

Forestry in British Columbia

How is it organized?

Bruce Larson

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
 - Natural resources under jurisdiction of provinces
 - b. Most is Crown land not private
 - Over 95% of BC forest land is Crown land

Who manages BC forests?

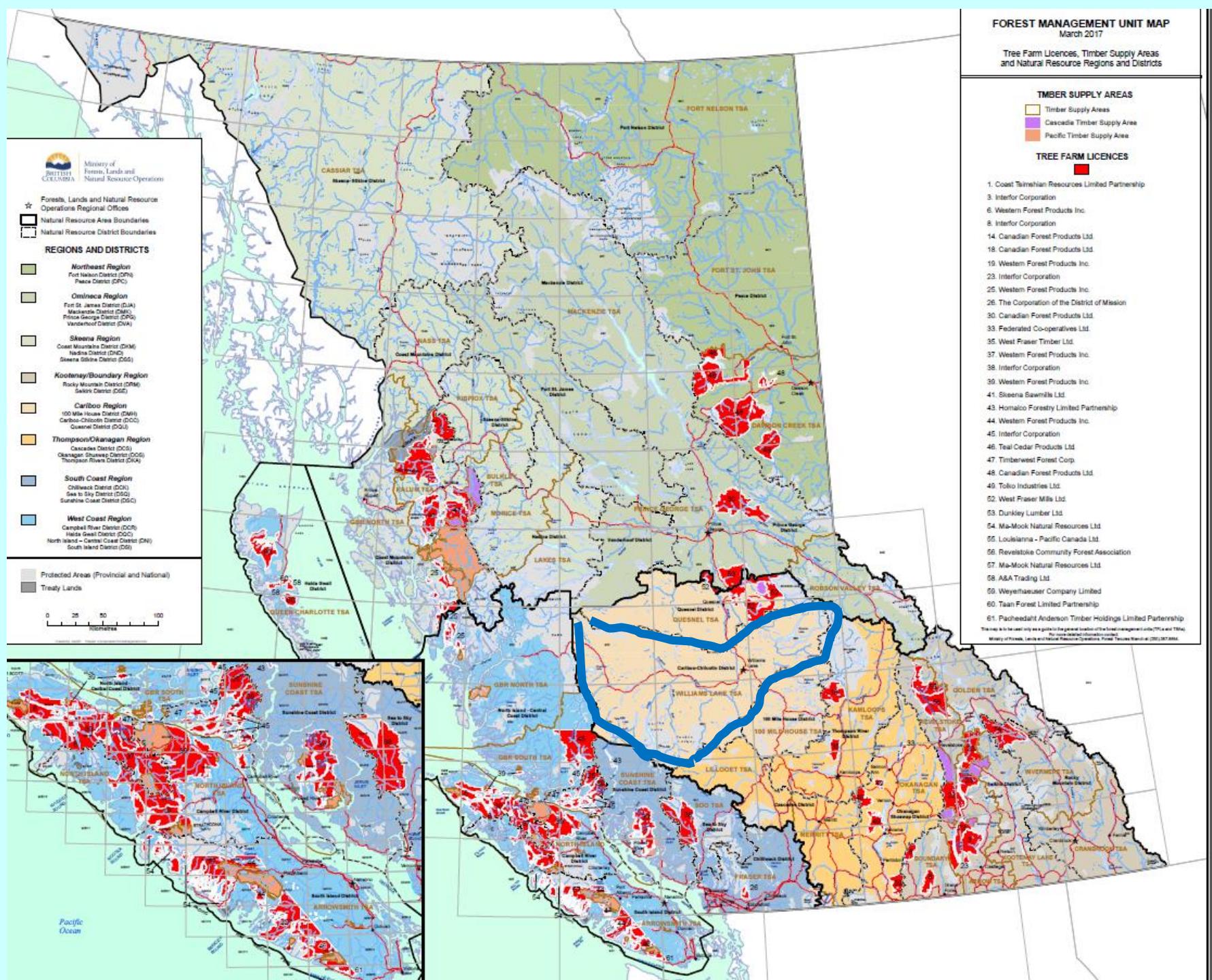
2. Tenures

a. Area based tenures

- Tree Farm Licenses (TFL's) *13 million m³*
- Woodlots *3 million m³*
- Community forests *1 million m³*
- First Nation Woodlots (FNWL's) *there are only a few and their allocation comes from the removal of land from somewhere else.*

b. Volume based tenures

- Timber Supply Areas (TSA's) *53 million m³*



Responsibilities of the licensees

Land based tenures

- Management of a given area
- 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
 - 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 TSA’s all responsibility then reverts back to the Crown

What is the role of foresters

- The **Foresters Act**
 - Right to title
 - ABCFP
 - Right to practice
- ‘Land Ethic’
- 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?

- 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 (**F**orest and **R**ange **P**ractices **A**ct)
[Monitored through FREP (**F**orest and **R**ange **E**valuation **P**rogram)]
 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
 11. Wildlife.

What rules and regulations exist?

- FRPA
 - 1) GAR's
 - 2) FSP's
- 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.

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
- 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

Preservation



Retention



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

Partial Retention



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

The established VQO for this area is partial retention

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

Modification



Alteration is easy to see, small to medium in scale, and natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape. (1.6 to 7% of ground may be visible).

The achieved VQO, after logging, is modification, but near partial retention from some viewpoints

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).



**Forest
Practices
Board**

Logging and Visual Quality near Lillooet

Complaint Investigation #15085

FPB/IRC/215

May 2018

C&E (Compliance and Enforcement)

A key role of government is making sure that all aspects of FRPA, GAR's and the Wildfire Act are enforced

Forest Practices Board

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

Forest Practices Board

Functions

Mandatory (“musts”)

- Audits
- Investigate complaints
- Permitted (“mays”)
 - Special reports
 - Special investigations