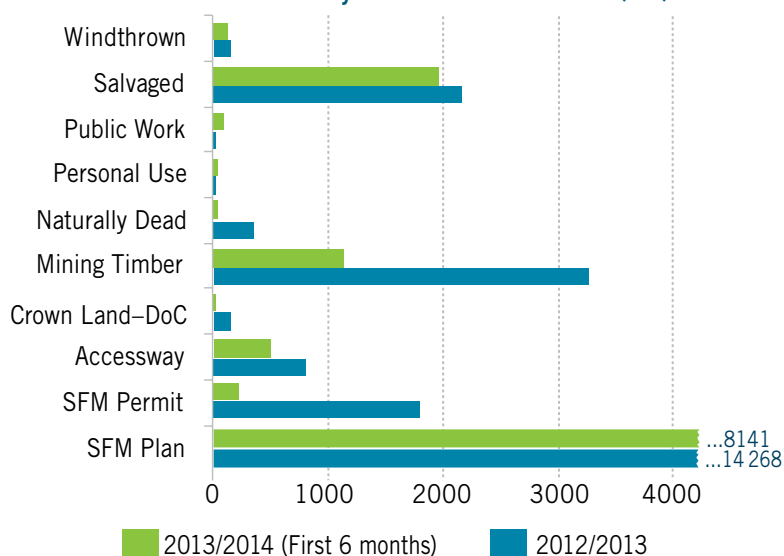


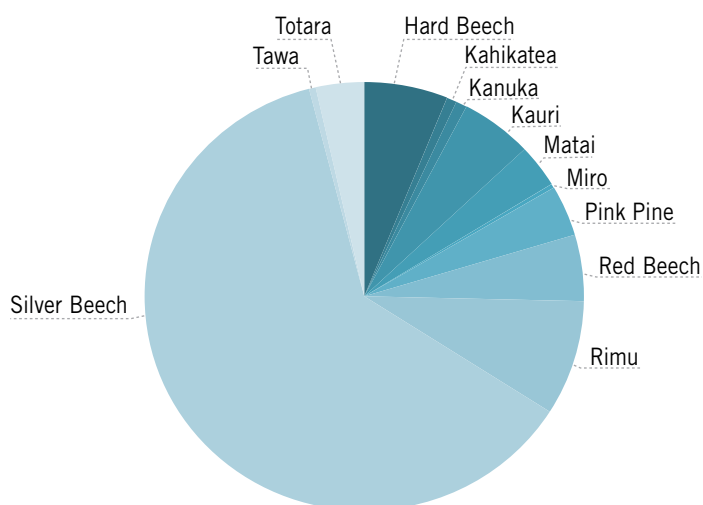
CURRENT MILLING LEVELS

It has been an active start to the year in indigenous forestry, with already over half last year's beech volume harvested from SFM plans through the mill gate. A lot of salvage timber has been milled with the bulk of the volume being swamp kauri sourced from farmland in the Far North. A significant volume of timber has also come from clearance for mining operations on the West Coast, however, this is decreasing.

Volumes received at mill by timber classification (m³)



Species received at mill 2013/2014 (first 6 months)



LOOKING FOR FEEDBACK

The 3-monthly returns have traditionally been posted out to all sawmillers but we are open to different options. Would you prefer to receive communication from MPI via email?

Is there anything you'd like to see included in this newsletter? Any feedback, comments or suggestions for future editions are welcome.

CONVERTING SFM PERMITS TO A SFM PLAN?

Have you ever thought about converting your SFM permit to a SFM plan?

A key advantage of an SFM plan over a permit is that a plan provides continuity of supply beyond the 10 year timeframe of a permit. Annual harvest rates allowed under a plan are initially based on regional growth rates of the target species but may be amended over time as forest-specific growth rates are obtained through measurement of permanent plots. There is no minimum forest size for a plan (currently the smallest is 1.35 hectares) and MPI is working on creating a template to simplify the process required to prepare a draft SFM plan.

Contact your regional office if you would like more information.

BLACK BEECH

(see overleaf for more...)



Black beech flooring is hard and even wearing making a distinctive and attractive floor.

CONTACT US

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Woodside Forest, Oxford

John and Rosalie Wardle own Woodside Forest located in the Canterbury foothills near Oxford. They have 84 hectares of black beech forest under an SFM Plan which was registered in 1995, the first in the country to be approved under the Forests Act. The Wardles are well known to the indigenous forestry industry for their innovative approaches. They recently broke new ground by achieving a Queen Elizabeth II Open Spaces Covenant over the beech forest subject to the SFM plan which allows timber to be harvested while securing additional long-term protection of the forest.

Dr Wardle is a former scientist, researcher and trained forester. After completing a PhD on the ecology of mountain beech he applied his ecological knowledge to management on the ground, putting his theories into practice.

The forest is now comprised of second growth black beech ranging in age from 80–90 years and younger along with 30 hectares of radiata planted from the 1970s to the early '90s.

A key focus of the forest management is to produce high quality timber and also strengthen the structure of the forest so that it can withstand high winds and heavy snowfall, a common feature of the area particularly during winter and spring. This is being achieved through an active silvicultural programme of thinning and pruning.

About 1 hectare of the beech forest is thinned and pruned annually; regenerated stands are thinned at about age 15 years from 50 000 stems/ha down to about 800 stems/ha reducing competition around selected 'final crop' trees. Trees are harvested when they reach the target dbh of 45cm which is usually at an average age of around 48 years. With this regime, he can guarantee producing a consistent volume of clearwood.

Currently small quantities of black beech are harvested annually from the property – milled timber is mainly used for flooring and kitchen joinery. Low grade and windfall trees are sold as firewood.



Damage from snowfall (particularly wet, spring snow) is minimised as a result of thinning and pruning.

John has also authored the following books: *The New Zealand Beeches* and *Wardle's native trees of New Zealand*. These are excellent reference books on native New Zealand species.

Woodside Forest is a great example of how a harmonious relationship with the land and its forests (native and planted) can be achieved by applying sound forest management, environmental and conservation principles.

SAWMILLING AT WOODSIDE MIKE FOSTER, NORTH CANTERBURY

Mike Foster has been milling the annual black beech cut for the Wardles at Woodside Forest since 2008. Based at Leithfield Beach in North Canterbury, he has been milling for 8 years, keeping himself occupied with his portable Peterson in between working as a builder and undertaking contract work for the Department of Conservation. Mike primarily mills exotics such as macrocarpa, radiata, douglas-fir and eucalypts. Recently he has been kept busy milling timber from the Canterbury windthrow event in October last year, with a good 6 months work still ahead of him.

Right: Mike Foster milling black beech at Woodside Forest with his Peterson mill.

