

# BALANCED BUDGET 2007

*Ministry of  
Environment including  
Environmental Assessment Office*

## **2007/08 – 2009/10 SERVICE PLAN**

February 2007



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## **Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement**

British Columbia is Canada's most biologically diverse province. The wealth of our natural environment affords residents and visitors alike extraordinary benefits — clean air and water, strong, sustainable resources and exceptional recreational opportunities. The ministry is committed to sustainable environmental management, and our work helps safeguard British Columbia's ecosystems, communities and economic well-being.

I am proud to present the 2007/08 – 2009/10 Service Plan for the Ministry of Environment and Environmental Assessment Office. This plan outlines our continued dedication to protecting our environmental heritage and sustaining B.C.'s prosperous economy.

People are an important part of British Columbia's diverse landscapes, and community stability is critical for the long-term future of our land base and ecosystems. In this service plan, we continue to uphold the government's Great Goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management through innovative alliances with communities, First Nations, industries, businesses, non-governmental organizations and local, provincial and federal governments.

Many of our partnerships, such as the ground-breaking collaboration that resulted in the Central and North Coast land use plans, offer new ways of examining our land base so that we can provide for stability and long-term sustainability of the ecosystems we all rely on. This is an enormous step and evidence of the successful, pioneering partnerships we are striving to forge.

Key to our success in sustainable land and resource management is the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The EAO operates independently and manages the assessment of environmental impacts of major development proposals in British Columbia. It does this by delivering a predictable, open and timely process to ensure proposed major projects are developed in a sustainable manner. The EAO works with First Nations, government agencies and the public to ensure environmental issues associated with major projects are addressed in an appropriate manner.

Climate change is of great local, regional and global significance. We take our role as leader of the provincial government's response to this issue very seriously. The province has set a new target to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020. This target will place British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions at 10 per cent under 1990 levels.

A Climate Action Team will be established. Working with First Nations, other governments, industries, environmental organizations, and the scientific community, it will determine the most credible, aggressive, and economically viable sector targets possible for 2012 and 2016. A longer-term emissions reduction target for 2050 will also be established for British Columbia.

British Columbia's rivers and waterways help define us as a province. They are the lifeblood of our environment, our economy and our communities. We are dedicated to maintaining healthy fish habitat. The \$21 million Living Rivers Trust Fund demonstrates our commitment and that of our partners to share resources, expertise and knowledge to ensure healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and flourishing B.C. communities.

We are continuing to lead environmental and water stewardship initiatives through progressive legislation such as the addition of electronic waste to the B.C. Recycling Regulation and the completion of Phase 2 of the B.C. Ground Water Protection Regulation, which safeguards against ground water contamination and improves information about B.C.'s ground water resources. Such rigorous regulations help us improve the safety and quality of British Columbia's land and water by requiring the compliance and partnership of industry and well drillers across the province. The ministry is committed to implementing the B.C. Water Action Plan as an important part of its goal to sustain British Columbia's precious freshwater and marine resources.

With the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, we have a unique opportunity to raise international awareness of British Columbia to an even higher plateau. Our efforts to provide outstanding recreation opportunities in our parks are expected to increase the volume of international tourism to British Columbia. Changing demographics and expectations are requiring us to look for ways of providing park visitors with a wider range of options and promote participation in outdoor activities. We are developing fresh approaches to encourage young people, adults and visitors alike to explore the splendour of our natural world and reap healthful benefits.

Our efforts to reduce costly, time-consuming regulatory processes for resource operators, while ensuring high environmental standards, are paying off with the success of such cross government partnerships as FrontCounter BC, a single point of contact for natural resource authorizations. Such endeavours, along with our continuing review and streamlining of legislation will help stimulate resource development and growth opportunities for the benefit of all British Columbians. The EAO makes an invaluable contribution to investment in British Columbia through the exemplary management of increasing numbers of projects within the environmental assessment process. Proponents have expressed high levels of satisfaction with British Columbia's environmental assessment process and the knowledge and competence of EAO staff. In March 2006, the EAO received the Premier's Award for Organizational Excellence in recognition of the Office's professionalism and continuing contribution to the well-being of British Columbia.

The Ministry of Environment's 2007/08 – 2009/10 Service Plan and the Environmental Assessment Office's 2007/08 – 2009/10 Service Plan were prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of February 16, 2007 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Penner". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Honourable Barry Penner  
Minister of Environment and  
Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities

February 16, 2007



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# Ministry Overview

## Purpose of Ministry

British Columbia enjoys an exceptional wealth and diversity of ecosystems and natural resources. The Ministry of Environment plays an essential role in encouraging and supporting the efforts of British Columbians to maintain a healthy environment and the important benefits that accompany it — enhanced human health, sustainable economic development and a high quality of life. We work to protect, manage and enhance the province’s natural environment to help ensure that the benefits we enjoy today will be available for our children and grandchildren in the future. We champion environmental stewardship, provide environmental educational and promotional opportunities, engage stakeholders, and vigorously promote the sustainable use of the province’s environmental resources. We strive to enhance the protection and stewardship of water and air resources, ensure that healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems are maintained and that outstanding recreation and wildlife services and opportunities are available to all.



The success of our work relies heavily on our ability to form effective relationships with other government bodies, First Nations, industry, associations, communities and environmental groups. The ministry’s values of service, objectivity, integrity, excellence and accountability are the foundation upon which we build these relationships and deliver our services.

## Service Delivery

The ministry delivers its programs and services through six core business areas functioning in seven divisions, and through staff located in regional offices throughout the province (see Appendix B for the ministry’s organizational chart). In addition to Vancouver Island, we have offices in the Lower Mainland, Thompson, Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, Skeena, Omineca and Peace regions (see Appendix D for a complete list of our offices).

Our highly skilled and experienced staff are the front-line delivery agents for the province’s environmental programs, assessments, authorizations and compliance activities.

Compliance and enforcement are an essential part of the ministry's work and key to achieving the ministry's mandate. Together with federal, First Nation and local governments, the ministry works to ensure that people visiting, living and working within British Columbia comply with our environmental standards. Compliance activities include building awareness and promotion of best environmental practices; developing cooperative partnerships and agreements; conducting monitoring activities, inspections and audits; and undertaking investigations and enforcing our environmental laws where required. These activities are undertaken by ministry program staff, park rangers and conservation officers.

Additionally, programs and services are provided by third-party delivery agents such as park facility operators. The ministry also supports organizations such as the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. and the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society, which in turn help to fund local programs that enhance the ministry's ability to fulfill its mandate.

### **Legislative Mandate**

Legislation is the foundation upon which government delivers its programs and services. Significant legislation that drives the ministry's mission and programs is listed below:

- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Environmental Management Act*
- *Integrated Pest Management Act*
- *Park Act*
- *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*
- *Water Act*
- *Wildlife Act*

For a complete list of legislation administered by the ministry, see Appendix E.

## Vision, Mission and Values

The ministry's vision and mission provide guidance and direction for planning and decision-making. Our values are the foundation upon which we conduct our business, treat our staff and clients, and deliver public services.

### Vision

A clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment.

### Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

### Values

We believe in working with our clients, one another and our partners in a way that reflects:

- *Service* — We provide service that is responsive, adaptive and based on client needs.
- *Objectivity* — We perform our work in a professional manner that promotes an objective approach to environmental management.
- *Integrity* — We act in a truthful, ethical and transparent manner.
- *Excellence* — We encourage innovation, creative solutions and a culture of continuous learning.
- *Accountability* — We are efficient and effective in our work and accountable to the Legislature and the public for results.
- *Wellness* — We believe in a working environment that promotes health and well-being, and allows staff to achieve their highest potential.

# Strategic Context

## Introduction

The ministry plans, implements its programs, and assesses its performance within a context of ever-changing external and internal factors. These factors include trends and shifts in the environment, economy, society and even within government itself. In assessing these factors, the ministry is guided by the government's Five Great Goals (see the Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results section). Effective air, water and land management are critical components of the government's goals to demonstrate leadership in sustainable environmental management, champion healthy living and physical fitness, and create and sustain a thriving economy. As part of its planning cycle, the ministry analyzes these factors and employs a variety of strategies to take advantage of emerging opportunities and identify and mitigate potential risks that might endanger the achievement of its goals and objectives.

## External Factors

### Environmental Factors

Pressure on the environment can result because of changes in population, land use, water supply and water demand, the dispersal of human-caused and naturally occurring contaminants and unforeseen events such as insect infestations, forest fires and spills of hazardous substances into our air, land or water. The ministry must anticipate and plan for such events by continually enhancing existing programs, developing new initiatives and seeking new opportunities to forge partnerships.

**Air Quality.** Air quality is an issue for many communities in British Columbia because it can affect our health, the environment and the economy. Through a partnership with the Ministry of Health, Interior Health, Greater Vancouver Regional District, the federal government and the B.C. Lung Association, British Columbia is the first province in Canada to pilot a new Air Quality Health Index that directly ties air quality to health risk. The index is a numbered scale designed to help people make decisions to protect their health by limiting exposure to air pollution and



adjusting activity levels during increased levels of air pollution. The index is calculated based on the relative risks of a combination of common air pollutants including ground level ozone, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

Poor air quality is the result of many factors, both natural and human-caused, such as economic activity, population size and density, energy consumption, topography, meteorology and seasonal variations. The ministry leads the B.C. Air Action Plan and shares the responsibility for air quality regulation and monitoring with federal, provincial and local governments and with community partners.

**Climate Change.** In British Columbia, climate change is already having far-reaching effects, impacting ecosystems and increasing the risks from volatile weather patterns, forest fires, flooding and pest outbreaks. Also affected are fresh water supply, hydroelectric generation and ocean resources. The government has previously responded to this issue by requiring British Columbia to improve on its cross-Canada ranking for greenhouse gas emissions, but a clear commitment to absolute reduction in greenhouse gases in B.C. is required. The ministry will release a plan with specific reduction targets for the major sources of greenhouse gases in B.C.

**Water Quality and Use.** British Columbia's water resources support vital uses such as drinking water, recreation, wildlife habitats, fisheries and commerce. Demands for water use due to population growth, agricultural use and industrial development will continue to increase, especially as British Columbia's population is expected to increase by more than 37 per cent by 2031.<sup>1</sup> The B.C. Water Action Plan will help the province protect and restore British Columbia's watersheds and support the sustainable use of water-related community and economic activities.

**Mountain Pine Beetle.** The outbreak of mountain pine beetle affects many forest values, such as landscape aesthetics and tourism, water quality and wildlife habitat. Future reductions of allowable annual cuts, potentially higher-intensity forest fires and loss of investment will have serious economic and safety implications for surrounding communities. The ministry continues its work on cross government initiatives such as the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan, which is aimed at the management of the infestation in parks, in protected areas and on crown lands. The ministry works to minimize the impact on human health from necessary prescribed burning.

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<sup>1</sup> BC Stats. P.E.O.P.L.E. May 31, 2006. Available at:  
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/Project/P31BCIntro.pdf>.

**Biodiversity.** British Columbia is the most biologically diverse area in Canada. Programs within the ministry endeavour to conserve this biodiversity and the viability of our ecosystems, which support all forms of life, filter water and air, moderate climates, and preserve soil and its nutrients.

The greatest concentration of human population and land development is in the South Coast, which has experienced the greatest loss of ecosystems. The ministry promotes province-wide guidelines for

maintaining environmental values during the development of urban and rural lands and works on multi-partnered initiatives such as the Georgia Basin Action Plan to support and improve biodiversity in the Georgia Basin.



**Parks, Ecological Reserves and Protected Areas.** As British Columbia's population grows, and the economy continues to be strong, there is increasing pressure on the province's many significant and world-renowned parks, ecological reserves and protected areas. The historic provincial land use decisions for the Central and North Coast will determine how the vast richness of B.C.'s coastal areas will be managed for the future. Vital elements of these plans include the designation of 84 parks and "conservancies," which set aside Crown land for the protection of biological diversity, natural environments and recreation value.

**Unforeseen Natural or Biological Events.** Events such as flooding, fire, oil spills, and contamination of food and water supplies can severely impact our ecosystems and human health and safety. The ministry continues to focus on minimizing such risks by working with emergency preparedness partners, local communities and First Nations to mitigate environmental damage.

### **Economic Factors**

Economic growth in British Columbia has been strong, supported by robust domestic demand, strong business investment and higher consumer spending. A major part of the economy consists of extracting resources from the environment and producing and distributing products and services for people to consume. The impacts to the environment of these processes can be felt locally, regionally and globally and can affect the ability of the province to maintain a strong economy, sustainable growth and a high quality of life for its citizens. Through the research and development of more sustainable production methods and the promotion of less wasteful consumption patterns, environmental impacts can be minimized or averted.

## Societal Factors

As our province's population grows and our need and demand for resources, goods and services increases, there is an ever greater need for all British Columbians to take action and meet the challenge of protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

**Individual Responsibility.** British Columbians are at a crossroads. Many of our current lifestyle choices are shaping trends that are not sustainable. However, awareness of environmental issues continues to grow and programs such as household recycling, adopt-a-stream and bike-to-work week have met with considerable success. The ministry continues to provide outreach, promotion and information to assist British Columbians in reducing their ecological footprint and making wise lifestyle choices.

**Corporate Responsibility.** A growing number of organizations within the business community are looking to the triple bottom line — financial performance, environmental performance and social responsibility — to gauge their overall success. No longer is simply providing jobs and profits enough. The ministry continues to work with companies to focus on generating broader social and environmental dividends through investments in stewardship practices such as pollution prevention, waste management, product reuse and recycling, cleaner technology and resource conservation.

## Internal Factors

Capacity and risk management are two significant internal factors that can affect how effectively the ministry achieves the government's objectives of leadership in sustainable environmental management.

**Capacity.** Significant economic growth across all sectors and considerable population growth in regional centres has resulted in ever-increasing demands on ministry services and resources. Ministry activities related to assessments, licences, certificates, permits, outreach, information, compliance and enforcement continue to increase as a result of this growth. The ministry is striving to meet these capacity issues in a number of ways, for example, by shifting to a results-based business model, focusing on medium and high risk activities, streamlining legislation, business practices and processes, and enhancing partnerships with other governments, the private sector and First Nations.

**Recruitment and Retention.** The ministry is committed to becoming an employer of choice.<sup>2</sup> A key priority for the organization is to develop and implement competitive strategies to attract a highly skilled workforce and retain the valuable and experienced staff already here. The average age of current ministry staff is 47. Ministry retirement rates are projected at 10 to 20 per cent by 2011 and up to 35 per cent for particular job streams. Some key strategies to address this issue include increasing employee engagement, creating more

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<sup>2</sup> Criteria for "an employer of choice" can include leadership, employee engagement, diversity, transparency, inclusiveness, people development and a high performance culture.

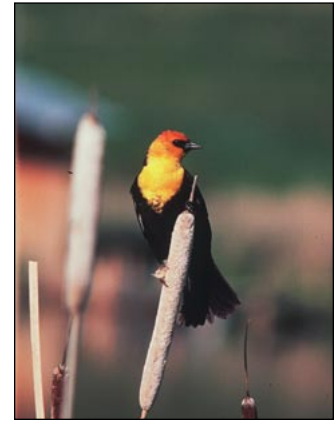
opportunities for career development, developing ministry succession plans, introducing innovative ways to hire young workers, and creating opportunities for retirees to continue to work for the ministry.

**Risk Management.** Managing adverse events such as those mentioned above requires significant planning — identifying and taking action to minimize the likelihood of risk and the consequences should an event occur. All core business areas within the ministry address risk in the development, implementation and monitoring of their initiatives, regulations, services and programs. Appendix C presents the ministry’s framework of proactive planning approaches in which risk is identified and assessed, and management strategies are developed and implemented.



## Core Business Areas

The ministry manages and delivers a wide range of programs and services that support the environmental goals and objectives of the province. Five of its core business areas are aligned with and delivered by five ministry divisions: Environmental Stewardship Division, Water Stewardship Division, Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division, Environmental Protection Division and Compliance Division. The sixth core business area, Executive and Support Services, is the responsibility of the Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division. The Corporate Services Division also provides support services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Integrated Land Management Bureau.



### Environmental Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on the effective management and stewardship of fish and wildlife species, ecosystems, parks and protected areas. Environmental Stewardship is responsible for the collaborative development of standards for the use and protection of species and habitats and allocation of natural resources for hunting, angling, trapping and wildlife viewing. Key functions include collecting, maintaining and managing the scientific information necessary to ensure these standards and the decisions that support them are informed by the best available science. Environmental Stewardship is also responsible for the provision of healthy, outdoor recreation opportunities in parks and protected areas for British Columbians. This business area works to ensure that the economic potential of B.C.'s natural resources is realized in an enduring and sustainable way. The division is responsible for establishing legislation (e.g., the *Park Act*, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, and *Wildlife Act*), policies and procedures that provide direction for the protection and conservation of our natural environment.

\$78,857,000 and 478 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

## Water Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Water Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on providing provincial leadership, ensuring that British Columbia's water resources and aquatic ecosystems are safe, sustainable and valued by all. Key functions include developing innovative approaches to water governance, advancing science-based decision-making and providing information critical to understanding and managing B.C.'s water resources. Other key functions include creating legislation and non-regulatory tools and carrying out statutory and public safety functions that support fair and



sustainable water allocation, protect groundwater resources and minimize the risk of floods and droughts. Other important program areas include water planning, source drinking water protection and water utility regulation. The division, through the Comptroller of Water Rights, is responsible for administering the *Water Act*, *Water Protection Act* and *Water Utilities Act* and, through the Inspector of Dikes, administers the *Dike Maintenance Act*. This core business area's work places a high priority on fostering water stewardship through public awareness, education, partnerships and capacity building.

\$39,228,000 and 127 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

## Oceans and Marine Fisheries

This core business area is led by the Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division. Key programs and services focus on the development and implementation of the province's ocean resources, marine fisheries and seafood development initiatives. These initiatives are based on the integrated management and sustainable use of B.C.'s ocean resources. Stable and diverse marine fisheries within strong domestic and global markets will ensure long-lasting social and economic benefits for British Columbians. Key functions include the collaborative development of provincial oceans and marine fisheries interests, joint provincial-federal marine resource management strategies and management of B.C. marine fisheries and ocean resources. Other key functions include supporting seafood traceability and certification programs and marketing the sustainability and quality of B.C.'s seafood industry in the global marketplace.

\$2,258,000 and 14 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

## Environmental Protection

This core business area is led by the Environmental Protection Division. Key programs and services focus on protecting human health and safety and environmental quality. These objectives are achieved by setting high environmental standards for the protection of water, land and air; promoting sustainable environmental practices through education and outreach; and regulating, monitoring and reporting on compliance. Key functions include the development and implementation of the industry-led stewardship program for the reuse and recycling of post-consumer products; effective management of high risk environmental emergencies; and leading the provincial climate change initiative. This area is responsible for the development and implementation of results-based legislation (e.g., the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Integrated Pest Management Act*). Results-based legislation provides clear roles for governments and stakeholders and sets clear performance standards for the protection of human health and safety and environmental quality.

\$43,230,000 and 270 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

## Compliance

This core business area is led by the Compliance Division. Key programs and services focus on providing ministry-wide leadership, innovation and services in support of the ministry's compliance activities. Services include providing expertise in environmental investigation and enforcement, wildlife/human conflict response and preventative programs, and compliance policy and planning tools. Key functions include delivering a full range of compliance-related activities, including educating citizens to be better stewards, promoting the understanding of, and compliance with, regulatory requirements, conducting investigations, reporting on compliance and enforcement actions through quarterly public reporting, and working with ministry programs on a range of enforcement options. The division supports the management and delivery of compliance activities in a manner that is timely, appropriate and consistent with the mandate of the ministry, and with the risk to the environmental values at issue.



\$18,482,000 and 152 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

## **Executive and Support Services**

The Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division lead this core business area and support other core business areas to achieve ministry objectives. Key programs and services focus on the planning and development of effective policies and legislation. Other key programs include intergovernmental relations; tools to support effective decision-making; State of the Environment reporting; economic analysis; and service planning, reporting, evaluation and performance management. Key functions cover a full range of financial, human resource, administration and information management and technology systems and services. (See the ministry's Information Resource Management Plan, which is available at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/irmp.html>.)

\$33,807,000 and 403 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.



## New Relationship

The Government of British Columbia is leading the nation in developing a New Relationship with First Nations and aboriginal peoples. Guided by principles of trust, and by recognition and respect of First Nations' rights and title, we are building a stronger and healthier relationship between government and aboriginal people. By working together, we will bring tangible social and economic benefits to aboriginal people across the Province and narrow the gap between aboriginal people and other British Columbians.

The ministry is working to support the New Relationship through the development of effective partnerships and engagement processes with First Nations. Partnerships are an important mechanism for a shared-stewardship approach to protecting the environment and supporting healthy communities. Collaborative management agreements with First Nations are an example of effective partnering. They combine aboriginal knowledge, local knowledge and scientific information to facilitate improved management decisions. The ministry is tracking its progress in building these partnerships. As of March 2006, there are sixteen Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and five Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes in place with First Nations, with additional agreements in draft stage. Other examples of effective partnering include the Conservation Officer Service partnership with the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation to protect and manage wildlife in northern B.C.'s remote communities.



On-going dialogue between the ministry and First Nations has identified and confirmed mutual objectives and a common understanding of long-term interests. The ministry continues to foster positive relationships with First Nations through the development of effective consultation and strategic engagement processes on important program and policy development. Examples include the Interim First Nations Consultation Guidelines under the *Integrated Pest Management Act* and the development of Water Use Plans for BC Hydro hydroelectric facilities.

The Ministry of Environment is also working on new, innovative initiatives and engaging other provincial agencies and external partners on projects such as training First Nations' communities to increase their ability to respond to and recover from environmental emergencies, such as oil spills.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

## Overview

### Ministry Goals

The ministry's goals bring an effective and balanced approach to environmental management, encourage collaboration across ministry divisions and reflect the long-term results the ministry intends to achieve.

Ministry goals include:

- Clean and safe water, land and air.
- Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems.
- British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment.
- Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources.
- A high performance organization.

### Linkage to the Five Great Goals

The ministry's goals reflect the leadership role it plays in achieving the government's objectives under Great Goal 4 and support the leadership of other ministries in achieving objectives under Great Goals 2 and 5.<sup>3</sup>

### Great Goal 4

- Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.

### Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 4

- Providing sustainable environmental management supported by decision-making informed by science.
- Leading British Columbia's response to climate change, monitoring air quality and taking action to limit air pollution.
- Ensuring safe, high quality drinking water, reducing and removing toxins and wastes from the environment, and responding to and reducing risks from and to the environment.
- Managing British Columbia's freshwater fisheries, and fostering collaborative decision-making processes for marine fisheries, ocean resources and marine protected areas.

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<sup>3</sup> See the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2007/08–2009/10* for a complete list of Great Goals.

- Maintaining and restoring the natural diversity of provincial ecosystems, and fish and wildlife species and their habitats.
- Building greater understanding among British Columbians of the effect their actions and choices have on the environment.

## **Great Goal 2**

- Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

### **Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 2**

- Building greater understanding among British Columbians of the benefits of healthy living.
- Providing healthy, active outdoor recreation opportunities related to British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife and clean, free-flowing rivers.
- Maintaining the high quality of air, water and land in the province.

## **Great Goal 5**

- Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

### **Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 5**

- Contributing to the economy and job creation through camping, hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Promoting British Columbia's seafood in the global marketplace and, through good stewardship practices, building confidence in the long-term sustainability of the fishery resource and its role in the B.C. economy.
- Ensuring sustainable access to water for agriculture, hydroelectric generation, mining and industry through timely and efficient allocation and regulation of water use.
- Providing investment opportunities and job creation through sustainable environmental management.

### **Cross Ministry Initiatives**

To help achieve its Five Great Goals, the government has identified several major strategic themes that require collaboration and action across all government organizations:

- **Mountain Pine Beetle:** Projections indicate the mountain pine beetle infestation could kill 80 per cent of the pine forest in British Columbia by 2013. Pine forests dominate the interior of B.C., and their loss has significant implications to the forest environment, economy and the communities that depend on those forests for sustainability. The B.C. government, through coordination by the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan, is working across a number of ministries to minimize and mitigate negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the

infestation, while recovering the greatest value and protecting public health, safety and infrastructure. The Ministry of Environment is a strong contributor to this initiative through activities that include removing infested trees from provincial parks as part of a spread control program. In addition, the ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Range and local communities, is involved in strategies to reduce wildfire risk. These include reducing fuel accumulation within provincial parks that interface with communities and implementing a provincial smoke management strategy to reduce the impact on human health resulting from increased prescribed burning. In addition, the ministry is conducting watershed risk assessments and hydrologic modelling to identify potential impacts to water quality and fish habitat. The ministry is also planning and implementing ecosystem restoration projects to address impacts to environmental values, and developing guidelines to enable forest licensees to conduct salvage activities in a manner that protects environmental values such as air quality and wildlife habitat.

- **ActNow BC:** ActNow BC, led by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, combines cross-government and community-based approaches to promote healthy living choices for British Columbians. The programs and initiatives champion healthy eating, physical activity, ending tobacco use, and healthy choices during pregnancy. The ministry is a committed participant in ActNow BC with projects such as Healthy Ecosystems (Healthy People Outreach), Enhanced Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education, Wild at Heart (Knowledge Network Television series) and Regional Outreach (Angler Participation Action Plan) support this strategic theme.
- **2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games:** All provincial ministries, agencies and Crown Agencies have been working together to ensure that every available opportunity to develop sustainable economic legacies is explored and pursued so that businesses and communities in British Columbia receive benefit from the Games. The ministry continues to work with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to encourage innovative approaches to waste management such as vegetative debris plans that minimize or eliminate the need to burn when clearing land for venue development. Upgrading of parks, improvements to recreational fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities and enhancement of outdoor opportunities along the Vancouver to Whistler corridor continue in anticipation of the games and promise greater economic return to local communities and businesses after 2010.





- **Asia Pacific Initiative:** The British Columbia Asia Pacific Initiative ensures the province has a coordinated and targeted strategic plan in place that takes full advantage of B.C.'s Pacific Gateway advantages and Asian cultural and language base. The Asia Pacific Initiative defines B.C.'s future role in the Asia Pacific economy and identifies the immediate priority actions that must be taken to further increase sales in Asian markets by B.C. producers of good and services. The ministry is working to cultivate expanded export markets in the Asia Pacific for British Columbia's seafood products.

The ministry continues to make significant headway on two other significant cross government themes: regulatory reform and citizen-centred service.

### **Regulatory Reform**

British Columbia continues to make regulatory reform a priority across government, making it easier for businesses to operate and succeed in B.C., while still preserving regulations that protect public health, safety and the environment. A citizen-centred approach to regulatory reform will reduce the number of steps it takes to comply with government requirements or access government programs and services.

Regulatory reform has been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the Ministry of Environment as the organization pursues its move to a results-based regulatory approach. For example, the implementation of new regulations and codes of practice under the *Environmental Management Act* and *Integrated Pest Management Act* will reduce regulatory burden, clarify responsibilities and make more efficient use of ministry resources. In addition, current legislation and regulations such as the *Wildlife Act* and Hazardous Waste Regulation are being updated to reflect this results-based approach and to encourage stewardship.

The ministry continues to support the government's plan for regulatory reform and is committed to controlling regulatory burden and improving regulatory quality. The cross government target of a zero per cent increase in regulations will be maintained through 2008/09. Over the next two years, the ministry will continue its review of legislation and regulations (e.g., the *Wildlife Act* and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation) and look for opportunities that will shift the ministry's regulations toward being more citizen-centred, cost-effective, results-based and responsive to our clients by reducing and/or streamlining the steps or processes involved in complying with ministry regulations.

### **Citizen-Centred Service Delivery**

The ministry serves the citizens of British Columbia as well as industry, business, associations, communities, academic and environmental organizations and other government agencies. The ministry is continuing its efforts of providing citizen-centred service by identifying service needs and expectations.

Citizen-centred service delivery is a government-wide initiative to coordinate information, programs and services so that they can be presented to citizens in a way that takes their needs into account from beginning to end. The vision is to make it possible for citizens to access the government information and services they need in a simple and timely manner with a phone call, a mouse click or a visit to a service centre, no matter how many programs or ministries are involved in their request.

To gauge its success, the ministry has implemented a performance measure to monitor changes in the level of client satisfaction with ministry services. The ministry is applying innovative service solutions that support quality programs and services.

Specific activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The ministry continues to work with the Integrated Land Management Bureau in its FrontCounter BC initiative to support that agency's delivery of a "single point of contact" for a number of natural resource ministries and agencies. The ministry's clients are able to seek information and make applications for the use of natural resources through FrontCounter BC's regional centres.
- The ministry's Permit and Authorization Service Bureau handles approximately 20,000 applications for park use permits, fish and wildlife permits and commercial licences per year. Applications can be downloaded over the Internet, faxed or mailed to one office.
- The ministry continues to increase its capacity and responsibilities for the collection, storage and dissemination of scientific information. Through its website, the ministry provides accurate and updated information for British Columbians.
- The ministry will continue to lead, inform, involve and support clients, partners and citizens in environmental protection and management through consultation, outreach and shared stewardship.
- The ministry will continue the annual visitors' satisfaction survey for park and campground facilities, evaluate client satisfaction with fish and wildlife opportunities through a regular hunter/angler survey and monitor client satisfaction as a service plan performance measure.

## **Performance Plan**

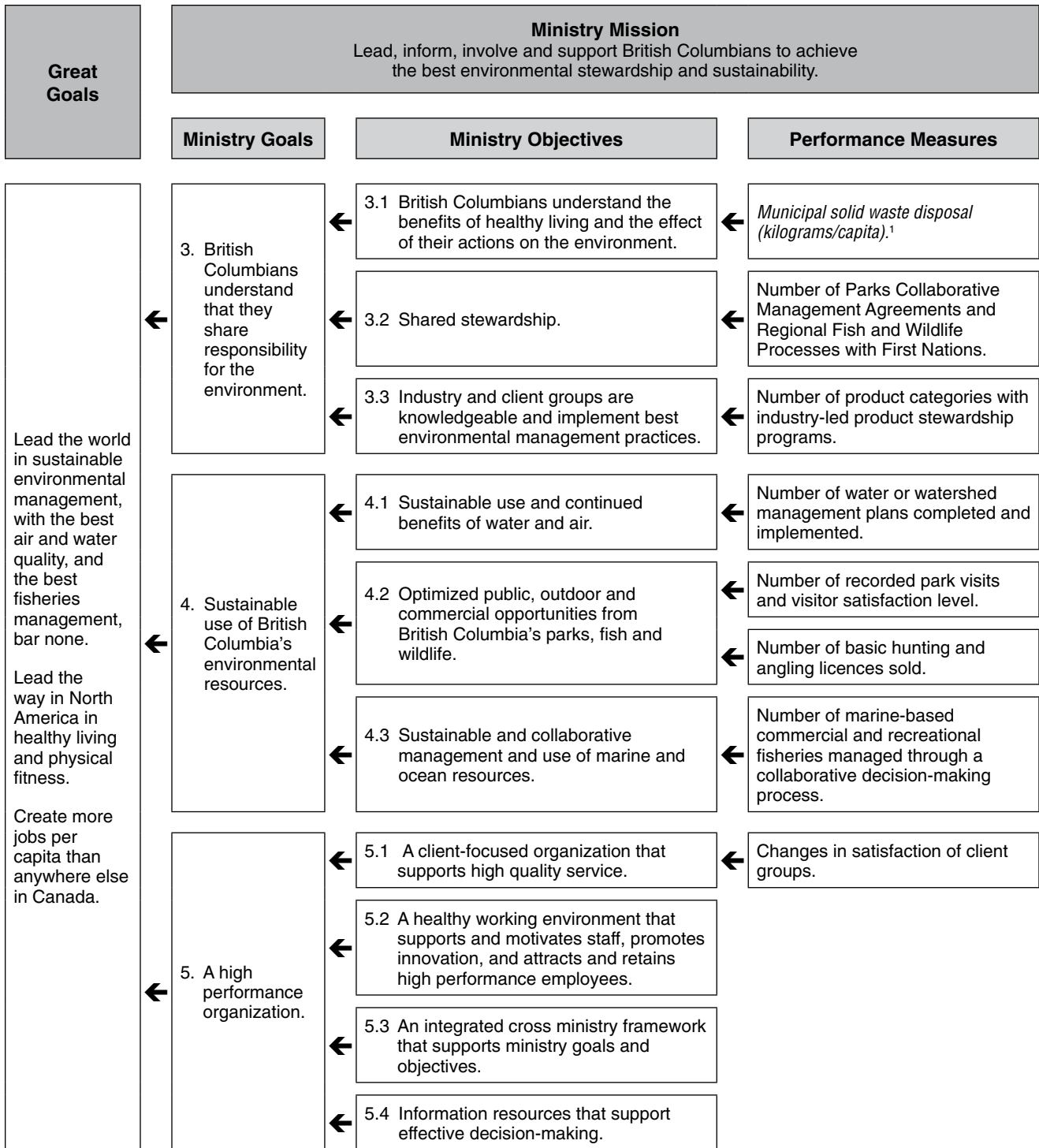
The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* sets out government's accountability framework and planning and reporting requirements. The framework provides a continuous line of accountability from government through ministries to core business areas and individual employees. It is characterized by a cascading series of goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures to assess progress toward their achievement. Also included in the accountability framework are employee performance plans to align personal responsibilities with accomplishment of the ministry's goals and objectives.

The following table provides an overview of what the ministry is planning to achieve, how its goals, objectives and performance measures are linked and how the work of the ministry supports government's Five Great Goals.

# Performance Plan Summary Table

Great Goals	Ministry Mission Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.		
	Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures
<p>Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.</p> <p>Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.</p> <p>Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.</p>	<p>1. Clean and safe water, land and air.</p>	<p>1.1 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources.</p>	<p>Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada-B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends.</p>
		<p>1.2 Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes.</p>	
		<p>1.3 Healthy air quality.</p>	<p>Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard for particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and low level ozone.</p> <p>Ranking of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in Vancouver compared to major metropolitan areas of equal size across Canada.</p>
		<p>1.4 Effective responses to climate change.</p>	
		<p>1.5 Effective responses to and management of environmental risks.</p>	
	<p>2. Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems.</p>	<p>2.1 Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems.</p>	
		<p>2.2 Well-managed parks and protected areas.</p>	
		<p>2.3 Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Number of completed designations under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i>.</p>

*Ministry of Environment*



<sup>1</sup> The municipal solid waste disposal performance measure is under development. Baseline information and municipal solid waste reduction targets for the province will be available by the end of 2007/08.

Significant effort has been made over the previous year to continually refine and update the strategies detailed in last year's Service Plan. The strategies that are included in this year's plan are those that represent overall priorities for the government, ministry and British Columbians.

The following sections provide an overview of each ministry goal and present a detailed accounting of the supporting objectives, strategies and performance measures. These measures do not tell us everything about the ministry's performance, but they can be used to show our progress in areas of environmental protection, stewardship and management. The results of these measures are reported in ministry annual reports.

### **Goal 1: *Clean and safe water, land and air.***

Healthy communities and a healthy environment depend on clean and safe water, land and air. This goal reflects the ministry's commitment to enhanced protection of our water resources, reduced contamination of land and air, and effective responses to climate change and environmental emergencies. Achievement of this goal is vital to a healthy and sustainable environment for British Columbia, and supports the government's broader goal to have the best air and water quality in North America.

**Core Business Areas:** *Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection and Compliance.*

### **Objective 1: *Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources.***

A safe and sustainable supply of high quality water is vital to our communities, economy and environment. Both protection and stewardship of our water resources are of utmost importance to the ministry. Achievement of this objective through effective legislation, innovative approaches to water governance and coordinated watershed-based planning contributes directly to the goal and is critical to the health of British Columbians and the environment.

### **Strategies**

A key strategy for this objective is implementing the B.C. Water Action Plan. Under this strategy, actions include:

- integrating cross ministry initiatives to promote and enhance water stewardship;
- developing and implementing proactive planning and adaptation strategies to address emerging issues and cumulative effects (e.g., climate change, population growth and mountain pine beetle);
- encouraging local governments to include water stewardship and long-term sustainability in their planning and development programs;

- continuing to ensure safe and secure drinking water sources through the ministry's source water protection program;
- continuing to lead the development of water use plans and monitoring of water licence requirements;
- ensuring well-managed and accessible water resource information to support effective decision-making informed by science;
- identifying and improving collaboration among government, academia and industry on science, research and monitoring to ensure continuous improvement in our knowledge of the provincial water resources.

## **Performance Measure**

### **Water quality trends in water bodies monitored under the Canada–B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement**

Communities, ecosystems, wildlife, aquatic life, fisheries and industry all rely on a safe and sustainable supply of high quality water. Water quality and supply is affected by industrial and development activities, as well as by the everyday activities of individuals. This is why ongoing monitoring, protection and management of British Columbia's water sources are so important and are a priority for the government.

This measure monitors trends in surface water quality based on the presence of environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients, within 30 water bodies monitored under the Canada–B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of the agreement is to provide for the coordination and integration of Canada and B.C. surface water quality monitoring activities to develop joint, cost-shared, comprehensive assessments of water quality. To determine which water bodies are monitored under the agreement, the ministry bases its decisions on provincial coverage, water use, alternative monitoring agencies such as regional districts, and events or issues near water bodies that may have negative consequences for the water quality of those water bodies. In total, there are thirty-eight stations monitored, although eight of these are new monitoring stations that have been added in the past two years. Water quality trends cannot be determined at sites until data have been collected for a minimum of five years.



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<sup>4</sup> In addition to the 30 water bodies used to report water quality trends, trends are monitored on approximately 150 other community-based stations.

The results of this measure will provide a good indication of the outcomes of water protection efforts and stewardship of the province's water resources.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada–B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends <sup>1</sup>	96% (2006/07 data)	96% or greater	96% or greater	96% or greater

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** In 2006/07, 2005/06 and 2004/05, 96% of the monitoring stations in 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality trends. In 2003/04 and 2002/03, 90% of the monitoring stations in 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality trends. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

**Note:** The trend for water quality stability and improvement has been consistently increasing over the years in B.C. However, this trend may slow as the number of water bodies having stable or improving water quality trends nears 30 out of 30, or 100%. If the number of monitoring sites changes, or if some sites that have stable trends are replaced by other sites, the actual calculated percentages may vary slightly in years to come.

<sup>1</sup> The ministry's measure reflects the government's measure for water quality trends and its 2015/16 target as presented in the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2007/08–2009/10*.

## Objective 2: *Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes.*

Disposing of the toxins and wastes generated each year comes at significant costs. These costs include financial costs associated with shutting down landfills and establishing new ones, dealing with the contamination of land, water and air, and addressing the impact on ecosystems and the health of citizens. By reducing contamination from toxins and wastes efficiently and effectively, the ministry will minimize impacts to water, land, air, human health and safety, and the economy.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- exploring new ways to reduce municipal solid waste disposal;
- increasing the number of products requiring industry-led product stewardship programs;
- supporting the development of a brownfields<sup>5</sup> strategy for B.C.;
- promoting the development and adoption of integrated pest management practices;
- developing a results-based regulatory regime that provides clear roles for government and stakeholders.

<sup>5</sup> Brownfields are idle or underused properties where past activities have caused environmental contamination but which, nevertheless, exhibit good potential for other uses and which provide economically viable business opportunities.



### **Objective 3: Healthy air quality.**

Protecting the quality of the air remains a key focus of the ministry. Healthy air quality means healthy people and a healthy environment. Taking action to reduce air pollution will help improve the health of British Columbians, address the government's air quality targets, preserve our environment and enhance our economic competitiveness.



### **Strategy**

A key strategy for this objective is leading the implementation of B.C.'s Air Action Plan. Components of this plan include:

- ensuring well-managed and accessible air resources information to support science-based decision-making;
- continuing to reduce emissions from industry, transportation and urban growth;
- working with partners to reduce emissions from ports and marine vessels;
- continuing to develop and support airshed management.

### **Performance Measure**

#### **Air quality**

The outdoor air contaminants of most concern in British Columbia, from a human health and ecosystem perspective, are airborne particulate matter (PM) and low level or ground level ozone.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to "fine" particles less than 2.5 micrometres in size (or about 1/20th the width of a human hair). These fine particulates, which are most often generated by combustion processes and by chemical reactions taking place in the air, are easily inhaled and penetrate into the lungs, posing a threat to human health.

Although ozone in the stratosphere (the ozone layer) is beneficial and filters out harmful ultraviolet rays, ground level ozone is a pollutant and can be damaging to human health and

the environment. Ground level ozone can result from the incomplete combustion of fuel, as well as from the evaporation of fuels, solvents, paints and dry-cleaning fluids, or from natural sources, such as biogenic emissions from vegetation or from down-mixing from the stratosphere to the troposphere, which is the layer of air we live in.

To measure our efforts and commitments to clean and safe air, the ministry tracks the percentage of monitored B.C. communities achieving the Canada-wide standards<sup>6</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground level ozone. The ministry collects PM<sub>2.5</sub> data from approximately 80 air quality monitoring sites from over 45 communities, and ground level ozone data from approximately 30 sites from over 25 communities across the province. The monitors are typically placed in communities that are densely populated and or where air quality may be an issue. In order to report on a community's air quality, data must be analyzed using a statistical analysis program. Statistically sufficient data must be generated in order to report the results of a monitoring station. In addition, the location of the monitoring station may change over time. For these reasons, the number of communities that can be reported may change over time. The number of communities reported for PM<sub>2.5</sub> has increased since 2002. The number of communities reported for low level ozone increased from 2002 to 2004 and then decreased in 2005.

The government is also tracking the annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in major metropolitan areas across Canada (Figure 1). Vancouver is currently ranked second-best, after Calgary, when compared to other areas of similar size. The key instrument to improving air quality in Vancouver is the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Air Quality Management Plan. The government is working with the GVRD to support implementation of this plan and achievement of local airshed goals.

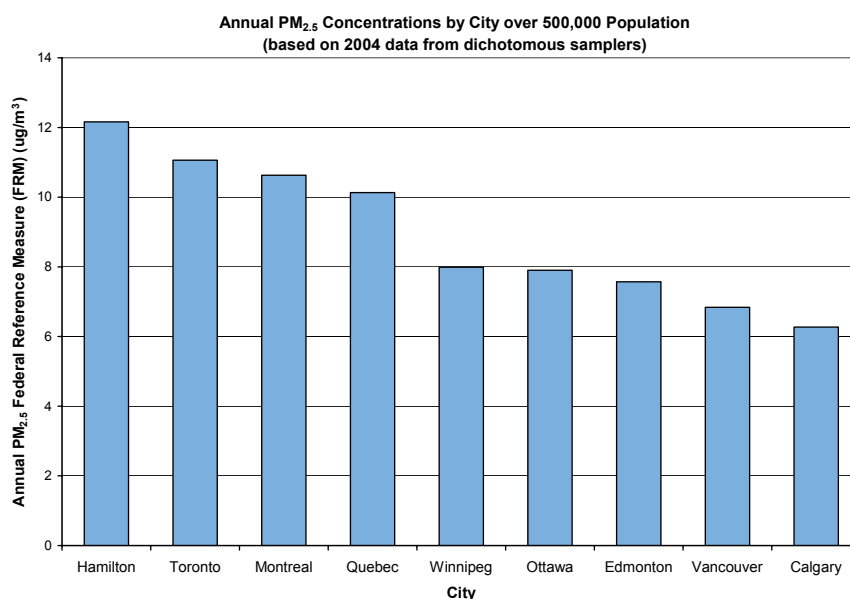


Figure 1. PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in Canadian cities

<sup>6</sup> Canada-wide standards are standards developed by the federal, provincial and territorial governments on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard (CWS) quality objective for PM <sub>2.5</sub> and low level ozone	PM <sub>2.5</sub> : 88% (2005 data) Low level ozone: 96% (2005 data)	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	100% by 2010

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** Comparison of sites within B.C. were based on Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance measurements. In contrast, cross-Canada comparisons used data from dichotomous samplers (to aid comparability across the country). PM<sub>2.5</sub>: 21 out of 24 communities (88%) in 2005; 14 out of 16 communities (87.5%) in 2004; 13 out of 15 communities (86.7%) in 2003; 10 out of 11 communities (91%) in 2002. Low level ozone: 24 out of 25 communities (96%) in 2005; changes to previous year totals due to changes in methodology – 25 out of 26 (97%) in 2004; 21 out of 21 (100%) in 2003; 22 out of 22 (100%) in 2002. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Ranking of Vancouver for PM <sub>2.5</sub> concentration compared to major metropolitan areas of equal size across Canada <sup>1</sup>	2nd lowest at 6.8 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (2004 data)	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve
		Vancouver will be ranked number one by 2015/16		

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** Cross-Canada comparisons of PM<sub>2.5</sub>: In 2004, the most recent year for which data is available, B.C. was ranked 2nd at 6.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, in 2003 B.C. was ranked 2nd at 7.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, in 2002 B.C. was ranked 2nd at 7.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and in 2001 B.C. was ranked 4th at 7.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

<sup>1</sup> The ministry's measure reflects the government's measure for PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and its 2015/16 target as presented in the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2007/08–2009/10*.

#### Objective 4: Effective responses to climate change.

Climate change is an issue that has local, regional and global significance. All jurisdictions, including British Columbia, which is experiencing some warming and climate-related impacts, have a role to play in reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. The ministry is the lead agency for the provincial government's response to climate change. Work to date has included strategies to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), as indicated in B.C.'s 2004 climate change plan (*Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*), as well as activities to prepare the province for events associated with climate change and related extreme weather (adaptation).

Information from the scientific community advises, however, that absolute reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are required if we are going to have an impact on climate change.

As a result, the province has established targets to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020. A Climate Action Team will be established and through consultations will determine sector targets for 2012 and 2016. Legislation will be developed over the next year to phase in new requirements for methane capture in our landfills, the source of about nine per cent of B.C.'s greenhouse gas emission.

**Objective 5: Effective responses to and management of environmental risks.**

Events in the environment, such as oil spills and flooding, can present risks to public health and safety, property and the environment itself. Although not all environmental risks are avoidable, effective management means that impacts from risks can be minimized. The ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks to the environment.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- preparing for and responding effectively to high risk environmental emergencies such as oil spills, hazardous material spills, gas leaks and flood and debris flows;
- developing a strategy to enhance partnerships for environmental stewardship in spill responses;
- reducing the risk to public safety through effective flood hazard management (working with local governments), drought management and dam safety programs;
- providing effective and timely forecasting of floods and droughts;
- reducing the risk to public safety through effective human-wildlife management and response programs;
- reducing the risk to the environment and human health and safety through effective compliance and enforcement strategies and actions, including development of a commercial environmental investigation unit;
- remediation of high risk contaminated sites.





## **Goal 2: *Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems.***

Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems provide significant environmental, social and economic benefits to British Columbia and its people. To achieve this goal, the ministry develops, manages, regulates and enforces environmental programs and legislation that contribute significantly to ensuring the health and diversity of native species and ecosystems.

**Core Business Areas:** *Environmental Stewardship, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance.*

### **Objective 1: *Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems.***

The collection, storage, management and distribution of scientific information on native species and ecosystems provides for effective research, contributes to the understanding of the status of native species and ecosystems and is critical to making informed decisions.

### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- compiling, consolidating, analyzing and distributing information on species and ecosystems;
- communicating the conservation status of species and ecosystems;
- providing guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems, including monitoring and reporting on achievements;
- assessing the conservation status of plants, animals and ecosystems and related risks and threats within parks and protected areas.



Photo Credit: Elke Wind

**Objective 2:** *Well-managed parks and protected areas.*

Parks and protected lands have great conservation value and provide a place for native species to exist in their natural environment. The designation of parks and protected lands means these areas will be preserved for future generations and demonstrates British Columbia's commitment to the conservation of native species and ecosystems.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to identify, designate and manage parks and protected lands;
- undertaking parks and protected lands planning and management to ensure long-term protection of natural, cultural and recreational assets;
- maintaining and promoting partnerships for securing and managing parks and protected lands;
- continuing to evaluate the assets of protected areas to support sound decision-making;
- incorporating the Healthy By Nature<sup>7</sup> messages into BC Parks communications;
- adopting best business practices to optimize parks system management.

**Objective 3:** *Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems.*

British Columbia is home to a rich diversity and abundance of native species and habitats. Programs within the ministry conserve biodiversity, maintain and enhance native ecosystems and achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of people. The ministry encourages others to accept a greater role in environmental stewardship and facilitates community initiatives to protect and restore local environments.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with and expand partnerships, including those with First Nations, to identify, protect and restore species and ecosystems;
- continuing to assess and monitor fish and wildlife populations and ecosystems to support improved resource management;
- continuing to assess, monitor and manage wildlife health;
- continuing to develop guidelines, policies and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems;
- continuing to monitor the effectiveness of and compliance with fish and wildlife guidelines;

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<sup>7</sup> Healthy by Nature is a Ministry of Environment initiative, in conjunction with ActNow BC, that emphasizes the link between parks, personal health and the health of families, communities and the environment.

- developing and implementing an enhanced legal and policy framework and regional-based planning programs;
- providing scientific advice to decision makers and those responsible for developing and implementing resource use policies and land use planning initiatives;
- providing leadership in species at risk ranking and designation, and preparation and implementation of recovery plans;
- developing and implementing a provincial policy that balances water flow requirements for species, ecosystems, communities and industries;
- leading, in collaboration with the federal government, the development of a marine protected area system for the Pacific coast;
- developing and implementing a provincial human-wildlife conflict policy and response program to provide maximum wildlife protection consistent with public safety;
- developing and implementing sustainable fish and wildlife harvest policies that balance conservation, public safety and user demand;
- partnering with resource agencies on provincial access management;
- reducing risk to native species and ecosystems by responding to offences with effective compliance and enforcement strategies and actions, including implementation of Seasonal Conservation Officers.

## Performance Measure

### **Number of completed designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act***

Designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* provide special management for species impacted by forest and range activities on Crown land. These designations provide legislated protection for habitats and contribute significantly to the conservation of native species. Because the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is a critical piece of legislation for protecting and restoring species and their habitats, it is important to measure ministry progress in establishing environmental standards under the Act.

The ministry is assessing its progress by monitoring the number of legal designations for Wildlife Habitat Areas, Ungulate<sup>8</sup> Winter Ranges and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds. The inclusion of Fishery Sensitive Watersheds in this measure is new. Fishery Sensitive Watershed designations provide valuable protection to fish in some of B.C.'s watersheds that are most sensitive to forest and range activities. To adequately demonstrate progress, two types of data are being collected: (1) the number of designations and objectives established, and (2) the area of forest land base for which designations and objectives have been established.

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<sup>8</sup> An ungulate is a hoofed mammal such as a caribou, moose, bison or goat.

The targets for approval of Ungulate Winter Range designations will remain stable over the next three years, reflecting an expected decrease in Ungulate Winter Range plans remaining for approval when compared with the period from 2003/04 – 2006/07.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of completed designations by the Ministry of Environment under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> , including Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA), Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR), and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSW)	414 WHA (668,424 hectares)	444 WHA	474 WHA	504 WHA
	35 UWR* (2,658,725 hectares)	40 UWR	45 UWR	50 UWR
	17 FSW (3,873,980 hectares) <i>(designations approved as of March 2006)</i>	27 FSW	37 FSW	47 FSW

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** \*Specifies the number of ungulate winter range packages; each package may have as few as 1 to more than 1,000 winter ranges. Thus, when monitoring progress in this area, it is important also to consider the amount of area designated. As of March 31, 2005, there were 320 wildlife habitat area designations approved (covering 658,935 hectares) and 28 ungulate winter range designations approved (covering 2,284,917 hectares). As of March 31, 2004, there were 160 wildlife habitat area designations approved (covering 49,120 hectares) and 15 ungulate winter range designations approved (covering 913,462 hectares). As of March 31, 2003, there were 129 wildlife habitat area designations approved (covering 44,233 hectares) and no ungulate winter range designations approved. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

### **Goal 3: *British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment.***

Environmental sustainability can neither be created by governments nor imposed by public policy. It depends on the collective knowledge, commitment and actions of individuals, organizations, communities and all levels of government as a whole. Achievement of this goal requires strong and expanded partnerships with industry and stakeholders, and an environmentally conscious and knowledgeable public. Having a society in which individuals act as stewards by considering the environmental impacts of their individual and collective actions will be a great step toward sustainability.

**Core Business Areas:** *Environmental Stewardship, Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance, Executive and Support Services.*

#### **Objective 1: *British Columbians understand the benefits of healthy living and the effect of their actions on the environment.***

In order for a society to become environmentally conscious, its citizens must understand the relationship between their actions and how those actions directly impact their health,



the quality of their lives, and the lives of other people and species with which they share ecosystems. As British Columbians continue to make the connection between actions and impacts, they are much more likely to take on the role of stewards and demand a much higher environmental standard for their own actions and those of others.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- implementing and supporting a comprehensive and integrated ministry stewardship outreach strategy;
- promoting outdoor activities as beneficial for a healthy lifestyle.

## Performance Measure

### Municipal and solid waste disposal

The ministry is developing a performance measure that measures the reduction of municipal solid waste disposal per capita. This measure reflects the commitment by businesses and the public to reduce their impacts on the environment and to support a healthy economy and healthy communities. Improved environmental practices, reduction in consumption or use of raw materials in production, reuse of materials collected through blue box programs, recycling of beverage containers and composting kitchen and yard waste all contribute to a reduction in municipal solid waste disposal.

Provincial municipal solid waste disposal is governed under the *Environmental Management Act*. Under the Act, the province requires local governments to prepare municipal solid waste management plans designed to minimize waste going to landfills and maximize reuse and recycling initiatives. Reduction and disposal of municipal solid waste is the responsibility of the province's 29 regional districts. Regional districts weigh the amount (in kilograms) of municipal solid waste disposed of in municipal landfills annually. The waste being tracked is generated by residents, businesses and institutions.



In 2006, the ministry commissioned the Recycling Council of British Columbia to collect municipal solid waste data from all regional districts for the period of 2003 to 2005. The results of the report, which will be released in 2007, will be analyzed and discussed with regional districts and other stakeholders to help determine annual municipal solid

waste reduction targets for the province. This performance measure and multi-year targets will be completed by the end of the 2007/08 fiscal year.

## **Objective 2: Shared stewardship.**

Public and stakeholder expectations of meaningful involvement in decision-making and in sharing responsibility for environmental outcomes continue to be a force for change in the way the ministry does its business. The ministry recognizes that a successful shared stewardship model needs to integrate cooperative and collaborative partnerships across all sectors and geographic jurisdictions. Necessary tools include sharing information and knowledge, consultation and partnering opportunities.

## **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- recognizing, promoting, and enhancing shared stewardship through consultative processes and volunteer initiatives that engage stakeholders, clients and partners;
- promoting sustainable natural resource management through collaborative management and decision-making processes;
- pursuing opportunities for the Conservation Officer Service to provide shared compliance and enforcement activities through partnerships with other agencies;
- enhancing and promoting shared stewardship through effective and timely communication of compliance activities taken to protect the environment.



Photo Credit: Elke Wind

## **Performance Measure**

### **Number of partnerships with First Nations**

The ministry is monitoring its progress in forging partnerships with First Nations. In the past, the ministry has used a performance measure based on the number of Parks Collaborative Management Agreements with First Nations. This measure has been expanded to include the number of official Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes.

The ministry currently has sixteen Park Collaborative Management Agreements in place for parks and protected areas. These agreements are generally linked to the creation of new protected areas in land use plans, but in a number of cases are being discussed in the context of treaty negotiations or other provincial initiatives. Parks Collaborative Management Agreements define how the province and First Nations will work together on the management of protected areas.

There are currently five Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes in place. These processes are designed to provide a region-wide perspective and actively engage First Nations and key stakeholders, with a direct interest in fish and wildlife, in a forum to discuss management and allocation issues.

Currently, 115 of 198 bands (representing 58 per cent of British Columbia’s First Nation bands) are engaged in Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and or Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes with the ministry. Both of these processes provide a significant role to First Nations in making recommendations around protected areas and fish and wildlife management.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of Parks Collaborative Management Agreements (PCMA) and Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes (RFPW) with First Nations	16 PCMA 5 RFPW <i>(March 31/06)</i>	2 new PCMA or RFPW per year	2 new PCMA or RFPW per year	2 new PCMA or RFPW per year

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** As of March 31, 2005, there were 15 Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and 5 Regional Fish and Wildlife Processes. (However, the MOU with the Kaska Dene Council for the Muskwa Kechika has been included, bringing the 2006/07 baseline for Collaborative Management Agreements to 16. In 2003/04, there were 14 Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and 2 Official Wildlife Processes with First Nations. In 2002/03, there were 12 Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and 2 Official Wildlife Processes with First Nations.) (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

**Objective 3:** *Industry and client groups are knowledgeable and implement best environmental management practices.*

British Columbia continues to enjoy expanding economic opportunities. More and more, industry, organizations and other ministry client groups understand the benefits of incorporating environmental values and best practices into their decision-making processes and activities. Good environmental management practices not only protect the environment, and greatly reduce costs (e.g., use resources and energy more efficiently, reduce waste and reduce discards in marine fisheries), they also set the foundation for good corporate citizenship.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with industry to develop, implement and continuously improve industry-led product stewardship programs;
- continuing to research and collaborate with key stakeholders on product categories suitable for inclusion in the B.C. Recycling Regulation;
- encouraging compliance by reporting those in non-compliance and those exceeding environmental standards.

## Performance Measure

### Industry-led product stewardship

For this measure, the ministry is counting the number of post-consumer product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs. Currently, stewardship programs are in place for paint, used oil products, beverage containers and four other post-consumer residuals, all of which provide significant reduction in waste and positive benefits to the environment. Two new product categories, tires and electronic products, were added to the B.C. Recycling Regulation last year and are currently in the stewardship program development stage.

Industry-led stewardship programs demonstrate producer responsibility for a product by managing that product across its entire life cycle and reducing the environmental impact when the product is safely disposed of. The result of these stewardship programs is less household hazardous waste in landfills, less total waste in landfills and less burden on local governments to manage this waste. Stewardship programs are, and will continue to be, an important example of how B.C. industry works with the ministry and its clients and is implementing effective and responsible environmental management practices.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	7	9 <i>(total as of March 2008)</i>	11 <i>(total as of March 2010)</i>	

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** British Columbia currently has seven product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs in place: paint, used oil products, beverage containers, pharmaceuticals, solvents and flammable liquids, domestic pesticides, and gasoline. Two additional product categories, tires and electronic products, were added to the B.C. Recycling Regulation in 2006/07. Stewardship programs for the two additional categories are currently in development and will be implemented by March 2008.

**Goal 4: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources.**

British Columbia's environment provides benefits to its citizens and visitors in a variety of ways. Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources promotes job creation and contributes significantly to the quality of life of residents and visitors. Sustainable use means that resources are used in ways that ensure their continued availability today and for generations to come.

**Core Business Areas:** *Environmental Stewardship, Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Oceans and Marine Fisheries and Compliance.*

**Objective 1: Sustainable use and continued benefits of water and air.**

British Columbia's water and air resources sustain a full range of economic, community and ecosystem needs. Understanding the important benefits these resources provide, the ministry ensures that wise and prudent management of our water and air resources will continue to provide benefits to British Columbians in the future.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- seeking public consensus on a new water allocation model and modifying and streamlining the *Water Act* and related legislation;
- exploring shared governance frameworks to promote increased community and stakeholder involvement at the local level;
- valuing water appropriately by recognizing its full range of benefits;
- continuing to promote water conservation and demand-side management measures;
- continuing to ensure timely response to water licence applications to support economic development;
- continuing the effective management and operation of water management projects for diverse economic, environmental and social values such as the Okanagan Lake Regulation System and the Nicola Lake Dam;
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder watershed management plans;
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder airshed management plans.

## Performance Measure

### Number of water management plans developed and implemented

Water or watershed management plans are undertaken to coordinate development and management of water, land and related resources to optimize the benefits to and sustainability of the community, economy and environment. These plans serve as a valuable tool to address conflicts between water users and in-stream flow requirements, and are a proactive mechanism for protecting drinking water quality and supplies and aquatic ecosystems. Water management plans support community sustainability through increased local empowerment, providing an opportunity to involve stakeholders, including local government, First Nations and industry, in the management and use of water resources.



This performance measure assesses both the number of water management plans designated under the *Water Act* as well as plans with no statutory basis. The province will seek to promote and facilitate the development and implementation of water management plans over the coming years as an important part of its goal to sustain British Columbia's water resources.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of water or watershed management plans completed and implemented	1 (June 2004)	3 (total)	6 (total as of 2010)	

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** In 2004, the Trepanier Creek Watershed Plan was completed.

### **Objective 2:** *Optimized public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife.*

British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife provide a variety of unique outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors in the form of recreation, camping, marine and freshwater angling, hunting and wildlife viewing. The use of these resources by British Columbians and visitors to the province promotes healthy living and an appreciation of B.C.'s landscape, native species and the environment as a whole. The use of campgrounds and purchase of angling



and hunting licences contributes to the maintenance and infrastructure of our natural places and to environmental protection and management activities. Several commercial organizations also use these resources, attracting visitors from around the world. This creates jobs within B.C. and contributes significantly to the province's economy. Effective management and use of these resources will ensure their sustainability and promote economic opportunities.

## **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- providing outstanding hunting, marine and freshwater angling and wildlife viewing opportunities;
- providing a diverse range of outdoor recreation and commercial opportunities in the parks system to respond to visitor trends;
- maximizing opportunities for partnerships with First Nations, local communities, non-profit groups, private land owners and others;
- developing and implementing marketing strategies to promote healthy living through park visitation;
- improving and expanding the quality of park recreation opportunities and services;
- streamlining the provision of hunting and angling licences, permits and commercial licences through the development and delivery of electronic business applications;
- creating a community engagement program to provide local stewardship and economic opportunities.



## **Performance Measure**

### **Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction**

British Columbia's parks offer a variety of unique outdoor opportunities and experiences to residents of and visitors to the province. They encourage an appreciation for the environment by providing an undisturbed area in which to observe B.C.'s natural landscapes and native species. The 13.8 per cent of the province's land base is dedicated to protected area status and is acknowledged internationally for its size, beauty and importance in protecting globally significant habitats and species.

Park use encourages travel and significantly contributes to local, regional and provincial economies.<sup>9</sup> To measure the economic contribution of parks, the number of recorded visits to provincial parks is being used. Recognizing that the satisfaction of park visitors with the experiences offered to them is important to understand, the results of park satisfaction surveys are also being tracked.

The Parks for People Strategy, developed by the ministry in 2006, identifies world class, high quality recreation, tourism and stewardship opportunities. Activities include increasing visitor attendance and satisfaction, investing in facility upgrades, working with partners such as the Society of Park Facility Operators and Nature BC to offer interpretation services, expanding partnerships with communities and stakeholders to encourage visitation, and continuing to administer the Visitor Satisfaction Surveys to understand and effectively respond to client needs.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction level	Approximately 18.5 million recorded visits (2005/06 data)  83% satisfaction rating (2006/07 data)	Maintain or improve  Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve  Maintain or improve	20% increase by 2010  Maintain or improve

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** Recorded park visits: The number of recorded visits to B.C. parks was approximately 18.3 million in 2004, 19.0 million in 2003 and approximately 22.6 million in 2002. Visitor satisfaction: The 2006 satisfaction survey was conducted in 34 campgrounds around the province and is based on nearly 5,000 respondents. The five-year rolling average for 2004/2005 was approximately 80%, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating of the reporting years of 2000/01 to 2004/05. The five-year rolling average for 2003/04 was approximately 80%, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating for the reporting years of 1999/2000 to 2003/2004. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

## Performance Measure

### Number of hunting and angling licences sold

This measure reflects the number of resident and non-resident hunters and anglers taking advantage of the freshwater fishing and hunting opportunities in British Columbia. B.C. Stats reports that resident and non-resident hunting accounts for approximately \$50 million per year of provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP), whereas freshwater recreational angling accounts for approximately \$115 million per year of the GDP.<sup>10</sup> Although the measure does not account for differences in the experiences and economic contributions of individual licence holders, it does provide a good indication of the overall economic contributions from hunting and angling opportunities.

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Environment and PricewaterhouseCoopers. *Economic Benefits of British Columbia's Provincial Parks*. September 2001. The report shows that the economic contribution of parks to the provincial GDP was estimated at approximately \$521 million annually.

<sup>10</sup> Based on 2003 BC Stats reports for hunting and 2004 BC Stats reports for angling.



Programs within the ministry endeavour to monitor and conserve British Columbia’s rich biological diversity and the health of native species and their habitat, while providing a variety of opportunities for the sustainable use and enjoyment of freshwater fisheries and wildlife in B.C. In addition to the economic contribution provided by hunting and angling, these activities offer residents and visitors opportunities to experience the B.C. wilderness and contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of basic hunting and angling licences sold	Hunting: 83,701 resident; 6,131 non-resident (2005/06 data)	Increase	Increase	Increase
	Angling: 247,789 resident; 65,942 non-resident (2005/06 data)	By 2014/15 increase the number of basic hunting licences sold to 100,000 and the number of angling licences sold to 400,000		

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** Hunting and angling licenses sold: 2004/05: Hunting — 84,003 resident and 5,931 non-resident; Angling — 248,052 resident and 68,328 non-resident. 2003/04: Hunting — 81,368 resident and 5,785 non-resident; Angling — 252,867 resident and 69,398 non-resident. 2002/03: Hunting — 85,714 resident and 6,234 non-resident; Angling — 275,430 resident and 79,772 non-resident. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

Future direction: The ministry is working on the development of a target to measure wildlife viewing activities.

**Objective 3:** *Sustainable and collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources.*

British Columbia’s marine and ocean resources provide great economic benefits to the citizens of the province. The ministry works in collaboration with the federal government to ensure British Columbia’s interests are represented in the governance of ocean and marine resources and that these resources are managed in a sustainable manner.



**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- identifying and advancing provincial objectives as they relate to ocean resources and their use;
- influencing implementation of the Federal Oceans Strategy on the Pacific coast;
- ensuring that federal management and international relations reflect provincial objectives for marine fisheries;

- representing B.C.'s interests to ensure the seafood sector's fair share of federal and cross government programs, initiatives and activities to promote research, exports and investment;
- undertaking initiatives to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of B.C.'s seafood products in domestic and export markets.

## Performance Measure

### Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process

Economic sustainability is dependent on the level and certainty of access to resources. The federal government has the constitutional authority for the management and regulation of B.C.'s marine fisheries industry. To ensure an economic return on the resource, the province must participate and be acknowledged as a key collaborative partner in the federal government activities related to fisheries management. Measuring the increase in the number of B.C. marine fisheries that are managed collaboratively and include provincial government participation, will determine if B.C.'s interests concerning fair allocation and certainty of access to resources are represented.

The herring, hake and tuna fisheries are governed with a collaborative management regime that includes strong participation from stakeholders and the Province of British Columbia. Together, hake, herring and tuna generate over \$170 million<sup>11</sup> in wholesale value to the B.C. economy. Pacific sardine is a developing fishery as sardine stocks returned to B.C. waters. The province is working actively to promote similar collaborative management arrangements for the sardine fishery.

Sustainable fisheries require a global marketing regime that fosters and rewards the values of good stewardship. B.C. is committed to developing sustainable fisheries in which fish populations are managed and harvested responsibly so the long-term environmental, social and economic benefits of the fisheries are secured.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process	3 (2005/06 data)	4 (total)	5 (total)	6 (total)

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** The fishery targeted in 2007/08 is sardine. The three fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process in the 2005/06 baseline data are hake, herring and tuna.

<sup>11</sup> B.C. Ministry of Environment. *2005 British Columbia Seafood Industry Year in Review*. September 2006. Available at <http://www.salmonfarmers.org/files/2005-YIR.pdf>.

## **Goal 5: A high performance organization.**

A high performance organization is reflected in its leadership, people, corporate operating systems, decision-making processes, culture and the services it provides. It is flexible, able to adapt to situations and events, and is responsive to the needs of its clients. A high performance organization provides a challenging and healthy working environment for staff, promotes learning and is committed to continuous improvement.

**Core Business Areas:** *Environmental Stewardship, Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance and Executive and Support Services.*

### **Objective 1: A client-focused organization that supports high quality service.**

A client-focused organization strives to identify and develop ways to continuously improve client service. The ministry anticipates what its clients — the citizens, organizations and businesses of British Columbia — will need and how best to meet those needs through responsive staff, effective programs, policy, legislation and decision-making, and timely information systems.

### **Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to foster collaborative and productive relationships with clients;
- identifying and implementing continuous improvements in client business processes.

### **Performance Measure**

#### **Changes in the satisfaction of client groups**

High performance organizations place a special emphasis on the delivery of appropriate, effective and responsive client-based services. This performance measure has been chosen as an indicator of the level or extent to which client expectations are being met by the ministry. In September 2006, a survey was conducted with representatives from business, industry, government, First Nations, non-government organizations and academia. The intent of the survey was to establish the level of satisfaction of clients who have regular contact with staff and an interest in the programs and services provided by the ministry. The client satisfaction level identified by the survey results was used as a baseline from which to establish future targets for improvement. Asking our clients how we are doing and what needs improvement is an ongoing process for the ministry. Building a better understanding of our clients' needs and expectations provides the foundation upon which to improve our services and programs. An organization that builds a reputation for quality service, objectivity and knowledge will also build citizens' confidence and trust in the capacity and abilities of the organization.

Client satisfaction will be monitored over the coming years, and clients will be resurveyed every two years to measure changes to baseline satisfaction rates.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2008/09 Target	2010/11 Target	2012/13 Target
Changes in satisfaction of client groups				
(1) Client Satisfaction Index	79%	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve	Maintain or improve
(2) Communication of shared stewardship	55%	Improve	Improve	Improve
(3) Consultation with stakeholders	49%	Improve	Improve	Improve

**Benchmark/Explanatory Information:** (1) The Client Satisfaction Index comprises four indicators — professional competence, reliability of information, availability of staff and timeliness of staff response. (2) A goal of the ministry is to encourage B.C. residents to share in the responsibility of taking care of the environment through shared stewardship. This indicator will measure how effectively the ministry is communicating this goal. (3) Consultation with stakeholders is an important indicator for the effectiveness of the ministry's consultation processes on proposed government policy and legislation. The survey will be undertaken every two years.

**Objective 2:** *A healthy working environment that supports and motivates staff, promotes innovation, and attracts and retains high performance employees.*

The ministry strives to ensure that it is a sought-after, well-respected and innovative place to work. Recognizing that a challenging and balanced work environment is essential for good health and a productive workforce, the ministry recognizes staff for their contributions, supports their work with appropriate resources, and encourages professional development opportunities and health and wellness activities.

## Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- updating and implementing the ministry's human resources strategy;
- optimizing performance by providing developmental opportunities, recognition and reward initiatives;
- advancing the development of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce;
- fostering a supportive workplace culture through leadership, health promotion and positive social relationships.

**Objective 3:** *An integrated cross ministry framework that supports ministry goals and objectives.*

Leadership and a coordinated approach to legislation and policy development, planning and reporting, resource allocation, and compliance and enforcement services is essential to ensuring cross ministry consistency, effective and efficient program delivery and the realization of ministry goals. The ministry works across core business areas to support goals and objectives, improve outcomes, identify risks and focus on ministry and government priorities.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- providing a legislative and policy framework that supports ministry goals and objectives;
- providing support and streamlined outcomes through effective intergovernmental relations;
- facilitating a strategic and integrated approach to planning, measurement, evaluation and accountability;
- linking ministry resources with planning and results;
- tracking performance and reporting results toward the achievement of provincial environmental objectives;
- providing leadership and service in support of a strategic ministry compliance approach and maintaining strong and effective compliance and enforcement services.

**Objective 4:** *Information resources that support effective decision-making.*

Science, socio-economic analysis and technology are fundamental tools for effective ministry decision-making. Application of the best available science and sound economic analysis are key components of setting and evaluating the effectiveness of environmental standards. Well-managed, accurate and accessible information is critical to making informed environmental and business management decisions.

**Strategies**

Key strategies for this objective include:

- maintaining access to the best available science through in-house expertise and partnerships with research agencies and universities;
- monitoring the effectiveness (i.e., the impact) of standards of environmental values such as water and air quality, and health of ecosystems;



- providing tools to better integrate scientific information with the social and economic factors considered in resource management decisions;
- developing effective information resources to facilitate effective environmental decision-making;
- pursuing opportunities to maximize the use of technology and best practices in the management of information resources.

## Resource Summary

The Resource Summary table below provides an estimate of the 2007/08 expenditures that will be required by core business areas to undertake the work identified within this Service Plan. Also included are the planned expenditures for the 2008/09 – 2009/10 fiscal years.

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship .....	73,203	78,857	80,463	81,923
Water Stewardship .....	29,372	39,228	61,402	65,556
Oceans and Marine Fisheries .....	2,240	2,258	2,277	2,294
Environmental Protection .....	41,730	43,230	41,113	41,450
Compliance .....	18,201	18,482	18,700	18,902
Executive and Support Services .....	32,485	33,807	34,217	34,640
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>197,231</b>	<b>215,862</b>	<b>238,172</b>	<b>244,765</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship .....	471	478	478	478
Water Stewardship .....	122	127	127	127
Oceans and Marine Fisheries .....	13	14	14	14
Environmental Protection .....	256	270	266	266
Compliance .....	152	152	152	152
Executive and Support Services .....	391	403	403	403
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,440</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Environmental Stewardship .....	43,123	29,673	14,696	14,733
Water Stewardship .....	357	162	109	72
Oceans and Marine Fisheries .....	5	5	5	5
Environmental Protection .....	921	283	245	272
Compliance .....	2,258	1,153	974	945
Executive and Support Services .....	3,369	2,710	2,032	2,034
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>50,033</b>	<b>33,986</b>	<b>18,061</b>	<b>18,061</b>

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2007/08 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates*, presents a detailed reconciliation.

In the ministry, resources, strategies and results are linked to goals and objectives. Each core business area has responsibility for undertaking specific strategies and achieving specific results under each goal and objective. As a result, core business area responsibilities and resources are integrated across ministry goals and objectives.

These responsibilities and resources reflect the ministry's continued commitment to, and work involved in, protecting and enhancing the quality of our water, land and air; preserving the health and diversity of native species and ecosystems; promoting an awareness that all British Columbians share responsibility for the environment; ensuring sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources; and fostering a high performance organization that is effective in achieving the province's environmental objectives.

Key initiatives in the ministry's budget this year include activities under the B.C. Air Action Plan and the B.C. Climate Change Plan undertaken by the Environmental Protection Division, the B.C. Water Action Plan undertaken by the Water Stewardship Division, and the Parks for People Strategy undertaken by the Environmental Stewardship Division.

As British Columbia's population grows and the economy continues to be strong, the economic benefits to the province must be balanced against their impact on the environment. These pressures as well as unpredictable natural and biological events, should they occur, can have significant implications for the ministry's budget. Despite these challenges, the ministry continues to make significant headway in meeting its performance targets through effective relationship building and through a process of continuous improvement, which regularly evaluates programs and systems to determine their effectiveness and identify where efficiencies can be made.



## Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

The Environmental Appeal Board (Board) and Forest Appeals Commission (Commission) are independent, quasi-judicial tribunals jointly administered by the same office. They hear appeals of government decisions under several provincial statutes concerned with natural resource management, environmental quality and public health protection.

As well, the Board and Commission administer other tribunals including the Hospital Appeal Board and the Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board for the Ministry of Health and the Industry Training Appeal Board for the Ministry of Economic Development.

While the Board and the Commission operate independently from the Ministry of Environment, their budget vote is the responsibility of the ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Minister of Environment, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Service Plan.

## Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b> .....	1,978	2,077	2,096	2,113
<b>Capital Expenditures (CRF) (\$000)</b> .....	15	15	15	15
<b>Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)</b> .....	11	11	11	11

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2007/08 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates*, presents a detailed reconciliation.

# Environmental Assessment Office Overview

## Purpose of the EAO

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) was created in 1995 to coordinate the assessment of proposed major projects in British Columbia as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This role was preserved for the EAO when government proclaimed the new British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (BCEAA) in December 2002.

The BCEAA establishes the framework for a comprehensive, predictable, open, accountable, integrated, timely and neutrally administered environmental assessment process for a wide variety of major development proposals in British Columbia. The process is intended to support provincial goals for sustainability by ensuring that approved projects can be constructed in a manner that minimizes adverse effects, to the extent possible, while contributing economic and social benefits over the long term.

The environmental assessment process examines major development proposals for potentially adverse environmental, economic, social, health and heritage effects that may occur during the life cycle of these proposed projects, including construction, operation and decommissioning. The process includes:

- opportunities for First Nations, local government and government agencies and all interested parties to provide input and identify issues;
- consultations with First Nations to address, and where appropriate accommodate, potential effects on established and asserted aboriginal rights and title;
- technical studies of environmental, social, economic, heritage and/or health effects to identify potentially adverse effects of a proposed project;
- strategies to prevent, or reduce, adverse effects through mitigation or project redesign; and
- development of a comprehensive environmental assessment report summarizing input and findings that may include recommendations on whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate for a project.

Project certification, determined by ministers at the conclusion of an environmental assessment, represents government's approval in principle and allows a proponent to seek any other statutory authorizations necessary to proceed with the development of a project.

Issues or concerns identified by provincial, federal and local governments, First Nations and the public may trigger modifications or changes to a project as it moves through the

environmental assessment process. Proponents also have specific accountabilities in the review process to provide information on their projects and work to reduce the level of project impact.

Projects in the following sectors that meet or exceed the size thresholds established in the Reviewable Projects Regulation (B.C. Reg 370/2002) are automatically subject to the Act: industrial, mining, energy, water management (dams, dykes, and reservoirs), waste disposal, food processing, transportation and tourism (destination resorts).

Project proponents may also apply to have their project reviewed under the Act, and the Minister has the discretion to require the assessment of other projects where there is a compelling public interest to do so.

Major projects subject to the BCEAA may also be reviewable under the federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. To minimize duplication and overlap, Canada and British Columbia agreed in the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004) to coordinate information requirements, use provincial time limits and issue a joint assessment report wherever possible, while retaining their respective decision-making powers.

During an assessment, the EAO obtains valuable advice from other provincial ministries, such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and the Ministry of Community Services on technical and policy considerations within their respective mandates.

## **Vision, Mission and Values**

### **Vision**

Environmentally and socially responsible development that contributes to a strong and vibrant economy in British Columbia.

### **Mission**

The EAO delivers a timely and integrated process for assessing the environmental, social, heritage, economic and health effects, and potential impacts to First Nations' claims to aboriginal rights and title, of major projects in British Columbia, reports the findings of environmental assessment reviews to government and may make recommendations regarding project certification.

### **Values**

The EAO respects First Nations interests and cultural values and seeks to engage First Nations in a meaningful way in the environmental assessment process. The process is intended to be balanced, open and inclusive, providing opportunities for meaningful participation by all stakeholders.

The EAO relies on science and results-based standards wherever possible, encourages innovation and creativity, and values:

- Cooperation and teamwork.
- Respect for the opinions of others.
- Honesty and integrity.
- Service excellence.
- A healthy workplace.
- Accountability to the people of British Columbia.

## Strategic Context

The continued strong performance of the provincial economy, as well as increasing demand for energy and mineral resources from Asia and the United States, has significant effects on the workload of the EAO. Over the past two years, the EAO has experienced an unprecedented number of energy, mining, and infrastructure projects entering the assessment process. With economic growth projections above 3 per cent for the next three years, this trend is expected to continue. Projects in or entering the process are forecast to remain significantly above those anticipated when the first Service Plan was developed in 2001.

Energy project proposals, especially from independent power producers who are helping to meet the province's emerging electricity supply gap by 2010, and mining project proposals represent the majority of projects in the process and will use the bulk of the EAO's resources. The energy projects represent a wide diversity of energy resources (wind, hydro, biomass) in the province and the mix enables the province to acquire 50 per cent of its needs from clean sources. At the same time, project proposals for new mines primarily in the northwest and northeast continue to enter the environmental assessment process at an unprecedented rate.

When conducting assessments and preparing recommendations to government on applications for environmental assessment certificates, the EAO is guided by the evolving case law related to the obligations of the Crown. This means ensuring that government's consultation and accommodation obligations to First Nations have been met.



The EAO continues to work with other government bodies, including federal government agencies and proponents to improve upon the environmental assessment process. The Act's legislated timeframes for completing project reviews have improved the predictability of the process. Continued efforts to harmonize federal and provincial assessment processes also help reduce overlap and duplication. EAO coordination of federal and provincial reviews, using legislated provincial timelines, has encouraged some proponents of projects that do not automatically require a provincial environmental assessment to request reviews under the EAO process.

As a demand-driven program, the EAO has experienced continued budget pressures as it attempts to respond to an increasing number of reviewable projects and increased review complexities. The EAO's key challenge is providing environmental assessments within legislated timelines and with available resources.

## **Core Business Areas**

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) fulfils its mandated responsibilities through two business areas: Major Project Environmental Assessments and Corporate Operations.

### **1. Major Project Environmental Assessments**

The EAO manages the province's review and assessment of proposed major projects through individual teams composed of a project leader and one or more environmental assessment staff. Staff in project teams work on several different projects simultaneously and draw on technical expertise from across government and the private sector. They apply knowledge, judgement and analytical expertise to coordinate inter-agency and public processes and to prepare project assessment reports that recommend whether projects should proceed or not.

### **2. Corporate Operations**

The EAO shares many of its corporate services with the Corporate Services Division of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Corporate operations managed by the EAO include service planning, budgeting, expenditure control, staff development, human resources, policy and legislation, records management, and the electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC) and website.



## New Relationship

The Government of British Columbia is leading the nation in developing a New Relationship with First Nations and aboriginal people. Guided by principles of trust, and by recognition and respect of First Nations rights and title, we are building a stronger and healthier relationship between government and aboriginal people. By working together, we will bring tangible social and economic benefits to aboriginal people across the Province and narrow the gap between aboriginal people and other British Columbians.

The EAO is committed to building a new relationship with First Nations that is founded on reconciliation, mutual respect and trust. As part of the EAO's commitment to the New Relationship, the EAO is identifying different ways to ensure First Nations are fully engaged throughout the environmental assessment process and to help First Nation communities understand potential project effects. The EAO actively encourages proponents to meet with First Nations at their earliest opportunity to learn about First Nation communities and First Nation interests and concerns as this can help inform decisions about project location and design. The EAO seeks First Nations input on its project scoping decisions (Section 11 orders) and encourages and helps fund First Nations participation in technical working groups.

The EAO has also been facilitating broader government-to-government discussions with First Nations around potential project impacts on aboriginal rights and title. At the end of a review, the EAO seeks First Nations comments on the draft Assessment Report, which identifies the issues considered during the environmental assessment, including a detailed assessment of potential impacts of the proposed project on aboriginal rights



and title, and summarizes the conclusions of the review, including the documentation of any unresolved issues before it is finalized and forwarded to Ministers for their consideration as the statutory decision-makers under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

## Overview

### EAO Goals

The EAO has established goals, objectives and related strategies that focus on the completeness and thoroughness of environmental assessment reporting and clarity of the environment assessment process. These goals will move the organization toward its vision of excellence in environmental assessment and support its mission to report the outcome of environmental assessments to government.

### Linkage to the Five Great Goals

With an expanding economy and public demand for accountability, the work of the EAO is linked to the following Great Goals:

#### **Great Goal 2: *Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.***

##### Linkage to EAO:

- Evaluates potential health issues associated with major development projects and recommends mitigation strategies.
- Works with proponents to develop public recreational opportunities as part of major project assessments wherever possible.

#### **Great Goal 4: *Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.***

##### Linkage to EAO:

- Ensures the thorough and comprehensive review of the effects of major projects on air and water quality and fisheries management issues.
- Works with proponents to develop mitigation strategies to reduce any potential effects on air and water quality and fisheries management to acceptable levels.

## **Great Goal 5: *Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.***

### **Linkage to EAO:**

- Facilitates economic development and job creation through an environmental assessment process that is predictable and timely.
- Encourages proponents to ensure local communities receive some of the benefits of their projects.

### **Cross Ministry Initiatives**

To help government achieve its Five Great Goals, the EAO is participating in a variety of cross ministry initiatives.

- **Mountain Pine Beetle:** Projections indicate the mountain pine beetle infestation could kill 80 per cent of the pine forest in British Columbia by 2013. Pine forests dominate the interior of B.C., and their loss has significant implications to the forest environment, economy and the communities that depend on those forests for sustainability. The B.C. government, through coordination by the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan, is working across a number of ministries to minimize and mitigate negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the infestation, while recovering the greatest value and protecting public health, safety and infrastructure. The EAO is supporting the action plan through the timely review of processing plants that trigger environmental assessment thresholds.
- **Asia Pacific Initiative:** The British Columbia Asia Pacific Initiative ensures the province has a coordinated and targeted strategic plan in place that takes full advantage of B.C.'s Pacific Gateway advantages and Asian cultural and language base. The Asia Pacific Initiative defines B.C.'s future role in the Asia Pacific economy and identifies the immediate priority actions that must be taken to further integrate the province into Asian markets. The EAO is leading a harmonized federal/provincial environmental assessment review of the Asia Pacific Initiative projects: South Fraser Perimeter Road and the Port Mann Bridge/Highway 1.
- **2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games:** All provincial ministries, agencies and Crowns have been working together to ensure every available opportunity to develop sustainable economic legacies are explored and pursued so that businesses and communities in British Columbia receive benefit from the Games. The EAO is providing timely reviews of Olympic-related projects (e.g., Whistler Nordic Centre and Recreational Trails project).

## **Regulatory Reform**

British Columbia continues to make regulatory reform a priority across government, making it easier for businesses to operate and succeed in B.C., while still preserving regulations that protect public health, safety and the environment. A citizen-centred approach to regulatory reform will reduce the number of steps it takes to comply with government requirements or access government programs and services.

The EAO has undertaken significant regulatory reform initiatives that aim to ensure British Columbia's regulatory climate enables strong economic growth while maintaining effective environmental standards.

The EAO continues to support the government's plan for regulatory reform and is committed to controlling regulatory burden and improving regulatory quality. The cross government target of a zero per cent increase in regulations will be maintained through 2008/09.

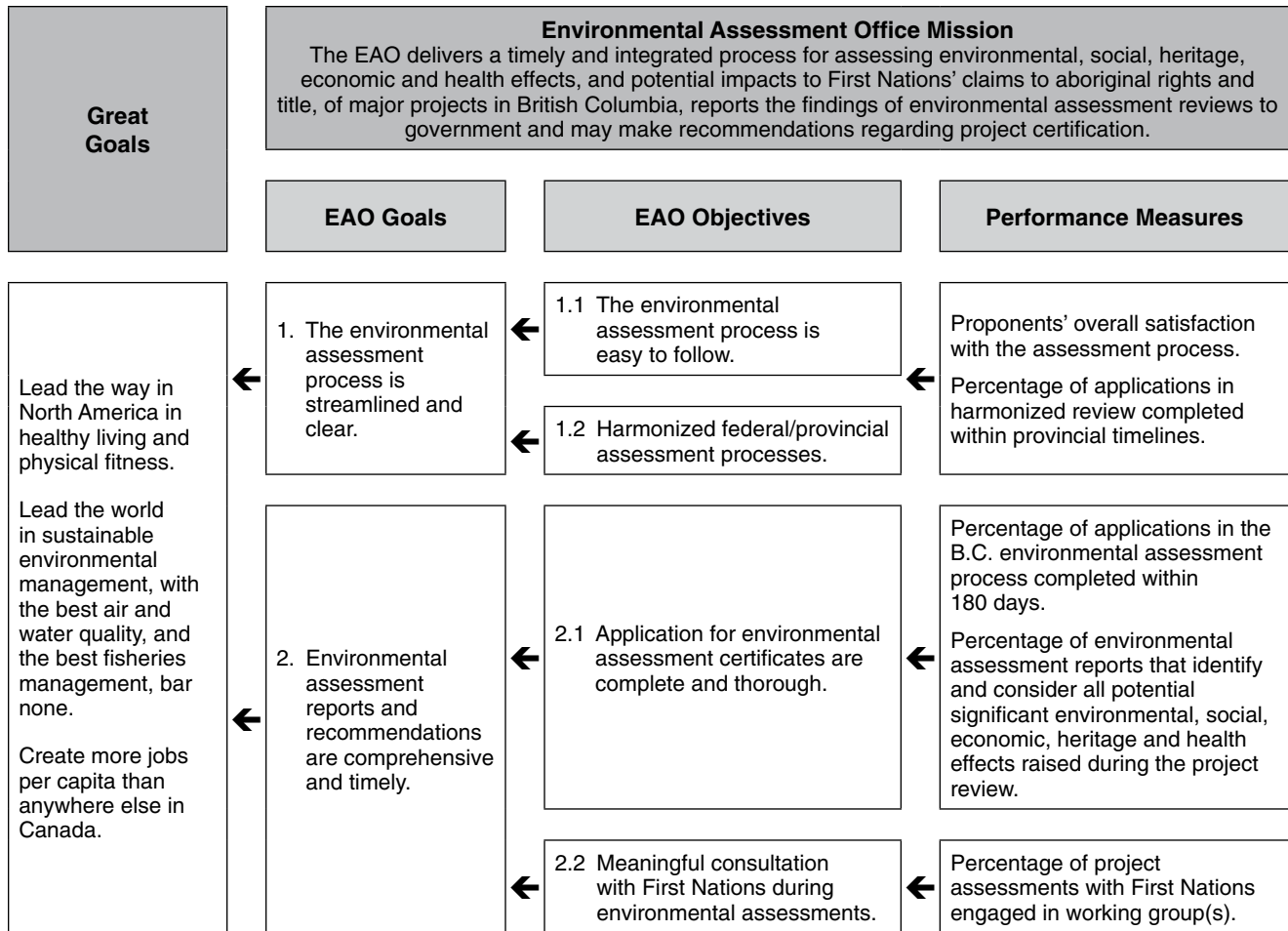
## **Citizen-Centred Service Delivery**

Citizen-centred service delivery is a government-wide initiative to coordinate information, programs and services so that they can be presented to citizens in a way that takes their needs into account from beginning to end. The vision is to make it possible for citizens to access the government information and services they need in a simple and timely manner with a phone call, a mouse click or a visit to a service centre, no matter how many programs or ministries are involved in their request.

The EAO serves the citizens of British Columbia as well as industry, business, associations, communities, academic and environmental organizations and other government agencies. The EAO is continuing its efforts of providing citizen-centred service by identifying service needs and expectations. To gauge its success, the EAO continues to monitor changes in the level of client satisfaction through its bi-annual Client Satisfaction survey.

# Performance Plan

## Environmental Assessment Office Performance Plan Summary



**Goal 1: *The environmental assessment process is clear and streamlined.***

The process managed by the EAO is continually evaluated and refined to ensure that it is easy for proponents to understand, provides effective tools to assist the development of assessment applications and streamlines regulatory requirements wherever possible. To meet the goal of an environmental assessment process that is clear and streamlined, the EAO set two objectives: (1) an environmental assessment process that is easy to follow and (2) harmonization with the federal government.

**Core Business Area: *Major Project Environmental Assessments.***

**Objective 1: *The environmental assessment process is easy to follow.***

The EAO seeks to continually improve the environmental assessment process through the development of tools to improve proponents', First Nations', and the public's understanding of the process and assist with the preparation of assessment documentation. Efforts are also made to enhance public information about the environmental assessment process and to provide access to information about project reviews as they proceed.

**Strategies**

**Develop sector specific guidelines**

Guidelines related to environmental assessments of proposed mine projects have been developed and tested. These guidelines consolidate elements of the generic guides on the environmental assessment process and the preparation of Terms of Reference, and include information that is specific or unique to this sector. Additional sector specific guidelines may be developed where they are needed.

**The Proponents' Guide to the Environmental Assessment Process**

Acting on client survey results, the EAO has developed a guide that sets out all the steps in the environmental assessment process and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all of the parties involved in a project review. The guide has been tested and is being revised based on feedback and to incorporate updated EAO policies and procedures.

**The EAO continually seeks ways to help increase the public's awareness of the environmental assessment process**

The EAO endeavours to ensure that the public and stakeholders are aware of where to find information and opportunities to comment on projects under review. EAO staff will attend public open houses for each environmental assessment review to provide an overview of the environmental assessment process. EAO staff will also make presentations at relevant conferences to describe the provincial review process.

## **Performance Measure**

### **Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process**

This measure addresses the level of client satisfaction with the environmental assessment process by asking clients to rate the EAO on its delivery of a timely and effective environmental assessment process. This is measured through the Client Satisfaction Survey by asking proponents to rate their overall experience with the EAO on a scale of 1 to 10, regardless of where they are in the process.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process	8 out of 10	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

### **Objective 2: *Harmonized federal/provincial assessment processes.***

In 2004, British Columbia and Canada renewed the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation. The agreement is designed to achieve government cooperation, efficient and effective use of public and private resources and procedural certainty for participants in the environmental assessment process. The agreement includes specific measures to minimize costly and time-consuming duplication and overlap when a project is subject to provincial and federal assessment legislation.

## **Strategy**

### **Joint federal/provincial environmental assessments meet all requirements of the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation**

The agreement requires the federal and provincial governments to negotiate work plans for each harmonized environmental assessment and meet any resulting timelines. In some cases, federal assessment processes have unique requirements that mean federal decisions might be made after provincial decisions.

## **Performance Measure**

### **Percentage of harmonized reviews that meet provincial timelines**

The EAO and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) try to anticipate and resolve problems through the EAO/CEAA Harmonization Working Group. This performance measure will demonstrate whether the majority of harmonized project reviews are meeting provincial timelines.



Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of applications in harmonized review completed within provincial timelines	80%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

**Goal 2: *Environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely.***

Environmental assessment reports are based on a thorough review of all relevant issues and include representation of the interests of those affected by a proposed project, which is supported by formal public comment periods. This provides the basis for balanced decisions by government on whether a project should proceed and results in decisions that also consider the broader public interest. To meet the goal that environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely, the EAO set two objectives: (1) applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough and (2) meaningful consultation with First Nations.

**Core Business Area: *Major Project Environmental Assessments.***

**Objective 1: *Applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough.***

The EAO and other participants in the review work with proponents to identify the information requirements for the application to assess the potential for environmental, economic, social, health and heritage effects. The EAO also assesses the adequacy of proponents' proposed plans for consulting the public and First Nations during the application review. These measures help ensure the proponent's application is complete so the process can proceed in a timely manner.

**Strategies**

**Provide guidance on the information required in an application for an environmental assessment certificate**

A thorough and complete environmental assessment application must provide a wide range of detailed information on a project and its potential effects. The EAO ensures that, in advance of applying for an environmental assessment certificate, a proponent develops an acceptable outline of the application and describes the range of data, analyses and reporting it will contain (i.e., Terms of Reference). The EAO convenes multi-disciplinary working groups to assist with this task so that proponents, technical experts, stakeholders and First Nations engage in meaningful discussions to identify potential project issues; set the technical and reporting requirements for the application; determine consultation

requirements; and identify any other information required for the future assessment of a project. The Terms of Reference used for an application are approved by the EAO.

**Applications for environmental assessments of major projects are screened against Terms of Reference**

The content of each application submitted by a proponent is screened to make sure it is consistent with the approved Terms of Reference. An application must pass this screening process before the EAO will accept the application and have it distributed by proponents to agencies, First Nations and the public for formal and detailed review. Through this screening process, the EAO ensures that applications contain the required technical and scientific information, reflect consultations with stakeholders and First Nations, and include information related to any other issues identified.

**Performance Measures**

**Percentage of application reviews within the 180-day legislated timeframe**

The British Columbia environmental assessment process has legislated timelines, and the EAO monitors whether these timelines are being met. The EAO is proactive in anticipating and scheduling activities. It also encourages consultation during the pre-application stage to ensure that applications contain all required information and projects stay on track to meet schedules and remain within legislated timelines once they enter the application stage. With a detailed and good quality application, the environmental assessment process can readily identify and address the potential impacts of the project, which assists the EAO in meeting the legislated time limits.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of applications in the B.C. environmental assessment process completed within 180 days	90%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

**Percentage of environmental assessment reports that identify and consider all potential significant effects**

EAO assessment reports for Ministers provide the findings of an environmental assessment, a thorough review of all relevant issues, and the basis for balanced decisions by government on whether a project should proceed. The EAO works with proponents to ensure information to assess a project’s potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects is identified, collected, and then shared and reviewed by government, First Nations and the public. Through these steps, the EAO ensures assessment reports describe the range of perspectives and issues on a project along with measures developed by a proponent to mitigate potential adverse effects.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of environmental assessment reports that identify and consider all potential significant environmental, social, economic, heritage and health effects raised during the project review	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Objective 2:** *Meaningful consultation with First Nations occurs during environmental assessment reviews.*

Government has an obligation to consult with First Nations and, where indicated, accommodate established and asserted aboriginal rights and title. The EAO engages First Nations in the assessment process to fully understand and report on the potential effects of proposed projects on First Nations interests, and propose ways to address those effects. This enhances the quality of reporting and recommendations to government on whether a project should proceed, and supports consistency and procedural certainty.

**Strategies**

**Require proponents to develop plans for consultations with First Nations**

Under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, proponents are directed to engage First Nations early and often in the assessment process. This may include, for example, ongoing meetings with First Nations leadership and community members, site tours and funding for aboriginal interest and use studies and for capacity to help First Nations interpret the extensive technical information associated with the review of a proposed project.

The EAO also requires proponents to present their proposed First Nations consultation program in writing, evaluates the adequacy of the plan and may recommend additional measures where necessary.

**The EAO seeks active First Nations involvement in project reviews**

The EAO initiates discussions with First Nations governments and their communities at the beginning of the process to provide information about the environmental assessment process and to consult with First Nations to obtain input on procedural aspects of specific project reviews. This provides opportunities to incorporate First Nations suggestions on Section 11 procedural orders before they are issued. Discussion between the EAO and First Nations continues throughout the assessment process and includes the opportunity to provide input on proposed baseline studies and the application and draft assessment reports before reports and recommendations are made to government about whether a project should proceed. This open and regular communication facilitates the EAO's ability to identify, understand and address First Nations issues associated with project reviews and to report on First Nations perspectives. It also ensures proponents are considering the potential effects of their projects on First Nations interests.

## Performance Measure

### Percentage of project assessments with First Nations engaged in working group(s)

A primary tool for ensuring thorough and comprehensive environmental assessments is the establishment of technical “working groups.” These groups consist of representatives of key federal, provincial and local government agencies, and typically seek active representation from First Nations affected by a project. The direct engagement of First Nations in working groups is the most effective way of building relationships, identifying First Nations issues, and initiating processes and project design changes that assist in accommodating First Nations rights, title and other project-related issues. Although the EAO cannot control whether First Nations choose to participate in working groups, the office should make every effort to seek their participation. Thus, the percentage of assessments that have First Nations represented on working groups is a key measure of the EAO’s ability to successfully identify and address First Nations issues.

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target	2009/10 Target
Percentage of project assessments with First Nations engaged in working group(s)	75%	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

# Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Project Assessments and Corporate Operations</b> .....	5,806	6,957	7,009	7,056
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5,806</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>7,009</b>	<b>7,056</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)</b>				
<b>Project Assessments and Corporate Operations</b> .....	38	49	49	49
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>38</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Project Assessments and Corporate Operations</b> .....	146	56	56	56
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>146</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2007/08 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates*, presents a detailed reconciliation.

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Ministry of Environment Glossary

**airshed:** geographical areas in which air quality is a function of the same sources, weather and topography.

**ambient air or water quality:** the overall or general condition of air or water in a region outside the zone of influence of discharges — in contrast to local condition, which may be related to a specific source of contamination.

**baseline:** an actual result or a composite of an organization's past performance in a particular area that can be used to set future targets, or for comparison to other organizations. A baseline provides a starting point against which future progress can be assessed.

**B.C. water quality guidelines:** guidelines developed in B.C. that provide benchmarks for the assessment of water quality. If a substance concentration is lower than the concentration indicated in the guideline, generally speaking, a water quality problem for that particular substance is non-existent; however, if the substance concentration exceeds its guideline, an assessment of the water quality is warranted.

**benchmarking:** a process of continuously comparing and measuring an organization or aspects of an organization against sector/industry leaders, with the objective of gaining information that will help the organization take actions and make changes to improve its performance.

**brownfield:** an idle or underused property where past activities have caused environmental contamination but which exhibit good potential for other uses and provide economically viable business opportunities.

**coal bed gas:** natural gas found in underground coal deposits. The gas is contained within the coal seam where it is absorbed or attached to the coal particles. During production, water is pumped out of the coal seams lowering the pressure thus releasing the gas to be collected and sent to market.

**compliance:** conformity with regulatory requirements established by government to protect the environment, human health and safety.

**ecosystem:** organisms of a natural community, together with their physical, chemical and biological environment.

**Fisheries Sensitive Watershed (FSW):** a designation under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. To qualify as an FSW candidate, watersheds must meet two criteria: significant fisheries values and watershed sensitivity. More information can be found at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/fsw/>.

**greenhouse gases:** gases that play a part in the greenhouse effect: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>, the most significant greenhouse gas), methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, water vapour, CFCs and other trace gases.

**industry-led product stewardship:** places the responsibility for end-of-life product management on those who produce, distribute, sell or use products or containers listed under the B.C. Recycling Regulation.

**low level ozone:** Also called ground level ozone. A bluish gas with a pungent odour. At ground level, ozone is formed by chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the presence of sunlight. VOCs and NO<sub>2</sub> are released by burning coal, gasoline and other fuels, and are naturally released by plants and trees.

**mountain pine beetle:** the mountain pine beetle epidemic in B.C. is the largest forest insect infestation in Canada's history. The beetle prefers mature timber and is affecting lodge pole pines of 80 years or more.

**nitrate:** an essential plant nutrient found in fertilizers and which may be produced during the breakdown of organic wastes. Excessive fertilizer application, improper agricultural waste management or underground septic tanks may increase nitrate levels in groundwater. Nitrates reduce the ability of blood to carry oxygen. Infants under six months are particularly at risk from drinking well-water containing excessive nitrates.

**particulate matter (PM):** fine liquid or solid particles (such as dust, smoke, mist fumes or smog) found in the air or emissions. Also known as particulates.

**pollution prevention hierarchy:** as follows in descending order of priority: reduce the environmental impact of producing the product by eliminating toxic components and increasing energy and resource efficiency; redesign the product to improve reusability or recyclability; eliminate or reduce the generation of unused portions of a product that is consumable; reuse the product; recycle the product; recover material or energy from the product; otherwise dispose of the waste from the product in compliance with the *Environmental Management Act*.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** a measure of particulate matter under 2.5 microns. Recent studies have shown that particles of 2.5 microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pose the greatest health risk. A particle of 2.5 microns is about 1/20th the width of a human hair.



**protected areas:** refers to parks, recreation areas, ecological reserves and designations under legislation for which the Ministry of Environment is responsible. They include:

- Class A parks established under the *Park Act* or by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.
- Class B and C parks and recreation areas established under the *Park Act*.
- Ecological reserves established under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.
- “protected areas” and other conservation-oriented designations established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* that are managed by the Environmental Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment.

**species at risk:** species at risk means endangered, extirpated or threatened.

**stewardship:** stewardship refers to the concept of responsibly managing natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations and encouraging the active participation of persons or groups, including citizens, communities, government and industry.

**ungulate:** a hoofed mammal such as a caribou, moose, bison or goat.

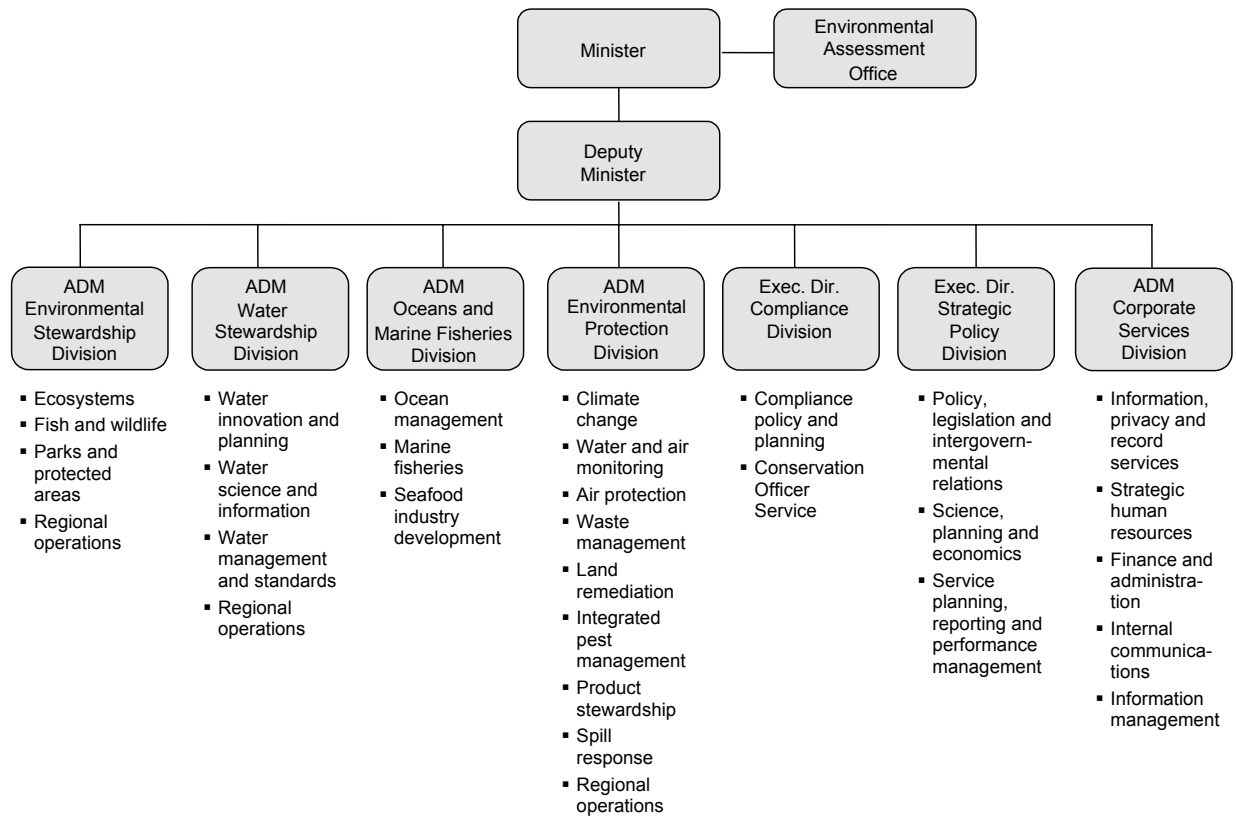
**Ungulate Winter Range (UWR):** an area that contains habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements of an ungulate species. UWRs are based on our current understanding of ungulate habitat requirements in winter, as interpreted by the Ministry of Environment regional staff from current scientific and management literature, local knowledge, and other expertise from the region. For more information, please visit <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/uwr/index.html>.

**watershed:** an entire area that is drained by a waterway or that drains into a lake or reservoir. Also referred to as a water basin.

**Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs):** mapped areas of Crown land containing critical habitat, such as breeding, feeding and denning habitat, crucial to identified wildlife. WHAs help protect species and plant communities at risk by specifying mandatory practices called general wildlife measures.

## Appendix B: Ministry of Environment Organizational Chart

The Ministry of Environment currently has seven divisions to support the programs, services, and initiatives carried out by its six core business areas. The Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Service Division are represented as one core business area under Executive and Support Services. The figure below shows the ministry's organizational structure and the main responsibilities for each division. For a more detailed overview of core business area responsibilities, see the Core Business Areas section of this report.



## Appendix C: Ministry of Environment Risk Management Framework

The government defines risk as the uncertainty that surrounds future events and outcomes, such as those mentioned in this Service Plan. Managing adverse events that could influence ministry progress requires planning — identifying and taking action to minimize the likelihood of risk and the consequences should an event occur.

All core business areas within the ministry address risk in the development, monitoring and implementation of their initiatives, regulations, services and programs. For example, protecting the health of British Columbians and taking a leadership role in environmental stewardship requires programs to clearly identify, assess and undertake activities to mitigate potential risks related to water quality, air quality, contaminated sites and managing species at risk.

In addition, the ministry has a diverse set of proactive planning approaches in which risk is identified, assessed and management strategies are developed and implemented. Some examples are described below.

**Ministry Audit and Risk Management Committee:** This Executive-level committee ensures audits are undertaken as a result of a risk-based prioritization model. Audits may include financial management, information systems reviews, and compliance audits (contractual, regulatory and legislative).

**Program Evaluation and Business Reviews:** Program evaluations and cross ministry business reviews are undertaken by the ministry. Results are analyzed and corrective activities are incorporated into business planning and decision-making.

**Financial Risk Management (FRM):** FRM, with respect to managing the ministry's budget, includes planning, quarterly reporting, balance reviews and variance analysis. Financial policies and procedures in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act*, including contract management, are continually updated and communicated through training programs. Ministry transfer payments are monitored and audited for policy compliance. FRM is also supported through the ministry's Audit Plan.

**People Planning Committee:** This cross ministry committee researches issues and develops effective human resource strategies to address future risks associated with workforce needs and succession planning.

**Business Continuity Management Program (BCMP):** The BCMP is an integral part of the ministry's risk management approach. The ministry is responsible for identifying risk events and analyzing their impact on the operations of the ministry. The ministry's Business Continuity Plan is developed and implemented to ensure availability of ministry services, programs and operations should an event occur, and the timely resumption of services in the event of a major failure, emergency or disaster.

**Structured Decision-Making (SDM):** The SDM process is used to consider uncertainty and consequences in the evaluation of alternative management policy options. SDM allows decision-makers to make “risk” trade-offs based on a better understanding of the technical information and the values and risk tolerance of stakeholders.

Government continues to be called upon to anticipate and address new and emerging risks, as well as potential opportunities. Most issues relating to the environment are complex and have profound implications for both the environment and society. Science plays an important role in effective environmental decision-making. Ministry decision-making processes are informed by the best available science, supported through adaptive management<sup>12</sup> processes and depend on the sound and rigorous judgement of knowledgeable and professional staff.

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<sup>12</sup> Adaptive management is defined as a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.

## Appendix D: Ministry of Environment Office Locations

<b>Vancouver Island</b>	Goldstream Park
Nanaimo * (250) 751-3100	Black Creek
Parksville	Duncan
Ucluelet	Port Alberni
Victoria	Port Hardy
<b>Lower Mainland</b>	
Powell River	Surrey * (604) 582-5200
Cultus Lake	Brackendale (Squamish)
Sechelt	North Vancouver
<b>Thompson/Okanagan</b>	
Clearwater	Kamloops * (250) 371-6200
Grand Forks	Penticton * (250) 490-8200
Merritt	Vernon
Lillooet	Princeton/Manning Park
	Kelowna/Oliver
<b>Kootenay</b>	
Cranbrook * (250) 489-8540	Nelson * (250) 354-6333
Castlegar	Fernie
Creston/West Creston	Revelstoke
	Invermere
<b>Cariboo</b>	
Williams Lake * (250) 398-4530	Quesnel
100 Mile House	Bella Coola/Hagensborg
<b>Skeena</b>	
Terrace/Lakelse Lake	Burns Lake
Queen Charlotte City	Dease Lake
Smithers * (250) 847-7260	Atlin
<b>Omineca/Peace</b>	
Fort Nelson/Liard Hotsprings	Fort St. John * (250) 787-3411
Prince George * (250) 565-6135	Dawson Creek
Mackenzie	Vanderhoof
	Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park

\* Main Regional Office

## Appendix E: List of Legislation Administered by the Ministry of Environment

The legislation below, in alphabetical order, is currently administered by the Ministry of Environment:<sup>13</sup>

- *Beaver Lodge Lands Trust Renewal Act*
- *College of Applied Biology Act*
- *Commercial River Rafting Safety Act* (only some sections relating to safety inspections and enforcement remain in force)
- *Creston Valley Wildlife Act*
- *Dike Maintenance Act*
- *Drainage, Ditch and Dike Act*
- *Ecological Reserve Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Environmental Management Act*
- *Fish Protection Act*
- *Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act*
- *Industrial Operation Compensation Act*
- *Integrated Pest Management Act*
- *Land Title Act* (s. 219 only, insofar as it relates to the portfolio of the Minister)
- *Ministry of Environment Act* (all except s. 4 (2) (d))
- *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act* (ss. 3(4), 5(b), 6 and 9, insofar as they relate to the portfolio of the Minister)
- *Okanagan River Boundaries Settlement Act*
- *Park Act*
- *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*
- *Skagit Environmental Enhancement Act*
- *Sustainable Environment Fund Act*
- *Water Act*
- *Water Protection Act*
- *Water Utility Act*
- *Wildlife Act*

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<sup>13</sup> Citations for all Acts and regulations are to the most recent or original versions. Readers are strongly advised to confirm the currency of legislation with appropriate legal research before relying upon these citations as they are frequently amended and are subject to change without notice.

