

Ministry of Environment
including
Environmental Assessment Office

2009/10
Annual Service Plan Report



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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



Going into 2009/10, we all knew economic challenges and impacts to government revenues would result in having to make difficult choices. I am pleased with the Ministry of Environment's ability to face the challenges the year presented, while remaining committed to delivering government's Great Goal to lead the world in sustainable environmental management. This annual report demonstrates that commitment and outlines our many accomplishments during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were an unparalleled success for British Columbia and Canada. The Games provided the Ministry of Environment an unprecedented opportunity to showcase BC Parks to the world. Thanks to the Games, British Columbians and visitors will enjoy outdoor legacies for years to come, such as the restored Hollyburn Lodge at Cypress, exemplary cross-country ski trails at Whistler Olympic/Paralympic Park, and upgrades to the Howe Sound Crest Trail.

In July 2009, I was pleased, along with Minister of State for Climate Action, to release the British Columbia Provincial Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2007. The report establishes the emissions baseline required to assess the province's progress toward its greenhouse gas reduction targets under the *Greenhouse Gas Reductions Target Act*. British Columbia continues to be at the forefront of national and international efforts to work collaboratively on climate action initiatives. For example, last year the Western Climate Initiative met another key milestone with the release of its 2009 Workplan for the design of a regional cap-and-trade program.

In the fall of 2009, the Ministry brought forward legislation affecting parks and protected areas, environmental compliance reporting and labour mobility.

- Bill 10-2009, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act*, provided for the statutory protection of nine conservancies on Haida Gwaii, established Skaha Bluffs Park (a new Class A park), established a new ecological reserve in the Skeena region, and added land to seven existing Class A parks. Today, over 13 million hectares of B.C. are protected, more than any other province in Canada.
- Bill 13-2009, the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, provided the authorization for the publication of the names of individuals and the circumstances of violations as part of the Ministry's compliance reporting. The Act also included an amendment to the *College of Applied Biology Act* to ensure the labour mobility of professional biologists in accordance with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between B.C. and Alberta.

Improvements to our Species and Ecosystems Explorer web tool are allowing users easy access to the Conservation Framework's priorities and key actions. The site receives more than 100,000

hits a month, and provides access to species and ecosystem ranks, locations, status reports and recovery plans. Interagency land-use planning processes, such as the Haida Gwaii and North and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, are being implemented to protect large tracts of habitat for species at risk, including the marbled murrelet and the northern goshawk.

B.C.'s halibut fishery was the first in the province to achieve full Marine Stewardship Council certification in September 2009, followed by the Pacific hake fishery in October 2009, and the North Pacific albacore tuna fishery in March 2010. Third-party eco-certification of marine fisheries is a critical requirement for maintaining access to global markets, and Marine Stewardship Council certification is considered the gold standard in fisheries sustainability.

Maintaining the health of our water resources is a priority of this government. Following on our commitment in the Living Water Smart Plan, work began in 2009/10 to modernize the *Water Act*. The Act, established in 1908, is the primary legislation for managing our water resources and requires modernization to effectively respond to today's challenges, including dealing with population growth and climate change. In total, 13 public and First Nations' consultation workshops were held in early 2010. We also launched the Living Water Smart blog – a modern way of engaging the public in discussion. Work continues on this exciting initiative in 2010/11.

In 2009/10, the Environmental Assessment Office continued its work assessing major developments proposed in B.C. The Environmental Assessment Office's role is to complete reviews, including public and First Nations' consultations, in a timely manner while ensuring that potential adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects are duly addressed. Eight assessments were completed in 2009/10 and represent a potential investment of \$6.4 billion in B.C.

During the past year, I have been advocating for an amendment to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to give the federal government the power to enter into equivalency agreements with provinces. These agreements would allow federal and provincial governments to accept each others' reviews as equivalent, thereby truly avoiding unnecessary duplication. Premiers from across Canada endorsed this proposal at the August 2009 Council of the Federation meeting.

The Ministry of Environment including the Environmental Assessment Office *2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update*. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment

June 22, 2010

Message from the Minister of State and Accountability Statement



Climate change is the challenge of our generation. Now more than ever it is time for us to demonstrate leadership and dedication in helping to shape our world. Climate change is impacting our ecosystems, our economy and our communities. To be successful in reducing the effects of climate change, we must incorporate adaptation and mitigation actions into our strategies.

The Ministry of Environment, through the BC Climate Action Secretariat, works across government to deliver on the June 2008 Climate Action Plan. Our strong legislative targets form a base from which we can move toward a low-carbon economy. Our leadership encourages others to take action. Accomplishments in 2009/10 included:

- The Premier was part of the Canadian delegation at the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in 2009 – highlighting both how Canada can take action on climate change as well as the importance of action at the sub-national level.
- As world leaders gathered for the Olympics, B.C. hosted the Climate Action and Clean Energy Day to promote our growing expertise in clean technologies as well as our competitive advantages.
- The prominent role B.C. played in the Western Climate Initiative has resulted in consensus on key parameters for a regional cap-and-trade system.
- A reporting regulation under the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Cap and Trade) Act* was enacted in November 2009.
- The final report by Citizens' Conservation Councils was released in December 2009, outlining recommendations and actions taken to engage British Columbians.
- The Province launched *Apps 4 Climate Action* in 2010, a contest that challenges software developers to create web and mobile applications that inspire climate action.
- The first Carbon Neutral Action Report was released in 2009, listing plans and actions taken to reduce carbon pollution – across our schools, universities, colleges, hospitals Crown corporations and government offices. In 2010, British Columbia will become the first carbon-neutral public sector in North America.

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- The Pacific Carbon Trust delivered credible carbon offsets under the carbon-neutral commitment – augmenting the Province’s leadership role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- British Columbia approved an Adaptation Strategy to address climate change impacts on communities including water, forests, infrastructure, biodiversity and business sectors.

Climate change is a global problem that requires unprecedented international cooperation and local action. As British Columbia’s first Minister of State for Climate Action, I will continue to move the government’s climate action agenda forward.

In my role as the Minister of State for Climate Action and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I have been responsible for achieving the following results for 2009/10:

- a) work, in collaboration with the Minister of Environment, across government and with stakeholders and international, national and regional partners to facilitate the achievement of government’s greenhouse gas reduction targets;
- b) work with the Climate Action Secretariat to lead the development and implementation of a public outreach and strategic engagement program on climate change to mobilize citizens and other partners, including First Nations, municipalities, other governments, industries, environmental organizations and the scientific community;
- c) work with the Climate Action Secretariat and the Ministry of Citizens’ Services and public-sector organizations to move toward a carbon-neutral public sector; and
- d) perform the duties of Vice-Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action and Clean Energy.



Honourable John Yap
Minister of State for Climate Action

June 22, 2010

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Highlights of the Year

2009 Provincial Drought Response

British Columbia's southern interior experienced very dry conditions over the summer of 2009, with drought declared in some areas. In response, the Ministry collaborated on a broad regional strategy to protect water supplies. Appeals for voluntary water conservation were issued, and many irrigators responded by reducing or ceasing water withdrawals. In August, the Province brought into force Section 9 of the *Fish Protection Act*. This was followed in September by the first Ministerial Order issued under that section of the Act. This Order temporarily suspended the water rights of one water licence holder in order to ensure adequate flows for spawning fish. This legislation adds to the tools available for drought response in the future. The 2009 Provincial Drought Response earned staff recognition by winning the Interior Region Premier's Award for 2009/10 in the category of Cross-Government Integration.

Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process

Over the last decade, investors, tourists and developers have flocked to B.C.'s Shuswap Lake region, creating challenges such as fish and wildlife habitat damage, water quality degradation and recreational user conflicts. The Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process was initiated in response to the unprecedented development in the region. In 2007, municipal, provincial and federal agencies came together with strong political, public, private-sector and First Nations' support to develop and implement solutions to address water quality, foreshore and recreational-use issues. The integrated planning process and resulting strategic plan now serve as a blueprint for jurisdictions around B.C.'s many other large-lake regions, and earned the Interior Region Premier's Award for 2009/10 in the Partnership category.

Robson Bight Salvage Operation

In August 2007, a barge crossing Robson Bight Ecological Reserve tipped over and lost heavy equipment, including a tanker truck full of up to 10,000 litres of diesel fuel and a storage container of toxic materials. The reserve provides key habitats for orcas, and protects a pristine estuary and forested shorelines, making recovery of the hazardous materials imperative. During all phases of the salvage operation, which concluded in 2009, Ministry staff worked tirelessly with First Nations, other government staff and multiple non-government partners to make the complex deep-water salvage operation – the first of its kind in the world – a success.



Workers recover tanker truck with diesel load from Robson Bight Ecological Reserve.

Compliance Blitz

In October 2009, Conservation Officers conducted inspections in more than 35 locations across British Columbia. The inspections checked for compliance with a variety of environmental and public safety legislation, including the *Wildlife Act*, *Environmental Management Act*, *Federal Fisheries Act*, *Firearm Act*, *Liquor Control Act*, *Forest and Range Practices Act* and *Motor Vehicle Act*, and were carried out in conjunction with the RCMP, the Yukon Conservation Officer Services, Canadian Wildlife Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Ministry of Forests and Range. More than 5,800 people were contacted and inspected. Roughly 94 per cent of people were found to be compliant; however, 154 warnings and 169 tickets were issued. Examples of non-compliance included carrying loaded firearms in a vehicle, hunting during a closed season, failing to cancel a species licence, having open liquor in a vehicle, failing to have insurance and unlawfully possessing dead wildlife.

Citizens' Conservation Councils on Climate Action

In October of 2008, seven regional Citizens' Conservation Councils on Climate Action were established. Their mandate was to help inform government on regionally relevant ways to engage citizens to reduce greenhouse gases and develop low-carbon economic opportunities, ways to educate and inform citizens about climate change, and ways to reduce their own carbon footprints.

In 2009, the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action extended the councils' mandate to allow for a more action-oriented focus on engaging citizens in their communities. This led to the creation and implementation of Regional Action Plans focused on implementing regional engagement activities. A final report by the councils outlines some of the highlights from the action plans, provides the councils' advice on future needs for a regional engagement program, and presents the councils' final list of recommendations for government on how to most effectively engage British Columbians. See the report at www.livesmartbc.ca/attachments/CCC_Final_Report.pdf.

Ministry of Forests and Range Special Conservation Officers

In July 2009, the Ministry of Environment's Conservation Officer Service and the Ministry of Forests and Range signed a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver various compliance and enforcement services. The Memorandum allows staff from the Ministry of Forests and Range to be designated as Special Conservation Officers after successfully completing required training and screening. More than 160 Ministry of Forests and Range staff have received specific training and have been designated as Class I or Class II Special Conservation Officers. These staff are able to support government's corporate environmental compliance and enforcement objectives, and work on projects that help protect and preserve the environment.

Hazardous Waste Audit

In 2009/10, the Conservation Officer Service and Environmental Protection staff completed a six-month audit of hazardous waste transporters in the Lower Mainland. The aim of the audit was to determine their compliance rates by examining the manifests that must be completed

when transporting hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Regulations pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act*. During the audits, 64 hazardous waste transporters were checked at a number of road stops throughout the Lower Mainland. Eighty-six per cent of those checked were found to be in compliance. Non-compliance was detected in nine instances, resulting in one violation ticket and eight warnings. Compliance rates improved month by month, as operators and transporters became more aware of the regular road checks.

Marmot Recovery

The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the Marmot Recovery Foundation, released 68 (a record number) captive-bred marmots into the wild in 2009. Litters in the wild also increased from 11 litters in 2008 to 22 in 2009. Through partnerships with the Toronto and Calgary zoos, Mountain View Conservation Centre and the Tony Barrett Marmot Recovery Centre on Mount Washington, between 60 and 80 marmots are produced each year through a highly successful captive breeding program. The breeding program has produced 383 pups, and since 2003 has released 223 marmots into the wild. The Ministry is more than one-third of the way to its goal of 600 marmots in three metapopulations on Vancouver Island. There are now over 250 Vancouver Island marmots in over 20 colonies, up from less than 30 marmots in four colonies in 2003.



A Vancouver Island marmot on Mount Washington

Chemical Spill Prevention in Mackenzie

On January, 25, 2009, the Minister of Environment declared an environmental emergency at the Worthington Pulp Mill in Mackenzie. This action was taken to prevent the freezing of the chemical storage tanks and the potential release of toxic chemicals. The Ministry, assisted by several other government ministries, actively intervened in mill operations in order to maintain a “warm shutdown,” until the chemicals were disposed of. This intervention, which concluded in October 2009, ensured the environmental stability of the site and preserved the safety of area residents.

Water Act Modernization

In 2009/10, the Ministry completed a jurisdictional review and background research to determine the scope of modernization for the *Water Act*. A cross-government team was established to provide advice and input. In addition to the development of the public discussion paper and technical background report and the launch of the Living Water Smart blog, 13 multi-stakeholder and First Nations’ engagement workshops were held in March and April 2010. Public and stakeholder input began to roll in through the many mechanisms for submissions. Staff also

attended numerous stakeholder-hosted events to provide information and hear stakeholders' viewpoints. *Water Act* modernization efforts will continue in 2010/11.

Reduced Invasive Plant Species in Protected Areas

In 2009/10, BC Parks signed an agreement with the Invasive Plant Council of BC to facilitate a province-wide system of Hot Spots crews for on-the-ground invasive plant management activities, such as inventory and manual control of invasive plants. Before implementing these management activities, an impact assessment process was followed to identify species at risk and their habitats. Crews worked to ensure that more than 400 hectares were treated in B.C.'s parks and protected areas.



A Hot Spots crew works to remove giant knotweed, Vancouver Island.

Reduced Risks in and around Campgrounds

The BC Parks Hazard Tree Program aims to reduce forest-fuel hazards in and near park facilities and in the park interface with communities. In 2009/10, the program completed tree removal in several parks, including Morice Lake, Carp Lake, Monck, Skihist, Moyie, Ten Mile, Gladstone, Green Lake, MacMillan, Myra-Bellevue and West Arm provincial parks. Tree removal was done with the least amount of environmental impact as a result of careful consideration of existing natural, cultural and recreational values within the parks before, during and after completion of the projects. The Fuel Management Program, the Hazard Tree Program and the Ecological Restoration Program have all helped to create ecosystems that are more resilient to wildfire, forest pests and changing climate conditions.

Climate Action and Clean Energy Day

Climate Action Secretariat staff worked with other ministries to promote climate action and clean energy at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The B.C. Climate Action and Clean Energy Reception, which was held on Clean Energy Day, February 15, 2010, showcased the expertise and competitive advantages of British Columbia. Attendees included business representatives, international decision-makers and elected officials who championed the green economy in British Columbia. Representatives from the Western Climate Initiative, International Climate Action Partnership and The Climate Registry attended, as well as legislators and policy-makers from other jurisdictions with a strong climate action agenda. In promoting discussion on climate action, we made international leaders more aware of B.C.'s climate action and clean energy policies and had an opportunity to learn from them. Also attending were representatives from the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and future host jurisdictions who are interested in incorporating sustainable elements into their Games and would benefit from learning about the B.C. experience.

Fish and Wildlife Opportunities

In 2009/10, the Ministry continued to provide outstanding fish and wildlife opportunities, such as hunting, angling and viewing. Total revenues from hunting and angling in 2009/10 were over \$24.8 million, representing an increase in sales of resident hunting licences and of both resident and non-resident angling licences. The total revenue includes \$5.78 million from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, all of which supports projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitats.

Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry supports government goals and initiatives by:

- Leading the Great Goal to “lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.”
- Managing and delivering a wide range of programs and services that support the Province’s environmental, economic and societal goals.
- Leading climate action initiatives through the Climate Action Secretariat, which is responsible for developing programs and engaging all areas of government, First Nations, stakeholders and society in this critical effort.
- Promoting outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing and exploring B.C.’s parks.

The Ministry promotes stewardship and sustainability by:

- Encouraging environmental stewardship, engaging stakeholders and the public, and actively promoting the sustainable use of B.C.’s environmental resources.
- Developing partnerships to foster sustainable economic activity for the long-term health and benefit of the province and its citizens.
- Enhancing environmental protection and stewardship by monitoring air and water quality, reducing and removing wastes and toxins from the environment, emphasizing compliance activities, and using enforcement options where appropriate. These efforts ensure safe, high-quality water, land and air resources.
- Protecting and managing provincial freshwater fisheries through stewardship initiatives.
- Working with federal partners and other governments, stakeholders and industry to ensure sustainable marine fisheries and ocean resources.
- Managing wildlife and its habitat by leading conservation recovery and prevention efforts for species, habitats and ecosystems.
- Ensuring through the parks and protected areas system that healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems are maintained and protected, and that outstanding recreation opportunities are available to all. The parks and protected areas system covers approximately 13 million hectares (or 14.3 per cent of the province).

The Ministry serves its clients in a responsible way by:

- Providing programs and services to all citizens of British Columbia in their communities, businesses and workplaces, and to national and international companies and organizations that engage in business within British Columbia. Clients are served by the Ministry’s

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skilled and experienced staff in over 50 different communities throughout the province, and through effective partnerships with other government bodies, First Nations, industry, associations, communities and environmental groups.

- Working collaboratively with all provincial ministries involved in the management of Crown land and natural resources to coordinate people and resources to promote excellence in public service. This collaboration allows the Ministry to support economic development and community resilience while ensuring environmental standards are met and environmental sustainability is achieved.

The Ministry develops innovative partnerships by:

- Participating in cross-government initiatives and working to establish collaborative relationships with First Nations, non-governmental organizations and communities.
- Supporting the provision of programs and services through third-party partners who help to fulfill the Ministry's mandate and fund local programs. Partners include organizations such as the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Bear Aware, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, BC Hydro, the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society and individuals such as park facility operators.



Rangers on horseback on the Earl Grey Pass trail near Toby Creek



Ranger Ralph Stocker with a golden eagle in Naikoon Park, Haida Gwaii

The Ministry administers legislation and sets effective standards by:

- Providing the foundation for delivering Ministry programs and services through clear, effective legislation and standards setting. The Ministry has significant regulatory responsibilities and administers an extensive list of legislation. (See page 52 for a link to this list.)
- Promoting compliance through education, motivation and employment of a variety of strategies to help change behaviour and encourage voluntary compliance with regulatory requirements. Where necessary, the Ministry's Conservation Officer Service undertakes activities to enforce the Province's environmental and public safety legislation.

Strategic Context

Trends and events within British Columbia and beyond our borders are intricately linked to the achievement of provincial goals and objectives. These major trends, and the internal and external context in which the Ministry operates, pose both challenges and opportunities.

Environment

Pressures on the environment continue to influence the Ministry's work.

- Climate change is the defining problem of the world today. In British Columbia, climate change is already having far-reaching effects, impacting ecosystems and biodiversity, and increasing the risks from volatile weather patterns, warming conditions, flooding and drought.
- Freshwater supply, agriculture, hydroelectric generation and fisheries are also affected by the changing climate. There is growing concern within some communities that available water supplies could be insufficient to meet fish, human, agricultural and industrial demands.
- Severe and unpredictable natural or biological events have an impact on ecosystems, human health and safety, and the economy. During 2009/10, forest fires, spills and other emergency events continued to tax the Ministry's resources.
- British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province in Canada and home to tens of thousands of plant and animal species living in a rich variety of habitats. Many of these species and their habitats are at risk. One of the threats to species and habitats is encroaching urbanization.

Economy

International economic uncertainty continued to affect the province in 2009/10.

- Preliminary estimates from Statistics Canada show that B.C.'s real GDP contracted by 2.3 per cent in 2009, following a year of 0.0 per cent growth (or no change) in 2008.
- While the lower level of economic activity meant a continued decline in government revenues in British Columbia during 2009, the demand for social services, such as health and education, continued to grow.
- During the economic downturn, the Province took the opportunity to allocate a sizeable portion of its fiscal stimulus packages to investments in the low-carbon economy. In Budget 2009, the B.C. government allotted additional dollars to support the \$1 billion committed in Budget 2008 to address climate change and promote the transition to a green economy.
- Although the recession may have eased the labour shortages for some occupations, the accelerating number of retirements by senior staff means an increased shortage in the

specialized skills and qualifications that the Ministry requires to deliver its programs and services.

- For the Ministry and many other organizations, 2009 was a year of transformation. Governments and the private sector are under increased pressure to find more effective and less labour-intensive ways to deliver key services and programs.

Society

Increased population, urbanization and wasteful consumption patterns put pressure on the environment and communities, resulting in greater water, land and energy use, increased discharges of pollutants into the environment, and impacts to the quality of our air, land and water.

- The population of British Columbia is growing: it is currently estimated at over 4.4 million¹ people and is projected to reach over 6 million² by 2036. As the population increases, so too does the pressure on our environment.
- Demographic changes, including cultural diversity and an aging population, have contributed to a shift in public expectations about the environment. For example, there is an increasing demand for different types of outdoor recreational experiences and services, which has required the Ministry to review its services in provincial parks.
- Citizens and consumers are highly informed and demand a higher standard of goods and services. For example, eco-certification of marine fisheries is increasingly becoming a requirement for fishers to access global markets.

British Columbia continues to be a place of extraordinary beauty, blessed with clean air and water, abundant natural resources, diverse native species and exceptional recreational opportunities. By focusing on challenges to environmental sustainability, addressing changing expectations of Ministry services, and pursuing opportunities for a greener economy, the Ministry is committed to supporting a resilient provincial economy and social well-being for its citizens.

¹ BC Stats, British Columbia Quarterly Population Estimates 1971–2009.

² BC Stats, British Columbia Population Projections 2009 to 2036, June 2009.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Effective action on climate change For greater detail see pages 18 to 21	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
1.1 Reduced provincial greenhouse gas emissions Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels	6% reduction by 2012	N/A ¹
Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air For greater detail see pages 21 to 25	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
2.1 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada-B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96% or greater	96% ACHIEVED
2.3 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air Number of air emissions standards incorporating current Best Achievable Technology practices	4	4 ACHIEVED
Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems For greater detail see pages 25 to 27	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
3.3 Conserved, maintained and enhanced native species and ecosystems Number of completed designations by the Ministry of Environment under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> :		
• Wildlife Habitat Ranges	1,304	1,330 ACHIEVED
• Ungulate ² Winter Ranges	75	66 NOT ACHIEVED
• Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds	46	31 NOT ACHIEVED
Goal 4: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment For greater detail see pages 28 to 30	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
4.3 Industry and client groups implement best environmental management practices Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	9	10 ACHIEVED

¹ Emissions data for 2009 will be reported in the 2010/11 – 2012/13 Annual Service Plan Report. See page 19 for a detailed explanation and most current data.

² An ungulate is a hoofed mammal such as a caribou, moose, bison or goat.

Goal 5: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
For greater detail see pages 30 to 35		
5.2 Optimize outdoor and economic opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife		
Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction		
• Park visits	20.6 million	19.7 million NOT ACHIEVED
• Visitor satisfaction	Maintain or improve (from 80%)	80% ACHIEVED
5.3 Collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources		
Number of commercial British Columbia fisheries in the Marine Stewardship Council's eco-certification process	7	8 ACHIEVED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The following sections present the Ministry's goals and provide an overview of their supporting objectives, strategies and performance measures. The performance reporting is based on the Ministry's *2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update*. For each performance measure, there is a discussion of the results and, if there is a significant variance between the target and the actual result, the Ministry's response.

Goal 1: Effective action on climate change

Climate change has broad global, regional and local significance. Changes in climate drive changes in natural systems that affect economic, environmental and social interests. Many agree that the current rapid rate of change is of serious concern and is linked to the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. How we respond to climate change will shape our economy, our society, our communities and our way of life.

The government has made an aggressive commitment to respond to climate change by addressing its causes (mitigation) and preparing the province for the unavoidable consequences of climate change (adaptation). The Ministry of Environment leads government's cross-ministry climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives through the important work of the BC Climate Action Secretariat.

Objective 1.1: Reduced provincial greenhouse gas emissions

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere is an important step in addressing the causes of climate change and minimizing its impacts on generations to come.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing climate action policy and providing advice, research and planning documents as directed by the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action and Clean Energy;
- guiding the successful delivery of the Climate Action Plan across government;
- assisting other ministries in developing policy, legislation and/or regulations as required;
- leading and coordinating the carbon-neutral public-sector initiative;
- working with international, national and regional partners to forward climate action goals;
- developing and facilitating the implementation of a cap-and-trade system and standardized offsets program; and
- coordinating the development and implementation of a public outreach and strategic engagement program to mobilize citizens and partners to reduce provincial greenhouse gas emissions.

Performance Results

Performance Measure 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels	68.0 ¹ megatonnes ² (2007 baseline)	68.7 megatonnes (2008 calendar year)	6% reduction by 2012	N/A ³

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

¹ The 2007 baseline of 67.3 megatonnes was revised upward by one per cent.

² 1 megatonne = 1 million tonnes

³ Emissions data for 2009 will be available in spring 2010.

Discussion of Results

The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, brought into effect on January 1, 2008, puts into law British Columbia's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020, and by at least 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050. Interim targets have been set for 2012 and 2016, and the former is reflected in the table above. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for reporting on greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere from a comprehensive array of activities in British Columbia, including those resulting from industry, transportation, buildings, landfills, agriculture and net deforestation.

The data for the performance measure are taken from Environment Canada's National Inventory Report, which is prepared to meet Canada's obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The report is published annually with an approximate 16-month

lag relative to the reported year. British Columbia publishes its own Provincial Inventory Report, which adds provincial greenhouse gas emissions to Environment Canada's totals from afforestation and deforestation, and by-product greenhouse gas emissions from certain gases from the industrial and electricity sectors. These additional emissions are reported by Environment Canada in national totals but not attributed to particular provinces.

In the 2008 National Inventory Report, British Columbia's 2007 baseline level of greenhouse gas emissions was revised upward by one per cent to 68.0 megatonnes. This was due mainly to an increase in estimates for emissions in the mining and oil and gas sectors. Revisions of historical data are expected for most years as methods improve and errors are corrected.

Greenhouse gas emissions increased to a level of 68.7 megatonnes in 2008, an increase of one per cent over 2007 levels. Fugitive emissions (methane flaring, leaks and venting) from the oil and gas sector and diesel combustion emissions that occurred in the off-road equipment sectors accounted for most of this increase. Emissions from light-duty vehicles (mainly passenger vehicles) decreased by 1.8 per cent, while manufacturing industry emissions declined by 11.2 per cent. The decline in emissions in the manufacturing sector is attributable in part to the economic recession that began in the fourth quarter of 2008.

British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions were 3.7 and 23.4 per cent higher in 2008 compared to 2000 and 1990, respectively. Taking into account both the projected recovery path from the recent recession and greenhouse gas policies that have been put in place by the Province, it is expected that greenhouse gas emissions are on track to meet the 2012 target.

Objective 1.2: Preparing for unavoidable climate change and its impacts

Taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now will reduce the impact of future climate change and provide human and natural systems more time to adjust. However, the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere mean that some ongoing climate change and some impacts are unavoidable. A comprehensive climate change action plan therefore includes preparing for such impacts, or "adapting."

Adaptation will help maximize the opportunities and reduce the risks related to climate change and its

impacts on ecosystems, communities and the built environment. Through the BC Climate Action Secretariat, the Ministry is coordinating the implementation of the provincial Adaptation Strategy, which includes initiatives to enhance knowledge and tools, mainstream adaptation into government business, and address adaptation in key sectors. The Ministry of Environment is



Connor Lake in Height of the Rockies Provincial Park

integrating adaptation into its own business areas, including the management of water, land, air, species, ecosystems and parks and protected areas.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of government's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy;
- supporting and collaborating with research institutions and organizations to develop and deliver the knowledge and tools decision-makers need to facilitate adaptation;
- collaborating with Ministry partners, including other ministries, federal agencies, local governments, First Nations, private industry and non-government organizations in preparing for climate change and its impacts;
- developing new approaches to water management that address the impacts from a changing water cycle, including increased risk of flood and drought;
- continuing to build robust observation networks that contribute to increased understanding of the direction and pace of climate change in British Columbia; and
- conducting species, ecosystem and landscape level conservation and restoration efforts in a way that anticipates adaptation requirements, maximizes resilience and improves future options.

Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objective 2.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources

A safe and sustainable supply of high-quality water is vital to our communities, economy and environment. Achievement of this objective through effective legislation, innovative approaches to water governance and coordinated watershed-based planning is critical to the environment.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- motivating shared water stewardship by leading and coordinating the implementation of the actions and commitments in *Living Water Smart: British Columbia's Water Plan*;
- working with the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to protect sources of drinking water;
- modernizing water laws in collaboration with partners, including First Nations, the agricultural sector and other levels of government; and
- recognizing water flow requirements for ecosystems and species.

Performance Measure 2: Water quality trends monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Percentage of water bodies monitored under the Canada-B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends	96%	96%	96% or greater	96% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Discussion of Results

Under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement, 30 provincially significant rivers and streams, including the Fraser, Columbia and Peace, are monitored in British Columbia. This performance measure relies on data collected from 41 monitoring stations to determine whether water quality is stable or improving in each of these key water bodies. By measuring the concentration of variables such as metals, nutrients, pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen, the Ministry is able to identify trends in overall water quality.

The Federal – Provincial Water Monitoring Group is working closely with stakeholders to establish new monitoring sites across northern British Columbia. A network review of the Federal – Provincial Monitoring Agreement was initiated in 2009 and is ongoing. In 2009, a federal station operated by Environment Canada on the Skeena River was incorporated into the agreement, increasing the geographical coverage of the Federal – Provincial Monitoring Network.

An assessment of the Kootenay River Watershed found that selenium continues to be a major issue in the Elk River and is an emerging issue downstream in the Kootenay River. Additionally, nitrate is an emerging issue in the Elk River. Nonetheless, the Ministry achieved its target to maintain or improve water quality trends in the 30 water bodies monitored under the Federal – Provincial Agreement: 96 per cent of the monitoring stations had parameters with stable or improving water quality trends.



Water monitoring on the Tsolum River near Mount Washington

Data collected from sites under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement are used for a variety of reports, including the annual Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators Water Quality Index. This report can be accessed at www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators.

Objective 2.2: Reduced contamination from toxins and waste

By reducing contamination from toxins and wastes efficiently and effectively, the Ministry will minimize impacts to water, land and air.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- exploring new ways to reduce municipal solid waste disposal;
- supporting the Brownfield³ Renewal Strategy for British Columbia;
- promoting the development and adoption of integrated pest management practices; and
- promoting increased accountability for hazardous waste management.

Objective 2.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air

By encouraging the use of clean technologies and supporting the establishment of effective emissions standards, the Ministry strives to reduce the impacts of air pollution.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of the BC Air Action Plan, which is aimed at continuing to reduce emissions from industry, transportation, urban growth, ports and marine vessels;
- maintaining the coverage of the air quality monitoring network to ensure that it meets or exceeds National Air Pollution Surveillance standards;
- introducing policies that support the use of the cleanest available practices and technologies in all new or expanding industrial facilities; and
- continuing to support, in partnership with the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, the development and implementation of local airshed management plans.

Performance Measure 3: Clean air standards for industry

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of air emission standards incorporating current Best Achievable Technology practices	2	3	4	4 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Note: Target figures are cumulative.

³ Brownfields are abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial or industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is active potential for redevelopment.

Discussion of Results

This performance measure aims to ensure that industrial business practices support British Columbians' environmental and health priorities, while ensuring economic sustainability. The Best Achievable Technology approach encourages new and expanding industry to use the cleanest available practices and technologies. The standards for air emissions are set through guidelines, policies, codes of practice and regulations. The Ministry works with industry and stakeholders in the development of the standards. The targets are set at one new standard per year.

This performance measure is on track with four new standards set in the past three years. The most recent of the standards is a guideline for emission limits for pellet plant manufacturing operations, which was developed in 2009/10. This guideline sets emission standards for drying wood and other manufacturing operations. Earlier standards are listed below.

- In 2007, a code of practice for the slaughter and poultry processing industries was developed.⁴ This code sets out requirements for handling associated waste material via landfill or incineration. Emission standards are set for incineration in the event that this is deemed to be the most effective option.
- In 2008, a guideline for emissions from biomass-fired electrical power generation was developed, which sets emissions standards for the combustion of biomass for generating electricity.⁵
- In 2008, standards that govern emissions from wood-burning boilers used in agricultural operations were developed in collaboration with the greenhouse industry and local government. The new standards were included in amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation.⁶

Objective 2.4: Effective management of environmental risks

Events such as oil spills and floods can present risks to public health and safety, property and the environment. Although not all environmental risks are avoidable, effective management can help to reduce their impact. The Ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks to the environment.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- responding effectively to high-risk environmental emergencies;

⁴ More information on the code of practice for the slaughter and poultry processing industries is available at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/slaughter/index.htm.

⁵ More information on the guideline for emissions from biomass-fired electrical power generation is available at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/pulp_paper_lumber/wood_fired.htm.

⁶ More information on the standard for emissions from wood-burning boilers used in agricultural operations is available at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/ag_waste_control/index.htm.

- reducing the risk to public health and safety and the environment through effective management and response programs, and compliance and enforcement strategies and actions;
- managing the environmental risks of human-wildlife interactions through proactive and reactive strategies;
- managing the remediation of high-risk contaminated sites and regulating the remediation of all contaminated sites; and
- managing fire interface in communities adjacent to parks and protected areas.

Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems

Objective 3.1: Well-managed, integrated and accessible information on species and ecosystems

The collection, storage, management and distribution of scientific information on native species and ecosystems provide for effective research and contribute to the understanding of the status of native species and ecosystems.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- employing the Conservation Framework to collect, assess and distribute information on species and ecosystems, including their conservation status, associated threats, priority ranking and progress against recommended management activities;
- assessing the conservation status of plants, animals and ecosystems and related risks and threats within parks and protected areas; and
- providing guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems, including inventory, monitoring and reporting on achievements.



A cub in Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary

Objective 3.2: Well-managed parks and protected areas

Parks and protected areas help to ensure the protection of native species and ecosystems, provide outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, and contribute to meeting our environmental, social and economic goals. Our world-class parks system provides a legacy for future generations.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- collaborating with First Nations and communities in protected areas planning and management to ensure long-term protection of natural, cultural and recreational assets;
- providing high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences;
- increasing and promoting partnerships to expand the opportunities and involvement in stewardship initiatives;
- addressing high-priority Conservation Framework and ecosystem management issues; and
- strengthening the role of parks and protected areas in adapting to climate change.

Objective 3.3: Conserved, maintained and enhanced native species and ecosystems

Ministry programs conserve biodiversity, maintain and enhance native ecosystems and achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of people. The Ministry encourages others to accept a greater role in environmental stewardship and facilitates community initiatives to protect and restore native species and ecosystems.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading the implementation of the Conservation Framework to set priorities for species and ecosystem recovery and management action;
- continuing to work with and expand partnerships, including those with First Nations, to identify, protect and restore species and ecosystems;
- continuing to develop and implement guidelines, policies, standards and legislation for the protection, conservation and management of species and ecosystems; and
- providing leadership in species-at-risk status ranking and legal designation, and preparing and implementing recovery plans.



A young billy goat at Mount Meager, northwest of Pemberton

Performance Measure 3: Completed designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of completed designations by the Ministry of Environment under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> , including Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), Ungulate ¹ Winter Ranges (UWRs)* and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSWs).	WHAs – 1,084	WHAs – 1,207	WHAs – 1,304	WHAs – 1,330 ACHIEVED
	UWRs – 54	UWRs – 65	UWRs – 75	UWRs – 66 NOT ACHIEVED
	FSWs – 31	FSWs – 31	FSWs – 46	FSWs – 31 NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Explanatory/Benchmark Information: *The number for UWRs specifies the number of ungulate winter range packages; each package may have as few as 1 to more than 1,000 winter ranges. When monitoring progress, considering the amount of area designated is important.

¹ An ungulate is a hoofed mammal such as a caribou, moose, bison or goat.

Discussion of Results

Designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* provide special management for species and plant communities affected by forest and range activities on Crown land. These designations provide legislated protection for habitats and contribute significantly to the conservation of native species. The Ministry’s legal designations are for Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWRs) and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSWs).

In 2009/10, the Ministry exceeded the target for WHAs. In 2009/10, there were 123 WHAs designated and two specified areas for species at risk designated, for a total of 1,330 WHAs covering an area of 1,031,987 hectares. The Ministry’s 2009/10 targets for FSWs and UWRs were not achieved. In 2009/10, one UWR designation was approved covering 31,630 hectares; however, no Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds were approved.

Ministry Response

The Ministry did not meet its target for UWRs and FSWs in part due to reduced funding from the Forest Investment Account, which affected the Ministry’s ability to provide contract support for the development of both UWRs and FSWs. While regions continue to make progress on UWR plans, there have been delays in finalizing and approving targeted plans. FSW pilots are currently being conducted in the Skeena, Omineca and Cariboo regions. All three regions are making progress toward the designation of FSWs. Designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* continue to be tracked on the Ministry’s website www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/index.html.

The Ministry has replaced this performance measure in the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan* with a new outcome measure: changes in the status of five groups of species over five years.

Goal 4: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment

Objective 4.1: British Columbians understand the effect of their actions on the environment

In order to foster an environmentally conscious society, people must become aware of the relationship between their actions and the impact on their health, and on the lives of other people and species with which they share the environment. As British Columbians continue to make the connection between their activities and environmental impacts, they are much more likely to set a higher environmental standard for their own actions and those of others.



Dr. Brenda Beckwith explains stewardship of Garry oak ecosystems in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with stewardship organizations to increase environmental awareness; and
- promoting outdoor activities to foster a connection to and an appreciation for the natural environment.

Objective 4.2: Shared environmental stewardship is a priority for all British Columbians

The Ministry recognizes that in order for shared stewardship to be successful, it is necessary to work in partnership with First Nations, industry, communities, environmental groups and other government bodies.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- recognizing, promoting and enhancing shared stewardship through consultative processes and volunteer initiatives that engage stakeholders, clients and partners;
- promoting sustainable natural resource management through collaborative management;
- using the Living Water Smart blog to promote shared water stewardship;
- maintaining the Our Environment website to inform, engage and support clients, partners and staff in environmental stewardship initiatives (www.env.gov.bc.ca/OurEnvironment/); and

- enhancing and promoting shared stewardship through effective and timely communication of compliance activities to protect the environment.

Objective 4.3: Industry and client groups implement best environmental management practices

Sustainable environmental management practices not only protect the environment, they reduce costs (by using resources and energy more efficiently), and lay the foundation for good corporate citizenship.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to work with industry to develop, implement and continuously improve industry-led product stewardship programs;
- continuing to research and collaborate with key stakeholders on product categories suitable for inclusion in the B.C. Recycling Regulation;
- continuing to explore opportunities to reduce regulatory burden⁷ through changes such as implementing codes of practice to replace permit-based authorization frameworks, while promoting best environmental management practices and maintaining stringent environmental standards; and
- encouraging compliance by reporting those in non-compliance with Ministry environmental standards and/or regulatory requirements.

Performance Measure 4: Industry-led product stewardship programs

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	9	9	9	10 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Note: Target figures are cumulative. The target is two new categories every three years.

⁷ British Columbia continues to make regulatory reform a priority across government, making it easier for businesses to operate and succeed in B.C., while still preserving regulations that protect public health, safety and the environment. Regulatory reform has been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the Ministry. Since 2001, the Ministry has reduced its regulatory requirements by 47 per cent while continuing to maintain stringent environmental standards.

Discussion of Results

For this measure, the Ministry is counting the number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs. Industry-led stewardship programs require producers to accept life-cycle responsibility for the products they sell, including post-consumer collection and recycling. Such programs also provide an inherent incentive for industry to design products that are less toxic and easier to recycle. The results are more green jobs, more investment in B.C.'s recycling industry, and less waste and toxins in our environment. Stewardship programs continue to be an important example of how industry works with the Ministry by implementing sustainable and responsible environmental management practices.

Currently, stewardship programs are in place for a total of 10 product categories: paint; used oil products; beverage containers; cell phones; pharmaceuticals; pesticides; solvents and flammable liquids; tires; electronic products; and gasoline. In 2009/10, the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment endorsed the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, which aims to have industry-led product stewardship programs in place for all forms of packaging and printed materials by 2015. British Columbia is a leader in industry product stewardship programs and already has programs in place for some of the products within the broad categories identified in the Canada-wide Action Plan.

Once a product has been added to the Recycling Regulation, plans are then developed and industry has approximately 18 months to implement recycling programs for the product. In 2009, program plans were developed for five new products: audio-visual and consumer equipment; residential lighting equipment; cell phones; thermostats; and some batteries. The regulation requires that industry implement new programs for these product categories by July 1, 2010. Deadlines for small appliances, smoke detectors and the batteries used in these products were extended until April 1, 2011. Antifreeze and lead acid batteries, two new product categories, were added to the Recycling Regulation in 2009, and plans are underway for these products.

For a link to the complete list of products, go to www.recycling.gov.bc.ca.

Goal 5: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

Objective 5.1: Wise management and continued benefits of water and air

British Columbia's water and air resources sustain a full range of economic, community and ecosystem needs. The Ministry seeks to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the wise and prudent management of these resources.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- promoting increased community and stakeholder involvement at the local level;
- operating the hydrometric network⁸ to obtain information to support water management;
- responding in a timely manner to water licence applications, based on reviews that ensure optimal environmental, social and economic outcomes;
- reviewing legislation to improve the protection of ecology, provide opportunities for community involvement and provide incentives for efficient water use;
- regulating groundwater use in priority areas and for large withdrawals;
- supporting communities engaged in multi-stakeholder watershed management plans;
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder airshed management plans; and
- continuing to support local air quality projects.

Objective 5.2: Optimize outdoor and economic opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife

British Columbia's water and air resources sustain a full range of economic, community and ecosystem needs. The Ministry seeks to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the wise and prudent management of these resources.



Kakwa Lake, Kakwa Provincial Park and Protected Area

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- optimizing stewardship and economic opportunities with First Nations, local communities, non-profit groups, private land owners and others;
- developing strategic plans for parks, fish and wildlife management that promote exceptional outdoor opportunities, while ensuring long-term protection of natural resources;
- developing and implementing marketing strategies to promote active living through park visitation;
- offering the public increased opportunities for park recreation;

⁸ The B.C. hydrometric network is an environmental monitoring system that collects river and lake level data from over 450 locations in British Columbia. The data are essential to good planning for hydroelectric power production, dams, dikes, roads, bridges, floodplain areas and pipeline crossings.

- providing angling licences through electronic licensing and developing the provision of hunting licences through a similar framework;
- working in partnership with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC to recruit and retain anglers through the promotion and delivery of high-quality urban, rural and wilderness recreational fishing opportunities;
- developing new opportunities for marine angling in the Georgia Basin through net pen rearing of juvenile pink salmon;
- streamlining the provision of commercial licences (e.g., for guides, trappers and fur traders) through process improvement and regulation simplification focused on client service standards; and
- promoting awareness of contributions to the Park Enhancement Fund.

Performance Measure 5: Park visitation and visitor satisfaction

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction level:				
• Park visits	19.6 million	19.6 million	20.6 million	19.7 million NOT ACHIEVED
• Visitor satisfaction level	84%	82%	Maintain or improve (from 80%)	80% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Explanatory/Benchmark Information: Recorded park visits: The number of recorded visits to B.C. parks was based on attendance data submitted from April 2009 through March 2010. The visitor satisfaction rating is based on an extensive satisfaction survey that is conducted in campgrounds and day-use areas around the province. The five-year rolling average for 2009/10 is based on the average Visitor Satisfaction Index rating for the reporting years of 2005/06 to 2009/10.

Discussion of Results

British Columbia’s parks system is the single largest recreation enterprise in the province and one of the best in the world. The number of visitors to provincial parks is used to measure the contribution of parks to the government’s priorities of healthy communities, tourism and the economy. These data are intended to provide a reasonable indication of the trend in the level of use of public outdoor and commercial facilities and services available in B.C.’s parks.

Additionally, the Ministry is the largest supplier of overnight camping accommodation throughout



Bugaboo Provincial Park, southeastern British Columbia

British Columbia. Since 1985, the Ministry has monitored the effectiveness of providing services in provincial park campgrounds and day-use areas by conducting an annual Ministry of Environment satisfaction survey with a random sample of park visitors. The results of this survey are used by Ministry staff and park facility operators to better assess which services are being provided well and which services require improvements.

Number of park visits: The target for the number of park visits is not on track for a 20 per cent increase over the 2004/05 baseline of 18.0 million by 2010. In order to track progress toward the 2010 target of 21.6 million recorded visits, an interim target for 2009/10 was set at 20.6 million. Between April 2009 and March 2010, the number of recorded park visits was 19.7 million.

Park visitor satisfaction survey results: The Visitor Satisfaction Index is calculated as an average provincial rating of five services considered by park visitors to be important to their stay in a campground: cleanliness of restrooms, cleanliness of grounds, condition of facilities, a sense of security, and control of noise. The rating is based on the number of “excellent” and “above average” responses.

A different methodology was piloted for the 2009 Visitor Satisfaction Survey. The online survey reduced material costs by 90 per cent and reduced the use of paper. The survey was distributed between July and August instead of the May to September sampling period that had been used in the past.

With the shorter sampling period and the new methodology, the number of responses declined from approximately 5,000 in 2008 to 1,000 in 2009. An increased response rate is expected in 2010 as more surveys will be distributed over a longer period of time. A higher number of responses will also provide a more accurate indicator of overall visitor satisfaction score.

Ministry Response

Park visitation continues to be a priority for the Ministry. The Ministry has revised its targets in the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan* based on improved data collection and analysis methods. The new targets better represent anticipated projections for the next several years.

Objective 5.3: Collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources

British Columbia’s marine fisheries and ocean resources provide great economic and social benefits to the citizens of the province. The Ministry works in close collaboration with the Integrated Land Management Bureau, which is responsible for provincial marine planning, and with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to represent British Columbia’s interests and to ensure that ocean and marine resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing a cross-government approach to managing B.C.'s ocean and coast;
- undertaking initiatives, such as third-party certification of British Columbia's fisheries, to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of British Columbia's seafood products in domestic and international markets;
- representing British Columbia's interests to ensure a fair share of federal and cross-government programs, initiatives and activities to promote research, exports and investment for our seafood sector;
- collaborating with neighbouring jurisdictions to enhance the value and success of ocean conservation actions and achieve sustainable fisheries management goals; and
- reporting out on key indicators related to ocean and coastal management.

Performance Measure 6: Fisheries in the eco-certification process

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of commercial British Columbia fisheries in the Marine Stewardship Council's eco-certification process	N/A	6	7	8 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

Explanatory/Benchmark Information: Target figures are cumulative.

Discussion of Results

Third-party eco-certification of commercial marine fisheries has become a requirement for maintaining access to global markets, and is critical for a sustainable commercial fisheries and seafood sector in British Columbia, and its socio-economic contributions to British Columbians.

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an independent, global, non-profit organization that provides eco-certification to well-managed fisheries around the world. Marine Stewardship Council certification is considered to be the gold standard for identifying a sustainable fishery. The Council's label of approval also reflects consumer preference for seafood products that contribute to healthy sustainable stocks.

Fishery assessments for MSC certification are conducted by an independent body and are consistent with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's guidelines for sustainable fisheries and fisheries eco-labelling. The process generally takes up to two years to complete. Once certified, a fishery must continue to undergo rigorous monitoring to ensure that it continues to meet the highest standards of sustainability.

Ministry of Environment including Environmental Assessment Office

In 2009/10, a total of eight fisheries were in the eco-certification process. Out of these, three fisheries are now MSC eco-certified: B.C.'s Pacific halibut and Pacific hake were certified in the fall of 2009, and B.C.'s North Pacific albacore tuna received certification in March 2010.

The halibut, hake and tuna fisheries accounted for 32 per cent (\$221.4 million) of the total wholesale value of \$686.4 million for B.C. marine-capture fisheries in 2008.



Fishing boats off the coast of Prince Rupert

Report on Resources

Resource Summary Table

Core Business Area	Estimated ¹	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Stewardship	30,768	0,000	30,768	31,535	767
Parks and Protected Areas	31,582	0,000	31,582	31,474	(108)
Water Stewardship	15,993	0,000	15,993	16,577	584
Environmental Protection	3,110	0,000	3,110	1,671	(1,439)
Compliance	15,764	0,000	15,764	15,745	(19)
Executive and Support Services	49,304	0,000	49,304	47,718	(1,586)
Subtotal	146,521	0,000	146,521	144,720	(1,801)
Climate Action Secretariat	7,132	0,000	7,132	5,867	(1,265)
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0,000	400	34	(366)
Sustainable Environment Fund	29,305	0,000	29,305	25,776	(3,529)
Total	183,358	0,000	183,358	176,397	(6,961)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Environmental Stewardship	0,000	0,000	0,000	73	73
Parks and Protected Areas	10,980	0,000	10,980	10,943	(37)
Water Stewardship	0,000	0,000	0,000	331	331
Environmental Protection	0,000	0,000	0,000	541	541
Compliance	0,000	0,000	0,000	121	121
Executive and Support Services	2,025	0,000	2,025	793	(1,232)
Subtotal	13,005	0,000	13,005	12,802	(203)
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0,000	400	292	(108)
Total	13,405	0,000	13,405	13,094	(311)
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)²					
Environmental Stewardship					
Habitat Conservation Trust Receipts	6,000	0,000	6,000	6,005	(5)
Habitat Conservation Trust Disbursements	(6,000)	0,000	(6,000)	(6,004)	4
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0,000	0,000	0,000	1	(1)

Ministry of Environment including Environmental Assessment Office

Total Receipts	6,000	0,000	6,000	6,005	(5)
Total Disbursements	(6,000)	0,000	(6,000)	(6,005)	5
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0,000	0,000	0,000	1	1

¹ The "Estimated" amount corresponds to the *Estimates* as presented to the Legislative Assembly in September 2009. The estimates do not reflect the transfer of shared services budgets to Shared Services BC.

² Other Financing Transactions represent the funds that flow through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.

Operating Expenses

The Ministry had an overall surplus of \$6.961 million in 2009/10. Significant variances include:

- **Environmental Protection** had a surplus of \$1.439 million mainly due to unused grant funding, staffing lag and organizational reductions within the division.
- **Climate Action Secretariat** had a surplus of \$1.265 million mostly due to unused advertising funding.
- **Sustainable Environment Fund** had a surplus of \$3.529 million as a result of the reduced spending in the Environmental Protection Division and the Climate Action Secretariat. Both divisions can recover a portion of their operational expenditures from the fund. Climate Action Secretariat did not make a recovery in 2009/10.
- **Park Enhancement Fund** was \$0.366 million under spent due to lower than anticipated donations and some project delays.

Capital Expenditures

Overall, the Ministry had a surplus of \$0.31 million due primarily to lower than anticipated donations to the Park Enhancement Fund and a slight delay in a computer system implementation. For presentation purposes, the budget is in Executive and Support Services and Parks and Protected Areas but the spending is in all divisions.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

The Environmental Appeal Board (Board) and Forest Appeals Commission (Commission) are independent, quasi-judicial tribunals jointly administered by the same office. They hear appeals of government decisions under several provincial statutes concerned with natural resource management, environmental quality and public health protection.

As well, the Board and the Commission administer other tribunals including the following: the Hospital Appeal Board and the Health Professions Review Board for the Ministry of Health

Services; the Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board for the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport; the Industry Training Appeal Board for the Ministry of Advanced Education. Effective April 1, 2010, the Board and the Commission will administer the Financial Services Tribunal for the Ministry of Finance.

The Board has statutory authority to hear appeals from administrative decisions under the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas (Cap and Trade) Act*, the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the *Water Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act*, the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act* and the *Wildlife Act*. The Commission has statutory authority to hear appeals from administrative decisions made with respect to a variety of matters regulated by the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Forest Act*, the *Range Act*, the *Wildfire Act* and the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*.

While the Board and the Commission operate independently from the Ministry of Environment, their budget vote is the responsibility of the Ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Minister of Environment, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Annual Report.

It is further noted that the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, which was enacted under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, is scheduled to come into force in September 2010 and may have the same membership as the Board and the Commission.

The Board⁹ and Commission¹⁰ each produce an annual report, which is provided to their ministers for tabling in the legislature.

Resource Summary Table

	Estimated ¹	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Environmental Appeal Board/Forest Appeals Commission	2,091	0	2,091	1,274	(817)
Total	2,091	0	2,091	1,274	(817)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Environmental Appeal Board/Forest Appeals Commission	100	0	100	90	(10)
Total	100	0	100	90	(10)

¹ The "Estimated" amount corresponds to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in September 2009.

⁹ Go to www.eab.gov.bc.ca for more information on the Environmental Appeal Board.

¹⁰ Go to www.fac.gov.bc.ca for more information on the Forest Appeals Commission.

Environmental Assessment Office

Highlights of the Year

In 2009/10, the Environmental Assessment Office effectively managed 78 reviewable projects representing over \$35 billion in potential investment in the B.C. economy. During the course of the 2009/10 fiscal year, eight of the 78 reviewable projects were referred to ministers for decision.

Projects Update

Of the eight projects referred to ministers for decision during 2009/10, six were certified within the fiscal year. Included in these eight projects was the Prosperity Gold-Copper Project, which entered into the environmental assessment process in 1995. Of the eight referred projects, six were in the energy sector, one was in the mining sector, and one was in the waste disposal sector.

The Environmental Assessment Office also reviewed and approved requests from proponents for 14 amendments to environmental assessment certificates for previously approved projects.

In total, the projects that completed the environmental assessment process this fiscal year represent \$6.4 billion in potential investment. This represents a \$1.4 billion increase over the potential investment from 2008/09.

Intergovernmental

In 2009/10, 65 per cent of all projects under review by the Environmental Assessment Office were also confirmed by the federal government as subject to, or likely subject to, review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Significant progress was made with the federal government in 2009/10 on a range of initiatives designed to minimize duplication and enhance harmonization between provincial and federal environmental assessment processes. In November 2009, the Environmental Assessment Office signed an agreement with the federal government to delegate federal review process responsibilities for the proposed Northwest Transmission Line Project to the Province, with each government retaining authority to make final decisions. At the same time, British Columbia continues to advocate for an amendment to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to give the federal government the power to enter into equivalency agreements with provinces, with the ultimate goal of a single comprehensive review for each project.

During 2009/10, the Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency also made progress in implementing joint training and detailed joint work planning for projects undergoing harmonized review.

Purpose of the Office

The Environmental Assessment Office was created in 1995 to coordinate the assessment of proposed major projects in British Columbia in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This role continued for the Environmental Assessment Office when government proclaimed the new *Environmental Assessment Act* in December 2002.

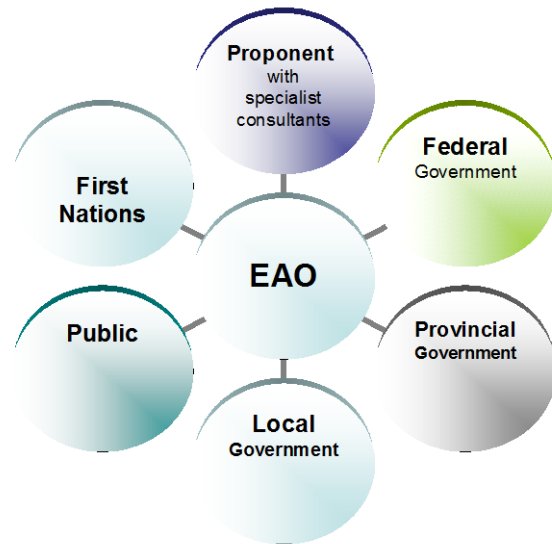
Environmental assessments examine the potential for adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects from the construction, operation and, where required, from the decommissioning stage of a project. For any project requiring an environmental assessment certificate under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the proponent must successfully complete an environmental assessment and receive a certificate from the Environmental Assessment Office before other provincial agencies can issue permits and approvals for the project.

There are three ways a project can be designated reviewable under the *Environmental Assessment Act*:

- Projects in the following sectors that meet or exceed the size thresholds established by the Reviewable Projects Regulation (B.C. Reg. 370/2002) are automatically subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*: industrial, mining, energy, water management (dams, dykes, and groundwater extraction), waste disposal, food processing, transportation and tourism (destination resorts).
- The Minister of Environment may order the assessment of a project if the Minister believes the project has the potential for significant adverse effects and where it is in the public interest to do so.
- Project proponents may also apply to the Environmental Assessment Office to have their project reviewed under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The environmental assessment process administered by the Environmental Assessment Office provides for:

- opportunities for First Nations, local government, government agencies, and all interested parties to provide input and identify issues;



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- consultation with First Nations to address and, where appropriate, accommodate potential effects on established or asserted aboriginal rights and title;
- an accountable and transparent assessment process with easy access to key assessment information;
- technical studies to identify any potentially adverse environmental, social, economic, heritage or health effects of a proposed project;
- strategies and measures to avoid, prevent or reduce potential adverse effects through mitigation or project redesign;
- preparation of a comprehensive assessment report summarizing issues and findings at the conclusion of the process;
- preparation of a recommendations document, with reasons, that provides advice to ministers on whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate for a project; and
- assignment of conditions and compliance reporting requirements to the proponent in an environmental assessment certificate.



The CSL Acadian at the Orca Sand and Gravel Quarry Marine Terminal near Port McNeil, Vancouver Island

Strategic Context

Despite the global economic challenges of 2009/10, the workload of the Environmental Assessment Office remained high. In 2009/10, the potential capital investment value for projects in the environmental assessment process totalled over \$35 billion, although some assessments were inactive throughout the year. Energy and mining project proposals continued to comprise the majority of projects in the assessment process.

In conducting its assessments, the Environmental Assessment Office is guided by the evolving case law and government policy related to the obligations of the Crown to consult with First Nations. Among other things, the Environmental Assessment Office seeks First Nations' input on its project-scoping decisions and procedural orders, encourages and helps fund First Nations' participation in technical working groups, and makes provisions for First Nations' discussions outside of working groups where necessary, including government-to-government consultation. The Environmental Assessment Office also actively encourages proponents to meet with First Nations at their earliest opportunity to learn about First Nations' communities and First Nations' interests and concerns. The Environmental Assessment Office provides First Nations the opportunity to include their submissions in the materials that the Office provides to ministers to support their decision-making.

Because a significant number of projects require assessment under both provincial and federal law, the Environmental Assessment Office works closely with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to minimize duplication and overlap, and to maximize efficiencies wherever possible. Considerable progress was achieved in 2009/10 and more remains to be done.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: The environmental assessment process is effective and efficient For greater detail see pages 44 to 47	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
1.1 Ensure the process is easy to understand and complexity is minimized Percentage of application reviews in the B.C. environmental process completed within 180 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.C. process only • Joint B.C./Canada process 	100% 80%	83% NOT ACHIEVED 100% EXCEEDED
1.2 Ensure the Crown's duties to First Nations are discharged and that First Nations are engaged in environmental assessments Percentage of potentially affected First Nations engaged in the environmental assessment process	80%	81% ACHIEVED
Goal 2: The environmental assessment process is valued For greater detail see pages 47 to 50	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
2.1 Demonstrate that all interests and perspectives are considered Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process	80%	N/A
2.2 Ensure that the benefits of environmental assessment are recognized Number of requests to opt in to the environmental assessment process	2 or more	3 ACHIEVED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: The environmental assessment process is effective and efficient

Given its comprehensive nature, the environmental assessment process necessarily requires a significant investment of time and resources by all participants. The Environmental Assessment Office has a strong national reputation for conducting effective and efficient assessments, and it is important to preserve and build upon this success. In particular, it is essential to continue work with the federal government to eliminate duplication where possible, and to harmonize processes in those cases where both federal and provincial assessments are undertaken.

Objective 1.1: Ensure the process is easy to understand and complexity is minimized

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- entering into agreements with the federal government to use legislative tools to minimize duplication, and to continue enhancing harmonization through joint work plans and joint staff training;
- engaging First Nations early in the process, providing capacity funding, and making procedural decisions that are timely and principled;
- ensuring that project information is made widely available through the electronic Project Information Centre (e-PIC) on the Environmental Assessment Office's website (www.eao.gov.bc.ca/) and through consultation activities such as open houses;
- reviewing and streamlining policy documents, practices and procedures; and
- establishing clear service standards and commitments to proponents, First Nations and the general public, and communicating these through the Environmental Assessment Office's Fairness and Service Code and outreach activities.



Dokie wind energy project near Chetwynd

Performance Results

Performance Measure 1: Application reviews in the B.C. environmental assessment process are completed within 180 days

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Percentage of application reviews in the B.C. environmental process completed within 180 days:				
• B.C. process only	100%	100%	100%	83% NOT ACHIEVED
• Joint B.C./Canada process	100%	71%	80%	100% EXCEEDED

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office

Discussion of Results

The legislated time limits in the *Environmental Assessment Act*, including a 180-day limit for review of applications for environmental assessment certificates, offer process certainty and are important for effective planning and decision-making. Once an application is accepted for review, the Environmental Assessment Office strives to complete the environmental assessment within the 180-day time limit. In 2009/10, the Environmental Assessment Office completed assessments of eight projects and referred these projects to ministers for decision. Of the eight reviews, six were solely provincial. The Environmental Assessment Office completed five of the six provincial reviews within the 180-day time limit, with one project delayed by 14 days to ensure due diligence in terms of consultation following an administrative error by the Environmental Assessment Office.

Two reviews were subject to both federal and provincial assessments. The Environmental Assessment Office completed both of these reviews within 180 days, while the federal reviews are still ongoing. Overall, the average length of time taken for the Environmental Assessment Office to complete the review of applications in 2009/10 was 178 days.

Office Response

The provincial assessment of one application was completed 14 days past the 180-day review period due to an administrative error involving correspondence to a First Nation. The Environmental Assessment Office has implemented measures to ensure that such a delay is

avoided in the future. Such correspondence from the Environmental Assessment Office now undergoes a redundancy measure of being sent by registered mail and faxed or emailed to ensure timely delivery to recipients is confirmed.

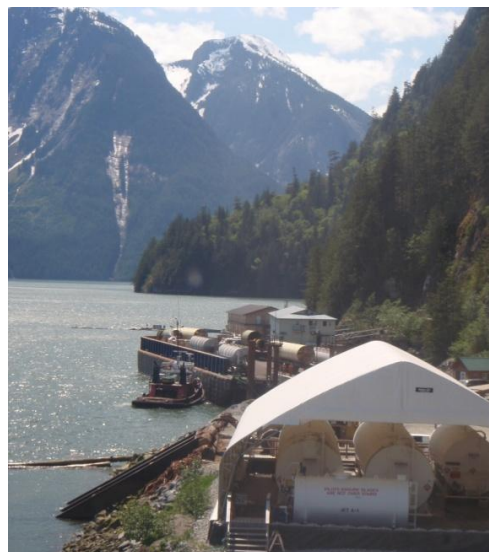
While the review of the two joint federal-provincial environmental assessments in 2009/10 were completed by the Environmental Assessment Office within the provincially mandated 180-day timeframe, the federal assessments for these projects are still ongoing. The Environmental Assessment Office will continue to press the federal government to complete timely reviews and will continue to make decisions within the 180-day timeframe, even where federal authorities are not in a position to do the same.

Objective 1.2: Ensure the Crown’s duties to First Nations are discharged and that First Nations are engaged in environmental assessments

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ensuring early communication and consultation with all First Nations potentially affected by a proposed project;
- acknowledging that First Nations have rights regarding consultation and accommodation that are different from other participants in the environmental assessment process;
- providing First Nations with capacity funding;
- supporting the First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group; and
- enhancing coordination with the federal government on First Nations consultation through joint initiatives, including staff training workshops, information sharing, and tools and procedures improvement.



Barge landing at the East Toba River Montrose Creek Hydroelectric Project near Powell River

Performance Results

Performance Measure 2: Percentage of potentially affected First Nations engaged in the environmental assessment process

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Percentage of potentially affected First Nations engaged in the environmental assessment process	91%	79%	80%	81% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office

Discussion of Results

The Environmental Assessment Office is required to meet the Crown's consultation and accommodation duties to First Nations – duties which exist in addition to whatever other opportunities First Nations may have as interested participants in an environmental assessment. For this reason, the Environmental Assessment Office consults First Nations at the outset of the assessment process, and discusses the manner and degree of consultation to be undertaken.

Although the Environmental Assessment Office cannot control whether First Nations choose to participate in the environmental assessment process, First Nations' perspectives on a project are important, and the Environmental Assessment Office makes every effort to seek their participation.

In the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan*, this performance measure has been broken into two parts: (1) the percentage of potentially affected First Nations given the opportunity to engage in the environmental assessment process, and (2) the percentage of First Nations engaged in the assessment process. This recognizes that all First Nations potentially affected by a proposed project have the right to be consulted in the environmental assessment process, though they may not choose to participate in the process.

Goal 2: The environmental assessment process is valued

In addition to being effective and efficient, environmental assessments must be valued. Value is achieved by ensuring that the full range of issues and interests has been considered and that ministers are duly informed about both the benefits and potential adverse effects of a project when deciding whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate. This is particularly important in circumstances involving large-scale projects, for which there are often divergent views and considerable public interest.

Objective 2.1: Demonstrate that all interests and perspectives are considered

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- ensuring that all assessment reports consider the potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects of a project, as required by the *Environmental Assessment Act*; and
- meeting on a regular basis with the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee to receive feedback and suggestions for improving the environmental assessment process to ensure it is valued.

Performance Measure 3: Satisfaction with the assessment process

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process	64%	N/A*	80%	N/A*

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office

*BC Stats conducted a proponent survey every two years.

Discussion of Results

In previous years, a BC Stats survey was undertaken with proponents who were asked to rate the Environmental Assessment Office on a scale of 1 to 10, regardless of where their projects were in the assessment process. As BC Stats surveys were undertaken every two years, in alternate years, the Environmental Assessment Office sought proponents' views on the delivery of the environmental assessment process through periodic telephone interviews and meetings. In 2008/09, the last fiscal year this performance measure was used, the Executive Director met or spoke with 35 proponents to obtain their feedback on the environmental assessment process. At that time, proponents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the environmental assessment process.

This performance measure has been discontinued in the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan* because it did not measure the satisfaction of all participants in the environmental assessment process. In addition to the proponent, the environmental assessment process includes First Nations, government regulatory agencies, the public and other stakeholders.

Instead of surveying proponents in 2009/10, the Environmental Assessment Office continued to solicit feedback on the environmental assessment process from interested parties on an ongoing basis, in particular, from the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. The Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee is co-chaired by the Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and includes a range of

organizations representing environmental and industry interests, as well as the First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group. The committee currently meets semi-annually and provides a forum for discussing issues of common interest; in particular, refinements to policy and means of enhancing public and stakeholder participation in the environmental assessment process. For example, based on feedback provided by the committee, the Environmental Assessment Office produced the Environmental Assessment Office 2009 User Guide (available at www.eao.gov.bc.ca/pdf/EAO_User_Guide_2009.pdf), which is intended to help improve proponent and stakeholder understanding of the environmental assessment process.

Objective 2.2: Ensure that the benefits of environmental assessment are recognized

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- demonstrating transparency in decision-making and clarity of process; and
- engaging in outreach activities with First Nations, industry associations and the general public regarding the benefits of the environmental assessment process.

Performance Measure 4: Requests to opt in to the assessment process

Performance Measure	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of requests to opt in to the environmental assessment process	N/A	10	2 or more	3 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office

Discussion of Results

The Environmental Assessment Office strives to ensure that the assessment process is valued. This performance measure is based on the premise that project proponents are more likely to opt in to the environmental assessment process if they consider that it provides value. An assessment of value includes consideration of whether the process enhances the sustainability of the project, whether it enhances public support or acceptance, whether it provides significant confidence that the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate has been discharged and whether the process assists in the coordination of other regulatory agencies (federal and provincial).

Ministry of Environment including Environmental Assessment Office

While the number of opt-in requests varies from year to year due to factors such as global economic conditions and project timing, the Environmental Assessment Office expects to receive two or more opt-in requests annually over the next three fiscal years. Despite the economic challenges of the 2009/10 fiscal year, the Environmental Assessment Office met this target with three opt-in requests.



Construction on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

Report on Resources

Resource Summary Table

	Estimated ¹	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Total	9,396	0,000	9,396	8,578	(818)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

¹ The "Estimated" amount corresponds to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in September 2009.

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment's vision, mission and values can be found here:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2010/vision_mission_values.pdf

The Ministry of Environment's organizational chart can be found here:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2010/org_chart.pdf

Descriptions of the Ministry of Environment's core business areas can be found here:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2010/core_business.pdf

A listing of the legislation administered by the Ministry of Environment can be found here:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2010/leg.pdf

Environmental Assessment Office

Environmental Assessment Office's Fairness and Service Code can be found here:

www.eao.gov.bc.ca/pdf/EAO_FairnessAndServiceCode_Jan09.pdf

Appendix B: Ministry of Environment and Environmental Assessment Office Contact Information

Ministry of Environment Contact Information

Headquarters

Victoria

Telephone: 250 387-1161

Fax: 250 387-5669

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env/

Regional Offices

Coast Region

West Coast

Nanaimo Office:

Telephone: 250 751-3100

Fax: 250 751-3103

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/

Other offices: Bella Coola/Hagensborg, Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

South Coast

Surrey Office:

Telephone: 604 582-5200

Fax: 604 930-7119

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/

Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

Southern Interior Region

Cariboo/Thompson /Okanagan

Kamloops Office:

Telephone: 250 371-6200

Fax: 250 828-4000

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/

Cariboo/Thompson/Okanagan (continued)

Penticton Office:

Telephone: 250 490-8200

Fax: 250 490-2231

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/

Williams Lake Office:

Telephone: 250 398-4530

Fax: 250 398-4214

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/

Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, , Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

Kootenay/Boundary

Cranbrook Office:

Telephone: 250 489-8540

Fax: 250 489-8506

Nelson Office:

Telephone: 250 354-6333

Fax: 250 354-6332

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/

Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

Northern Region

Skeena

Smithers Office:

Telephone: 250 847-7260

Fax: 250 847-7591

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/

Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

Omineca

Prince George Office:

Telephone: 250 565-6135

Fax: 250 565-6629

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/

Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

Peace

Fort St. John Office:

Telephone: 250 787-3411

Fax: 250 787-3490

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/

Other offices: Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hotsprings

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