

MEDIA RELEASE

*Weyerhaeuser's West Island Woodlands makes progress
towards sustainable development*

Weyerhaeuser's West Island Timberlands has been certified by the Canadian Standards Association. This means Weyerhaeuser's customers have the assurance that timber is being harvested in a sustainable manner according to the criteria set out by the CSA.

"The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG) has worked closely with Weyerhaeuser in the development of the first Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan for TFL #44," Michelle Colussi, the group's facilitator, says. "Their purpose in doing so has been to ensure that the plan reflects community values and goals. These values include preservation of jobs, preservation of the resource for future generations, maximizing the local benefits through multiple uses of the land base, etc.

"As you can imagine, these values are not always complimentary. While all members of the Advisory Group are committed to wrestling with the diverse scope of issues and goals, some members and their sector groups continue to have concerns about specific aspects of the plan. Nonetheless, everyone felt it was important to move forward where we could and begin the monitoring process now rather than spend another year trying to come up with the perfect plan", Colussi said.

The group has already started to address a variety of aspects that need to be improved for next year. The company will monitor its progress, report to the Advisory Group on an annual basis and the plan will continue to be improved.

"Weyerhaeuser's Sustainable Forest Management Plan is a very important commitment to manage the forest resource for the long-term. We have a lot to learn about sustainable forest management, about how to maximize the economic, environmental & social benefits. That learning will take practice and work, not just talk," Colussi reiterated.

For copies of the document "Towards Sustainable Development", and for more information about the West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG), contact the Alberni Forestry Visitor Centre at 720-2108.

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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.

Information about the process (coming from Michelle)

Advisory Group Membership and Sectors

Harold Carlson	Forest Recreation	Phil Edgell	Watershed Committee
Shawn Flynn	Small independent wood lots	Bill Randles	Labour
Gary Johnsen	Toquaht	Larry Johnson	Huu-ay-aht
Brian Laviolette	Education/Youth	Jack Thornburgh	Environment
Tawney Lem	Hupacasath	Dave Watts	Tseshah
Pat McKay	Small independent sawmills	John McIntosh	Parks Canada
Jack McKay	Logging Contractors	Charlie Cootes Jr.	Uchucklesaht
Rhonda Morris	Provincial Government	Gillian Trumper	City Government
Gary Swann	Regional Government		