

Annual Administration Fee Notice for 2010

Your annual invoice is enclosed. Many of you will notice an increase in the order of 11% compared to last year (before rebate). The amount has increased as Council has decided to not to draw down any more from the cash reserve and there is no rebate this year. The invoiced amount is driven by the Council budget for 2010; this year's budget is a slight decrease, 2.3%, from 2009.

Annual Declaration for 2009

Declarations are due by May 1, 2010. A blank form is enclosed for 2009 owners and is also available on the Council website. **A reminder that nil returns may be phoned into our office or submitted by email.** Please submit on time. Note that logged areas must be reforested within 5 years after harvesting is completed as per Section 31 of the Council Regulation and the restocking status reported to us. If restocking has not been declared by 5 years we will assume that the area has not been restocked and we may schedule an onsite inspection.

MF Inspections

We will be continuing with our inspections program again this year and have plans to inspect 45 MFs. This is in line with our goal of inspecting all new MFs within 3 years and all MFs at least once every 5 years. An inspection is an opportunity to learn a little more and maybe pick up some helpful tips for looking after your MF from our forestry consultants. A summary of the 2009 Inspection Program will be posted on our website shortly.

MF Audits

An audit of road systems on selected MFs was completed in 2009. A summary of the outcome is available on our website. On balance, the audit revealed that owners are constructing, maintaining and deactivating roads in compliance with the Council Regulation and are meeting environmental expectations. In 2010 we will be auditing annual declarations and assessing the reporting of reforestation accomplishments in the field.

Council Members

This year may be a year for turnover in Council. A vacancy has occurred for an owner member due to the retirement of Jim Trebett, (MF 93) this July. See the enclosed call for nominations. As well, the terms of both government-appointed members, Rod Davis and Ron Davis, expire this fall. Government may decide to reappoint or replace these members.

Management Commitments

Is your management commitment up to date? Does it reflect your goals and strategies for managing your MF? We have found that an owner's original objectives may change over time after the original management commitment has been submitted. Keeping your management commitment current is not only good due diligence, it is also a way to ensure your activities are complying with the intent of the managed forest legislation. We encourage you to periodically review your management commitment. Your management commitment can be easily updated by filling out a Management Commitment Amendment form, available on the Council website, and submitting it to our office.

Website

We are presently in the process of upgrading our website to make it more user-friendly. Key elements will be easily accessible, for example the Field Practices Guide *Infoflip*TM, legislation, news items, etc. Target date for the launch is March 2010.

Notice of Sale

A reminder that anyone selling all or part of a MF property must, under Section 11 of the Council Regulation, notify Council office within 30 days of the transaction date. The notification form is on the Council website. We remind you that there is an exit fee liability if the property is withdrawn from the MF program and has not been MF land class for 15 years. The exit fee liability is normally payable by the owner of the property at the time that it is declassified.

Summer Workshop

We are expecting to hold two workshops this summer, one on central Vancouver Island and one possibly in the northern Okanagan. The workshops will be along the lines of the very successful one we held last year on Pender Island which was attended by 45 people. We will be determining interest in attending and preferred dates sometime in April.

We encourage you to contact our office at any time if you have questions concerning the MF program.

Stuart Macpherson
Executive Director