



MANAGED
FOREST
COUNCIL

2014 Managed Forest Inspection Program

BACKGROUND

The Managed Forest Council (Council) has a policy to inspect all managed forests at least once every five years, as well as to inspect new managed forests within three years of entrance to the program. The Inspection Program is designed to determine whether managed forest owners are fulfilling requirements of the private managed forest land legislation. Inspections are carried out by a team of forest professionals who are knowledgeable of both forest practices and the relevant legislation.

LOCATION and SIZE

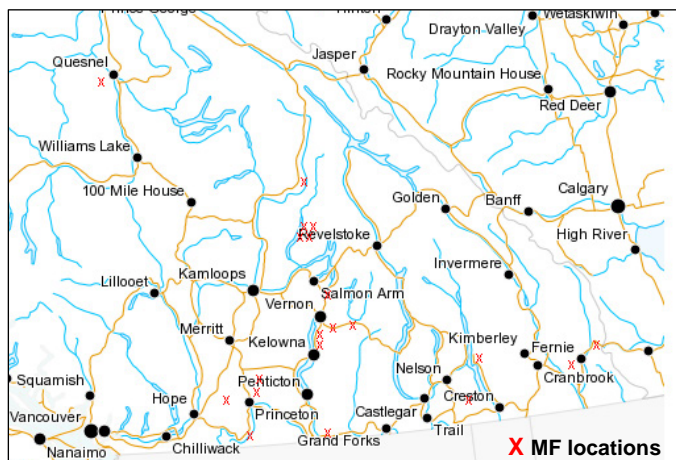
Of the 69 managed forest properties inspected in 2014, 49 managed forests are located on the coast and 20 are located in the interior as follows:

Number of MFs Inspected	
Gulf Islands	25
Vancouver Island	20
South Coast	4



General Location Map Vancouver Island & South Coast

Number of MFs Inspected	
Okanagan	6
Thompson	5
Cascades	4
Kootenays	4
Quesnel	1



General Location Map Interior

The managed forests ranged from large properties with industrial owners, to small family owned properties. Eight of the managed forests were larger than 1000 hectares, of which six have active, ongoing operations. Five of the inspections were carried out on managed forests that are new to the program since 2013. The inspection sample encompassed 26% of forests in the Managed Forest Program. Appendix 1 includes a list of the inspected managed forests with owners, hectares, and general locations.

Distribution of Inspected MFs by size



INSPECTION APPROACH

The inspection form was redesigned in 2014 to increase the efficiency of capturing and reporting on information relevant to Council's function of monitoring forest practices and protecting key public environmental values as established by regulation: soil conservation, water quality, fish habitat, reforestation and habitat for species at risk. Questions were designed to identify forest activities that have taken place and document whether the activities have been carried out in compliance with the provisions within Council Regulation. Opportunities for improvements with respect to field practices were also noted where applicable. Feedback from inspectors and internal discussions will help to refine the new form for the 2015 field season.

Eight inspections were carried out on managed forests greater than 500 hectares. For these managed forests, samples of harvesting, road building, maintenance, and deactivation, and reforestation were selected for inspection with particular emphasis on areas where multiple activities had been carried out and there were streams or other risk factors present.

Owners or designates were encouraged to accompany the inspectors during the inspections.

The inspections focused on the following:

Activity	Focus of Council Regulation
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimize site disturbance (sec 14, 15) retain appropriate amount of trees, understory vegetation adjacent to streams (sec 27, 28, 29, 30)
Road Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect and mitigate disturbance to stream channels and banks (sec 16, 17) maintain natural drainage patterns (sec 18) revegetate exposed soils after construction (sec 19)
Road Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain road prism and clearing width (sec 21) maintain drainage system (sec 21)

Activity	Focus of Council Regulation
Road Deactivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove culverts and bridges when no longer required (sec 22) • re-establish natural drainage patterns (sec 18) • revegetate exposed soils after deactivation (sec 19)
Restocking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restock after harvesting or destroyed timber (sec 31)
Successful Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successfully regenerate after harvesting or destroyed timber (sec 31)
Primary Forest Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict sediment transport and deposition into streams (sec 15) • protect licensed waterworks intakes (LWIs) (sec 20)
Notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify holders of LWIs when road construction or deactivation to take place (sec 23) • notify Council of land slides and debris flows (sec 26)

	Focus of Private Managed Forest Land Regulation
Critical Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • owner awareness of requirements and restrictions when critical wildlife habitat is present (sec 8)

INSPECTION RESULTS

Harvesting

Harvesting was carried out on 17 of the managed forests since they were previously inspected. Harvesting operations ranged from multiple cutblocks over varied terrain and site conditions, to small volumes of roadside firewood salvage.

There were no compliance issues noted for any of the harvest operations with respect to site disturbance and stream protection. Stream retention requirements were noted to meet requirements in all cases, and were exceeded in most areas.

One owner was reminded of the requirement to accurately report all harvest area and volume on the annual declaration. There was confusion about reporting of the cutting of firewood in this case.

Road Construction

Road construction had taken place within 12 managed forests. No compliance issues or opportunities for improvement were noted on the larger, active managed forests. Two owners of smaller managed forests were found to have potential water management issues, although neither had resulted in a non-compliance.

One of these owners had not yet completed road construction and had plans to complete the road surfacing and installation of water bars. He was also advised to reassess a culvert size, and to remove road building material that could eventually impact a stream.

The other owner was noted to have an older stream crossing that could be improved for its present use by ATVs to reduce impact to stream banks and decrease sedimentation. The inspector also recommended additional water control measures on a newer road including ditches, additional cross drains and culverts, and additional grass seeding of exposed soils.

Road Maintenance

The standard of care for road maintenance is that the surface, ditches, crossings, and cut and fill slopes will not cause sedimentation or deposit material that may have a material adverse effect on water quality or fish habitat. Maintenance activities include:

- ensuring the road prism and clearing width remain stable
- ensuring culverts, ditches and fords are functioning properly and can handle peak flows
- preventing surface water from being discharged onto erodible soils
- grading & surfacing

Road maintenance was found to be adequate for protection of fish habitat and water quality for all owners. However, the same owner who was advised additional water control measures would be prudent on a newer road was also reminded that diligence is required to ensure that road related sediment does not enter a stream.

Road Deactivation

For most areas inspected, owners are maintaining roads for current and future forest activities. Permanent road deactivation was limited to one owner. The two inspected deactivated roads had been stabilized to the extent necessary to minimize the likelihood of any material adverse effect on fish habitat or water quality. One road was fully revegetated with grass. Another had surface material removed for use on a new road.

Restocking

Current restocking obligations were noted on 15 managed forests for areas that had been harvested or destroyed within the past five years and had not yet been restocked. Except for three of the smaller managed forest owners who had potential restocking issues, the inspections showed that owners are diligent in planting and maintaining plantations to ensure their harvested areas will meet regulatory requirements. The larger managed forest owners in particular have well documented reforestation programs including planting within two years of harvest, and meeting standards higher than those required by Regulation.

Owners of two of the smaller managed forests were requested to carry out restocking surveys to confirm that their harvested areas are stocked and to allow time to carry out planting or other measures if required to ensure stocking within the required 5-year time frame. Of these, one owner has a potential compliance issue with restocking obligations that are now due, and the other has an obligation in the next year. Brush competition and deer browse were the most common noted challenges to reforestation, and diligence is required by these owners to ensure that their obligations are met. Follow up with these owners is a part of the ongoing Inspection Program.

One owner had restocking obligations related to mountain pine beetle attack. This owner is required to restock the area within five years of the 'grey attack' phase of the beetle attack and will need to implement a restocking plan in the next year to ensure obligations are met.

Successful Regeneration

Successful Regeneration obligations were noted for 27 owners. The larger managed forest owners in particular were noted to have active brush control strategies to ensure the stands are productive. Four owners were observed to have potential successful regeneration issues.

Two owners were requested to carry out surveys to confirm that areas harvested 15 years ago have been successfully regenerated. Both of these areas have had significant deer browse that

may be preventing successful regeneration status. Council will follow up depending on the results of the surveys.

Two other owners with successful regeneration obligations within the next three years were advised that a survey would be beneficial to ensure that their obligations will be met, or would provide direction for the actions required to reach successful regeneration status.

Health issues appeared to be minor where they existed, and none noted were expected to jeopardize successful regeneration status. Owners are expected to monitor health and take action where applicable.

Primary Forest Activities

Primary forest activities are timber harvesting, road construction, maintenance or deactivation and silviculture treatments. Primary forest activities must not result in sediment or other material to be transported to or deposited in a stream if it will have a material adverse effect on fish habitat, or water that is diverted by a LWI. There were no compliance issues noted with respect to primary forest activities and sediment transport or deposition.

One owner carried out road construction within 100 metres upslope of a LWI. The inspector noted that the owner was diligent in identifying and marking the intake to ensure its protection.

Notifications

Owners are required to notify holders of LWIs of any pending road construction or deactivation within one kilometer upstream. For the two instances where road construction occurred within a kilometer upstream of the LWI, both owners had documentation that showed that water licensees were notified prior to the start of activities as required.

Owners are required to notify Council of any landslides or debris flows that deposit debris or sediment into Class A to E streams. The inspectors did not encounter any unreported landslides or debris flows.

Critical Wildlife Habitat

Owners were asked about their awareness of reporting requirements and activity restrictions with respect to previously unrecognized critical wildlife habitat. 27 owners had a clear understanding of the requirements, including all of the larger forest owners. Inspectors did not observe potential critical wildlife habitat on managed forests where owners were not aware of the requirements. These owners were encouraged to review applicable legislation.

APPENDIX 1: Managed Forest Listing

Managed Forest	Hectares	Location	Comments
7	108,981	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
8	53,069	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
15	177	Vancouver Island	Restocking obligations to be confirmed
54	9,505	Kootenays	No compliance issues noted
61	2,516	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
78	2,037	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
120	63	Gulf Islands	Restocking obligations to be confirmed
128	28	Gulf Islands	Restocking obligations to be confirmed
136	63	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
151	11	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
163	45	Thompson	No compliance issues noted
167	48	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
176	49	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
179	24	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
184	15	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
195	52	Cascades	No compliance issues noted
208	32	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
213	23	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
216	10	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
231	67	Quesnel	No compliance issues noted
245	79	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
260	36	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
267	2,547	Kootenays	No compliance issues noted
273	3	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
276	32	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
281	39	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
295	65	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
296	42	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
299	1,221	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
308	8	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
309	8	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
313	8	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
314	17	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
318	66	Gulf Islands	Restocking obligations to be confirmed
331	49	Thompson	No compliance issues noted
336	58	Cascades	No compliance issues noted
337	49	Cascades	No compliance issues noted
339	63	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
340	59	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
342	32	Thompson	No compliance issues noted

MFC 2014 Inspection Program

Managed Forest	Hectares	Location	Comments
345	61	Thompson	No compliance issues noted
347	86	Thompson	No compliance issues noted
350	151	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
351	59	Kootenays	No compliance issues noted
353	30	Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
357	38	South Coast	No compliance issues noted
358	42	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
359	41	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
371	74	Cascades	No compliance issues noted
377	44	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
383	25	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
384	41	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
388	60	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
394	96	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
399	53	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
400	59	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
401	52	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
402	49	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
403	40	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
407	151	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
408	37	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
409	51	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
422	320	South Coast	No compliance issues noted
470	206	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
471	45,229	Kootenays	No compliance issues noted
472	75	South Coast	No compliance issues noted
474	204	Vancouver Island	No compliance issues noted
475	57	Gulf Islands	No compliance issues noted
476	150	South Coast	No compliance issues noted