



## Western Forest Products Inc. – North Island and Englewood Divisions – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

As a component of Western Forest Products Inc.'s ongoing commitment to sustainable forest management and forest certification, an assessment team from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) conducted a CAN/CSA Z809-16 Registration Assessment on the Head Office, North Island DFA, and Englewood (Nimpkish DFA) on May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The assessment determined that Western Forest Products Inc. had successfully implemented a Sustainable Forest Management System and developed Sustainable Forest Management ("SFM") Plans that met the requirements of the CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard for Sustainable Forest Management. The assessment results demonstrate Western Forest Products Inc.'s strong commitment to Sustainable Forest Management on the lands that it manages.

### Background Information

WFP is an integrated Canadian company sustainably managing forests and manufacturing wood products on the coast of British Columbia and in Washington State. The Company has an annual available harvest of approximately 5.9 million cubic meters of timber, of which approximately 5.8 million cubic meters is from Crown lands. WFP has seven sawmills with an annual lumber production capacity in excess of 1.0 billion board feet. Principal activities conducted by the Company include timber harvesting, reforestation, milling logs into lumber and wood chips, and value-added remanufacturing. The scope of their CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard for Sustainable Forest Management certificate 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 timberlands offices<sup>1</sup> managing the Defined Forest Areas (DFA) of North Island, Mid Island (by and through La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Ltd., as the general partner and for the sole benefit of La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited Partnership), Englewood, Port Alberni (by and through Tsawak-qin Forestry Inc., as the general partner and for the sole benefit of Tsawak-qin Forestry Limited Partnership) and Stillwater.

Certification to the CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard (the "Standard") requires independent third-party audits. PwC uses a rotational assessment approach where the central office is assessed annually, and the locations are sampled on a 3-year rotating schedule that conforms to the International Accreditation Forum Inc.'s Mandatory Document 1.

An assessment team from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP conducted the assessment:

Role	Name	Designations
Lead Assessor	James Lucas	RPF, EMS (Lead Auditor)
Assessor	Tyler Doucet	EMS (Lead Auditor)

The team met with and interviewed staff and contractors, conducted field observations, and examined the SFM Plans, Forest Stewardship Plans, site plans, GIS data, block files, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), monitoring information, and the minutes and operating procedures of the Public Advisory Groups.

The team conducted field assessments to assess the company's planning, harvesting, silviculture, road construction, road maintenance, road deactivation, fuel management and facilities management.

## Good Management Practices

The assessment team identified 8 Sustainable Forest Management practices that exceeded expectations. A sample of the good management practices are listed below:

- The draft Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) produced between the 'Namgis and WFP's TFL 37-Englewood Division is innovative and industry leading.
- Community economic development efforts and good communications with FN Partners was observed in both TFLs 6 & 37. This includes: Danyas/Quatern JV's, supporting Atli chip plant, bark stripping activities on one harvest unit & the retention of one residual pile near CMT's on another harvest unit.
- The post-harvest inspection process on TFL 37-Englewood is robust and well executed. The fact that it includes both operations and silviculture staff is innovative and leads to very good results on the ground.
- The levels of riparian and karst protection observed in the field was high. This includes tree stubbing techniques on all riparian zones, work on one unit to carefully remove blowdown in fish streams within the block (including an environmental monitor), locations of WTPs to protect riparian features, and the donation of rootwad logs to a First Nation estuary rehabilitation project.
- Knowledge of both company and contract operators with regard to the WFP EMS, SOPs and responsibilities.
- Planning on one unit provided an excellent example of WFP's approach to resource identification and protection including Big Trees (WFP's program exceeds Prov. Regs), bear den, wetland protection and overall variable retention approach.
- The rehabilitation and planting of an in-block road on one completed unit to protect a bear den site is responsible resource management.
- The alder planting on one site promotes species diversity on the landscape.

## Nonconformities

The assessment team identified no nonconformities against the Standard and Western Forest Products Inc. policies.

## Opportunities for Improvement

The assessment team also identified 5 opportunities for improvement for Western Forest Products Inc.'s consideration. The following list is a representative sample of their suggestions:

All Opportunities for Improvement will be followed up by the assessment team at the next assessment.

- Targets and variance for within-stand retention for General Basic = 60% target (33% achieved) and Enhanced Basic = 50% target (25% achieved) for TFL 37, should be reviewed to determine why the indicator was not met for the two zones.
- Target 1 for Indicator 5.1.1 pertaining to Profile Targets within TFL 37 SFM ( $\geq 75\%$  Old Growth harvest on the landbase) is not achievable and should be reviewed.
- During field visit to one active unit, it was observed that one loader operator was missing fire tool on their machine. The tools were likely removed by vandals as they were on the machine two weeks prior, during the internal audit. The operator's pick-up was close by and had extra fire tools on it.
- Overall operator knowledge of Western Forest Product's EMS was strong, however, during field interviews two operators were unclear on the spill reporting process. In the WFP EMS it is clear that all spills are to be reported to their supervisors, regardless of size.
- For TFL 37, there are a significant number of outstanding bridge inspections from 2023. Efforts should be made to address this backlog and ensure that all bridges with any safety or environmental concerns are inspected, and concerns addressed.

## Conclusion

The Western Forest Products Inc. has maintained conformance with the requirements of the CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Mr. Jonathan Flintoft, RPF of Western Forest Products Inc. at [environment@westernforest.com](mailto:environment@westernforest.com). More information on Western Forest Products Inc.'s sustainable forestry program can be found at: <https://www.westernforest.com/>.

The next Assessment will be a Maintenance Assessment in May 2025. The registration expires on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.