board

FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES

In fulfilling its mission, the Board encourages:

• Sound forest practices that warrant public confidence

• Fair and equitable application of the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Wildfire Act

• Continuing improvements in forest and range practices
The Organization

- Board Members
  - Chair
  - Executive Director
    - General Counsel
    - Director Audits
    - Director Investigations
    - Director Communications
    - Auditors & Investigators
    - Admin Support
Forest Practices Board

Functions

Mandatory (“musts”)
  • Audits
  • Investigate complaints

Permitted (“mays”)
  • Special reports
  • Special investigations