

Guide to
**FOREST
LAND**
of SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND



MEMBERS: British Columbia
Capitol Regional District
Water Department
Canadian Forest Service
Hoscood Timber Resource Group
Hoscood Forest Ltd.
Municipality of North Cowichan
Timber/Wood Forest Ltd.
Western Forest Products Ltd.
**LAKE
COWICHAN
COMBINED
FIRE
ORGANIZATION**

Founded in 1958, the Lake Cowichan Combined Fire Organization (LCCOFO) works to keep the forests of southern Vancouver Island green for its member agencies, the wildlife that live there, and the public who use them for recreation. The member agencies know that the only way to fight forest fires is to pool manpower and resources.

The LCCOFO assists the B.C. Forest Service to fight forest fires throughout the south island, proving its worth in several major wildfire events since 1963. A chain of command is established to coordinate operations, all fire equipment is standardized and colour-coded to identify ownership and rental rates are set for labour and equipment usage. Maps, updated annually, help to coordinate fire fighting activities along boundary lines. When not fighting fires, the organization promotes sound forestry management, public access to our forests, and forest-fire prevention.

The success of the organization has attracted the attention of other forestry groups on Vancouver Island and on the mainland. Information on prescribed burning, hazard abatement, wildfires, fire prevention, and the impact of weather on forestry operations is shared and problems are discussed. The resulting policies have been applied to other areas in the province where similar situations exist.

FORESTS MEAN JOBS

Forests are vital to the environment, economy, and our way of life on southern Vancouver Island. The forestry industry represented on this map of Southern Vancouver Island directly employs more than 6,500 people. In addition, approximately 1,000 people are indirectly employed in forestry as well as in the processing and distribution of forest products in the Victoria area. An additional 120 forestry specialists can be added to

most practices on the sustainability of BC forests in our prime concerns.

Research plots are located in various areas of Vancouver Island. If you come across these in your travels, it is important that they be respected and left intact so that future scientific knowledge can be collected and added to our understanding of how our forests work and survive.

Fisheries

The impact of timber harvesting on fish habitat is a major concern to forest land managers. Steps have been taken to ensure that logging operations do not impact habitat, either directly or indirectly. These steps may include, in site-specific situations: modifying or curtailing harvesting operations in sensitive areas; logging trees away from creeks and rivers; preserving unimproved stream drift adjacent to certain water courses; and logging only during the dry summer months.

This number, bringing the total to almost 7,500 people directly employed in forestry.

The forest sector has a 3:1 multiplier effect, which means that for every person employed in forestry, two other jobs are created to provide goods and services to the industry and its employees. Total employment generated by the forest sector in this area is therefore estimated at over 22,000.

Stumpage and royalties paid by the Southern Forest Industry for harvesting Crown timber during 1987-88 averaged \$1.3 billion annually, with an additional \$1.2 billion paid to the Forests Managed Forest Land property taxes.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

All publicly owned forest land is carefully managed to integrate wildlife, fisheries, recreation and forestry values. Although the majority of jobs and revenues are produced by the forest industry, the impact of logging land on other forest resources must be considered before logging proceeds.

Wildlife

On southern Vancouver Island, wildlife management occurs on the black-headed gull, for example. Considerable maintenance with graders and small backhoes is required to keep road surfaces smooth and ditches and culverts clear.

Chroniclers (log loaders) load the right-of-way road. Considerable maintenance with graders and small backhoes is required to keep road surfaces smooth and ditches and culverts clear.

The forest is a habitat for many species of birds and animals. One of the main concerns of the forest industry is to maintain wildlife habitat and to prevent logging activities from destroying wildlife habitat. Considerable maintenance with graders and small backhoes is required to keep road surfaces smooth and ditches and culverts clear.

How Our Forests Are Managed

After timber harvesting operations, several well-planned activities must take place to ensure the successful establishment of another forest crop. Only with site-specific silvicultural programs can we sustain our timber harvests into the future.

One of the annual cycles of forest planning operations will significantly

Recreation

The use of forest land for recreation is increasing. Many trails, campgrounds, and picnic grounds have been established by both government and industry. Except during times of high fire danger, inclement weather conditions or in areas of active logging, all public logging roads are open to the public. Road maps are available at all forest group or government offices.

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to the tree as possible. Within a few years new growth on this tree-matter portion of the tree will be lost.

Then, the soil plants, can benefit from fertilization. This is especially true throughout the eastern portions of Vancouver Island, where fertilization is carried out using helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft. The most common fertilizer is urea, which is 46% nitrogen, applied through the most fall season.

TIMBER HARVESTING - STEP BY STEP

Merchable stands of timber are analyzed to determine species composition, quantity and quality of timber, and possible harvesting impacts on wildlife and fisheries. On public lands, five-year harvesting and three-year reforestation plan is submitted to the Forest Service, the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for review and approval.

Once the replanting is established, care must be taken to maintain the impact of forest or ornamental deciduous trees that may hamper the growth of the new crop. This weeding process is achieved either by mechanical or chemical means. Each situation is carefully evaluated and the best suited method is used. Herbicide use is carefully regulated and is confined to a small percentage of plantations.

Once approval is granted by the resource agencies, road construction commences. Safety cut trees along the right-of-way marked out by the signposts while backhoes and bulldozers begin building the road. Often the road must be drilled and blasted to push the roads through the rugged coastal terrain. Blast is brought from rock quarries with dump trucks to provide solid material for the road surface. Fully equipped and staffed to maintain natural drainage patterns. Chroniclers (log loaders) load the right-of-way road. Considerable maintenance with graders and small backhoes is required to keep road surfaces smooth and ditches and culverts clear.

The next step is the actual logging of the area where logs are moved from the right-of-way to the landing area. Full-time loggers are used to fall the timber and buck it to preferential log lengths designed to get the maximum value from the tree. Next come the rigging crews, which yard (ie. pull) the logs to the roadside using grapple yarders or mobile gear trucks. Both machines use a cable system anchored to stumps or tailhold machines at the cutblock edge.

The operator stands kokoi, selects stands which are marked up to a height of five metres. All branches are removed using hand-held saws cutting as close

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TRAVEL IN FOREST AREAS

Logging road travel can be a rewarding experience for the well-prepared traveler with spectacular scenery, a variety of wildlife habitat and places to explore. Take an excursion down a logging road and you'll discover all this and more.

Normally, you don't need a permit or special permission to explore our logging roads but exceptions do exist so contact the nearest company or Ministry of Forests office for road access information.

To travel safely on logging roads you do need to follow a few basic rules:

1. Please drive carefully.
2. Turn your headlights on for better visibility.
3. Do not exceed speed limits.
4. Be aware of changing road conditions - changes can occur quite suddenly! Watch for rough areas, hot mud, dusty conditions, steep hills, fallen rock, animals on the road.
5. Park clear of the roadway and gates.
6. All vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, require insurance to travel on logging roads.
7. Drive defensively!

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WILDFIRE

Please do your utmost to ensure the forest experience you enjoy will not be spoiled by the ravages of wildfires by following these FIRE SAFETY POINTS:

Smokers

1. Use your ashtray when driving.
2. Don't walk in the woods while smoking.
3. Fully extinguish cigarettes and matches prior to discarding.

Campers and Picnickers

1. Campfires may be prohibited in many areas. Check with local forest companies or the Ministry of Forests to determine if you may have a campfire.
2. Obey all campfire regulations when a campfire is permissible including -
 - ensure the fire is located in a fire safe pit
 - clear a 3 meter (10') hot-zone zone surrounding the fire
 - keep the fire unattended
 - never leave fire unattended
 - fully extinguish fire prior to leaving
 - Use extreme caution with propane stoves and barbecues and in particular charcoal barbecues - they must be cooled off prior to discarding.
 - Do not litter.
3. Use extreme caution with propane stoves and barbecues and in particular charcoal barbecues - they must be cooled off prior to discarding.

Reporting Fires Call

1-800-663-3555 or 9-1-1
If you see a fire or suspicious smoke, report it immediately to the Ministry of Forests by dialling 1-800-663-3555. Report it to a forest company employee also, if possible. In other cases, give

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| <p>Canadian Forestry Values Recognize the value of the forests we share.</p> | <p>Welcome We welcome you to the forest and to the lakes and rivers of the province.</p> | <p>Active Logging Area This area is under active logging operations. All vehicles must stop here.</p> |
|---|---|--|

details as to location, color of smoke, wind, size of fire, etc.

Any fire near a community should be reported as well as the local fire department by dialling 9-1-1. The local dispatch center for 9-1-1 will require the geographic location and description of the fire.

How to locate a fire

The mapsheet has grid lines of latitude and longitude which can assist the public in reporting the location of a fire. For example: Lake Cowichan is a approximately 48°20'N west longitude and 124°00'W south latitude. If you doubt you report a fire, include the nearest identifiable feature (eg. hill, mountain, road, etc.)

Have a fire-safe forest emergency plan.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

A Mutual Aid Agreement is in place between the members of the Lake Cowichan Combined Fire Organization (L.C.C.F.O.) and includes both wildfire suppression and fire prevention programs. The members of the L.C.C.F.O. all realize the serious potential threat that wildfire poses to the forests and natural environment of Southern Vancouver Island in the summer months.

To ensure that fires are suppressed as quickly as possible, all members of the L.C.C.F.O. have agreed to investigate and attack any fire, regardless of forest land ownership. This concept ensures that wildfires will be controlled without undue delay. This Mutual Aid Agreement, signed in 1987 by senior forest company and government representatives, is the first of its kind in the province of B.C.

The signatories have committed to a "fight the fire first and worry about whose land it is on later" philosophy. Equipment and talents sharing, as well as coordinated prevention and fire detection programs provide maximum efficiency and coverage of the forested lands on Southern Vancouver Island.

Mutual aid, that is, the combined and uncoordinated response by the stakeholders of the L.C.C.F.O., ensures that all fire reports are taken seriously and attended to promptly.

FOREST CRIME PREVENTION

Forest companies welcome visitors to the public forest lands they manage, except where it would be dangerous to travel due to active logging operations or where high fire hazard conditions exist. Entry may also be restricted onto

BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST MUSEUM

Located one kilometre north of Duncan B.C. near the town of Cowichan, the British Columbia Forest Museum offers a fascinating look at the history of logging in British Columbia. The museum has 100 acres of park, and steps of displays of early logging techniques, passenger trains from Cowichan Lake. A museum building contains exhibits which follow the story of man and the forest. The exhibits range from modern times. The many lands and activities and demonstrations are free for the entire family.

Coming to the Museum in the summer of 1991 will be a display on Forestry in B.C.

NON-TIDAL SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

General regulations:
LAKERS: Daily catch quota for trout and their substitutes, please consult the B.C. Sport Fishing Regulations Synopsist or call your nearest Ministry of Forests office.

C.P.L.A. \$5000 REWARD

The Coast Forest and Timber Association offers to grant a reward of up to five thousand dollars (\$5000) to persons who report information regarding the apprehension and conviction of a person or persons for theft, illegal logging or other criminal offences in respect to logs, booming gear, equipment, and machinery on forest lands owned or used by the forest industry in British Columbia.

This shows offer is made subject to the condition that the C.P.L.A. retains the right to determine and apportion the amount of any reward if or to grant.

The information in regards to theft, without damage, or criminal offences should be reported immediately to either the Security Manager, Coast Forest and Timber Association (981-1247), or the nearest police authority.

All claims for reward should be made in writing to the Security Manager, C.P.L.A., 119 - 1190 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V7Z 1S7.

You may encounter crews building new logging trail entrances. If blasting is underway, signs for the 15-foot vehicles and one-second intervals and then the one log while signalling the "all clear." For everyone's protection, all road access to the blasting site is blocked by blasting sites.

Hazards: Be aware that crews may be working in the bush!

LOGGING ROAD DEACTIVATION

As the logging roads are deactiveated, offer access roads were left in place once they were no longer required. Some roads were deactiveated, creating safety hazards and serious streamside erosion could become a hot access for recreational and other uses.

The Forest Practices Code now requires that those logging roads no longer needed for harvesting be returned to a stabilized form. Certain old roads are also being reclaimed through Forest Renewal B.C. Under the Code deactivation of currently licensed and new logging roads, or similar access structures, needs to be planned in advance.

In some terrain, deactiveated roads are an accommodation for wildlife access, water and roads. However, in other situations, the potential for landslides or the size of areas crossing may preclude future access because of the measures that need to be taken to deactiveate the roads.

Basically, when license holders have no further use for a road, two routes are followed:

- The license holder must deactivate it, or
- The Ministry of Forests District Manager must allow license holders of their responsibility and turn it over to Forestry, either, or the Ministry of Forests.

Deactivation is a stabilizing process, not cleanup. There may also be temporary road closures for administration purposes, that apply to any logging road at any time. The Ministry of Forests or licensees have the right to close a road if conditions would be dangerous.

- Chase significant damage to the road or the environment,
- Endanger life or property, or,
- In the event of forest use restrictions, which are required due to serious potential for, or threat, from, wildfire.



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SCALE: 1 cm = 1.75 km
1 inch = 2.75 miles

HOW TO LOCATE A FIRE

The mapsheet has grid lines of latitude and longitude which can assist the public in reporting the location of a fire. For example, Lake Cowichan is at approximately 124° 04' west longitude and 48° 42.5' north latitude. If in doubt when you report a fire, include the name of the nearest identifiable feature (eg. lake, mountain, road, etc.)
Have a fire-safe forest experience!

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Public road - paved | ..... |
| Public road - loose surface | ..... |
| Logging road - maintained | ..... |
| Logging road - not maintained | ..... |
| Gate | ..... |
| Campsite | ..... |
| Picnic site | ..... |
| Boat launch | ..... |
| Recreational fishing | ..... |
| Trail | ..... |
| Point of Interest | ..... |
| Company office | ..... |
| Mill | ..... |
| Seed orchard | ..... |
| Nursery | ..... |
| Cowichan Valley Demonstration Forest | ..... |



