West Island Woodlands Advisory Group
2006-2008 Sustainable Forest Management Plan

2007 Data Set Executive Summary
**Background**

**Process for developing the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) criteria and indicators**

The regulatory and management systems associated with the defined forest area (DFA) are recognised values that have been developed over several decades and are responsive to the Canadian Standards Association’s Sustainable Forest Management standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02) system criteria. This includes the requirements for public involvement. The West Island Woodlands Advisory Group (WIWAG) exists to provide public input into the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. WIWAG meets on the second Thursday of each month, alternating between Port Alberni Forest Operation of Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands Limited Partnership (except July and August), as part the ongoing and evolving process to further develop the SFM performance framework. The primary community centres in the area of this plan are Port Alberni and Bamfield. A complete description of the terms of reference for this advisory group is available on the website: www.wiwag.org

The Port Alberni Forest Operation of Western Forest Products (WFP) is certified for both ISO 14001 & CSA Z809 standards.

There have been significant changes to the defined forest area since the beginning of this process. The WFP portion of the DFA is now 47% less than the DFA in 2002. This has led to the need to gather new benchmark data on various indicators, thus making it difficult to assess performance or comparisons of previous years.

**These significant changes include:**

- Sale of Weyerhaeuser to Brascan
- Division of private and Crown land into two separate companies: Island Timberlands and Cascadia
- Cascadia sold to Western Forest Products
- The Crown portion of the DFA was also affected by the 20% take back and treaty settlements
- In 2002 the certified area within the DFA was 311,388 hectares of public and private land and in 2007 the certified area within the DFA encompasses 157,831 hectares of public land.

**The data set summary is designed to:**

- Highlight 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.

Indicators within are marked with the following symbols:

- ✓ the indicator has been accomplished (target achieved)
- × the indicator was not accomplished (target not achieved)
- □ the indicator is incomplete (requiring more time and or data).

Indicators reported within this summary are reported on an annual basis from January 1 until December 31, 2007 unless otherwise indicated. The following information is presented as a summary of 2007 Data Set.
The Information – Data Set Summary:

There are six criteria (blue) within the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. Under each criterion is a set of elements (green). These are established by the CSA standard. Within each criterion is a comprehensive Management Strategy.

**Conservation of Biological Diversity** - Indicators 1 - 12
- Ecosystem Diversity
- Species Diversity
- Genetic Diversity
- Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological Significance

**Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity** - Indicators 13 - 20
- Forest Ecosystem Resilience
- Forest Ecosystem Productivity

**Conservation of Soil and Water Resources** - Indicators 21 - 28
- Soil Quality and Quantity
- Water Quality and Quantity

**Forest Contributions to Global Ecological Cycles** - Indicators 29 - 30
- Carbon Uptake and Storage
- Forest Land Conversion

**Multiple Benefits to Society** - Indicators 31 - 43
- Timber and Non-Timber Benefits
- Communities and Sustainability
- Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

**Accepting Society’s Responsibility for Sustainable Development** - Indicators 44 - 59
- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses
- Public Participation
- Information for Decision Making

There are a total of 60 Indicators reported within this summary. For [Sustainable Forest Management Plans](#) connect to the website.
Conservation of Biological Diversity - Indicators 1 - 12

Biological diversity is conserved by maintaining the variability of living organisms and the complexes of which they are part.

**Findings:** Significant changes within the DFA have created difficulty in comparing data over time. Overall, the data is being re-configured and new baselines and targets are being set.

**Indicator 1** ✔ 100% - target achieved. This indicator is the number of landscape units with a % of old growth forest seral stage for each “Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification” variant that meets the recommended levels in the “non-spatial old growth order” (year). Defining the forecast will need to be refined for 2007.

**Indicator 2** □ is the # of landscape units where non-contributing landbase is analysed. Landscape plans were not finalized and will be completed in 2007.

**Indicator 3** ☐ is the # of landscape units in the DFA with more than 30% in the 0-20 years seral stage. This will be modified in 2007 to concentrate on 3000 hectares.

**Indicator 4** ✔ is the movement in the representation of each commercial tree species in the inventory, using 2004 as the baseline levels. Previous data shows an increase in Fir, Cypress and Hemlock and a decrease in Pine, Cedar, Spruce and Balsam. The forecast is for more heat tolerant species such as Douglas Fir and Cedar but not Hemlock.

**Indicators 7 & 8** ✔ 100% for both indicators. Indicator 7 is the % of at-risk species existing on the DFA for which a management program is implemented. Indicator 8 is the % of identified species of special interest existing on the DFA for which a management program is implemented. Special Management Plans are in place for both indicators. No new at-risk species were identified.

**Indicators 9 & 10** ☐ 70%, both of these indicators refer to training planners in species populations, habitat and ecosystem values. Training continues to exceed the 50% target. Targets will be adjusted to reflect the success.

Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity - Indicators 13 - 20

Forest ecosystem condition and productivity is conserved if the health, vitality, and rates of biological production are maintained.

**Findings:** The data suggests that the company is meeting the targets. Although extraordinary storm events in the winter of 2006 saw a sharp increase in land slides and operationally related windthrow.

**Indicator 13** ☐ is the % of the total cutblock area that is retained; the target is the average retention level of all cutblocks harvested be no less than 18%. The % achieved is 35.1%.

**Indicator 14** ☐ no issues with regeneration due dates this indicator demonstrates harvested areas are regenerated promptly.

**Indicator 15** ☐ measures the success of achieving free to grow targets defined by the Ministry of Forests, the company exceeds the target.

**Indicator 19** ☐ is land affected annually by land slides. This indicator reports a 48-hectare loss due to land slides. Slides of significant size in harvested areas or initiated on roads will have a terrain assessment completed by a professional and any remedial action will be scheduled.

**Indicator 20** ☐ measures operation related windthrow as a percent of the total area harvested. 2006 saw extraordinary storm events showing a sharp increase in land slides and operationally related windthrow.

Conservation of Soil and Water Resources - Indicators 21 - 28

Soil and water resources and physical environments are conserved if the quantity and quality of soil and water within forest ecosystems are maintained.

**Findings:** The data collected suggests that these values are being protected. Future data collection and indicator development will also reflect the changes within the DFA and will improve the data collected and the measurements required.
**Indicator 21**  
☑ is a legislative requirement ensuring that harvesting does not disturb soils. Target continues to be met.

**Indicator 26**  
☑ 94.5% - exceeds target. This indicator is the % of stream length of S5\(^1\) non-ephemeral streams that are buffered > 15 meters.

**Indicator 27**  
☑ 41.8% - target achieved. This indicator is the % of stream length of S6 non-ephemeral streams that are buffered > 15 meters

**Indicator 28**  
☒ watershed assessment is to be completed every 3 years. Consultant has been hired to complete in 2007.

**Forest Contributions to Global Ecological Cycles** - Indicators 29 - 30  
Forest conditions and management activities contribute to the health of global ecological cycles.

**Findings:** There are only 2 indicators in these criteria, both targets were achieved.

**Indicator 29**  
☒ .79 years and within target. This indicator looks at the % of forest land that has failed partially or completely to regenerate.

**Indicator 30**  
☒ this is a new baseline, this indicator is the % of the DFA that is annually converted to other uses, no areas converted in 2006.

**Multiple Benefits to Society** - Indicators 31 - 43  
Forests provide a sustained flow of benefits for current and future generations if multiple goods and services are provided over the long term.

**Findings:** There were a number of changes within this criteria, some due to reduction within the DFA resulting in dropping some indicators and developing new values and benchmarks for others. Harvesting rates are down while the value of fiber has increased. Recreation and education continue to be priorities.

**Indicator 31**  
☒ 47% is the proportion of the DFA is within 200 meters of maintained road and 20 years in age class. This will continue to increase over time as harvest continues.

**Indicator 32**  
☒ 2006 did not provide adequate data, benchmark 2009.

**Indicator 34**  
☒ 100% identified roads for recreation access. WFP will continue to look to other stakeholders to assist in maintaining information.

**Indicator 35**  
☒ looks at the number of hectares in which visual condition fails to meet Visual Quality Objectives annually. This indicator will not be reported on annually, measurement has been problematic.

**Indicator 39**  
☒ Reflects the dollar value of harvest, the target is meant to reflect a rolling (5-yr.) average. A stable target is ambiguous although future issue around variability and how to report will continue to be addressed.

**Indicator 43**  
☑ 18.9% in 2006 14.7% 2005 8.4% 2003, this indicator is the proportion of wood volume harvested by First Nations annually.

**Accepting Society’s Responsibility for Sustainable Development** - Indicators 44 - 59  
Society’s responsibility for sustainable forest management requires that fair, equitable, and effective forest management decisions are made. Aboriginal rights and Respect for Aboriginal forest Values Knowledge and Uses.

**Findings:** WFP meets with First Nations within the DFA and many of these indicators are being maintained. Public participation and education indicators also continue to be a priority.

**Indicators 44 – 45**  
☒ 100% targets reached. These are First Nation’s indicators.

**Indicator 48**  
☒ First Nations mapping is maintained annually.

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\(^1\) Stream Classification Systems for riparian management. S5 and S6 are not fish stream nor are they within a community watershed.
**Indicator 49** ✔ 100%, this indicator that measures the % of willing First Nations with which WFP has jointly developed information sharing / referral processes. 

**Indicator 56** ✔ Satisfaction survey conducted. 

**Indicator 57** ✔ 74% is the % of communications activities planned. This indicator continues to exceed the target. 

**Indicator 58** ✔ Gently Down the Creek continues to receive funding. 

✖ ADSS tour not completed due to company re-organization.