



## NES-CF REGULATION CHANGES



As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and compliance, Timberlands is embracing the latest changes to the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF), which came into effect in November, last year.

These adjustments impact how we manage activities such as slash management, replant, freshwater management, the inclusion of exotic continuous-cover forests (carbon forests), as well as adjustments to how the forestry sector approaches planting trees in an area where there were no previous forests.

Colin Maunder [GM of Sustainability] and Elise Hayes [TL Environmental Planner] are co-ordinating the Timberlands response to the regulation changes. Elise is working closely with Treecrop, Technical, and Harvesting on the relevant areas, to support the work being undertaken to meet the new regulatory requirements. The NES-CF changes are largely administrative, aside from updates regarding slash management.

Our healthy relationship with local and regional councils remains a priority for Timberlands. Regular meetings, led by key team members, allow us to maintain our positive communication with our council partners.



### CONTROL OF WILDLING PINES

Wildling tree risk calculations are now mandatory for replant areas. Steve Gatenby [Environmental Specialist] and Evan Rarere [Fire & Security Manager] are focusing on wildling control, under Evan's wildling conifer elimination programme.



### Orange Zone and Slash

The Orange Zone is a legally defined area that is considered High Erosion Risk (Red is Very High). About 24,000 hectares or 11.8% of our forests/land are classified as Orange Zone. Less than 1% is Red.

One of the more notable NES-CF updates involves assessing slash volumes throughout the harvest process. To comply with the 15m<sup>3</sup> rule on slash, we have utilised advanced drone technology to monitor and measure slash during and after harvesting. Drone technology, combined with the Wagner Waste Tool, is adapted to assess slash and merchantable wood. It is anticipated that regulations regarding orange zones may change.

We are taking a pragmatic approach in assessing risks; for example we would consider moving slash to less riskier locations to comply with regulations. In some areas, such as Rotoehu, burning slash or manual cutting is being considered as part of the slash management approach.

Harvest Managers have undertaken work around monitoring red/orange zones for slash volume, and are instrumental in leading our focus onsite during harvesting.



## NEW NES-CF COMPLIANCE

The NES-CF is the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry. These regulations are the framework to manage the environmental impacts of forestry activities. In November 2023, there were several important updates to NES-CF as summarised below:

Regulations renamed to National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry

NES-CF now includes exotic continuous-cover (carbon) forests.

Councils must be notified of planned replant areas.

Replant management plans required and to be provided upon council request

Wilding tree risk calculations mandatory for replant areas

Councils can impose stricter afforestation rules

New specifications for double culverts and removable river crossing structures

New culverts to be installed at least 25% below riverbed, where feasible

Extra requirements for wilding removal from wetlands or significant natural areas near replants.

The volume of slash on ESC classified orange or red zone land must be limited to 15 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare. This relates to wood that is sound (can be picked up without breaking up) that is over 2m in length with an LED of over 10cm, that can be removed safely. If this criteria cannot be met then a resource consent is required