



The **West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG)** was formed to strengthen sustainable forest management planning and practices in 2000. WIWAG includes representatives from labour, fisheries, tourism, recreation, naturalists, logging contractors, small business, environment, fish & game, Parks Canada, local and regional government and the Ministry of Forests.

WIWAG provides advice to Western Forest Products on local level performance indicators as part of the companies' Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z809-2008 standard. The SFM Plan is designed to complement: Environmental Management System (and related ISO 14001 certification)

WIWAG also provides a public advisory function to Island Timberlands Limited Partnership. ITLP is committed to maintaining the public advisory process and is certified under the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and ISO 14001

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### **Port Alberni Forest Operations (PAFO) - Western Forest Products (WFP)**

- WFP operates on public lands within the communities of Port Alberni and Bamfield. The area of the DFA is 139,446 hectares. Current AAC is 800,000 m3.

CSA embarked on a third revision to the standard which integrates new knowledge acquired over time and continues to update to further address society's changing environmental, social, and economic values. WFP with WIWAG began work on a new plan to incorporate the new standard; a rigorous process that included:

**A new set of 35 mandatory core indicators** intended to bring a level of consistency to Sustainable Forest Management Plan. Local relevant indicators were expanded with WFP through the WIWAG process for a total of 45 indicators within the SFM. The new plan can be viewed here:

**[http://www.westernforest.com/wiwag/sfm\\_plan.htm](http://www.westernforest.com/wiwag/sfm_plan.htm)**

**Twenty-seven new discussion items** related to Forest management this aspect builds on a process that was established since the beginning of WIWAG. This two way education and exchange of information includes topics on:

- Forest fragmentation and forest loss
- Management in the context of natural disturbance regimes and the natural range of variation
- Maintenance of populations and communities overtime
- Local and regional protected areas and integrated landscape management
- Practices to limit the spread of invasive alien species
- Gene pool of native seed stock (breeding program)
- Management of cultural values and resources

**First Nations interests are addressed** through:

- Understanding and complying with the current legal requirements related to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights
- Use of Aboriginal knowledge to identify and manage culturally important resources and values
- Respect for traditional Aboriginal forest values and uses
- Capacity development and participation of First Nation communities, including understanding of SFM plans based on a clear understanding of them
- Participation in the forest economy

### **Island Timberlands Limited Partnership (ITLP)**

Island Timberlands operates exclusively on privately owned forest lands. In the Port Alberni DFA there are 76,535 ha of forest lands of which 67,837 are productive forest lands.

- ITLP continues to look for greater efficiency and develop new markets and products and engage broadly with WIWAG. ITLP is certified under Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) (2005-2009 Standard). SFI's standards are updated every five years and are based on nine principles:
  1. Sustainable Forestry
  2. Responsible Practices
  3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity
  4. Forest Health and Productivity
  5. Long-term Forest and Soil Productivity
  6. Protection of Water Resources
  7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity
  8. Legal Compliance
  9. Continual Improvement
- ITLP continues to provide access for responsible recreation provided; there is no risk to safety, the environment or damage to assets.
- ITLP website is an excellent source for up to date information on all aspects of forestry including current information on road closures, community events, safety and operations **<http://www.islandtimberlands.com/>**

**WIWAG Meetings** are held on the second Thursday of the month (except July and August), at the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District boardroom. Meetings will alternate between companies, guests are welcome to observe. Please call or email to confirm a meeting as dates or locations are subject to change.

**For more information about WIWAG please contact:**

Jennifer Dyson, email: **[awpb@island.net](mailto:awpb@island.net)** or call 250-724-0876 or check out the website for minutes and for past and current work and presentations: **<http://www.westernforest.com/wiwag/index.htm>**