

Woodlot Audits & Investigations: Challenges & Opportunities

October 4, 2024



Forest
Practices
Board

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Purpose

- Highlight the Board's work with Woodlots
- Identify areas of improvement
 - Building on Tyler Hodgkinson's 10-year summary of Board's findings
- Initiate discussions

The Board

- Created under the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act*,
- Mandate continued under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*
- To serve the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices

Mandate

Audits

Must undertake independent audits of compliance with, and enforcement of, FRPA and Wildfire Act

Investigations

Must deal with public complaints
May conduct special investigations

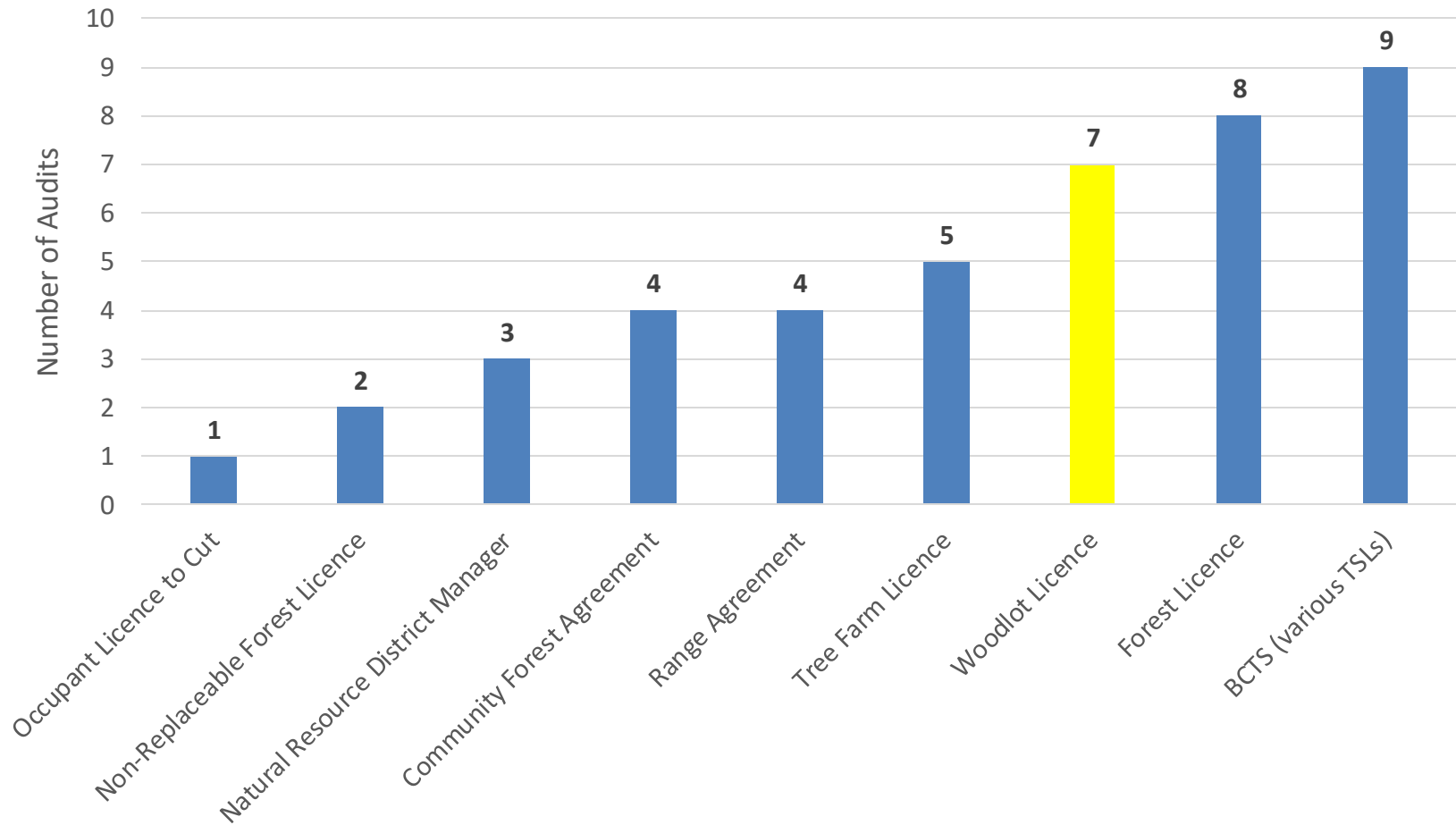
Reporting

Must report findings to public and government
May make recommendations

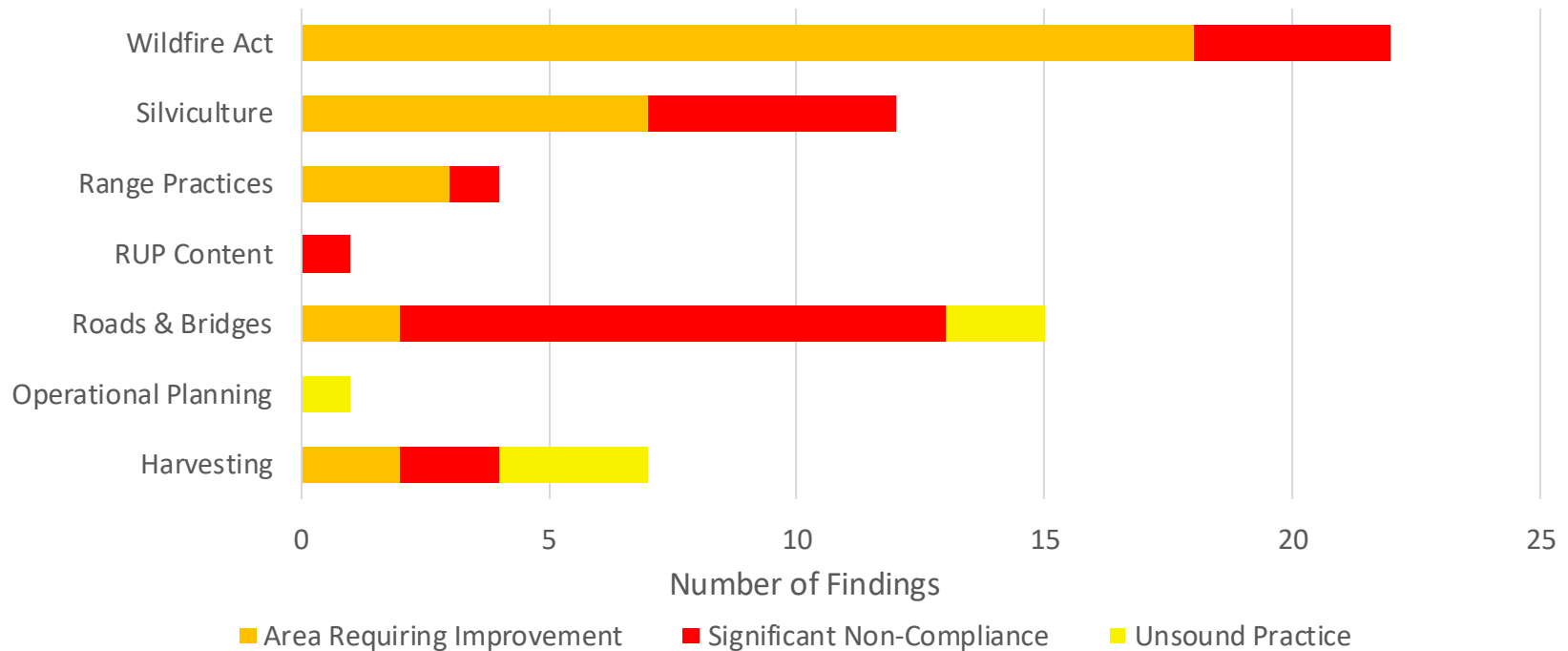
Appeals

May appeal decisions to the Forest Appeals Commission

Findings 2018-2022



Findings 2018-2022



Findings 2018-2022

TENURE TYPE	SAMPLES PER FINDING	INCIDENT RATE
Tree Farm Licence	451	0.2%
Timber Sale Licences and BCTS	157	0.6%
Community Forest Agreement	127	0.8%
Forest Licence	101	1.0%
Occupant Licence to Cut	57	1.8%
Woodlot Licence	14	7.3%

**A sample being a cutblock, kilometre of road, or stream crossing.*

Findings 2018-2022

- Small sample size; extrapolate with caution but concern is real.
- Findings from complaint investigations consistently show contraventions by woodlot licensees.
- There have been “some” findings of contravention and penalties levied by MOF statutory decision-makers.

Pay attention to

- Post harvest hazard assessment and abatement (Wildfire Act).
- Engineered crossings have extensive and complex requirements.
- Records and reports.
- Operational planning and harvesting:
 - ✓ Know your legal requirements in the WLP and HLP, especially if these plans are older.
 - ✓ Numerous visual quality objectives not achieved.
 - ✓ Old growth, riparian, UWR, similar special areas.



View of CP NN block 2 from the intersection of Skimikin and Byers Roads. This photo was taken at a 50mm focal length, which is close to what the human eye would perceive.

Questions?

