



# The Forest Enhancement Society of BC

BCCFA Conference Update  
May 27, 2016

# Background

- ▶ On Feb 26, 2016 the BC Government announced the formation of the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).
- ▶ The purposes of the Society as laid out in its Constitution are:
  - ▶ To advance environmental and resource stewardship in BC's forests by:
    - ▶ i) preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires
    - ▶ ii) improving damaged or low value forests
    - ▶ iii) improving habitat for wildlife
    - ▶ iv) supporting the use of fiber from damaged and low value forests
    - ▶ v) treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases
  - ▶ To advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of BC's forests



# Background

- ▶ The BC Government also announced initial funding of \$85 million for the Society, with a focus on four areas:
  - a) Reduction of wildfire risk on crown lands, especially stands impacted by mountain pine beetle
  - b) Rehabilitation of stands damaged by fire or at high wildfire risk
  - c) Wildlife habitat restoration in concert with a) and b)
  - d) Raising awareness of wildfire risk and potential mitigation actions for rural property owners and communities.

# Background

- ▶ No hard timelines for spending, but initial funding is projected to be spent over 3 to 5 years. Plan to commence projects in 2016
- ▶ Society will pursue other potential funding to expand the program.
- ▶ Establishing a well governed and efficient organization that can reliably manage funds and deliver programs is critical to build confidence with “investors”
- ▶ Society will be subject to an annual financial audit



# Why a Society?

- ▶ The society model meets three objectives:
  - ▶ It allowed Government to move 2015 wildfire budget saving to deliver a multiyear program of wildfire risk reduction and forest enhancement.
  - ▶ It provides an arm's length platform for the program, allowing more flexibility in operations and alignment with communities and stakeholders.
  - ▶ It creates an opportunity to lever Government's contribution to pursue other funding sources.
- ▶ Initially the Society has five directors:
  - ▶ Wayne Clogg      Chair
  - ▶ Jim Snetsinger      Vice-Chair (Governance)
  - ▶ Derek Orr      Chief, McLeod Lake Indian Band
  - ▶ Dave Peterson      ADM, Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation (Finance)
  - ▶ Bob Turner      ADM, Integrated Resource Operations (HR)

# Progress to date

- ▶ Establishing the Society - BC Societies Act
  - ▶ Incorporation
  - ▶ Constitution and bylaws
  - ▶ Governance structure and policies
  - ▶ Banking and finance
- ▶ Staffing
  - ▶ Interim Executive Director hired March 15th
  - ▶ Permanent ED hired, Greg Anderson starting in June
  - ▶ Office to be located in Kamloops
  - ▶ Board is examining delivery models - staff vs third party
- ▶ Communications
  - ▶ Preliminary meetings with many stakeholders and partners to provide updates, answer questions and explore opportunities to collaborate.



# Next Steps

## ▶ Business Model

- ▶ Define FESBC role. Direct delivery vs proponent driven

## ▶ Operations

- ▶ Determine staff/contractor structure for program delivery
- ▶ Recruit staff, service providers and contractors
- ▶ Establish office and support services (Kamloops)

## ▶ Planning

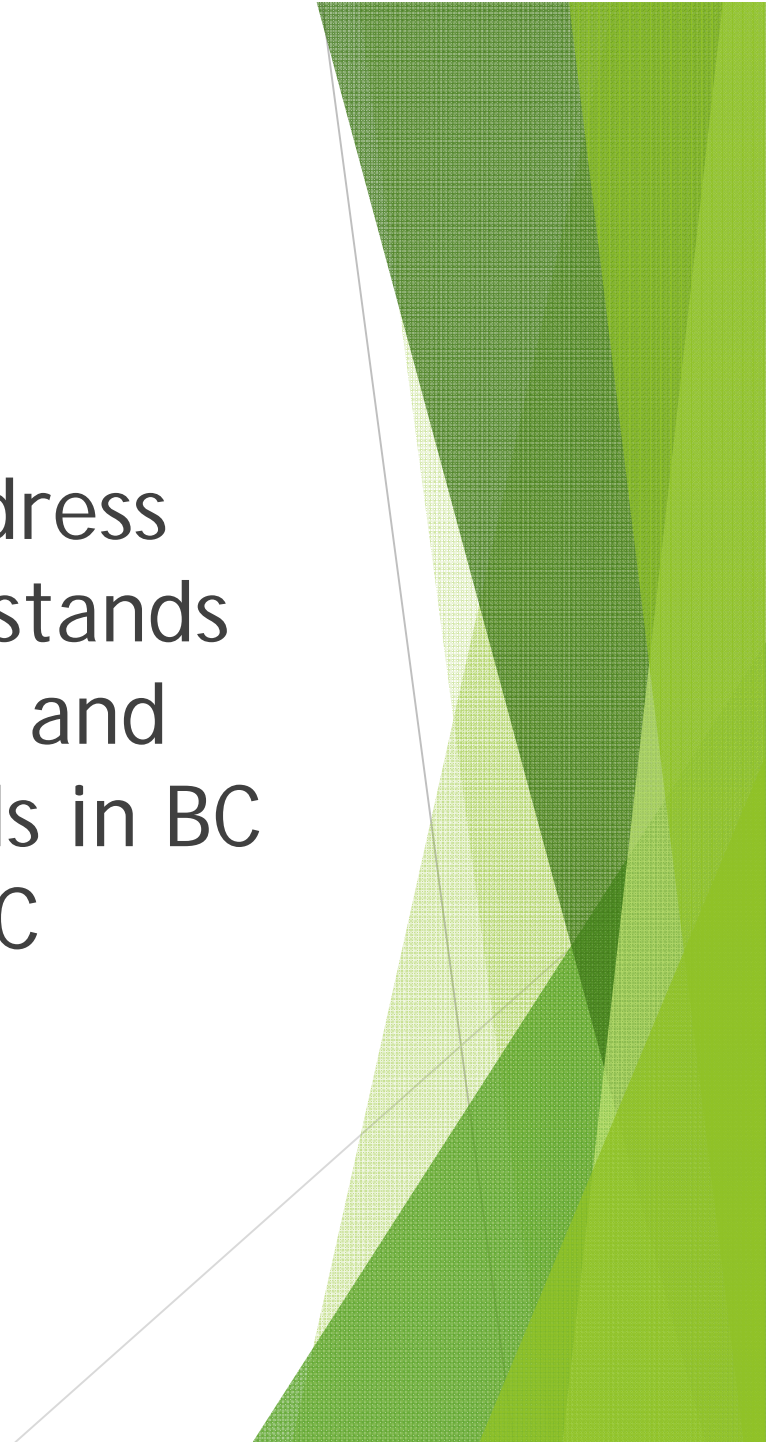
- ▶ Develop Strategic Plan to identify and rank program priorities
- ▶ Develop multi-year Business Plan (to be updated annually)
- ▶ Identify potential “pilot projects” and develop 2016 Work Plan
- ▶ Planning requires close co-operation with the “Landlord”

## ▶ Communications

- ▶ Effective engagement with stakeholders and partners to develop and deliver Strategic and Business Plans
- ▶ Develop website to disseminate information.

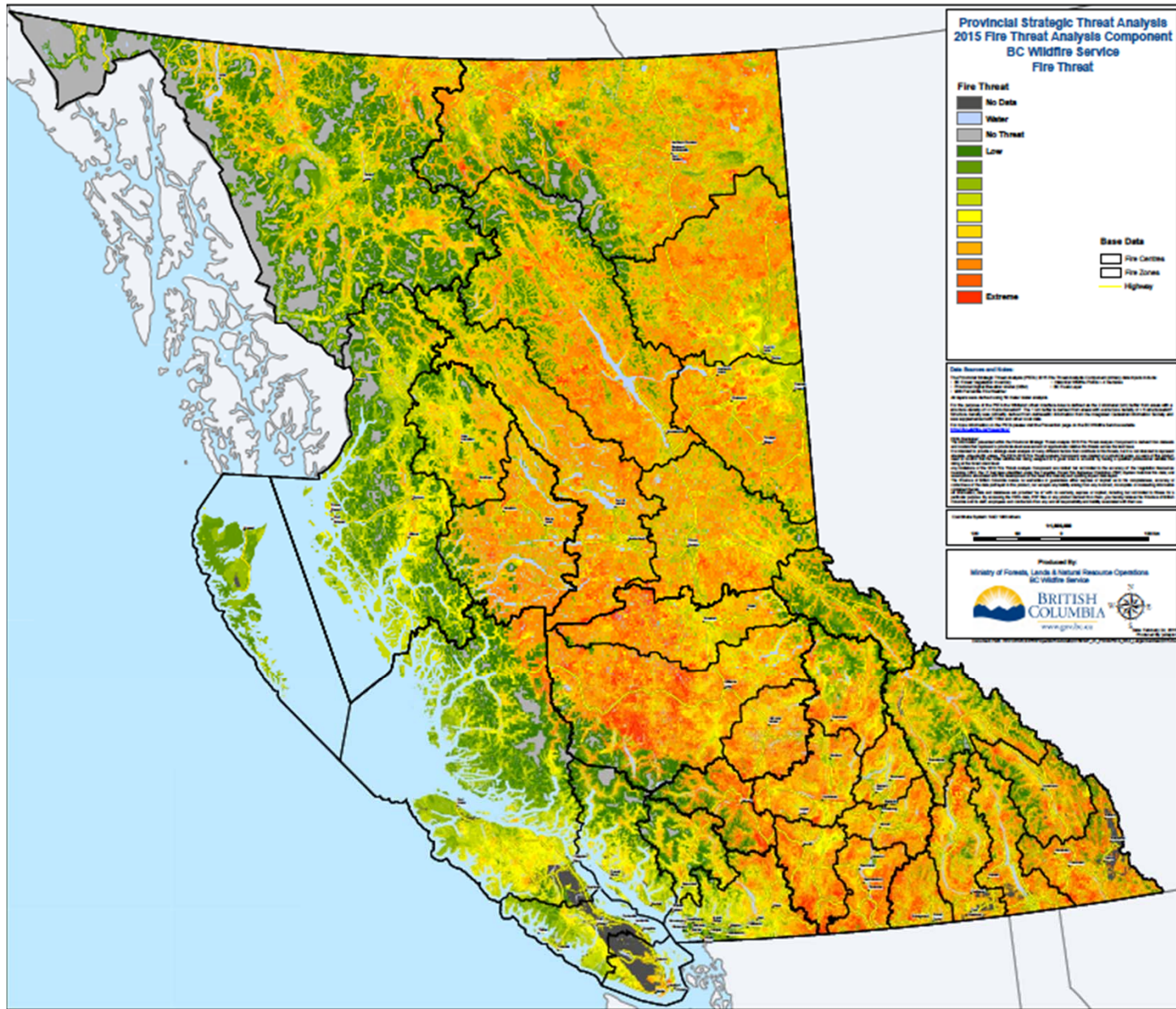
# Getting Started

The opportunities to address wildfire risk, candidate stands in need of rehabilitation and habitat restoration needs in BC far exceed current FESBC capacity.





# Provincial Strategic Threat





# Getting Started

- ▶ FESBC is not the landlord. Planning activities and uses on crown land is a government responsibility. FESBC's role is project selection and delivery
- ▶ Work closely with Provincial agencies to identify the highest priority areas for treatment, based on wildfire risk, forest rehabilitation/fiber recovery opportunities and habitat restoration needs
- ▶ Within these areas, FESBC will identify potential projects. The highest priority projects will be those which meet multiple objectives
- ▶ Build business plans based on identified priority projects
- ▶ We do plan to carry out some projects in 2016. We see the first year as an opportunity to "pilot" or test a variety of delivery models on different types of tenures



# How do CF's fit into all this?

- ▶ We envision FESBC funding projects on Community Forests in 2016 and in subsequent years. This is consistent with your discussions with Minister Thomson
- ▶ FESBC will be looking for proposals from CFA holders which meet the program objectives for wildfire risk reduction, stand rehabilitation/fiber recovery and wildlife enhancement
- ▶ Suggest that the BCCFA can play a role in disseminating information to CFA holders and helping to identify potential projects.
- ▶ FESBC is developing selection criteria to help prioritize projects for 2016 and beyond.

# Highest Priority Projects on CFA's

- ▶ Achieve multiple objectives (wildfire risk reduction, stand rehabilitation/fiber recovery and wildlife habitat restoration/enhancement)
- ▶ Have strong community/FN support
- ▶ For 2016, can be implemented fairly quickly
- ▶ Have other funding partners committed (eg SWPI, LBI)
- ▶ Fit within a broader strategy (coordination with adjacent tenures/municipalities and align with Provincial priorities)
- ▶ Do not require FESBC funding of CFA tenure obligations
- ▶ Recovered fiber to be sold competitively (avoid SLA risk)



For FESBC, Community Forests are an vital link to communities. CF's are important sources of fibre for local industry, contain important wildlife habitat and should form part of most community wildfire protection strategies.

There is a logical fit between CFA's and the Forest Enhancement Program and we look forward to successfully working together for mutual benefit.

Questions??

