



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



The Canadian Forest Service



**A Healthy Forest
A Strong Forest Sector**

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What we do

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) is a science-based policy organization within Natural Resources Canada, a Government of Canada department that helps shape the important contributions of the natural resources sector to the Canadian economy, society and environment.



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The CFS promotes the responsible and sustainable development of Canada's forests — development that meets current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For more than a century, it has met this responsibility by developing and sharing knowledge about forests and bringing stakeholders together to address regional, national and global forest issues.

The CFS is made up of research scientists, technicians, economists, policy analysts and other dedicated professionals. Whether conducting research in the field, performing tests in the lab or analyzing information and data, CFS staff are working to ensure a healthy forest and a strong forest sector for Canada.

Forest values and benefits

Canada is home to 10% of the world's forests, 30% of the world's boreal forest, and 20% of the world's temperate rainforest.

Our forests provide many benefits that contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Canada. They support an \$80-billion industry that employs 360,000 people across the country including those living in communities where forestry is the only major source of employment.



Canada's forests are an essential resource for moderating climate, purifying water, improving air quality and providing wildlife habitat. Our woodlands are also a source of recreation and form an important part of Canada's history, culture and lifestyle.

Canada's sustainable forests

For the CFS, sustainable development is both a day-to-day objective and a formal legislative mandate. Under the *Department of Natural Resources Act*, the CFS is responsible for producing a report on the state of Canada's forests that is tabled in Parliament each year.

The Canadian forest industry shows a high level of environmental performance. Canada leads the world in third-party sustainable forest management certification, with more certified lands than any other country. Certification involves having independent auditors assess a company's forestry operations against a set of standards. It is a way for companies to demonstrate that their products come from sustainably managed forests.

Canada's progressive forest management is something of which we can be proud. While there is room for improvement in forest policies and practices in all countries, Canada's are considered to be among the most progressive in the world.



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Forest management in Canada

The federal and provincial governments have different responsibilities when it comes to the care and governance of Canada's forests.

The responsibility for forest management rests with the ten provinces and three territories, which collectively own 77% of Canada's forests. They are in charge of developing legislation, regulations and policies, allocating timber licenses, collecting stumpage fees, and gathering forest data on Crown lands.

The Government of Canada is responsible for the management of federal lands, which make up 16% of Canada's forests. The remaining 7% of Canada's forests are privately owned.

The Government of Canada is also responsible for national reporting, Aboriginal affairs, international trade and relations, and building national consensus on forest issues.



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The two levels of government share responsibilities for environmental regulations, science and technology, and work toward a common, overall goal: the long-term sustainability of the forest resource and the competitiveness of the forest industry, both of which are fundamental to our well-being.



Forest industry competitiveness and transition

The Canadian forest sector is in the midst of a transition. New trends, technologies, demands and global competitors are emerging constantly, challenging the Canadian forest industry's ability to remain competitive.

To maintain a competitive advantage, Canada's efforts must be directed at technology, innovation, markets and skills. Industry practices must also continue to meet the highest standards of social, economic and environmental performance.



NRCan-CFS-GLFC

The CFS is not just talking about these issues. The organization has been structured to focus on the following five priorities that guide its actions:

- 🎯 promoting competitiveness;
- 🎯 ensuring forest sustainability;
- 🎯 pursuing a sustainable future for rural Canada (where many forest-dependent communities, including Aboriginal communities, are located);
- 🎯 growing opportunities through research, development and innovation; and
- 🎯 expanding Canada's international influence.

Operating within the context of these priorities, the CFS will continue to address key challenges that are expected to have a big impact on Canada's forest sector for years to come. Each of these challenges — market access and trade, forest fires, insects and diseases and climate change — form an important part of the work of the CFS.



Market Access and Trade

Working with industry partners and other levels of government, the CFS is committed to strengthening Canada's trading relationships, reducing or eliminating barriers to new markets, and diversifying the market for Canada's forest products.

Our efforts to secure a variety of trading partners and access new and emerging markets around the world are helping to strengthen the industry and sustain the communities that depend upon it.

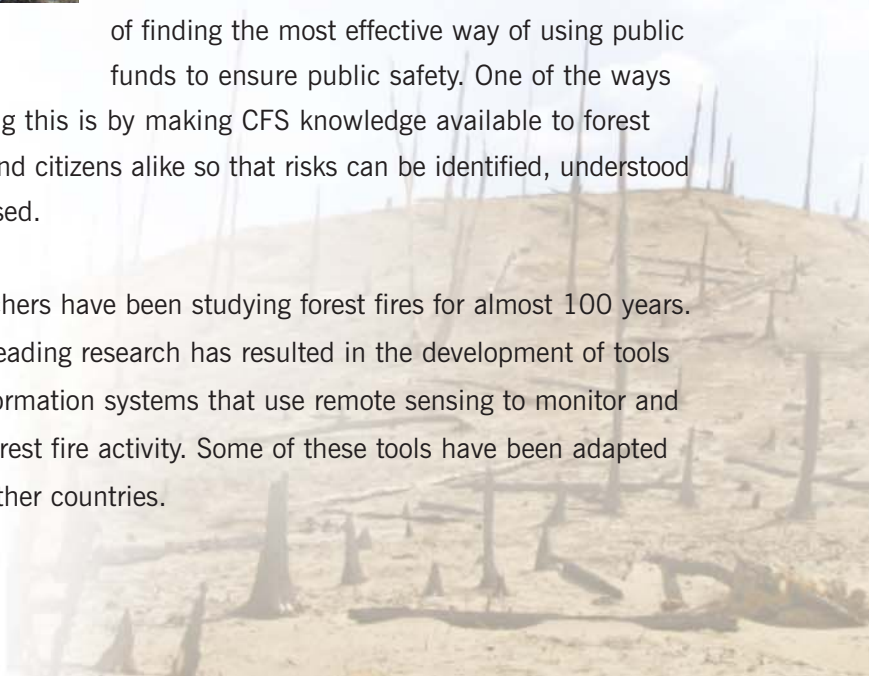


Forest Fires

Fire is a vital ecological process that stimulates the landscape and rejuvenates forests by generating new growth. At the same time, it can pose a serious threat to public safety and the forest resource.

Each year, governments across Canada collectively spend in the neighbourhood of \$1 billion to fight forest fires. The question of how and where we fight forest fires is increasingly seen as a matter of finding the most effective way of using public funds to ensure public safety. One of the ways we are doing this is by making CFS knowledge available to forest managers and citizens alike so that risks can be identified, understood and addressed.

CFS researchers have been studying forest fires for almost 100 years. Our world-leading research has resulted in the development of tools such as information systems that use remote sensing to monitor and report on forest fire activity. Some of these tools have been adapted for use in other countries.





Insects and Diseases

Typically, insect and disease outbreaks are natural events that can help bring about healthy forest renewal. Yet they can also pose a serious threat to forest health, the forest industry and the communities that are economically dependent on both.

The CFS continues to work with provincial and municipal partners, as well as the forest industry, to develop and implement strategies to manage and reduce the impact of diseases such as Dutch elm disease and insect infestations like the mountain pine beetle.

In recent years, many countries, including Canada, have experienced an increase in outbreaks of insects not native to their own country, mostly due to an increase in international trade. These insects can be problematic if there are no predators or other natural controls to keep their populations in check. The CFS helped lead the development of international regulations on the movement of untreated wood packaging and shipping material to prevent the spread of non-native insects and diseases.

Because pest issues (insects and diseases) are complex and wide-ranging, governments responsible for forestry, agriculture, wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture are working together to develop a national pest management strategy, and to devise policies and regulations to deal with these unique challenges. The CFS is working with the provinces and territories and other partners with respect to the forest-pest component of this strategy.



Klaus Bolte

Mountain Pine Beetle
(*Dendroctonus ponderosae*)





Climate Change

The planet's climate is changing and is already affecting Canada's forests and the forest industry.

As a result of climate change, it is expected that forests across the country will experience warmer conditions and changes in precipitation, affecting the growth rate of trees. Forecasts suggest that there will be more frequent and severe forest fires similar to the 2003 fires in the Kelowna region, in British Columbia.



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In addition, the stress caused by a changing environment will make trees more susceptible to disease and insect infestations. A warmer climate is one of the factors that has contributed to the exploding mountain pine beetle populations in British Columbia and Alberta.

CFS research is focusing on improving our understanding of climate change and its effects on forest health, and on finding the best ways to adapt and adjust. Our science is helping policy makers and forest managers make informed decisions that reflect the values of Canadians.



The Way Forward

The Canadian forest industry will continue to face challenges that are difficult to manage and often impossible to predict. Its future will be shaped by people — a resource we often overlook when we speak of the forest industry — because it is people who transform the resource into valuable products.

The people who make up the CFS will continue to work with partners to promote a healthy forest and a strong forest sector so that Canadians can keep enjoying the benefits the forest provides.





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