Ministry of Forests & Range
LBIS Funding Request Form

Investment Category: Inventory (includes sub-categories **Vegetation Resources Inventory** and **Site Productivity)**
Investment Category Contact: Gary Johansen
Amount Requested: $7 million per annum
Request Rationale (no more than 1 page):

AAC determinations, strategic analyses, emerging mid-term timber supply issues, First Nations Treaty negotiations, and carbon estimation require current and accurate vegetation resources inventory and estimates of site productivity. LBIS Priority management units and surrounding management units that contribute to the associated fibre baskets that will support the mid- and long-term timber supply make up a significant percentage of the forest land base and current AAC. Activities aimed at mitigating the impacts of MPB on the mid-term timber supply are expensive and must be focused on areas that will provide the highest return on these investments. Current and relevant site productivity and vegetation resources inventory information is required to ensure an efficient allocation of these funds.

The outbreak of the MPB has had, and continues to have devastating effects on the reliability of the vegetation resources inventory. *Maintaining inventories to reflect these changes and provide critical information to support the issues above requires an annual funding commitment of $7m.* These funds will be used to conduct both tradition inventory activities as well as innovative and less costly information gathering, such as satellite image-based monitoring and inventory activities, especially in those management units where change is occurring rapidly. It is expected that funding needed to support the above activities will be required for the next 7–10 years. At this point, the rate of change occurring on the landbase will have slowed considerably, and those units that contribute to the critical fibre baskets with little change occurring will be upgraded.

A failure to adequately fund the above activities would include:

- Continuing inability to adequately fund VRI activities in MPB impacted and EBM management units, compromising the LBIS Key Outcome of 'Inventories on key impacted units are not older than ten years.' Goal 2 in the 2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan (Well managed forest and range resources) specifically identifies "monitoring ...impacts on forest and range resources from pests, disease, and wildfire, and attaining forest certification" – both require current and ongoing forest inventory activities.
- Reducing the ability to complete site productivity projects, compromising the LBIS Key Outcome of 'Forecasts of the productivity on existing and future second growth stands are improved.' Goal 1 in the 2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan (Maximum productivity of forest and range resources) identifies as a performance measure 'Timber volume gain'. Site productivity estimates are necessary in determining where best to silviculture funding.
- Reduced ability to meet ILMB's Goal 4, Objective 1 in the 2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan (Excellence in the Provincial land and resource information services through GeoBC)

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Amount Allocated (to be filled out by FPIB):
Allocation Rationale (to be filled out by FPIB):

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