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BC PARKS FOREST MANAGEMENT

BC Parks is implementing forest management in Ellison Provincial Park to reduce the spread of western pine beetle and mountain pine beetle, and for the removal of hazardous forest fuel to reduce the risk of wildfires and to increase public safety. Fuel reduction is required because of the increase in forest in-growth, resulting in unnatural and hazardous fuel accumulations. Similar fuel management activities have been undertaken in other parks in the Okanagan Region, including Fintry Provincial Park, Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park and White Lake Grasslands Protected Area.

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Discover your BC Parks by clicking on the logo above.

CLIMATE-CHANGE CHALLENGE NOW FRONT AND CENTRE IN B.C.

Climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases have moved to the forefront for British Columbians with the delivery of the Throne Speech on Feb. 13.

The B.C. Government will build on its reputation for environmental stewardship by establishing targets, actions and processes aimed at reducing B.C. greenhouse gases by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

"This is the right thing to do and I'm looking forward to working with British Columbians to meet the challenge," said Environment Minister Barry

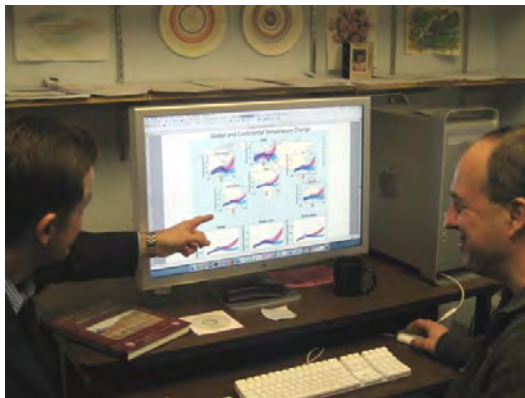
Penner. "There's no question that it will be a tough road to travel but it's a journey that will also bring new opportunities for this province, for Canada and for the world."

There are several initiatives that will be employed to tackle the challenges of global warming and turn back the clock on greenhouse gas emissions.

The targets government sets will place emissions 10 per cent under 1990 levels. Interim targets will be established for 2012 and 2016 through a Climate Action Team that will determine the most credible, aggressive and economically viable targets. Longer term emission targets will

be set for 2050.

The Climate Action Team will be asked to identify practicable options and actions for making the Government of B.C. carbon neutral by 2010 and by 2016, all electricity produced in B.C. will be required to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions.



Environment Minister Barry Penner discusses global and continental temperature change trends with University of Victoria's Dr. Andrew Weaver.

"These are exciting times," said Penner. "I am committed to helping Premier Gordon Campbell make these objectives a reality."

Effective immediately, B.C. will become the first jurisdiction in North America, if not the world, to

require 100 per cent carbon sequestration for any coal-fired electricity project.

All electricity produced in B.C. will be required to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2016 and greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas industry will be reduced to 2000 levels by 2016, including a zero-flaring requirement at producing wells and production facilities.

A new \$25-million Innovative Clean Energy Fund will be established to encourage the commercialization of alternative energy solutions such as bioenergy, geothermal energy, tidal, run-of-the river, solar, and wind power.

The energy plan will require that 90 per cent of B.C.'s electricity come from clean, renewable sources.

Tailpipe emission standards for all new vehicles sold in B.C. will be phased in between 2009 and 2016, reducing carbon dioxide emissions from autos by 30 per cent. [* More >>](#)

MESSAGE FROM ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BARRY PENNER

Those hoping for dramatic change in how B.C. handles greenhouse gases were not disappointed as Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo read the Throne speech Feb. 13 at the opening of British Columbia's 38th parliament.

The B.C. Government's commitment to greenhouse gas reduction is stated in clear, unequivocal language in the Throne Speech. No, it won't be easy. Yes, it will be a huge challenge to address the problem of greenhouse gases but then again, British Columbians have been known to rise to a challenge.

We've experienced some pretty wild weather in British Columbia in recent months. We have been hit by the 14 storms since the beginning of November. In extreme cases, blizzard conditions trapped motorists on highways and the Provincial Emergency Program had to be called out to rescue people trapped in the snow. [* More >>](#)

B.C. SNOWPACK ABOVE AVERAGE

Following a series of intense Pacific frontal systems from late October to mid-January, well above normal snowpacks have accumulated throughout much of the province. These include record high values for Feb. 1 for a number of locations on Vancouver Island, the south coast, mid coast and north coast, as well as the Skeena and Nechako basins.

Based on the widespread heavy snow conditions throughout much of the province, the River Forecast Centre is forecasting well above normal spring runoff in many basins. Whether or not

flooding occurs will depend on a number of factors, such as the amount of snowfall that occurs during the remainder of the winter and the effects of weather on snowmelt in May and June.

By Feb. 1, on average, about two-thirds of the peak snowpack for the year has accumulated. The above normal snow accumulation provides a favourable outlook for spring and summer streamflow and water supply. This is particularly the case for the Peace River and Nechako basins, and the Thompson-Nicola area, which experienced a significant drought in 2006. [* More >>](#)



Minister Penner (right) and Snow Survey Specialist Janis Wright measure the snow above Chilliwack River.

* To view the Environment Report online, go to www.env.gov.bc.ca/pac/envrep/

STORMS CLOSE TRAILS IN VANCOUVER ISLAND PARKS

Blowdown and flooding following the recent winter storms resulted in a number of closures in provincial parks on Vancouver Island.

The hazards presented by fallen trees and branches and other debris, saturated and unstable ground, and flooding prompted closures of a number of trails and facilities in many Island provincial parks.

Fallen trees and hazards closed Prospector Trail in Goldstream Provincial Park, the China Beach day-use area and campground, the French Beach group site and some trails in MacMillan Provincial Park on the highway to Port Alberni. In addition, portions of the Juan de Fuca Trail are closed with hazards and some damage to bridges.

The boat launch at Sproat Lake remains open, but the campground is closed. The access road to Schoen Lake is washed out and the park is closed. Fillongley Park on Denman Island remains closed. Many other parks and trails have numerous trees down and other hazards.

Closures are indicated by gated roads or ribbon roped across the trails and facilities. Visitors who do enter the parks are asked to observe the postings for their own personal safety. Visitors should also be aware of falling debris, cracked and leaning trees and unstable ground on any of the trails and around facilities and be prepared to leave the park areas in any wind events and when trees are snow laden. * [More >>](#)



A few hundred trees were blown over at the China Beach Provincial Park day use area during the windstorms that damaged many of the provincial parks throughout British Columbia.

B.C. SIGNS LAND USE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST NATIONS

The Government of British Columbia recently signed government-to-government agreements with the Kitasoo Xai'xais and Wuikinuxv Nations for the collaborative management of new and existing conservancies and protected areas on the central coast of British Columbia.

"This agreement is a cornerstone for the sustainability of our community," said Chief Frank Johnson of the Wuikinuxv Nation. "It will encourage tourism in a way that protects our cultural sites and heritage, while providing jobs and economic development opportunities for the Wuikinuxv people."

"These agreements will benefit all parties involved," said Environment Minister Barry Penner. "It will allow us to better protect the natural resources of these areas, while preserving their link to First Nations' heritage and culture."

Both Collaborative Management Agreements for conservancies and protected areas focus on park planning, identifying and developing economic activities, building capacity, and creating a forum for both parties to discuss issues of common interest. * [More >>](#)

The Kitasoo and Wuikinuxv territories lie in the heart of the Spirit Bear Rainforest on the central coast of British Columbia. There are five existing protected areas in Kitasoo territory, and 10 new conservancies, including the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy on Princess Royal Island. Wuikinuxv territory encompasses two existing and 11 new conservancies. New and existing protected areas will total over 50 per cent of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation territory and about 20 per cent of the Wuikinuxv Nation territory.

"This land management agreement provides a framework for the Kitasoo and the Government of B.C. to work together to protect our cultural and ecological values, including the Spirit Bear," Kitasoo administrator Percy Starr said. "It will also encourage low-key Kitasoo tourism, which will provide jobs for our people, while protecting the fish and foods they rely on."

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT REPORT RELEASED

The third Quarterly Compliance and Enforcement Summary for 2006 has been released by the Ministry of Environment.

The summary reports on compliance and enforcement actions taken across the entire Ministry between July 1 and Sept. 30, 2006.

The Ministry pursues compliance with environmental laws and regulations through education, verification and enforcement. The goal is to encourage compliance to prevent damage before it occurs and apply the appropriate response if individuals or businesses do not comply with environmental standards. * [More >>](#)



Environment Minister Barry Penner surveys the tree-fall damage to a campsite at Cultus Lake Provincial Park. Wind storms around the province caused extensive damage to many B.C. Parks.