



Alberta contains about 38 million hectares of forest. Alberta Environment and Parks works to ensure forests remain vibrant in Alberta by supporting a policy of sustainable forest management designed to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

In 1930, the federal government transferred ownership of natural resources to the provincial governments. The *Provincial Lands Act* of 1931 provided for timber dispositions. Then, in 1949, the *Forests Act* gave control and administration of public lands to the Department of Lands and Forests. The Act and its regulations, updated numerous times since then, provide for the administration, allocation and reforestation of all timber on provincial crown lands.

For the purposes of administration of crown timber, the *Forests Act* provides for the dividing of forest lands into forest management units and the determination of annual allowable cuts of timber. It also provides for the disposal of crown timber through forest management agreements, timber quotas and licences, and timber permits.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

The *Forests Act* allows Alberta Environment and Parks to develop regulations that may adopt or incorporate any rule, directive, code, standard or guideline that relates to any matter under this Act.

### **Compliance Assurance**

Essential to sustainable forest management is ensuring forestry-related regulations and policy directives are followed. The department monitors compliance by conducting planned and random audits of forest operations and timber production and by conducting field inspections. There is also self-reporting by forest companies and individuals. Good management of Crown land by all forest users depends on these activities.

Every suspected violation that comes to the attention of our department is assessed and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner.

Various education, prevention and enforcement tools are available under the Act, including administrative penalties, enforcement orders, seizures, stop orders, suspending or cancelling timber harvest rights or dispositions and prosecutions.

### **For More Information**

For more information on the *Forests Act*, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

- [aep.alberta](http://aep.alberta)