



Western Forest Products Sustainable Forest Management System CAN/CSA Z809-2008

Overview of Western Forest Products Forest Operations

WFP holds the harvesting rights to 2 million hectares of Crown land on the BC coast under a variety of renewable forest tenures granted by the provincial government. These tenures allow the sustainable harvest of approximately 7.2 million cubic metres of first- and second-growth logs each year. The main species harvested are Western Hemlock and Amabilis Fir (Hem-Fir), Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce.

WFP staff at the 5 Forest Operations certified to the CSA Z809:2008 standard manage the company's forestry program from initial inventories, assessments and plans, through road building and harvesting, to reforestation and second-growth stand management. A combination of company and contract crews carry out these activities at the forest operations.

WFP plants approximately 8 million trees each year, with a third of these grown at WFP's nursery near Victoria and the balance contracted out to other private nurseries.

Background

During the audit period of April 11-21, 2011 the Stillwater (Powell River) and Port Alberni Forest Operations of Western Forest Products underwent a Re-Assessment audit to the CAN/CSA Z809-2008 Standard. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and results of the QMI-SAI Global re-registration audit of Western Forest Products multisite certification process.



Scope of Certification

The sustainable forest management requirements and activities as they apply to the Defined Forest Areas of TFL 37 at Englewood F.O., TFL 39 Blk 2 at Mid Island F.O., TFL 44 at Port Alberni F.O. and TFL 39, Blk. 1 at Stillwater F.O.

Certification Recommendation

Based on the review of the company's SFM program documentation, field assessment and the audit results, the following certification recommendation is made:

The results of the Re-assessment including the review of the performance of the Western Forest Products Inc. Management System over the past 3 years and the Re-assessment Audit indicate that Western Forest Products Inc.'s Management System meets the criteria for maintenance of registration to CAN/CSA Z809-2008.

Audit Summary

The CAN/CSA Z809-2008 third-party re-assessment audit was undertaken by QMI-SAI Global. QMI-SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for registrations to the CAN/CSA Z809-2008 standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

To gather the evidence that shows WFP is meeting the requirements of the CAN/CSA Z809-2008 Standard, the audit assessed the Company's SFM and EMS documentation, planning, active and completed harvest operations, road construction and silviculture activities. This assessment included WFP offices in Powell River, Port Alberni and the head office functions in Campbell River as well as field sites in the Stillwater and Port Alberni Forest Operations. Evidence was gathered by document and record reviews, observations and interviews with staff and contractors.

The following interested parties were interviewed as part of the audit:

- 13 members of the Stillwater Community Advisory Group;
- 4 members of the Port Alberni West Island Woodlands Advisory Group;
- Compliance and Enforcement staff with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for both operations;
- DFA workers for both operations.

A total of 6 sites were field reviewed at Stillwater and 11 at Port Alberni.

No non-conformances were identified during the audit; however 2 areas of concern and 7 opportunities for improvement were noted as detailed in this report.



Areas where bark beetle trap trees are located are marked with signs to inform the public that the trees should not be taken.

CAN/CSA Z809-2008 Re-Assessment Audit

Non-conformance (NCR)	0
Areas of Concern (AOC)	2
Recommendations(OFI)	7
Positive Aspects	10

Non-conformances

Non-conformance (NCR):
A systemic failure of the program Participant's EMS/SFM system to meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

All non-conformances require an action plan within 30 days. Non-conformance must be addressed by the operation or registration cannot be achieved / maintained.

Area of Concern (AOC):
An isolated lapse in EMS/SFM system implementation which does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

Opportunity for Improvement (OFI):
Are isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of EMS/SFM objectives.

Positive Aspects

Are features of the EMS/SFM system that are considered as enhancements to the expected level of EMS/SFM performance.

The auditors

The QMI audit team who performed the audit consisted of Nathan Ryant, RPF, EMS(LA); SFM(LA) as the lead auditor and William Sloan, RFT, EMS(LA); SFM(LA) audit team member. The auditors are Forest Professionals and certified lead auditors.

Review of Previous Audit Non-conformances

There were no identified non-conformances from the audits conducted in 2010.

Areas of Non-conformance

- No areas of non-conformance were identified during the audit.

Areas of Concern

The following Areas of Concern were identified during the audit:

- Stillwater and Port Alberni Forest Operations:
 - 7.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement: The audit found that the process for determining if FRPA Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) requirements had been met for second growth harvesting areas was not implemented yet to show that these requirements were met. Ensure the operations can show that FRPA requirements have been achieved for CWD.
- Port Alberni Forest Operation:
 - 7.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement: Ensure the inspections for facilities are completed as per the monthly requirement and are also checked to ensure manifesting requirements are met.



WFP Port Alberni Forest Operations staff member discussing the harvest plans for a second growth stand with a public advisory group member during the audit.

Opportunities for Improvement

Stillwater Forest Operations

- Consider posting WFP activity signs along the Sunshine Coast Trail to promote company efforts at educating the public on their operations, eg. tree planting 1 month after harvest complete.
- 6.3 Indicator Specific:

Opportunities for Improvement (continued)

- 2.2.1 Additions and Deletions to the forest area: the audit found that the target only considers deletions due to permanent access structures. Consider reviewing to see if other types of deletions should also be included.
- 4.1.1 The net carbon uptake: the audit found that the calculation for carbon does not consider the impact of non-operational fires. Consider including this to determine a more accurate net carbon calculation for the DFA.
- 5.2.1 Level of investment in initiatives that contribute to community sustainability: the audit found the target set is greater than 2 projects annually but for 2010 they reported over 15 projects. Consider if the target is reasonable.
- 6.3.3 Evidence that a worker safety program has been implemented and is periodically reviewed and improved: the audit found the target of SAFE Certification is maintained annually applies only to the WFP certification and does not consider the contractors. Consider adding contractors to the target.

Port Alberni Forest Operations

- 6.3 Indicator Specific:
 - 1.2.3 Native Species Regeneration: The target is listed as 97%, with a -3.0% variance. This would allow for a total of 6% non-native species being allowed. This may not be the intent of the indicator, consider reviewing.
 - 3.1.A Limit Herbicides: the target is 0.2% of DFA area where herbicides are applied, with a +0.1% variance. Actual results for the last 3 years shows that no more than 0.07% of the DFA had herbicides applied. Consider reviewing the target to see if it is reasonable.
 - 5.1.B Recreation Access: The target is for 6 or more roads, but the variance is +1%. It is not clear what this variance refers to.
 - 5.1.C Mushroom Habitat Access: Field review and discussion show that there may an issue with meeting the 40% target over time.
 - 5.2.2 Training & Skills Development: The target refers to office staff/contractors without being clear if it is all contractors or just the planning and engineering ones.
 - 6.3.3 Safety Program: the audit found the target of SAFE Certification is maintained annually applies only to the WFP certification and does not consider the contractors. Consider adding contractors to the target. Same as Stillwater
 - 6.4.1 WIWAG Satisfaction: the target refers to a survey that is undertaken every 2 years, but review of the last survey results show that this may be too long a time frame for accurate results.



Water dumping of logs at Silver Creek. These logs will be sorted together into booms and then transported by water to the Port Alberni sawmill

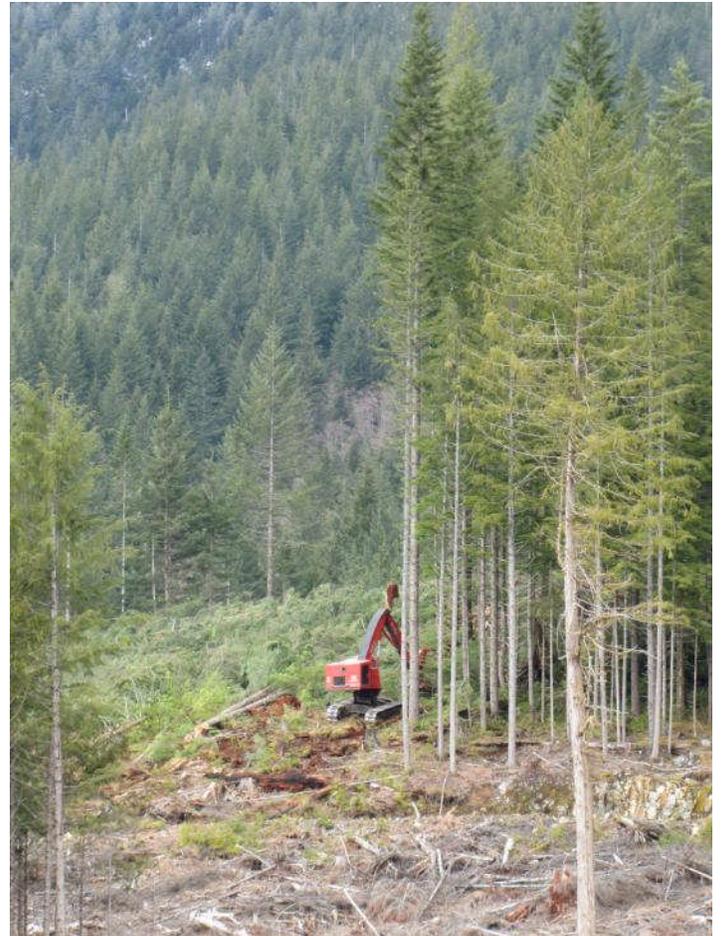
Opportunities for Improvement (continued)

All Sites

- 7.4.6 Operational Control: Consider providing all DLS's and log dump areas with copies of the DFO's BMP's to ensure knowledge of the woody debris clean up.
- 7.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement: Consider checking contractors who operate shops on WFP tenure are following the manifesting requirements for hazardous wastes.
- 7.5.4 Internal Audit: Consider incorporating the head office audit in the Internal Auditing Procedure for auditing of the Head Office multisite functions.
- 7.6 Management Review: Consider utilizing the Management Review Meeting Checklist for corporate MERC meetings.

Positive Aspects

- Excellent public outreach program was noted in Stillwater, including the well attended annual forestry tour.
- Staff felt that the new SFMP and its suite of indicators provided better value than the old plan.
- Excellent communications between the WIWAG member and the WFP guide on the field trip was noted;
- The planting contractor noted that the communications with WFP staff are excellent, with WFP being very open and responsive
- Contractors were very positive in their comments with regards to WFP staff.
- Company crew, contractor and employees showed very good awareness of the WFP EMS and their potential for impacts to the environment in which they were working;
- Staff and contractors demonstrated a willingness to bring forward any issues they felt were important to their supervisors or WFP staff, such as concerns with variable retention;
- Well detailed inspections were noted for the Nootka Island facilities, noting many areas that needed correction after the area had not been active for some time.
- Excellent maps including the harvest instructions on the back of the maps.
- A well maintained and functional EMS and excellent buy-in to the company program noted for all operations.



Mechanical harvesting, such as this feller-buncher, is becoming much more common in harvesting of the WFP second growth stands.

Next Audit

The first surveillance audit of this current registration will take place May 21-30, 2012. It will be undertaken on the Mid-Island Forest Operations at Menzies Bay and the Head Office in Campbell River.



A load of Western Red Cedar heads for the Sarita Log Sort in the Port Alberni Forest Operations. The opening the truck is traveling through was salvage harvested and was being planted in the spring of 2011.



QM-SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 SFM, FSC FM & CoC, SFIS, SFI CoC and PEFC. The group, led by Sylvain Frappier F.Eng., Product Manager, Forestry Sector, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts. Contact marketingservices@qmi.com for more information.

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