

An Audit of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' Management of Timber

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Background

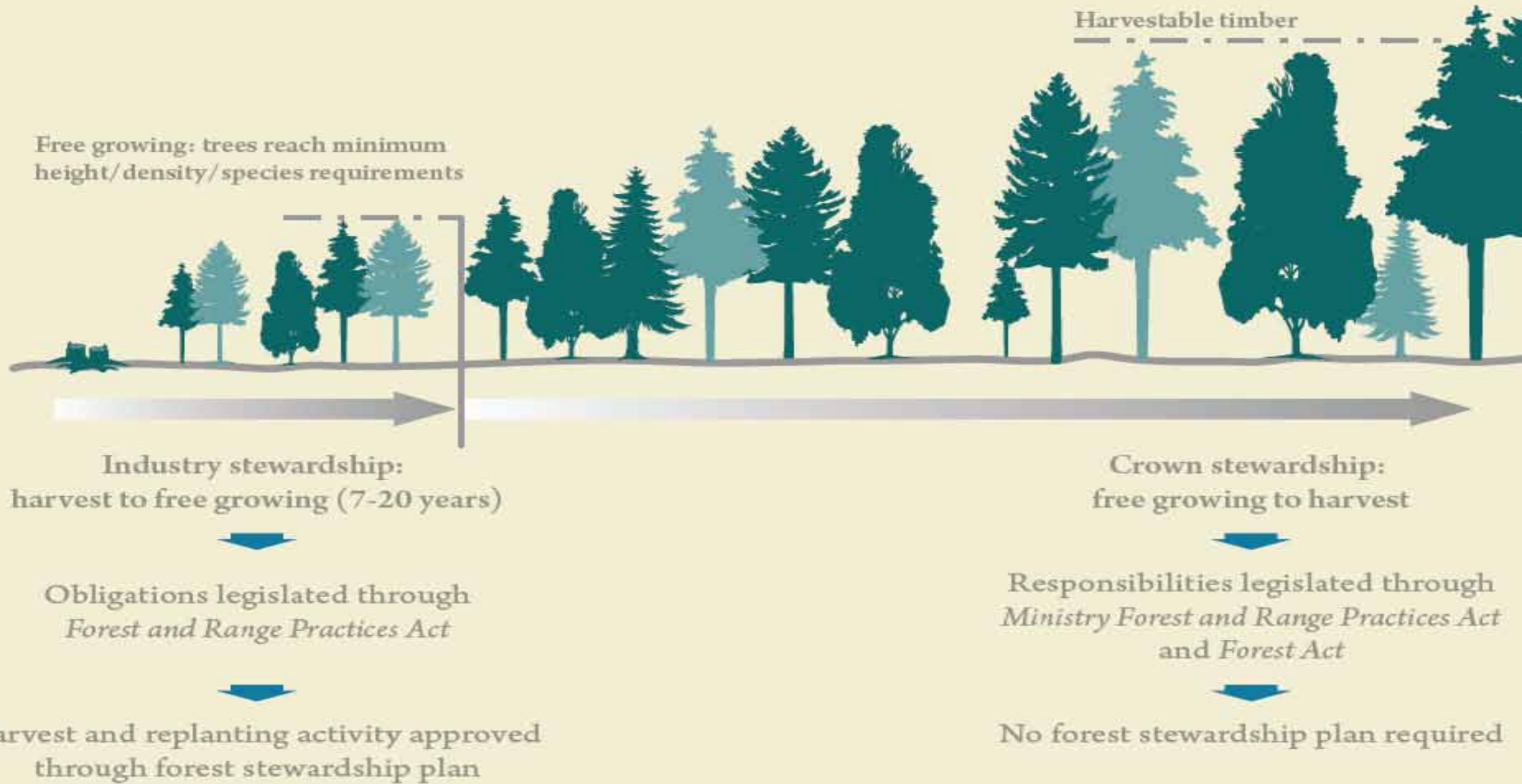


Forests –
British
Columbia's
vast resource



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Forest Stewardship in B.C.



Audit Purpose

To determine whether the ministry is achieving its forest objectives for timber:

1. Has the ministry clearly defined its forest objectives for timber?
2. Does the ministry have the management practices it needs to achieve its objectives for timber?
3. Does the ministry appropriately monitor and report its timber results against its objectives for timber?



Audit Conclusions

1. Ministry has not clearly defined its timber objectives; therefore, cannot ensure that its management practices are effective.
2. Existing management practices insufficient to offset a trend toward future forests having a lower timber supply and less species diversity in some areas.
3. Ministry does not appropriately monitor and report its timber results against its timber objectives.



Defining Timber Objectives

Two areas in particular need defining:

1. Do timber outcomes seek a targeted volume, value, and/or species diversity?
2. Balancing economic interests with environmental and social opportunities for present and future generations.



Defining Timber Objectives

Recommendation #1

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations **develop a plan for directing forest stewardship that establishes clearly defined **timber objectives and stewardship principles** to guide decision-making, actions, time frames and assessment of results.***



Management Practices

Ministry Stewardship

- Significant gap between the total area replanted by the ministry and the total area suitable for replanting

Recommendation #2

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations ensure that its **investments in silviculture** are sufficient to **achieve long-term timber objectives**, and that they **align with stewardship principles** and are **cost-effective**.*



Management Practices

Industry Stewardship

- Industry generally achieving reforestation obligations
- Trend towards less species diversity in some areas

Recommendation #3

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations ensure that **restocking activities** result in the establishment of forests that are **consistent with its long-term timber objectives**.*



Monitoring and Reporting

Limited supporting information for management decisions around:

- Areas affected by natural disturbances
- Incomplete data entries made by industry to the harvest and replanting database
- The accuracy of growth and yield projections

Recommendation #4

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations ensure that its **information systems reflect actual forest conditions** in priority management areas.*



Monitoring and Reporting

Issues with the ministry's oversight framework include:

- Forest stewardship plans
- Compliance and enforcement
- Effectiveness evaluations

Recommendation #5

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations ensure that the collective and individual components of its **oversight framework** are sufficient to **ensure** the achievement of **long-term timber objectives**.*



Monitoring and Reporting

Performance reporting areas for improvement include:

- Comprehensive reports that show progress over time
- Performance measures focused on progress over time or against targets rather than activities and outputs
- Distinguishing industry from ministry performance

Recommendation #6

*We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations develop and implement appropriate **performance measures** to demonstrate progress **towards achieving long-term timber objectives** and report publicly on the results.*



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