

# Forest Jobs Action Plan

A commitment to sustainable, long-term fibre access for forest companies

## Overview

Ensuring the long-term health and resilience of Alberta's forests and maintaining long-term access to a sustainable and secure fibre supply is critical to achieving Government's Forest Jobs Guarantee and the future competitiveness of the forest sector. Security of the fibre supply for industry fosters an environment for investment and supports the long-term outlook for stable, good-paying jobs.

Alberta's forests face a number of significant risks to their health and resilience that negatively impact the long-term fibre supply, including the impacts from the mountain pine beetle epidemic and catastrophic wildfires. Sustainable forest harvesting practices, designed to mimic natural disturbance patterns, can be targeted to reduce wildfire risk or mountain pine beetle susceptibility; these harvesting practices provide economic opportunities for industry, while also helping to protect communities and ensuring the health of forests and landscapes indefinitely.

We've outlined an action plan to support forest jobs and fibre access for Alberta's forest industry. The outcomes of these actions will strengthen a working landscape that balances social, environmental and economic interests.

## Immediate Actions

These short-term actions will support forest companies and forest jobs while still ensuring continued sustainable forest management principles and practices:

- Ensuring a more expedient return of wildfire burned areas to productive forests.
- Awarding currently unallocated portions of approved Annual Allowable Cut through an open and competitive process;
- Exploring the enhanced utilization of harvest waste and residual fibre;
- Using superior naturally-occurring seedlings that research indicates are better for the long-term health and resilience of the province's forests; and
- Working with companies to ensure the best utilization of allocated timber in their forest management plans.

These short-term actions align with both the Government of Alberta's sustainable forest management policies and regional planning.

## Future Steps

Stakeholder engagement will help drive innovation and support future actions to support Alberta's forest industry, forest jobs, and the use of sustainable forest management as a risk mitigation tool to benefit all forested lands.

Stakeholder engagement together with Environment and Parks will also ensure these actions are aligned with other government priorities. Alberta's forest management plans are designed to align with sub-regional planning and the work being done by the caribou sub-regional task forces.

When done sustainably, forest management can be used to help promote forest resilience and restore critical wildlife habitat over the long term.

