

Present status of riparian areas in Lot 450 (PMFL lands)

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19 May 2015

Background

- I was asked by an anonymous donor to investigate nesting birds and document nests within the PMFL (Private Managed Forest Land) and PRSC (Powell River Sliamon Corporation) areas that together make up a large portion of Lot 450.
- I spent 52+ hrs exploring the PMFL area by foot and vehicle between 1-19 May.
- Here are my impressions about the riparian areas contained therein.



Figure 1: Three creeks run through the area. These are, from left to right on this map, Wys Creek, McFall Creek and McGuffie Creek. The map is colour-coded to show PMFL (red), PRSC (purple), Millenium Park (dark green) and City Park lands (light green).

Observations

- **McGuffie Creek:** I walked the length of McGuffie Creek on IT lands on 18 May. There has been little activity along that creek. The area *is* heavily flagged, with what I would estimate to be about a 5-10 m falling boundary buffer around the creek itself. I did not measure or digitize the boundaries.
- **McFall Creek:** There is one large new clearcut to the west of the creek, but none adjacent to Artaban Road. The riparian zone remains intact, with flagging tape visible only on the NE side surrounding the well-used MacGregor trail. Again I would estimate the falling boundry to represent a 5-10 m buffer around the actual creek. Again, I did not measure this.

- **Wys Creek:** When I first walked this area on 9 May, the existing road had been made passable by infilling the creekbed with rocks and sand. A culvert was lying adjacent to the road but had not yet been installed. I drove this road several times over the next few days. The first time I noticed that the culvert had been installed was on 19 May.



Figure 2: Extent of recent clearcut logging (light polygons) and location of infilling and subsequent culvert installation at Wys Creek. Note: recent logging cutblocks were *not* digitized, these are my “eyeball estimates” using Google Earth.



Figure 3: Synthesis. Extent of recent clearcut logging in relation to active bird nests and riparian areas.

Figure 4: Riparian areas as of 18-19 May

McGuffie Creek



McFall Creek



Wys Creek

