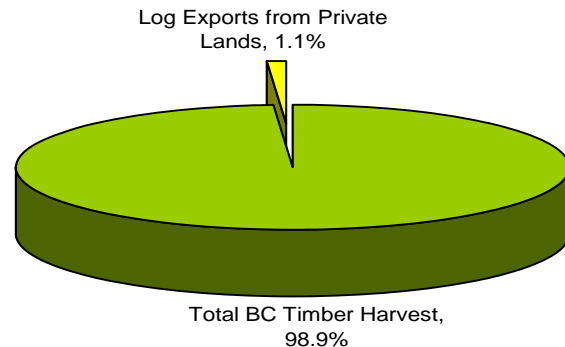


BACKGROUND

Log exports are a small but important part of the BC forest industry. Private landowners - like any other producer - seek the best prices for their products and often export a portion of their annual harvest to foreign markets, including the United States, Korea and Japan. If landowners were not able to export some of their logs and get better prices, then many stands of timber would not be economical to log. More than 9,000 workers depend on BC's private forestlands for their livelihoods.

KEY FACTS

- Logs from private and Crown lands can only be exported if there is no buyer in BC. Logs must be offered to BC mills at domestic prices before they can be exported. In some circumstances, Crown logs can be exported without being offered for local sale.
- In 2003¹, BC exported about 2 million cubic meters (m³) of logs from private land and about 1.4 million m³ from Crown land.
- Over the last decade BC private land log exports have represented, on average, less than 1.2 percent of the total BC private and Crown log harvest, and have not exceeded 3.4 percent.
- In 2001, the U.S. exported 6 1/2 times more logs to Canada than it imported from our country.
- The annual U.S. harvest is about 450 million cubic meters. In 2003 BC exported less than 1.4 million m³ of logs to the U.S., representing under 4/10ths of one percent of the total U.S. harvest.
- The majority of exported logs from BC are small diameter, second growth logs, not larger old growth logs.

Private Land Log Exports as % of Total BC Timber Harvest over last 10 Years**PRIVATE AND CROWN LAND FACTS**

The total provincial timber harvest in BC is just under 80 million m³. The 2003 harvest on Crown land was 71 million m³, while the private land harvest was 8.5 million m³. In total, less than 3.5 million m³ of logs were exported from private and Crown land in the fiscal year 2002 - 2003.

British Columbia is the only province that requires private landowners to offer all logs to BC buyers at domestic prices prior to export. BC authorizes log exports from public land and certain private lands through ministerial exemption or cabinet Order-in-Council.

Log exports do not threaten local mills. Over the past decade the Coastal industry has undercut its allowable Crown harvest, which is dedicated to local mills, by almost 25 million m³. This is enough wood to keep 38 sawmills operating for one year on two shifts.

ABOUT US

The Private Forest Landowners Association represents individuals, families and businesses throughout British Columbia that grow, harvest, replant and manage private forestlands.

¹ Source: BC Ministry of Forests.