

DISTRICT OF MISSION



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT



TREE FARM LICENCE 26

DISTRICT OF MISSION



INFORMATION ON TREE FARM LICENCE 26 (MISSION MUNICIPAL FOREST)

History

- ◆ unique status of having the only Municipal Tree Farm Licence (TFL) in BC until 1993.
- ◆ a total of 10,400 hectares (1,200 - municipal land and 9,200 - provincial crown land).
- ◆ TFL originally granted in 1958. Forestry reserves prior to this date from 1940's.
- ◆ TFL document renewed in 1999 for a 25 year term.
- ◆ currently working under Management Plan #8.
- ◆ original purpose was to reduce local unemployment and provide wood source for local mills.
- ◆ royalty fees rather than stumpage charged until the late 1970's.
- ◆ over 42 years about 1,200,000 m³ harvested, 3,200,000 trees planted, 750 hectares spaced and 400 hectares pruned.

Benefits of the Municipal Forest

- ◆ Community Stability
 - steady local employment
 - revenue: to produce sustained profit for public capital projects and community grants
- ◆ Control of Local Forest Resources
 - controlled harvesting pattern
 - input into watershed management, tourism opportunities, etc.
- ◆ Multiple Use Opportunities for Local and BC Residents
 - recreation (lakes, hiking/horse/mountain bike trails, picnic spots, fishing, boating)
 - education (school and public)
 - wildlife, water, biodiversity and landscape management

Geographic Features

10,400 hectares in the northern part of the District of Mission from Steelhead to Stave Falls and north to Morgan Lake on the west side of Stave Lake. Close to large populations.

- ◆ annual allowable cut (AAC) of $\pm 45,000$ cubic meters; managed on sustainable harvest basis.
- ◆ timber profile largely consists of second-growth timber originating from fires or harvesting in early part of the century. Some old-growth remains at higher elevations.
- ◆ second growth volumes often 500-700 m³/ha but contains many stems and relatively high volumes of small diameter hemlock.
- ◆ wide range of topography ranging from flatter, low elevations to steep and sub-alpine areas (100-1300 meters above sea level).
- ◆ landscape mainly suitable for mini-tower (running skyline), but some flatter areas are suited to skidder logging and hoe chucking.

DISTRICT OF MISSION



Economic History

1958 - 1979

royalty rather than stumpage charged until late 1970's

- ◆ BC Forest Service paid for most silviculture costs.
- ◆ profits were not large but many people were employed

Therefore no economic concerns in early years.

1980 - 1985

- ◆ severe downturn in economy, particularly forestry.
- ◆ full stumpage payments required.
- ◆ large crews and high costs at beginning of this period.

Therefore strategy was survival and 'downsizing'.

1986 - 1990

- ◆ consultant's report done to recommend future changes for TFL 26.
- ◆ good economy.
- ◆ low harvesting costs; small municipal crew only.
- ◆ improvement in marketing strategy.

Therefore profits in all 5 years; forestry reserve fund established to retain money for cyclical downturns.

1991 - 1992

- ◆ economic downturn, particularly in forestry.
- ◆ Forestry reserves used as planned with no direct immediate cost to Mission taxpayers.

1993 - 1995

- ◆ return to better forestry economy; forestry reserves fully restored.
- ◆ record profits achieved in 1995.

1996 - 2001

- ◆ Forest Practices Code introduced.
- ◆ legislation increased administrative costs.
- ◆ very high stumpage.
- ◆ Forest Renewal BC 'super' stumpage funding costs.
- ◆ softwood lumber agreement affecting coastal mills.
- ◆ continuing poor markets.

2002 – to current year

- ◆ softwood lumber tariffs affecting coastal mills.
- ◆ fluctuating markets.
- ◆ ISO 14001 Certification achieved in 2004.

Current Financial Management Strategy

DISTRICT OF MISSION



- ◆ realize forestry is a cyclical industry with economic ups and downs.
- ◆ maximize revenue in the 5-year cut control period rather than one year periods.
- ◆ 'market' log. Harvest more when economy is good and build reserves to buffer economic downturns. When economy is poor, harvest less and utilize reserves as needed to ensure proper forest management programs.
- ◆ movement toward value added (house logs, poles, other forest products)
- ◆ Goal = Self funding department with surplus revenue and multiple use opportunities available for residents of Mission and BC.

Management Trends

- ◆ sustainable harvesting with amount of old-growth increasing over time.
- ◆ increasing alternate silviculture systems and commercial thinning.
- ◆ small scattered cutblocks and prompt reforestation.
- ◆ avoidance of slashburning and herbicides.
- ◆ rapid expansion of recreation opportunities.
- ◆ environmental integrity; maintain productivity of the land base.
- ◆ community stability.
- ◆ compliance with relevant provincial legislation, self-management.
- ◆ increased public input/involvement opportunities.
- ◆ belief that long-term forestry prospects are sound.
- ◆ investigate value-added or localized manufacturing opportunities.
- ◆ experimenting with variable retention logging for biological and social objectives.

Some Issues to Consider in Forest Management

- ◆ 'environmentalism/preservationist' movement.
- ◆ long-term forestry prospects.
- ◆ sustained yield and second growth timber profiles.
- ◆ 'sustainable development'.
- ◆ utilization.
- ◆ clear-cut logging; landscape; aesthetics; biodiversity.
- ◆ public involvement in forest management.
- ◆ stumpage and logging costs.
- ◆ value-added marketing and industries.
- ◆ changes resulting from rapid local population growth and urbanization.
- ◆ utilizing funding from FRBC, etc to benefit silviculture, recreation, education, watersheds.

Summary

- ◆ Mission Municipal Forest is a community asset we are proud of.
- ◆ If we strike a 'balanced' approach to forest management policies we can help provide local, BC and Canadian residents a preferred life-style including economic returns, recreation opportunities, multiple forest values and pride in the forests.
- ◆ We must have a long term tenure to provide the basis for a 'lasting relationship with the land', one of the key foundations of sound forest management.

DISTRICT OF MISSION



PRE-TREE FARM LICENCE 26 HISTORY

- 1930's** Many crown grant lands reverted to Mission due to non-payment of taxes. By 1945 there were about 1200 hectares (3000 acres) of this municipally owned land.
- 1940's** Growing interest from Reeve and Council and local business people for local forest management.
- 1946** First proposal to B.C. by Mission that B.C. should turn over about 7800 hectares (17500 acres) of crown lands within the municipality as either a crown grant ownership or a long-term lease. B.C. said no at this time.
- 1948** Mission Municipal Forest Reserve was established (through Municipal Act) comprised of 1076 hectares (2660 acres) of municipal land (tax-sale crown grant land).
- 1953** Mission presented a brief to B.C. for timber and forest management rights to crown land.
- 1954** Agreement in principle between B.C. and Mission.
- 1955** Working Plans submitted to the B.C. Forest Service on July 2 by Mission.
- 1958** Tree Farm Licence 26 was issued to the District of Mission.

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DISTRICT OF MISSION



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As a leader in protecting the environment, the Mission Tree Farm License 26 management system has been certified to the ISO 14001:1996 standard

