

# WORKING FORESTS

THE ROLE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT  
IN ALBERTA'S ENVIRONMENT,  
ECONOMY & CULTURE





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**FOREST MANAGEMENT  
ENSURES JOBS & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS  
THE PROVINCE, HELPS  
DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY &  
IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE  
THAT CAN BE STEWARDED  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”**

— KEVIN ZAHARA, MAYOR OF EDSON

Over 60% of Alberta is covered by forests, and 70 communities around the province are economically dependent on the forests around them. More than 40,000 Albertans either work directly within the forest industry or in jobs that exist as a result of forestry.

Our forests are home to an abundance of plant, animal and insect species; store carbon, produce oxygen; and provide a natural playground for people to enjoy all year round. They are woven into our history, families are dependent on them and they will play a crucial role in the future of our province.

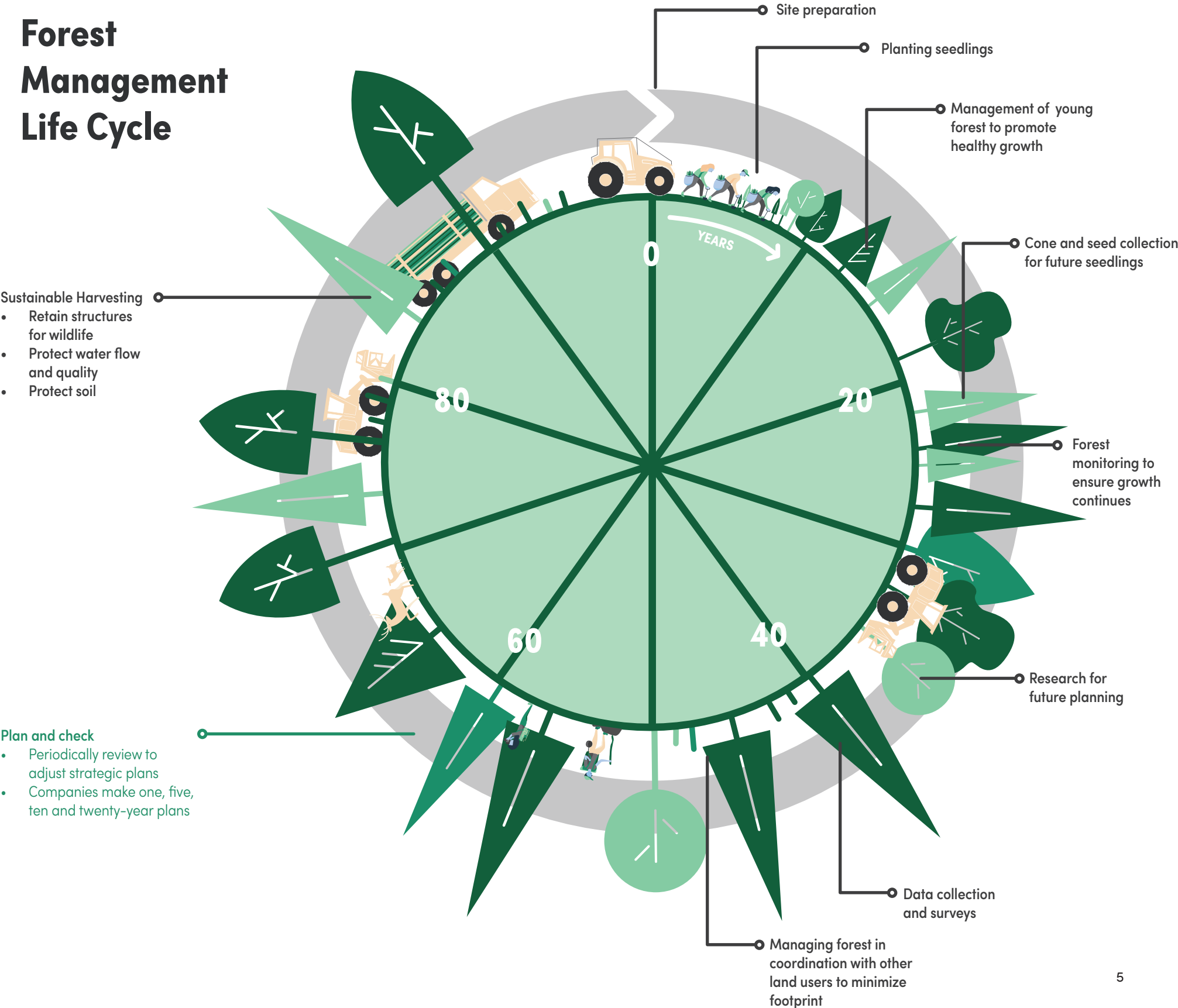


# A WELL-MANAGED FOREST IS VITAL TO ALBERTA

The story of forestry and forest management in Alberta has been cut short – too often, it is assumed that harvesting trees from a section of forest is the end of its life, the end of the story.

The truth is that harvesting trees is just one stage in a continuous forest management cycle, setting the stage for regeneration. A well-managed forest is sustainable and safe for the communities it surrounds. Over the course of its life, it will improve water quality, protect species diversity and sequester carbon.

## Forest Management Life Cycle





Red trees show the rapid spread of Mountain Pine Beetle across Alberta

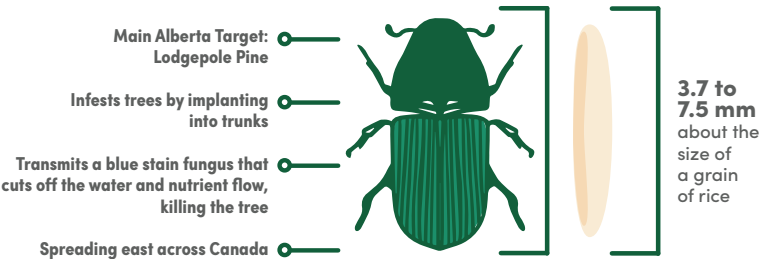
# IF WE DON'T USE IT, WE'LL LOSE IT.

While trees in ecosystems such as rainforests can live for centuries, the species indigenous to Alberta's boreal forest have much shorter lifespans. They reach maturity at 80-100 years, and those that escape fire will generally succumb to insects and disease before they reach 150 years.

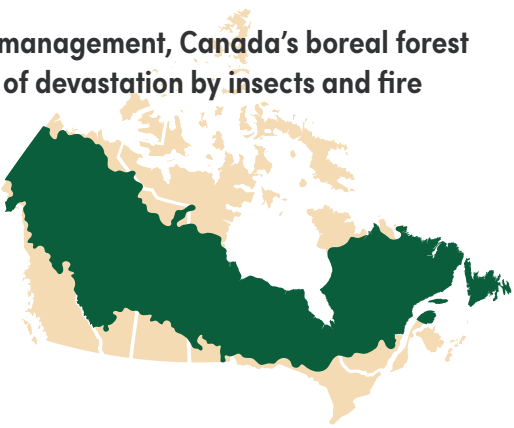
Without active management of working forests, old and dying trees accumulate, creating ideal conditions for forest fires or insect infestations. These events are part of a forest's natural life cycle, but they can have a devastating impact on the communities and forests caught in their path. The forest industry harvests trees from our mature forests as they reach the end of their lives and converts them into useful products. This process helps maintain the forest's natural cycle while reducing the risk of fire, insect infestation and disease.

## Alberta Forests: Natural Disturbances

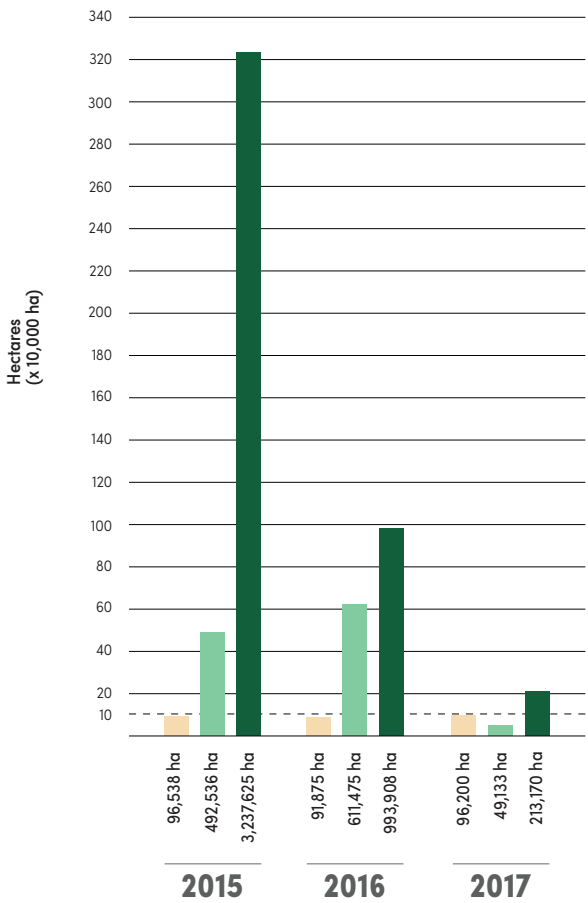
### Meet the Mountain Pine Beetle:



Without management, Canada's boreal forest is at risk of devastation by insects and fire



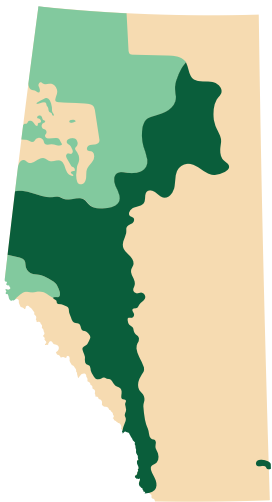
### How Does Harvesting Compare?



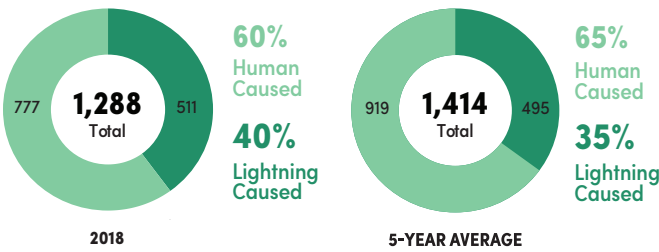
■ Hectares Harvested
 ■ Hectares Destroyed by Fire
 ■ Hectares Defoliated by Insects

### Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Spread in Alberta

● MPB infestation  
● Areas at risk



### Recent Wildfires in Alberta

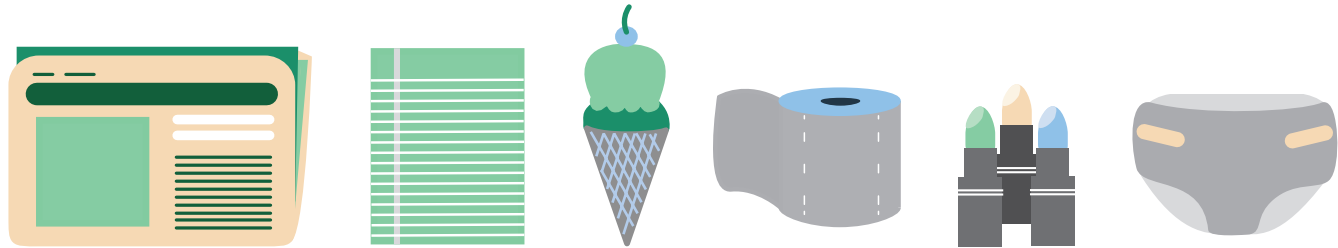




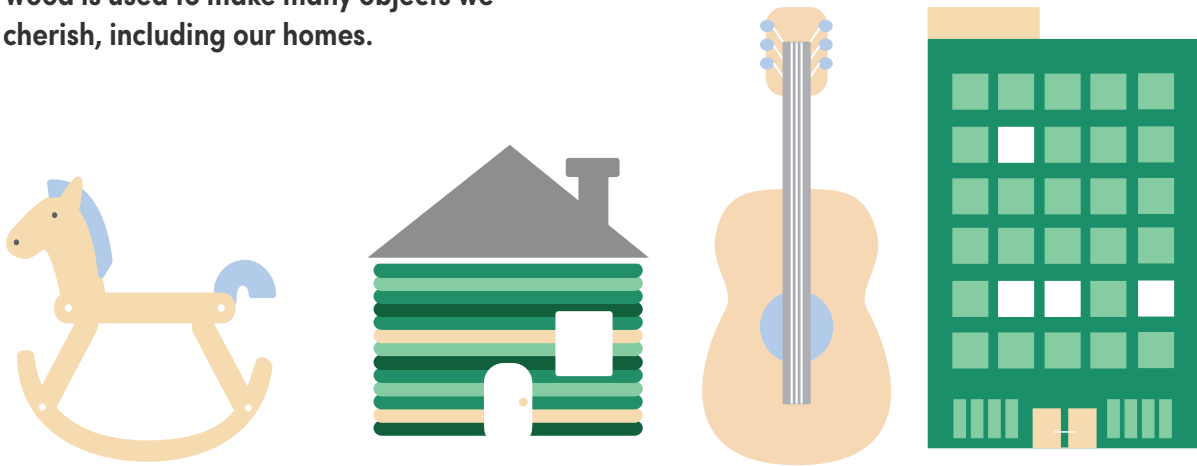
# YOU USE THINGS MADE FROM ALBERTA TREES

Forestry is Alberta’s third largest resource industry and our forest products are some of the best in the world — thanks to our cold climate, our trees grow slowly, which makes Alberta wood exceptionally strong. We ship Alberta forest products around the world for use in a variety of goods. Wood is also a renewable resource, making it a more environmentally friendly alternative to building materials like concrete and steel.

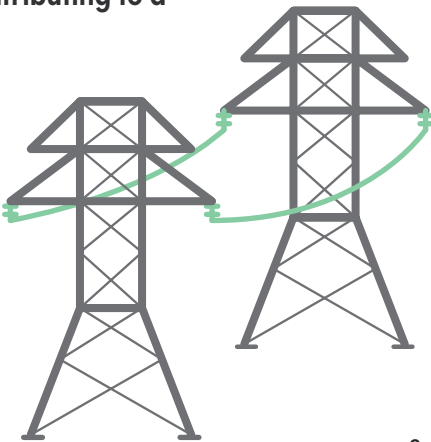
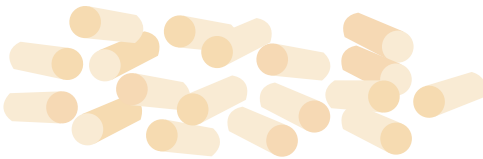
Wood derivatives, such as pulp or cellulose, can be found in many common goods.



Wood is used to make many objects we cherish, including our homes.



Wood waste is used to create renewable, low-carbon energy that replaces fossil fuels. Alberta’s forest industry is contributing to a low-carbon economy.





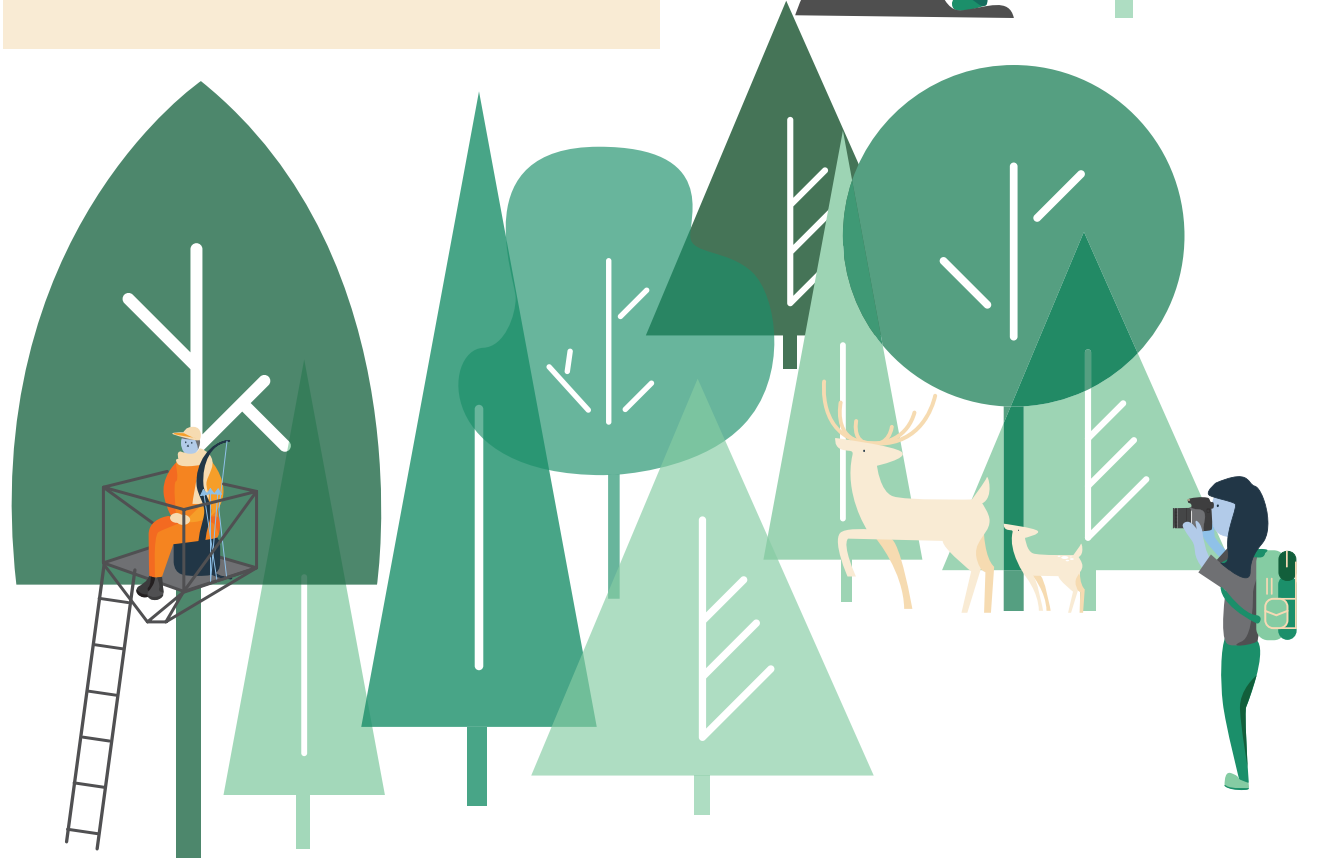
# A WELL-MANAGED FOREST IS GOOD FOR ALBERTANS

Forestry’s role in Alberta’s economy is sustainable, too; a well-managed forest provides reliable and well-paying jobs for thousands of Albertans now and for generations to come. Many communities in Alberta were built around forestry and count forest management as essential to their economic and social fabric.

Our forests are also a rich social and cultural resource. Responsible forest management provides an accessible outdoor playground for people to enjoy hiking, hunting, photography and other activities year round. The beauty of Alberta’s natural landscape, including its forested areas, is a key driver of tourism to our province and a point of pride for Albertans. Foresters also work closely with Indigenous communities to identify and preserve areas of spiritual and cultural significance within our forests.



“  
**IN MY BUSINESS, WE REALLY ENJOY TAKING PEOPLE TO SHOW THEM THE NEW CHANGE TO THE FOREST, THE NEW GROWTH THAT IS A RESULT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT.”**  
— LORNE HINDBO  
OWNER & OPERATOR, SOUTH RAM OUTFITTERS



A recreational and cultural resource





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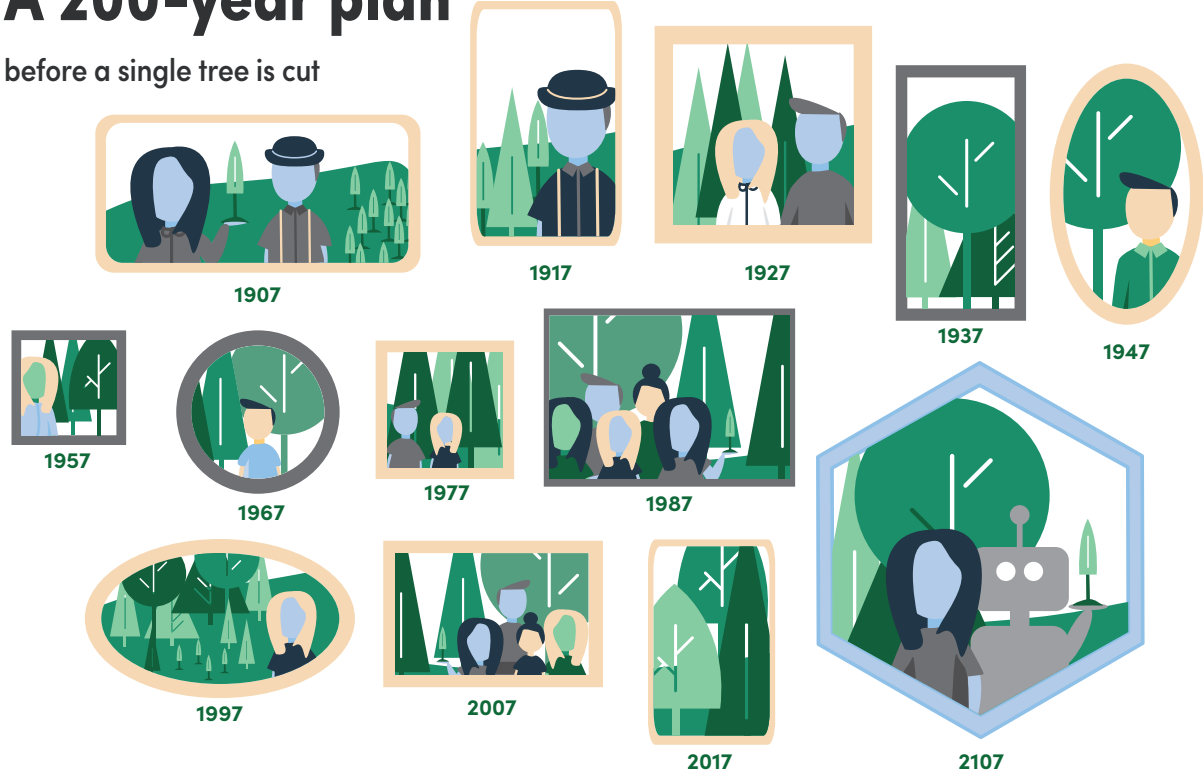
WE BELIEVE THAT WORKING FORESTS CAN BE MANAGED TO SUSTAIN HEALTHY AND ABUNDANT WETLANDS AND WATERFOWL FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.”

— BEV GINGRAS  
HEAD OF BOREAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS,  
DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

# ALBERTA’S FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE WORLD-LEADING

## A 200-year plan

before a single tree is cut



There is a narrative that suggests that active forest management is detrimental. The reality is that forest management results in forests that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

Alberta forestry companies must each develop a 200-year plan to demonstrate effective forest management, outlining:

- How much wood will be harvested,
- How wildlife habitats will be maintained,
- Soil quality,
- Water quality and quantity, and
- Community consultation.

These plans must be redone every ten years to track the effect management has had on the forest. While natural processes like fire or disease can wipe out entire forests, put nearby communities in danger and negatively impact water supply, foresters are strategic in their harvest, leaving large portions of the forest standing so wildlife habitats and water systems are maintained.

It is the law in Alberta that all forestry activities must meet high sustainability standards. All plans must be approved by the provincial government to make sure all environmental regulations are followed.

Close to 80% of Alberta’s managed forests are certified sustainable by recognized third-party certification groups.





# OVER 2 BILLION TREES HAVE BEEN REPLANTED IN ALBERTA IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

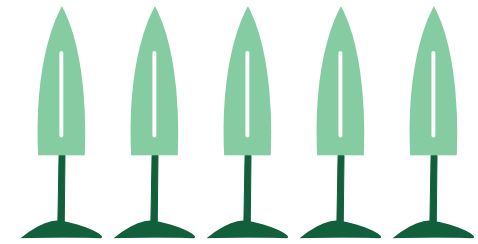
Active forest management includes regeneration of healthy forests. Forest companies are responsible for renewing harvested areas. They must also monitor the forests until they are fully re-established.

A responsibly managed forest is part of a low-carbon economy and a vital factor in the fight against climate change. Young, healthy forests capture more carbon than old forests.

As with most other industries, technology and research have advanced and improved forestry practices over time. Highly trained and skilled forestry professionals are responsible for effective management of the whole forest.

AFPA members planted

# 83,000,000



trees in 2018.

That means there are:

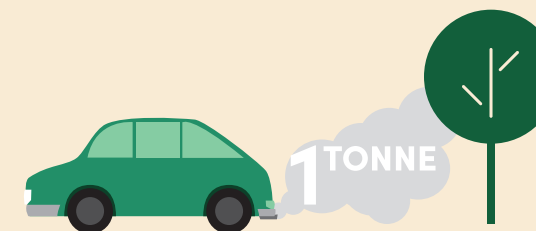


**TREES  
PLANTED  
FOR EVERY**



**THAT WE  
HARVEST**

## Trees and wood store carbon



One tree can store up to one tonne of carbon.



A wood-framed house stores carbon in quantities equal to those emitted by running a car for five years.



# CONTACT

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@albertaforests

A well-managed forest is crucial to the health of our province. AFPA is a resource for those interested in learning about forest management. Please reach out to learn more about how healthy forests benefit your communities.