

Certification Shorts: June 2007

Highlights from West Island Woodland Advisory Group (WIWAG)



The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group was formed over seven years ago to strengthen sustainable forest management planning and practices in the Alberni Valley. The group provides advice to Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands on local level performance indicators as part of the companies' Canadian Standards Association certification. WIWAG includes representatives from labour, fisheries, tourism, recreation, naturalists, independent sawmills, logging contractors, small business, placer miners, fish & game, woodlots, Parks Canada, local and regional government. Staff members from both companies, as well as the Ministry of Forests, act as resources to the Group.

Western Forest Products (WFP)

Western Forest Products operates on public lands within Port Alberni. The WFP portion of the DFA is now 47% less than the DFA in 2002. In 2002 the certified area within the DFA was 311,388 hectares of public and private land and in 2007 the certified area within the WFP DFA encompasses 157,831 hectares of public land.

- June 2007 the advisory group completed an update and reviewed indicators that form the sustainable forest management plan (2006-2008). This plan is a "living document" that the group continually evaluates.
- Annually certified companies must undergo an audit by an independent third party. WFP was audited in April/07, a field and paper audit was completed, the auditor found no non-compliance with the CSA standard. A number of issues need to be addressed which include, more First Nations involvement, fill sector vacancies and to accurately define the area of the DFA.

Island Timberlands Limited Partnership (ITLP)

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

- ITLP has been working with WIWAG this spring to develop the indicators for the first ITLP Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP).
- CSA audit has been postponed until later in the year due to considerable changes in the company.
- WIWAG toured areas of ITLP last Fall with the focus on viewing old growth harvesting and harvesting around streams.
- WIWAG will continue to meet with Island Timberlands to provide input into the SFM plan.

Meetings

Every second Thursday of the month (except July and August), at the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District boardroom. Meetings alternate between Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands Limited Partnership. Guests are welcome to observe. Please call or email to confirm the meeting as dates or locations are sometimes subject to change.

For more information about WIWAG, or the SFM Plans please contact:

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Or check out the website for past and current work www.wiwag.org