

2016 MFLNRO BUDGET ITEMS

The following funding announcements relative to forest management were included in the 2016 Provincial budget and further described in later press releases.

Rural Dividend Fund <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015PREM0065-001594>

- \$75 million over the next three years to the Rural Dividend Program, to help struggling communities reinvigorate and diversify their local economies.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016FLNR0018-000284>

- Funding of \$95M for Wildfire Management Initiatives including:
 - \$85M to establish a new organization – *Forest Enhancement Society of BC* – to:
 - Salvage harvesting of dead timber
 - Wildlife habitat restoration in MPB impacted areas
 - Enhancement of low-productivity/uneconomic high elevation hemlock and balsam stands
 - Fire scaping fuel management treatments
 - Advance wildfire prevention and mitigation objectives through forest fuel management, reforestation and habitat restoration.
 - \$10M for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Fire Smart Planning Activities and Fuel Management Projects.
 - Initial Society Board is being established.

Land based investment fund

- Increase by \$12M to \$107.15M
- Focus of activities are on areas impacted by MPB and wildfires that are the responsibility of Government to reforest.

Cumulative Effects Program <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/cumulative-effects-framework>

- The CEF provides the policy, procedures and tools necessary to improve the consideration of cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making.