

Mt. Erin Forest

Mt. Erin Forest is located in New Zealand’s North Island; approximately 20km north of the rural town of Hunterville and 10km west of Mangaweka.

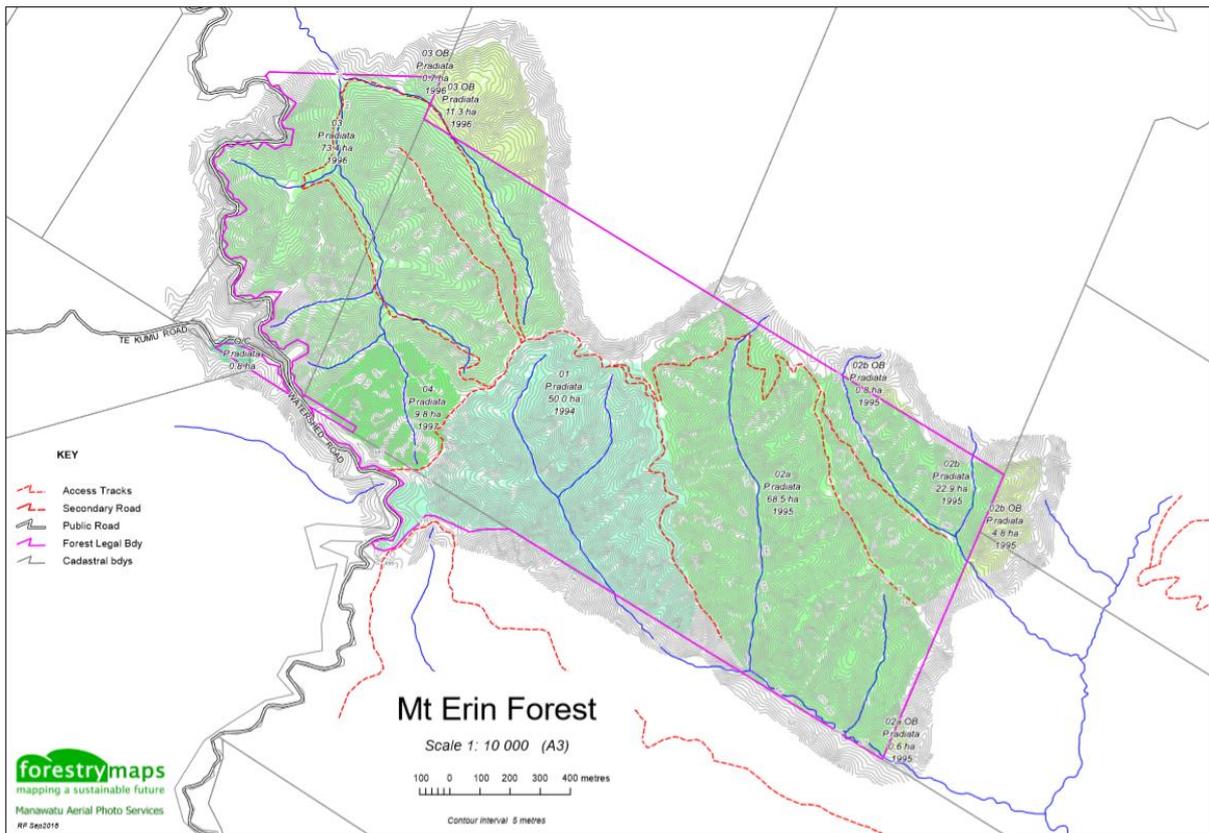
The trees in Mt Erin Forest are owned by China Forestry Group New Zealand Company Ltd (CFG), whereas the land is owned by a New Zealand horticultural company. The land is classified as Freehold and the forest has been under CFG’s ownership since 1 October 2018.

The forest is in its first rotation, is approximately 23 years old, and is surrounded by hill country dry stock farming operations. Before being planted in forestry this land was considered pastoral. Currently the gross area of the land parcels that make up the forest is 280ha, with 243ha of that covered in *Pinus radiata* (pine).

The topography of the forest is rolling with some steep, unstable terrain (see Map 1 below). All of Mt. Erin Forest resides on Orange (High) erosion susceptibility classified land and therefore FOREST360 staff will obtain and abide by any consents required for this operation as well as any conditions under the National Environmental Standard for Production Forestry (NES-PF).

Where appropriate, CFG plans to replant this forest in pine, except those areas marked out for roads, skid sites, and setbacks.

Map 1: Mt. Erin Topographical map



Management objectives

FOREST360 strongly believes in sustainable forest management and is therefore committed to managing its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forest estate in

accordance with the FSC Principles and Criteria, as set out in the FSC Standard for New Zealand. Such compliance will demonstrate sustainable forest management.

Accordingly, FOREST360 will implement these base principles:

- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements, as well as local environmental standards and appropriate voluntary codes.
- Aim to maintain and enhance the social and economic wellbeing of all people who utilise our forests for their income.
- Uphold Iwi legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by management activities.
- Contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.
- Efficiently manage our products and services to maintain or enhance long-term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits.
- Maintain, conserve and restore ecosystem services and environmental values and avoid any negative environmental impacts.
- Have a consistent management plan to promote adaptive management, guide staff, and inform affected and interested stakeholders.
- Work towards achieving efficient management to monitor and evaluate the scale, intensity and risks.
- Ensure management activities are consistent with both FOREST360 and individual owners' economic, environmental and social policies and objectives.
- Maintain and enhance conservation values in the forests through applying the precautionary approach to management and operational decisions.

Health and Safety

FOREST360 management emphasises leadership and constant focus, including the strong message that safety rates as the number one priority ahead of any other business driver. The FOREST360 Health and Safety Management Program will be used for all contractors in Mt. Erin Forest. During operations in the forest, Health, Safety, and Environmental audits will be carried out on a monthly basis by FOREST360 Management.

Anticipated biodiversity management activities

The key areas of work related to protected ecosystems and biodiversity over the next five years within Mt. Erin Forest are expected to be:

- Commencing surveys of potential high priority areas to establish the presence of rare or threatened species, kiwi, lizards and bats.
- Implementation of appropriate protection of key sites if they are found.
- Implementation of the High Value Conservation management plans
- Expansion of riparian setbacks and natural forest corridors where appropriate and able to deliver enhanced future environmental outcomes.
- Co-operation with neighbours on pest/weed control.
- Representative vegetation condition monitoring.

Forest management goals

CFG have retained the services of FOREST360 to meet their business objectives and ensure that the Mt. Erin Forest will be managed to:

- Grow trees and produce 'fit for purpose' logs.
- Ensure that the productivity of the land does not decline.
- Ensure that environmental values are identified and maintained.
- Ensure that historic sites are identified and protected.

- Ensure that other forest values and products are identified, protected and where possible enhanced.
- Ensure that the forest estate's contribution to carbon cycles is maintained or enhanced.
- Harvest the trees as close as possible to their economic optimum age and achieve the best possible financial returns to the owners.
- Replant following harvesting where agreements require.
- Meet all statutory requirements and comply with forest industry best practice.
- Act as a good corporate citizen and neighbour.
- Ensure all forest management practices are consistent with the principles of responsible forest management and the Forest Stewardship Council.

Socio-economic conditions

Where possible, local contractors will be used to carry out earthworks, harvesting, and eventually silvicultural operations. Aside from being audited to check compliance against health, safety, and environmental legislation, contractors will be required to supply the outcome of regular staff health checks and show remuneration is above the legal requirement.

Community Relations and Social implications

FOREST360 will keep stakeholders / affected parties informed on the progress of the forest operation, this will include:

- Mail drop before an operation starts informing the affected party what operation is taking place and why i.e. harvesting trees for timber.
- Give the affected party the opportunity to provide an email address to FOREST360 so the Operations Managers can keep the affected party informed (on a regular basis) of commencement and completion dates, progress, and any changes from the original operation plan.
- Inform the affected party who to contact should they have a complaint or need assistance in relation to the operation.

Monitoring

The following monitoring will be carried out by FOREST360 forest managers and staff:

- Environmental auditing including monitoring of waterways, and endangered and threatened species.
- Archaeological assessments.
- Health and Safety auditing of workers and their practices in the forest.
- Health monitoring of staff working in the forest
- Forest health and growth monitoring.
- Compliance with all regulatory requirements as well as those of FSC certification.
- Potential impacts upon stakeholders.

Harvesting

Harvesting will likely start in 2021/22 after the completion of earthworks to install roads, skid sites, and environmental controls. At this stage, the likely harvesting technique will utilise a cable harvesting system that lifts logs up to a skid site. This would be the most environmentally friendly, safe, and efficient technique, given the steepness of some slopes in the forest. The logs will then be transported by truck to a port or local sawmill.

Replanting

It is the intent of CFG to replant Mt. Erin forest the following season after harvesting operations are complete, with the appropriate *Pinus radiata* cultivar. However, there may be situations arising from pre-harvest assessments, ecological or archaeological surveys,

post-harvest operational review or other activities, including consultation with stakeholders, where small areas are retired from production after harvest for practical, safety, environmental, heritage reasons, or to meet FSC commitments.

These situations will normally only become apparent during the planning phases ahead of harvesting and other operations.