

Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Rec. #	OAG Recommendations	Action Planned	Target Date	Assessment of Progress by Entity ⁷	Action Taken ⁸
3.	Provide staff with a continuing education program on climate change impacts and adaptation.	Per its Climate Change Strategy, FLNR is committed to having 50% of climate change affected work staff take the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Climate Insights 101 course, or equivalent, by March 2019	March 2019	Partially Implemented	Status on employee education is being tracked in the internal FLNR climate change scorecard performance measure.
5.	Consider climate change adaptation in its legislation, regulation, approvals and permitting processes.	<p>6. FLNR is currently conducting a review of how to incorporate climate change considerations into its daily business, including legislation, regulation, policy, guidance and operational procedures.</p> <p>7. Options for moving forward will be considered by FLNR executive in spring/summer 2018.</p> <p>8. Two next steps will be to examine policy options for incorporating a climate change lens in the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> and to implement a change to the Chief Forester's standards for seed use to allow consideration of climate change in the same Act.</p>	<p>1. End of FY2017/18.</p> <p>2. Spring 2018</p> <p>3. 2020</p>	Partially implemented	<p>1. A series of 10 regional and headquarters workshops to identify opportunities to incorporate climate change adaptation in decision processes has been completed. 320 staff attended the workshops. A report outlining options was completed end of FY2017/18.</p> <p>2. Instruction was given to bring recommendations to FLNR Climate Change Steering Committee and Joint Executive Directors for direction.</p>

⁷The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) will request an update (i.e Assessment of Progress and Actions Taken column completed) on a yearly basis from the audited organization until all recommendations are fully implemented or otherwise addressed to the satisfaction of the PAC.

⁸ This action plan and their subsequent updates have not been audited by the OAG. However, at a future date that Office may undertake work to determine whether the entity has accurately represented their progress in addressing the recommendations. The results of that work will be reported in a separate report prepared by the OAG.

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Detailed Action Plan - Prepared for the Select Standing Committee of Public Accounts

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9.	<p>As part of their flood risk strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review roles and responsibilities for flood management in the province and clarify leadership • set clear objectives that target areas of high priority and/or high risk • link funding allocations to areas of high priority and/or high risk • assess current capacity to meet objectives and identify and fill gaps • tie flood mitigation funding for local governments to commitments to address risk at the local level 	<p>FLNRORD – Flood Safety Section is leading the development of a provincial flood risk strategy expected to be completed in FY2021/22. The flood risk strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review roles and responsibilities for flood management in the province and clarify leadership • set clear objectives that target areas of high priority and/or high risk • develop information that can help link funding allocations to areas of high priority and/or high risk • assess current capacity to meet objectives and identify and fill gaps 	FY2021/2022	Partially implemented	Phase 1 of Flood Risk Strategy completed April, 2018
10.	<p>Create a flood plain and hazard mapping program that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporates the effects of climate change and land-use change • provides mapping standards with ongoing updates • has expertise available for local governments to draw upon 	<p><u>Background</u> – Legislative changes in 2003 and 2004 transferred responsibility for developing flood and hazard maps from the province to local governments. Since then, the role of the province has been to provide guidelines for local governments to consider, technical support, and funding when it becomes available.</p> <p>1. Current mapping guidelines will be reviewed every 10</p>	<p>a) Ongoing b) Fall 2019 c) Ongoing</p>	In Progress	<p>4. In 2011, FLNRO published Coastal Floodplain Mapping Guidelines and Specifications to help coastal communities account for climate change (i.e. sea level rise) when mapping their floodplains. In 2018, FLRO published an amendment to the Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines to assist` local governments in defining sea level rise planning areas.</p>

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10 (cont)		<p>(or when substantial new science dictates) years to ensure effects of climate change are properly considered.</p> <p>2. Through funding support from EMBC, GeoBC is conducting and assisting with Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) mapping for Vancouver Island (planned), the Lower Mainland (complete), the Okanagan (complete), and the Kootenays (planned).</p> <p>3. Floodplain mapping will be considered in the Provincial Flood Risk Strategy (see item 9).</p>			<p>5. In 2017, Engineers and Geoscientists BC (with support from the Province) published Professional Practice Guidelines for Flood Mapping in BC. This document requires professionals to consider the effects of climate change when preparing flood maps.</p> <p>6. GeoBC has developed LIDAR mapping standards. LIDAR mapping is an important precursor to flood mapping.</p> <p>7. Phase 1(Initiation) of Flood Risk Strategy is complete. Phase 2 is under development.</p>
11.	<p>Conduct and support research into climate change and wildfire behaviour and incorporate findings into BC Wildfire Service planning.</p>	<p>3. FLNR has an existing research program. BCWS continues to collaborate with the Western Partnership for Wildland Fire Science, the Canadian Forest Service, and B.C. based academics on research. Pan-Canadian research is currently under development through the National Blueprint on Wildland Fire Science. BCWS is developing a database of research to help identify gaps and opportunities. This work will be completed within one month to help inform a strategy for BC specific research.</p> <p>4. To expand its research capacity, the BC Wildfire Service has hired a research coordinator and is working with the federal and provincial governments on the National Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science. The research coordinator will set the foundation for BC's participation for further research through the cross-Canada Blueprint and interact between the various research entities.</p>	<p>1. Database April 15.</p> <p>2. Research coordinator hire May 15</p> <p>3. National Blueprint for Wildfire Science TBC</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>1. Research coordinator hired. Database for wildfire specific research has been completed.</p> <p>2. Development of National Blueprint for Wildfire Science underway.</p>

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12.	<p>Create an overall strategy to address hazardous fuel risks that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses a risk-based approach when allocating funds to reduce wildfire hazard - Ties wildfire mitigation funding for local governments to commitments to address risk at the local level 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The province has completed a review into the floods and wildfires of 2017. Internal reviews of the 2017 wildfire season are also underway. BCWS is implementing new structures to incorporate the recommendations into programs and procedures. BCWS is also working with Emergency Management BC to advance preparedness and cooperation during flood and fire events. 2. The province is taking immediate steps to develop a comprehensive wildfire risk reduction strategy, with a specific focus on prevention, preparedness and fuel reduction. Prioritization will occur by key value, with objectives around resilience. Some funding for this was provided in budget 2018. Work is also underway to improve risk management. 3. BCWS is in the process of hiring a senior manager to coordinate stakeholder engagement and work specifically with First Nations, which includes the incorporation of traditional knowledge 4. The province has made \$235M available through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) to enhance forest health, ecosystems and wildfire prevention. 5. FLNR regularly undertakes ecosystem restoration works and rehabilitation of Crown land impacted by wildfires and flooding. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 30, 2018. 2. Ongoing 3. June 15 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing 	Partially implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Abbott and Chapman after-action review “Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia” was provided to government in May, 2018. The recommendations will be incorporated into a strategy to address hazardous fuel risks. BCWS is developing wildfire specific plans to support prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, of which risk assessment is the foundation. • BCWS is taking existing information on threat levels, combining it with research and existing work to create the framework for the risk-based approach. • Hiring process for senior manager to coordinate stakeholder engagement and work with First Nations underway. • BCWS continues to work with FESBC and other ministry branches to address mutual objectives for wildfire and forest health.

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12 (cont)		<p>6. Since 2004, over \$78M has been made available through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) to local authorities and First Nations to undertake community wildfire planning, fuel treatments and FireSmart activities in the wildland urban interface (WUI).</p> <p>7. The results of the provincial review of 2017 wildfire and flood response will inform increased coordination between the UBCM Community Wildfire Protection Plan funding stream, FES and other funding sources and also to ensure smoother function for local governments.</p> <p>8. The new Wildfire Resiliency Initiative (WRI) was announced in the 2018 budget and will provide funding to local authorities and Indigenous Communities for the development and implementation of community fire risk, prevention and response plans. The WRI has been structured to incorporate recommendations from the 2017 flood and fire after action reviews. The WRI also provides funding to identify and address landscape level provincial priorities to support economic, environmental and forest resiliency based on risk.</p>	<p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. Ongoing</p> <p>8. Intention to initiate by fall. Risk framework and priority setting principles currently under development.</p>	Partially implemented	8. Wildfire Resiliency Initiative announced in 2018 budget, \$50M allocated over three years. Implementation plan under development.

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13.	Create additional educational materials and incentives for the public that focus on behavioural change to reduce wildfire hazard.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BCWS has initiated BC FireSmart Committee, (BCWS, UBCM, Fire Commissioner, Fire Chiefs, FN Social Services, Academia). The new engagement and communications specialist is helping BCWS create additional educational materials, policy material, workshops, public education campaigns to increase awareness and education. 2. BCWS, in collaboration with provincial and territorial colleagues continues to lead the implementation of the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy (CWFS) and Investment Strategy to advance wildfire resiliency and integration including climate change, research, landscape level planning, public education and awareness and response capacity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing implementation of new materials 2. On-going 	Partially implemented	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New stakeholder engagement strategy under development, including public awareness campaign. 2. BC has led the development of an Investment Strategy for the CWFS.

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