



CAN/CSA Z809-2016 External Assessment Report Summary
Re-certification Assessment of Western Forest Products Inc. Mid Island Forest Operation
and Port Alberni Forest Operation
Report Date: November 6, 2021

Western Forest Products Inc. (“WFP”) underwent a Re-certification Assessment of their Sustainable Forest Management (“SFM”) system to the CAN/CSA Z809-2016 Sustainable Forest Management Standard on June 8-11 and 14-18, 2021 with a closing meeting held on June 21, 2021. The Assessment was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) with the scope being the Defined Forest Area for the Mid Island and Port Alberni (TFL 44 LP) Operations as well as at the WFP Timberlands Corporate Office located in Campbell River, BC. These two sites formed the 2021 sample for this registration. Due to travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 the office portion of the assessment (June 8-11) was completed remotely using the Google Meets/Microsoft Teams video conferencing platforms. During the following week (June 14-18) the Assessment Team consisting of James Lucas, RPF, EMS (LA), Sean Pledger, FIT, EMS (LA), Khoi Mai, EMS (A) and Laurie Kremsater, RPBio/RPF, conducted field reviews of the Forest Management program on the Mid Island and Port Alberni operating areas. The WFP SFM representatives were Will Sloan, RFT and Sarah Germain, RPF, BIT.

In total the assessment team spent 4 days completing the office review and 8 days in the field. Activities assessed at the Mid Island Forest Operation included the following forest management activities: planning (documentation review and interviews), 3 harvest sites (2 active and 1 completed), 3 road construction/maintenance (2 active) sites and 3 silviculture (2 planted sites and 1 survey site) activities.

Activities assessed at TFL 44 LP Forest Operation included the following forest management activities: planning (documentation review and interviews), 3 completed harvest sites, 3 road construction/maintenance sites and 4 silviculture activities (including 2 planting, 1 brushing and 1 survey site). In some cases, single field sites reviewed had multiple activities occurring and/or completed activities which have been included in the summary of sampled sites. The WFP Timberlands Corporate Office was also assessed for corporate requirements related to the multisite registration and SFM indicators managed by corporate staff. A total of 14 WFP staff, 4 contractors and 2 members of the Mid Island/Port Alberni Public Advisory Groups were interviewed during this audit.

The objective of the Assessment was to confirm the management system complies with the applicable elements of the Standard; to confirm the organization continues to comply with its own SFM policies and procedures; to confirm the management system is suitable and effective for the organization; and to confirm the management system enables the client to achieve its own SFM objectives.

The scope of the CSA Z809 certification is as follows: The multisite forest management processes, including planning, harvesting, road construction, silviculture and transportation of logs managed through the Timberlands Corporate and the timberland offices managing the Defined Forest Areas (DFA) of North Island, Mid-Island, Englewood, Port Alberni (TFL44 General Partner Inc. (as the general partner of and for the sole benefit of TFL44 Limited Partnership)) and Stillwater. The Defined Forest Areas within scope

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are: Tree Farm License TFL6, Managed Forests MF29, MF31, MF61, Forest License FL A94737, T0860, T0592 at WFP's North Island Forest Operation; TFL 37 at Englewood Forest Operation, TFL 39 Block 2 at WFP's Mid-Island Forest Operation; TFL 44 at TFL44 General Partner Inc. (as the general partner of and for the sole benefit of TFL44 Limited Partnership), and TFL 39 Block 1 at WFP's Stillwater Forest Operation. A total of 827,434 hectares are included in WFP's CSA SFM forest area with an annual allowable cut of 4,427,864 m³.

Requirements assessed included the scope of the Mid Island and Port Alberni Forest Operations 2020 Sustainable Forest Management Plan which includes SFM indicator performance versus targets.

SFM REQUIREMENTS ASSESSED

Defined Forest Area (DFA) – Mid Island Forest Operation (MIFO), Port Alberni Forest Operation (PAFO) and Timberlands Corporate Office (Office Review)

Elements Audited	Indicators Reviewed	Office/Field
<u>Element 1.1</u> – Ecosystem Diversity	1.1.1 Ecosystem Area by Type (MIFO) 1.1.2 Forest Area by Type or Species Composition (PAFO) 1.1.3 Forest Area by Seral Stage or Age Class (MIFO) 1.1.4 Within-stand Structural Retention	Office/Field Office Office Office/Field
<u>Element 1.2</u> – Species Diversity	1.2.1 Degree of Habitat Protection for Selected Focal Species including Species at Risk 1.2.2 Degree of Suitable Habitat in the Long Term for Selected Focal Species 1.2.3 Proportion of Regeneration Composed of Native Species (PAFO)	Office/Field Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 1.3</u> – Genetic Diversity	1.3.1 Genetic Diversity (PAFO)	Office/Field
<u>Element 1.4</u> – Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological, Geological, Heritage or Cultural Significance	1.4.1 Protection of Sites of Special Significance 1.4.2 Proportion of Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies 1.4.2.A Sensitive Ecosystem Training (PAFO)	Office/Field Office/Field Office
<u>Element 2.1</u> – Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity	2.1.1 Reforestation Success 2.1.A Regeneration Delay (MIFO) 2.1.2 Regeneration Comprised of Native Species (PAFO) 2.1.3 Additions and Deletions to the Forest Area 2.1.4 Proportion of the Calculated Long-Term Sustainable Harvest Level that is Actually Harvested	Office/Field Office Office/Field Office Office
<u>Element 3.1</u> – Soil Quality and Quantity	3.1.1 Level of Soil Disturbance (MIFO) 3.1.2 Level of Downed Woody Debris (PAFO) 3.1.2a Limit Herbicides (PAFO)	Office/Field Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 3.2</u> – Water Quality and Quantity	3.2.1 Watershed Area with Recent Replacing Disturbance 3.2.2 Proportion of Forest Management Activities Consistent with Prescriptions to Protect Identified Water Features 3.2.2a Watershed Condition (PAFO) 3.2.2b Community Watersheds (PAFO) 3.2.2c S-4 Streams (PAFO) 3.2.2d S-5 Streams (PAFO)	Office/Field Office Office/Field Office/Field Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 4.1</u> – Carbon Update and Storage	4.1.1 Net Carbon Uptake (MIFO) 4.2.1 Additions and Deletions to the Forest Area (MIFO)	Office Office
<u>Element 5.1</u> – Timber and Non-Timber Benefits	5.1.1 Diversity of Timber and Non-Timber Resources Produced in the DFA 5.1.2 Respectful Communications with Economic	Office

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	Stakeholders to Integrate Non-Timber Resources (MIFO) 5.1.2a Park Perimeter (PAFO) 5.1.2b Recreation Areas (PAFO) 5.1.2c Mushroom Habitat Access (PAFO)	Office Office Office/Field Office
<u>Element 5.2</u> – Communities and Sustainability	5.2.1 Level of Participation and Support in Initiatives that Contribute to Community Stability 5.2.2 Level of Participation and Support in Training and Skills Development (MIFO) 5.2.3 Level of Direct and Indirect Employment (PAFO) 5.2.A Recreation Trails & Sites (PAFO)	Office Office Office Office/Field
<u>Element 6.1</u> – Fair and Effective Decision-Making	6.1.1 Level of Participant Satisfaction with the Public Participation Process 6.1.2 Evidence of Efforts to Promote Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation in General 6.1.3 Public Concerns 6.1.A MIFLAG Representation (PAFO) 6.1.B Outreach & Education (PAFO) 6.1.C Research (PAFO) 6.1.D Herbicides (PAFO)	Office Office Office Office Office Office Office
<u>Element 6.2</u> – Safety	6.2.1 Co-operation with Workers to Improve Safety Standards and Procedures (PAFO) 6.2.2 Improve and Enhance Safety Standards, Procedures & Outcomes in All DFA Related Workplaces & Communities	Office Office
<u>Element 7.1</u> – Aboriginal and Treaty Rights	7.1.1 Understanding the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights 7.1.2 Evidence of Open and Respectful Communications with Aboriginal Communities	Office Office
<u>Element 7.2</u> – Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge and Uses	7.2.1 Capacity Development and Meaningful Participation of Aboriginal Individuals, Communities & Companies (MIFO) 7.2.2 Understanding and Use of Aboriginal Knowledge through the Engagement of Will Aboriginal Communities (PAFO) 7.2.3 Management & Protection of Culturally Important Sites 7.2.3 Management and/or Protection of Culturally Important Practices and Activities 7.2.A FN Donations (PAFO)	Office/Field Office Office/Field Office Office

Previous Nonconformity Update

Previous assessment results were reviewed, and 3 Minor Nonconformities remain open. Western has shown significant progress with each of the nonconformities and plan to complete all of their action plans in the last half of 2021 or early 2022. PwC will review the completion of the action plans at the next assessment.

Results of the 2021 Re-certification Assessment

There was one Minor Nonconformity identified. WFP has reviewed and accepted the Minor Nonconformity and has provided action plans to address the finding. The action plan has been accepted by PwC and will be reviewed during the 2022 Maintenance Assessment.

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480-RA-NC-01: WFP's Road Maintenance Inspection program includes a risk ranking system which dictates the frequency of inspections to be either annually, every 3 years or once to classify as deactivated. It was found that there are a number of road sections which are inaccessible and low risk that have not received the scheduled inspections.

There were five Opportunities for Improvement identified:

480-RA-OFI-01: WFP has done a good job of using technology such as drones in some operations. Western Forest Products may wish to consider more consistently applying the use of technology across operations, including the use of satellite imagery.

480-RA -OFI-02: The Mid-Island Public Advisory group has had some challenges with participant attendance during the past year as some members are not adapting well to the remote meetings which have been happening during COVID. Mid-Island could look at ways of re-engaging members as meetings either continue to be remote or are conducted in person.

480-RA -OFI-03: WFP continues to conduct wind firming activities on the majority of harvest units after logging completion. While this treatment appears effective from anecdotal observation, WFP may wish to conduct more formal monitoring of the effectiveness of windthrow treatment to better target stands and the different treatment types.

480-RA -OFI-04: While in general there appeared to be sufficient leave material left on-site, particularly in old growth harvested stands, WFP may wish to review opportunities to leave more large coarse woody debris ("CWD") in small piles and in block for habitat purposes. This would be particularly important in second growth stands where the volume and quality of CWD is far lower than in old growth stands.

480-RA -OFI-05: WFP could review and improve their ability to track and report both Divisionally and Corporately First Nation's capacity development efforts and the value of its economic impact to First Nations owned businesses across its operations.

Good Management Practices

The following good management practices were noted:

- WFP's Block Check Tool is a good way of quickly analyzing what constraints may apply to a planned harvest area.
- WFP is trialing a subscription to a satellite imagery provider to assess Old Growth Management Area ("OGMA") edges for blowdown.
- Good collaboration with government when adjusting OGMA boundaries and locations in TFL 44.
- A road construction crew has been using a drone to check the surrounding area for members of the public before blasting.
- WFP has provided assistance to the Back-Country Horsemen of BC in maintaining campsites.
- Good protection of karst features was seen in WFPs Mid Island operations.

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- High levels of involvement of WFP in Climate Change seed transfer work and supporting research in seed/seedling adaptive management.
- Several examples of retention above and beyond regulatory requirements were seen around streams including S4 water courses.
- One crew which WFP uses for pile burning in Port Alberni also fights fires in the summer and is highly prepared in the case of fire management.
- The Port Alberni PAG has responded well to COVID and has kept its participation levels up even though meetings are remotely conducted.
- All field staff including contractors have CMT identification training at the Port Alberni operations.
- Roads and operations staff have conducted an internal investigation of a number of landslides from the winter of 2019/20 and determined that changes to full bench construction practices should be made and have made a substantial investment in deactivating high-risk roads to reduce the risk of future slides occurring.

Conclusion of the Assessment

Western Forest Products Inc. continues to be registered to the CAN/CSA Z809-2016 Sustainable Forest Management Standard. All of the applicable requirements of the standard were considered to be adequately implemented. The current certification was re-issued on November 6, 2021 and will expire on November 5, 2026. The next audit will be scheduled for June 2021. For further information on the WFPs SFM system please view the WFP website

(<https://www.westernforest.com/responsibility/environment/certification/>) or by contacting Will Sloan at wsloan@westernforest.com.