BC COUNCIL OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Wildfire Resilience

The Challenge

BC needs a proactive approach to wildfire mitigation

2.8 million hectares
of forests in BC burned in 2023

2,251 fires
across BC during the 2023 wildfire season

$966 Million
Spent on wildfire suppression in 2023

45%
of public land across BC is at high or extreme threat of wildfire

386
Evacuation alerts in 2023, affecting more than 137,000 people

Forestry solutions

Active forest management can reduce the risk of wildfires

Working with government, wildfire experts and First Nations, the forest industry can help to protect communities and improve forest health and resilience through more active forest management. Climate Smart Forestry is designed to enhance the resilience of forests against natural disasters and mitigate wildfire impacts on communities.

Climate Smart Forestry includes removing fuel and creating fire breaks, and can help to improve resilience and protect communities along the Wildland-Urban Interface.

Landscape Management Strategies

- Mapping: Identifying high-risk areas
- Fuel management: Tracking excess wood that burns as fuel
- Mechanical treatment and thinning: Reducing fuel loads
- Local decision making: Empowering communities
- Indigenous knowledge: Incorporating traditional practices
- Cultural and prescribed burning: Managing vegetation
- Salvage harvesting: Removing dead and dying trees

Resources

Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

Advances sustainable forest management practices through its funding for wildfire risk reduction, salvage harvesting, and fibre utilization projects across BC.

FireSmart BC

Provides funding and support for prevention activities on municipal and private lands, enhancing wildfire resilience in communities along the Wildland-Urban Interface.

BC Forest Practices Board (FPB)

An independent watchdog ensuring sound forest and range practices, the FPB has published a report calling for provincial action and active forest management to reduce wildfire risks in British Columbia.
www.bcfpb.ca/release-publications/releases/forest-and-fire-management-in-bc-toward-landscape-resilience/

***References for data points are available at cofi.org/forest-facts**

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Wildfire Resilience References

The Challenge

1. BC needs a proactive approach to wildfire mitigation

- POLIS – State of Wildfire in BC

2. 2.8 million hectares of forest in BC burned in 2023

- POLIS – State of Wildfire in BC, Page 11

3. 2,251 fires across BC during the 2023 wildfire season

- POLIS – State of Wildfire in BC, Page 11

4. $966 million spent on wildfire suppression in 2023

- POLIS – State of Wildfire in BC, Page 11

5. 45% of land across BC is at high or extreme threat of wildfire

- POLIS – State of Wildfire in BC, Page 13
  - Supplemental– Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis Tool

6. 386 evacuation alerts in 2023, affecting more than 137,000 people

- BC government – Wildfire Season Summary

Forestry solutions

7. Landscape Fire Management strategies and Forest Practices Board

- Forest Practices Board
- Supplemental on LFM – Practice Landscape Fire Management
- Backgrounder – Landscape Fire Management

Resources

8. Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

- FESBC

9. FireSmart BC

- FireSmart Funding

10. BC Forest Practices Board (FPB)

- BC FPB
- BC FPB – Forest and fire management in BC toward landscape resilience