

Additional Guidance:**Protection of Permanent Sample Plots (PSP) and Research Installation (RI)**

Inventory and Research permanent sample plots (PSPs) provide insight into stand dynamics, which provide support for a number of strategic business activities, programs and initiatives.

The main PSP-related business drivers include: Forest Analyses, Inventory Estimates, Timber Appraisal, New sustainable forest management initiatives, Climate change research, Mountain Pine Beetle, Silviculture investment decisions, Bio-energy, carbon estimates.

The Growth and Yield (GY) Program informs more than timber-related management decisions. It also provides information on future forest structure and yield models used to predict many other forest values, such as site productivity, habitat, forest health, biodiversity, visual quality, and hydrology, etc across a wide range of sustainable forest management applications.

PSP's are purposively established and therefore may not tie directly to a particular management unit. In some instances management units may have PSP's that were established within the management unit based upon a sample plan for the unit. Once these samples are re-measured they will support the continued improvement of current and future Provincial growth and yield models as they will capture stand dynamics over a broad range of stand conditions. Local samples might be used as anecdotal information for comparison to model predictions, but not necessarily for a direct statistical comparison.

How to find Permanent Sample Plot location information on the Land and Resource Data Warehouse - LRDW

Click here to view a background document that offers guidance on regarding the purpose, identification, summary information, spatial information, disturbance free buffer and sample assessment for inventory permanent sample plots (PSP). Generally, samples are not released for harvest unless there has been a field verification to determine the status and condition of the sample. Trees within the sample cannot be harvested, as this would destroy the capacity of the sample to represent natural stand ingress, growth and mortality. There is some latitude in modifying the buffer constraints as long as the growth characteristics are not influenced in the sample plot (noted below in Sample protection from Forest Health Management).

Click here to view or download a summary map presenting Permanent Sample Plots and Research Installations located throughout the South Island Natural Resource District.

The inventory projection (growth and yield) website has program information, standards and procedures and software downloads. It is located at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/ip/index.html>

For further information on the Permanent Sample Plot Spatial, layer contact:

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