

Forest Harvest History¹

Forest tenure cutblocks profiled on the map represent cumulative areas of harvest from 1977 to 2008, as reported by the Forest Tenures Section within the BC Ministry of Forests and Range. Boundaries reflect pending, active and retired operations for cutblocks contained within harvesting authorities. Licensees are legally responsible for ensuring that reforestation takes place after harvesting.

Land Use in the Fraser River Basin

Legend

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This map provides an overview of the distribution of different types of land use throughout the Fraser Basin, including the current (2008) extent of the Agricultural Land Reserve, Protected Areas and major highways, as well as the distribution of grasslands (2004) and the 30-year history (1977–2008) of forest harvesting. The major watersheds in the Fraser Basin are also profiled. The map does not include all types of land use, but rather those that are widely distributed throughout the Fraser Basin.

Map prepared by Kim MacLean: January 27, 2009



Notes
* In some cases, land use designations coincide in a particular location. For example, grasslands or historical forest harvesting may occur on lands designated as either Agricultural Land Reserve or Protected Areas. In these cases, the colour coding on the map is modified to a minor degree.



Major Watersheds of the Fraser River Basin

The names and boundaries of major watersheds in the Fraser Basin are shown on the map. These watersheds include the major tributaries of the Fraser River, such as the McGregor, Stuart, Nechako, West Road, Chilcotin, Quesnel, Thompson, Lillooet and Harrison Rivers. These and many other rivers in the Basin connect approximately one quarter of BC's land base to the Fraser River.

Grasslands²

Grasslands do not represent a particular land use, but rather a type of land cover. Because grasslands are important to biodiversity in the Fraser Basin and to a variety of land uses, such as ranching and recreation, their distribution is profiled on the map. The Fraser Basin includes almost 70% of BC's grasslands. In 2004, almost all (99.6%) of the grassland ecosystems in the Fraser Basin were located in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thompson regions. A small proportion of the grasslands in these regions were lost between 1995 and 2004 (5,232 hectares or 1.1% of the grasslands in the Fraser Basin).

Protected Areas^{3,4}

Protected Areas (PAs) shown on the map include ecological reserves; Class A, B and C provincial parks; conservancies; recreation areas and protected areas that fall under the Environment and Land Use Act. The Parks and Protected Areas Branch of the BC Ministry of Environment – Environmental Stewardship Division manages parks and protected areas for conservation and public enjoyment; ecological reserves for scientific research and educational purposes; and conservation lands for critical habitat and significant fish and wildlife species.

In 2008, the Fraser Basin included about 3.3 million hectares of land designated as PAs (14% of the total land area in the Basin). The three interior regions (Upper Fraser, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thompson) include the largest areas of land designated as PAs (2.8 million hectares in total or 84% of the PA-designated land in the Fraser Basin). The following table provides a summary of the total area and percent of land designated as PAs in the Fraser Basin and in each of the five regions. It is important to note that the network of protected areas is not fully representative of all ecosystem types in the Fraser Basin.

Region	AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (2008)		PROTECTED AREAS (2008)		GRASSLANDS (2004)	LOSS OF GRASSLANDS (1995–2004)	
	Hectares	%	Hectares	%	Hectares	Hectares	%
Upper Fraser	655,366	8.3%	1,146,137	14.4%	1,915	0	—
Cariboo-Chilcotin	933,863	13.5%	718,826	10.4%	150,207	2,108	1.4%
Thompson	660,053	10.3%	938,738	14.7%	321,149	3,124	1.0%
Fraser Valley	71,918	5.2%	298,493	21.5%	0	0	—
GVSS	72,716	6.1%	228,813	19.3%	0	0	—
Fraser Basin	2,393,917	10%	3,331,006	14%	473,270	5,232	1.1%

Agricultural Land Reserve^{5,6}

The provincial Agricultural Land Commission oversees the preservation of agricultural land and encourages farming as the priority land use within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), which was established in 1973. In 2008, the Fraser Basin included almost 2.4 million hectares of ALR-designated land, which represented 10% of the total land area in the Basin. Most of this land (2.25 million hectares or 94% of the ALR in the Fraser Basin) is located within the three interior regions of the Basin – Cariboo-Chilcotin, Thompson and Upper Fraser. The proportion of land in each region that is designated as ALR is highest in the Cariboo-Chilcotin (13.5%), followed by the Thompson (10.3%) and Upper Fraser (8.3%) regions. In the two Lower Mainland regions, ALR-designated land comprises a smaller part of the regional land base: Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky (GVSS) (6.1%) and Fraser Valley (5.2%).

¹ Integrated Land Management Bureau. 2008. Forest Tenure Cut Block Polygons (FTA 4.0). Geographic Data Discovery Service. <http://aardvark.gov.bc.ca/apps/metastar/home.do> [accessed November 2008]. • ² MacKenzie, I. 2008. Geo-spatial Coverages of Grasslands Change in BC (2004). Grasslands Conservation Council of BC. • ³ Ogbourne, C. 2008. Geo-spatial Coverages of Provincially Protected Areas in BC. BC Integrated Land Management Bureau. • ⁴ BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks. 2008. Preserving Our Legacy. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/legacy.html [accessed November 2008]. • ⁵ BC Agricultural Land Commission. 2010. About the Agricultural Land Reserve. www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/alr_main.htm [accessed November 2008]. • ⁶ Integrated Land Management Bureau. 2008. Agricultural Land Reserve. Geographic Data Discovery Service. Land and Resource Data Warehouse. <http://aardvark.gov.bc.ca/apps/metastar/home.do> [accessed November 2008].