

Ministry of Forests & Range LBIS Funding Request Form

Investment Category: Tree Improvement
Investment Category Contact: Darrell Wood, Manager, Business Operations TIB
Amount Requested: 4M (increase from 3.53 M)
<p>Timber supply: Tree Improvement is the program that contributes the most to the LBIS goal associated with timber volume production (3.65 M m³ of a 7.1 M target). Collaborative business planning through the Forest Genetics Council of BC (FGC) sets priorities to ensure funds are directed to species and geographic areas with the greatest economic return to the province. Timber supply and value considerations are the primary drivers for setting tree breeding and seed orchard priorities. Tree breeding programs and seed orchard genetic-quality upgrades are supported through this program.</p> <p>Funding is utilized to meet FGC targets to increase select seed use to 75% of the provincial total sown by 2014; as well as, increase the average volume gain of select seed used for Crown land reforestation to 20% by the year 2020. LBIS funding is required to meet these targets and increase the outputs (m³) associated with the corporate performance measures for silviculture investments.</p> <p>Resilience and climate change: The Tree Improvement program is a significant contributor to provincial LBIS goals and objectives for increased resilience through appropriate seed transfer and through modification of seed transfer policy to mitigate climate-change effects. This complex process involves the strategic matching of tree populations with the climates to which they are adapted through climate-based seed transfer development. MFR Service Plan Objective 1.1 - "Adapt British Columbia's forest and range management practices for a changing climate" - is also supported through this work. Projects such as development and maintenance of the widely used ClimateBC model and the Assisted Migration Adaptation Trial are supported in whole or in part through the Tree Improvement program.</p> <p>Well-managed forests: the LBIS goal of well-managed forests is supported through this program. The knowledge-base, genetic options, and seed supplies generated are important components of good forest management. Tree Improvement also supports the key priority stated by the Honorable Pat Bell in the MFR Service Plan "to be a world leader in growing trees". Thanks to ongoing MFR support and to well-coordinated collaboration with licensees, universities and other stakeholders, BC is already well known across Canada and throughout the world as a leader in tree improvement and climate-change response through climate-based seed transfer</p> <p>Collaborative approach and leveraged investments: Through work with stakeholders under the FGC, which include the MFR, forest companies, universities and the Canadian Forest Service, this program provides a coordinated approach with a history of well-organized business planning and reporting on key performance indicators. In addition, LBIS investments are leveraged by licensee investments in select seed purchase and seed orchard operations. In the absence of LBIS investments, licensee contributions and involvement in tree improvement would be negatively affected.</p> <p>Critical biological windows: Most tree improvement activities have critical biological windows. These include flowering, mating and orchard pollinations that must take place at very specific times.. Other critical biological windows include spring and fall outplanting of progeny tests and research trials, site measurement and maintenance that must avoid periods of trial growth (summer) and non-access (winter). Other biological windows pertain to cone harvest in seed orchards and to a variety of orchard management activities such as cone-and-seed pest control and planting new stock. Difficulties with timely funding approvals in the last few years has substantially set back progress in breeding programs due to the overlap of the provincial fiscal-year end and flowering of trees. Funding approvals for some projects was received after biological windows had closed.</p> <p>Stability of funding and additional funding needed: Successful tree improvement requires a steady, long term approach to meet LBIS and MFR objectives and the targets set out in the Strategic Plan of the FGC. Short-term and unstable support will not allow the development of the long-term field trials and seed orchards needed to keep this program providing benefits. Staffing stability is also needed in technically complex MFR-led program areas such as tree breeding and genecology research to allow human resource and knowledge development that will benefit operational efforts in seed orchards and climate-based seed transfer.</p> <p>Additional funding over the 2010/11 level is needed to meet FGC targets; as well as, increase the outputs (m³) associated with the corporate performance measures for silviculture investments . As a result, a total budget request of \$4.0 M is being made for 2011/12 and each of the following two fiscal years.</p>

Amount Allocated (to be filled out by FPIB):

Allocation Rationale (to be filled out by FPIB):

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