



ANNUAL MONITORING REVIEW NORTHLAND, COROMANDEL, WHANGANUI ESTATE

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Prepared by: Riki Green, Karen Lucich, Chayne Zinsli

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INTRODUCTION

Summit Forest New Zealand Limited (SFNZ) was established in 2013 and has maintained Forest Stewardship Council [®] (FSC [®]) FSC-C112972 certification since Juken New Zealand Limited original assessment in 2008. FSC is an international certification for companies that can demonstrate that they have a good record of environmental management. There are 10 principles covering responsible management of the resource, the environment, people and communities. This annual monitoring review provides a summary of forest operations for the past 12 months and is available on request and is also publicly available on the Summit Forests website <u>https://www.summitforests.co.nz/</u>.

FOREST DESCRIPTION

ACQUISITIONS

There were two forest acquisitions in the past 12 months in Northland. Omakura Forest is located southwest of the Mangamuka settlement and has a productive area of 176.8 hectares. It is a mixed age class forest planted between 2000 and 2017. This is a second rotation forest with and an area of third rotation. The other forest purchased was Broadpine1. This is located approximately 9km from the settlement of Broadwood. It has a productive area of 97.4 hectares. This forest was purchased in a cut over state and is due to be planted this coming winter.

INVENTORY

In Northland, pre-harvest inventory was completed in Buchanan's and Kahikatea forests. A total of 145 plots were measured across the two forests which equates to a sample intensity of 2% using a plot size of 0.06ha. No inventory was undertaken in Coromandel or Whanganui. In the next year, Coromandel is due for another Lidar inventory survey.

AGE CLASS DISTRIBUTION

Figure 1 shows the current area by age class distribution for our FSC certified estate.



Figure 1 Current area by age class distribution

YIELD RECONCILIATION

307 hectares had yield reconciliation completed across 4 forests in Northland and Coromandel. Results showed that the predicted versus actual yields reconciled well across all the forests. The details of which can be seen in Figure 2 below. No yield reconciliations were completed in Whanganui as there are no harvesting operations with this region currently in the growth phase of the forestry life cycle.

Van Crasbeek saw the lowest recovery result. This wasn't unexpected as this forest had windthrow in several areas which impacted the volume produced from the forest.

Whangapoua forest only started harvesting again in January so there was only three months of data for the reconciliation process. The crew was also working across multiple stands and therefore a weighted average was used for the predicted volume output. To date predicted versus actual volume are closely aligned.





As Te Hiku is our largest forest a detailed breakdown is completed by compartment. The overall average volume recovery is good, however, there is variability amongst the different compartments. A general trend is that the estimated yields in the low site productivity stands are slightly optimistic and the higher site index stands are slightly conservative. Figure 3 provides a summary by compartment.





SOCIAL

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

SFNZ strives to engage actively with stakeholders in the many communities in which it operates, with particular focus on those directly or indirectly affected by its operations. Prior to commencing harvesting in a new area, SFNZ engages with representatives of the local community so that they are informed of plans and can be involved in developing mitigation strategies for identified concerns. Typically, the groups include forest neighbours, residents on any rural access roads affected by logging traffic, and tangata whenua. SFNZ maintains a stakeholder and public feedback register to monitor and manage issues.

SFNZ is an active member of industry working groups and other local community environmental working groups. We also work closely with stakeholders including local iwi and the Department of Conservation on environmental projects, such as wetland restoration and pest control.

Coromandel operations hold a community meeting annually at Kuaotunu Hall for members of the public to be informed about operations, both past and planned, and raise any questions they may have. This meeting is publicly advertised.

We now have a social media presence and are using Facebook to share information on the good news stories as well as any public announcements that may be required to be circulated.

Figure 4 shows a summary of the communication types we have received over the past 3 years. There is a wide range of issues being raised with fencing and public road use being the main areas of concern. When any issue arises we work with everyone involved to get a positive outcome.



Figure 4 Record of communications, complaints, and complaints from the public

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SFNZ is part of a Kauri working group looking at practical solutions and supporting the forestry industry to implement National PA Pest Management Plan rules. Together Forest Owners Association, NZ Farm Forestry Association, Tiakina Kauri, Regional Council's and other forestry companies, have been working on a Best Practice Guideline and Earthworks Risk Management Plans to reduce the risk of spreading the root rot pathogen PA (*Phytophthora agathidicida*) during forestry operations.



Figure 5: Plantation Forestry Kauri Protection Working Group field trip

SFNZ has been working with Kerikeri Mountain Bike Club to finalize the land use agreement to build trails in Whitehills Forest. Whitehills Forest is on State Highway 10, Kaeo, Northland is a popular recreational and hunting site and is now the main location for Kerikeri Mountain Bike Club events. The club has built a car park with a kauri hygiene washdown station and fire exit trail along with over 25 graded and signposted trails to suit all riding abilities. There are approximately 160 club members for more information see <u>Kerikeri Mountain Bike</u> <u>Club</u>.



Figure 6 Kerikeri Mountain Bike Club members enjoying their track work in Whitehill Forest

Te Hiku Beach Board Nga Puawai o Te Oneroa a Tohe held a conference about the future of the beach. As a follow-up from the wananga SFNZ supported a beach drive with kaumatua, scientists (NIWA/fisheries, SCION/hydrology, Zealandia/fisheries), local historian, and botanists to share some of the history and the life cycle of the toheroa and tuatua, spinifex and marram grass role in sand-dune retention, horses grazing dune vegetation, water flows on the beach and under the sand and some of the local archaeology (middens). There was some good korero and relationship-building.



Figure 7: Tangata whenua, scientists and locals share information about protecting Te Oneroa a Tohe

Northland Wood Council, Holmes Group, and SFNZ partnered with Discovery Forestry to deliver the "Wood is Good' program to Peria and Oruaiti Primary School, near Kaitaia. This primary school program has been developed to teach students about the plantation forest cycle, wood products and safety around large road vehicles. This is a great way to engage with the local community, not just on road safety but also on the benefits of forestry.



Figure 8: Wood is Good programme being delivered to primary schools

SFNZ has ten forests in the Doubtless Bay catchment and represents the forestry industry in the Doubtless Bay Community Led Catchment Group. Other participants include landowners, tangata whenua, the Department of Conservation, the Regional Council, and Landcare Groups.



Figure 7: Doubtless Bay Community Led Catchment Group on a field trip

The catchment group has undertaken a literature review and summarised key information available about the cultural and ecological values of the three main rivers. We have held field trips to evaluate site suitability for representative restoration projects and held strategic planning sessions to set objectives and apply for funding.

RECREATIONAL USE

Access is allowed in most forests where operational or other restrictions are not in place. SFNZ's website (Forest Access | Summit Forests) provides information on forest access and the online permit process. Members of the public enjoy the forests for numerous recreational and hunting activities as can be seen in table 1.

Permit Type	Coromandel	Northland	Whanganui	Total
Hunting	134	165	35	334
Deer			25	25
Hunting Other		19	4	23
Pheasant		13		13
Pig	134	69	6	209
Possum		64		64
Recreation	12	579	2	593
4WD		11		11
Access Other		28		28
Beach		41		41
Dog Walking		36		36
Firewood/Pine		11		11
Cones Collection		11		11
Horse Riding		122		122
Mountain Biking		79	1	80
Photography		1		1
Recreation Other	12	83		95
Research		56		56
Walking/Running		111	1	112
Total	146	744	37	927

Table 1 Summary of the number of permits issued over the past 12 months

RESEARCH

Progressive Catchment harvesting in Whangapoua Forest: NIWA has monitored catchments in the Whangapoua Forest, Coromandel over the past 30 years. They are analysing the impacts on stream visual clarity, temperature, habitat and invertebrates during progressive catchment harvesting. The report is available on request.

Forest Flow Research: This programme is taking place in plantation forests across the country. One of the primary research catchments is Coal Creek in Te Hiku Forest, Northland. SCION and NIWA have a five-year (2019-2024) research project focused on developing methods to predict water use and supply in planted forests. The programme has created a biophysical model of forest hydrology that accurately predicts water storage and release for entire catchments, while also providing data on changes in water quality over time. This will fill the knowledge gaps and how to turn biophysical science into information that is useful to landowners, forestry, and councils. Forest Flows has 13 collaborators in New Zealand, Australia, Chile, the USA, and Portugal. Ultimately, results



Figure 8: Summit staff performing maintenance cycle of the Forest Flows sensor network

from the programme, funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will reveal how resilient New Zealand's planted forests are when faced with floods and drought and how water moving through forests will be impacted by climate change. The results are being collated. Updates are available on the SCION website <u>Forest-flows-research-programme</u>.



Figure 9: Tana's Trees Trust Transitioning Exotic Forest to Native trial plot

Transitioning exotic forest to native forest – canopy manipulation trails: SFNZ was approached by Tane's Tree Trust who is conducting a long term MPI funded project to investigate methods to transition existing pine forests to native forest. For this project, trial areas are required that have old crop radiata pine that are unlikely getting harvested. We were able to identify a suitable site of approx. 2 ha in Whangapoua. The necessary agreements were signed in September 2023 and the plots established. These plots will be subject to annual measurements of the understory to evaluate different practical methods for transitioning e.g. manipulation of pine canopy for varying light levels, supplementary under-planting of native tree and shrub species, fencing to eliminate

effects of browsing animals, etc. Warning signs have been set-up where trees have been poisoned to open the canopy up.

SPONSORSHIP

In the past 12 months Summit Forests has sponsored a range of community based events and projects which includes:

- Top Energy regional science and technology fair
- Awanui Senior Men's Rugby Team
- Awanui School 150th Jubilee
- Breast Cancer NZ
- Sport Northland Kaitaia run/walk event in Te Hiku Forest.
- Kaitaia Youth Rugby Team



Figure 10 Photos from the Sport Northland run / walk event in Te Hiku Forest

ENVIRONMENTAL

Prior to the change of government in October 2023, the government had been introducing National Policy Statements, regulation, and legislation that sought to strengthen the regulatory environment though often this simply increased the bureaucracy and compliance costs rather than improved environmental outcomes. The general election in October 2023 brought a change in government and with it a change in regulatory philosophy and direction. The new government quickly set about unwinding many of the environmental regulations and policies the previous government had put in place. This included the repeal of the Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Acts and the return of the RMA. Changes to the National Policy Statements on Freshwater and Indigenous Biodiversity are also in progress. These will have flow on effects in the Regional and District Planning processes. Last minute changes that the previous government made to the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry, now the National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry, remain in place though are subject to review. These changes are largely to processes the Forest Industry is required to comply with rather than any material change to its practices.

The following summarises environmental activities SFNZ has undertaken over the last 12 months.

IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements are raised as part of the supervisory process when corrective actions are required that are more than minor and cannot be addressed at the time of discovery. They get documented using Mango, SFNZ's event reporting and management tool.

No environmental improvements were raised in the past 12 months.

STREAM MONITORING

SFNZ is committed to ensuring we have a minimal effect on water quality.

Northland 2024 stream monitoring was undertaken during stable flow conditions at the end of 2023 due to the drought prediction for the summer. Overall results ranged from Good (70-99cm) to Excellent (100 cm) using a clarity tube and NIWA Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK). Pre-harvest, during harvest, and two years post-harvest monitoring of significant steams are undertaken annually. Harvest supervisors check significant steams weekly during harvest operations and ensure slash management plans are working.

It was the final year of monitoring the Takahue site and despite cattle standing in the stream, the site had an excellent water clarity reading. Harvest has temporarily stopped in Adamson Forest and the clarity reading was reduced compared to last year. There was quite a bit of stream bank disturbance at VanCrasbeek Forest due to a large edge tree falling on the stream bank during storms. This is a localised temporary disturbance as the site generally looks good. The forward crossing at Otangaroa monitoring site (Maungataniwha Forest) required some pipe clearing, but the clarity was good with several small eels and bullies sighted. Honeymoon and Fernflat results were slightly down from last year, but still in the "good" range. This could be due to new crossings bedding in. Overall, there were no issues.

Every attempt is made to monitor during stable flow conditions however clarity varies significantly depending on rainfall events not necessarily related to forest activities. Site visits remain important checks on the general health of streams, site photographs, and other metrics are recorded in the monitoring surveys.



Figure 11: Northland Stream Clarity Monitoring Results

Coromandel stream monitoring is undertaken by NIWA under the resource consent for harvesting. The 30th year of monitoring was completed in 2023. The draft NIWA report analysing this data was completed in March 2024 and final report will be available on request. In this 30th anniversary report, NIWA conducted a high-level stocktake of the full 30-year dataset for each of the 13 currently monitored sites. The focus is on understanding long-term trends in water clarity and temperature, stream morphology, instream vegetation, and benthic invertebrate communities in Whangapoua stream ecosystems. In addition, NIWA is reviewing and evaluating the current monitoring program and making recommendations for the future monitoring of Whangapoua Forest streams.

At most harvested sites, harvest reduced water clarity in the year after logging adjacent to the study reach. Overall, all large (>50 ha) sites showed decreasing trends in water clarity during the post-harvest monitoring period. This included sites, where the riparian zone of the monitoring reach remained intact but was potentially affected by upstream catchment harvest. The one small (<50 ha) site monitored for water clarity showed a decrease in water clarity immediately after harvest, but then maintained stable water clarity values over the rest of the monitoring period.

There are no significant streams to monitor in the Whanganui Estate.

THREATENED SPECIES MONITORING

SFNZ monitors kiwi call counts annually to record presence/absence and to monitor kiwi population density in forests with intensive pest control programmes. Special dates are chosen each year by the national Kiwi Recovery Group, during the Kiwi mating season to coincide with the darker phases of the moon in May and June. Project Kiwi manages monitoring in Coromandel Forests. They do manual, biannual Kiwi call count monitoring for 6 hours on two consecutive nights. Acoustic recorders are used in Northland Forests. The recorders are set for 6 hours over 5 consecutive nights.

All staff and crew are trained annually in Threatened Species field recognition, reporting and emergency procedures. The table below shows the results from the Threatened Species Observation Survey.

Table 2: Summary of Threatened Species Observations

RTE	Threat Ranking	Number Seen	Forest Location	Management Plan
North Island Brown Kiwi	Not threatened. NES-CF requirement to protect nest sites	1	Northland Takakuri North	Thinning crew found a kiwi chick alive in burrow. They have left it alone and left the trees around it. Will return at the end of the job to thin that area. Crew followed the Threatened Species discovery protocol. Healthy chick did not disturb, move to an alternative location. They received the environmental reward for the month. SFNZ is undertaking possum control work in this area.
North Island Brown Kiwi – broken egg	Not threatened. NES-PF requirement to protect nest sites	1	Northland Omahuta	Kiwi Coast informed. Thinning crew discovered a predated kiwi egg out of the nest. Possibly possum predation. Staff and crews trained in kiwi emergency protocol. SFNZ is undertaking possum control work in this area. Discussed with Kiwi Coast.
Australasian Bittern	Threatened: Nationally Critical	1	Northland Te Hiku - Waiparera	Staff and contractors trained in threatened species identification and reporting. Protect wetland habitat identified as High Conservation Value Area. See HCV plan DOC informed.
Australasian Bittern	Threatened: Nationally Critical	1 seen feeding in cutover	Northland Te Hiku - Te Raite	Staff and contractors trained in threatened species identification and reporting. Protect wetland habitat identified as High Conservation Value Area. See HCV plan. DOC informed.
Australasian Bittern	Threatened: Nationally Critical	1	Northland Te Hiku - Waiparera	Staff and contractors trained in threatened species identification and reporting. Protect wetland habitat identified as High Conservation Value Area. See HCV plan DOC informed.



Figure 12: Collage: Coromandel kiwi release. Acoustic Recorder. Northland kiwi chick in burrow observation in thinning operation.

In Northland, all call counts are down on previous years and only male calls were detected, there are a few possible reasons. It could be due to the mild winter birds having already begun nesting and were not calling as frequently and some recorders failed to work, these are being replaced. Reports from Kiwi Coast indicate there has been an increase in dogs killing kiwi and calls are down everywhere. There has been a lot of publicity and free dog/owner training offered by Kiwi Coast.

Forest	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Takou Bay	3.4	2.7	4.3	5.5	3.8	6.0	0.7
Whitehills	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.6	0.9	0.4
VanCrasbeek		0.14	0.91	1.7	1.4	1.4	0.8

Table 3: Average Kiwi calls per hour - Northland

In Coromandel 9 kiwi chicks were released between April 2023-June 2023 in Whangapoua Forest. They are part of the captive rearing programme run by Project Kiwi Trust which has released 105 juvenile kiwi since 2013. This programme has seen the Coromandel brown kiwi New Zealand Threat Classification status change from 'Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable' to 'Not Threatened' in nine years as a direct result of the successful conservation management programme. See the Biodiversity Projects Annual Report for more details.

Table 4: Average Kiwi calls per hour -Coromandel

Site	2012	2016	2018	2021	2022
Owera Catchment	2.4	2.0	2.7	3.0	2.3
Otanguru Catchment	0.1	1.0	2.6	1.0	0.5
Neighbour	n/a	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.3

Our forests in Northland and Coromandel are a good habitat for North Island brown kiwi. Monitoring of three kiwi pairs in the Otama Forest, Coromandel during harvest showed at least 30% – 50% of each territory was mature radiata pine forest. The kiwi pairs continued to inhabit and nest in the same territories post-harvest as they did prior to and during harvest.

PEST CONTROL

SFNZ undertakes pest control operations to enhance habitat for indigenous species and to protect the crop trees.

In Northland, Whitehills, Shepherds, Takou Bay, and neighbouring Upokarau Farm are part of a Community Pest Control Area (CPCA) in partnership with Northland Regional Council and Kiwi Coast. The pest control work SFNZ undertakes supports Kiwi Coast's Mid North High Value Area. A contractor checks traps and bait stations monthly. Other pest control operations are undertaken in other forests as required. Results are entered into TrapNZ.

Feral Horses in Te Hiku Forest have been identified as a threat to health and safety, archaeological sites, and threatened ecosystems. The four iwi of Te Hiku and SFNZ working closely on a Strategic Action Plan to maintain their heritage and tourism value while minimizing their negative impacts. Horses are mustered and rehomed or selectively culled. Mustered horses go to a trainer in the Bay of Islands. People can register to learn to handle the horses before having the option to adopt. This year's muster has been postponed due to poor weather.

Pest control in the Coromandel Estate is contracted to Project Kiwi Trust who manage a range of biodiversity projects including the Biodiversity Block (1,432 hectares) and the Waingaro Wetland (24 hectares). An extensive predator control programme is completed in both areas. Traps are checked 12 times a year and trap maintenance is undertaken 12 times a year. The table below summarises the pest control efforts. Northland is 2023-2024 reporting year. Coromandel is 2022-2023 as current reporting from PKT has a different reporting schedule.

Horizons Regional Council undertook possum control work in Whanganui Forest as part of their Tuberculosis control program. Over the summer 20,350 feratox pills (Potassium cyanide– 475g/kg) were placed in bait stations. Every pill likely killed a possum. Feral goats were controlled with five heli shooting operations during the year. SFNZ spent \$4,350 on pest control operations.

Region	Possums	Rats	Stoats	Weasels	Feral Cats	Wild Rabbits	Feral Pigs	Hedgehog	Feral Goats	Total
Northland	1,223	161	10	44	7	3	26	15	1	1,490
Coromandel	1,539	55	6	3	0	0	0	1		1,604
Whanganui	20350				1				171	20,522

Table 5: Summary of pest control activity

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE

Summit Forests Estate contains areas that have been classified as High Conservation Values (HCV) under the Forest Stewardship Council Principal 9 assessment. The purpose of HCV assessment is to determine the presence of attributes consistent with any of the six HCVs and options for their maintenance and/or enhancement and to conduct annual monitoring of the identified attribute to assess the effectiveness of maintenance or enhancement measures employed. The six values are species diversity, landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics, ecosystems and habitat, ecosystem services, community needs and cultural values.

Fifteen sites (561 ha) have been identified in Northland Estate, all in Aupouri Ecological District, and one site (24 ha) in Coromandel Estate, Colville Ecological District. All sites are recognized for HCV3 Ecosystems and habitats containing rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. No HCVs have been identified for Whanganui. The sites are all threatened habitat dune lakes, wetlands, remnant kanuka/manuka shrubland, or pohutukawa/broadleaf forest remnants totaling 585 hectares.

The main threats are competition with invasive weeds including, but not limited to Acacia longifolia, Pampas, wild ginger, woolly nightshade, wilding pine, and willow. Browse, predation and competition from animal pests including, but not limited to possums, horses, rabbits, hedgehogs, cats, rats, mustelids and pest fish. Habitat modification, loss or changes in hydrology and climate and fire.

The table below provides an overview of the management of HCV3 sites. HCV3 value has been maintained or enhanced at all sites. For more information see individual site monitoring and management plans.

HCV 3 Site	Value Maintained	Value Enhanced	Value Degraded	Action
Matapia coastal vegetation	A continuous strip of significant coastal vegetation. Track margin weeds have been controlled. No weed issues were observed.		An increase in horse trails could mean population growth. Follow-up monitoring is required.	Continue to monitor and manage invasive weed species. Continue to work with Te Hiku Collective on horse management.
Karatia Wetland	A good example of fen and shrubland.			Continue to monitor
Whakatereohao Stream	High-quality fen, ponded valley, and wetland.			Continue to monitor.
Te Arai Wetland	Lake, ephemeral wetland, and kanuka shrubland margin with mobile due to northwest.	The fence is reducing 4x4 access. Te Aupouri has installed a trap network.		Continue to monitor.
Gap Pohutukawa	Coastal vegetation remnant.	Horse management.		Continue with horse management
Turk Lake	Pond and reedlands with margin and island of manuka/kanuka shrubland	Photo point evidence of reduced feral horse pressure on wetland.		Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor.
Bacica Lake	Open water surrounded by raupo reedlands and kuta	Horse muster site. Predator trapping program. Canadian goose numbers have been reduced during shooting season.		Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor.
Selwyn Flat Wetland	Manuka dominant shrubland with raupo wetland	Horse management.		Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor.
Waiparea Wetland	Large reedland with some open water, margin and island of shrubland	Horse management.		Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor.
Jones Lake	Open water surrounded by raupo reedlands	Horse management.		Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor.
Ninety Mile Wetlands	Good examples of freshwater wetland in foredune belt	Predator trapping and horse management.	New weeds Oxalis purpurea and Mile- a-minute Persicaria perfoliata	Continue with horse management. Continue to monitor. Spray Mile-a-minute from the protection zone.

Headquarters	Wetland dominated by kuta reedland and swamp millet	Predator trapping and horse management.	Weed control on lake edge. Continue with pest control and monitoring.
Lake Gem	Good quality habitat part of complex dune lake and wetlands.	Extended planting area for annual, community, eco- sourced planting of 1400 seedlings. Wilding, weed controlled planting site preparation and releasing of plantings. Enhanced access tracks and education programme.	Weed control, planting site preparation, releasing, track maintenance and maintain community recreational track, work with schools (Kaitaia College and Paparore), iwi and the community.
Hukatere kanuka	Remnant sand kanuka shrubland and sun orchid habitat.	Horse management.	Monitor for firewood gathering. Continue with horse management.
Te Raite Wetland	Ponds, reedlands and shrubland.	Weed control of restoration project site. 2,500 eco- sourced seedlings planted. Predator trapping and horse management.	Continue with weed control and horse management. Work with Te Hiku Collective on introduction of bio-control for A. longifolia. Look into drone spraying A. longifolia around new planting area.
Waingaroa Wetland	Significant Wetland	Predator trapping program. Willow control. Adjacent Biodiversity project with Kiwi captive-rearing- release program.	Continue to employ Project Kiwi Trust to manage the predator control project. Continue with willow control work with Waikato Regional Council.



Figure 13: High Conservation Value restoration project - Annual community Arbor Day planting at Lake Gem

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

The following summarises the main metrics SFNZ monitors as part of its Health, Safety, and Wellbeing programme for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

INCIDENTS AND INJURIES

There was a total of 131 incidents reported in the year ending 31st of March 2024 which was up on the previous year's 99 reported incidents. The following table breaks down those reports by the type and number of incidents that had the potential for a life altering injury or fatality (high potential).

Nature of Incident	Year ending	31 March 2023	Notes
	Number of Incidents	Number of high potential events	
Harm Incident	16	3	Two manual felling incidents and an incident involving mobile plant. Full recovery in all three cases.
Property Incident	35	1	A no injury vehicle incident
Near Miss	51	3	A manual felling, manual breaking out, and driving incident.
Unsafe Act	20	4	Two manual felling and 2 driving incidents
Unsafe Condition	3	-	
Report Only	6	-	
TOTAL	131	11	

Two incidents were notified to WorkSafe; a manual felling incident where the Faller was hit by debris and an incident were a stem slid into a shovel machine shattering the Marguard window and causing a serious laceration to the operator's hand.

AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.

316 operational audits along with 1333 supervisory visits were carried over the year. These audits and operational checks resulted in 52 positive observations and 143 improvement opportunities. The following table provides the number of audits and average audit score by operational audit.

Type of Audit	Number Audits	Average of Percentage
General Site Operational Audit - Forestry V1	18	92.5
General Site Operational Audit - Harvesting V8	11	95.2
Operational Audit - Fire Suppression and Hot Works V5	15	91.2
Operational Audit - Loading V10	19	97.3
Operational Audit - Manual Breaking-out and Back-line shifting V3	10	94.8
Operational Audit - Manual Planting V1	4	91.0
Operational Audit - Manual Tree Felling V3	17	97.0
Operational Audit - Manual Waste Thinning V1	11	98.1
Operational Audit - Mechanical Waste Thinning V2	4	100
Operational Audit - Mechanised Felling/ Winch Assist v3	16	97.8
Operational Audit - Mechanised Processing V4	11	97.2
Operational Audit – Shovelling V8	20	94.5
Operational Audit - Roading V10	8	80.9
Operational Audit - Transport V5	16	98.2
Operational Hauler Audit V4	7	92.0

Grand Total / Average	290	94.08
Plant/Equipment/Machinery – new to an SFNZ forest	16	89.6
Prequalification and Systems Audit V5	33	93.6
Ops Staff Vehicle and Fire Equipment Check	54	92.6

All instances of material non-compliance identified in an audit or field visit is either addressed before the audit or the improvement opportunity is closed or a separate improvement is raised.

WELLBEING.

SFNZ runs three programmes to support contractor wellbeing; Drug and Alcohol monitoring, an annual wellbeing calendar, and a rewards and recognition programme.

<u>Drugs and Alcohol Monitoring</u>: This programme is run in collaboration with our contractors. A total of 103 random tests were carried out across our operations that identified 11 non-negative tests along with 1 refusal and 1 unable to supply.

<u>Annual Wellbeing Calendar</u>: This provides monthly initiatives that our contactors can utilise in their ToolBox meetings. The following table sets out the 2023/24 calendar.

September – Mahuru	October –	November – Whiringa-ā-rangi
Spring is time to check in with ourselves and others as part of <u>Mental Health Awareness Week</u> – time to get purple. It is also a time to think about those that struggle to breathe easy with <u>Breathe Better September</u>	Whiringa-ā-nuku Go Pink for a Day for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and improving your <u>Health Literacy</u> .	November is time for <u>Movember</u> and men's health month. Grow a mo or simply join in fun and raise funds for men's health. November 8 is the <u>National Oral Health Day</u> . Choose water over a sugary drink for the month. The 25th is also <u>White Ribbon Day</u> which raises awareness around domestic violence.
December – Hakihea	January – Kohi-tātea	February – Hui-tanguru
Christmas is a time to reflect on the year that has been and spend time with families and friends. It is also a time for giving. This year let's give to those in need – join your colleagues and support a Christmas Charity. Here are some ideas; <u>Christmas Box, Foster Hope</u> NZ, <u>GitsForKids, Ronald</u> <u>McDonald House</u>	We are well into summer. Time to remind the Team to get their skin checked, especially if working outside. Share these <u>sun protection</u> and <u>SunSmart</u> resources.	The days are getting shorter. Time to get your Team up and moving while we still have great summer weather. Join in the Summit Forest Step Challenge and see which team is quickest to reach the goal (more information to follow).
March – Poutū-te-rangi	April – Paenga-whāwhā	May – Haratua
March 8 is <u>International</u> <u>Womensday Day</u> – lets #BreakTheBias. Let's also use March 18 and <u>World Sleep Day</u> to highlight the importance of sleep in keeping everyone heathy and safe.	April is a time for family. Make a plan to do something with you family over Easter weekend. April 28 is <u>World Day for Safety and</u> <u>Health at Work.</u> What will you do to remember those who didn't make it home and/or make your workplace safer?	Promote the benefits of being smokefree with <u>World Smokefree Day</u> . Use these <u>smokefree resources</u> and <u>ideas</u> to help people quit. Let's make May <u>Women's Health</u> month and do something to support all of the women in our lives.
June – Pipiri	July – Hōngongoi	August – Here-turi-kõkā
June is a busy month. It's <u>Men's</u> <u>Health Month</u> and time to encourage all men <u>to focus on</u> <u>their health and get</u> <u>recommended checks.</u> It's also <u>Bowel Cancer Awareness Month</u> and there is <u>Blood Donor Week</u> and Arbor Day (June 5).	It is <u>Dry July</u> . Get your Team to <u>Drink</u> <u>Test</u> and then see who can go dry for July.	Winter's nearly over! Time to get moving again. Pull out those <u>Sit Less</u> , <u>Move More</u> resources from February to help get your Team up and moving. How about getting the Team to commit to a Fun Run like the <u>Summit</u> <u>Forests Kaitaia Run/Walk</u> . August 25 is also <u>Daffodil Day</u> . Support the Cancer Society by donating to this very worthy cause

<u>Rewards and Recognition Programme</u>. This initiative is to recognise the contractors for the good work they do and to help promote good practice across all of our operations. At the start of each month, the month's focus is drawn from a list of 12 focus areas and assessed as part of the month's supervisory visits. The month's award winner is announced at the following month's Contractors Meeting and is presented to the winner/s later that month by a Summit staff member. The following are some of the areas where awards have been given:

- Stand in the gap observation. Seeing bad practice and stepping in to correct it. Commitment to look after yourself and others. Doing the right thing.
- Improved H&S systems. Best visitor induction, living system embraced by crew
- Training. National certificates, good internal training observations and training notes
- Communication. Use of RT's and mobile phones, ability to be contacted, responsiveness, general communication skills.
- Environmental. Good post-harvest rehab clean cut over, tracking covered, rubbish removed. Endangered species reporting, water management, areas of native vegetation protected
- Quality Control. Internal quality and external mill results. Cut plans up to date, on site, and being followed.

FORESTRY

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

In Northland there are three silviculture contractors working full time due to the scale of the current thinning programme. Te Hiku has two mechanised waste thinning operations and there are two manual thinning crews working out on the steeper sites. Maintaining a consistent and skilled workforce is an on-going challenge for our silviculture operations. Having a more diverse contractor base is helping spread the workload to ensure operations are completed in a timely manner.

In Coromandel with limited harvesting operations there was only a small planting programme, with the focus centred on the thinning programme.

Whanganui has had limited operations over the past 12 months. A small area of planting is planned in 2024 and thinning wont recommence again for another 7 years. Most of the crop is in the growth phase of the life cycle.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 provide a breakdown for the main forestry activities by region over the past 12 months.

Region	Area (ha)	
Northland	683	
Coromandel	63.5	
Whanganui	0	
Total	746.5	

Table 6 Re-establishment completed in the 2023/2024 financial year

Table 7 Thinning completed in the 2023/2024 financial year

Region	Area (ha)
Northland	1004
Coromandel	252
Whanganui	0
Total	1256

Table 8 Fertiliser application in the 2023/2024 financial year

Region	Area (ha)
Northland	555
Coromandel	0
Whanganui	0
Total	555

CHEMICAL USE

SFNZ has undertaken Environmental, Social Risk Assessments (ESRA) on all chemicals it uses in accordance with FSC Pesticides Policy (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0) and FSC List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FSC-POL-30-001a).

The pest 'problem' is quantified and if action is required the least toxic option is considered first. Where possible the least amount of chemical is used to achieve a satisfactory results. Results of operations are monitored.

Table 5 shows a breakdown of chemical used by active ingredient for the 2023/24 financial year across each region.

Region	Northland	Coromandel	Whanganui	Total
Area (ha)	1,081	287	13	1,381
Glyphosate	3,783	120	103	4,006
Terbuthylazine		10		10
Metsulfuron	61	38	14	113
Organomodified	352	6	18	376
Picloram	256	18		274
Triclopyr	185			185
Hexazinone				
Haloxyfop-R methyl				
Dichlorophenoxyacetic				
Clopyraid	464			464
[®] p-mentha-1,8-diene				
Total	5,101	192	135	5,428

Table 9 Chemicals used by active ingredient by region

HARVESTING/ENGINEERING

2023/24 was a challenging year with inflating costs, several storm events and a market slow down mid-year which had a significant impact on our operations. Northland reduced its harvesting capacity, with one crew exiting in February and another finishing in late June. The remaining six crews operated at 80% production from June to November to minimise the impact of the market slow down and to keep the remaining harvesting capacity going. Production restrictions were lifted in November as there were opportunities to get more wood into the domestic market and export prices lifted slighted.

Overall, we were 19% down on the budgeted target volume and tough decisions had to be made to keep the business in a stable position through tough times. New opportunities in the domestic market appeared towards the back end of the year with a strong demand for pruned which saw our Northland operations carting logs to Claymark on Thames and Carter Holt Harvey in Tokoroa.

To add to the challenges in the market, we saw several heavy weather events throughout the year that made operating conditions difficult at times. These events tested our emergency preparedness and contingency plans with damage to council infrastructure, fallen powerlines, and toppled trees blocking roads. Through all of this we managed to maintain safe, productive, and environmentally sound operations.

The focus for Coromandel was preparing a harvesting tender with operations stopped for 12 months due to age of the crop and market conditions. After a 6-month planning process, harvesting operations started again in late January / early February. Previously the only sales option for the wood was export, however Claymark in Thames went through a transition in their operation to be able to take a structural log rather than just a pruned log. We now have a wood supply agreement in place and to date we are supplying 30% of the harvested volume to the mill. This helps provide stability to the operation and also supports the local community we operation in.

NES-CF NOTIFICATIONS

There were a range of operations notified in the past 12 months which included harvesting, earthworks, quarrying and permanent stream crossings. With changes to the National Environmental Standard, we are now required to notify replanting such that the coming winter of the 2024/2025 financial year will see re-planting operations notified.

The respective regional councils visit the operations at least annually and, to date, no significant issues have identified and all jobs were noted as achieving required compliance.

Table 6 provides a summary of all the current notified activities across the regions.

Status	Event	Detail	Next Due
OverdueSoon	Event (NES - Notice)	Te Hiku Crew 12 Renewal REF240327606, Previous Renewal REF230109371, Initial Submission REF210716701	2024-05-31
OverdueSoon	Event (NES - Notice)	NES-CF Buchanans Roadline Harvest REF240132507	2024-05-31
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Van Crasbeek Harvesting and Earthworks REF230109403 Previously (REF200926027, REF211012120)	2024-06-28
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Whangapoua earthworks	2024-06-30
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	REF220919011: Pearse Earthworks	2024-07-28
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Crew 5 nes-cf te hiku notification REF240507515	2024-10-04
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Adamson Quarry NES-PF: REF220924259	2024-10-11

Table 10 Summary of current notified NES-CF activities

Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Pearse Harvesting and Earthworks Reference Number REF230774117	2024-10-25
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Te Hiku Crew 10 REF191223313	2024-12-17
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Asia Otangaroa Earthworks & Harvesting REF191223377	2024-12-31
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Otangaroa REF220561203	2024-12-31
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	REF240341897 Crew 12 (North of Ngataki)	2025-02-28
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	REF231062195 - Buchanans Earthworks	2025-05-23
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Adamson Harvest + Earthworks REF211012305	2025-06-30
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	NES-CF Crew 10 Te Hiku REF240327775	2025-08-01
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Honeymoon Forest; Harvesting and Earthworks	2026-10-30
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Asia Fern Flat - Quarrying - REF231227457	2026-12-18
Open	Event (NES - Notice)	Northern Otangaroa - Harvest + Earthworks + River Crossing REF230137211	2027-06-30

RESOURCE CONSENTS

There are five current resource consents across certified operations which includes two in Northland and three in Coromandel. Table 7 provides a summary of each one.

During the past 12 months there was no non-compliance identified in the annual monitoring visits associated with these activities by the respective regional councils.

Table 11 Current resource consents

Status	Event	Detail	Next Due
Open	Event (Resource Consent)	Te Hiku Harvesting on red zoned land	2025-10-30
Open	Event (Resource Consent)	Asia Otangaroa earthworks on orange zoned land APP.042277.01.01	2025-11-06
Open	Event (Resource Consent)	Whangapoua Catchment and slope harvesting AUTH10664.01.04	2027-05-10
Open	Event (Resource Consent)	Whangapoua - Harvesting over waterways AUTH110662.01.04	2027-05-10
Open	Event (Resource Consent)	Whangapoua - Culvert/permanent stream crossings AUTH110661.01.04	2027-05-10

PRODUCTION

Tables 8, 9 and 10 provides a break of the volume harvested by region, markets supplied and area harvested over the past 12 months.

Table 12 Budget vs actual volume harvested

Туре	Budget Northland	Actual Northland	Budget Coromandel	Actual Coromandel	Budget Whanganui	Actual Whanganui
FSC	376,480	295,920	13,750	11,772	0	0
Non FSC	23,520	74,395	0	0	0	0
Total	400,000	370,316	13,750	11,772	0	0

Table 13 Summary of the volume supplied by market

	Nortl	Northland Core		d Coromandel		Whanganui	
Туре	Domestic (t)	Export (t)	Domestic (t)	Export (t)	Domestic (t)	Export (t)	
FSC	237,854	58,067	3,819	7,953	0	0	
Non FSC	54,288	20,107	0	0	0	0	
Total	292,142	78,174	3,819	7,953	0	0	

Table 14 Area harvested by region

Туре	Northland (ha)	Coromandel (ha)	Whanganui (ha)
FSC	716	22	0
Non FSC	137.3	0	0
Total	853.3	22	0