



# Managing our Forests Sustainably: The Narrative

Alberta is recognized as a world leader in forest stewardship and management. Forests cover more than 60% of our province. Many communities and millions of Albertans enjoy social, economic, and environmental benefits from our forests.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

Sustainably managed forests provide many environmental benefits that are vital to the future of our planet.

- Global cycles and air quality - Trees store carbon and produce oxygen
- Water quality and quantity - Trees hold large quantities of water and prevent erosion
- Soil - Roots maintain soil stability and productivity
- Wildlife - Many forests provide vital habitat for diverse species of animal life

By managing our forests sustainably, we can promote a healthy mix of tree ages and species and help control the effects of fires and pest infestations.

## **ECONOMIC VALUES**

Forestry is Alberta's 3rd largest resource industry. The industry directly employs 19,600 Albertans, creates thousands more spinoff jobs, and contributes over \$5 billion to the economy. There are 70 communities in the province that are dependent on the forest industry. Forestry creates economic stability in communities and provides long-term, stable employment.

## **SOCIAL VALUES**

Forests provide ideal venues for recreational and cultural activities, such as:

- Hiking;
- Fishing;
- Cross country skiing;
- Photography and wildlife viewing.

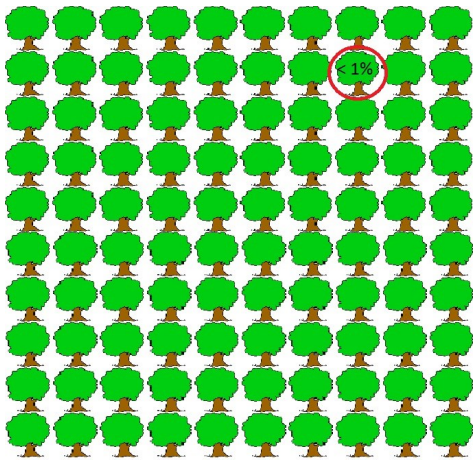


# Managing our Forests Sustainably: The Facts

Alberta has **38 million hectares of forests** — that's an area about the same size as Japan



**Less than 1%** of the forest is harvested each year



Forest operations are planned on a **200 year horizon**



Over 75% of Alberta's forests are **3rd party certified**



For every tree that is harvested, an average of **3** are planted



Over **50,000 Albertans** depend on our forests to make a living

