

West Island Woodlands Advisory Group



2003-2005 Sustainable Forest Management Plan

2003/04 Data Set Executive Summary

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Weyerhaeuser (Cascadia FP & Island Timberlands LP) 2003-2005 Sustainable Forest Management Plan 2003/04 Data Set Executive Summary

Background

The West Island Timberlands unit of Weyerhaeuser was certified for both ISO 14001 & CSA Z809 standards in November of 2000. The 2003-05 Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) was developed to apply to both private and public land holdings in and around TFL#44. The data gathered to report on progress for 2003 and 2004 is based on this land base.

As part of the certification process for CSA the company facilitated the development of an arms length Advisory Group (West Island Woodlands Advisory Group or WIWAG) whose primary role is to provide input into the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. WIWAG continues to be actively involved in reviewing data and revising the plan with a view to ongoing learning and increased effectiveness in the area of sustainable forest management. More information about WIWAG, the complete data sets and the SFMP is available on their website: www.wiwag.org.

In July 2004, the private land holdings of Weyerhaeuser were removed from the TFL, but remain part of the certified land base, or the defined forest area (DFA). The data collected is based on the DFA of 311,388 hectares. The following information is presented as a summary of the 2003/2005 SFMP to date, so it includes information about conditions in 2003 and in 2004.

The Purpose of the Data

The data set, and in particular the summary, is intended to meet several objectives:

- A short, concise way of highlighting key areas of progress towards the goals and identification of trends over time.
- A means of communicating these issues to the public that is informative and easily understood.

Key Accomplishments & Challenges During 2003/04

Theme: Conservation of Biological Diversity

Values: variety & patterns of ecosystem types; connectivity & fragmentation; stand level diversity; at-risk species & species of special interest

Findings: Overall, the data suggests that biological diversity is being maintained.

- ✓ In 2004 the portion of the land base in a given Landscape Unit (LU) with more than 30% in 0-20 age class was .88%. The objective is to ensure that no more than 2% of the total productive area has more than 30% of this age class within any given LU. (Indicator #2)
- ✓ There is inadequate old growth in 3 landscape units. This meets the target, which is not to increase the number of units. In 2004 old growth was 34% of the total productive forest area. This is 1% less than in 2002. (Indicator #3)
- ✓ Forest ecosystem networks continue to be preserved as a means of ensuring connectivity until landscape unit plans are completed. (Indicator #7)
- ✓ The use of variable retention continues to increase and exceeds the target. In 2004, VR was used in 87% of all harvesting. (Indicator # 6)

- ✓ Stand level retention by cutblock continues to be above target levels of 15% or more, at 23% in 2004. (Indicator #8)
- ✓ There were no new at-risk species identified in 2004, and management plans exist for marmot, northern goshawk, marbled murrelet plus 6 other species of special interest: roosevelt elf, great blue heron, red-legged frog, black bear, bald eagle & columbia black tailed deer. (Indicators # 9, 10, 12)
- ✓ The Sensitive ecosystem inventory completed in 2003 was integrated into the planning process in 2004. (Indicator #11)

Theme: Forest Ecosystem Condition & Productivity

Values: human induced disturbance & stress; ecosystem recovery from disturbance

Findings: Overall, the data suggests that the company needs to work with the Ministry of Forests to complete amendments in a timely fashion.

- ✓ Permanent access structures have been below the target of 7% or less since 1996. (Indicator #13)
- ✓ There were 19.7 hectares affected by fire in 2003, the majority of which were operationally caused, and 0 hectares in 2004. This is an improvement and now meeting target levels of 0. (Indicator #14)
- ✓ The objective for area harvested as a percent of total productive forest is less than 1%. This objective has been met every year since 1996, except in 2004, when harvesting was 1.04% of the productive forest. This falls within acceptable variance limits. (Indicator #15)
- ✓ There were 7 hectares affected by windfall in 2004 (or.2% of area harvested), which is considerably down from previous years and within the target now of less than 5% of harvest area. (Indicator #17)
- ✓ The total hectares affected by slides was also down in 2004 (to 2.3 hectares) and continues to be within the target of 10 hectares or less. (Indicator #18)
- X The area out of compliance with free to grow standards increased in 2004 to 216 hectares. This is well over the target however amendments have been submitted to the Ministry to extend time to reach free-to-grow. (Indicator #19)
- ✓ Not sufficiently restocked equivalency is at .65 years, which is less than previous years and well within targets of 3 years or less. (Indicator #20)
- ✓ The area out of compliance with regeneration delay standards is down from 2003 (37 hectares to 18 hectares in 2004). Although this continues to miss the target of 0 hectares, it is within acceptable variance limits. (Indicator #21)

Theme: Conservation of Soil and Water Resources

Values: conversion of forested land; protection of rare or endangered features; soil quality & cover; stream water quality; riparian areas; water quality & watershed health

Findings: The information suggests that these values are being protected.

- ✓ Conversion to non-forest use was 0 in 2004, down from 3.4% conversion in 2003. This now meets the target of .001%/year. (Indicator #22)
- ✓ There were no rare or significant features destroyed by harvesting. (Indicator #23)
- ✓ Since 1998, there have been 0 harvest openings in which soil disturbance has exceeded pre-harvest levels. (Indicator #24)
- ✓ There was 1 harvest opening in which reserve zones were not maintained in 2004. This was pre-approved by the Ministry and falls within the acceptable variance. (Indicator #29)

- Stream reserve zones were not reported in 2004, but in 2003 the company exceeded targets for stream buffers in harvest areas on S4 (85% fish & 39% non-fish buffered 15 meters) and S5 (60% buffered 15 meters) streams. They did not meet targets (39% buffered 15 meters) for S6 streams. (Indicators #25,26,27,28)
- New indicators for watershed health and water quality were developed in 2003/2004 and will be implemented in 2005. The watershed assessment system received praise from the auditors for the certification. (Indicator #31)

Theme: Multiple Benefits to Society

Values: extraction rates; parks & reserves; recreation & tourism; community stability; re-investment; Aboriginal rights and economic benefits, decision-making process & education

Findings: It was agreed not to collect some data in 2004. We can see increased economic returns for First Nations, but less logs were diverted to local mills as a percentage of the DFA harvest. Harvesting rates are up for 2004, which indicates short-term benefits. Recreation and Education continue to be priorities for the company.

- ✓ Variable retention has been used in 100% of openings adjacent to protected areas since 2002. This exceeds the target of 80%. (Indicator #35)
- ✓ In the last 5 years only 6% of the protected area perimeters have been harvested. This is down from 11% in 2002. (Indicator #36)
- ✓ Roads on the recreation inventory that are accessible remain consistent since 2002 at about 97%. (Indicators #37,38)
- The dollar value of the harvest (log prices) was benchmarked in 2004. (New Indicator #40)
- ✓ The average (5 year) annual harvest as a percent of the Long Term Harvest Level (LTHL) was up 8% from 2003 to 107% in 2004. This is within the target of +/- 10% of the LTHL. (Indicator #34)
- X The annual harvest was higher in 2004 than in the previous 7 years. The harvest of 2,264,673 cubic meters exceeded the target of within -15% and +25% of the previous 5 year average. (Indicator #48)
- X There were less logs from the DFA converted locally in 2004. 86% of fibre was converted locally compared to 94% in 2003. This misses the target of maintaining or increasing local log consumption levels. (Indicator #50)
- ✓ First Nations with information sharing agreements, and cultural heritage surveys conducted has been stable at 100% since 2002. (Indicators #52,53,54,55)
- ✓ There was an increase in the number of First Nations signing contracts, from 7 in 2002 to 11 in 2003 and 19 in 2004. (Indicator #56)
- The percent of total volume harvested by First Nations was benchmarked at 10.8%. (New Indicator #57)
- ✓ All formal public comments resulted in changes to operational plans in 2003 and 2004. N = 16 in 2003 and 3 in 2004. (Indicator #58)
- ✓ 78% of the activities identified in the joint communications plan were implemented. This met the target for 2004 of 75%. (Indicator #59)
- ✓ 92% of company planners were oriented to the red/blue listed species in 2004. This is an improvement from only 46% in 2003. (Indicator #60)
- ✓ 85% of workers participated in the First Nations Cultural Awareness Program in 2004. This exceeds the target of 70% and is an increase from 2003. (Indicator #62)
- ✓ Two new initiatives to increase youth awareness were developed in 2003. One was implemented in 2004 – support for the Gently Down the Creek Program. (Indicator #61)