

AUDIT OF FOREST PLANNING AND PRACTICES

Woodlot Licence W2046
Campbell River Natural Resource District

AUGUST 2023
FPB/ARC/264



**Forest
Practices
Board**

BC'S INDEPENDENT
WATCHDOG FOR
SOUND FOREST &
RANGE PRACTICES

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Introduction

The Forest Practices Board is BC's independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices. The Board's role includes auditing forest industry practices to determine compliance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Wildfire Act*.

As part of its 2022 compliance audit program, the Board randomly selected the Campbell River Natural Resource District (District) as the location for a full scope compliance audit. Within the District, the Board selected five woodlot licences for audit: W0085, W2001, W2004, W2044, and W2046. These five woodlot licences harvested the most timber volume of all woodlots in the District between October 2020 and October 2022.

This report explains what the Board audited and the findings for woodlot W2046. The woodlot location is shown on the map in **Figure 1**. Results for the other woodlots are reported separately. Detailed information about the Board's compliance audit process is provided in **Appendix 1**.

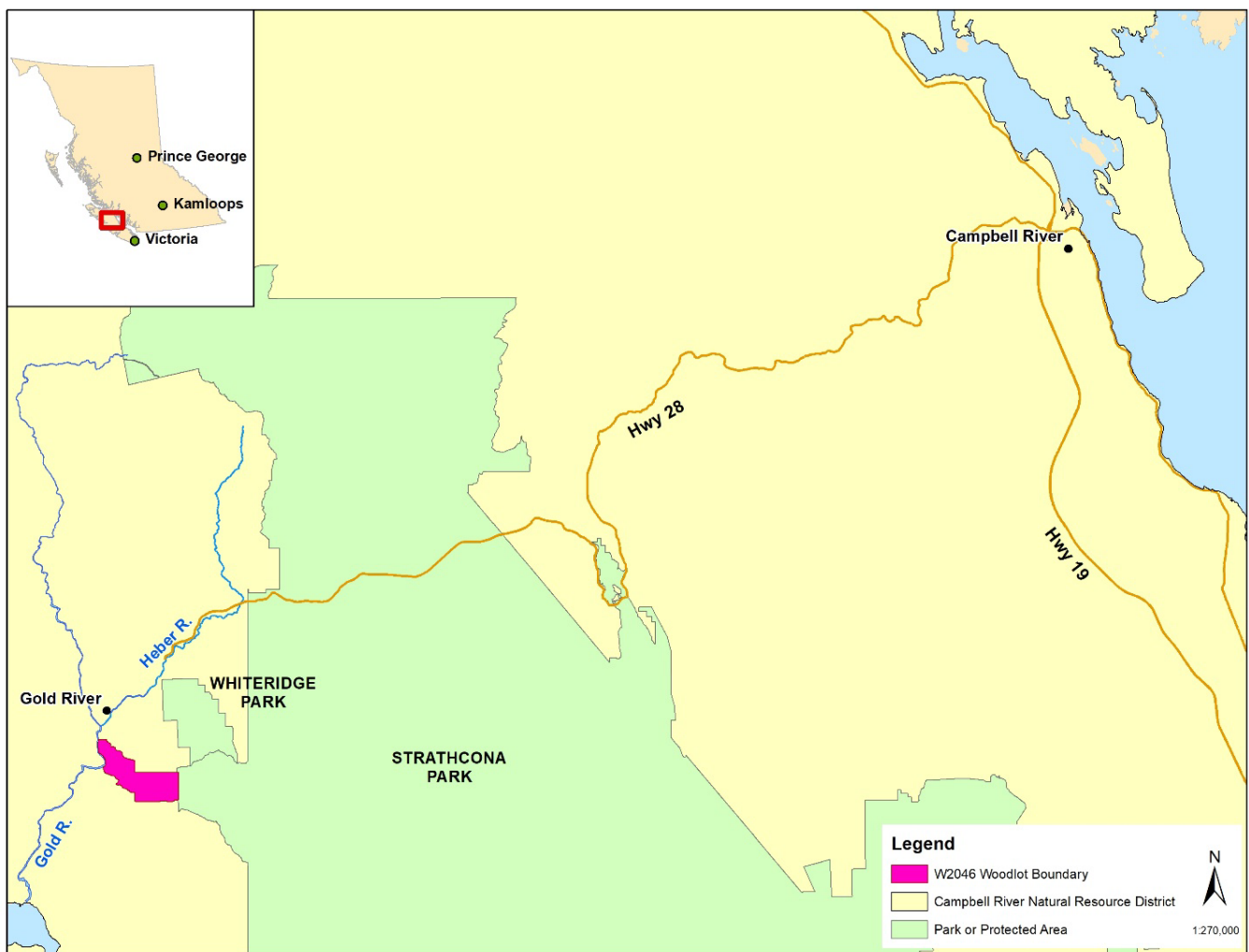


Figure 1. Location Map of Woodlot Licence W2046

Audit Results – Woodlot Licence W2046

Background

This audit took place within the territories of the Mowachaht / Muchalaht Peoples. The Forest Practices Board acknowledges First Nations' connection with the area that continues to this day.

Woodlot licence W2046 was awarded in 2009 and is 792 hectares in size. W2046 has an allowable annual cut of 3 042 cubic metres. During the two-year audit period, the licensee harvested about 11 000 cubic metres of timber.¹ The tenure holder is Matchlee General Partner Ltd. (MGP).

The woodlot is located south of the Village of Gold River, on the east side of the Gold River. Access is from Ucona Road off Highway 28. The village is approximately 62 kilometres southwest of Campbell River.

Audit Approach and Scope

This full scope compliance audit looked at all activities carried out on W2046 between October 1, 2020, and October 18, 2022. This included all harvesting, road, silviculture, associated planning, and wildfire protection activities.

Auditors assessed these activities for compliance with FRPA, the *Wildfire Act*, and applicable regulations—in particular, the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation (WLPPR)*. Auditors' work involved interviewing MGP and their representatives, reviewing the woodlot licence plan (WLP)ⁱ, assessing silviculture records, and inspecting activities in the field. Sites were accessed using pickup trucks.

The standards and procedures used to carry out this audit are set out in the Board's *Compliance Audit Reference Manual, Version 7.1, July 2016*.

Two forest professionals and a professional forester/geoscientist made up the audit team. Field work took place on October 18, 2022.

Planning and Practices Examined and Findings

The following sections describe the activities and obligations audited and the findings.

Silviculture Activities and Obligations

Within the audit period, MGP planted two cutblocks and had free-growing obligations due on one cutblock. Auditors reviewed both planted cutblocks and the one cutblock where free growing was due.

Auditors did not identify any issues with planting activities.

Finding: Free-Growing

Sections 34,ⁱⁱ 35,ⁱⁱⁱ 35.1,^{iv} and 75^v of the WLPPR include requirements for licensees to manage a regenerating stand to meet "free-growing" status. MGP must achieve a free-growing stand by a specific date; it must survey the

¹ Even though the allowable annual cut (AAC) is relatively small, woodlot tenure holders may harvest up to 120 percent of their accumulated 5-year AACs in one1 or 2 years.

regenerating cutblock prior to the free-growing date to demonstrate whether stocking requirements have been met; and, if free growing cannot be met, it must notify the minister and provide a plan to achieve free growing.

Free-growing obligations were due on a 25.9-hectare cutblock during the audit period. This cutblock did not meet free-growing status by the specified date. MGP did not survey the cutblock, did not meet stocking standards, did not notify the minister and provide a regeneration plan before the free-growing due date for this cutblock and did not comply with free-growing requirements. It is important that MGP ensures free-growing obligations are met to provide assurance that it is meeting its timber and forest resource commitments. These are considered significant non-compliances.

Subsequent to the audit, MGP notified the district manager that it could not meet free-growing requirements and submitted a regeneration plan to establish a free-growing stand on the cutblock. The district manager approved the plan and extended the free-growing date by five years, to provide time for MGP to establish a free-growing stand that conforms to the approved plan.

General Findings

Operational Planning

MGP was required to prepare a woodlot licence plan to operate on W2046. WLPs can have a term of up to 10 years. *Woodlot Licence Plan #1 W2046* was originally approved in 2011 and was extended to 2031 before the original term expired in 2021.

Woodlot Licence Plan #1 W2046 must include content specified in the WLPPR,² which includes elements of FRPA that apply to all timber tenures in BC, and also more specific requirements for the local area that are legislated through land use planning and government orders. The WLP must also identify landscape units within which W2046 is located.

W2046 falls within the Gold Landscape Unit (GLU). There is no approved landscape unit plan with legally established objectives for the GLU. The summary *Vancouver Island Land Use Plan* (VILUP) designates the GLU as a general management zone (RMZ 22 – Gold) with high fish, wildlife, and biodiversity values. The WLP committed to meeting the management regimes identified in the VILUP for RMZ 22, which includes general objectives and strategies for access management, karst, biodiversity, cultural heritage values, fish, recreation, timber visuals, watersheds, and wildlife.

Visual quality objectives (VQOs) and a recreation feature were established in W2046 by ministerial orders under the *Government Actions Regulation*. Two conjoined scenic areas encompass the north, east and west viewsheds from the Star Lake recreational site, and the WLP committed to meeting the VQOs. A recreation feature is established on the south shore of Star Lake. The WLP incorporated the rec site into the riparian reserve zone (RRZ) around Star Lake. The WLP commits RRZs as permanent retention areas and any harvesting that occurs therein must comply with the WLPPR.³

MGP adopted the one cutting permit approach,⁴ which does not require the spatial location of road and cutblock configurations prior to operations. Unlike licensees with Forest Stewardship Plans, the WLPPR does not require

² See WLPPR Division 2, sections 7 to 16.

³ Sections 39 and 40 of the WLPPR describe the restrictions in RRZs and riparian management areas.

⁴ The “one cutting permit” concept is that there would only be one cutting permit for an entire woodlot licence and the licensee would report on its activities after they were completed. This has the added advantage that the licensee would submit final cutblock boundaries once, resulting in lower administration and data storage costs, rather than the current practice in larger licenses where proposed cutblock boundaries are submitted at the outset and subsequent amendments submitted before a final cutblock boundary is realized.

licensees to develop site plans for harvesting and road activities. The requirement is to conduct activities in a manner that is consistent with, and meets the commitments contained in, the WLP.

The audit team evaluated the WLP and found that it met all requirements. No issues were identified with operational planning.

Timber Harvesting

The licensee harvested timber from 2 cutblocks during the audit period. The total harvested area was 23.5 hectares and auditors visited both cutblocks.

These cutblocks were not subject to VQOs, were not located near the recreation feature, and harvesting was consistent with the WLP. The auditors did not identify any issues with harvesting.

Road Construction, Maintenance and Deactivation

The licensee maintained 5.6 kilometres and constructed 2.9 kilometres of road during the audit period. Auditors examined 3.0 kilometres of maintained road and all 2.9 kilometres of the constructed road. The licensee did not deactivate any roads or install or maintain any bridges during the audit period.

Road prisms were stable and culverts were functioning as intended, enabling flow from ditches and maintaining natural drainage patterns.

The auditors did not identify any issues with road maintenance or construction.

Fire Protection Activities

Fire Preparedness

Auditors did not assess fire preparedness since there were no active operations during the audit fieldwork.

Fire Hazard Abatement

For W2046, section 12.1^{vi} of the *Wildfire Regulation* required MGP to abate fire hazards in two cutblocks within 30 months, if the assessments recommend it. A forest professional assessed fire hazards in both cutblocks and determined that abatement was not required.

Auditors did not identify any issues with fire hazard abatement.

Finding: Fire Hazard Assessments

The *Wildfire Regulation*^{vii} sets out six-month timeframes within which MGP was required to assess a fire hazard when carrying out timber harvesting, including an assessment of the fuel hazard and the associated risk of a fire starting or spreading. The assessment timeframes begin at start of harvesting.

Harvest activities were underway in two cutblocks in W2046 when the audit period began. MGP assessed fire hazards, but did so after the six-month timeframe and could not demonstrate that it has been diligent in assessing the hazard, which is a non-compliance with the *Wildfire Act*.^{viii} This non-compliance is an area requiring improvement since MGP is managing fire hazards in a reasonable manner.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the issues identified below, the operational planning, timber harvesting, road maintenance and construction, silviculture, and fire protection activities carried out under woodlot licence W2046, held by Matchlee General Partner Ltd., between October 1, 2020, and October 18, 2022, complied in all significant respects with the requirements of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Wildfire Act* and related regulations, as of October 2022.

In reference to compliance, the term “in all significant respects” recognizes that there may be minor instances of non-compliance that either may not be detected by the audit, or that are detected but not considered worthy of inclusion in the audit report.

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the *Free Growing* section of the report, which describes significant non-compliances related to not establishing a free growing stand by the date specified nor completing requirements leading up to the date; and the *Fire Hazard Assessments* section, which describes an area requiring improvement related to not completing fire hazard assessments within the required timeframe.

The *Audit Approach and Scope* and the *Planning and Practices Examined* sections of this report describe the basis of the audit work performed in reaching the above conclusion. The audit was conducted in accordance with the auditing standards of the Forest Practices Board, including adherence to the auditor independence standards and the ethical requirements, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour. Such an audit includes examining sufficient forest planning and practices to support an overall evaluation of compliance with *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and the *Wildfire Act*.



Daryl Spencer, RPF
Auditor of Record

Victoria, British Columbia
July 18, 2023

Appendix 1:

Forest Practices Board's Compliance Audit Process

Background

The Forest Practices Board conducts audits of government and agreement-holders under section 122 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and section 68 of the *Wildfire Act*. Compliance audits examine forest or range planning and practices to determine whether or not they comply with the applicable requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act*. The Board conducts 6-8 compliance audits annually. Most of these are audits of agreement holders. The Board also audits the government's BC Timber Sales Program (BCTS).

Selection of Auditees

To begin with, auditors randomly select an area of the Province, such as a natural resource district. Then the auditors review the forest resources, geographic features, operating conditions and other factors in the area selected. These are considered in conjunction with the Board's strategic priorities, and the type of audit is determined. At this stage, auditors choose the auditee(s) that best suit(s) the selected risk and priorities.

For example, in 2016, the Board randomly selected the Dawson Creek portion of the Peace Natural Resource District as a location for an audit. After assessing the activities within the area, auditors noted that there were two community forest agreements that had not yet been audited by the Board. As the Board strives to audit an array of licence types and sizes each year, these two community forest agreements were selected for audit.

For BCTS audits, a district or timber supply area within 1 of the 12 BCTS business areas in the province is selected randomly for audit. The audit selections are not based on past performance.

Only those licensees or BCTS operations that have not been audited by the Board in the past five years are eligible for selection.

Audit Standards

The audits are conducted in accordance with auditing standards developed by the Board. These standards include adherence to the auditor independence standards and the ethical requirements, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour and are consistent with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. The standards for compliance audits are described in the Board's Compliance Audit Reference Manual.

Audit Process

Conducting the Audit

Once the Board randomly selects an area or district and determines the scope of audit to be conducted and the licensee(s) to be audited, all activities carried out during the period subject to audit are identified (such as harvesting, replanting, road construction, road deactivation). Items that make up each forest activity are referred to as a population. For example, all sites harvested form the timber harvesting population and all road sections constructed form the road construction population.

The auditors select a separate sample for each population (e.g., the cutblocks selected for auditing timber harvesting). Within each population, more audit effort (i.e., more audit sampling) is allocated to areas where the

risk of non-compliance is greater. For smaller audits, the sample will include the full population. Auditors also consider factors such as geographic distribution and values potentially affected by activities to ensure an adequate sample.

Auditors' work includes interviewing licensee staff, reviewing the auditee's applicable plans, reviewing applicable government orders, assessing some features from helicopters and measuring specific features like riparian reserve zone widths using ground procedures. The audit teams generally spend three to five days in the field.

Evaluating the Results

The Board recognizes that compliance with the requirements of FRPA and the *Wildfire Act* is more a matter of degree than absolute adherence. Determining compliance, and assessing the significance of non-compliance, requires the exercise of professional judgment within the direction provided by the Board.

The audit team, composed of professionals and technical experts, first determines whether forest practices comply with legal requirements. For those practices considered to not be in compliance, the audit team then evaluates the significance of the non-compliance, based on a number of criteria, including the magnitude of the event, the frequency of its occurrence and the severity of the consequences.

Auditors categorize their findings into the following levels of compliance:

Compliance – where the auditor finds that practices meet FRPA and *Wildfire Act* requirements.

Unsound Practice – where the auditor identifies a significant practice that, although in compliance with FRPA or the *Wildfire Act*, is not considered to be sound management.

Not significant non-compliance – where the auditor, upon reaching a non-compliance conclusion, determines that one or more non-compliance event(s) is not significant and not generally worthy of reporting. However, in certain circumstances, these events may be reported as an area requiring improvement.

Significant non-compliance – where the auditor determines a non-compliance event(s) or condition(s) is, or has the potential to be, significant and is considered worthy of reporting.

Significant breach – where the auditor finds that significant harm has occurred, or is beginning to occur, to persons or the environment as a result of one or more non-compliance events.

If a significant breach of the legislation has occurred, the auditor is required by the *Forest Practices Board Regulation* to immediately advise the Board, the party being audited, and the responsible Minister(s).

Reporting

Based on the above evaluation, the auditor then prepares a draft audit report. The party being audited is given a copy of the draft report for review and comment before it is submitted to the Board.

The Board reviews the draft report and determines if the audit findings may adversely affect any party or person. If so, the party or person must be given an opportunity to make representations before the Board decides the matter and issues a final report. The opportunity to make representations allows parties that may potentially be adversely affected to present their views to the Board.

The Board reviews representations from parties that may potentially be adversely affected, makes any necessary changes to the report, and decides if recommendations are warranted. The report is then finalized and released: first to the auditee and then to the public and government seven days later.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ A woodlot licence plan (WLP) is a key planning element in the FRPA framework and is subject to public review and comment, and government approval. In its WLP, Matchlee General Partner Ltd. is required to identify performance requirements and measures consistent with applicable government objectives for resource values. Performance requirements must be measurable and once approved, are subject to government enforcement. WLPs also identify areas where timber harvesting will be avoided or modified, depending on resource interest requirements in the woodlot area. The WLP map shows resource interests within the woodlot area, such as scenic areas, community watersheds and recreation areas but does not specifically show where road construction and harvesting will occur. WLPs can have a term of up to ten years.

ii **WLPPR section 34 – Free growing stands**

- 1) Unless exempted under subsection (2) or section 78 (2) [*minister may grant exemptions*], a woodlot licence holder must establish, in accordance with this Division, a free growing stand on
 - a) the net area to be reforested,
 - b) areas where timber was harvested by the holder in contravention of section 52 [*unauthorized timber harvesting*] of the Act,
 - c) private land subject to the woodlot licence where timber was harvested by the holder without authorization, and
 - d) areas where the minister requires the holder to establish a free growing stand when the holder is authorized to obtain a cutting permit under section 12 (3) [*woodlot licence plan required*] of the Act.
- 2) A woodlot licence holder is exempt from the requirements of section 29 (3) [*free growing stands*] of the Act in respect of an area if timber harvesting is limited to one or more of the following:
 - a) harvesting timber to eliminate a safety hazard;
 - b) harvesting timber to facilitate the collection of seed, leaving an opening not greater than 1 ha;
 - c) removing felled trees from landings and road rights of way;
 - d) commercial thinning, removal of individual trees, or a similar type of intermediate cutting;
 - e) harvesting special forest products.
- 3) A woodlot licence holder who harvests timber for the reasons referred to in subsection (2) (d) or (e) must ensure that, for a period of 12 months after completion of harvest, the area on which timber harvesting was carried out conforms to the stocking standards specified in section 12 [*stocking information for specified areas*] for the area.
- 4) For the purpose of the definition of "commencement date", the minister may give written authorization for a specified commencement date if
 - a) harvesting of bark beetle infested timber or timber damaged by wind occurs before harvesting the majority of the cutblock volume, or
 - b) all of the following apply:
 - i) harvesting in areas that are in close proximity has taken place over one or more seasons;
 - ii) the holder has proposed to amalgamate the areas into a single unit;
 - iii) the minister is satisfied that the amalgamation will simplify future management of the areas.

iii **WLPPR section 35 – Conforming to stocking standards**

- 1) In subsection (2), the applicable stocking standards, regeneration date and free growing date are those specified for the applicable silvicultural system in
 - a) the woodlot licence holder's woodlot licence plan, or
 - b) the Ministry of Forests' publication, Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards, as amended from time to time, if the stocking standards, regeneration date or free growing date are not specified in the holder's woodlot licence plan.
- 2) A woodlot licence holder who is required to establish a free growing stand on an area must,
 - a) by the applicable regeneration date, establish a stand that conforms to the stocking standards that relate to the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification for the area, and
 - b) by the applicable free growing date, establish a free growing stand that conforms to the stocking standards that relate to the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification for the area.

iv **WLPPR section 35.1 – Requirements if free growing stand cannot be established**

- 1) Subject to section 108 of the Act, a woodlot licence holder who
 - a) is required to establish a free growing stand under section 34 of this regulation, and
 - b) knows that the requirements of sections 34 and 35 of this regulation cannot be metmust
 - c) give notice to the minister that the requirements to establish a free growing stand cannot be met, giving the reasons, and
 - d) submit to the minister a proposal for establishing a free growing stand on the area, including the stocking standards, the free growing height and the latest date by which the stocking standards and free growing height will be achieved.
- 2) The minister must approve a proposal submitted under subsection (1) if the minister considers that the proposal is consistent with section 18 (3).
- 3) The minister must give notice to the holder who submitted the proposal if the proposal has been approved or rejected and, if rejected, must provide written reasons.
- 4) A rejection under subsection (3) is reviewable as set out in sections 80 and 81 of the Act and those sections and sections 82 to 84 of the Act apply in respect of the review.

-
- 5) A holder who is notified under subsection (3) that the proposal has been approved must ensure that a free growing stand is established that conforms to the approved proposal.

v WLPPR section 75 – Surveys

- 1) If required by the minister, a woodlot licence holder must carry out a survey of the nature and extent of
 - a) the total area of the cutblock that is occupied by permanent access structures, and
 - b) soil disturbance within the net area to be reforested.
- 2) If the minister reasonably believes that a woodlot licence holder has not met a requirement under section 35 [conforming to stocking standards] on an area, the minister may require the holder to carry out a survey to ascertain if the requirements have been met.
- 3) A woodlot licence holder must carry out a survey for the net area to be reforested, on or before the free growing date, identifying all of the following:
 - a) the area for which the free growing stocking requirements have been met;
 - b) the number of healthy, well spaced free growing trees per hectare of preferred and acceptable species, as those species are described under section 35;
 - c) the number of healthy, well spaced free growing trees per hectare of the preferred species as those species are described under section 35;
 - d) for any areas for which the free growing stocking requirements have not been met, both the areas that are and are not satisfactorily stocked;
 - e) the forest cover inventory.
- 4) Despite subsection (3), the minister may exempt a woodlot licence holder from the requirement to carry out a free growing survey on an area if
 - a) the minister is satisfied that a free growing stand has been established on the area, and
 - b) the holder has provided the information referred to in subsection (3) (a) to (e) for that area.
- 5) A woodlot licence holder who has carried out intermediate cuttings must carry out a survey, between 1 and 3 years after the completion of harvesting on the area, that identifies
 - a) the area,
 - b) the forest cover inventory, and
 - c) damage to trees by insects, disease or other factors affecting forest health.
- 6) Despite subsection (5), the minister may exempt a woodlot licence holder from the requirement to carry out a survey on an area of intermediate cuttings if
 - a) the area is too small to warrant the survey, or
 - b) the extent of harvesting does not significantly change the inventory label.
- 7) A woodlot licence holder must
 - a) carry out other surveys and assessments according to the direction of the minister,
 - b) amend any survey or assessment prepared under this section, if required by the minister,
 - c) keep a record of each survey or assessment prepared under this section, and
 - d) provide a copy of the records under paragraph (c) to the minister when submitting the annual report for the year in which the survey or assessment was carried out, unless the minister requires the copy at a different time.

vi Wildfire Regulation section 12.1: Hazard abatement: qualified holders.

- 1) In this section, "abatement area" means each area within which the industrial activity or prescribed activity takes place in each consecutive 12-month period that occurs after the date the activity begins.
- 2) The following periods are prescribed as the periods in which a person described in section 7 (2) of the Act who is a qualified holder must abate fire hazards of which the person is aware or ought reasonably to be aware:
 - a) for each abatement area within an area described in section 11 (2) (a) of this regulation, a period of 24 months, beginning on the date the industrial activity or prescribed activity begins in the abatement area,
 - b) for each abatement area within an area other than an area described in section 11 (2) (a) of this regulation,
 - i) a period of 30 months, beginning on the date the industrial activity or prescribed activity begins in the abatement area, or
 - ii) the period specified by a professional forester or registered forest technologist.
- 3) A person required to abate a fire hazard under section 7 (2) of the Act who is a qualified holder must reduce the fuel hazard on the site of the industrial activity or prescribed activity
 - a) as necessary to ensure that carrying out the activity
 - i) does not increase the risk of a fire starting on the site, and
 - ii) if a fire were to start, would not increase the fire behaviour or fire suppression associated with the fire, or
 - b) as specified by a professional forester or registered forest technologist.

vii Wildfire Regulation section 11: Hazard assessment

- 1) For the purposes of section 7 of the Act,
 - a) each of the following is a prescribed activity under subsections (1) and (2) of that section:
 - i) operating a waste disposal site;
 - ii) operating a dry land sort;
 - iii) operating a camp associated with an industrial activity, and
 - b) each of the following is a prescribed circumstance under subsection (1) of that section:

- i) an industrial activity or an activity prescribed under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) creates or increases a fire hazard or is likely to do so;
 - ii) an official notifies a person carrying out an industrial activity or an activity prescribed under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) that a fire hazard exists at the site of the activity or operation.
- 2) Subject to subsection (3.1) of this section, the prescribed intervals, at which persons described in section 7 (1) of the Act must conduct fire hazard assessments, are
 - a) 3 month intervals during the period in which the persons are carrying on the industrial activity or the prescribed activity in an area inside, or within 2 km of, the boundaries of
 - i) a local government under paragraphs (d) to (f) of the definition of "local government" in section 1 of the Act, or
 - ii) a fire protection district in a regional district, and
 - b) the shorter interval between the most recent 3 month interval and the date on which the activity ceases for an expected period of 3 months or more.
- 3) Subject to subsection (3.1) of this section, the prescribed intervals, at which persons described in section 7 (1) of the Act must conduct fire hazard assessments, are
 - a) 6 month intervals during the period during which the persons, in any area other than the area described in subsection (2), are carrying on the industrial activity or the prescribed activity, and
 - b) the shorter interval between the most recent 6 month interval and the date on which the activity ceases for an expected period of 6 months or more.
- 3.1) The prescribed intervals, at which a person described in section 7 (1) of the Act who is a qualified holder must conduct fire hazard assessments, are the intervals
 - a) set out in subsection (2) or (3) of this section, as applicable, or
 - b) specified by a professional forester or a registered forest technologist.
- 4) A person required to conduct a fire hazard assessment under section 7 (1) of the Act must
 - a) ensure that the fire hazard assessment includes an assessment of the fuel hazard and its associated risk of a fire starting or spreading, and
 - b) provide a copy of the fire hazard assessment when requested to do so by an official.
- 5) A person referred to in section 7 (1) of the Act is exempt from section 7 (1) of the Act in respect of an area if a person referred to in section 7 (2.1) of the Act is required to abate fire hazards in respect of that area

^{viii} **Wildfire Act section 7: Hazard assessment and abatement**

- 1) In prescribed circumstances and at prescribed intervals, a person carrying out an industrial activity or a prescribed activity on forest land or grass land or within 1 km of forest land or grass land must conduct fire hazard assessments.
- 2) A person, other than a person who is in a prescribed class of persons referred to in subsection (2.1), carrying out an industrial activity or a prescribed activity, must, within a prescribed time period and to the prescribed extent, abate a fire hazard of which the person is aware or ought reasonably to be aware.
- 2.1) A person who is in a prescribed class of persons must, within the prescribed time period and to the prescribed extent, abate a fire hazard on a prescribed area.
- 2.2) A person referred to in subsection (2) is not required to abate a fire hazard on an area if a person referred to in subsection (2.1) is required to abate the fire hazard.
- 3) Despite subsections (2) and (2.1), if an official identifies circumstances that the official considers constitute a fire hazard in relation to
 - a) an industrial activity, or
 - b) a prescribed activity referred to in subsections (2) and (2.1),
 the official by written order may require the applicable person to abate the fire hazard by a specified date.
- 4) A person who is the subject of an order under subsection (3) and to whom written notice of the order has been given must comply with the order.



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