

FESBC Forest Ecosystem Rehabilitation 2027-2029 Funding Program Guide

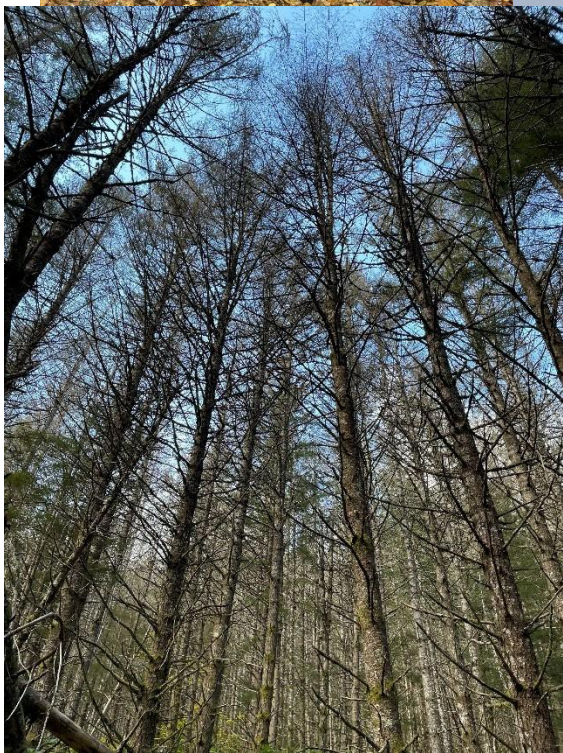


Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction and Objectives	1
2.0 Roles and Responsibilities	1
2.1 Applicant	1
2.2 FESBC	2
2.3 Funding Administrator.....	2
3.0 Application Information and Eligibility	2
3.1 Eligible Applicants.....	2
3.2 Eligible Projects	3
3.3 Eligible Activities.....	3
3.4 Eligible Project Costs	3
3.5 Ineligible Project Costs	4
4.0 Application Process and Requirements	4
4.1 How to Apply	4
4.2 Rehabilitation Application Requirements.....	5
5.0 Application Assessment.....	6
5.1 FESBC Project Evaluation Criteria and Considerations	6
6.0 Application Review and Timing	6
7.0 Proposal Approval	6
8.0 Project Implementation.....	7
8.1 Recipient Agreement Requirements	7
8.2 Provincial Government Delivered Proposals	7
8.3 Project Plans.....	8
8.4 Land Manager Authorization.....	8
9.0 Project Tendering and Direct Awarding Requirements	8
10.0 Changes, Extensions and Reporting	8
10.1 Proposal Changes and Extensions	8
10.2 Project Reporting Requirements	9
11.0 Additional Information	9
11.1 Audits and Site Visits	9
11.2 Events and Communications	9
11.3 Confidentiality	9



11.4 Application Support.....	9
12.0 Glossary	10
Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).....	16
Appendix 2: IAM 6.11 CAM 5.11 Guidance	18



1.0 Introduction and Objectives

The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) administers Forest Ecosystem Rehabilitation funding for areas impacted by wildfires, forest pests and diseases or other forest health conditions. These projects will help support a more resilient forest. Activities will renew, repair, or improve damaged, degraded, or destroyed natural ecosystems and resources (such as water, air, soil, plants, and animals) to a healthier, more functional state. Completed projects will help create a sustainable landbase while supporting multiple forest values.

This guide is intended to help applicants understand program objectives, eligibility requirements, applicable cost thresholds, application requirements, review processes, and project implementation expectations. It should be noted that the authorization and pricing of rehabilitation projects can be complex; interested applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project ideas early in the process with a FESBC Operations Manager.

Rehabilitation Projects must prioritize one or more of the following objectives:

- ✓ Treat and/or commercially utilize residual fibre from management activities to minimize open burning,
- ✓ Improve the quality of remaining timber post-treatment,
- ✓ Assist forest ecosystems in adapting to climate change,
- ✓ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and/or
- ✓ Improve habitat for wildlife

Rehabilitation Projects should also consider the enhancement of other forest attributes such as:

- ✓ Water quality,
- ✓ Riparian habitat and function,
- ✓ Biodiversity, and
- ✓ Future resiliency to wildfire

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Applicant

- a) Provide a complete, accurate, clear, and concise application with enough information for FESBC to make a funding decision.
- b) Ensure required Indigenous consultation, information sharing, and stakeholder engagement processes are completed where required.
- c) Obtain written support from the applicable land manager before applying.
- d) Communicate regularly with District staff as required.
- e) Obtain all required authorizations before commencing activities.
- f) Contact FESBC staff prior to initiating a submission or where application or program requirements are unclear.



2.2 FESBC

- a) Provide guidance to applicants and review applications for completeness, eligibility, and alignment.
- b) Consider input from land managers and other relevant reviewers.
- c) Make funding recommendations and communicate funding decisions, conditions, and requirements.
- d) Conduct site visits on proposed and approved projects where appropriate.
- e) Review and approve any changes or amendments to project plans and costs, and monitor progress of projects through to completion.
- f) Conduct project audits, or direct such visits to a third party, on approved projects as required.

2.3 Funding Administrator

- a) Administer recipient agreements, project documentation, payment processing, and reporting requirements for approved projects.
- b) Confirm recipient requirements such as insurance, safety certification or acceptable safety plan, and other agreement conditions.
- c) Support the use of the application and project management portal.
- d) Conduct financial and/or treatment efficacy audits.

3.0 Application Information and Eligibility

We encourage applicants to contact a FESBC Operations Manager to confirm applicant and project eligibility.

3.1 Eligible Applicants

The following classes of applicants are eligible to be approved for FESBC funding under this program:

- a) Indigenous nations governments with authority for lands and resources in British Columbia.
- b) Companies owned in whole or in part by Indigenous communities, organizations, governments and/or entrepreneurs.
- c) Community Forest Agreement holders and Woodlot Licensees.
- d) Forest tenure holders.
- e) Ministry of Forests and other provincial agencies, including BC Timber Sales (BCTS).
- f) Local governments, including municipalities and regional districts.
- g) Irrigation and improvement districts.
- h) All-season resorts on Crown land.
- i) BC heritage properties.
- j) Unincorporated community or rural fire departments that are legally incorporated societies in good standing in British Columbia.



- k) Not-for-profit organizations that are legally incorporated societies in good standing in British Columbia.

Eligible applicants may authorize a third party to submit an application or administer an approved project on their behalf. Written authorization from a person with appropriate authority within the eligible applicant organization is required.

3.2 Eligible Projects

To be eligible for funding under this program, proposed projects must:

- a) Be located on British Columbia provincial Crown land.
- b) Be consistent with applicable land management objectives, forest stewardship objectives, and/or provincial stand rehabilitation priorities.
- c) Use guidance from an appropriate professional.
- d) Be 1 or 2-year projects and be completed no later than March 31, 2029.

3.3 Eligible Activities

- a) Rehabilitation planning and **prescription development** on forested land impacted by wildfires, bark beetles or other biotic and abiotic factors. Rehabilitation prescription projects must be signed by a qualified professional and identify one or more of the following objectives:
 - Treat or commercially utilize residual fibre from management activities to minimize open burning,
 - Improve the quality of remaining timber post-treatment,
 - Assist forest ecosystems in adapting to climate change,
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or
 - Improve habitat for wildlife
- b) Rehabilitation **treatments** on forested land impacted by wildfires, bark beetles or other biotic and abiotic factors. Rehabilitation treatments must prioritize one or more of the following objectives:
 - Treat or commercially utilize residual fibre from management activities to minimize open burning,
 - Improve the quality of remaining timber post-treatment,
 - Assist forest ecosystems in adapting to climate change,
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or
 - Improve habitat for wildlife

3.4 Eligible Project Costs

- a) Costs associated with information sharing and meetings with agencies, Indigenous, and stakeholders.
- b) Prescription development and associated professional assessments (archeology, terrain stability, etc.), field reconnaissance and layout, and work required to acquire provincial authorization.



- c) All planning and prescription costs must follow the posted [Cost Guidelines](#) or be tendered following the [FESBC Tendering Policy](#).
- d) Treatment implementation costs.
 - o A breakdown of treatment costs by phase with rationales and unit costs must be supplied in the application, summarized in the [Cost Model](#).
- e) Training costs that are directly associated with project implementations, subject to approval by FESBC Operations Manager.
- f) Incremental costs to utilize uneconomical residual fibre.
 - o Revenue from the sale of any fibre must be incorporated back into the project budget.
- g) Project supervision and quality assurance costs.
- h) Administration costs to a maximum of 5% of total project costs. Administration includes:
 - o Office costs associated with the project
 - o Submitting invoices
 - o Managing projects in FESIMS

Where research partners are involved with a project, costs associated with analyzing and communicating innovative outcomes, may be considered. Talk to an FESBC Operations Manager if research and innovation is incorporated with the intent of the project.

3.5 Ineligible Project Costs

- a) Costs committed to objectives outside FESBC purposes.
- b) Expenses or costs already paid or committed to by others.
- c) Costs that are tenure obligations or cost allowances included in applicable appraisal manuals.
- d) Costs incurred before required Project Plan approval.
- e) Strategic planning costs.
- f) Capital purchases.

4.0 Application Process and Requirements

4.1 How to Apply

Applicants should review all application requirements before beginning an application. Applications are submitted through the Forest Enhancement Society Information Management System (FESIMS). Applicants must create or maintain a registered user account and complete all portal sections and required document uploads before the 2027–2029 application submission deadline.

Applicants must reach out to an FESBC Operations Manager prior to making a final submission to ensure the application is complete and clear.



4.2 Rehabilitation Application Requirements

- a) Describe the stand disturbance or forest health issue that has resulted in the need for rehabilitation, including wildfire, insect infestation, disease, drought, windthrow, or other disturbance history.
- b) Demonstrate that the proposed activities are consistent with applicable land management objectives, forest stewardship objectives, and provincial stand rehabilitation priorities.
- c) Provide written support from the applicable land manager(s).
- d) Demonstrate that proposed activities are not subject to legal tenure obligations, or recognized appraisal costs including reforestation liability.
- e) Clearly describe the current stand condition, the factors limiting natural recovery, and the proposed rehabilitation activities, including mechanical harvesting, chipping/grinding, or other rehabilitation treatments, as applicable.
- f) Identify the type of authorization that will be used for the project. If unsure which process to use, contact an FESBC Operations Manager to discuss what options exist. See Appendix 2 guidance document for info on Rehab/overstory removal of uneconomical stand appraised with Section 6.11 of the IAM or 5.11 of CAM.
- g) Identify the desired future stand condition and include measurable, quantifiable objectives that demonstrate how the proposed activities will improve forest health and ecosystem, improve wildlife habitat, improve the quality of timber post-treatment, and where possible, utilize fibre to reduce the amount of Green House Gases associated with open burning.
- h) Where appropriate, describe the recognized best management practices that will be implemented to achieve the proposed rehabilitation objectives and minimize environmental impacts.
- i) Provide a detailed budget for each activity and fiscal year, including cost details, anticipated revenues, and partner, proponent, in-kind, or other funding contributions. Utilize the [FESBC Cost Model](#) to itemize your forecasted costs and expected revenues with as much detail as possible.
- j) Provide site descriptions, location information, maps and spatial files such as KML or KMZ.
- k) Where applicable, provide supporting assessments, signed prescriptions, surveys, or other documentation demonstrating the need for rehabilitation and supporting the proposed treatment strategy.
- l) Provide a realistic implementation schedule demonstrating that the project can be completed within the proposed timelines.
- m) If there is a plan to utilize fibre in the project, provide a harvest detail with destination information, and confirmation from the receiving site that this volume will be accepted (in the form of a contract, purchase agreement, email confirmation or the like).
- n) Identify any required post-treatment monitoring or performance assessments – including Regeneration Surveys required to update the opening Inventory layer.



5.0 Application Assessment

5.1 FESBC Project Evaluation Criteria and Considerations

- a) Alignment with FESBC Rehabilitation goals and objectives.
- b) Alignment with Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship higher-level plans, including Forest Landscape Plans if applicable.
- c) Indigenous communities and organizations involvement and appropriate engagement.
- d) Cost effectiveness, including administration costs not exceeding 5%.
- e) Recovery and utilization of low-value residual fibre.
- f) Project readiness and delivery timeline.
- g) Quality, clarity, and completeness of the submission.
- h) Demonstrated experience in delivering FESBC or similar forest management projects.
- i) Contribution to multiple FESBC purposes, including wildfire mitigation, forest rehabilitation, wildlife habitat improvement, fibre recovery, and avoided carbon emissions.
- j) Benefits to other forest ecosystem values such as hydrology and water, biodiversity, fish and riparian habitats.
- k) The level of innovation being used to deliver the project.
- l) Other sources of funding, collaborations or extension opportunities.
- m) Where an applicant has not secured secondary funding, but can leverage FESBC funding to obtain it, FESBC may make a conditional funding decision as the first-in funder, to help assist the proponent secure the secondary source of funds.

6.0 Application Review and Timing

Upon closing of the intake on November 30th, 2026, applications will be reviewed and assessed by FESBC Operations Managers. Applicants may be contacted for additional information if needed throughout the review process. Applicants may not receive ongoing status updates during the review process. Funding decisions will be made early in the New Year. The intake may reopen in the New Year, if necessary, to allocate the remaining funds for the 2027-28 and/or 2028-29 fiscal years.

7.0 Proposal Approval

FESBC will begin notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants beginning in early 2027. Final proposal approval will include terms and conditions of the funding approval.

Funding approval does not authorize work to commence. Activities may begin only after required agreements, project plans, land manager authorizations, and other conditions are in place.

For multi-year projects, updated cost models or project details may be required before subsequent work is approved.



8.0 Project Implementation

8.1 Recipient Agreement Requirements

- a) Approved applicants or their designates must be able to enter into a Recipient Agreement to deliver the approved project, unless exempted by FESBC.
- b) Recipients should review all agreement terms before submitting their application (sample Recipient Agreement found in FESIMS in the Template/Proponent section).
- c) Recipients must meet insurance, indemnification, safety, subcontracting, tendering, auditing, and reporting requirements.
- d) Recipients must be Safe Certified or have a safety plan acceptable to FESBC and the funding administrator.

8.2 Provincial Government Delivered Proposals

- a) Provincial agencies may apply as lead proponents.
- b) Provincial proposals will be reviewed using the same general framework as other proposals.
- c) Approved provincial projects will require investment schedules, project plans, milestones, amendments, and claims management through FESBC systems.
- d) Project implementation is the responsibility of the ministry or agency lead, unless another recipient is named to deliver the project.



8.3 Project Plans

- a) Recipients must submit Project Plans in FESIMS.
- b) Project plans must identify milestones, activities, costs, timing, and deliverables. Milestones will be developed through the use of a FESBC Tracking spreadsheet.
- c) Recipients must identify a professional who agrees to sign off with respect to the Professional Attestation section of the project plan.
- d) Funding for activities is not approved until the project plan is approved.
- e) Activities must follow established provincial standards, guidance, best management practices, or an approved detailed work plan.
- f) Payment for services is not guaranteed for work that is started prior to an approved Project Plan.

8.4 Land Manager Authorization

- a) No activities may commence until required authorizations are obtained from the applicable statutory decision maker.
- b) Indigenous information sharing and stakeholder referral processes must be completed as required by the land manager.
- c) FESBC does not waive or assume legal obligations for project activities.

9.0 Project Tendering and Direct Awarding Requirements

Recipients must follow [FESBC Contract Tendering Guidelines and Cost Guidelines](#) for project implementation. FESBC may specify direct award limits, tendering requirements, or special conditions as part of project approval or implementation. Proponents can request that FESBC waive tendering requirements by providing a request and rationale in writing. In determining whether to waive tendering requirements, FESBC will consider:

- a) Comparable contracts already in place.
- b) Existing contractors established through the applicant's internal process.
- c) Limited availability of skilled contractors or professionals.
- d) Operating areas where local expertise should be used or developed.
- e) Use of local Indigenous contractors.

10.0 Changes, Extensions and Reporting

10.1 Proposal Changes and Extensions

Approved funding is specific to the approved proposal and is not transferable to other proposals. Significant changes to scope, budget, timing, deliverables, or project conditions must be reviewed and approved by FESBC before implementation. Funds not spent within approved timing windows



may be reallocated unless FESBC approves revised timing. Projects should be scheduled to meet the fiscal year-end completion deadline, unless otherwise approved by FESBC.

10.2 Project Reporting Requirements

- a) Milestone claims and invoices with supporting documentation.
- b) Proof of milestone completion, where applicable.
- c) Volume delivered by end product type, where applicable.
- d) Maps of completed works.
- e) RESULTS submissions where required. BC Parks are exempt from RESULTS submissions.
- f) Certificate of Project Completion, including administrative, financial, and technical sign-off.
- g) Project completion report or other reports identified by FESBC before project plan approval.

11.0 Additional Information

11.1 Audits and Site Visits

Funding recipients may be subject to audits and/or site inspections during the funding agreement term and for a period of up to 3 years after distribution of funds. Audits and inspections help confirm project progress, records, documentation, and outcomes.

11.2 Events and Communications

The funding agreement may require acknowledgement of FESBC and, where appropriate, the Government of British Columbia in communications, events, signage, reports, or project promotion. Recipients may also be asked to consent to publication of project details in FESBC reports or other public materials.

11.3 Confidentiality

Documents received by FESBC will be treated as confidential; however, FESBC may be subject to applicable access to information and privacy legislation. In addition, all records received by FESBC will be used to support formal audits as required.

11.4 Application Support

Applicants should contact a FESBC Operations Manager for application support and confirm current contact information, intake timing, application forms, program conditions, and guidance before submitting.



12.0 Glossary

This glossary defines the terms and data fields used in FESIMS and in FESBC programs.

1. FESIMS home page navigation

Term	Definition
Home	The FESIMS landing screen from which users access the Information tab, program guides, standards, templates, applications, project plans, and claims. All applicants must be a registered FESIMS user or create an account to access it.
Additional Information	A downloadable reference section of FESIMS that provides applicants and grant recipients with supporting resources, such as FESBC Program Materials, guide to submit proposal, cost guidelines, tendering policy, cost model, etc.
Template	A standard FESBC/PwC form or workbook made available on the FESIMS home screen or Information tab for completion and upload (e.g., cost model template, Milestone Tracking Spreadsheet, the Milestone Completion – Professional Certification form, Schedule A, Direct Deposit Request Form, final report, etc.)
Tendering Advertisement	A section of FESIMS where proponents post and manage public tender notices for project work, in line with FESBC's contract tendering policy. Users can create a new advertisement and browse existing ones in a filterable table (by organization, location, active/inactive, and status). The advertisement will be posted on BC Bid once approved by PwC.
Now Accepting Applications	A list of FESBC funding calls that are accepting applications. Funding applicants submit an Expression of Interest or Full Proposal under the call applicable to their project.
Applications	The list shows all submissions you have access to, with filterable columns for ID, name, stage, call, organization, and status. Selecting an ID opens that application for viewing, editing, or continued work.
Milestone (Status and Due date)	A unit of work within an approved Project Plan that describes a specific activity or grouped activities completed during a month or quarter, and its planned units, costs and outputs. Milestones are the basis for claims and payment: FESBC/PwC pay on approved Project Plan milestones as claims are submitted. Milestones must follow the FESBC standard naming convention. Claims for milestones in "Created" status must be submitted by the due date shown in FESIMS.

2. Application stage and project plan setup

Term	Definition
Full Proposal	The complete funding application submitted through FESIMS for assessment against FESBC eligibility and evaluation criteria. A full proposal must include a clear description of proposed works, a detailed budget by activity and fiscal year mirroring the uploaded cost model, site description, maps and spatial files, deliverables, and delivery timelines.
Full Proposal ID	The unique FESIMS reference number assigned to a submitted full proposal ("Full Proposal #"). It is a mandatory field on the project cost model and on every invoice submitted to PwC.
Eligible Applicant	An organization that falls within one of the categories FESBC has designated as entitled to seek FESBC funding, including but not limited to: Indigenous; companies owned wholly or partly by First Nation governments or Indigenous entrepreneurs; Community Forest Agreement holders and Woodlot Licensees; forest tenure holders; the Ministry of Forests and other provincial agencies; local governments; Irrigation and Improvement Districts; all-season resorts on crown land; BC Heritage Properties; incorporated rural or community fire departments; and incorporated not-for-profits.
Third-party Applicant	A business entity or individual, not itself an eligible applicant, that applies and administers a project on behalf of the eligible applicant. Written authorization from a person with appropriate authority within the Eligible Applicant's organization is required. The third-party applicant may enter the Recipient Agreement as designated, in which case its name must match across the agreement, direct deposit form, and all invoices.
Investment Schedule	A summary of the Investment Funding allocated to a Recipient created by the Administrator (PwC) in FESIMS. It is the funding envelope under which one or more Project Plans are approved and delivered.
Investment Schedule ID	The unique identifier assigned in FESIMS to an Investment Schedule. It must be quoted on project documentation, including invoices, Schedule A Certificate of Project Completion and the Milestone Completion – Professional Certification form.
Investment Manager	The PwC representative assigned to administer an approved project and its funds on behalf of FESBC, who is the Recipient's contact for the Recipient Agreement, FESIMS data and document submissions, project plan reviews, advance requests, milestone claims and payment.
Project Plan	The Work proposed in FESIMS to implement an approved Project, expressly approved in writing for implementation and funding in a specified Year, including the statement of investment objectives, planned expenditures and anticipated Outputs. Project Plans must identify milestones describing the activities, costs and timing of the works.
Project Plan ID	The unique FESIMS reference number assigned to an approved Project Plan ("Project plan #"). It is a mandatory field on all milestone invoices submitted to PwC.



Status	The current state of the project plan in FESIMS as it moves through the project lifecycle: draft, submitted, recommended, approved, declined, cancelled, etc.
Project Information	The section in Project Plan that records the identity and administrative particulars of the Recipient and project (i.e. Investment Schedule funding details, terms and conditions, project contact information, and amendment history)
Project Details	The section in the Project Plan describing the proposed work and authorizations.
Project History	The section in the Project Plan providing a view of the uploaded project files, comment history, and change history including project status, milestone creation, and fund claims history.
Milestone Start Date	The beginning of the milestone cadence window in which the milestone activities are scheduled to be carried out. Planned units and unit costs entered for the milestone relate to work performed on or after this date.
Milestone End Date	The end of the milestone cadence window by which the milestone activities are to be completed and after which the milestone may be invoiced. All milestone end dates must fall within the approved project term.
Advance Request	A request in FESIMS for an accountable advance, a portion of investment funding to the Recipient before the milestone is fully completed. The Recipient must be in compliance with its Recipient Agreement, and the Balance is withheld until project completion and fulfilment of the closing requirements. Advances are paid to the account named on the Direct Deposit Request Form.
Project Title	The unique descriptive name given to the project, which should identify the location and type of project. The Project Title is used consistently in FESIMS, in the cost model and in milestone names, where the FESIMS milestone name is formed as “Milestone # – Milestone Date – Project title”.
Project Type	The FESBC category of eligible work being delivered, which drives the applicable standard milestone list and mandatory output categories. Types include WR – Wildfire Risk Reduction (fuel management planning, prescriptions and treatments), FR – Fibre Recovery (recovery, grinding and delivery of low-value residual fibre), and RB – Stand Rehabilitation (e.g., overstory removal, spacing, brushing, pre-treatment assessments). Project types align with FESBC purposes: preventing and mitigating wildfire impacts, improving damaged or low-value stands, improving wildlife habitat, supporting fibre use, and improving greenhouse gas management.
Principal Contact Name	The named individual who is authorized to represent the applicant/Recipient for the project and who is FESBC’s and PwC’s primary point of contact. Where a third party applies or administers on behalf of an eligible applicant, written authorization from a person with appropriate authority within the eligible applicant’s organization is required.

Project Start Date	The date on which approved project activities are scheduled to begin. Costs incurred before the project start date are ineligible, and no activities may commence before the required authorization(s) are obtained.
Project Completion Date	The date by which all approved project activities, reporting, and claims must be complete, as specified in the Notification of Funding letter. All approved funds must be expended within the designated fiscal year; unspent funds may be reverse allocated.
Milestone Tracking Summary	The summary sheet consolidates the total planned and actual costs for each milestone. Total planned costs of all milestones must equal the planned Project Plan allocation (inclusive of administration and GST), and the Milestone Tracking Summary sheet must be submitted with the Project Plan for approval. An updated tracking summary should be submitted with each milestone claim to support the invoice.
Project Cost Model	The FESBC workbook that must be used to build and update the project budget for the applicable funding year. For fibre recovery projects, this is the Fibre Utilization Incremental Delivery Cost Calculation Worksheet plus the Fibre Delivery Schedule, which derive approved unit rates from inputs such as tenure and cutting authority, steep slope, remote site, high utilization, low value or damaged stand, water transport, intermediate delivery site, haul rates, deliverable/product type and market value, and add administration % and GST. Planned unit costs used in milestones must come from the approved cost model, and updates must be logged in the workbook. For multi-year WRR projects, FESBC Operations Managers assess and approve updated cost models as informed by completed funded prescriptions.
Cost Category	The classification used to report each element of eligible project cost in FESIMS in accordance with the FESBC Cost Guidelines. Expense categories are: Labour; Project Supervision; Administration; Material; Equipment Charges; Contracted Material/Labour; and GST. Cost elements mapped to these categories include Recipient's employee compensation and benefits (at the prescribed technical/professional hourly rates), audits, travel (meals, accommodation, transportation), equipment usage, materials and supplies, contractors/consulting services, licenses, and permits and approvals.
Output Category	The measurement type used to report the outputs of work for a milestone or project so that Projects and the Program can be evaluated. Categories vary by project type and include: Treatment Area (ha); Survey Area (ha); End Product Volume – Pulp / Pellet / Energy / Other (m ³); Biomass Utilized, Not Burnt (m ³); Number of Treatment Sites; Number of Reports; and Interim Reports. Each standard milestone specifies which output categories are Mandatory (M), Mandatory if greater than zero (M>0), Optional (O) or Not applicable (-).
Amend Project Plan/Milestones	The FESIMS function used to submit changes to an approved Project Plan, for example, revised milestones, activities, units, unit costs, budget allocation, or timing. Any significant variation must be reviewed and approved by FESBC before it is implemented, supported by timely communication and an updated schedule.

3. Milestone claims, invoicing, and payment



Term	Definition
File Claim	The FESIMS action of submitting a completed milestone for payment. A claim comprises: the completed units/volumes of work actually delivered (matching the invoice, including volume delivered by end product type where applicable), the milestone invoice, supporting documentation, proof of milestone completion, and the updated milestone tracking spreadsheet. Only work completed within the milestone period and included in the invoice is to be claimed.
Variances	The difference between planned and actual results for a milestone, with written comments explaining the positive or negative variance.
Total Requested Fund	The total amount being requested for payment on the claim, inclusive of the approved administration amount plus GST, where applicable, and consistent with the invoice subtotal, GST amount and invoice total. Requested amounts must not exceed the approved project plan allocation/planned expenditures for the project.
Milestone Invoice	The Recipient's invoice for a completed milestone, uploaded with the claim. It must meet the minimum requirements documented in the FESBC Project Invoice Submission Requirements.
Proof of Milestone Completion	The supporting evidence PwC requires to process a milestone invoice, including but not limited to a field map showing works conducted, a report describing works completed with challenges and successes, photographs with descriptions, subcontractor invoices and/or reports, Recipient employee timesheet records for the FESBC project, documentation showing compliance with the FESBC Cost Guidelines, and the Milestone Completion – Professional Certification form.

4. Final deliverables & project close-out

Term	Definition
Final Deliverables	The section in FESIMS to report project costs and upload project completion documents (i.e., Schedule A Certificate of Project Completion, Final Report, and RESULTS report where required)
Schedule A Certificate of Project Completion	The prescribed certificate delivered under Subsection 8.3 of the Recipient Agreement, quoting the Recipient, Project # and Investment Schedule #, and comprising three separate certifications by Certifying Professionals designated by the Recipient: Administrative (the Work complies with the Recipient Agreement and applicable tendering rules), Financial (costs are consistent with the Agreement and are true, accurate and fair), and Technical (the Project was completed in accordance with agreed objectives and standards; Outputs and findings are true, accurate and fair; all required data and deliverables have been provided to the appropriate agencies).
Final Report	The report on completion of each project covering the overall nature and objectives of the project, findings, conclusions, outputs and results.



RESULTS Accomplishments Report	The submission of completed treatment/silviculture accomplishments and spatial data to the Province's RESULTS reporting system where required for the project. RESULTS submission is a mandatory project reporting requirement when applicable.
Project Cost Reporting	The reporting of actual eligible costs incurred, by treatment unit, cost categories, and activities, excluding GST.

Appendix – Related terms in FESBC funding program

Term	Definition
Administrator / PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, engaged by FESBC to administer the Program: entering into Recipient Agreements, managing the FESIMS portal, reviewing project plans, receiving and paying invoices, and conducting audits and site visits.
Recipient	The entity designated by FESBC as eligible to enter into a Recipient Agreement with PwC to deliver an approved project. Recipients must be safe certified or hold a safety plan acceptable to FESBC and PwC.
Administration %	The Recipient's administrative costs associated with project planning, implementation, and reporting, at rates approved by FESBC; entered in the cost model and milestone tracking as an approved administration percentage (0–5%) and included in planned and claimed totals.
Planned Expenditures	The aggregate estimated eligible costs for completing each project, as approved in the project plan by PwC; claims may not be exceeded without prior approval.
Certifying Professional	A duly qualified, licensed professional in good standing used to certify project matters, including financial (Chartered Professional Accountants; or the Recipient's most senior financial officer where none is employed or retained) and technical (Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, Registered Professional Foresters, Registered Professional Biologists).
Tendering Requirements	Subcontracts <\$50,000 tendered where reasonable and cost effective; subcontracts ≥\$50,000 through a competitive bidding process; tendered contracts <\$100,000 by select invitation (minimum three qualified bidders) or open invitation; contracts ≥\$100,000 by open invitation. FESBC may waive requirements with acceptable rationale (e.g., comparable contract, limited contractor capacity, local expertise, use of local Indigenous contractors).
Direct Deposit Request Form	The form authorizing PwC to deposit project payments and advances directly into the Recipient's bank account; submitted with a VOID cheque to PwC. The company name must match the Recipient Agreement and invoices.
Reverse Allocation	The removal of funds from an approved proposal, and their reallocation to another proposal, where funds are not spent within the projected timing windows of the approved schedule.



Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Q: Does commercial thinning (CT) qualify as an eligible ecosystem rehabilitation activity?

A: It depends.

- A CT project where the primary objective is to improve the quality of remaining timber post-treatment while utilizing fibre would likely not be approved. This type of project would be better suited in our Fibre Utilization Program.
- A CT project where the primary objective(s) is to improve habitat for an identified wildlife species, help reduce the wildfire risk or improve forest health while also improving the quality of the remaining timber post-treatment might be approved. Clear objectives and approach would need to be identified and signed off by a qualified professional, along with a budget that shows that funding would be necessary to complete the treatment (sales value of all harvest incorporated back into the budget).

2. Q: What type of prescription is needed to complete an ecosystem rehabilitation project?

A: There are a multitude of different types of prescriptions depending on the type of project. Examples of prescriptions that FESBC has funded for rehabilitation projects include Stand Management Plans for riparian habitat enhancement projects, Ecosystem Restoration Prescriptions for Ecosystem Restoration projects, and Site Plans for wildfire salvage projects (through 5.11/6.11 appraisal process).

3. Q: What happens if there are weather or other types of delays resulting in a project not getting completed in time to meet the fiscal deadlines?

A: FESBC understands that projects do not always go as planned for a multitude of reasons. There are a few different outcomes that could result from projects not being completed within the fiscal year:

- If the project has been delayed starting, and it is projected that most of the work will not be completed within the fiscal constraints, the project may be curtailed. The awarded funds would be removed from the Investment Schedule and would be used to fund another FESBC project. If the project has a good likelihood of success in the following fiscal year, funds could be reallocated to the following year.
- If the project is well underway but hits some delays resulting in only partial completion but will be able to complete the project in full within budget the following year, the unused funds may be allocated into the following fiscal year.



- If the project is underway but hits some difficulties, whereas the proponent is not able or does not intend to complete the project, the project will be curtailed and paid for completed portions of the project subject to FESBC approval. The remaining funds would be removed from the Investment Schedule and would be used to fund another FESBC project.
 - In all these situations, the FESBC Operations Manager should be kept up to date on the progress and potential delays in project completion within the fiscal constraints. FESBC Managers will always try and work with the proponent to accommodate a safe, successful and efficient project completion. Last minute surprises might result in insufficient funds to complete the project or might result in funds getting pulled away and utilized in other FESBC projects. There are no guarantees that funds will be available in the following fiscal year due to provincial funding, or due to being fully allocated to other projects already.
4. Q: Can an application include both the prescription development and treatment costs for a project?
- A: No. The intention of funding prescription development for a rehabilitation project would be to eventually fund the treatment of the prescription. However, there are no guarantees that funding for the treatments will be approved, or that we will have the budget to fund the treatment in the future. Once an authorized prescription is in hand, the treatment costs can be subsequently applied for.
5. Q: If I am applying for funds to complete a rehabilitation treatment, and I am required to tender the work, what happens if the tendering results come in with higher (or lower) costs than projected?

A: Depending on tendering results compared to awarded funds:

- If the costs come in lower than projected, an additional area could be treated if the project is scalable. Otherwise, the unused funds would be reallocated to another FESBC-funded project.
- If the costs from the tendering process come within 10% +/- of the projected costs, FESBC will typically top up the awarded funds in the Investment Schedule to allow the project to proceed. If FESBC does not have the funds to immediately top up the Investment Schedule, we would ask the recipient to plan to do less area until additional funds are available.
- If the costs from the tendering process greatly exceed the projected budget, FESBC might ask that the project be re-tendered. If this is not a process that the recipient is willing to do, the project could be curtailed and the funds reverse allocated and utilized in another FESBC project.



- It is recommended that project budgets and plans are reviewed with an FESBC Operations Manager prior to final submission. Projects are approved based on the applicants projected costs, and FESBC cannot top up all requests. It is also recommended that in the RFP and tendering process that recipients put a cap on tendered bids proposals.

6. Q: What does a successful Forest Ecosystem Rehabilitation project look like?

A: Examples of successful projects include:

- ✓ A signed and endorsed prescription with all applicable authorizations, ready for treatment the following fiscal year.
- ✓ A fully complete treatment that meets the budget and meets the stated objectives.
- ✓ A project that will survive the test of time and not be subjected to forest health issues or a vector for invasive species due to poor treatment practices or poor foresight and planning.
- ✓ A project where everyone goes home safely every day and that the community, contractor and recipient are proud of.
- ✓ A project that successfully rehabilitates a forested ecosystem and also has wildfire prevention benefits

7. Q: What does an unsuccessful Forest Ecosystem Rehabilitation project look like?

- ✗ A completed prescription that is not practicable or does not have a clear path for authorizations.
- ✗ A completed prescription that does not meet one or more of the FESBC stated objectives.
- ✗ A completed treatment that does not meet the intended objectives or may create future forest health issues.
- ✗ A completed treatment that becomes a silviculture slum, becomes a vector for invasive species or that has other unintended consequences that could have been foreseen or managed for.
- ✗ A project that gets partially completed and stalls out due to mismanagement and poor planning.
- ✗ A project that does not have adequate supervision, resulting in safety or environmental issues.

Appendix 2: IAM 6.11 CAM 5.11 Guidance

FESBC Info for Rehab/Overstorey Removal on Uneconomic Stands



Appraised with Section 6.11 of the Interior Appraisal Manual and Section 5.11 of the Coast Appraisal Manual

For applicants wishing to apply for funding to assist in the overstorey removal and/or the delivery of uneconomic fibre to a non-sawlog facility, from severely fire or insect-damaged stands or other stands acceptable to FESBC, the following may apply:

Rehabilitation of fire, insect-damaged or other low value stands.

1. Full stand harvest or partial cut harvesting and fibre utilization
 - Harvested under a cutting authority as described in the BC Interior Appraisal Manual in section 6.11 or BC Coastal Appraisal Manual in section 5.11
 - Requires meeting an uneconomic threshold as defined by FESBC and requires the licensee to sell the sawlog volume in a competitive arms-length manner.
 - This opportunity is available to forest tenure holders who do not own primary log break-down facilities such as sawmills, plywood/veneer plants, etc., but whole log chippers/grinders are eligible to apply.

General Explanation of Process:

1. The proponent (who has AAC and a license) engages with FOR District Manager to determine if the stands of interest are a priority for rehabilitation prior to preparing a submission with FESBC. This process must commence prior to a Cutting Permit being issued.
2. A proponent requests a project with FESBC funding.
3. Projects proposing to rehabilitate forests must be demonstrated to be “deeply” uneconomic. An economic test is applied to make that determination. This requires the proponent to create a “mock” appraisal for the planned Cutting permit. The information for the “mock” appraisal is entered into an appraisal software package (e.g. IFS etc.) to calculate an estimated indicated rate.
NOTE: Projects that are economically viable or do not meet the identified threshold will not be funded through FESBC.
4. Information to help calculate the estimated stumpage rate can be gathered from several different sources. The intent is to limit the cost of collecting this information to the proponent. The following sources can be used:
 - When available, existing cruise information for the project area must be used.
 - Where no cruise data is available, VRI data can be used to estimate species composition and stand volume. A walkthrough must then be conducted to estimate mortality, tree quality, confirm species composition and determine road/trail construction needs.



- The information used to estimate the appraisal rate must be signed and sealed by a professional. This is consistent with the current requirement for appraisal information.
5. If the mock appraisal has an indicated rate more negative than the current economic threshold for the region, as per the following table, then the proponent can proceed with an FESBC project plan and commence normal work in creating the CP.
 6. FESBC has determined that the Indicated Rate thresholds (see table below) by districts for which will establish the threshold for eligibility:

TABLE of Current Economic Threshold – Applicable September 2026 using 10%

District	Indicated Rate Threshold
100 Mile House	-\$20.00
Cariboo-Chilcotin	-\$30.00
Quesnel	-\$30.00
Rocky Mountain	-\$30.00
Selkirk	-\$40.00
Peace	-\$60.00
Mackenzie	-\$60.00
Prince George	-\$30.00
Stuart Nechako	-\$40.00
Coast Mountains	-\$60.00
Nadina	-\$50.00
Skeena Stikine	-\$30.00
Cascades	-\$20.00
Okanagan Shuswap	-\$20.00
Thompson Rivers	-\$30.00
Campbell River	TBD
Haida Gwaii	TBD
North Island - Central Coast	TBD
South Island	TBD
Chilliwack	TBD
Sea to Sky	TBD



Sunshine Coast	TBD
----------------	-----

NOTE: These thresholds are set at the first indicated rate class where 90% of active permits, at time of assessment, are above that indicated above. These thresholds are assessed periodically (Annually at this time) as market conditions and harvesting profiles change. Projects with an estimated indicated rate greater than these values are not eligible for FESBC funding.

7. A negotiated process occurs between FESBC and the proponent to determine the costs and activities that meet our purposes. The workplan which is the result of this has 2 parts. It identifies the activities that are recognized in the appraisal and those that are not. FESBC will determine to what extent it is prepared to cover costs associated with both the recognized and non-recognized activities but of course the appraisal process makes sure that recognized costs are backed out.
8. During the ECAS submission and preparation of the CP, the proponent must submit a TOA for the sum of the “recognized” costs.
9. The proponent completes the FESIMS milestones associated with this project plan and implements the CP.
10. There is a second condition besides the economic test, and that is that the sawlog component must be sold in a manner satisfactory to FESBC.
 - Many prospective projects will yield low grade fibre that will be utilized by the licensee. However, in some cases timber may be merchandized into sawlogs (or better). These logs must be sold in a transparent and competitive manner.
 - The proportion of sawlogs to other fibre, distance to suitable markets, operating costs, etc. will vary from project to project. FESBC requires strong evidence of transparent and competitive sale of sawlogs, however, depending on local conditions, this may be satisfied in several ways, from formal sawlog auctions to less formal offers of sale, offers of purchase and letters of award.



Interior Appraisal Manual Reference

Section 6.11 Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

1. Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter, a cutting authority issued with projects funded by the FESBC for the purpose of stand restoration and/or rehabilitation must have the stumpage rate determined by a full appraisal (“fully appraised”) in accordance with chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Stand restoration and/or rehabilitation means the harvesting and reforestation of uneconomic stands of timber.
2. The person determining the stumpage rate must ensure all project costs incurred for development, harvesting, transportation or other tenure obligations costs funded by FESBC are excluded (or “backed out”) from the appraisal.
3. The licensee representative must submit a detailed list of the projects and cost estimates approved for funding.
4. Development project costs used in the FESBC economic test (to assess FESBC funding eligibility) for a cutting authority are not eligible for amortization agreements and cannot be used by the licensee in an appraisal for another cutting authority.

Coast Appraisal Manual

Section 5.11 Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

1. For the purposes of this subsection, “stand restoration and/or rehabilitation” means the harvesting and/or reforestation of uneconomic stands of timber.
2. A cutting authority issued with projects funded by the FESBC for the purpose of stand restoration and/or rehabilitation must have the stumpage rate determined by a full appraisal in accordance with this manual.
3. The person determining the stumpage rate must ensure that all estimated and or incurred project costs for development, harvesting, transportation or other tenure obligations costs funded by the FESBC are excluded (or “backed out”) from the appraisal or reappraisal of a cutting authority area.
4. The licensee must submit within the appraisal data submission a detailed list of the projects and estimated and or incurred costs approved for funding.

