

# The Current State Of Forest Licences In British Columbia

In 1861, a citizen of British Columbia could actually purchase land suitable for timber production \$2.50 an acre, up to a total of 640 acres. But from 1896 onward, as a conscious policy of successive provincial governments, the sale of "timber" land to individuals was prohibited. With the exception of some 25,000 square miles of public lands granted in exchange for railroad construction, this policy has meant that the only lands open for private ownership in the last 91 years, with minor regional exceptions, has been those portions of the railway grant lands subsequently sold for settlement.

Incredibly, in this largely forested province which consistently claims to be the free-enterprise capital of Canada, over 90 per cent of all land is still controlled by the provincial government through a host of complex licensing agreements. Year after year for nearly a century, successive provincial government administrations added, one atop another, new forms of forest licences.

Tinkering with tenure became the major political tool used to control and direct industrial activity in order to "open the frontier" in accordance with Victoria's ever changing political timetables and regional priorities.

Today, tenure falls into two broad categories:

- **Area-based tenure** is viewed by Victoria as being similar to a grant of private property rights, at least when it is granted to a large, domestic or multinational corporation. A single company is granted exclusive control of a distinct geographic area, usually for a minimum of 25 years. No other companies may harvest timber or operate within the area without first obtaining the permission of that one private tenure holder. The licence is renewable every ten years.
- **Volume-based tenure** is directly administered by the Forest Service. Several companies are assigned the right to cut a speci-

fied volume of timber within a distinct geographic area. Each company is granted a separate licence which usually runs from one to five years. These are the so-called replaceable licences. Companies with these types of licences account for 59.9 million cubic meters of the annual cut. But little of this volume is held by smaller companies. Forests Minister Dave Parker plans to virtually eliminate this form of tenure and convert the more than 170 forest licences which comprise the bulk of this type of licence into large tree farm licences.

Only 3 per cent of the total volume of 59.9 million cubic meters allocated through volume based replaceable licences is held by "small" companies — those cutting less than 100,000 cubic meters. The overwhelming majority of these licences are already controlled by major corporations.

**Forest Licences (FLs)**- Volume based, account for some 50 per cent of all timber harvested. Average authorized cut per licence is 232,000 cubic metres. There are 170 FLs.

**Tree Farm Licences (TFLs)**- Area based, accounts for 21 per cent of timber harvested. Average cut per licence is 559,000 cubic metres. There are 33 TFLs. (Forest Minister Dave Parker has announced plans to increase TFLs to encompass 67 per cent of all timber cut.)

**Timber Sale Licences (TSLs)** - Volume based, account for 11 per cent of timber harvested. There are 195 TSLs.

**Private Lands** (Independently held) - Accounts for 7 per cent of timber harvested. Most private lands currently under forest production are owned by the major forest corporations.

**Small Business Enterprise Program** - Volume based, accounts for 7 per cent of timber harvested. (Accounted for \$31.5 million in stumpage revenue 1985/86, or 33 per cent of net stumpage revenue collected from all licences.)

**Timber Sale Harvesting Licence (TSHL)** - Considered volume based, accounts for 3 per cent of timber harvested. There are 4 TSHLs.

**Woodlot Licence (WL)**- Area based, accounts for less than 1/10 of one per cent. There are 268 WLs.

A single company may hold several types of licences of each type in both area and volume-based tenures.

## Resource Firms The Stingiest

According to the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, the wood products industry in British Columbia is among the least generous — of industries with assets of more than \$25 million reported by statistics Canada — when it comes to corporate sponsorship of the Arts. As reported by Stephen Godfrey, *Globe and Mail*, the national average for donations, calculated as a percentage of pretax profits, is 0.51 per cent; for the wood products sector it is 0.24. More than half of the larger companies claimed no donations at all.

# Current Holders of Tree Farm Licences

Tree Farm Licence	Licensee	Total AAC (cubic meters)	Management Plan Expires	Total Area (hectares)
# 1	Skeena Cellulose Inc.	720,000	1991	609,346
# 3	Slocan Forest Products Ltd.	108,000	1989	78,775
# 5	Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	110,000	1991	34,320
# 6	Western Forest Products Ltd.	1,300,000	1991	170,014
# 7	MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.	544,000	1988	78,423
# 8	Pope & Talbot Ltd.	145,000	1990	77,006
# 10	Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	219,000	1989	231,116
# 13	Galloway Lumber Company Ltd.	27,200	1988	37,113
# 14	Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd.	122,500	1988	139,513
# 15	Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.	72,000	1991	48,195
# 18	Slocan Forest Products Ltd.	210,000	1988	74,221
# 19	CIP Inc.	978,000	1988	192,402
# 23	Westar Timber Ltd.	997,000	1988	563,533
# 24	Western Forest Products Ltd.	432,375	1990	112,470
# 25	Western Forest Products Ltd.	653,000	1989	146,748
# 26	District of Mission	37,000	1988	8,904
# 30	Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd.	428,000	1990	180,764
# 33	Federated Co-Operatives Ltd.	29,000	1988	8,458
# 35	Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.	88,000	1988	79,451
# 37	Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	1,085,000	1991	186,339
# 38	Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	263,000	1990	218,031
# 39	MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.	3,274,000	1992	721,000
# 41	Enso F.P. Ltd. and West Fraser	430,000	1990	1,019,728
# 42	Tanizul Timber Ltd.	120,000	1988	49,576
# 43	Scott Paper Ltd.	27,000	1989	9,093
# 44	MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.	2,838,000	1989	453,097
# 45	B.C. Forest Products Ltd.	305,000	1989	287,410
# 46	B.C. Forest Products Ltd.	1,178,000	1989	181,456
# 47	Crown Forest Industries Ltd.	109,000	1989	226,870
# 49	Crown Forest Industries Ltd.	380,000	1990	144,923
# 51	Westar Timber Ltd.	220,000	1988	77,497
<b>Totals</b>		<b>18,430,075</b>		<b>6,445,792</b>

- # 48 Canfor
- # 52 West Fraser
- # 53 Dunkley Forest Products

Annual allowable cuts have not been finalized for these three TFLs, although both ministerial and Cabinet approval was given many months ago.

(source: Ministry of Forests TFL Summary)

## Herbicide Campaign Ready For Launching

The brochures and films are ready. All systems are go for a new push by the B.C. Forest Service to justify a massive increase in its use of herbicides in the province's forests.

The campaign, in the drafting stages for many months, is first being test-driven within the Ministry of Forests, on staff not directly involved in herbicide application programs. Privately, foresters admit that the Ministry's own staff are not yet all "on-side." Hence, Mike Wyeth, a silviculturalist in the Forest Service's Victoria headquarters office, has been fine-tuning the new pro-herbicide message with in-house staff presentations.

Colleagues rate his show-and-tell as, on the whole, credible — that is, until he works himself up to his final, zealous conclusion. Wyeth is reported to have told his audiences that there is absolutely no cause for concern over the use of chemicals on forest lands.



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## Comparison of British Columbia Stumpage on Crown Land with United States Western National Forests, 1976-85, \$ Canadian

Year	British Columbia (all timber species)			Alaska (all species)		Pacific Northwest (Coastal)	
	Volume Cut (,000,000) Cubic Metres	Dollars (,000,000) (Canadian)	Dollars per Cubic Metre	Volume Cut (,000,000) Cubic Metres	Dollars per Cubic Metre	Timber Cut (,000,000) Cubic Metres	Dollars per Cubic Metre
1976	50.85	\$49.51	\$0.97	2.05	\$1.43	12.42	\$21.57
1977	54.31	\$93.26	\$1.72	2.13	\$0.93	11.82	\$28.49
1978	57.79	\$265.10	\$4.59	1.77	\$4.98	13.32	\$35.14
1979	56.27	\$452.74	\$8.05	2.00	\$1.18	13.57	\$38.40
1980	62.49	\$422.60	\$6.76	1.97	\$4.42	10.21	\$38.33
1981	53.71	\$277.14	\$5.16	1.68	\$3.64	8.36	\$37.34
1982	44.59	\$96.76	\$2.17	1.50	\$4.22	6.81	\$24.73
1983	57.44	\$123.5	\$2.15	1.09	\$2.84	11.92	\$27.24
1984	54.69	\$115.94	\$2.12	1.08	\$4.44	12.83	\$29.97
1985	56.83	\$123.89	\$2.18	1.15	\$3.29	12.96	\$27.45

Source: Ministry of Forests Annual Reports; United States Department of Agriculture, PNW-RB-152, Table 57

Note: While the total value trend in stumpage differences remains valid, readers are cautioned that stumpage for individual species varies with wood quality and terrain difficulty.

Note: For U.S. PNW eastern (Interior), the per cubic metre stumpage on 7.49 million cubic metres in 1976 averaged \$13 Canadian, while by 1985 had reached \$24 Canadian on a volume of 8.66 million cubic metres. For Montana, 1976 volume of 5.3 million cubic metres paid stumpage of \$8.25, while by 1985 had