



British Columbia Forest Protection

Program Profile



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
Ministry of Forests

Program Profile

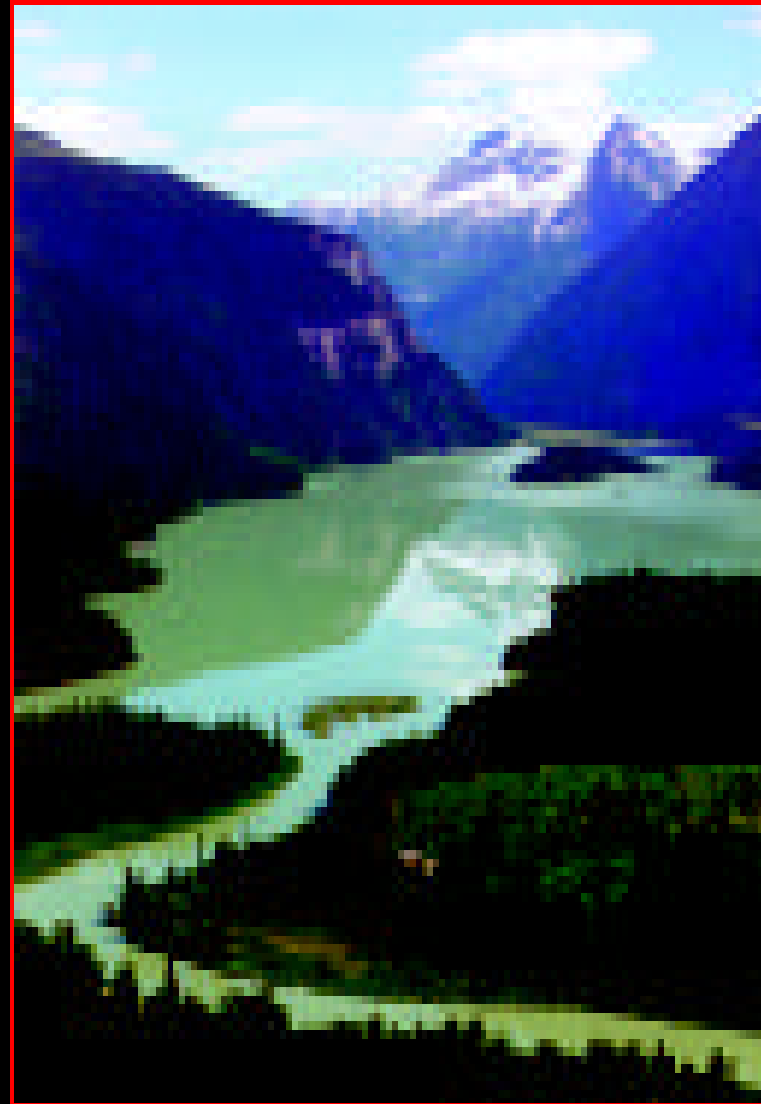
- **Public Safety**
 - **Emergency Response**
 - **Resource Protection**
 - **Aviation Management**
 - **Technology Systems Development**
 - **Training Programs**
 - **Consulting services**
 - **International Cooperation**

Primary Mandate

The Forest Service Protection Program's mandate is to protect the province's forest and range resource from an average of 2,500 wildfires each year.

British Columbia's forest industry produces approximately \$16 Billion in forest products annually and directly employs over 80,000 workers.

Without a robust forest protection program, the annual harvest would be reduced by more than 25 per cent. This in turn would reduce annual forest production and jobs by a similar amount.



Above: British Columbia's natural wildland.

Resource Protection

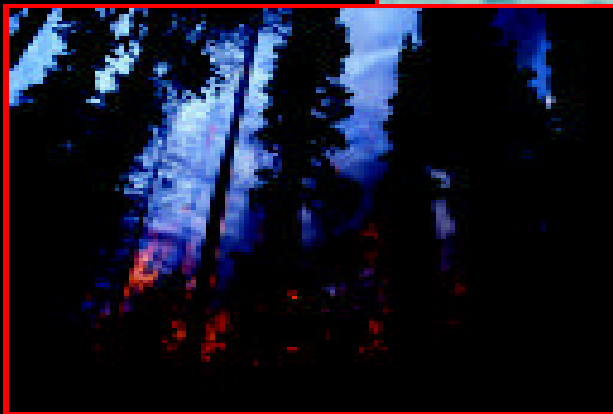
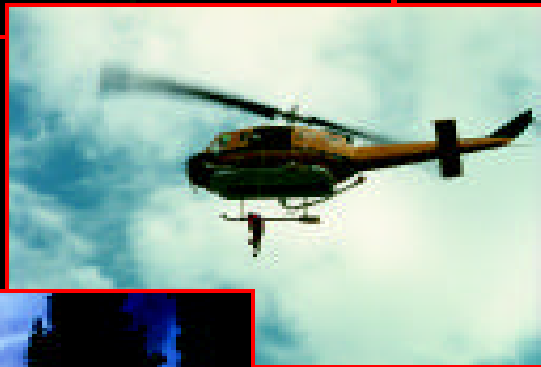
The province of British Columbia, Canada's third largest, has fabulously rich forests and wildlands spreading over 94 million hectares, or nearly a million square kilometres of unparalleled natural splendor. British Columbia's forests are the most diverse in Canada.

Confronted by an average of 2,500 wildfires every year, fire crews hit hard and hit fast, using advanced technologies and effective fire suppression strategies to contain 94 per cent of all wildland fires within the first 24 hours of discovery. This results in less than five per cent of Canada's total burned area, even though British Columbia's geography accounts for 30 per cent of all fires.

British Columbia's geography creates the most difficult working conditions in Canada and, despite this challenge, boasts one of Canada's most successful forest protection programs.



Right: *Rappel crews can access remote, steep fires quickly.*



Public Safety

Wildfire is the most frequently occurring threat to British Columbia's economy and public safety.

Wildfires occur annually and are a constant and dangerous threat to life and property near forests.

Although the Protection Program is mandated to protect forests and rangelands, it gives high priority to fires that threaten people and property (known as an interface area). When homes or lives are threatened, or local governments request help, the Protection Program efficiently responds with airtankers, helicopters, equipment, and fire control staff.

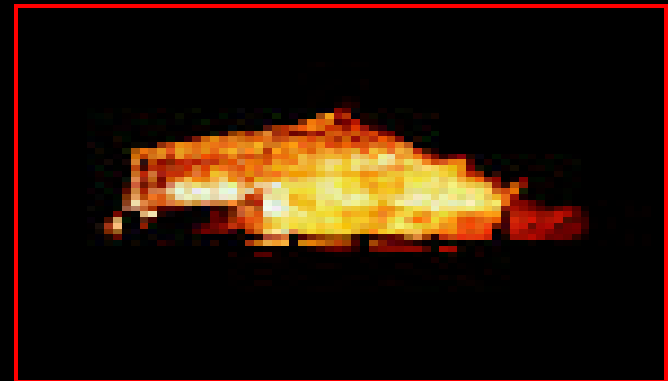
As British Columbia's population continues to grow and more people build homes in or near forested and wildland areas, the interface area will continue to be the biggest challenge facing the Protection Program in the future.

In order to combat this growing problem, the program spends considerable time and funds alerting the public to the risks of wildfire. When lives, property or timber values are threatened by wildfire, the Protection Program is ready to respond.



The difficulty of fires occurring near communities or adjacent to rural residences is an increasing problem in British Columbia, and one that requires a co-operative approach between the Forest Service and local fire departments.

Fire prevention initiatives include videos, pamphlets and programs to assist rural residents with ways to safeguard their homes.



Emergency Resources

To meet its goals, the Protection Program operates an infrastructure consisting of:

- six fire centres and one provincial fire control centre;
- one provincial airtanker centre;
- 20 airtanker bases;
- 63 fire crew initial attack bases;
- two fire equipment depots; and
- one centralized fire reporting (1-800) centre.

The program also maintains or contracts an equipment pool of:

- a fleet of 120 fire trucks and response vehicles;
- several hundred fire pumps, fire hose and a stock of more than 2000 separate items for fire fighting;
- one Dash 7 transport aircraft;
- 40 patrol planes;
- 12 fire bombing aircraft; and
- more than 20 helicopters.

The Protection Program also maintains an elite force of 800 highly trained, physically fit and professional fire fighters, with:

- 107, three person initial attack crews including 12 rappel crews (Rapattack);
- 21 unit crews (20 firefighters each);
- 100 lookout towers;
- over 700 fire wardens; and
- sophisticated computer systems.

Right: Fire fighters construct a "fire break" to contain the spread of fire.



Left: Fire trucks used in wildland fire fighting.

Right: Fire crews are physically fit, well-trained professionals.



Aviation Management

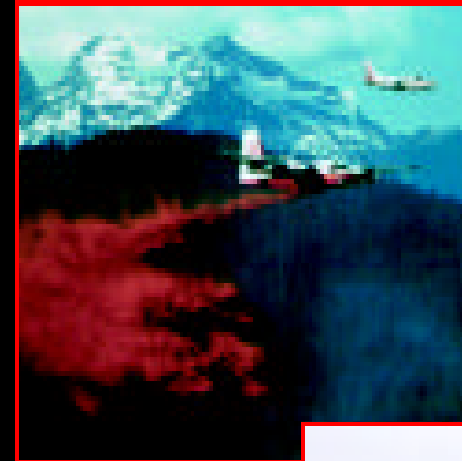
Mandate

The Protection Program's aviation management section provides a safe, cost effective and efficient aviation service to the Province of British Columbia.

Scope

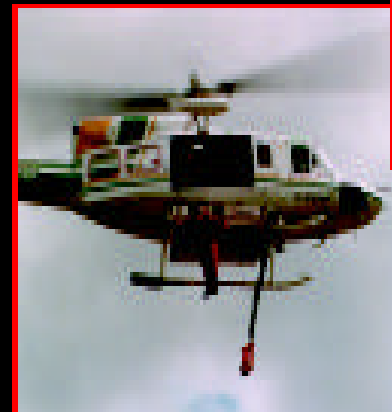
- 🔥 Cost efficient and operationally effective management of aircraft resources.
- 🔥 High standard of accident prevention and aviation safety programs.
- 🔥 Highly trained and experienced aircraft operators, pilots and air attack officers.
- 🔥 Centralized air tanker program responsible for quick dispatch and a coordinated resource response to wildfires.

Right: L-188 Electra aerial fire suppression.



Left: Firecat tanker being directed over fire by Bird Dog plane.

Right: Helitanker drop.



Left: Hoist operations can assist people in danger..



Left: The Protection Program offers a wide range of training programs and consulting services worldwide.



Right: Malaysian delegates inspect Bambi-bucket manufacturing plant in British Columbia.



Above: Countries around the world where the BCFS Protection Program has provided training programs, consulting services and assistance.

Innovation

Many products developed by the British Columbia Forest Service and manufactured by various companies have been tested and evaluated by our staff to determine if they are suitable for fire suppression operations.

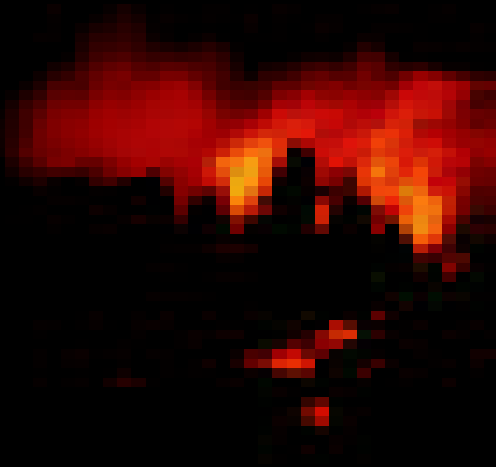
Constant innovation and creation of new products are needed to maintain the Forest Service's high standard for fire suppression equipment and to increase safety and efficiency on the fire line.

International Cooperation

The B.C. Forest Service has evolved into a world leader in the management of wildland fire, offering our knowledge and expertise around the globe as suppliers of training programs, consulting services, and innovations in computer technology and fire suppression equipment.

- Norway
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Greece
- Portugal
- Turkey
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Spain
- South Korea
- China
- Ghana
- Mexico
- Colombia
- Honduras
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Brazil
- Chile
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Hungary
- New Zealand
- Australia
- Sweden
- France
- Malaysia
- South Africa

Thanks to a strong fire-fighting network, rapid response attack strategies, highly trained and committed personnel, an uncompromising safety attitude, and superb technological assistance, the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program is internationally respected as a leader in fire management.



We are passionate believers in the use of the most highly trained personnel, with the safest equipment and most effective technology, to aggressively control wildfires. We provide knowledgeable consultation and efficient products that will help other agencies and nations to develop effective forest protection and control programs.

For almost 90 years, we have been entrusted to keep British Columbia's immense wildland resources productive and safe from fire losses. Our dedication to the best possible strategies, organization and techniques will ensure our lush landscapes are protected for generations to come. It's a job we undertake with pride.

For more information... about our leading technology and knowledgeable expertise, we invite you to contact:



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