

How much land cover does BC have?

I have seen so many varied statements on how much forest we have in BC, that its hard to figure out the facts. The following is what I've found in a report from the BC Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands "*Environmental Trends in British Columbia: 2007*". The information is from data collected from the mid 1990's. See pages 230 to 235 in the report.

<u>Land cover or land use</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u>% of total</u>
1. Standing Forest		
Older forests (over 140 yrs)	25,723,316	
Younger forests (21 – 140 yrs)	<u>28,691,594</u>	
Total standing forest	54,414,910	57.4
2. Recently disturbed forest		
Recently logged	5,025,474	
Selectively logged	823,851	
Burned	<u>1,410,109</u>	
Total recently disturbed	7,259,434	7.7
3. Natural non-forest		
Alpine	13,084,801	
Avalanche chutes	5,126,723	
Barren surfaces	1,078,456	
Rangeland	798,621	
Shrub	1,602,770	
Wetland	3,961,728	
Ice	<u>3,489,517</u>	
Total non-forest	29,142,517	30.7
4. Water		
Estuary	28,868	
Fresh water lakes and rivers	<u>2,162,812</u>	
Total water	2,191,680	2.3
5. Permanent human use		
Urban	368,952	
Agriculture	1,294,849	
Mixed agriculture-urban	61,742	
Mines	60,182	
Recreation	<u>25,821</u>	
Total human use	1,811,547	1.9
<hr/>		
Total (all land area of BC)	94,820,088	100

The definitions of the above categories are contained in pages 230 – 235 of this noted report. Check out the "Google Earth Engine Timelapse" link here <https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/> and in the query box located on the upper left of the screen, type the name of any location in BC that you want to check out to see the amount of forests harvested between 1984 and 2022. The site is interactive, you can zoom in or out, pan from one location to the other, and freeze the frame.