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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2019FLNR0017-000178  
Feb. 7, 2019

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.

### **Expedited funding aids forest industry and environment**

KAMLOOPS – Funding of \$10 million from the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia will mean more wood waste will be redirected to mills instead of being burned on the ground, creating more jobs for British Columbians and reducing carbon emissions.

“This is good for local jobs and for the health of the forests, and it is a positive step toward increased safety for forest-dependent communities,” said Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. “Companies and workers will be able to make better use of residual timber and, in addition to creating employment and reducing waste, this approach will also help to reduce fuel on the landscape to mitigate wildfire risk.”

The individual grants range from \$90,500 to \$3,430,491 and cover nine projects in B.C.’s Interior (see backgrounder). The successful proposals were selected from among 33 applications that were submitted in response to a call for proposals specific to fibre use, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The recovered wood will be used for a variety of purposes, including chips for pulp, wood pellets, hog fuel for bio-energy and cants (low-grade timber products).

The ministry’s Forest Carbon Initiative, along with partners such as the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, focuses on how to make better use of wood fibre and reduce emissions from the burning of wood waste.

By using 100 cubic metres of lodgepole pine debris for energy or pulp, rather than burning it in a slash pile, about 17 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions can be avoided.

“The Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia’s board of directors is delighted to expedite the approval of these fibre utilization projects so that operations on the ground can begin immediately,” said Wayne Clogg, board chair, Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia. “The society is pleased to assist with these projects, because doing so will avoid carbon emissions, reduce smoke caused by slash burning, support jobs and potentially displace some fossil fuels.”

As a result of the expedited approval process, the successful applicants will be able to start taking the woody debris out of B.C.’s forests this winter. The proposals will see over 1.13 million cubic metres of fibre removed from the landscape.

“The Ulkatcho First Nation, as an owner of West Chilcotin Forest Products, very much appreciates the support of the governments of B.C. and Canada in assisting with the incremental utilization of harvesting waste that would otherwise be burned,” said Stephen

James, executive director, West Chilcotin Forest Products. “The West Chilcotin plateau lacks the infrastructure that many other areas of the province take for granted. Given the distance to markets for our forest products, enhanced utilization of our forest fibre has always been a struggle. With this assistance from the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, we can now start to do our part to fight climate change while, at the same time, providing much-needed employment for our band members.”

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, a Crown agency, was established in 2016 to advance the environmental and resource stewardship of the province’s forests by:
  - preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires;
  - improving damaged or low value forests;
  - improving habitat for wildlife;
  - supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests; and
  - treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
- As of January 2019, the B.C. government has invested \$235 million in the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C., with over \$173 million allocated to date for wildfire risk reduction, reforestation, forest rehabilitation, wildlife habitat restoration and raising awareness of the FireSmart program.
- The Forest Carbon Initiative is funded in part through the federal government’s Low Carbon Economy Fund. This initiative assists with B.C. government priorities, such as:
  - revitalizing the forest sector;
  - partnering with First Nations;
  - supporting the Province’s CleanBC commitment to transition to a low-carbon economy; and
  - providing economic benefits for rural communities.

#### **Learn More:**

More information about the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. is available online:  
<http://www.fesbc.ca>

A backgrounder follows.

#### **Contacts:**

Media Relations  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development  
250 356-7506

Steve Kozuki  
Executive Director  
Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.  
skozuki@fesbc.ca  
778 765-0938

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Expedited funding reduces burning, supports jobs**

The Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia has approved the allocation of \$10,093,275 in expedited funding to support nine fibre use projects.

The recipients and the estimated amount of fibre to be recovered are listed below:

- \$960,066 to West Chilcotin Forest Products Ltd. (54,321 cubic metres; Chilcotin Plateau west of Williams Lake; chips for pulp)
- \$1,400,919 to Westwood Fibre Resources Ltd. (349,356 cubic metres; West Kootenays between Princeton and Castlegar; hog fuel and chips for pulp)
- \$1,182,198 to Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc. (147,775 cubic metres; Smithers area; wood pellets)
- \$2,563,430 to Seaton Forest Products Ltd. (289,000 cubic metres; Smithers area; cants)
- \$3,430,491 to Cariboo Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd. (227,486 cubic metres; Chilcotin Plateau west of Williams Lake; wood pellets)
- \$120,000 to Zellstoff Celgar LP (8,000 cubic metres; outside Castlegar; chips for pulp)
- \$97,367 to Zellstoff Celgar LP (6,367 cubic metres; outside Castlegar; chips for pulp)
- \$90,500 to Ledcor Forest Products Partnership (25,847 cubic metres; north of Kamloops; cants)
- \$248,304 to Ledcor Forest Products Partnership (22,249 cubic metres; north of Kamloops; hog fuel for bio-energy)

#### **Contacts:**

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