

The ministry manages and delivers a wide range of programs and services that support the environmental goals and objectives of the province.

Five of its core business areas are aligned with and delivered by five ministry divisions: Environmental Stewardship Division, Water Stewardship Division, Parks and Protected Areas Division, Environmental Protection Division and Compliance Division.

The sixth core business area, Executive and Support Services, includes the Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division.

The Corporate Services Division also provides support services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Integrated Land Management Bureau.

Environmental Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on:

- providing provincial leadership on the effective management and stewardship of fish and wildlife species, ecosystems, parks and protected areas;
- collaboratively developing standards for the use and protection of species and habitats and allocation of natural resources for hunting, angling, trapping and wildlife viewing;
- collecting, maintaining and managing the scientific information necessary to ensure these standards and the decisions that support them are informed by the best available science;
- collaborative management and sustainable use of provincial ocean resources; and
- ensuring long-lasting social and economic benefits for British Columbians through stable and diverse marine fisheries that can compete in strong domestic and global markets;

- supporting seafood traceability and third party certification programs and marketing the sustainability and quality of B.C.'s seafood industry in the domestic and global marketplace; and
- administering the *College of Applied Biology Act*, *Ecological Reserve Act*, *Wildlife Act* and *Fish Protection Act*.

Water Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Water Stewardship Division. Key programs and functions focus on:

- providing provincial leadership, ensuring that British Columbia's water resources and aquatic ecosystems are safe, sustainable and valued by all;
- administering the *Water Act*, *Water Protection Act* and *Water Utility Act* through the Comptroller of Water Rights and administering the *Dike Maintenance Act* and the *Drainage, Ditch and Dike Act* through the Inspector of Dikes office;
- protecting and managing water quality and quantity to optimize the benefits and sustainability of the province's water resources for communities, the economy and the environment through water use planning, source water protection and water utility regulation;
- developing innovative approaches to water governance, advancing science-based decision-making to support fair and sustainable water allocation and the protection of surface and groundwater resources, and fostering water stewardship through public awareness, education, partnerships and capacity building; and
- creating legislation and non-regulatory tools and carrying out statutory and public safety functions that support fair and sustainable water allocation, protect groundwater resources and predict and respond to the risk of floods, droughts and other hydrologic changes.

Parks and Protected Areas

This core business area is led by the Parks and Protected Areas

Division. Key programs and services focus on:

- providing healthy, outdoor recreation opportunities in parks and protected areas for British Columbians and ensuring that the economic potential of B.C.'s natural resources is realized in an enduring and sustainable way; and
- establishing legislation (e.g., the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*), policies and procedures that provide direction for the protection and conservation of our natural environment.

Environmental Protection

This core business area is led by the Environmental Protection Division. Key programs and services focus on:

- leading the provincial climate change initiative;
- setting high environmental standards for the protection of water, land and air;
- focusing on protecting environmental quality;
- promoting sustainable environmental practices through education and outreach, regulation of discharges to the environment, monitoring of environmental outcomes and reporting on compliance;
- implementing the industry-led stewardship program for the reuse and recycling of post-consumer products;
- managing high risk environmental emergencies; and
- administering the *Environmental Management Act*, *Industrial Operation Compensation Act*, *Integrated Pest Management Act* and the *Sustainable Environmental Fund Act*.

Compliance

This core business area is led by the Compliance Division. The Division provides ministry-wide leadership and services in support of compliance management. Key programs and functions focus on:

- providing environmental investigation and enforcement services;

- providing expertise in human/wildlife conflict management;
- providing strategic corporate guidance and leadership to support an effective regulatory compliance regime; and
- providing compliance policy and planning tools.

Compliance activities include educating citizens to become better stewards, ensuring the understanding of, and compliance with, regulatory requirements, and reporting on compliance and enforcement actions through quarterly public reporting.

Executive and Support Services

The Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division lead this core business area and support other core business areas to achieve ministry objectives. Key programs and services focus on:

- policy and legislation;
- intergovernmental relations;
- service plans and annual service plan reports;
- tools to support effective decision-making;
- State of the Environment reporting;
- economic analysis;
- strategic and annual corporate business planning;
- program evaluation and business reviews
- performance management;
- strategic human resources;
- finance and administration;
- information resource management; and
- information, privacy and record services.