



MANAGED  
FOREST  
COUNCIL

**Annual Report 2019 / 2020**



December 11, 2020

Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
PO Box 9049, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

With pleasure, I submit the 2019 / 2020 Annual Report of the Managed Forest Council. The Private Managed Forest Land Council is an independent agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. The objective of the Act is to encourage sustainable forest management practices on private managed forest land, considering the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices. Council's mandate includes administering the Act and regulations; approving land owners' forest management commitments; establishing and auditing forest practices standards to meet objectives associated with soil conservation, fish habitat, water quality protection, and reforestation; and enforcing regulatory requirements.

There are 285 private managed forests in British Columbia, encompassing 808,000 hectares. In 2019, 5.0 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber was harvested on managed forest land, representing approximately 7% of the total provincial timber harvest, and 28% of the timber harvest on the Coast. These properties are located mostly on Vancouver Island, the southern mainland Coast, the Kootenays and the Okanagan-Shuswap.

This report includes a summary of statutory reporting requirements as required by Section 10(2) of the Act as well as a summary of Council and its various activities throughout the year.

Some highlights of 2019 / 20:

- Council and its staff worked closely with the Ministry on the provincial Managed Forest Program Review and provided a formal submission to government with several options to strengthen the objectives of the program;
- Completed a review and update of its 2014 Communication Plan that assessed its effectiveness in providing relevant and effective communication to stakeholders;
- Participated in several high-profile stakeholder led events throughout the year. This included participation as a delegate at the 2019 UBCM convention in Vancouver, the 2019 AVICC convention in Powell River; and the 2019 ABCFP convention in Nanaimo;
- Conducted 62 inspections of Managed Forest throughout BC; and
- Through its compliance determination program assessed \$18,000 in penalties from owners.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about the Managed Forest Program or the Managed Forest Council.

Sincerely yours,

Rod Davis, PhD, PAg  
Chair

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## Table of Contents

What We Do .....	2
The Function of Council .....	3
2019 / 2020 Council .....	3
Council Biosketches .....	4
Council Staff Biosketches .....	5
2019 – 2020 Summary of Council Functions and Activities .....	5
Program Administration .....	5
Council 2019 / 2020 Performance Measures .....	7
Strategic Planning .....	8
Compliance Reporting .....	9
Activities Summary .....	11
Summary of Annual Declarations .....	12
Annual Activity Level Comparison 2010 – 2019 .....	13

*Harvesting occurs across the landscape within a large managed forest.*



## What We Do

The Private Managed Forest Land Council is an independent agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* (Act). The Act was passed in November 2003 by the provincial government and was fully implemented in August 2004. As of September 2014, the Private Managed Forest Land Council is known by its working name, the Managed Forest Council (Council).

The objective of Council is to encourage forest management practices on Private Managed Forest Land and to administer the Managed Forest Program. This includes the monitoring of forest practices and the protection of key public environmental values as established by regulation on private managed forest land.

Participation in the program by private landowners is voluntary. The Council budget is 100% funded by fees levied against the program participants.

### **Key environmental values are:**



**Soil conservation:** to protect soil productivity.



**Water quality:** to protect human drinking water.



**Fish habitat:** to retain sufficient streamside mature trees and understory vegetation both during and after harvesting to protect fish habitat.



**Critical wildlife habitat:** to facilitate the long-term protection of that habitat.



**Reforestation:** to promptly regenerate the areas with a healthy commercially valuable stand of trees that are not impeded by vegetative competition.



*533 kilometres of road was constructed  
by private managed forest owners  
in 2019/ 2020.*

## The Function of Council

In keeping with its objective Council is responsible for the administration of private managed forest land legislation. This includes four broad functions:

1. Strategic planning, reporting and program administration;
2. Establish and monitor forest practice standards for managed forest land;
3. Enforce standards and perform audits; and
4. Review landowner applications to enter managed forest land class.

This Annual Report covers the period from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. It contains information Council considers relevant to the fulfillment of its objective in the exercise of its powers, performance, duties and functions under the Act.

## 2019 / 2020 Council

The Council is a partnership comprised of representatives from government and managed forest landowners:

- a chair who is jointly appointed by the four members of Council for a three-year term;
- two owner members elected for a three-year term by the private managed forest landowners; and
- two members appointed by the provincial government.

Council members report annually as to their compliance with the Council's established code of conduct. All council members declared that they have abided by the Code of Conduct as written in Section G of the Council Governance Policy for 2018.

### Current Council:

Chair: Rod Davis  
Owner Elected Members: Will Pryhitko, MF 38 & Blair Robertson, MF 177  
Government Appointees: Brian Frenkel & Dennis Lozinsky  
Executive Director: Phil O'Connor



*Owners of private managed forest land harvested 5.0 million cubic meters of timber throughout the province in 2019 / 2020.*

## Council Biosketches

### **Rod Davis, *Chair***

Dr. Davis is a consultant with over 40 years experience working in fish and wildlife ecosystem conservation, forest and range practices, land use planning, environmental protection, and natural resources inventory and analysis. Prior to being appointed chair in 2012, he served on the Council from 2004 to 2011. He is a registered professional agrologist. Dr. Davis was reappointed as Chair for a new three-year term that started in February of 2019.

### **Will Pryhitko, *Owner elected member***

Mr. Pryhitko started work with the Beaumont Timber Company in 1984. He was appointed the president and chief executive officer in 1999 and acted in those positions until his retirement seven years ago. He is currently a director of the company and sits on its board. Mr. Pryhitko was involved extensively with various levels of government on a broad range of issues related to private forest land and worked closely with government and forest owners throughout the development of the Private Land Forest Practices Regulation. He has been a Council member since July 2004.

### **Blair Robertson, *Owner elected member***

Mr. Robertson was first elected to the Managed Forest Council in 2010. He has been active in private forestry and land management on Vancouver Island since 1990. He is involved in the operation of his family-owned managed forest on southern Vancouver Island. From 1996 to 2004 he was the general manager of the Private Forest Landowners Association. Through his involvement in the Managed Forest Program since its inception he has accumulated substantial experience with local and provincial governments on a variety of resource and land management issues. He has a Bachelor of Commerce in Urban Land Economics and MBA from the University of British Columbia.

### **Brian Frenkel, *Government appointee***

Mr. Frenkel is a forestry and environmental consultant, business owner, politician and advocate for rural communities. Over the past 35 years he has worked with all levels of government to help provide process driven solutions to many resource sectors, regional districts and communities. He has worked as a forest planner and forestry technician throughout northern British Columbia. His career has allowed him to participate in several land use planning processes such as: the Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan; the PGTSA Cell Allocation Plan; and the Vanderhoof Sustainable Forest Management Plan. He is a founding member of the Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society and a member of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative. Mr. Frenkel is also a Councillor with the District of Vanderhoof and has been an active director on the boards of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC, North Central Local Government Association and the Union of BC Municipalities.

### **Dennis Lozinsky, *Government appointee***

Mr. Lozinsky is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), and Environmental Professional EMS Lead Auditor EP (EMSLA). He has more than 30 years' experience in the forestry sector in operational forestry, forest certification and forest practices auditing. As the principal of Salix Consulting Ltd., Mr. Lozinsky specializes in providing sustainable forest management systems and forest certification auditing to a wide range of forestry-based organizations in BC and Alberta. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Alberta, and a Diploma of Forestry Technology from Selkirk College. Prior to Salix Consulting Ltd., Mr. Lozinsky was a forest certification coordinator for a major forest company on the west Coast, an operational forester in the southern Interior, and as a silviculture forester with the Ministry Forests on north Vancouver Island.

## Council Staff Biosketches

### **Phil O'Connor, Executive director**

A registered professional forester in BC for over twenty-five years, Mr. O'Connor's career has taken him to various locations with both government and the private sector. His government experience includes work as a planning forester on land use issues and timber supply on the central Coast and as regional revenue manager in Williams Lake. In the private sector he has worked as a field forester, as the manager of forestry resources in a coastal woodlands department and as administrative forester responsible for the management of a TFL and private lands. His career has taken him through all facets of the industry, from solid wood, to pulp and paper and the value added sector.

### **Ann Donaldson, Program manager**

Ann Donaldson is a registered professional forester with more than 20 years experience working in natural resource management on the Coast and in the Interior of BC. Ann has worked mostly as a consultant for both industry and government, with experience ranging from silviculture, forest inventory, development planning, management plans, and timber supply analysis. She has also worked as an administrative forester responsible for ensuring adherence to legislation and policy. She began working with the Managed Forest Council as a part time consultant in 2004, becoming full time in 2016.

## 2019 – 2020 Summary of Council Functions and Activities



### **Program Administration**

#### **2019 – 2020 Budget**

- Council revenue is from two sources: an annual fee levied on managed forest owners, and any surplus from previous fiscal years. Revenue from the annual fee was \$ 422,746.
- The annual fee levied on managed forest owners is made up of a general administration fee and a fee based on application of a mill rate to the bare land value of the property. Council established the mill rate for the 2019 / 2020 fiscal year at 0.276/\$ 1,000 of Bare Land Value. The general administration fee was \$ 250 for each managed forest. The 2019 / 2020 annual fee represents a 14.0 % decrease in revenue from fees over the 2018 fiscal year.

*Across the province owners planted over 12.9 million trees on 12,918 hectares of private managed forest land.*

- Council expenses for the 2019 / 2020 fiscal year were \$ 455,452, 3.0% higher than those for the 2018 / 2019 fiscal year.
- Council objective is to retain a contingency reserve of \$150,000. For each of the past four years, Council has had a surplus of revenue over expenses. Council net assets (contingency reserve plus any revenue surplus) at the beginning of the 2019 / 2020 fiscal year were \$201,871. To align its net assets with its contingency reserve, Council adopted a strategy of running a small annual deficit. At the end of the 2019 / 2020 fiscal year, Council reduced its net assets to \$171,644.
- Council has a policy of conducting a financial audit of its financial statements and activities for the previous year. This represents the most comprehensive of audits by an independent third-party auditor and includes the production of an audit report. The audit report for the 2018 / 2019 fiscal year was completed by Grant Thornton LLP and approved by Council.

### Management Commitments for Managed Forests

- Council receives a number of new management commitments from new entrants to the program or from new owners who have purchased existing managed forest. New management commitments are evaluated and approved within time frames established by Council. Staff works with the land owners to resolve errors or omissions with the submissions.
- Throughout the year Council receives numerous requests to amend management commitments of existing managed forests. The request may be to increase or decrease its size, it may reflect a change in use or it may represent the complete withdrawal of the managed forest from the program. Council has a policy to process these requests in a timely fashion, and includes a performance measure in its Corporate Plan to ensure its objective of processing these requests within 30 days is achieved by Council staff.



*Council attends various conventions and trade shows throughout the year to raise its profile with stakeholders and to actively discuss its role as the regulator of forest practices on private managed forest land.*

## Council 2019 / 2020 Performance Measures

The 2019 / 2020 Annual Report is the sixth year Council reports on a series of performance measures established within its annual Corporate Plan. The performance measures were established to analyze and report on Council's performance in meeting its corporate goals in the delivery of its mandate.

### Performance Measure # 1: Administrative Efficiency

Performance Measure	2019 / 2020 Target	2019 / 2020 Result	2020 / 2021 Proposed	2021 / 2022 Proposed
# days to process MC applications and amendments	30	√ Achieved	30	30

*Discussion:* In 2019 Council office received 10 new Management Commitments and 18 Management Commitment Amendments. Of these new Management Commitments and Amendments 80% were processed within 30 working days. The other twenty percent took longer than 30 days to process either because of their submission date relative to Council meeting dates, or they required significant revision prior to Council approval.

### Performance Measure # 2: Inspections

Performance Measure	2019 / 2020 Target	2019 / 2020 Result	2020 / 2021 Proposed	2021 / 2022 Proposed
# of inspections	62	√ Achieved	60	60

*Discussion:* During spring and early summer of 2019 Council staff and contract inspectors completed 62 inspections of managed forests throughout BC. Since the 2014 inspection year staff have aggressively pursued Council target of conducting field inspections of each managed forest at least once every five years. The result is a rebalanced inspection program that meets Council inspection target while leading to an increase in the frequency of future inspections. The 62 inspections completed in 2019 reflects the achievement of a rebalanced inspection schedule. Going forward, future Council inspections to achieve this goal should average 60 inspections per year.

### Performance Measure # 3: Training

Performance Measure	2019 / 2020 Target	2019 / 2020 Result	2020 / 2021 Proposed	2021 / 2022 Proposed
Training opportunities per person or for the group	1	√ Achieved	1	1

*Discussion:* Council members had the opportunity to receive a limited amount of communication training as part of the review and update of its 2014 Communication Plan by Coast Communications and Public Affairs Inc. The training focused on new communication strategies and platforms to deliver its message as the regulator of forest practices on private managed forest land in BC.

### Performance Measure # 4: Meeting Attendance

Performance Measure	2019 / 2020 Target	2019 / 2020 Result	2020 / 2021 Proposed	2021 / 2022 Proposed
Meeting attendance minimum 80%	80%	√ Achieved	80%	80%

*Discussion:* Council is comprised of four members and a chair and meets once a month throughout the year. An 80% attendance record represents a total of 48 person days. This year Council attendance at monthly meetings represented 55 person days, 12% above the targeted performance measure for 2019.

### Performance Measure # 5: Stakeholder Engagements

Performance Measure	2019 / 2020 Target	2019 / 2020 Result	2020 / 2021 Proposed	2021 / 2022 Proposed
# of stakeholder engagements	10	√ Achieved	10	10

*Discussion:* Increased stakeholder engagement is a key component of Council’s ongoing communication strategy. For the 2019 fiscal year a performance measure of 10 engagements was established. For the 2019 fiscal year Council completed a total of 12 engagements with various stakeholders throughout the year. They included attending the Private Forest Landowners AGM, the UBCM convention in Vancouver, and the AVICC in Powell River. Staff and Council also met with representatives from the Forest Practices Board and staff from the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Council performance measure of 10 engagements was achieved.

## Strategic Planning

### Provincial Program Review – Ongoing

- The Province announced a review of the Managed Forest Program in January 2019 as part of its Coastal Revitalization Strategy. Council supports this review and is pleased the province has welcomed its participation as the regulator of forest practices on private managed forest land. Since the province’s announcement, Council has had the opportunity to participate in several meeting to discuss the Ministry progress and to share Council views on areas of legislation that would strengthen its ability to administer the program and its role as the regulator of forest practices on private managed forest land. Late in 2019, Council made a formal submission to the Ministry outlining its views on proposed changes aimed at strengthening the program. A copy of this submission is available on Council website.

*Cross ditches are an important tool to manage water resources by helping to reduce the risk of a material adverse effect on fish habitat or water quality.*



### **Council Regulatory Update – Ongoing**

- Council has worked diligently gathering input into proposed changes to its regulation. The review focused on changes to the *Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation*. Stakeholders have been consulted with proposed changes to several administrative procedures, changes that will provide greater protection to all licensed water intakes, and changes to strengthen silviculture standards across the program. Changes to the *Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation* were brought into force as of July 1, 2019

### **Communications – Complete**

- Communications with stakeholders remained a key strategic initiative for Council throughout 2019 as it continually strives to distinguish itself as the regulator of forest management on private managed forest land. Council communicates through an established engagement process, through a regular newsletter, and through regular online communication to several stakeholders: managed forest owners, local governments, Ministries, MLAs and other interested parties.
- Late in the 2018 fiscal year, Council initiated a review of its communication strategy. The objective of this review was to ensure Council messaging is still relevant, that it is achieving the desired results approved in its 2014 Communication Plan, and that it is utilizing appropriate methods to target and communicate its message as the regulator of forest management activities on private managed forest land in BC.
- Coast Communications and Public Affairs Inc. (Coast) was contracted to review Council communications efforts and provide feedback on new strategies or updates to ensure its stakeholder communications remain effective. A survey of stakeholders provided positive feedback to Council that its ongoing communication efforts have been effective since the adoption of its 2014 plan. To ensure this effective communication continues Coast delivered an updated communication strategy and workplan in June of 2019 which Council continues to implement.

## **Compliance Reporting**

### **Inspections**

- The Inspection Program is designed to assess owners' compliance with the Council regulations.
- Each year Council engages a team of independent registered forest professionals to complete inspections of selected managed forests. Over the past four (4) years Council staff has increased their participation in the field component of the inspection program. These inspections are an important component of the Managed Forest Program and Council's function in monitoring the implementation of forest practices on managed forest land. Of the 62 managed forests inspected in 2019, 15 were in the Interior of the province and 47 were on the Coast. This sample represents approximately 22% of managed forests in the program and was comprised of a series of small, medium and large size properties.



*Owners successfully regenerated 10,933 hectares of private managed forest land across the Province in 2019/2020.*

- During each inspection discussions are held with the owners regarding their recent forest management activities. Owners are provided an opportunity to discuss Council regulation and bring forward questions or concerns they have regarding the program. A sample of the owner activities are inspected. The sample may include recent harvesting, an owner's practices with respect to protecting fish habitat, the condition of newly constructed or maintained roads, and the regeneration status of both older and more recent cutblocks.
- The 2019 inspection program indicated that overall owners are managing their properties in accordance with their management commitments and the regulatory requirements of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. Recommendations were made to some owners suggesting they monitor the status of regenerating cutblocks to ensure they comply with reforestation requirements within the legislated time frame.

### **Field Reviews, Investigations and Determinations**

- Council conducts field reviews and investigations into various regulatory aspects of the managed forest program. Investigations by Council are initiated in a variety of ways. They may be initiated through a concern or inquiry from the public, a non-compliance issue identified through its inspection program, or from the legally required reporting of landslides or debris flows from an owner of private managed forest land. Council may also initiate an investigation on its own into any area or aspect of the program.
- The Act and regulations place many requirements on owners of private forest land. The Act also establishes several mechanisms that may be used to ensure compliance with the owner's requirements. Four mechanisms exist for Council consideration in making a determination: consent agreements, stop work orders, administrative contravention determinations and offences.
- During the 2019 / 2020 reporting period, Council initiated one investigation. It is expected that a formal decision by Council on how it will proceed will take place next year.
- Council received notification of eighteen debris flows or slides into streams. These owner-reported debris flow/ slide reports are reported in accordance with Section 26 of Council regulation. Each report is assigned a slide number and assessed for probable cause.

An owner follow-up and proposed mitigation actions are reviewed as part of the initial slide review. The majority of the eighteen slides were reported at the end of 2019. Council continues to review the circumstances behind these slides and will report out next year on any additional action it may take in its assessment of the owner's compliance with the legislation.



*A newly constructed catch basin associated with a water licence along a stream located within a private managed forest in the Interior.*

## Activities Summary

Section 10(2) of the Act requires Council to report on managed forest owner and administrative penalty data. The data for 2019 / 2020 is reported in the following table.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	COMMENT
a)	Number of owners subject to the Act	285 278	As of April 1, 2019 As of March 31, 2020
b)	Number of hectares subject to the Act	816,517 807,758	As of April 1, 2019 As of March 31, 2020
c)	Number of management commitments withdrawn	6	
d)	Number and nature of inspections performed	62	Routine inspections
e)	Number and nature of consent agreements	1	Failure to achieve successful regeneration
f)	Amount of penalties collected and owing	\$ 2,000 \$ 16,000	Consent Agreement Council Reg s. 31 Council Reg ss. 22 & 26
g)	Number and nature of remediation orders made	3	Submit a remediation plan; implement remediation; confirm successful regeneration status
h)	Number and nature of stop work orders made	0	None issued
i)	New regulations enacted by Council	1	Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation Amendments

***The Council's objective is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices.***



*Several managed forest owners throughout the Province utilize small sawmills to process their logs. The owners of this mill have been actively harvesting on their private managed forest in the Southern Gulf Islands since 1915 (four generations). All the dimensional and custom cut lumber from this small mill is sold into the local market*

## Summary of Annual Declarations

By May 1 of each year, owners of private managed forest land are required to submit to the Council a declaration of the operations completed in the previous reporting period. The reporting period is January 1 to December 31 for owners on the Coast, and April 1 to March 31 for owners in the Interior. The following table provides a summary of information provided in the owners' 2019 annual declarations.

	Total # Owners	No Activity	Harvest Activity	Destroyed Timber	Road Construction	Road Deactivation	Reforestation	
							Restocked	Successfully Regenerated
<b>Coast</b>	205	159 owners	37 owners 9,692 ha 4,452,494 m <sup>3</sup>	8 owners 10.7 ha	22 owners 423.8 km	3 owners 5.0 km	30 owners 11,470 ha	13 owners 9,658 ha
<b>Interior</b>	80	58 owners	14 owners 2,616 ha 564,075 m <sup>3</sup>	0 ha	10 owners 109.1 km	3 owners 26.4 km	13 owners 1,448 ha	4 owners 1,275 ha
<b>TOTAL</b>	285*	217 owners	51 owners 12,308 ha 5,016,569 m <sup>3</sup>	8 owners 10.7 ha**	32 owners 532.9 km	6 owners 31.4 km	43 owners 12,918 ha	17 owners 10,933 ha

\* Total number of owners does not equal the sum of no activity owners and owners reporting activity due to differing combinations of activities by some owners.

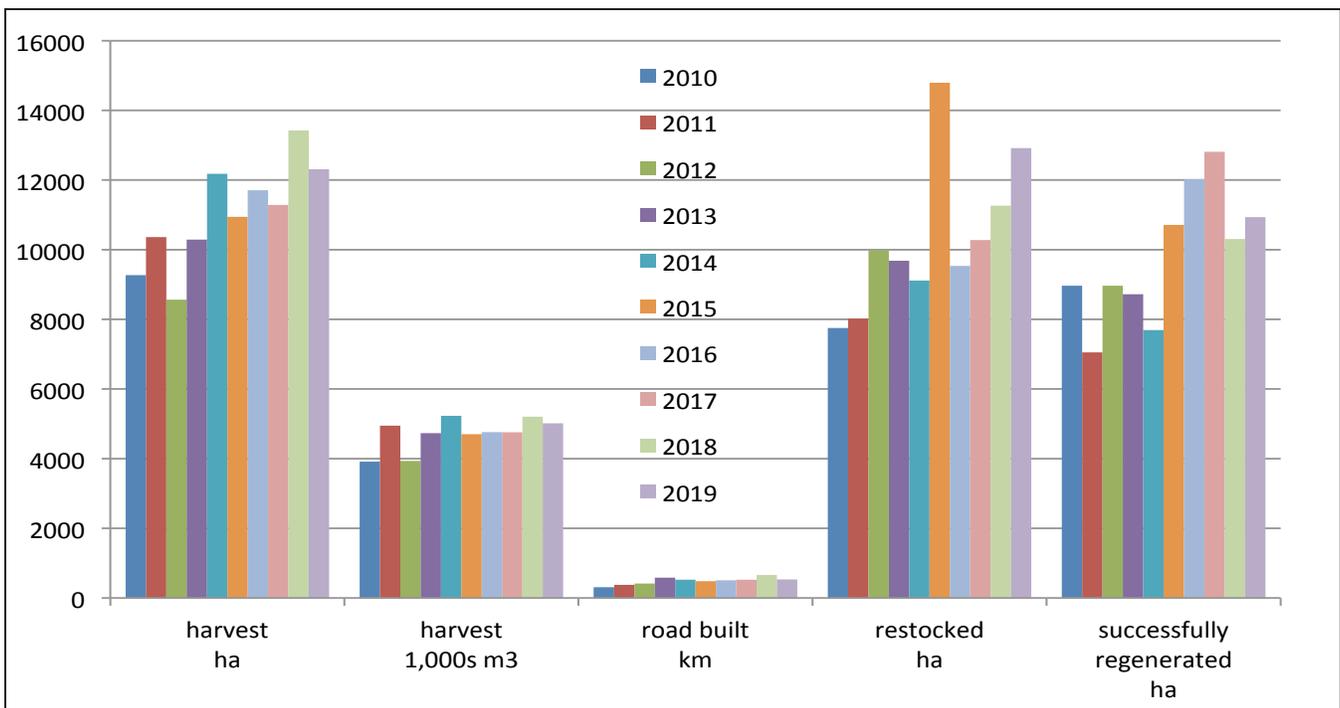
\*\* Destroyed timber: fire and wind

The volume of just over 5 million m<sup>3</sup> was harvested by approximately 19.0 % of all owners. It is important to note that the specific areas reported as being subject to timber harvesting activity (12,308 hectares) may not be the same specific areas reported as being restocked (12,918 hectares). Section 31 (3) of the Council Regulation requires an owner to reforest areas that have been harvested within five years.

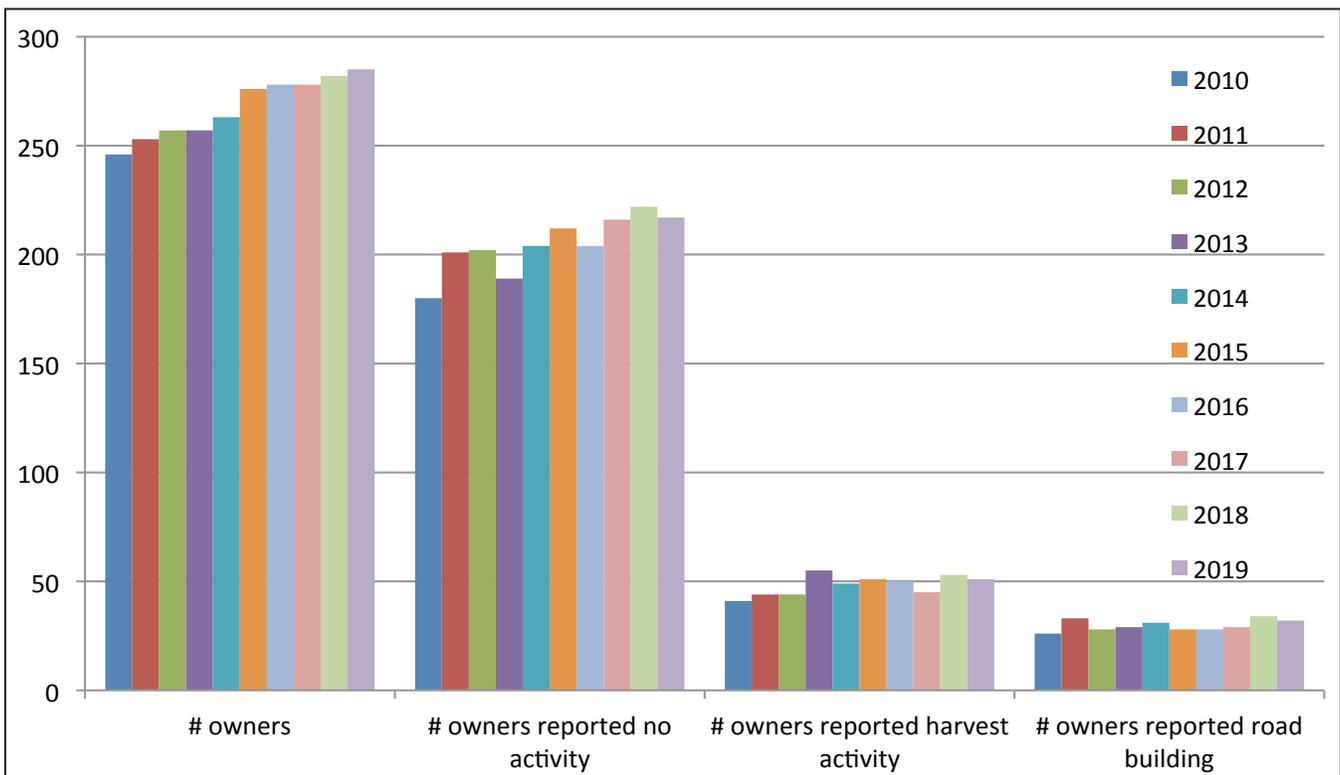


*Owners of managed forest work with various stakeholders to enhance key resource values both on and off their private managed forest lands.*

## Annual Activity Level Comparison 2010 – 2019



The volume harvested decreased slightly compared to 2018. The area reported restocked increased over 2018, as did the area reported as successfully regenerated in 2018.



The number of owners reporting harvest and road building activity remained relatively stable over the past five years.



# MANAGED FOREST COUNCIL

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