

Community Drinking Watersheds

JANUARY 2024

Mosaic Forest Management identifies protecting water quality as a top priority in our management practices and sustainability commitments across our forest lands. In particular, several communities on Vancouver Island have licences to draw water from sources within our private managed forests, and protecting drinking water sources is a key shared accountability between Mosaic and community water managers.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is any area of land that catches rain or snow and drains into a body of water. In this document, we are speaking specifically about community drinking watersheds, which are defined as the specific drainages that feed community water sources.

HOW IS DRINKING WATER REGULATED?

Drinking water in British Columbia is heavily regulated along the whole supply chain from source to tap. Water purveyors are responsible for delivering safe drinking water that meets the standards prescribed in the Drinking Water Protection Act and the Drinking Water Protection Regulation, as well as conditions of their operating permits. Regional Health Authorities are responsible for oversight to ensure compliance, and both the Health Authority and the water purveyors undertake extensive, mandated water testing and monitoring.

As a managed forest owner, Mosaic is prohibited from negatively impacting drinking water quality by the provisions of the Private Managed Forest Land Act. We also maintain formal relationships with licensed

DID YOU KNOW?



Management of drinking water quality and sources is **heavily regulated** in British Columbia.

Community drinking sources can be located within **public** or **private** lands in B.C.



Mosaic maintains **collaborative relationships** with water purveyors with licences to draw water from within our lands. We partner and modify plans and practices based on risks and consultation with community water managers.

water purveyors, and share information on our planned activities. We are responsible for ensuring forest practices do not negatively impact water quality in the drainages associated with a water licence, and make any necessary amendments to planned activities based on our consultation work with relevant authorities and communities.

PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND ACT:

“...a primary forest activity must not cause a material adverse effect on the quality of drinking water that may affect human health at the point of diversion of a drinking water intake.”

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of our collaboration with community water purveyors, **Mosaic provides a suite of services and benefits to water managers free of charge**, including fire protection, access and road maintenance, and security.



Mosaic's watershed management programs are **designed and implemented by qualified, registered professionals**, including hydrologists, biologists and foresters.



TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITY WATER MANAGERS, Mosaic hosts dozens of watershed tours each year, where members of the public can learn about management of water resources and sustainable forestry.



MOSAIC AND THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO worked together to produce a video that details our collaborative partnership on water management, which can be viewed at www.MosaicForests.com/watersheds.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

When managed appropriately and to high standards, locating community drinking watersheds within managed forest lands creates cost savings and management benefits for communities.

Mosaic's work with drinking water managers allows:

- Communities to benefit from our forest professionals' expertise in managing the resource and providing important watershed data through partnerships with indigenous, local and provincial governments.
- In addition, water resource managers from the community have both road infrastructure and access provided and maintained through our operations, yielding significant annual cost savings to taxpayers.
- We also employ access control and security throughout our private managed forest lands, which greatly reduces the risk of human-caused wildfire or unwanted and unmonitored access to water intakes and other sensitive areas.
- Our extensive resources in wildfire response provide a rapid, first-line of defense against wildfire, the impacts of which can be catastrophic for surface water resources.

Mosaic is proud of the collaborative management programs we deliver with our community partners. More information on watershed management, including links to relevant regulations and information on water purveyors and their management plans and testing, can be found at www.MosaicForests.com/watersheds.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN WATERSHEDS

- » **MOSAIC EMPLOYS SPECIALIZED, MODIFIED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES** within drinking watersheds, informed by detailed scientific analysis and monitoring.
- » **WE HAVE CONDUCTED** high resolution laser imaging across our land base that allows us to generate detailed geo-referenced topographical maps, surface water flows, geological features, and forest canopy definition down to the single tree.
- » **WE UNDERTAKE WATERSHED AND TERRAIN ASSESSMENTS** and deploy a continual water quality monitoring program.
- » **ANY HARVEST AREAS ARE CAREFULLY DESIGNED** based on detailed technical data and reviewed with community water purveyors in advance.



Keep up to date on our latest by following **MosaicForests** on Facebook or **@MosaicForests** on Twitter

MOSAIC
FOREST MANAGEMENT