

British Columbia's forests and the issue

- British Columbia is 95 million hectares in size; about 55 million hectares is forested and government is responsible for managing almost all of that forest.
- About 22 million hectares of the forest is the timber harvesting landbase (**THLB**).
- There has been substantial debate about how much of the THLB will not meet expectations for timber supply because of damage caused by beetles and fire. The debate has been put in the context of the term “not satisfactorily restocked” (**NSR**) which has led to confusion about the size of the issue.

What does the term NSR mean?

- NSR is an administrative term that government only uses to keep track of areas on the THLB where there is an obligation or an intention to restock:
 - The forest industry is legally obliged to restock NSR areas created by harvesting.
 - Government is responsible for managing almost all the forests damaged by fire and beetles, but they do not classify those areas as NSR unless they have surveyed them and intend to restock them.
- NSR is not used to keep track of (inventory) the stocking status of the entire THLB.

How much NSR is there?

- **Known NSR:** 700 000 hectares at any given time in the last 10 years (more-or-less):
 - 500 000: industry's legal obligation to reforest areas they harvest.
 - 200 000: government's stated intent to reforest areas damaged by beetles and fires.
- **Estimated NSR:** 1 000 000 hectares:
 - The area that government may classify as NSR, because of beetles and fire, is poorly known (not surveyed, only estimated) but is on the order of 1 000 000 hectares.
- **Total NSR:** 2 000 000 hectares:
 - Because of uncertainty in the area of estimated NSR the total can only be expressed to the nearest million hectares; that is, 2 000 000 hectares may be NSR.

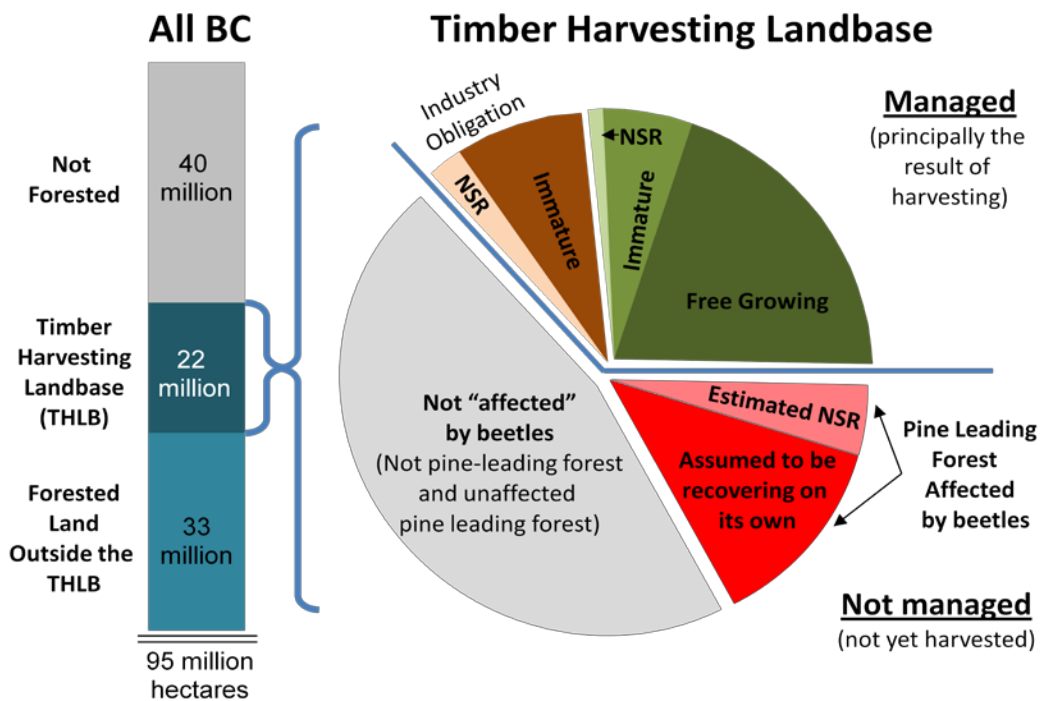
What is being done about NSR?

- The forest industry is fulfilling its legal obligation to reforest areas they harvest. Government has:
 - Encouraged the forest industry to harvest mature forest affected by beetles and therefore take on the legal obligation to reforest those areas. Approximately 1 000 000 hectares of beetle affected forest has been harvested since the year 2000.
 - Funded a reforestation program since 2005 that has treated an estimated total area of just over 50 000 hectares; mostly fire damaged forest and young beetle damaged forests.

Known NSR and estimated NSR area (hectares) by source.

Source	NSR area
Known NSR (on May 1, 2012)*	
Industry legal obligation	510 000
Government's management intention	180 000
Estimated NSR	
Beetles in mature pine stands	1 000 000
Beetles in immature pine stands	60 000
Wildfire	20 000
Small scale salvage	100 000
Other natural disturbances	unknown
Total NSR (total is only approximately known)	2 000 000

* amounts vary at any time because areas are classified NSR and are later restocked.



Proportions of the timber harvesting land base in categories relevant to questions about NSR.

Notes: minor sources of estimated NSR are not shown; industry obligation includes BCTS; government has a responsibility for that portion of the forest where there is no industry obligation.