

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 -)

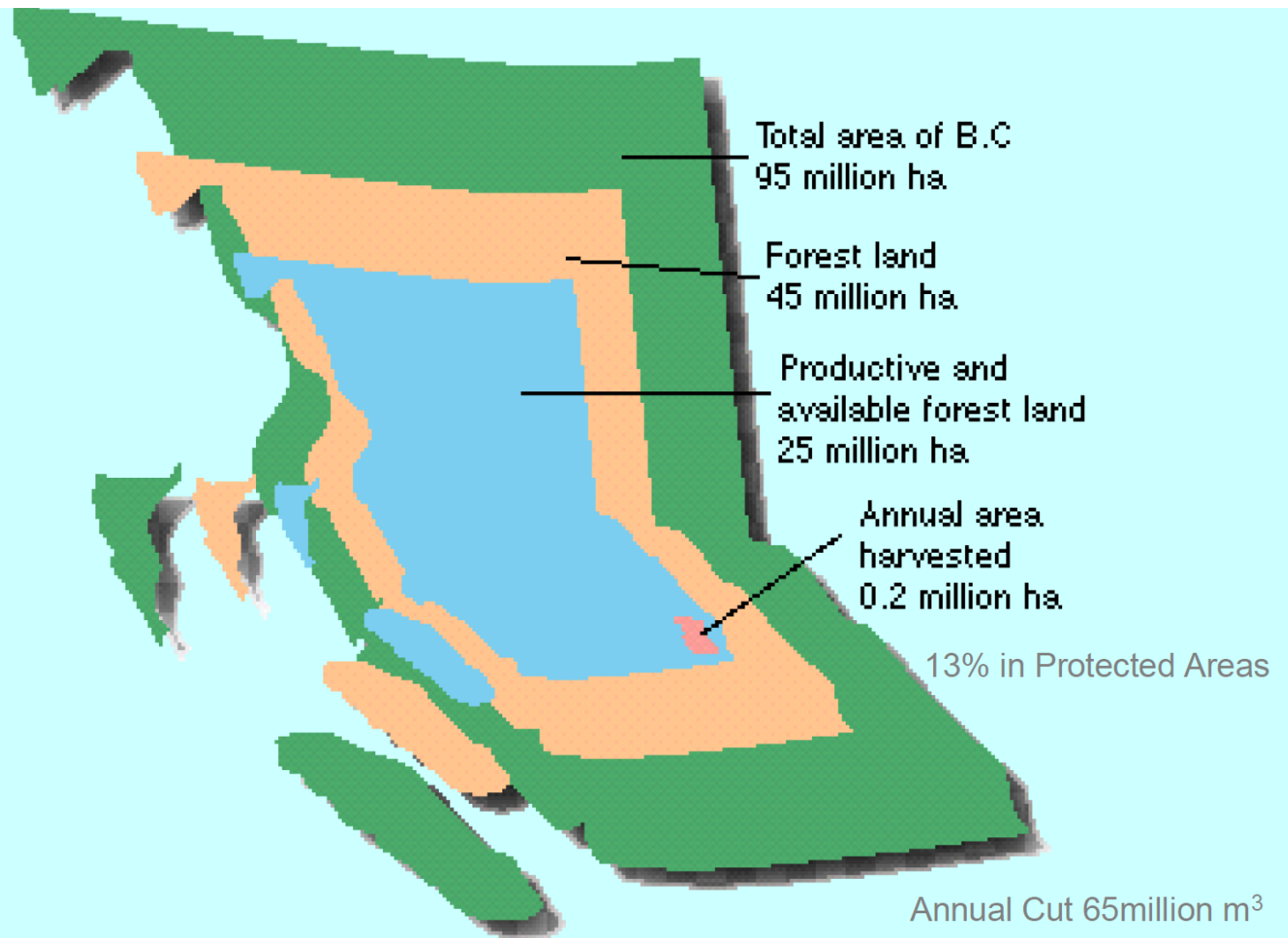
Department of Lands, Forest Branch	Feb. 1912 - April 5, 1945
Department of Lands and Forests, Forest Service	April 5, 1945 - March 30, 1962
Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Forest Service	March 30, 1962 - Dec. 11, 1975
Ministry of Forests, Forest Service	Dec. 11, 1975 - Nov. 6, 1986
Ministry of Forests and Lands, Forest Service	Nov. 6, 1986 - July 6, 1988
Ministry of Forests, Forest Service	July 6, 1988 - June 16, 2005
Ministry of Forests and Range, Forest Service	June 16, 2005 - October 25, 2010
Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands	October 25, 2010- March 14, 2011
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	March 14, 2011-

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?

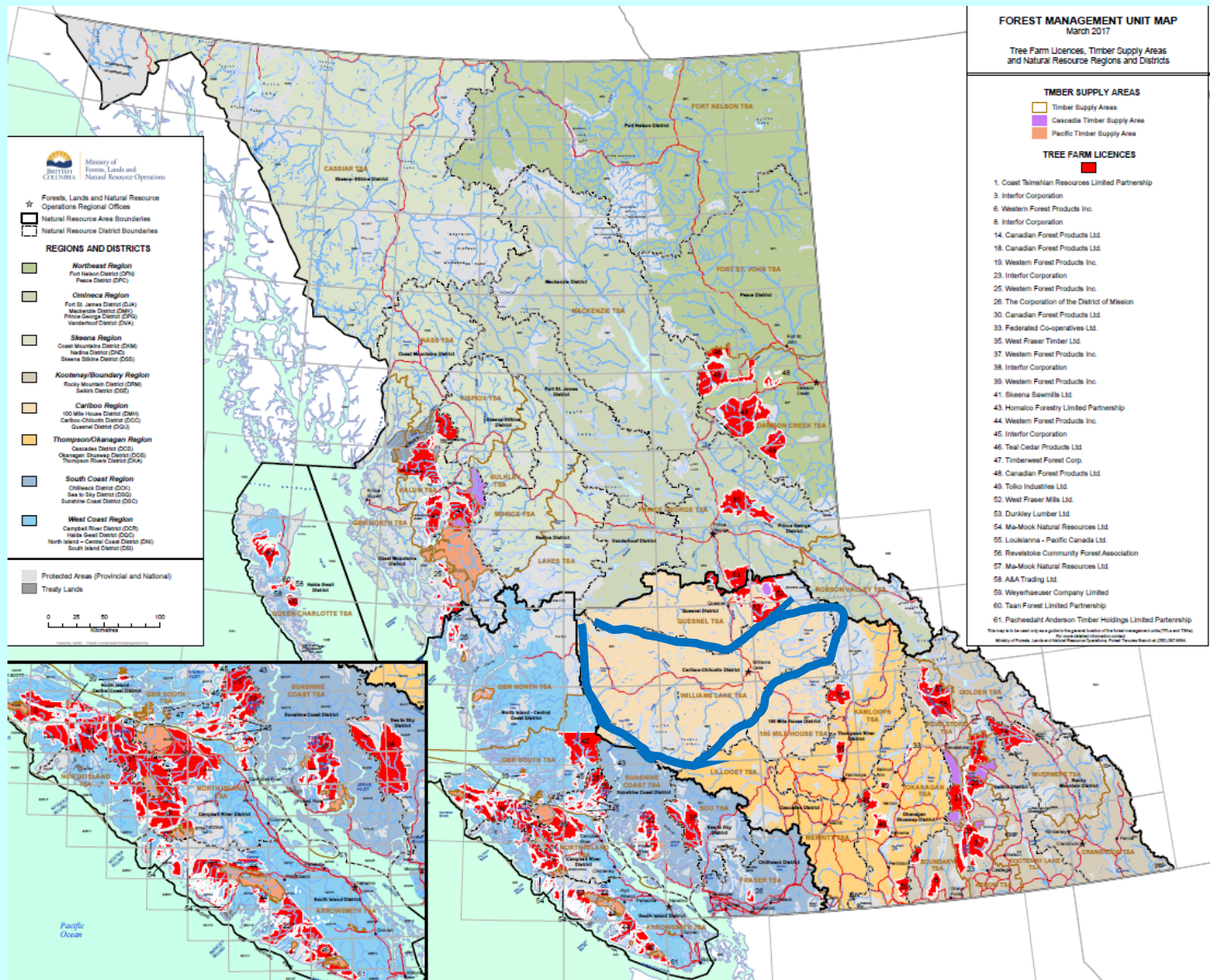
2. Tenures

a. Area based tenures

- Tree Farm Licenses (TFLs) *13 million m³*
- Woodlot Licenses *3 million m³*
- Community Forests *1 million m³*
- 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 m³*

b. Volume based tenures

- Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) *53 million m³*



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 (**F**orest and **R**ange **P**actices **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.....FPPR

- 1) GARs

- 2) FSPs

- Wildfire Act

What are **F**orest **S**tewardship **P**lans?

- 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

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. (1.6 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).

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

The established VQO for this area is partial retention

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



**Forest
Practices
Board**

Logging and Visual Quality near Lillooet

Complaint Investigation #15085

FPB/IRC/215
May 2018

C&E (**C**ompliance and **E**nforcement)

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.

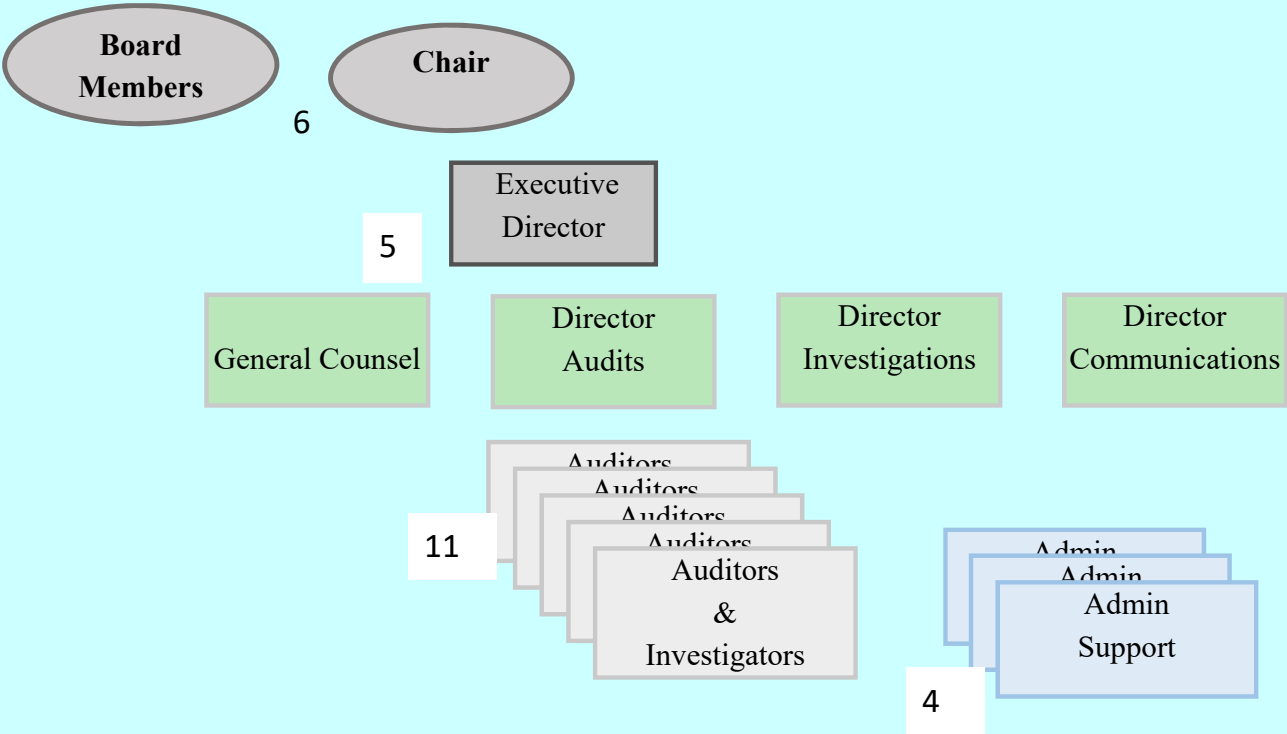
Forest Practices Board

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



Forest Practices Board

Functions

Mandatory (“musts”)

- Audits
- Investigate complaints

• Permitted (“mays”)

- Special reports
- Special investigations

VQO = Partial Retention



 FORSITE



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