



Western Forest Products New Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Changes

The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG) was formed (to provide community input) to strengthen sustainable forest management planning and practices for Weyerhaeuser in 2000. This group of volunteers now provides advice to Western Forest Products (WFP) on continual improvement on local level performance indicators as part of the companies' Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification. WIWAG includes representatives from labour, fisheries, tourism, recreation, naturalists, logging contractors, small business, fish & game, Parks Canada, local and regional government and the Ministry of Forests. Last May (2009) CSA embarked on a third revision to the standard which integrates new knowledge acquired over time and steps forward to further address society's changing environmental, social, and economic values.

There are considerable changes made which include:

A new set of 35 mandatory core indicators intended to bring a level of consistency to Sustainable Forest Management Plans developed under the Standard. Locally applicable indicators will still need to be expanded through the WIWAG process. These mandatory indicators cover areas such as:

- Native species, species at risk, and sites of special significance (biological diversity)
- Carbon uptake and storage
- Forest land conversion, and
- Sustainable communities

Twenty-seven new discussion items related to Forest management

This is part of the two way education and exchange of information that occurs in each CSA certified forest. For example, topics to be discussed under the **Conservation of Biological Diversity** must include but are not limited to:

- 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

Further Aboriginal interests are addressed:

- 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 identified through the Aboriginal input process
- Capacity development and meaningful participation of Aboriginal communities, including efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans based on a clear understanding of them
- Participation in the forest economy

We invite individuals who may be interested in helping to develop the new plan based on the changes to the standard. The meeting will be at the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, on the second Thursday of each month dinner at 5:00 pm. and the meeting gets underway at 5:30 p.m. Any questions or if you are interested in attending please contact Jennifer Dyson at 250-724-0876 or email at awpb@island.net