

Fact Sheet: Land Management Near Echo Lake, BC

March 26, 2015

Description Echo Lake Area

The following map gives an overview of the established legal Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) and Woodlot Licensee 0043 boundary (light green=woodlot boundary, dark green established OGMAs, squares to the NE of lake are the private landowners' properties). The woodlot license is 416 ha in size (267 ha in the Hatzic Landscape Unit and 149 ha in the Chehalis Landscape Unit).



Map 1: Overview of Echo Lake (showing Dark Green OGMA and light green Woodlot 0043)

Description of Woodlot Program

The Woodlot License Program is designed to:

- provide small-scale forestry opportunities recognizing that small-scale forestry is important to the province's social and economic well-being; and,
- provide small parcels of Crown land to licensees, often near communities, that could benefit from the personal care of interested community members (this particular woodlot license has had four generations of family work on it).

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In exchange for the right to harvest timber on the Crown portion of the woodlot license, the license holder must agree to manage the private land contribution in accordance with provincial forestry legislation such as the [Forest and Range Practices Act \(FRPA\)](#).

Woodlot 0043 (416ha) was established in 1987 with the current woodlot licensee contributing 16.6 ha of private land to the woodlot managed forest area.

Managing Species at Risk and Species of Concern

Management of other *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) values (e.g. wildlife amongst others) is achieved through a number of policy and on-the-ground techniques. This particular woodlot owner has consistently shown interest in incorporating and considering new sound science information on specific plant and animal species. However, information such as the “bio-blitz” data has not been provided to the woodlot licensee and/or provincial government to date (to the best of the ABCFP’s knowledge).

In February 2013, the Province of British Columbia established six landscape unit (LU) plans for old growth management areas (OGMAs) in the Chilliwack District. These OGMAs contribute to the management of biodiversity values and old growth objectives and total 80,296 ha within the Chilliwack District.

A significant area around Echo Lake was considered and established in an OGMA during the above process. The Echo Lake OGMA (#33) is a mix of second growth with old growth features (e.g. veteran trees with surrounding areas that were previously logged in the 1870s, 1920s and 1960s) and is included due to public interest in the eagle roosting habitat, as well as government data on wildlife in the area. OGMA 33 grew in size from the draft area as a result of public input during the public review process.

Maintaining the forested linkage through the OGMA establishment between the upland areas and Harrison Bay is also important for habitat connectivity and will be a benefit to other wildlife species and biodiversity values in general.

The area along the northwest side of Echo Lake was not included in the OGMA because it is part of an existing woodlot licence (Woodlot 0043). Legislation and policy limit changes to woodlot boundaries, in part due to the potential for significant impacts on the small tenure; however, the woodlot licence holder has opportunity, with the support of forest professionals, to manage habitat features through retaining wildlife trees or tree patches (which the current woodlot licensee has shown interest in doing). The woodlot holder is aware of the eagle roosting habitat potential within the woodlot and has committed to further work identifying the values within the woodlot area.

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The province is also working on a more comprehensive wildlife plan for the Harrison-Chehalis area. A Wildlife Management Area (WMA) of approximately 1,500 ha is presently in the planning stages. The WMA, upon its establishment under the authority of the *Wildlife Act*, will recognize and conserve the high fish, wildlife, and biodiversity values in the Harrison-Chehalis delta area, including eagle habitat. For further details on this process, go to the following web site: [Wildlife Management Area Harrison Chehalis](#).

Obligations of Forest Professionals Operating on Woodlot 0043

As per the Woodlot Licensee Regulation, W0043 is being managed under a Woodlot Management Plan signed by a Registered Forest Professional (RPF). Under the *Foresters Act*, it is the ABCFP's responsibility to uphold the public interest respecting the practice of professional forestry by ensuring the competence, independence, professional conduct and integrity of our members (including RPFs). We have established standards of education and qualifications to make sure our professional members are qualified and remain up-to-date on changes in their field.

For further information, contact:

Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC
Director of Communications
Association of BC Forest Professionals
Cell: 778.233.1169
abrittain@abcfp.ca

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