

encourage logging companies to use selective logging and thinning, and foster the forest equipment supply industry by requiring logging techniques that employed locally manufactured equipment rather than imported technologies. Forestry is dominated by large corporations regulated by large government bureaucracies, with little encouragement to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and a diversified economy. Instead of permitting only one kind of logging--clearcut and plant--the government could have encouraged experimentation with different kinds of approaches to logging in order to find those that are most sustainable and protective of forest ecosystems. Selective clearcuts, harvesting of dead and dying trees, and more value-added work done locally could be encouraged. The government could encourage the development of forest workers who develop skill and experience in sustainable forestry, rather than employing transient tree planters. Provincial forest policy seems to be driven by the single goal of maximizing the profits of the large timber companies. Cutbacks in timber cuts are required in order to ensure a sustainable yield. Other values are sacrificed to that narrow objective.⁶⁵

British Columbia forests do not compare well with those in other areas, in terms of the economic and social benefits they produce:⁶⁶

<u>Forest</u>	<u>Volume logged</u> <u>(million m3)</u>	<u>Log value</u> <u>\$ per m3</u>	<u>Value added</u> <u>\$ per m3</u>	<u>Jobs per</u> <u>1,000 m3</u>
B.C.	74.6	139.36	56.21	1.01
Other Canada	86.3	259.75	110.57	2.20
U.S.	410.3	430.85	173.81	3.55
New Zealand	5.3	577.22	170.88	5.00
Sweden	60.0	242.80	79.49	2.52

The B.C. forest industry has become mechanized and capital intensive. Competition has caused companies to employ fewer and fewer loggers as a way to cut costs. Diversified forest products have been replaced by single-product production. Planting is done by transient workers with little connection to the land. Small enterprises are rare, and mainly limited to contractual work. An alternative approach is likely to produce economic and environmental benefits: encouraging small businesses, families, First Nations people, and other groups to do selective cutting. Job losses would be reversed. Ecological values could be pursued along side production. Experimentation and diversity would generate ideas for improved ways of ensuring sustainable yields and balancing cuts with other benefits of forests. Selective cuts of second-growth trees can actually enhance forest health. Most importantly, it permits loggers to ensure that forests produce a wide range of benefits, such as watersheds, habitats, and recreational areas, and not just limited to timber production. Trees can be carefully selected for harvesting, and when combined with value-adding manufacturing, can increase the economic yield from forests that are sustainable.⁶⁷

Advocates of forest policy reform argue that timber harvests are not the greatest resources contained in national forests. They argue that forests are much more important as biodiversity preserves and watersheds. About 75 percent of the West's water supplies flow