



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015/16

This newsletter highlights items of interest to MF owners and interested parties for Winter 2015/16

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Recent News

Comox Lake Review

One of the key environmental values regulated by the Managed Forest (MF) Council is the protection of drinking water. In December 2014 the Comox Valley Regional District issued a boil water advisory for residents living in Courtenay and Comox. The advisory prompted the MF Council to review whether there were soil conservation events in relation to forest management within the Comox Lake watershed that could have contributed to the boil water advisory.



The review concluded there was no direct evidence of mass wasting events from forest management activities on private forest land within the watershed that would have contributed in any significant way.

The MF Council's report is available [here](#).

Current Activities

2016 Inspection Program

The MF Council's policy is to inspect each managed forest at least once every five years to ensure owners are fulfilling the requirements of the Managed Forest land legislation. Some Managed Forests may be inspected on a more frequent basis if they have more forest management and harvesting activity or because operations are carried out close to drinking water intakes or fish habitat. This year 65 Managed Forests will be inspected throughout BC.

Managed Forest owners selected for inspection will be contacted this spring, and inspections should be complete by August. A summary inspection report will be available in the fall.

2016 Communication Initiatives

The MF Council continues to pursue a broad range of communication initiatives. Communications with local governments were well received in 2015 (see our blog post [here](#)), and we plan to continue our conversations and outreach with local governments and other stakeholders in 2016.

The MF Council's goal is to increase awareness of its role as the regulator of forest management activities on managed forest land, and provide an interactive forum where stakeholders can discuss forest management practices and environmental issues of local interest. We welcome the opportunity to engage with all stakeholders and interested parties.

Managed Forest Council Election

The MF Council consists of five members: two members appointed by the provincial government, two members elected by private Managed Forest landowners and a chair who is jointly appointed by the other four council members. The term of one of the elected council members is up this June, and the MF Council will be holding an election to fill this position. A call for nominations is in process.



To learn more about the upcoming election, the MF Council terms of reference, and the current MF Council, read our blog post [here](#).

Reminder

Annual Declarations Due May 1

The MF Council collects information on the forest management activities of Managed Forest Owners. Owners are required by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to submit an Annual Declaration each year that summarizes their forest management activities for the previous year, including information on: harvesting; destroyed timber (for example due to wildfire, insect attack); constructed and deactivated roads; and reforestation.



Annual Declarations are due May 1, 2016. Forms are sent to owners in mid February, and are also available on the MF Council website.

For more information or to access the form online, read our blog post [here](#).

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