



2022 Managed Forest Inspection Program

December 2022

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BACKGROUND

The Managed Forest Council (Council) is the independent provincial agency responsible for administering British Columbia's *Private Managed Forest Land Act* (Act) and the Managed Forest Program, which includes protection of key environmental values on private managed forest land.

One of Council's functions is to carry out inspections and enforce forest practices standards in accordance with regulations. A key component is the annual inspection program that provides ongoing assessment of owners' compliance with the private managed forest land legislation.

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. Managed forests may be inspected on a more frequent basis where potential environmental risk has been identified, such as higher levels of operations in proximity to drinking water intakes or fish habitat.

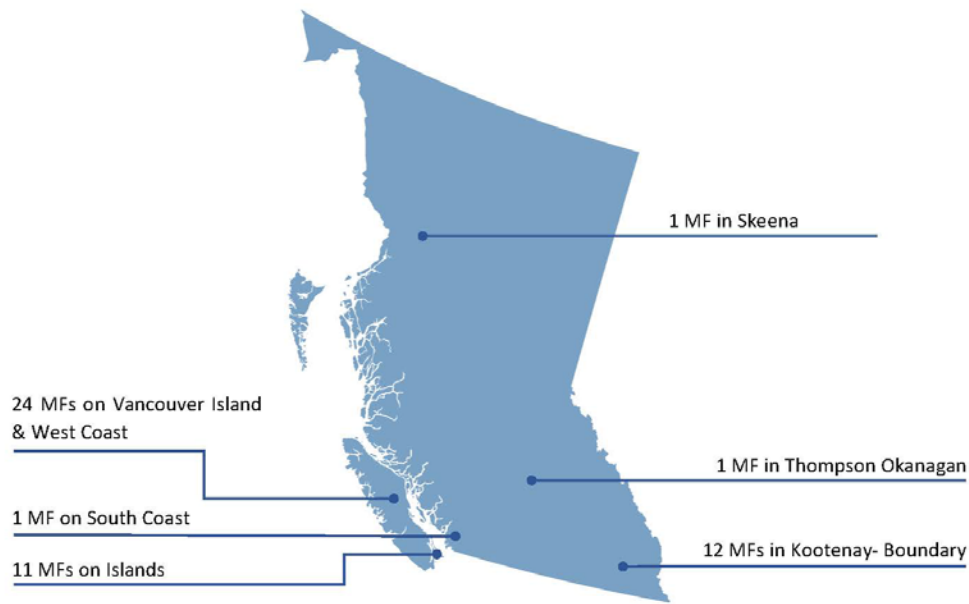
Inspections are carried out by a team of forest professionals who are knowledgeable of both forest practices and the relevant legislation. Potential non-compliances identified by inspectors are followed up with further field review and investigation where warranted.

There are 285 managed forests in the program, encompassing 805,000 hectares across the province: Approximately 78% of the land is on Vancouver Island & south coast; 20% is in the Kootenay-Boundary region; and the remainder is spread across BC.

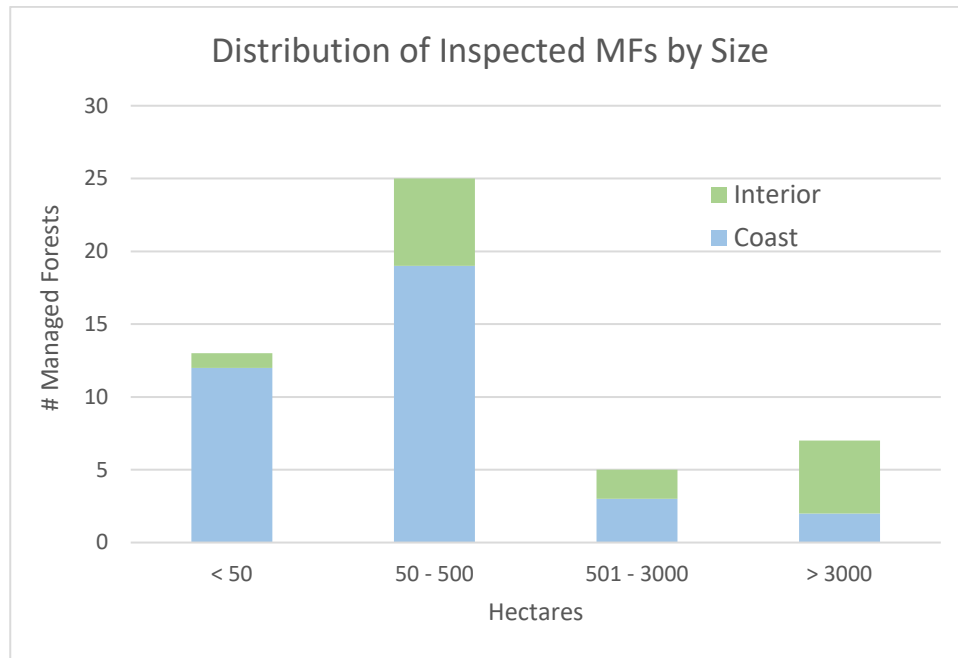
Location & Size

Of the 50 managed forest properties inspected in 2022, 36 managed forests are located on the coast and 14 are in the interior as follows:

Coast		Interior	
Vancouver Island & West Coast	24	Kootenay- Boundary	12
Gulf & Discovery Islands	11	Thompson Okanagan	1
South Coast	1	Skeena	1



The inspection sample encompassed 18% of forests in the program and continues to meet the objective of inspecting all managed forests at least once every five years. The sample included ten managed forests that are new to the program since 2020.



The managed forests ranged from large properties with industrial owners to small family-owned properties. Inspected managed forest median size is 99 hectares.

Appendix 1 includes a list of the inspected managed forests and general locations.

INSPECTION APPROACH

The Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation (Council Regulation) provides clear requirements for owners, contractors, employees and agents with respect to the management objectives in the Act for soil conservation, water quality, fish habitat, reforestation, and critical wildlife habitat. The inspection form is designed for inspectors to identify forest activities that have taken place, and to document whether the activities have been carried out in compliance with the Council Regulation. Inspectors also noted opportunities for improvement with respect to field practices where applicable.

Inspections focused on activities that had taken place since the previous managed forest inspection, as well as on current and ongoing obligations such as reforestation and road maintenance.

For the larger managed forests with active operations, samples of harvesting, road building, road maintenance, road deactivation, and reforestation were selected with emphasis placed on areas where multiple activities had been carried out and where there were streams or other resource values or risk factors present.

The inspection process begins with a document review including management commitments, annual declarations, and previous inspection reports. Inspectors discuss the inspection process with the owners before the inspection and are available for questions and comments both during and after inspections.

Following the document review, inspectors carried out field inspections. Owners or their representatives are encouraged to accompany the inspectors in the field. The 2022 field inspection component took place between May and October. A managed forest inspection summary report was provided to each owner.

Inspections focused on the following:

Activity	Focus of Council Regulation
Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimize site disturbance (s. 13, 14) protect water quality and fish habitat (s. 14.1, 15) retain appropriate number of trees and understory vegetation adjacent to streams (s. 27, 28, 29, 30)
Road Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect and mitigate disturbance to stream channels and banks (s. 16, 17) maintain natural drainage patterns (s. 18) revegetate exposed soils after construction (s. 19)
Road Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain natural drainage patterns (s. 18) maintain road prism and clearing width (s. 21) maintain proper functioning of drainage systems (s. 21)
Road Deactivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> revegetate exposed soils after deactivation (s. 19) remove culverts and bridges when no longer required (s. 22)
Restocking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restock after harvesting or destroyed timber (s. 31)
Successful Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successfully regenerate after harvesting or destroyed timber (s. 31)
Primary Forest Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect drinking water quality (s. 14.1) restrict sediment transport and deposition into streams (s. 15) protect licensed waterworks intakes (LWIs) (s. 20) notify holders of LWIs when road construction or deactivation is to take place (s. 23) notify Council of landslides and debris flows (s. 26)

INSPECTION RESULTS

Harvesting

Harvesting was carried out on 15 of the managed forests. Harvest operations ranged from multiple cutblocks over varied terrain and site conditions to small patch cuts, and harvest related to road construction. A range of systems was observed, from clearcuts to selective

harvest and individual tree selection. An additional six owners salvaged scattered windfall or dead trees for use onsite and as firewood. There were no field practices compliance issues found for harvest operations.

For all areas inspected, stream retention requirements were met and often exceeded. Inspectors noted: planning and use of appropriate equipment to minimize site disturbance from roads and trails associated with the harvest activities; geotechnical assessments completed on steep or potentially unstable slopes; biologist assessments of potential fish habitat; windfirming on some boundaries; and use of qualified people to plan, document, and supervise timber harvesting activities.

Road Construction

Road construction took place within 15 managed forests. Construction included access to new harvest areas and temporary in-block spurs within cutblocks. No compliance issues were noted with road building on any of the managed forests.

Inspectors noted that overall roads are stable and designed for effective water management. Geotechnical professionals were involved where required. Roads built adjacent to streams and active stream crossings were located, built, and used in a manner that protects the stream channels and banks. Natural drainage patterns have been maintained and owners have revegetated exposed soils where required.

An exception to appropriate road construction practices was found within an interior managed forest. Water management issues on a new winter-built road resulted in sloughing during the spring snow melt. Although not yet a non-compliance, the inspector identified a road section that requires repair work to prevent sedimentation that could have a material adverse effect on fish habitat. Tracking and follow up on potential issues are part of the Inspection Program.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance includes practices required to ensure that the surface, ditches, stream 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. Council Regulation requires that roads are maintained until they are deactivated.

Maintenance activities include:

- ensuring the structural integrity of the road prism remains stable
- ensuring proper functioning of the drainage system: culverts, bridges, ditches and fords function properly and can handle peak flows
- preventing surface water from being discharged onto erodible soils
- grading & surfacing

No compliance issues were found. Inspectors noted that overall, owners are monitoring and maintaining their road systems and implementing measures for winter protection where required. Road maintenance was observed to be adequate for protection of fish habitat and water quality.

Road Deactivation

Road deactivation must be carried out when an owner no longer requires a road and intends to cease maintaining it. For most areas inspected, owners are maintaining roads for current and future forest activities. Road deactivation was identified on 11 managed forests.

Deactivation includes removing stream culverts and bridges and stabilizing the road prism where required to reduce the likelihood of a material adverse effect on drinking water or fish habitat. There were no issues found with respect to any of the deactivated road sections.

Reforestation

Reforestation requirements including timelines are set out in Council Regulation s. 31. The regulation specifies two requirements for reforestation of disturbed areas, which are areas that have been harvested or where timber was destroyed:

- restock within five years with a minimum number of well distributed, healthy crop trees
- establish a successfully regenerated stand within 15 years with a minimum number of well distributed, healthy crop trees that are free from competing vegetation

RESTOCKING

Restocking obligations were noted on 18 managed forests. Inspectors use the annual declaration data provided by the owners to confirm restocking obligations are reported and tracked accurately, and confirm restocking status as part of the inspection.

Consistent with inspections in past years, owners generally have clearly restocked stands within the required timeframes and have shown diligence in both restocking and maintaining the young stands to ensure requirements are met.

Observed restocking practices include:

- prompt planting of harvest areas, often within a year
- installing browse control where needed
- monitoring plantations and young stands for survival and health
- fill planting where required
- brush treatment where required

Inspectors noted recent challenges with seedling survival resulting from heat and drought in 2021. Affected owners are aware of seedling mortality and have plans to monitor and fill plant where necessary.

Potential restocking non-compliance was identified on one managed forest located in the interior. The cutblocks, harvested in 2017, are required to be restocked by 2022. The blocks had not been planted as of July 2021 and planting had not been scheduled for fall 2022. Natural regeneration in this area has not typically met restocking requirements.

Council will carry out a field review of the potential non-compliance areas in early 2023. An accredited silviculture surveyor will be retained to carry out restocking surveys. Follow up action will be determined when the silviculture survey results are available. A formal investigation will be initiated if surveys confirm inadequate restocking.

Tracking and follow up on potential restocking issues is part of the ongoing Inspection Program.

SUCCESSFUL REGENERATION

Successful regeneration obligations were noted for 25 owners. No compliance issues were found however challenges were noted on some managed forests including brush competition, browse damage, and mortality. Owners are generally aware of their obligations and the actions required to ensure the obligations are met.

Owners are expected to be diligent in monitoring their regenerating stands to ensure seedling survival is adequate, and brush, pests, and other challenges are managed effectively.

Primary Forest Activities

Primary forest activities are timber harvesting, road construction, road maintenance, road deactivation and silviculture treatments. Primary forest activities must not result in sediment or other material being 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 licensed waterworks intake.

Additionally, Council Regulation sec 14.1 (1) requires that owners who carry out primary forest activities must not cause a material adverse effect on the quality of drinking water that may affect human health at the point of diversion of a drinking water intake.

There were no potential compliance issues noted with respect to primary forest activities and any potential effects on fish habitat or quality of drinking water.

APPENDIX 1: Managed Forest Listing

Managed Forest	Location	Comments
27	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
38	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
53	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
68	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
74	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
84	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
114	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
167	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
177	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
218	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
221	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
237	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
241	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
367	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
368	South Coast	No compliance issues noted
380	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
389	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
398	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
417	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
433	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
439	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
440	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
442	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
443	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
445	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
446	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
451	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
452	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
453	Skeena	No compliance issues noted
456	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
482	Kootenay-Boundary	Potential restocking issue, field review initiated
483	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
487	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
488	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
490	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
491	South Coast	No compliance issues noted

Managed Forest	Location	Comments
493	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
494	Thompson-Okanagan	No compliance issues noted
495	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
538	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
541	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
542	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
543	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
544	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
545	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
546	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
547	Kootenay-Boundary	No compliance issues noted
548	South Coast	No compliance issues noted
549	West Coast	No compliance issues noted
550	South Coast	No compliance issues noted



MANAGED FOREST COUNCIL

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