



North Island Forest Act Workshops

MPI is running two workshops in October giving refreshers on milling approvals (SFM Plans, SMF Permits and Milling Statements) and the measurement of indigenous trees and logs. The Kaitaia workshop will also cover indigenous timber export, and the Northland Regional and Far North District Councils have been invited to speak on the extraction of swamp kauri under the Resource Management Act.

ROTORUA
– 21 October

KAITAIA
– 23 October

Please contact Stephen Rolls for more information.

Forfeiture of indigenous timber for illegal milling

Milling five truck and trailer loads of matai, totara and rimu logs, originally bought for firewood, saw a Taupo man convicted under the Forests Act in August. Barney John Oldeman (48) received no further sentence as he is already serving a four year prison term on another matter and has no money to pay a fine.

The mill Mr Oldeman used was not registered and he did not have approval under the Forest Act to mill the timber. He said he did not know about having to use a registered mill or getting an approval to mill the timber.

The offending came to light after a tip-off that someone was offering milled totara and matai for sale in the Taupo area, following which a Ministry for Primary Industries special duties officer purchased a small amount of timber. A further 27sq m of milled timber was found and has been forfeited to the Crown.

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Update on West Coast Wind-blown Timber (Conservation Lands) Act 2014

The damage caused by Cyclone Ita, the storm that hit New Zealand just prior to Easter, was a “once in a generation” event and the Government response recognises this situation. The newly enacted “West Coast Wind-blown Timber (Conservation Lands) Act” allows the recovery of a portion of windblown timber from some conservation lands for commercial purposes. Areas excluded from harvesting include all National Parks, ecological areas and the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. Extraction of windblown timber can only occur over the five-year lifespan of the legislation, ending 2019.

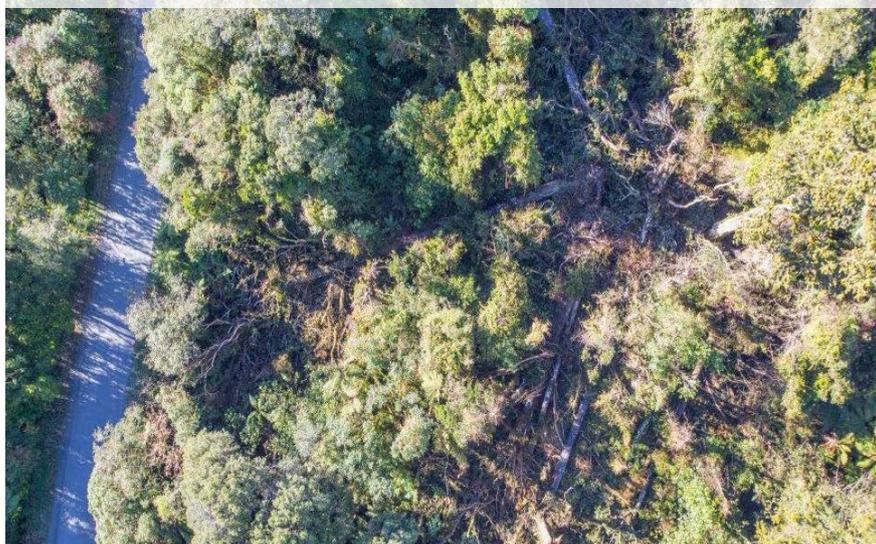
DOC has received initial expressions of interest from operators interested in applying for permits to recover timber. A panel from DOC, MPI and Ngai Tahu assessed initial applications in August, and four operators have been approved to date. DOC has indicated safety will be paramount: in approving operators to harvest windthrown timber, a suitable

OSH plan and a proven track record in safe operations are two of the key assessment criteria.

Approved operators are then invited to submit harvest proposals and tenders for specific areas, with applications assessed on a case-by-case basis. In terms of managing harvest across conservation land, 50 percent of each damaged area will be set aside as a “habitat reserve” where no harvest will be permitted. Up to 10 percent of the total biomass may be approved for harvesting from the remaining area. These limits have been devised to retain ecological function and diversity.

Applying the above criteria, initial reports have indicated 10 000–15 000m³ of rimu and 35 000m³ of beech is potentially available for extraction from public conservation land. The volume of timber ultimately harvested will be determined by economic factors and the ability to undertake safe activities.

Windblow damage in Hohonu Forest taken from helidrome at 100m above ground.



Matai, Black Pine

One of the slowest growing native softwoods, matai occurs throughout New Zealand. Reaching up to 20–25m tall, it prefers younger fertile soils such as alluvial soils and volcanic pumice soils in the North Island. Matai is often found alongside (and commonly mistaken with) other podocarps. The distinctive “hammer-marked” bark has similarities with both kahikatea and miro, however when outer pieces of the matai bark flake off, a bright red bark is exposed underneath. The leaves are similar to miro, however matai branchlets grow in all directions (compared to miro where leaves grow outwards in a flat plane), and matai leaves have a straight rather than curved tip. The tree produces small cones and a fruit that is dark purple with an edible pulp (distinct from the red berries of miro). Matai also has a distinctive smell of stable manure.

Timber properties

Matai is known for its stability, wearability and hardness, with a density of 610 kg/m³ (similar to that of radiata pine). The timber has a whiter sapwood while heart wood is a darker chestnut colour. Newly cut wood changes to a deep brown colour on exposure to air. Sapwood is non-durable and, like rimu, susceptible to borer attack, while heartwood is durable except in-ground. Timber is easily worked with machine and hand tools and presents few problems for sawing and seasoning. However, the “extractive” compounds present can make it difficult for paint and varnish to set, so it may require special treatment (extractives are chemical compounds found in the heartwood of many timbers e.g. fats,

terpenes and waxes, and these can have a major influence on wood properties).

Uses

Matai is considered as one of New Zealand's finest quality native timbers. Historically, Māori used it for canoes, lighter agricultural implements, and alongside totara for carving. European uses included bridges,

framing, weatherboards and jointing. It is still highly valued as an attractive, hardwearing timber, excellent for flooring, furniture and wood turning. It is suitable for exterior purposes such as sills and doors, with an equivalent Hazard class of H3.1. Its stump and burr wood is sought by wood turners, often having rich colour variations.

Matai flooring: colour (left), and mix of clean heart and colour (right).



Photos courtesy of Dave Hindman.

Matai “hammer-bark” – bright red new bark is exposed underneath when outer pieces flake off.



MPI Resources – Sustainable Management of privately owned native forests

This fact sheet was produced by MPI to help educate New Zealanders on the sustainability aspects of harvesting indigenous timbers. Feel free to use the fact sheet to support your work/sales or contact MPI if you'd like any copies.

www.mpi.govt.nz > Forestry > Forestry in NZ > Indigenous Forestry > Sustainable Management of privately owned native forests