Ministry of Forests & Range
LBIS Funding Request Form

Investment Category: Inventory - Visuals

Investment Category Contact: Jacques Marc

Amount Requested: 0.150 M

Request Rationale (no more than 1 page):

Business rationale (include benefit/cost impacts):

Rationale

One of the objectives of the Land Based Investment Strategy is to provide guidance to ensure government goals and priorities are achieved. One of the investment categories that has been identified and supported is the forest inventory activity and the objective is to mitigate the reduction in mid-term timber supply. Visual Landscape Inventories are carried out and maintained by government and licensees to record those areas in the province that are visually sensitive, and are used to house Visual Quality Objectives. More restrictive VQOs can impact timber supply. Work completed under FREP has identified some issues with the VLI mapping in many of the Central Interior forest districts affected by MPB. Many visual polygons include 200-300 meter buffers around lakes, in situations where a 50 meter buffer would be more than adequate to manage for visuals. Re-inventorying these areas to tighten up line work could have the effect of reducing the amount of land base under VQOs. A reduction in land base subject to VQOs would potentially make more wood available for mid-term timber supply.

In the Northern Interior, there are a number of broad visual landscape inventory units that could benefit from detailed inventory in the field. Broad inventories tend to over-inflate the number of hectares under VQOs. Completing a detailed inventory on these areas could potentially decrease the number of hectares under VQO constraints which in turn could have an upward effect on timber supply.

As out lined in the Land base Investment strategy re-inventory work would focus on the priority units for mid-term timber supply.

Request to add a second Visual activity to LBIS

Under FIA Integrated Visual Design Plans (IVDP's) were an eligible activity. LBIS does not currently recognize IVD's. The visual program would like to propose that Integrated Visual Design plans be incorporated into LBIS. The intent of an Integrated Visual Design Plan is to provide long-term direction for the development of the timber resources for an area, consistent with higher-level plan direction and respectful of other resource values. Integrated Visual Design (IVD) employs a process that considers all resource values simultaneously in an integrated fashion, while optimising harvest opportunities in visually sensitive areas. The optimization process does not increase mid-term timber supply but can make more wood available from specific units by increasing the size of openings on the landscape. This is consistent with government's goal of making more wood available to forest licensees.

We are not seeking additional funding for this request. Just the option to use some of the funding for an activity other than inventory.

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

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