

# A DAY IN THE FIELD ON AN AUDIT

Hmmm, how many audit reports have I read since joining the Board back in 2003? I can't tell you the exact number, but I am pretty sure it's close to 100! And after 11 years, I finally got to experience first-hand what it is like to be an auditor for a day. Here's my story, told through pictures I took during the experience...



*First fact learned* – The day starts the night before. Just because they had a 10-hour day, it doesn't end once they get back to the hotel, clean up and refuel (meaning food). Before calling it a day, the auditors gather to plan who is going where, when and looking at what the next day.



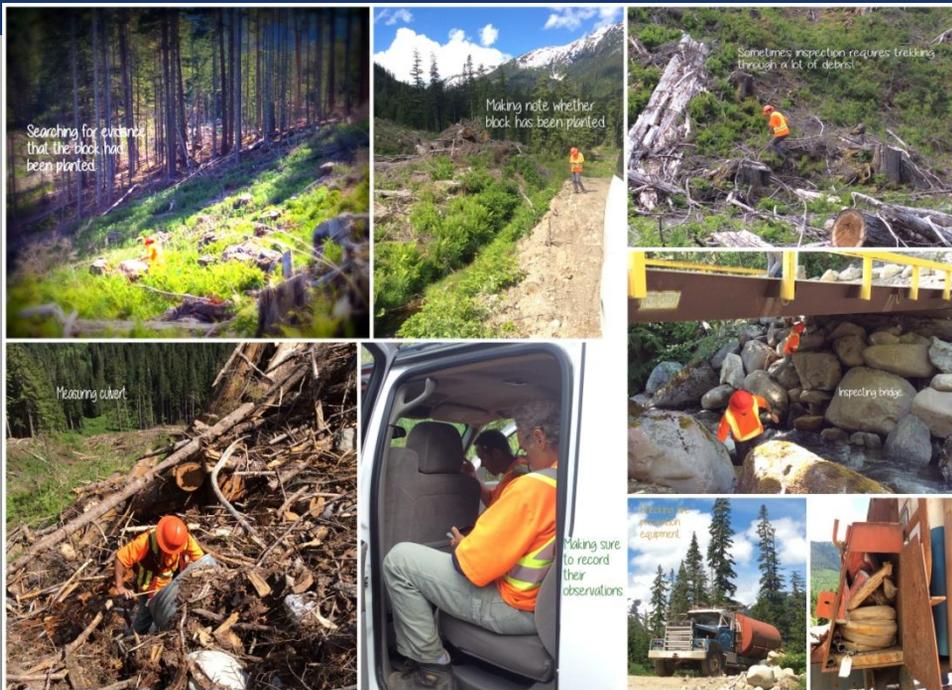
*Morning prep* – A bright and early start at 6:45AM to grab coffee because we needed some caffeine to kick start the day (good thing because it ended up being another long day!) and quick breakfast. Next stop, Subway! Can't go out into the forest without a subwich to fuel us for the other half of the day.



Food aside, our first official stop—the Forest District office to catch-up and debrief about yesterday and then plan for the day ahead. Then we head off with two BCTS staff.

*Way way up* – It was a long, narrow, bumpy ride to the first area we were taking a look at, Spuzzum Creek. Since there was active logging in area, we had to report via radio at each check-point just so we wouldn't collide with anyone coming down the road.

The auditors inspected each block for activities, such as evidence whether planting had taken place, culverts were the right size, the condition of bridges and fire prevention equipment, etc.



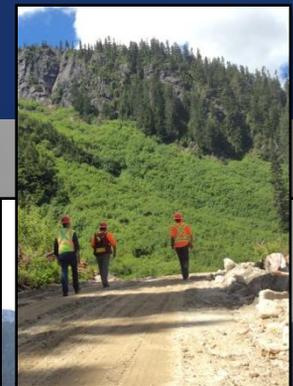
That's a lot of information to remember! But good thing that's not required because after each inspection, the auditors would record what they observed on their nifty iPad.

The following are events after intermission, which involved lunch, refueling the truck and of course the much needed slushee to cool down. We were off to Hunter Creek...

*Long walks* – The drive up was much the same as at Spuzzum Creek. Bridges, culverts and planting were inspected. The auditors had to check the conditions of a few roads, which required a lot of walking up and then of course back down! It was the end of the loggers' working day by the time we got to the top of an active block, and we were lucky enough to catch the operator still there (bottom right picture is of our auditor discussing fire prevention equipment with him). After the talk and more inspections of the block, we called it a day!



*Missing in action* – It would have been interesting to see some of the machines I spotted actually running. To see how trees are cut, tossed, hauled and loaded would be loud, but interesting. Or even to see tree planters...now that would have been the whip cream on my sundae!



*A lot of hard work* – This 1-day field experience was not only educational, fascinating and long, but it made me aware of how much work auditors do in the field before producing a report. It was a 10-hour day for me...day 3 for the auditors, with 2 more days to go! More walking, trekking, talking, inspecting, taking notes, taking pictures, travelling on rough roads, maybe flying and of course planning. KUDOS TO OUR AUDITORS!

*Cherry on top of my sundae* – Not all audits take place on nice, hot and sunny days, so I was lucky because in addition to seeing dirt roads, dead trees, culverts and bridges...I was treated to these breathtaking views.

