

For immediate release

August 3, 2000

NEWS RELEASE

The Draft Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan recently completed by Weyerhaeuser and the West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG) is currently available for public comment.

In response to public and environmental concerns, Weyerhaeuser is pursuing certification through the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This process ensures, by independent third-party audit, that forest practices are being carried out in accordance with the national standard for a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) System.

"As can be imagined, the diversity of the group and the complexity of the framework provided by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) have meant a great deal of patience and learning as we go," said Facilitator Michelle Colussi. "We see this SFM plan as a beginning or first step only. Now we will test the validity and effectiveness of both indicators and objectives. We believe our approach of ongoing innovation will continue to serve the public interests most effectively."

"The advisory group will continue after certification has been achieved to monitor and propose revisions to the plan as we get information about what works and what doesn't work," Colussi said.

Sector representation on the West Island Woodlands Advisory Group includes Parks Canada, fisheries, forestry, rural and urban communities, recreation, tourism, First Nations, labour, environment, small business and the commercial forest sector. The West Island Timberlands includes Port Alberni, Bamfield, and parts of the west coast outside of Clayoquot Sound.

"Our hope is that the public will review the draft plan and share their comments with us," Colussi said. "Efforts to provide their rationale and alternative suggestions or solutions where they feel a section is not appropriate will certainly be helpful to the next stage of edits."

The plan is available for viewing at the Weyerhaeuser Alberni Forest Information Centre at Harbour Quay in Port Alberni or through any of the members of the advisory group (list attached). A copy of the plan is also available electronically by request to <morrison@mail.alberni.net>.

Comments received by Monday, August 14 will be considered at the next WIWAG meeting on August 16. All comments must be received in writing at 2439 Tenth Ave., Port Alberni, BC., V9Y 2P6 or by e-mail to <morrison@mail.alberni.net>.

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-- West Island Woodlands Advisory Group --
-- Mission Statement --

The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG) is composed of a cross section of community representatives who work with Weyerhaeuser staff on behalf of all those who have an interest in, or are affected by, sustainable forest management in the defined forest area.

Guided by recognized certification criteria, the WIWAG will maintain an open and transparent process that facilitates and acknowledges the widest community input possible.

The goal is to advise on the development, monitoring and ongoing improvement of the sustainable forest management practices in the area.

<u>Advisory Group Membership</u>	<u>Sector</u>
Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation
Mike Carter	Tourism
Phil Edgell	Watershed Committee
Charlie Cootes Jr.	Uchucklesaht
Shawn Flynn	Small independent wood lots
Gary Johnsen	Toquaht
Larry Johnson	Huu-ay-aht
Brian Laviolette	Education/Youth
Tawney Lem	Hupacasath
Jim Levis	Bamfield
John McIntosh	Parks Canada
Pat McKay	Small independent sawmills
Jack McKay	Logging Contractors
Rhonda Morris	Provincial Government
Eileen Parker	Small Business
Bill Randles	Labour
Gary Swann	Regional Government
Jack Thornburgh	Environment
Maureen Touchie	Ucluelet
Gillian Trumper	City Government
Dave Watts	Tseshaht