

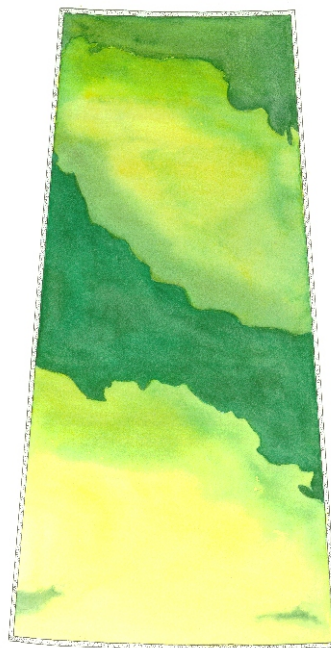
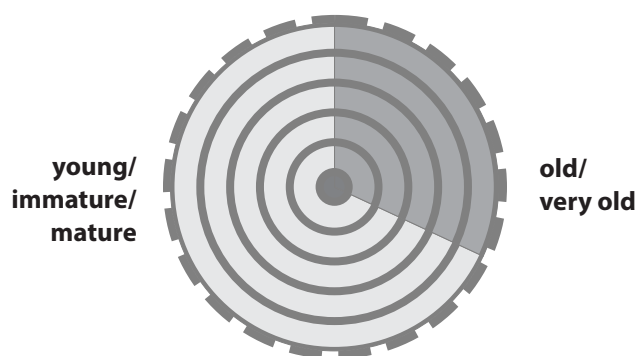


# Saskatchewan Forests

## Wildfires are natural and replenish forests

Saskatchewan's boreal forests are younger than you think. Only one third of the forest is considered old. Natural wildfires have been the norm in our forests for thousands of years and contribute to a healthy cycle of growth. On average, a given area will burn about every 70 years.

Letting wildfire play its natural role, when safe and feasible, replenishes forests and helps prevent more disastrous consequences. When forests become older than is natural, it can lead to more intense wildfires, serious insect infestations and less forest for the future.

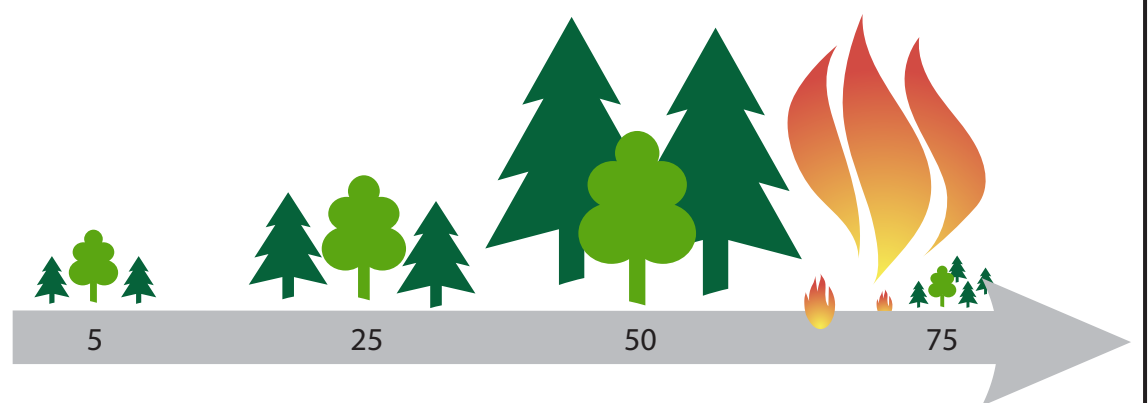


## More than half of Saskatchewan is forest

- **Total area of Saskatchewan:**  
**65 million hectares**
- **Area of Saskatchewan's forest:**  
**34.3 million hectares**
- **Area of commercial forest: 11.7 million hectares**
- **Area considered productive for timber: 5.3 million hectares**

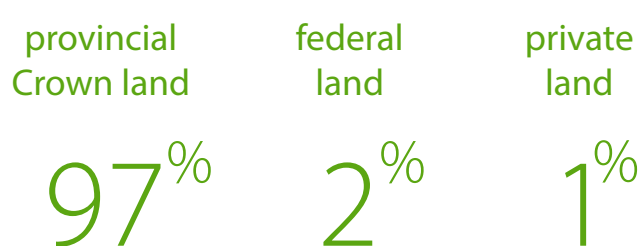
## Forest landscapes don't stay the same

The trees that tower over your cabin or favourite fishing spot have a lifespan and will eventually die. Whether they burn, blow down or are harvested, our old forests will be replaced by new forests as they have for thousands of years. Humans can delay these events for a while, but not forever. The forest has to keep growing and renewing itself to survive and thrive.



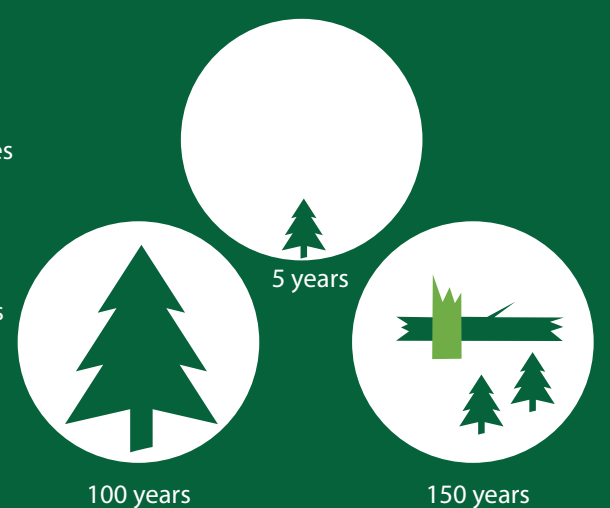
## Saskatchewan's forests belong to all of us

Almost all of Saskatchewan's forests are on publicly owned land. The Ministry of Environment enforces rules for provincial forests to protect them for future generations. This includes planning and public consultation, as well as the Crown's duty to consult with First Nations and Métis communities about activities that may affect their Treaty or Aboriginal rights. Indigenous communities also have significant involvement in Saskatchewan's forest-based economy; more than 30 per cent of the available timber in Saskatchewan is allocated to Indigenous businesses.



## How old is old?

Not all forests are the same. Although trees in British Columbia's coastal rainforest can reach 250 years or older, a Saskatchewan forest is considered old at 100 years. Trees that grow here have adapted to frequent large disturbances – wildfire, wind, insects and diseases – that shape the forest landscape.



## Forest harvesting is **NOT** deforestation

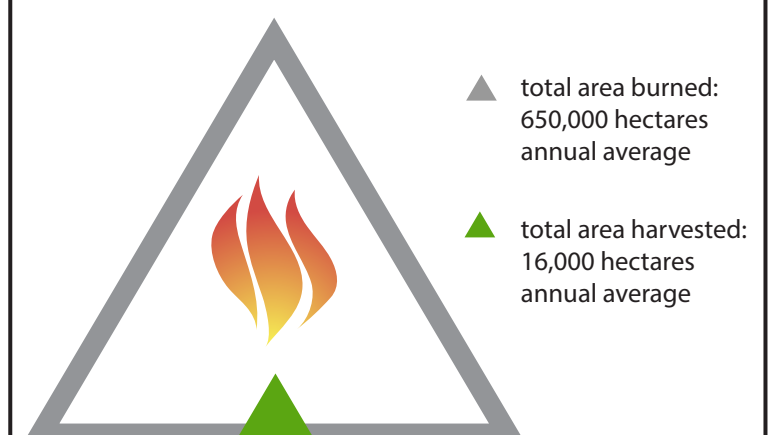


Deforestation is the **permanent** removal of trees to prepare the land for another use, such as agriculture or urban development. When carefully planned to mimic natural disturbances like wildfire, forest harvesting can be an effective tool to manage the forest when it's not safe or practical to allow fire to play its natural role.

In Saskatchewan, historical logging practices left some areas of the forest not sufficiently restocked. This means there aren't enough trees coming back to support future commercial harvesting. Now, forest companies must renew all the areas they harvest. They must also show how they will sustainably manage the forest in a 20-year forest management plan, developed with input from other forest users and the public.

## Wildfires burn 40 times what companies harvest

Each year, forest companies harvest about 16,000 hectares of Saskatchewan forest, or less than half of one per cent of all productive forest land. This compares to more than 650,000 hectares burned in the province each year, on average.



# Stop the spread of forest pests

Do not bring wood with bark into Saskatchewan

1-800-567-4224

[saskatchewan.ca/forestry](http://saskatchewan.ca/forestry)

Saskatchewan