

Yukon



Population: 36,100 ¹

Area: 48,000,000 ha

Forests²: 27,000,000 ha

Ownership/allocation of forested lands:

Yukon is comprised of public land, First Nation settlement land and privately owned land as well as some federal land, such as national parks.

First Nation Land: Settlement lands (Category A and B and fee simple) total more than 4.1 million ha.

Parks and protected areas: Three National Parks cover a total of 3.629 million ha, and 1.4 million ha are protected in territorial parks and wildlife and ecological reserves.

1. Description:

A substantial portion of Yukon is located south of the tree-line, with roughly 57 per cent or 270,000 km² of land covered by the boreal forest. Of that, 81,000 km² has tree cover that can support timber harvesting activities. The remainder of the territory is characterized by taiga, tundra and alpine regions.

White spruce and lodgepole pine are Yukon's primary commercial tree species and are found in abundance in forested regions. Due to Yukon's short summers, trees are slow-growing and close-grained which yields a high-quality, hardy wood.

2. Forest governance:

Public lands:

The Government of Yukon can issue various forms of tenure (concession) agreements (licences) for timber or other forest resources on public lands.

- A **Timber Resource Licence** is available to harvest timber for commercial purposes. The term of the licence can be up to 10 years and is renewable for one additional term, subject to approval. Timber Resource Licences are assignable, subject to approval.
- A **Fuel Wood Licence** is required to harvest fuel wood for commercial purposes. The licence can be for a maximum volume of 20,000 m³. The maximum term is five years

¹ [Statistics Canada, 2012](#)

² Source of all forest area information: Government of Yukon

and can be renewed for one additional term, subject to approval. Fuel Wood Licences are not assignable.

- A **Cutting Permit** may be issued to a commercial licence holder with an approved site plan. The cutting permit has a maximum term of three years.
- **Forest Resources Permits** are issued to harvest personal use timber or fuel wood and may be issued to accommodate harvesting of non-timber resources for commercial purposes. Forest Resources Permits can be issued for a maximum of three years and are not renewable or assignable. All Yukon residents may harvest up to 25m³ for personal home heating with a permit, free of charge.

Forest Management Planning

Yukon forest management planning provides strategic and operational level direction for the sustainable management of forests. Three levels of planning are available which serve to identify where harvesting may occur and how.

- **Forest Resource Management Plans**
These are the strategic, landscape level plans that provide broad direction on where and why forest resource management activities should take place. These plans establish requirements for resources management, identify areas in which harvesting may occur and also establish guidelines for harvesting within the identified areas. Strategies for monitoring the successful implementation of the plans are also included.
- **Timber Harvest Plans**
Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) are landscape-level operational plans that guide the access and harvest of wood, as well as identify environmental and social values and provide direction on addressing these values. In areas where regional Forest Resource Management Plans have been completed, THPs reflect the strategic direction that these higher level plans provide.
THPs:
 - Identify forest resources;
 - Describe ecosystems, forest resources and forest health;
 - Provide an estimate of the type and volume of timber, appropriate harvest methods and schedule for harvesting; and,
 - Specify general locations for timber harvesting and associated access.
- **Site Plans**
Site Plans identify stand level management activities and methods for harvesting. Site Plans identify the type and volume of timber intended for harvesting as well as the harvest methods and schedule for harvesting. The locations of existing and proposed roads are included. An approved site plan must be in place prior to the issuance of a cutting permit.

Private lands:

Harvesting on private land is not a factor in the current forest industry given the small amount of private land in Yukon. There is currently no land being managed privately for

forestry purposes in Yukon. Small volumes of timber may be salvaged when land is converted to agricultural designation.

3. Forest management legislation and regulations:

The [Forest Resources Act](#) and [Forest Resources Regulation](#) came into effect on January 31, 2011, replacing the Timber Regulation under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*. The *Forest Resources Act* and accompanying regulations guide decision making and provide forest managers with the tools they require to manage Yukon's forest resources for long term sustainability and ecosystem health. This includes:

- planning that considers all forest users and provides opportunities for First Nations and public input;
- a robust suite of compliance tools to ensure the continued vitality of Yukon's forests; and,
- the ability to proactively identify key environmental areas and apply appropriate mitigation.

There are Annual Allowable Cut and Annual Limit³ zones that state the maximum volume to be harvested for a given period in each zone.

Compliance monitoring, enforcement and penalties

Compliance and enforcement of forest resource activities is primarily carried out by the Yukon Government's Natural Resource Officers, who are designated as Forest Officers under the *Forest Resources Act*. Officers are located in most Yukon communities and provide inspection, enforcement and client support services.

While any contravention of the *Forest Resources Act* or Forest Resources Regulation results in an enforceable infraction, the following provide some examples that could lead to enforcement and/or legal action:

- harvesting without an appropriate licence or permit;
- failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a licence or permit;
- failure to comply with an order or notice;
- use of a forest resource road without authorization; or,
- transporting timber without a timber mark.

Forest Officers have several options to assist in meeting compliance and enforcement objectives including, but not limited to:

- working with the client to resolve issue;
- Notices of Non-compliance;
- fines under the Summary Conviction Regulations;
- Ministerial, Protection and Directors Orders; and,
- termination, cancellation or suspension of a licence or permit.

³ In areas that do not have a Forest Resources Management Plan, the Forest Resources Regulation sets an annual limit as the annual allowable cut.

4. Timber processing, scaling and stumpage:

Processing facilities are required to be authorized under the *Forest Resources Act*.

All timber (public or private land) being transported on public roads in Yukon must be identified by a timber mark issued by the forest management branch. There is an exemption for small loads of fuel wood for personal use.

All timber scaling must be conducted by an approved scaler. Licence and Permit holders are typically approved to scale timber from their own permits.

Forest resource harvesting is subject to stumpage fees (royalties) that are received by the Government of Yukon. Like all businesses in Yukon, harvest companies must pay a federal sales tax and territorial and federal income taxes. Unlike the majority of jurisdictions in Canada, Yukon does not have a territorial sales tax. Stumpage fees are calculated and individually set in place for each cutting permit and can include up to four different fees (see below).

Stumpage fees

The stumpage rate is calculated and set at the time of issuance of a cutting permit and remains the same throughout the life of the permit. The stumpage fee is a combination of the following four fees:

Fees		Fee per m³
Timber Fee	Green or dead timber	\$1.00
	May be reduced under specific circumstances.	\$0.25
Reforestation Fee	<i>The fee is updated annually and is based on average costs to conduct reforestation activities.</i>	
	Timber Resources Licence	Minimum of \$5.00
	Fuel Wood Licence	No charge
Development Fee	May include planning, surveying, layout, and engineering costs	Calculated for specific sites
Road Use Fee	May be applied where government spends money on road construction, maintenance and decommissioning.	The approved construction and expected maintenance and/or decommissioning cost based on an average per m ³ of timber available.

5. Other relevant legislation:

Other legislation that is relevant to forest management in Yukon is:

- The [Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act](#) (YESAA);
- The Yukon [Forest Protection Act](#) and [Regulation](#).

6. Forest certification:

Currently, there are no active certification schemes or certified forest lands in Yukon.

7. Public engagement in forest management:

The Yukon *Forest Resources Act* provides many opportunities for public and First Nation engagement and involvement in forest management planning and harvest rights issuance. The following list demonstrates the opportunities for both First Nations and the public.

- Forest Resource Management Plans
 - Joint planning committee consisting of First Nation and government representatives.
 - First Nations and the public may provide representation on proposed plans (30-day period).
- Timber Harvest Plans
 - First Nations are provided notice of intent to develop.
 - First Nations and the public are provided a minimum 30-day period for representations.
- Commercial Harvesting Licence (such as a Timber Resource Licence or Fuel Wood Licence)
 - Prior to issuance or amendment of any commercial licence, First Nations and the public are provided 30-day period to make representations.
- Annual Allowable Cut determination
 - Prior to Yukon making a final determination of Annual Allowable Cut, First Nations and the public are given a minimum 30-day period for representations.
- Forest Resources Permits
 - Consultation is required on a case by case basis.
- Other
 - *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) sets out a process to assess the environmental and socio-economic effects of projects and other activities in Yukon or that might affect Yukon. For more information, visit the [Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board](#).

Forestry activities may trigger an assessment. Two common forestry triggers are:

- issuance of permits for harvesting more than 1000m³ of timber and/or road construction; and,
- issuance of permits greater than 20,000m³, which require executive level screening under YESAA.