

Notes from Forestry Group meeting 19 May 2022, Shedwood Hall, Motueka Catchment Collective

Issues from community perspective

Topic	Want more interaction with forestry companies
Clear felling	Overseas landowners devastated by clear felling practises in NZ as third world practises. Doesn't fit with how NZ should be marketed overseas. Canada allows natural regeneration and only logs small patches. Texas allow clear cutting by has a lot more protection of waterways.
	Community wants mixed forests that are selectively harvested and not clear felled.
Good management practises	Smaller landowners with forests often use poor practises
	Logging practises are better with companies, easier to manage in bigger forests
Product	Pine is a very low value product. Why export just logs?
	Monoculture. The dominance of pine and lack of diversification.
Set backs/buffers	Forestry companies are moving further away from waterways as they harvest but this will take 30 years
	Some blocks have too many complex waterways so forestry is walking away from these sites.
	Buffer zones wider than the minimum and that contain diverse species.
Overseas ownership, not part of the community	China doesn't appreciate environmental performance and it takes 80% of our export
	Forestry is not part of the community. Largely absentee landowners. Even shearers are part of the community. Forestry is largely in overseas ownership.
Sediment, wood and slash, damage to property	Community concerned about fine sediment and wood in streams and slash coming down on houses. Higher erosion in creeks with forestry compared to native.
	Community concerned about floods that come down after harvest that take fences out and destroy property. Forestry has helped some to repair damage. Forestry needs to be held responsible for negative impacts on roads, private property, flood and erosion.
	The way and amount of slash being left on the hill post harvest.
Communication	Poor communication from forestry companies about what they are doing.
Hassles and risks	Dust and noise associated with forestry.
	Highway restrictions during harvesting
	Community is concerned about fire risk due to forestry
Mining soils	Is forestry mining soils? There are no measures of soil formation vs erosion
True costs and returns of forestry	Forestry is losing their social license to operate. Negative impacts not less than returns.
	Forestry should include environmental costs ie true cost accounting to determine benefit to country of forestry. Social, environmental and financial accounting. Forestry companies prioritise profit over the environment.
Pest weed and pest animals	Community concerned about pest weeds, wilding pines and pest animals coming out of forestry.
Responsibility	Government lack of direction with environment. Forestry should be forming their own national environmental states for forestry.

Issues from forestry sector perspective

Informing and relationship with community	Community mis understanding of corporate forestry and slash practises
	A lot of good environmental work is being done but not acknowledged
	Perception that forestry is all about the money
	There has been a major change and a lot of good regulation is already in place that community is unaware
	Good management practise is in place for clear fell areas
	Education of the public about what is already being done
	Forestry sells themselves poorly, don't create social capital and could do more eg putting good material on roads etc
	Managing relationship with neighbours
Good management practises have improved	There has been an improvement in harvest management with cables being used to pull out whole trees (without disturbing soil) which also allows the stockpiling of biomass in the right place.
	There has been an improvement in how slash is managed.
	Blanket felling is ok provided the waterways are protected.
	Forestry doesn't want slips or erosion either and have a management system to try and minimise these
Carbon farming	Carbon farming without harvest
	Unused forestry lots???
Loss of milling capability	Small sawmills are closing down due to H and S issues
Sustainability	Third rotation of pine is growing better than earlier rotations due to build up of organic matter and mycorrhiza.
Managing risks	Granite sands are highly erodible and in big events like Gita every land use suffers including native. Slip risk is a combination of soil type topography and rainfall.
	Fire risk with climate change
	How to make the decision about when forestry is unsuitable due to location, economics or environmental risks?
Alternative species	Pine is not the best tree in all locations due to its risk from windfall.
	Need alternative species in some locations
	Alternative species may not be financially viable.
	How to change forestry practises to include native or other wood types and what others are doing in this space?
Financial sustainability	Remaining financially viable
	Is forestry plantation models in NZ the best for the future. It will be 27 years before we catch up and know the answer
Pest weed and pest animals	First 2 years after planting forestry need to control pigs and possums
	Should foresters assist other landowners in pest control because possums etc come out of surrounding land on mass
	Forestry puts big effort into controlling OMB, but in some areas "super weed zones"the issue is too big for forestry.
	Really need to keep OMB out fo areas where it hasn't been
	PF Olsen sterilise machinery when moving from area with OMB to area without. It costs \$10-\$20K to do this each time.
	Forestry wants everyone to be on board with controlling OMB

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Opportunities to do better

Sediment measurement and mitigation	Get more information on soil loss with trials like Donald Creek.
	Sediment source tracking
	Research to determine source of sediment and contributors
	Work with downstream landowners to capture sediment and slash
Inform community	Improving understanding of forestry to other landusers
	Inform community on forestry regulations
Bigger buffers	Wider stream buffers
	Create buffers/setbacks in alternative species
	With increase in setbacks/buffers most of these will revert to native plantings and make an even greater contribution to biodiversity than forests do now.
	Shared management of buffer zones
Look after roads	Road user levy distributed to local government to assist with road maintenance
	Suppress dust with lime chip
Restrict area of clear cutting	Restrict clear cut areas
Alternative species	Trial alternative planting species
	Increase use of coppicing trees eg Redwoods (worth \$7000/m ³ cf fine \$100)
Council as role model for forestry	Council as a better role model forestry owner eg Borlase
Alternative uses for waste wood	Use slash for biomass for production of bio energy, biochar and hydrogen production
Processing capability	Increase processing capability in NZ
Pest and weed control	Improved pest animal and weed control
Alternative income streams	Improve forestry profitability (got be in the black to be in the green!) through multiple income streams such as gingseng , mushrooms, koura

Ideas for next steps

Biomass	Make better use of waste biomass
Improved processing	Incentives from Government for better processing to happen in NZ to reduce both imports of wood and reduce export of logs.
	Develop wood processing industry that can handle different tree species
Alternative species	Develop high value wood markets and supply eg Totara
	Develop a marketing entity for minor high value wood species. Improve marketing within NZ
	Conduct trials on alternative species
	Set targets for alternative species in the catchment
	Work with iwi with alternatives for their forestry land
Measure sediment	Get a number of automatic turbidity measurement devices to better track sediment losses
Biodiversity	Enhance biodiversity in forestry
Weed control	Develop a catchment wide strategy for OMB
	Spend some of 900K on OMB. Can't expect community to do this without help from contractors.
Inform community	Educate and inform the public via different channels
Retire areas	Retire steep slopes not suitable for forestry

AL, 30/5/2022