

Ernslaw One Limited (Ernslaw) is a New Zealand registered forestry company, founded in 1991. It owns or manages around 93,000 ha of production forest growing on over 130,000 ha of land throughout New Zealand with 84,000 ha FSC® certified.



Management Objectives

Our South Island and Southern North Island forests are managed and certified under the Forest Stewardship Council® Certification (FSC-C010424), ensuring continuous improvement opportunities and strengths in our Environmental Management Systems are recognised. Our East Coast Forests are operating under the same management approach but are not FSC® certified. Our company value of being responsible stewards and our adaptive management approach is how we deliver our continual improvement aspirations consistent with our commitments to FSC®. We monitor a diverse range of variables including environmental incidents, health and safety, forest health, conservation values, socio-economic values, stream health, log production and operational quality.

Carbon Sequestration

Forestry can help mitigate climate change through sequestering carbon as forests grow and absorb carbon. Ernslaw has forests registered in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). This derives additional value from the forest resource, through the sale of carbon credits. Ernslaw are committed to managing

the forest estate in a manner that maintains or enhances our contribution to carbon cycles.

Silviculture

Silviculture is all about the science of growing trees including species selection, which considers a range of factors including terrain, wilding risk, climatic conditions, and erosion susceptibility. Each rotation, we assess our planting setbacks to ensure we maintain a high level of environmental protection for downstream receiving environments. *Pinus radiata* is the main species planted, although Ernslaw is investing into *Pinus attenuata* hybrid species and exploring longer rotation coppicing species to balance site specific environmental challenges.



Chemical spray is used as part of our pre-plant and post-plant programs. The agrichemicals used have been assessed as suitable via a suite of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESRAs) and use is reported annually as part of the FSC® audit process. No chemicals used are on the FSC® “Prohibited” or “Highly Restricted” lists. We maintain spray setbacks from waterways, kōura (freshwater crayfish) ponds and neighbours’ boundaries to minimise adverse environmental effects. The establishment programme resulted in 2871 ha being replanted over the winter months in 2024.

Forest Health

Ernslaw employs a range of strategies to monitor the health of our forests, including partnerships with universities, regional councils, and Crown Research Institutes to address areas such as biosecurity, soil nutrition, tree health, and soil mapping.



Harvesting

All harvesting operations are planned through a comprehensive process to determine how and when to harvest our plantation resource. Planning includes consideration of forest age, product estimates, terrain, safety, watercourse values and fish presence, protected areas, neighbours as well as other values and risks. Our plans specify the harvesting methodology, tracking limits, stream crossing locations, water control, landing debris and any RMA management requirements. Mechanised tree felling and log making machinery is the dominant method used in our forests as a means of improving workplace safety, with upwards of 88% of felling and 100% of processing mechanised. Over 2,100 hectares of forest were harvested, yielding more than 1.7 million tonnes of logs in the last fiscal year.

Our People

Ernslaw employs 84 FTE staff with all other work carried out by a contract work force undertaking harvesting, roading construction and maintenance, forest silviculture, and logging transport. This equates to more than 400 people working within the forests at any time. Ernslaw is committed to ensuring the rights of workers are upheld including, all workers are paid at least the NZ living wage. Ernslaw support people managers to develop staff through performance conversations, providing employees with training and development opportunities.



Health & Safety

Health and Safety for all workers in our forests is a business priority. We have a dedicated H&S team that oversee that safety processes are implemented H&S assessments, procedures and monitoring are in place for all our operations to ensure the high standards set by the company are met. We use “Safetree Contractor Certification” to help meet our striving for our “100% Safe” philosophy. Which means we are 100% committed to doing everything we can to ensure our people go home safe at the end of each workday.

Community

We actively engage with the community to ensure our management has minimal adverse, or a positive effect, on people. Ernslaw is actively involved with the local community around its forests, who provide much of work force, and many of the goods and services. Our staff actively consult with the local community regarding operational activities and are involved locally with sports clubs, Fire & Emergency (FENZ), hunting clubs, catchment groups and schools.



We support the communities by way of sponsorships, and school educational experiences along with access for activities including, mountain biking, NZ Army exercises, hunting, motor sport, horse riding, firewood collecting, dogsledding, and orienteering. Effective ongoing engagement and consultation is important, and we have large numbers of stakeholder engagements each year.

Cultural and Heritage Sites

Ernslaw has a diverse range of archaeological sites within its estate. These range from significant gold mining sites in the South Island to sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua throughout the North Island. Archaeological surveys are conducted prior to planting at new forest locations, with sites recorded with Heritage

NZ and Tangata Whenua. Any new sites found during operational processes are mapped and assessed, then taken into consideration during planning for subsequent forest operations. Our contractors and staff are versed in heritage site identification and discovery procedure.

Forest Users

The forests support a variety of non-timber activities, including the Great Naseby Water Race, Rogaine and Mountain Biking events, and Sled Dog races. Ernslaw also operates a freshwater crayfish business (KEEWAI), which includes over 1,800 ponds and extensive areas of native wetland vegetation within its South Island forests.



Animal Pests

We manage pest species to ensure biodiversity values are not impacted upon. Over 28,000 mammalian pests were removed from Ernslaw forests in the 2024/25 financial year.

Biodiversity

Plantation forests play a key role in helping protect biodiversity, through active management of rare and threatened species, management of associated conservation areas, and through the provision of habitat within the plantation. As part of this process Ernslaw has an ongoing process to assess wilding invasion and where necessary implement control measures.

High Conservation Value (HCV) Land

Currently Ernslaw has 261 ha classified as having very high ecological value (HCV3 & HCV1). Ernslaw continues to re-assess and consult on areas that have potential HCV values and develop management plans in line with provisions in regional and national legislation. There are around 11,000 ha in reserve area within the forests with an average of 14% of each ecological region.



Stream Health

Ernslaw has a many waterways flowing through its forests and undertakes an annual stream health monitoring programme to assess water quality and instream habitat trends over time. We also undertake regular water clarity measurements and lab analysis to monitor for any effects of our activities on freshwater values. The location of monitoring sites is regularly assessed to ensure we capture stream health indices over the life of forests. Ernslaw are an early adaptor of eDNA technology to identify the type, and location, of fish species within our forests. The results of this collective monitoring are used to reduce impacts on instream biodiversity values

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) Species

Recordings of RTE species are documented and held internally and in the secure NZ plantations portal in i-Naturalist with information used to assist in the management strategies for these species. Forest operations are planned so that

threatened species and their habitats are protected. Animal species recorded in Ernslaw forests include Kiwi, NZ Falcon, Powelliplanta snails, galaxiid fish and Hochstetter's frogs. RTE plant species include the Swamp leek orchid, Porcupine Shrub, Woolly Daisy, and the Green Hooded Orchid.



Regional Offices

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ERNSLAW ONE FOREST LOCATIONS

