



NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2017

This newsletter highlights items of interest to MF owners and interested parties for Winter 2017

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## Recent News

### Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2015-2016 has been posted on our website. The report includes a summary of statutory requirements as outlined in Section 10(2) of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*, and commentary on the Managed Forest Council and its various activities throughout the year.

You can [read the 2015-16 Annual Report here](#)

### Grandfathering of Existing Undersized Managed Forests

BC Assessment legislation requires a Managed Forest (MF) to be at least 25 hectares in size. In 2004, owners of MF land less than 25 hectares were provided the option of having their undersized MF land remain as BC Assessment managed forest land class 07.

There has been uncertainty regarding the eligibility of undersized MFs in the program once they are sold. BC Assessment has confirmed with our office that future sales of undersized MFs will not automatically trigger their removal from the program. New owners of undersized MFs wanting to stay in the program, and who can demonstrate the land is a viable undersized MF, will be required to submit a new management commitment to the MF Council. If the management commitment is accepted by Council, our office will recommend to BC Assessment that the property continue as a viable undersized MF.

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## Current Activities

### 2017 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 MF legislation. This year 50 managed forests will be inspected throughout BC.

MF 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.

### Managed Forest Council Election

The MF Council consists of five members: two members appointed by the provincial government, two members elected by private MF landowners and a chair who is jointly appointed by the other four council members.

The term of one elected council member is up this June, and the MF Council will be holding an election to fill this

position. A call for nominations is underway, and all eligible MF owners are encouraged to consider the position.

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



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## Reminders

### Annual Declarations Due May 1

The MF Council collects information on forest management activities of MF Owners annually through Owners' Annual Declarations. Annual Declaration forms are designed to capture information required by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* that summarizes forest management activities for the previous year, including information on: harvesting; constructed and deactivated roads; and reforestation.



Harvesting in the Interior

This year there is a new requirement for the Annual Declaration: for owners who have harvested, restocked, or successfully regenerated more than one block during the year, a listing of these blocks will be required with the Annual Declaration form.

Annual Declarations are due May 1, 2017. Forms are mailed to owners in mid February, and are also available on the Council website.

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

### Notice of Sale

Owners are reminded that Section 11 of the Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation requires landowners to notify Council within 30 days of the sale of private Managed Forest land.

To read more about the Notice of Sale requirement and access the Notice of Sale form, [read our blog post here](#).

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