



FIA–Forest Science Program: Developing

by the FIA–FSP Secretariat

British Columbia is investing over \$16 million in the Forest Investment Account–Forest Science Program (FIA–FSP) in 2006/07 to help position the province as a world leader in sustainable forest management.

Some 193 research projects, valued at over \$12 million, are investigating topics such as stand and forest dynamics following mountain pine beetle infestation, riparian ecology and stream management, habitat supply modelling, biodiversity, tree growth and stand development, silvicultural systems, non-timber forest values, and species at risk recovery. Over half of these projects will be



FIA–FSP programs and funding categories.

completed by March 2007.

Another \$2.3 million is being invested in extension activities to deliver existing information that is not currently accessible to users, as well as new information resulting from research funded through FIA–FSP and other organizations.

The FIA–FSP funds:

- research projects related to sustainability and improving timber growth and value;
- a provincial forest extension program; and
- infrastructure maintenance activities on selected long-term research installations that support short- and long-term research projects.

The allocation of funds reflects the information needs and priorities of those who set provincial policies, plan, and manage British Columbia's public forest lands. Priority topics are identified annually by the FIA–FSP Board and its advisory committees, whose members are drawn from industry, governments, First Nations, universities, and research organizations.

FIA–FSP Funding History 2002–2006

The Forest Investment Account (FIA) was established in April 2002 to foster sustainable forest management, improve the public forest asset base, and promote greater returns from the utilization of public timber. It authorizes the BC Ministry of Forests and Range to fund development of a glob-

ally-recognized, sustainably-managed forest industry. Today, the FIA comprises six programs: Land Base Investment, Crown Land Use Planning, Tree Improvement, Small Tenures, Market Development, and Forest Science.¹

FIA investments in forest research and extension were initially administered through Forintek Canada Corp. (2002/03), then through Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) (2003/04), and since 2004/05 by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC).

2002/03: In 2002/03, the FIA Forest Research Program allocated \$13.36 million to 172 research projects to improve decision making (23 projects, \$2.55 M); enhance the value of the forest land asset (75 projects, \$5.47 M); and improve stewardship and market acceptability of BC forest products (74 projects, \$5.34 M). An additional \$2.79 million was spent on extension programs and research extension activities.

2003/04: In 2003/04, \$8.7 million was invested in 93 research projects that included investigations of aquatic and riparian ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems and habitat, biodiversity values, variable retention and mixedwood stand management, timber supply, and outbreak dynamics and management strategies for responding to pests and pathogens.

Over 320 extension activities and products—technical reports, scientific journal papers, workshops, field tours, presentations, and Web sites—were developed as part of individual research projects. A further \$1.5 million was invested in program-level extension activities and products through FORREX to facilitate the synthesis, transfer, and application of research results.

2004/05: In 2004/05, 109 single- and multi-year projects were funded under seven interim research themes—four related to sustainable forest management (58 projects, \$4.17 M) and three related to improving timber growth and value (51 projects, \$3.2 M). Support was also provided to research partnerships with the Canadian Forest Innovation Council (\$25,500) and Sustainable Forest Management Network (\$200,000) to leverage funding at the provincial and national levels.

Over \$1.3 million was invested in provincial extension activities carried out by FORREX, including workshops, conferences, publications, Web sites, presentations, field tours, and forums that focussed on ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, forest dynamics and integrated resources management,

More information

For a list of current projects, visit: <http://www.bcfsp.com>.
For more information on the FIA–FSP, visit: <http://www.FIA-FSP.ca>



knowledge, delivering results for British Columbia

socio-economics, information and knowledge systems, and watershed management.

2005/06: In 2005/06, 135 single- and multi-year projects were funded under 10 themes and 17 topics related to sustainability (66 projects, \$3.95 M), timber growth and value (62 projects, \$3.47 M), and mountain pine beetle (7 projects, \$0.18 M). Another \$629,000 was allocated to maintenance activities on key long-term research installations, and \$25,500 to the Canadian Forest Innovation Council.

Some \$1.25 million was invested in the Provincial Forest Extension Program, through which FORREX delivered extension activities and products, including articles and peer-reviewed papers (LINK, Streamline, BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management [JEM]), listserv announcements, workshops, field tours, presentations, site visits, outreach, problem-solving sessions, and conferences.

Structured for Success

Since November 2003, the FIA-FSP has been guided by a Forest Science Board, representing users and providers of scientific knowledge. In the spring of 2006, the Board increased its membership to include First Nations interests, and established a First Nations Advisory Group.


Program Advisory Committees (PACs) for sustainability, timber growth and value, and extension offer strategic advice on research and extension themes and funding priorities. Working Groups offer guidance on the Call for Proposals process, communications, fundraising, and the maintenance of key long-term research installations. An extension provider (FORREX) designs and implements the Provincial Forest Extension Program. A program administrator (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP) oversees implementation of the FIA-FSP and audits FIA-FSP projects. A secretariat (Cortex Consultants Inc.) supports the Board and PACs.

In its first three years, the Board has made significant progress—setting strategic direction, building programs, and developing a robust framework for allocating and managing research and extension funds. It has proven its capacity to efficiently deliver new programs, such as mountain pine beetle, and its ability to leverage cash and in-kind funds from other sources (71% in 2004/05; 83% in 2005/06).

Looking Ahead

In 2006, the Board began a pilot project to support graduate student research related to FIA-FSP goals

and strategies as a way of building interest and capacity in applied research. It added syntheses of new knowledge to the Call for Proposals process, solicited gap analyses in four research topics where it has allocated significant funds to date, and initiated work on defining management issues to guide further development of its three program strategies. As part of its strategic planning, the Board started to actively build relationships with First Nations. In 2007, it will investigate, with First Nations, opportunities to integrate First Nations interests and cultural perspectives into the FIA-FSP.

Much remains to be done to nurture a strong research community focussed on existing and emerging management issues in British Columbia. The Forest Science Board believes that effective collaboration between users and providers of forest science will ensure the continued success of the FIA-FSP in developing knowledge and delivering results to further sustainable forest management. 

¹In 2002, FIA funded seven programs; the Forest Research Program was renamed the Forest Science Program in 2003, and the Product Development and International Marketing programs were combined as Market Development in 2006.

Area	Accomplishments
Governance	Board, Program Advisory Committees (PACs)
	Terms of reference for Board, PACs
	Bylaws
Planning	FIA-FSP Strategic Plan
	Program strategies (Sustainability, Timber Growth and Value, Provincial Forest Extension)
Execution	Planning framework; annual priority-setting process
	Annual Call for Proposals process
	Project selection and funding allocation process
Monitoring	Performance measures
	Continuous improvement process
Communications	Project audits
	Web site, display, brochures, articles, advertisements
	Presentations to science users and providers, senior officials
Program Development	Annual Business Plans, Annual Reports, Project Synopses
	Administration of mountain pine beetle research and development and extension funding
	Initiation of research syntheses and gap analyses
	Initiation of graduate student research support
	Initiation of process to integrate First Nations interests

Highlights of Forest Science Board Accomplishments 2004–2006.