Do all private forest landowners classify their land as “managed forest land”?  
No. Participation in the Private Managed Forest Land Program is voluntary.

About half of the private land in B.C. that is forested is classed as managed forest land. Landowners who are not part of the Private Managed Forest Land Program, or who do not have their private land in a Forest Act licence, would be required to follow local government by-laws on their property.

All private landowners are subject to the Water Sustainability Act, Drinking Water Protection Act, Environmental Management Act, Wildlife Act, Wildfire Act, Assessment Act, and the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, Fisheries Act and Species at Risk Act.

How does private forest land become part of the Private Managed Forest Land Program?  
The Managed Forest Council administers the forestry requirements and application process for Managed Forest Land Classification.

Before private land may be classified as managed forest land under the Private Managed Forest Land Act, or managed forest land under the Assessment Act, the owner must receive approval from the Managed Forest Council, of a formal management commitment that complies with the Private Managed Forest Land Act and regulations of the Council.
What are the benefits to a landowner of having land classified as managed forest land?
Property classified as managed forest land has assessed values that are generally lower than for other classes such as residential, which can result in lower property taxes. In addition, landowners have the right to harvest trees, and local governments cannot adopt bylaws or require permits that would restrict forest management activity.

How do tax rates on managed forest land differ from other private land?
The calculation of managed forest land assessments is based on a two-step process:

- The land’s capability to grow, harvest and deliver trees to market and;
- The value of the trees on the land when harvested

This assesses the land at a forest value, which is not influenced by other market forces. The land is valued based on forest use only and not based on any other potential use. As a result, the assessment is often lower than for other classes of private land.


For further information on how managed forest land is assessed, go to the BC Assessment Authority website: [https://info.bcassessment.ca/Services-products/property-classes-and-exemptions/managed-forest-classification-in-british-columbia](https://info.bcassessment.ca/Services-products/property-classes-and-exemptions/managed-forest-classification-in-british-columbia)

What are the costs of participation in the Private Managed Forest Land Program?
In order to maintain classification as managed forest land, property owners must fulfill a number of obligations under the Private Managed Forest Land Act and regulations including:

- Commitment to use their property for production and harvesting of timber and associated forest management activities
- Protection of key environmental values
- Payment of annual administration fee to the Managed Forest Council
- Completion of annual declaration of forest management activities completed during the year, including harvesting, destroyed timber, road construction, road deactivation and reforestation
- Notification to the Managed Forest Council within 24 hours of becoming aware that a landslide or debris flow has occurred and has deposited debris into a stream
- Notification to Private Managed Forest Land Council within 30 days if the property is sold.

What happens if a private landowner exits from the Private Managed Forest Land Program?
Regulations require a landowner to pay an exit fee if land is withdrawn from the Private Managed Forest Land Program prior to a 15-year timeframe. This is meant to encourage long-term participation in the program. Owners of land that has been assessed as managed forest land for 16 years or more do not pay an exit fee.

The fee is based on the difference between the tax that was paid as managed forest land and the tax that would have been paid had the property not been classed managed forest land. A discount is applied based on the number of years classed as managed forest. Exemptions apply in certain circumstances, such as the expropriation or donation of land for public purposes.
How are public environmental values protected?
The *Private Managed Forest Land Act* establishes management objectives for key public environmental values.

The Managed Forest Land Council develops regulations, policies and field guides that set out the requirements and guidance on how landowners are expected to meet these objectives.

The Managed Forest Council is responsible for monitoring, inspecting and enforcing compliance with the requirements of the act and regulations. Outcomes of these inspections are reported on their website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Management Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil conservation</td>
<td>Protect soil productivity where timber harvesting has been carried out by minimizing the area of permanent roads, trails and landings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical wildlife habitat</td>
<td>Facilitate the long-term protection of critical wildlife habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish habitat</td>
<td>Protect fish habitat by retaining sufficient streamside mature trees and understory vegetation both during and after harvesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>Protect human drinking water, both during and after harvesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reforestation</td>
<td>Promptly regenerate the areas with a healthy commercially valuable stand of trees that is not impeded by vegetative competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does environmental regulation on private managed forest land differ from regulation on public forest land?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Land</th>
<th>Private Managed Forest Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before any road building or harvesting activity can occur, a licence or permit must be issued by the Province under the Forest Act</td>
<td>Landowner must file a commitment to use the property for production and harvesting of timber and associated forest management activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Forestry activity is subject to requirements of the Forest and Range Practices Act and regulations.  
  • Establishes objectives for 11 resource values – soils; visual quality; timber; forage and associated plant communities; water; fish; wildlife; biodiversity; recreation resources; resource features; cultural heritage resources.  
  • Includes a comprehensive array of timber and non-timber objectives and practices requirements | Forestry activity is subject to requirements of the Private Managed Forest Land Act and regulations  
  • Establishes objectives for five key public environmental values – soil productivity; drinking water; fish habitat; critical wildlife habitat; reforestation |
Public Land | Private Managed Forest Land
---|---
Major licence holders are required to submit a forest stewardship plan for approval by government  
- Must be made publicly available for review and comment  
- Must be shared and discussed with affected First Nations as part of the licensee’s obligation to First Nations consultation | Landowner is not required to submit a plan for approval by government or public review.

Sustainable harvest levels are established by the Province’s chief forester | Landowner is not constrained on level of harvest beyond commitment to protect environmental requirements.

Compliance and enforcement of standards is carried out by the provincial government. | Compliance and enforcement of standards is carried out by the Private Managed Forest Land Council

What is the role of the Managed Forest Council?
The Private Managed Forest Land Council (also known as the Managed Forest Council) [http://mfcouncil.ca/](http://mfcouncil.ca/) was established as an independent provincial agency responsible for administering the Managed Forest Program. A primary role of the council is to administer the forest practices component of the Managed Forest Program. This role includes the protection of key public environmental values on private managed forest land. The council performs these four broad functions:

- Sets forest practice standards
- Enforces compliance with standards through inspections, audits and investigations
- Reviews landowner applications to enter BC Assessment Authority Managed Forest Land Class
- Carries out strategic planning, reporting, and program administration.

The Private Managed Forest Land Council is funded through annual administration fees payed by the private forest landowners who are part of the program.

How does the Managed Forest Council demonstrate transparency and accountability to the public?
The Private Managed Forest Land Council (also known as the Managed Forest Council) demonstrates transparency and accountability to the public by:

- Submitting an annual report, which is available to the public
- Being subject to audit by the minister
- Posting bylaws, policies and procedures on its website
- Keeping its compliance determination process is open to the public
- Responding to public inquiries and complaints.

Landowners may appeal enforcement actions by the council to the Forest Appeals Commission, and information related to appeals to the commission is generally a public record. In addition, the Managed Forest Council includes two members that are appointed by the provincial government to represent the public interest.
**What is the Private Forest Landowners Association?**
The Private Forest Landowners Association [https://www.pfla.bc.ca/](https://www.pfla.bc.ca/) represents managed forest owners throughout the province of British Columbia. They provide advocacy for their members to ensure government policy is fair, environmentally sound, fiscally responsible and sufficiently respectful of private property rights. They also are committed to outreach and education, offering regular workshops, training opportunities and communication updates to foster responsible and innovative forest management practices that encourage and promote the protection of key public environmental values on private forest lands.

**What is the difference between the Managed Forest Council and the Private Forest Landowners Association?**
The Private Managed Forest Land Council (also known as the Managed Forest Council) was established as an independent provincial agency under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to administer the Private Managed Forest Land Program. The Private Forest Landowners Association represents managed forest owners throughout the province of British Columbia but does not administer the legislation or enforce compliance. More information on managed forest land can be found on the following websites:

- [Managed Forest Council](https://www.pfla.bc.ca/)
- BC Assessment – [Managed Forest Classification in British Columbia](https://www.pfla.bc.ca/)

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