Western Forest Products
Sustainable Forest Management System
Port Alberni Forest Operations

Overview of Port Alberni Forest Operations

The Port Alberni Forest Operations is located on western Vancouver Island near the communities of Port Alberni and Bamfield and represents one of twelve Western Forest Products Timberlands operations. The location, tenures and facilities are divided into three district geographic areas; Franklin, Uchucklesit and Great Central Lake.

The Operations consist of harvesting, hauling, maintenance shops, dryland sorts, landfills and administrative offices. The defined forest area (DFA) consists of 157,419 hectares within TFL 44 including 80 hectares of private lands.

Cedar and Hemlock make up the bulk of the timber harvest, followed by Balsam and Douglas fir. The majority of logs go to local Western Forest Products sawmills, Catalyst Papers (a local paper producer) and Western Forest Products sawmills on southern Vancouver Island.

Background

During the period of May 10-11, 2010 the Port Alberni Forest Operations of Western Forest Products underwent a surveillance audit to the CAN/CSA Z809 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.

Scope of Certification

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to forest management activities undertaken on the defined forest area. The defined forest area consists of 157,419 hectares within TFL 44 including 80 hectares of private lands.
Executive Summary

The CAN/CSA Z809:2002 third-party surveillance 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 Z809:2002 standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed completed harvest operations through interviews with WFP staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFM and supporting EMS documentation and records at the WFP Port Alberni office.

For this surveillance audit, the on-going effectiveness of the SFM system to deliver the intended outputs was assessed against selected elements of the CAN/Z809 2002 Standard. Based on the results of the audit, it was identified that Western Forest Products, Port Alberni Forest Operations, has continued to commit the time, resources, and effort necessary to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an effective SFM system.

Western Forest Products engages in information sharing with all First Nations affected by the DFA. In many cases, Western Forest Products approaches information sharing according to the terms established within FRPA.

No non-conformances were identified during the audit; however 1 area of concern and 7 opportunities for improvement were noted as detailed in this report.

Timber being taken to the Sarita log sort on a “fat” truck

CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Re-Registration Audit

Non-conformance (NCR).....0
Areas of Concern (AOC).....1
Recommendations(OFI)......7
Positive Aspects............4

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 Nate Ryant, RPF, EMS(LA); SFM(LA) as the lead auditor and Will Sloan, RFT, EMS(LA), audit team member. The auditors are Forest Professionals and certified lead auditors.

Key Areas of Non-conformance

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

Key Areas of Concern

The following Areas of Concern were identified during the audit:

- 7.5.2 Nonconformity, Corrective and Preventative Actions: Ensure all potential non-compliances are investigated. The audit found a reported possible infringement on a wetland had been entered into the Cengea database and not investigated to determine if it was truly a non-compliance.

Key Opportunities for Improvement

- 5.2 Interested Parties: Consider sending a physical copy of the SFMP and annual data set to all affected First Nations on the DFA, for informational purposes.
- 7.3.1 Defined Forest Area: Consider updating the employment summary in the SFMP to reflect the current contract work force on the DFA.
- 7.3.6.1 Performance Requirements: Indicator 38 – Consider changing the indicator performance status to “met” since all FN’s were referred to based on the operation locations or the operating year.
- 7.3.6.1 Performance Requirements: Indicator 41 – Consider developing an action plan to address why all FN who have not been provided an opportunity for a SFM orientation were not provided with the opportunity to have one.

Prompt reforestation is practiced in the Port Alberni operations. This Western Red Cedar was planted in the spring of 2010.
7.5.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement: Consider incorporating results of inspections processes, like post harvest inspections, into the data gathering for indicator reporting. The audit found some weakness in linking actual results to some indicators, such as Inds 4, 10 and 15.

7.5.2 Nonconformity, Corrective and Preventative Actions: Consider clarifying what the required inputs are to be attached to the CENGEA database for entry, eg. investigation and reporting documents.

7.6 Management Review: Consider updating the Management Review checklist to include all the SFM requirements such as system, public participation and performance requirements. This would ensure all SFM requirements are reviewed annually.

Positive Aspects

The following positive aspects of the SFM were noted during the audit:

- Good improvement from past years in getting to the target for Indicator 13, % of productive forest land harvested in last 5 years in each LU greater than 10,000 ha. Only one LU now does not meet the target, compared to 2 in 2009; and all that meet the target are doing so by reasonable amounts.

- All crew interviewed showed good understanding of their roles in the CSA process despite a significant amount of time away from the operation.

- Excellent regeneration delay success with trees being planted in under a year on average from the harvest completion date.

- An excellent WIWAG meeting presentation on the First Nations treaty process in the area which included provincial and federal treaty negotiators.