

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2014

Private Managed Forest Land Council Reports on Effectiveness

Victoria, B.C. – B.C.’s independent Private Managed Forest Land Council (PMFLC) today released results of an audit to assess the effectiveness of its Council regulation in maintaining high standards of practice on private managed forest land in the province.

“The mandate of our independent agency is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of these practices,” said Council Chair Rod Davis. “While the Council regularly conducts performance inspections and compliance audits related to forestry management practices, this is the first audit that touched on all aspects of Council responsibility under the regulation.”

Created in 2004 under the Private Managed Forest Land Act, the PMFLC is an independent agency with responsibility for regulating the management of the province’s private managed forest lands which total 823,200 hectares, or approximately one per cent of the total available land for forestry.

The audit, undertaken in 2012, touched on all aspects of Council’s regulatory responsibilities including: an evaluation of harvesting and road building activities and their relationship to soil conservation; forest management activities in relation to the maintenance of water quality and fish habitat in and around creeks and streams; and the requirements of owners to restock and reforest their lands within legislated 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’s results-based legislation,” said Davis.

The audit also pointed to other practices that warrant following up in future assessments. The poorly understood interaction between managed forest and individual water licences is the focus of a two-part study Council is currently pursuing. Council is also monitoring problems associated with the loss of larger trees to blowdown within the riparian areas of creeks and streams. This is a problem that has plagued the forest industry, as a whole, for many years. Through its ongoing inspection program the Council hopes to implement new or innovative practices to reduce the frequency of these blowdown events in the riparian areas of creeks and streams.

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“Conducting regular assessments on our regulatory practices and providing the public, forest land owners and government with reports on our findings is one of the important ways we work to fulfill our responsibilities for effectively regulating forest management practices on private managed forest lands to protect key public environmental values,” said Davis.

To view the full Effectiveness Audit: <http://www.pmflc.ca/>

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