

BACKGROUND

April 29, 2014

Effectiveness Audit

Created in 2004 under the Private Managed Forest Land Act (Act), the Private Managed Forest Land Council (Council) is an independent agency whose mandate under the Act is ‘to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices.’

In 2012 Council undertook an audit to assess the effectiveness of its regulation in maintaining high standards of practice on private managed forest land. The Council routinely conducts performance inspections and compliance audits. This is the first audit that evaluated the effectiveness of the Council Regulation with respect to the Act.

The audit touched on all aspects of Council responsibilities under the regulation. It included an evaluation of harvesting and road building activities and their relationship to soil conservation. It reviewed forest management activities in relation to the maintenance of water quality and fish habitat in and around creeks and streams. And finally, it reviewed the requirements of owners to restock and reforest their lands within legislative timeframes. In all cases the audit found owners of managed forests were performing at or above the minimum requirements established by legislation. This performance reflects the strong commitment owners have to their lands and the effectiveness of Council results based legislation.

The audit provided insight to a number of practices Council is planning to follow up on through future initiatives. The first is the poorly understood interaction between managed forest and individual water licences. There are currently over 25,000 of these individual water licensees in the Province. The regulation provides protection for LWI (Licensed Waterworks Intakes) but very little for individual water licensees. Through the initiation of a two part study Council is pursuing a process to better understand these interactions. The goal is to better inform managed forest owners of their presence and provide guidance while working in and around these water licences.

The second issue is the loss of larger stems to blowdown within the riparian areas of creeks and streams. This problem is not isolated to the activities on managed forest land and has plagued the forest industry as a whole for many years. Council will continue to monitor the problems associated with this issue through its ongoing inspection program and implement any new or innovative practices to reduce the frequency of these blowdown events in the riparian areas of creeks and streams.

The full text of the Effectiveness Audit may be found on the Private Managed Forest Land Council website at: <http://www.pmflc.ca/>

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