WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take the New Forest Act Forward

The New Forest Act is a proposed framework for new forestry legislation in British Columbia.

The official New Forest Act campaign developed through the Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society has ended, but the New Forest Act remains publicly available for anyone who believes the framework, or parts of it, are worth advancing.

You do not need to belong to an organization or wait for someone else to organize the work. The proposal, supporting documents, presentations, videos, and other materials are available at newforestact.ca for people to read, use, discuss, and share.

THE KEY MESSAGE

The key message is: the law needs to change. New programs, funding, or initiatives under the existing legislative framework cannot fix problems that are built into the system itself and held up by the laws. Nothing changes until the legislation changes.

1. Learn the Framework

Start with the Executive Summary, then explore the Proposal and Backgrounder.

Learn:

- why the New Forest Act proposes legislative change rather than changes to individual forestry policies
- how Protect–Restore–Harvest (PRH) would determine where forests are protected, restored, or harvested
- how ecological limits would determine what can occur on the land
- how community-based decision-making would work
- how the framework would support stable regional economies
- how the transition from the existing system is proposed to work

The complete New Forest Act documents are available at: newforestact.ca

2. Bring It to Your Elected Representatives

Send the New Forest Act to your MLA and ask them to read it and respond to it.

You can also bring it to:

- the Premier of British Columbia
- the minister responsible for forests
- the minister responsible for water, land, and resource stewardship
- relevant opposition critics
- your mayor, council, or regional district representatives

Tell them why the proposal matters to you. Raise the forest, watershed, community, or economic issues that matter where you live, and ask what they think of the New Forest Act approach.

3. Bring It to Your Community

The New Forest Act is not limited to being presented by its original authors.

Individuals, community groups, watershed organizations, professional groups, local organizations, and others can use the publicly available materials to introduce and discuss the framework themselves.

You can:

- share the Executive Summary
- send people to newforestact.ca
- discuss the proposal at community or organizational meetings
- bring the framework to your local government
- give a presentation using the available NFA materials
- organize a local discussion about how the framework could apply in your region
- share relevant NFA videos, presentations, graphics, and documents

4. Use the Ideas

The New Forest Act is a complete legislative framework, but people do not have to advance it only as an all-or-nothing package.

The work can also inform discussions about:

- ecological limits in forestry law
- Protect–Restore–Harvest
- watershed protection
- community-based forest decision-making
- Indigenous knowledge in forest governance
- independent oversight through a Forester General
- local ranger stations and monitoring
- regional log sort yards
- value-added forestry
- restoration
- community-based regional economies
- treating forests as critical public infrastructure

Organizations, researchers, professionals, communities, and elected representatives can examine these ideas, build on them, challenge them, or carry individual parts of the framework into other work.

5. Share It with People Who May Be Able to Take It Further

Consider who should know that this work exists.

That might include:

- forestry professionals
- watershed organizations
- community groups
- local governments
- First Nations
- researchers and academics
- professional associations
- economic development organizations
- people working in value-added forestry
- journalists and writers
- elected representatives
- people concerned about forests, water, and the future of their communities

A useful step can be as simple as sending someone the Executive Summary and a link to newforestact.ca.

6. Build on the Work

The New Forest Act is publicly available so the work does not disappear when the organization and campaign that created it end. The NFA does not depend on one organization or one individual continuing to do all of that work.

If you see something worth carrying forward, carry it forward.

NEW FOREST ACT RESOURCES

The complete New Forest Act Proposal, Executive Summary, Backgrounder, supporting documents, videos, and other resources are available at: **newforestact.ca**

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