



Whaitua te
Whanganui-a-Tara

Quick question

- Does anyone remember what the biggest risk to freshwater is from forestry?

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Sediment

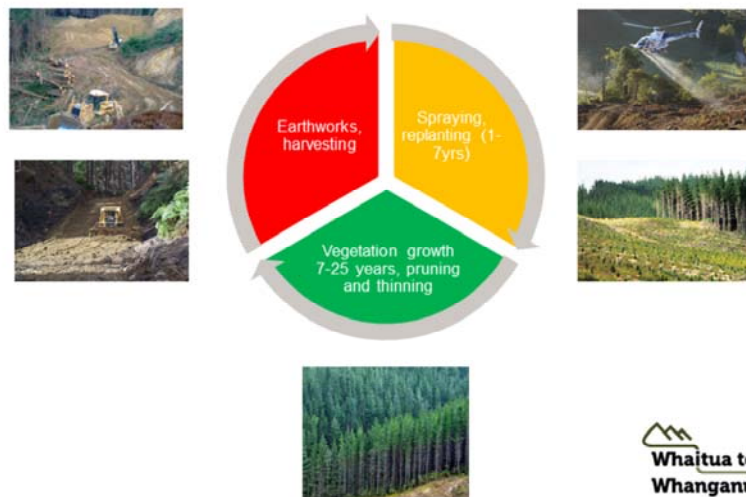
Quick question

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 - During the earthworks and harvest cycle
 - Also during the site prep up until the vegetation is approx. 7 years old

Plantation forestry risk cycle



- Earthworks from roading, tracking and landings can lead to sediment entering waterways if not undertaken using best practice methods, and based on on-site geology. Sediment laden stormwater needs to be treated by dilution and dispersal over solid land, as far from waterways as possible. Best practice also needs to be considered during the design stage, to ensure roads and landings are built away from waterways so there is room to treat the stormwater
- Sedimentation also happens during the harvesting period, when the canopy is removed and the bare earth is exposed to the elements.
- This sedimentation can be devastating to mahinga kai
- The next part of the cycle is also a risky time for sediment, with the old roots breaking down and destabilising the land, but the roots of the new trees have not yet established enough to hold the land firm
- When the vegetation is between 7-25 years of age, its very efficient at holding the land stable, and during this time there is very little sediment entering waterways.

Why am I here?

- 4 years as compliance officer at GWRC monitoring forestry compliance
- 4 years processing forestry resource consents at GWRC
- Led out NES-PF for GWRC
- Internal and external workshops



- I spent 4 years as a resource advisor processing resource consents and undertaking compliance for forestry sites. Both in the Wairarapa and in Wellington
- When the NES-PF came into effect, I led out the process for how we were going to deal with the massive influx of permitted activity notifications coming in, workshops internally and for the industry, and somewhat all around the north island
- Several days before the NES-PF came into effect, I was getting asked for help by many councils around the north island who had never dealt with forestry before
- Why am I telling you this? Because we need to do better.

GWRC compliance

- Generally we do not monitor permitted activity sites
- Largely only undertaking site visits for consented sites once a year
- Currently prosecuting 2 forestry sites in the Wairarapa



We need to do better, but we don't have the resources to do so.

Each compliance officer working on forestry (now a person either side of the hill), is still working on other consents and compliance. They do not have time to have more of a presence out on the forestry sites

Many of these sites are huge, and take a lot of time to navigate and inspect. Often at times a drone is required, however this is a recent purchase, which has helped ramp up the compliance aspect.

Forestry operators know they are tucked away and hard to see. Some operators take advantage of this.

These are some of the
things we see...



Letting the road drain straight into a stream where they have built a silt trap inside the stream



This was once a stream, but tracking over it has reclaimed it, and killed everything in it.



Hutt river, this was discharge from forestry site – detected for 300m downstream



Toe was removed, so sediment sliding off hill

Poor management of sediment, not benching fill batters, and not considering geology when planning roads



Poor sediment control on culvert let to sediment pouring into the river below



Slash dam in river – could mobilise in storm



Silt trap is full due to lack of maintenance, which means water cant flow through and will end up elsewhere (possibly scouring out road)

Opportunities

- Do we need to focus on compliance?
- Do we have enough presence and experience?
- We own 40% of exotic forests in Whaitua, what can we as landowners do to make a change?
- What are other opportunities for change?



Compliance is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff at times. We need to be involved in the process right from the design, harvest techniques, regular visits and consultation with the companies etc.

We are in a unique position as being both police, and landowner. This means we can make an immediate impact on change with our own forests (we own 40% of exotic forests in the Whaitua).

What are the other opportunities to change?

Questions?