

# **Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited Partnership  
Mid Island Forest Operation  
TFL 64

January 2026

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# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership

## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Introduction

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) strives to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, while providing ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Western Forest Products (Western) and the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, K'ómoks, and Tlowitsis First Nations entered into a newly formed limited partnership whereby the above listed First Nations acquired a 34% interest in the Mid Island Forest Operation (MIFO). The assets and liabilities of TFL 39-2 were transferred over to the newly created TFL 64, and the legal name was changed to 'La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited Partnership' (LKSM). A board of directors has been appointed consisting of two Western representatives and one from the N̄anwakolas council. LKSM will continue to maintain the operation's sustainable forest management certification and have received an updated certificate reflecting the change in TFL number and legal entity name.

The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan has been prepared to support LKSM's commitment to sustainable forest management, consistent with "PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 PEFC Canada — Sustainable Forest Management" (PEFC CAN - SFM) standard. The SFM Plan is designed to complement the following existing management systems and procedures:

- Environmental Management System including the Timberlands Sustainable Forest Management Statement and SFM Management Procedure;
- Safety Program (and related SAFE Company certification);
- Existing management plans (e.g., Forest Stewardship Plan);
- Legal requirements (refer to Figure 2).

British Columbia has rigorous legislation and policies for protection, conservation, and sustainable management of forests. This legislative framework is being continuously improved, as is forest management and policy. In addition to applying regulatory tools, LKSM benefits from using voluntary tools, such as PEFC CAN – SFM Certification, to aid in the achievement of sustainable forest management.

### Sustainable Forest Management

#### PEFC International and PEFC Canada

PEFC International is an alliance of national forest certification systems, non-governmental organizations, associations, companies and individuals, working together towards the vision of a world that values the contribution of sustainable forests. PEFC Canada is the Canadian forest certification system that undergoes third-party assessment against PEFC's International's Sustainability Benchmarks.

#### PEFC Canada – Sustainable Forest Management Standard (PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025)

The PEFC Canada – Sustainable Forest Management standard PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 (PEFC CAN – SFM) has replaced the withdrawn CSA Z809:16(R2021) standard as the PEFC-endorsed forest management standard in Canada. The revised standard, PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025, was

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developed based on the technical content of CSA Z809:16(R2021), formerly owned and administered by CSA Group. Certification history can be found in the 2025 TFL 64 Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

The PEFC CAN – SFM standard is based on the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) SFM criteria and elements. The CCFM SFM criteria and elements are fully consistent with those of the UNCED Montréal and Helsinki processes, which are both recognized by governments around the world.

The PEFC CAN – SFM Standard requires:

- A systematic approach to management, based on **continual improvement**; and compliance with legislation, regulations and government policies, considering environmental, social and economic factors;
- **Public participation** to give local communities input into how forests are managed;
- Demonstration of **sustainable forest management performance**; and
- **Third party audits** to confirm adherence to the standard.

LKSM is required to work closely with the public to identify local values, objectives, indicators, and targets that reflect the national criteria and to incorporate them into forest management planning and practices. Decisions are made together with the public during this process. PEFC CAN – SFM is more than a system standard; it is also a performance standard, and it sets specific requirements for the public participation process. This approach to performance not only respects government-recognized criteria for SFM but also allows the public to participate in the interpretation for the local forest.

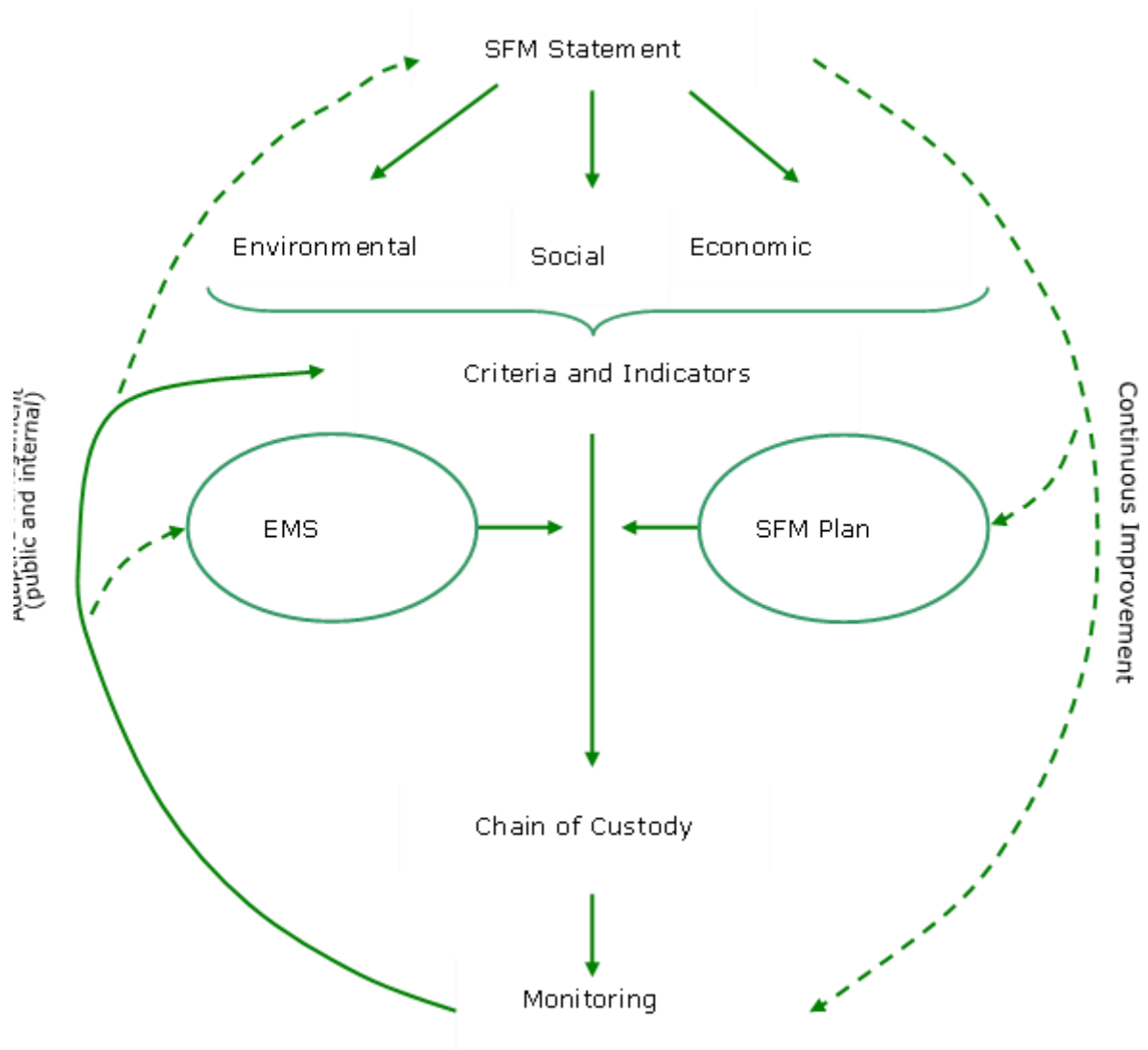
LKSM recognizes and respects the unique rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Aboriginal title and treaty rights as affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. LKSM follows Western Forest Products' [Indigenous Relationships Policy](#) and is committed to working closely and respectfully with Indigenous communities within the Defined Forest Area (DFA). In alignment with PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025, LKSM actively incorporates Indigenous knowledge, values, and expertise into forest planning through initiatives such as the ongoing development of the TFL 64 Integrated Resource Management Plan and through regular information sharing. Demonstrating leadership in economic reconciliation, LKSM is 34% owned by First Nations who have traditional territory within the DFA.

### SFM System

LKSM maintains an SFM System under the Environmental Management System. The SFM System includes an SFM Statement for Timberlands documenting the corporate commitments to sustainable forest management. This is followed up with an SFM Plan that contains the specific PEFC CAN – SFM Standard requirements.

# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership Sustainable Forest Management Plan

**Figure 1: Overview of the SFM System**



## **Environmental Management System (EMS)**

The EMS is an adaptive management system that allows for a systematic approach to continual improvement. It is based on the dynamic, cyclical process of: planning; implementation & operation; checking; and management review.

The core elements of the EMS are described within the EMS Manual and the corresponding supporting documents which include, but are not limited to: Policies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Standards and Emergency Preparedness & Response Plans (EPRP). These documents provide standards to guide daily activities out in the woods (i.e., “on the ground”) to ensure environmental protection and compliance with legal requirements.

# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership

## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Sustainable Forest Management Plan

The SFM Plan documents current and long-term SFM performance objectives and management strategies in the Mid Island Forest Operation (MIFO) operating area, referred to as the Defined Forest Area (DFA).

The SFM Plan is an adaptation of existing planning processes including strategic and operational plans, analyses, standards, monitoring and public review and internal biannual Management Review (under the EMS). Management of forest land in the area has continued to evolve over time in response to changes in society's values. Revised Management Plans, submitted at approximately five-year intervals, include objectives, management strategies and analyses of management impacts. Standards and operating plans have been updated as changes occur. Monitoring has included corporate annual reports and both internal and external audits and inspections to evaluate conformance with management system requirements as well as compliance with legal requirements.

The values, objectives, indicators, targets, and management practices described in this document (developed by LKSM and the Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG)) are currently understood and followed by the MIFO for working towards sustainable forest management on the DFA. This is an evolving document that is reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis with the community advisory group to reflect changes in the forest and local community.

Ongoing review and input are provided by the advisory group, TFL management, and others through performance assessments, operational plan reviews, and processes related to specific land use issues such as landscape unit planning and community water supply. The SFM Plan Appendix 1 (Indicator Details & Results) is also reviewed on an annual basis by MIFLAG and LKSM, including through the internal biannual Management Review process under the EMS, following compilation of annual reporting information. The Plan is revised as required to address feedback from all reviews.

### Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG)

The Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG) was formed in 1998 and has helped to develop the SFM performance framework for the DFA. Information about the public advisory group is available for MIFLAG members as well as the general public on the website: <https://www.westernforest.com/company/sustainability/certification/public-advisory-groups/>

A broad range of interested parties from various sectors of society participate in each of the public advisory group meetings, e.g., local communities, tourism, wildlife, labour, business, recreation, fisheries, government, and First Nations.

MIFLAG operates under a Terms of Reference that outlines: goals, roles and responsibilities; membership; measures to deal with conflicts of interest; meeting content; timelines; communication, decision making and dispute resolution protocols; as well as methods to modify the Terms of Reference.

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## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Links to Management Plans and operational plans

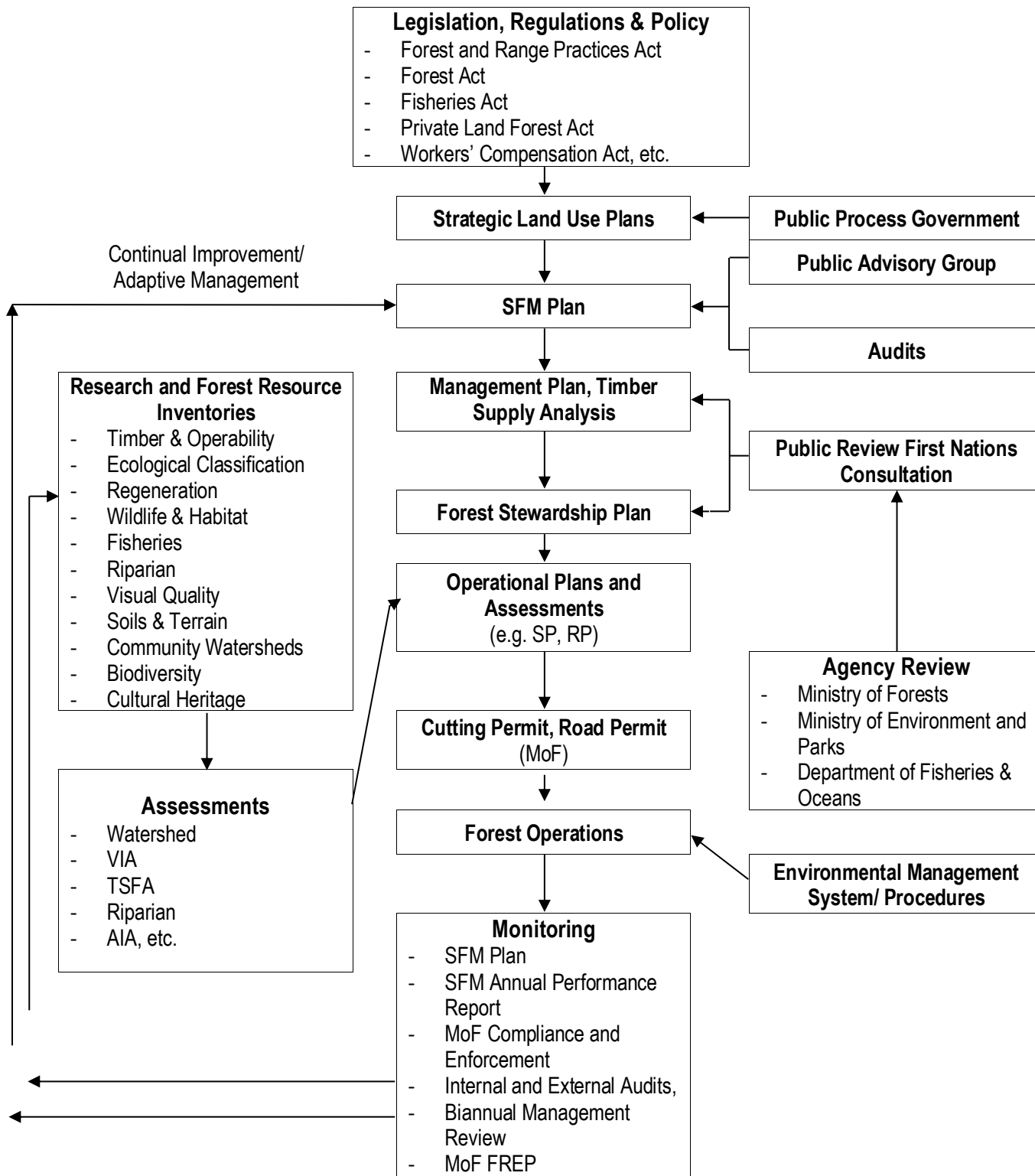
The SFM Plan is an umbrella plan that links legal requirements, higher level plans, Management Plans, and operational plans (e.g., Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP)). The performance commitments included in the SFM Plan meet or exceed the commitments previously approved under the TFL's Management Plan and the Forest Stewardship Plan. The SFM Plan reflects the objectives, management strategies, and reporting structure of management plans and the FSP. The SFM Plan is also influenced by higher level plans such as the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan).

Management Plans, Operational Plans and the Sustainable Forest Management Plan are reviewed and discussed during the biannual EMS Management Review process (as applicable). Conclusions drawn during the biannual EMS Management Review process are documented within the meeting minutes. Where action items are generated to address feedback from the Management Review process, they are documented and tracked for completion. The SFM Plan Appendix 1 'Detailed Indicators & Results' also provides a summary of any changes made to the SFMP as a result of any Management Reviews.

Figure 2 shows the flow of input and direction to Forest Stewardship Plans and site plans. It does not show the feedback loops of monitoring and adaptive management that occur from operations to the management plans and other higher-level plans.

# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership Sustainable Forest Management Plan

**Figure 2: Links between Plans (TFL – with FRPA)**



## **Defined Forest Area (DFA)**

The DFA includes LKSM's TFL 64, Mid Island Forest Operation (refer to Figure 3 for a map of the DFA), located within the Campbell River Forest District. The DFA is situated on the east coast of Vancouver Island, roughly 38 km northwest of Campbell River along Highway 19. It extends from west of Robert's Lake to just east of the Eve River and from the Victoria Peak area in the south to Kelsey Bay on Johnstone Strait in the north, surrounding the community of Sayward. The DFA includes the drainages of Kunnum Ck., Montague Ck., Adam River and White River as well as portions of the Salmon River and Amor de Cosmos Ck.

Operations consist of road construction and maintenance, harvesting, hauling logs, maintenance shops, dryland sorting and booming, landfills, reforestation activities and administrative offices.

Logs harvested within the DFA are hauled to the log sort located at Kelsey Bay, roughly 75km from Campbell River. Logs are sorted and then transported (boomed and towed) to Western sawmills on southern Vancouver Island. The management offices and shop for MIFO are also located at Menzies Bay.

The DFA excludes third party tenancies that have been granted by the Ministry of Forests and other government ministries and agencies. These include the Bill 28 take back areas at Eve River and near Brewster Lake, woodlots, as well as other private land ownership along the Sayward valley.

Short term, volume-based licenses that are issued to the BC Timber Sales program or First Nations by the Ministry of Forests and are within TFL 64 are excluded from the DFA for the duration that they are under the management responsibility of an entity other than LKSM. Typically, these areas revert back into the TFL once they are harvested and reforested and will form part of the DFA once they revert back to the management responsibility of LKSM. Parks and protected areas are also excluded from the DFA.

## **Other Interested Parties in the DFA**

LKSM respects the legal rights and responsibilities of the other parties within or adjacent to the DFA (e.g., trappers, water license holders, mining claims, First Nations, etc.). Access to the legal tenure rights obtained from the [Crown Registry and Geographic Base Branch](#). Information is also provided in the TFL Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Plan regarding information sharing/referral information related to specific legal rights and responsibilities of other tenure holders, as they apply to the DFA.

There are other licensees and tenure holders that may conduct harvesting or other activities within the DFA under authority issued by the BC government. Examples of these activities include the harvesting of undercut volumes allocated to third parties and administered by the BC Timber Sales program, mineral tenures, registered traplines and guide/outfitters.

Generally, other forest licensees in the DFA are responsible for their own road access works including road and bridge construction and maintenance as well as cutblock harvesting and road deactivation and they sign Road Use Agreements with LKSM. Their performance is monitored by the Compliance and Enforcement section of the Ministry of Forests, and they are expected to fully comply with all the relevant laws and regulations while operating within the DFA. Silviculture activities on these lands are generally managed by BCTS. Upon declaration of free growing, the area involved normally reverts to the DFA and management by LKSM.

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Other interested parties include the Village of Sayward with their community watershed in Newcastle Creek and residents in the Sayward valley having domestic water points of diversion. Most of these wells or surface water collection points are located outside of the DFA but source waters generally originate from within the DFA. Water intakes are registered or unregistered and not all locations are known. LKSM has conducted interviews with residents regarding water intakes during the planning process.

## The Forest Land and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

The DFA is 156,149 hectares and covers all of TFL 64 and supports an Allowable Annual Cut of 905,800 m<sup>3</sup>.

### Map of the DFA

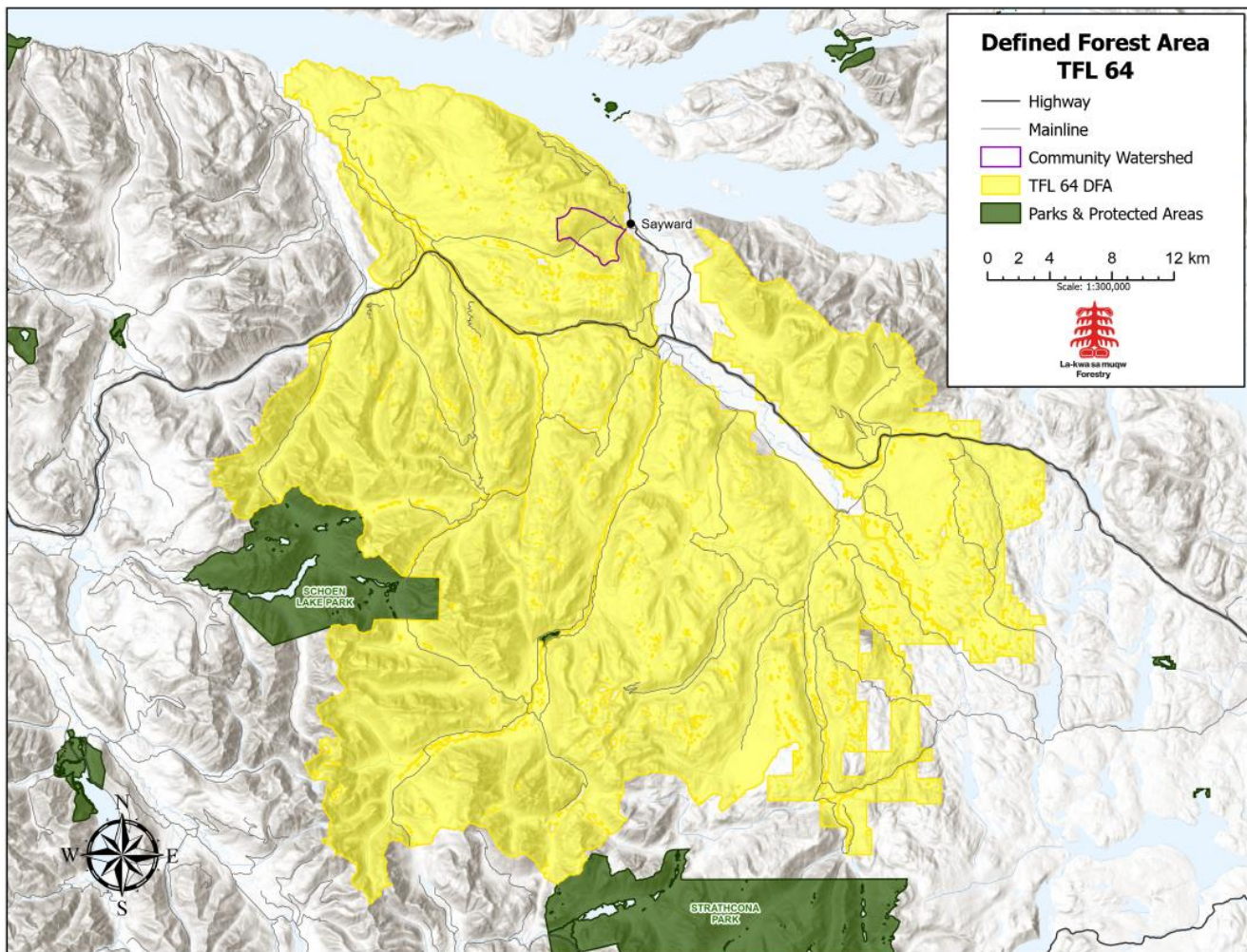


Figure 3: Map of the Defined Forest Area

# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership

## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Management Responsibilities in the DFA

TFL 64 is a renewable tenure on Provincial Crown land and administered by the Ministry of Forests under the Forest Act. These tenures are managed by the LKSM in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Parks, Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies. The primary roles and responsibilities are defined under a variety of legislation including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Forests and Range Act, Forest Act, and Forest and Range Practices Act.

### First Nations

First Nation participation in MIFLAG will not prejudice Aboriginal or treaty rights. MIFLAG meetings do not, in any way, intend to define, interpret, or prejudice ongoing or future discussions and negotiations regarding these legal rights and do not stipulate how to deal with treaty rights.

The Defined Forest Area falls within the traditional territories of the following First Nations:

- Wei Wai Kum
- We Wai Kai
- K'omoks
- Tlowitsis

### Products and Markets

Logs produced at the forest operation are sorted according to size, grade and species and distributed by Western Fibre Supply to company sawmills located on southern Vancouver Island. Logs not suitable for Western manufacturing facilities are sold on the open Vancouver Log Market. Pulp logs are committed under long-term fiber supply agreements.

**Table 1: DFA Products and Markets**

By Species (%)		By Grade (%)	
Ba	26.31	Sawlog	76.59
Cy	1.12	Peelers	4.51
Hw	48.86	Pulp logs	0.17
Cw	1.58	Unsorted	17.48
Fd	21.86	Boomsticks	0.98
Maple, Alder, Pine	0.27	Maple, Alder, Pine	0.27

## **Management Strategies**

The following general management strategies are presented as a high-level overview of the strategies being implemented on the DFA. Appendix 1 (Indicator Details & Results) also describes specific management strategies related to each indicator.

### **Landscape Level Planning**

Integrated Resource Management Planning is currently in progress for TFL 64. This planning is occurring with full participation of Nanwakolas member Nations, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, Tlowitsis and K'omoks. The intent of this planning process is to inform forest management with Indigenous values, and to define stewardship strategies and a modelled harvest pattern that will support the achievement of a long-term future vision of the forest. Key concepts from this planning process include, a conservation network, connectivity and interior conditions and ecosystem integrity.

Once completed, the Integrated Resource Management Plan will help inform future plans including Forest Landscape Plans and Forest Operations Plans.

The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) requirements for landscape and stand level biodiversity have been applied within TFL 64. Direction from the MoF and the MoE has emphasized old seral stage representation at the landscape level and on variation in stand structure, primarily through Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) and Wildlife Tree Patches (WTPs).

The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) is a higher-level plan established under a Higher-Level Plan Order for Regional plans and came into effect on December 1, 2000. The Sayward Landscape Unit Plan (SLUP) was effective July 2003. The SLUP falls within Resource Management Zone #31 of the VILUP. Under VILUP, this area is described as a General Management Zone for which there would be no specific Higher Level Plan direction and that general forest planning and practices provisions would apply to this area.

### **Biodiversity Conservation**

The Western Forest Strategy supports conservation of biodiversity for the DFA. A key component includes the application of variable retention over a majority of the land base.

Strategies include:

- Landscape zonation based upon VILIP Resource Management Zones (RMZs) and Eco-section zonation as a framework to apply guidelines for the type and amount of stand level retention across the landscape.
- Variable retention will ensure that a diversity of forest structure – including snags, wood debris and live trees of various sizes and in various patterns – is well distributed across the forest landscape.
- Variable retention and OGMAs will provide additional means and flexibility for achieving and often exceeding government landscape objectives for old seral representation and Wildlife Tree Patches.

## LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership Sustainable Forest Management Plan

- Ecosystem mapping for most of TFL 64 is complete. This mapping has been funded by FIA and is to the site series level at a scale of 1:20,000. The site series information aids in landscape unit planning and operational planning.

### Forest Strategy (Variable Retention)

The term **variable retention** (VR) is used to describe an overall approach to harvesting and silvicultural systems that retain trees and associated habitat for purposes other than timber management and traditional silviculture goals. Variable retention can be implemented with a wide range of harvesting systems, and can utilize traditional silvicultural systems, such as shelterwood or selection, to meet forest regeneration objectives. As the name implies, various levels of retention can be used with different types, amounts and spatial patterns of structure. Retention can be dispersed throughout a cutblock (as individual trees or small clumps) or aggregated in larger groups and patches, depending upon the objectives. There is such a wide range of possibilities within the VR concept that it is not a “one size fits all” approach.

The term **retention system** refers to a specific silvicultural system designed to meet the goals of variable retention. It was originally defined in the BC Operational Planning Regulations (March 1999) and has 3 requirements: 1) retention of trees distributed across the cutblock; 2) trees are left for the long term (at least one rotation); 3) distribution of leave trees achieves >50% “forest influence”. The specific definition of the retention system is: “a silvicultural system that is designed to:

- Retain individual trees or groups of trees to maintain structural diversity over the area of the cutblock for at least one rotation, and
- Leave more than half the total area of the cutblock within one tree height from the base of a tree or group of trees, whether or not the tree or group of trees is inside the cutblock.”

The distribution of long-term retention over the area of the cutblock is open to interpretation, but the spatial requirement for “forest influence” provides the minimum standard for distribution. The retention system is no longer officially defined in BC legislation; however, the BC Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (Div.5, 64(4)) exempts harvesting that maintains >50% forest influence and meets other spatial requirements from maximum cutblock size restrictions. The retention system is considered a “partial cutting” approach and is categorized as an “even-aged” system despite the resulting uneven-aged forest because the cut areas are regenerated and managed much like other even-aged systems.

The retention system normally uses a one-pass harvesting approach but may also be prescribed with several harvesting entries. The three main variants of the retention system are: group, dispersed, and mixed. For safety, economic and ecological reasons, group retention is often preferred; however, all three variants have advantages for specific objectives.

### Wildlife

Wildlife issues are twofold in scope: (1) habitat protection for large mammals and threatened or endangered species; and (2) biodiversity concerns related to conservation of animals and plants and the maintenance of ecosystem processes. Current knowledge is often limited and limiting, and new knowledge requires a process of adaptive management. The main current issues are:

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- Identification and protection of specialized habitats for large mammals, primarily deer and elk
- Identification and preservation of the best marbled murrelet nesting areas and release of previously protected areas that appears not to be used.
- Actions needed to maintain habitat for rare and endangered plants, animals, and ecosystem processes.

The wildlife protection strategy is to:

- Comply with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the FSP
- Comply with government stated measures to manage WHAs, UWRs
- Provide operations and agency personnel feedback on guidelines as part of an ongoing process of improving conservation.
- Liaise with MoE wildlife and habitat protection staff on wildlife issues, especially to identify and protect critical habitat.
- Continue assessments of ranges, habitat diversity, wildlife trees, etc., and protect significant values.
- Continue surveys to identify and preserve key marbled murrelet nesting sites and obtain release of protected sites that are of little to no value.
- Manage riparian zones as directed by the stream indicators and objectives; as feasible, enhance protection on smaller streams particularly using VR design.
- Support other monitoring and research activities to increase knowledge of habitat resource requirements and the impacts of management activities on those.

### Fish Protection

The fishery resource value is generally high and protection of fish habitat and water quality ranks as a significant priority. Biological issues dominate in the sense of conserving fish stocks and habitat. At the same time, managers are also concerned with meeting the letter of the law. The issues are:

- To update classification of waters within the DFA. This includes detailed site-specific information for operational planning and a broader, but accurate portrayal of the impacts of riparian management for strategic analysis.
- Mitigation, enhancement, and habitat restoration.
- Cooperation with First Nations and other stakeholder groups.
- To determine measures for protecting endangered populations.
- Management of riparian areas.

The strategy for responding to these issues is to:

- Continue to undertake detailed stream inventories for operational plans.
- Continue to identify and implement enhancement, mitigation, and rehabilitation opportunities.
- Achieve full compliance in meeting the requirements of the FRPA and the FSP.

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## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Forest Health

LKSM's goals are to protect the forest and to maintain a healthy forest condition.

- Regenerate all harvested land promptly with appropriate species considering both silviculture characteristics and economic values.
- Limit the losses from fire through a rigorous program of fire prevention and suppression.
- Minimize losses from insects and disease through monitoring and appropriate control measures.

### Fire Prevention & Suppression

The fire protection strategy is addressed in the Management Plan for the TFL. The EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan also detail the specific fire equipment requirements and response actions.

Prevention and control are governed by operating policies and procedures and a series of plans. Mid Island Forest Operation maintains and deploys its own fire suppression equipment.

Fire protection activities include hazard induced logging closures, aerial and ground patrols during periods of high risk and quick initial action using fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and ground crews.

LKSM's primary objective is to prevent fires through good housekeeping, diligent equipment maintenance and strict control of operations as fire danger rises. Our goal is to contain all fires within 24 hours of detection.

Damage to established stands in all blocks of TFL 64 has averaged less than 39 ha per year (less than 21 ha per year in mature stands) during the last 25 years.

### Forest Insect & Disease Control

An insect and disease pest management strategy is included in the TFL Management Plan.

The objective is to minimize losses due to insects and disease through a vigilant program of detection and appropriate control measures.

Forestlands will be assessed on an ongoing basis to identify potential pest problems. Any suspect areas will be examined and monitored by helicopter or ground surveys. Federal or provincial experts will be consulted on appropriate actions if beyond the expertise of our own registered professionals.

Losses due to insect or disease epidemics will be minimized by:

- Expedient salvage of trees and stands already dead, dying or threatened by pest infestations, subject to environmental and economic considerations.
- Maintaining tight inventory control to keep the volume of logs susceptible to ambrosia beetle attack as low as practical.
- Trapping insects such as ambrosia beetles, where appropriate.
- Carrying out harvesting and sanitation activities in areas identified as disease centers.

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The Management Plan for the TFL has guidelines addressing the following issues:

- To reduce the risk of future losses to *Abies* species from the Balsam Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges piceae*). The adelgid is present in the eastern portion of the TFL and to a lesser extent in the west.
- For restricting planting of Sitka spruce in medium and high hazard zones for the Sitka spruce weevil (*Pissodes strobi*) and/ or the use of weevil resistant seedlings, where available.

A conifer sawfly infestation (*Neodiprion* spp.) occurred in the DFA during the mid 1990's. By 1999, sawfly populations had collapsed in high-risk areas.

### Wind Damage

Activities are in place to minimize losses from wind damage. These include assessment of susceptibility to windthrow, cutblock design and management practices (treatment of edges where appropriate), monitoring of damage and recovery of downed trees where practical.

Small cutblock sizes and reserves within cutblocks (e.g., wildlife tree patches and riparian management areas) expose more timber edge to potential damage from strong wind events.

Although variable retention may create more exposed edges, the retention pattern could modify wind forces against edges and reduce windthrow relative to clearcuts.

The strategy to minimize losses from windthrow involves further development of practices already in place:

- Assessment of windthrow hazard and risk at the cutblock level.
- Cutblock and retention patch design based on knowledge of historic wind patterns and assessments.
- Management practices such as tree pruning and/or topping (applied according to the assessment results).
- Monitoring. The company completed a windthrow monitoring program as a component to the development of the Forest Strategy (to measure the amount of windthrow in variable retention areas and provide a baseline against which to measure future windthrow management).
- Recovery of downed trees where practical. Large rotting logs play an important role in forest ecosystems. Hence a variety of size classes of woody debris and damaged or rotten logs will be left behind to maintain natural cycles and habitats.

Refer to the Western Forest Strategy for more details on prescription options for wind damage.

### Reforestation

The reforestation strategy for the DFA is to reforest those blocks relying on artificial regeneration within a period of three years following harvest. Areas prescribed for natural regeneration may take up to 6 years to meeting stocking requirements. A measure of success has been to manage the amount of Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR) area to be below three years of logging. These results are reported annually to the Ministry of Forests.

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Species selection is based on the silvicultural characteristics of the individual species and their adaptability to the site, including forest health considerations. The second criterion for selection is species value ranking. This is based on the company view of the wood qualities and desirability at harvest. Currently, cypress and cedar rank highest. Species selection will be consistent with the stocking standards approved within the FSP.

Regeneration surveys are completed at periodic intervals sufficient to ensure that legal obligations are met for regeneration and free growing status.

### Soil Conservation

Forest management activities can increase rates of soil erosion and affect the flow of sediment into streams and the peak flow levels in streams.

Management practices are designed to minimize these impacts. They are based on regulatory guidelines and standard operating procedures. Operational staff receive training for these standards and procedures, and post harvest assessments of operations are conducted annually.

Strategies for protection of soil and water resources are described in the Management Plan.

Forest areas are mapped by either five-class terrain stability mapping or sensitive site mapping. This information is used to identify sensitive areas for operational planning. It is also used to estimate appropriate allowances in strategic analyses. Helicopter yarding is one management option for harvesting in sensitive areas.

The overall objective is to sustain the productivity of the land base.

Strategies include:

- Standard Operating Procedures have been developed and are maintained for road construction, maintenance and deactivation.
- Terrain stability assessments (TSAs) are conducted on steep and sensitive sites.
- Forest practices reflect the sensitivity of the soil.
- Internal and external audits on road building and harvesting practices.
- Minimize the amount of permanent site degradation due to roads.

Concern has been expressed that variable retention might increase road requirements. There will be situations with increased road requirements and others with reduced requirements. It is expected that in sum they will tend to offset one another. Significant increases in roads are not expected on flatter terrain because of gains in reduced adjacency constraints.

### Water Conservation

Particular attention is focused on managing riparian areas. In the TFL, riparian reserve and management areas are implemented according to FRPA requirements or better. Higher order streams (smaller streams with limited regulatory protection) are used as priority anchor points for the location of retention patches within settings. The objective is to sustain water quality and quantity.

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Strategies include:

- Work closely with regional and community water boards regarding practices and standards in community watersheds. The Newcastle Creek watershed is a water supply area for the community of Sayward.
- A Watershed Assessment project has been completed for TFL 64 to develop management objectives and strategies for watersheds in the DFA. The assessment ranks the sensitivity of each watershed in relation to several factors, such as harvest levels, slope stability, road access, etc. This updated assessment replaces the past Watershed Assessment Procedures done under the direction of MoF and MoE.
- Ensure that road construction and road maintenance are completed to required standards.
- Aerial yarding systems (helicopter) are considered for operations in sensitive areas to minimize road density.
- Develop and implement road deactivation plans and further reduce erosion through grass seeding and planting. Develop a water sampling program to collect baseline data associated with herbicide use in sensitive areas.

### Riparian Management

Riparian areas are used by many species of wildlife. These areas are reserved by way of no-harvest areas along streams. Generally, larger streams have greater levels of retention. Retention of trees may also be required where a stream is dependent on large woody debris for channel stability and/or stream bank stability.

The Riparian Management Area (RMA) consists of a Riparian Management Zone (RMZ), and where required, a Riparian Reserve Zone (RRZ). The widths of the RMAs are determined by the attributes of the adjacent riparian feature. Attributes such as gradient, fish presence, width of stream, and size of wetland may impact the size of the RMA and the requirement for a RRZ.

Riparian management strategies include:

- Wherever possible, locate road to avoid RMAs.
- Propose road locations through RMAs where no other option exists, or locating the road outside the RMA would create a higher risk of sediment delivery to streams.
- Vary retention specifications for RMZs according to site conditions.
- Undertake professional assessments as necessary.
- Incorporate recommendations of assessments into Harvest Instructions.

Strategies to protect fish habitat and non-fish streams may include:

- Basal area retention in RMZs based on riparian class and site-specific conditions.
- Partial cutting silviculture systems or no harvest buffers.
- Selecting trees to retain to reduce the risk of windthrow and to protect wildlife values.
- Where there are significant concerns about windthrow in the RMZ: extend the boundaries of the RMZ to a windfirm boundary; eliminate sharp corners or indentation from the outer boundary of the RMZ; and/or use edge stabilization treatments including feathering, pruning, or topping.

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- Additional practices such as: retention of all non-merchantable conifer trees, understory deciduous trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation within 5m of the channel to the fullest extent possible; retention of wildlife trees; falling and yarding away; removal of introduced tops and small woody debris; felling of shallow rooted, windthrow-prone leaners across the stream so that the butt clears the channel or the stem spans both streambanks. Stems will be removed from the stream if it can be done without damage to the channel or bank and in compliance with the Federal Fisheries Act.

### Contributions to Global Ecological Cycles

The uptake and storage of carbon by actively growing forests reduce global carbon dioxide levels.

Mid Island Forest Operation's forest management activities are focused on prompt reforestation of harvested areas with well stocked stands and on restricting the area that is removed from production by roads and landings.

Surface water area is a significant contributor to hydrological cycles. The current management strategy has had minimal adverse impact on the surface water area in the DFA.

### Forest Recreation

Mid Island Forest Operation recognizes and supports the responsible use of forests for recreation activities. The DFA provides varied recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the area. Several recreation sites exist in the DFA, including, but not limited to: Admiral Broeren (big Yc tree); Santa Maria Lake, rustic sites at Tlowlis Lake and Stewart Lake as well as Candlestick Cave reserve.

Recreation strategies are included in the TFL management plan. Several recreation sites are maintained by LKSM through annual danger tree and accessibility assessments. Harvesting activities are restricted in some cases because of recreation and visual landscape values.

Public access is available throughout the DFA. Some restrictions are applied, especially in active logging areas, for safety reasons and protection of equipment. Access is limited during periods of high fire hazard.

Mid Island Forest Operation's strategy is to:

- Continue to work with the MoF and local residents to develop appropriate strategies for public access to specific areas. Issues include road deactivation (environmental risk), road maintenance and safety.
- Cooperate with commercial tour operators where access is required.
- Develop and maintain recreation sites in concert with the MoF and subject to funding.
- With the MoF, develop strategies for recreation sites and trails and define objectives for management of these features.
- Continue to cooperate with MoF and local caving groups in managing and protecting sensitive caves and karst resources. This includes undertaking surface inventories in karst areas prior to development. Mid Island Forest Operation in cooperation with the Campbell River District (MoF) and local caving groups have developed Standard Operating Procedures for karst management.

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### Visual Landscape Management

Mid Island Forest Operation's objective is to reconcile where possible the harvesting of trees with the visual landscape.

The strategy is to:

- Maintain visual landscape inventories.
- Recognize visual landscape objectives in plans and operations.
- Work with MoF specialists to manage for visual landscape objectives more efficiently. This includes improved visual landscape design (assisted by variable retention) and management practices to reduce the time for achieving visually effective green-up.

### First Nations

The objective is to develop enduring business relationships with First Nations and to improve communications and understanding by all involved and hence identify and solve concerns well in advance of planned operations.

Strategies include:

- Encourage First Nations partnership activities that build towards employment in the forest sector.
- Encourage review of FSP and other operational plans.
- Co develop IRMP with Nanwakolas council Nations.
- Encourage First Nations representatives to participate in MIFLAG and in other public review and input initiatives.

### Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Sites

Mid Island Forest Operation will respect known sites of historic and cultural significance and account for such sites in strategic analysis.

Strategies include:

- Review operational plans with local people to identify areas in which cultural resources of potential interest may be affected by forest development.
- Conduct assessments and implement management to protect cultural resources in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Heritage Conservation Act. This includes working with First Nations, the MoF and the Archaeology Branch (MoF) to identify the appropriate assessment procedures.

### Local Economic Benefits

Employment in the DFA is important to the economic health of the local communities, particularly Sayward and Campbell River. The financial health of the Mid Island Forest Operation relates directly to the economic health of the local community.

Economic benefits include employment, wages, contract services, purchases and payments to government, including stumpage fees and other taxes.

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Community economic and employment strategies include:

- Mid Island Forest Operation managers are responsible for developing relationships with local communities, including First Nations.
- Mid Island Forest Operation will support initiatives that promote Indigenous employment in the forest sector.
- Mid Island Forest Operation will continue the practice of managing TFL 64 on a Block basis in response to local economic concerns including economic opportunities. Block contributions are defined in MP AAC.
- Mid Island Forest Operation is committed to tracking total forest sector jobs on the DFA. This will be reported and discussed annually with the public advisory group (through the annual indicator performance reporting).
- A comprehensive review of management strategies and operations led the company to reaffirm its commitment to the solid wood products industry in British Columbia. LKSM's goal is to attain high standards in safety, environmental responsibility and business success.

Strategies to achieve these goals include:

- A dedicated effort to improve safety in the workplace.
- Restructuring operations to reduce produced log costs.

The capacity for timber production is indicated by the AAC allocation to TFL 64. Substantial variation can occur on an annual basis largely due to changes in market situations or adverse climatic conditions.

### Public Information and Involvement

Public participation processes are central to achievement of SFM goals. The objective is to provide ready access for public input and stakeholder involvement in ensuring responsible management of forest resources.

The Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG) currently includes numerous community representatives who provide input on an ongoing basis.

MIFLAG plays a central role in the development of this plan by:

- a. Identifying local values, objectives, indicators and targets based on SFM elements any other issues or relevance to the DFA;
- b. Developing, assessing and selecting one or more possible strategies for achieving targets
- c. Reviewing the SFM Plan
- d. Evaluating the results of monitoring programs, and discussing improvements and
- e. Discussing any issues relevant to SFM in the DFA.

Regular meetings provide both input for local management issues and opportunities for all to learn about forest management and how these activities relate to the communities.

There is a long history of public involvement in the DFA. The process for developing management plans includes public review at different stages in preparation of the plan. Operational plans such as the Forest Stewardship Plan, Pest Management Plans, and the Sustainable Forest Management Plan are available for public review and comment and are discussed with key

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stakeholders and interested parties through information sharing processes. Dialogue also occurs with special interest groups such as cavers and other recreational users.

The TFL Management Plan process includes sending invitations to First Nation groups to discuss management issues, and Forest Stewardship Plan harvesting developments are referred annually to local groups for input. Mid Island Forest Operation supports several partnership activities with local First Nations for carrying out silvicultural work, training, and supplying forest products for cultural uses.

Operational planning to identify Cultural Heritage Resource sites and to develop appropriate management prescriptions occurs according to FRPA Regulations and the Heritage Conservation Act. The strategy is summarized in the Statement of Management Options, Objectives and Procedures.

### **Forest Research**

The overall company objective in forest research is to obtain the knowledge to improve forest management and the conservation and protection of other forest resources and values. The strategy is to:

- Identify and recommend basic and applied research needs to the organizations that have the specific mandate to undertake the work.
- Prepare and submit research proposals for available funding programs for projects of particular or strategic concern to the LKSM.
- Cooperate with research organizations in conducting basic and applied research.
- Test and develop practicable applications and uses of published research that are relevant to Western Forest Products management goals and responsibilities.

Significant areas of research include:

- Forest Ecology – The objectives of the forest ecology research program are to determine the effects of management activities on forest ecosystems, to improve our ability to predict ecosystem response, and to develop biologically sound silviculture prescriptions.
- Silviculture – The silviculture research program focuses on examining silvicultural practices for regeneration through a combination of planting and natural regeneration. Various trials—some with over 20 years of monitoring—examine species, stock types, prescribed burning, mechanical site preparation, vegetation control and fertilization.
- Forest Growth and Yield – The aim of this program is to quantify forest growth and yield across the range of site conditions on the company’s tenure. A recent focus of plot establishment has been to examine the impact of variable retention harvesting and edge effects on early establishment and growth.

# LA-KWA SA MUQW Forestry Limited Partnership

## Sustainable Forest Management Plan

### Glossary

#### Acronyms

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut	MP	Management Plan
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment	MWLRS	Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
AOA	Archaeological Overview Assessments	NAR	Net Area to Reforest
BCTS	BC Timber Sales	NCLB	Non-Contributing Land Base
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification	NPP	Net primary production
BMP	Best Management Practices	NSR	Not Sufficiently Restocked
CCFM	Canadian Council of Forest Ministers	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
CFS	Canadian Forest Service	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
CHR	Cultural Heritage Resources	OG	Old Growth
CMT	Culturally Modified Tree	OGMA	Old Growth Management Area
CoC	Chain of Custody	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada	PAG	Public Advisory Group
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	PAS	Permanent Access Structure
CWAP	Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedure	PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris	PEFC CAN	“PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 PEFC Canada —
CWS	Community Watersheds	– SFM	Sustainable Forest Management” standard
DFA	Defined Forest Area	PFLA	Private Forest Land Act
EBITDA	Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation & Amortization	PGA	Professional Governance Act
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management	PHA	Post Harvest Assessment
ECA	Equivalent Clearcut area	PMP	Pest Management Plan
EMS	Environmental Management System	PSP	Permanent Sample Plot
EMZ	Enhanced Management Zone	RFT	Registered Forest Technologist
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	RG	Forest Regeneration
EVC	Existing Visual Condition	RMA	Riparian Management Area
FA	Forest Act	RMZ	Riparian Management Zone
FC	Falling Corner	RPF	Registered Professional Forester
FG	Free Growing	RRZ	Riparian Reserve Zone
FIA	Forest Investment Account	SAFE	Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise
FLP	Forest Landscape Plan	SARA	Species at Risk Act
FN	First Nation	SCC	Standards Council of Canada
FOM	Forest Operations Map	SEI	Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory
FOP	Forest Operations Plan	SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
FPBC	Forest Professionals BC	SFMP	Sustainable Forest Management Plan
FPC	Forest Practices Code	SG	Second Growth
FPPR	Forest Practice Planning Regulation	SMZ	Special Management Zone
FRPA	Forest and Range Practices Act	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
		SP	Site Plan

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FSP	Forest Stewardship Plan	SPAR	Seed Planning & Registry (database)
FSW	Fisheries Sensitive Watershed	SR	Sufficiently Stocked
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	SU	Standard Unit
GAR	Government Actions Regulation	SUP	Special Use Permits
GIS	Geographic Information System	TAUP	Total Area Under Prescription
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism	TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
GMZ	General Management Zone	TFL	Tree Farm License
GPS	Global Positioning System	TFSA	Terrain Stability Field Assessment
HCA	Heritage Conservation Act	TRMS	Terrain Risk Management Strategy
HCV	High Conservation Value	TSA	Timber Supply Analysis
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	TSR	Timber Supply Review
LKSM	La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited Partnership	TUS	Traditional Use Site/Study
LRM	Land Resource Manager	UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples
LTHL	Long Term Harvest Level	UWR	Ungulate Winter Range
LU	Landscape Unit	VILUP	Vancouver Island Land Use Plan
MAMU	Marbled Murrelet	VOIT	Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets
MF	Managed Forest	VQO	Visual Quality Objective
MIFO	Mid Island Forest Operation	VR	Variable Retention
MIR	Medical Incident Rate	Western	Western Forest Products Inc.
MIRR	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	WHA	Wildlife Habitat Area
MoE	Ministry of Environment and Parks	WTP	Wildlife Tree Patch
MoF	Ministry of Forests	WTRA	Wildlife Tree Retention Area

### Definition of terms

**Aboriginal right** – commonly referred to as Indigenous rights, is the collective rights of distinctive societies flowing from their status as the original peoples of Canada. In order to be an Aboriginal right, an activity must be an element of a practice, custom, or tradition (or an element thereof) forming an integral part of a distinctive culture of an Indigenous group claiming that right. [R. v. Van der Peet, 1996]. Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed by the Constitution Act, 1982 in section 35(1).

**Aboriginal title** – a right to the land itself, a collective right to the land held by all members of an Indigenous nation, encompassing the right to use the land pursuant to that title for a variety of purposes, which need not be aspects of those Indigenous practices, cultures, and traditions which are integral to the distinctive Indigenous cultures. [Delgamuukw v. British Columbia, 1997]

**Aboriginal treaty rights** – are “those contained in official agreements between the Crown and the native peoples.” [R. v. Badger 1996]. Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed by the Constitution Act, 1982 in section 35(1).

**Accreditation** – third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body, conveying formal demonstration of its competence, impartiality, and consistent operation in performing

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specific conformity assessment activities. [ISO/IEC 17000:2020 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles]

**Accreditation body** – the authoritative body that performs accreditation. Note: The authority of an accreditation body can be derived from government, public authorities, contracts, market acceptance, or scheme owners. [ISO/IEC 17000:2020 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles]

**Adaptive management** – a learning approach to management that recognizes substantial uncertainties in managing forests, develops explicit statements of system response to management actions, and formally incorporates into decisions the knowledge gained from monitoring the implementation and consequences of previous actions.

**Advisory group or equivalent** – a public process that accounts for public input that is used to develop VOITs for the Defined Forest Area. This could be a formal public advisory group specific to the PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 standard or another documented process that includes public consultation and input with outputs that are relevant to the DFA.

**Afforestation** – the conversion of land that has not been forested for a period of at least 50 years to forest through planting, seeding, or natural regeneration.

**Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)** - the allowable rate of timber harvest from a specified area of land. The Chief Forester of British Columbia sets the AAC for woodlots, timber supply areas (TSAs) and tree farm licenses (TFLs) in accordance with section 8 of the Forest Act.

**Analysis unit** – an area that may be larger or smaller than the DFA and forms the basis of forecasts and targets. Note: Recognizes that the analysis appropriate for the indicator might be at a different scale than the DFA. Allows best use of existing data and analysis.

**Appeal** – a request by an organization that is certified or seeking certification, or another interested party, to a certification body or an accreditation body for reconsideration by that body of a certification decision that has been made.

**At-risk species** - see Species at-risk

**Auditor** – a person qualified to perform audits; refer to Annex B Certification Body Requirements.

**Biodiversity (biological diversity)** – the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. [Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, 1995]

**Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)** - developed in BC in 1965, the BEC System classifies areas of similar regional climate, expected climax plant communities and site factors such as soil moisture and soil nutrients. The subzone is the basic unit of this classification system. Within subzones, variants further identify more local climatic factors.

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**Biogeoclimatic variant** - see Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification.

**Biogeoclimatic zone** - a geographic area having similar patterns of energy flow, vegetation, and soils as a result of a broadly homogenous macroclimate.

**Biomass** – in ecology, the total mass of organisms in a given area. In forest management, tree biomass includes the living portions of trees as well as deadwood in living trees, standing dead trees, and unrotted deadwood on the forest floor. Note: In the context of sustainable forest management, biomass usually refers to plant matter.

**Blue-listed** - refers to plants, animals, and plant communities assessed by the BC Conservation Data Center or COSEWIC to be vulnerable.

**Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM)** – Forum for federal, provincial and territorial governments to come together to discuss and exchange information, provide leadership and promote action on common forest and forestry-related issues of Canadian public and international concern.

**Carbon budget** - Account of carbon concentrations in cycles and sinks.

**Certification** – the result of a successful certification process in conformance with this Standard, whereby the certification body issues a certification certificate and adds the organization's certification to a publicly available list maintained by the certification body. Note: Certification of a management system is sometimes also called registration.

**Certification applicant** – an organization that has applied to an accredited certification body for certification to this Standard.

**Certification audit** – a systematic and documented verification process used to obtain and evaluate evidence objectively in order to determine whether an organization meets the SFM requirements of this Standard.

**Certification body** – an independent third party that is accredited as being competent to certify organizations with respect to nationally and internationally recognized standards.

**Certification certificate** – the official document issued by a certification body to an organization upon successful completion of the certification process (including the certification audit). Note: Where more than one organization is included in the certification process, the names of all organizations will be listed on the certificate.

**Chain of Custody (CoC)** –

**Chief Forester** - the assistant deputy minister of the deputy minister of the Ministry of Forests who is responsible for determining allowable annual cuts (AACs)

**Clearcut** - a silviculture system that removes the entire stand of trees in a single harvesting operation from an area that is one hectare or greater and at least two tree heights in width. In

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addition, the silviculture system is designed to manage the area as an even-aged stand. (Silvicultural Systems Handbook for British Columbia, 2025).

**Coarse woody debris** - all large deadwood in various stages of decomposition. Note: Coarse woody debris includes standing dead trees, fallen wood, stumps, and roots.

**Coastal Watershed Assessment Procedure (CWAP)** - assesses the impacts of forest practices on the hydrologic regime of a watershed. In particular, the potential for changes to peak stream flows, accelerated landslide activity, accelerated surface erosion, channel bank erosion and changes to channel morphology as a result of logging the riparian vegetation, and changes to the stream channel interaction from all these processes are assessed.

**Complaint** – an expression of dissatisfaction, other than an appeal, by any person or organization to a certification body or an accreditation body related to the activities of that body, where a response is expected.

**Compliance** – conformity with legal obligations and other adopted obligations. Component – an individual element of the SFM system. Note: Components include policy, planning, implementation and operation, checking and corrective action, and management review.

**Component** – an individual element of the SFM system. Note: Components include policy, planning, implementation and operation, checking and corrective action, and management review.

**Conformance** – fulfillment of a requirement of this Standard. Note: Non-legal requirements include policies, work instructions, or standards (including this Standard).

**Connectivity** - A qualitative term describing the degree to which late successional ecosystems are linked to one another to form an interconnected network.

**Continual improvement** – the ongoing process of enhancing SFM performance using a) experience; b) assessment of results; c) incorporation of new knowledge in line with the organization's SFM policy; and d) application of SFM requirements.

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** - The purpose of the CPD program is for registrants to grow, maintain, and demonstrate their level of competence across the span of their professional careers. Every practicing RPF and RFT registrant must undertake and report to FPBC 30 hours of CPD between December 1 and November 30 each year. This requirement stems from the Professional Governance Act and FPBC Bylaw 10.  
<https://www.fpbc.ca/professional-development/>

**Corrective action** – action to eliminate the cause of a detected nonconformity or other undesirable situation and to prevent recurrence.

**Criterion** - Under the PEFC CAN - SFM standard for sustainable forest management, one of six distinguishable SFM characteristics (as defined by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers: Defining Sustainable Forest Management: A Canadian Approach to Criteria and

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Indicators, Ottawa, 1995); also, a value that must be considered in setting objectives and in assessing performance.

**Cultural Heritage Resource (CHR)** - an object, a site or the location of a traditional societal practice that is of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance to the province, a community, or an Indigenous people. Cultural heritage resources include archaeological sites, structural features, heritage landscape features and traditional use sites.

**Culturally Modified Tree (CMT):** Tree that has been altered by indigenous people as part of their traditional use of the forest.

**Cut block** - is an area within which an agreement holder is authorized to harvest timber as identified within a cutting permit or within the agreement itself (if the agreement does not authorize cutting permits). (Forest and Range Practices Act, Forest Planning and Practices Regulation).

**Cutting Permit (CP)** - authorizes harvesting on a cut block. CPs are granted by the MoF upon application by licensees. Licensees must also obtain road permits before they can construct roads to access cut blocks. Once the permits are issued, a licensee may then proceed with forest development (i.e., road construction, logging operations). If a site plan is to be prepared, CPs can be applied for prior to completion of the site plan, however, harvesting and road operations must not commence until a site plan has been completed.

**Defined forest area (DFA)** – a specified area of forest, including land and water (regardless of ownership or tenure), to which the requirements of this Standard apply. Note: A DFA can consist of one or more blocks or parcels. For volume-based tenures a statement of applicability within a forest management unit can be made.

**Deforestation** – the conversion of forest to another land use. It does not include temporary tree-cover loss such as tree harvests followed by regeneration, or temporary loss resulting from natural disturbances such as wildfires, insect epidemics, or windstorms.

**DFA-related worker** – an individual employed by an organization to work for wages or a salary who does not have a significant or substantial share of the ownership in the employer's organization and does not function as a manager of the organization.

**District Manager** - the manager of a Ministry of Forests Natural Resource District office, with responsibilities as outlined in the Forest Act, Ministry of Forests and Range Act, Range Act, and Forest and Range Practices Act.

**EBITDA** - stands for "Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization". The equation for calculating EBITDA is:  $EBITDA = Sales - Cost\ of\ Goods\ Sold\ (excluding\ depreciation) - Overhead\ Costs$ . Another way to think of EBITDA is that it is a rough measure of the cash flow being generated by an operating unit.

**Ecological Cycles** - refers to the major nutrient cycles (i.e., carbon and nitrogen) and the hydrological cycle.

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**Ecosystem** – plants, animals, and micro-organisms and their non-living environment, interacting as a functioning unit. Note: Ecosystem “can describe small-scale units, such as a drop of water, as well as large-scale units, such as the biosphere.” [Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, 1995]

**Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)** - approach to natural resource management that combines ecological, social, and economic considerations toward achieving the goal of sustaining natural resources.

**Element** – the subcategory used to define the scope of each SFM criterion. Note: Each SFM criterion contains several elements. The SFM elements were derived from the national-scale elements developed by the CCFM for more specific local applications.

**Environment** – the surroundings in which an organization operates. Note: The environment encompasses air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and the interrelations of these elements.

**Environmental Management System (EMS)** - a structured system for identifying and ranking the environmental risk associated with management activities; creating and implementing control methods to manage that risk; monitoring and assessing performance; and taking corrective action to address deficiencies under a continual improvement program.

**Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)** - area requiring special management attention to protect important scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, historical and cultural values, or other natural systems or processes. ESAs include unstable soils that may deteriorate unacceptably after harvesting, and areas of high value to non-timber resources such as fisheries, wildlife, water, and recreation.

**Fish habitat** – refers to water frequented by fish and any other areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes, including spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas. [Fisheries Act, 2019]

**Fisheries Sensitive Watershed** - An area of land (watershed) identified under the Government Actions Regulation (FPPR 2024).

**Focal species** – species that warrant special conservation attention. Note: Criteria for selection of focal species can include ecological, socio-cultural, scientific, and economic considerations.

**Forecast** – an explicit statement of the expected future condition of an indicator.

**Forest** – an ecosystem dominated by trees and other woody vegetation growing more or less closely together, its related flora and fauna, and the values attributed to it.

**Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)** - The Forest and Range Practices Act and its regulations govern the activities of forest and range licensees in B.C. The statute sets the requirements for planning, road building, logging, reforestation, and grazing. FRPA and its regulations took effect on Jan. 31, 2004.

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**Forest condition** – the state of the forest ecosystem as determined by a range of variables associated with forest structure, composition, and processes.

**Forest conversion** – direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest land or forest plantation.

**Forest influence area** - The area within an opening that is within one tree height of a timber edge.

**Forest land** – terrain supporting a forest or capable of doing so.

**Forest Landscape Plan (FLP)** - a FLP establishes clear outcomes for the management of forest resource values within defined areas. British Columbia's new forest landscape plans will replace forest stewardship plans as part of changes to British Columbia's forest management regime including the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Forest landscape plans bring high-level strategic land use planning direction to a specific forest management area and bridge the gap between strategic land use planning and operational/site-level planning. FLPs will result in deeper engagement and greater transparency with local governments and interest groups. The B.C. government will join with First Nations governments, communities, and interested parties to develop Forest Landscape Plans in B.C.

**Forest License (FL)** - a renewable tenure to harvest a volume apportioned within a Timber Supply Area. Tenure term is up to 20 years. Chart areas define operating areas.

**Forest Operations Map (FOM)** - The FOM is intended to enhance transparency of operational planning and to provide engagement opportunities for interested members of the public, and community stakeholders. A FOM is legally required in obtaining a cutting permit authority. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/legislation-regulation/forest-range-practices-act/frpa-improvement-initiative/forest-operations-map>

**Forest Operations Plan (FOP)** - A Forest Operations Plan (FOP) is a legally binding document that provides detailed directions for forest development within a specific area. It's part of a new planning framework introduced by the government, alongside Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs), replacing the older Forest Stewardship Plans. The FOP outlines specific requirements for forest practices, silvicultural systems, stocking standards, and the approximate location of future cutblocks and roads.

**Forest plantations** – tree stands established by planting or seeding, often with one or few species, intensively managed exclusively for fibre production, and which lack most of the key characteristics of natural forests or any forest stands of purely introduced species.

**Forest Practices Code (FPC)** - the 'Forest Practices Code' is a term commonly used to refer to the former Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, the regulations made by Cabinet under the act and the standards established by the chief forester. The term may sometimes be used to refer to the guidebooks as well.

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**Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)** - a FSP is an operational plan under the Forest and Range Practices Act, which addresses the 11 FRPA objectives. It is approved by the Minister of Forests. The FSP allows for delineation of Forest Development Units (FDUs) that demonstrate areas of future forest operations, and the results and strategies that apply.

**Fragmentation** - The process of transforming large continuous forest patches into one or more smaller patches surrounded by disturbed areas. This occurs naturally through such agents as fire, landslides, windthrow and insect attack. In managed forests timber harvesting and related activities have contributed to fragmentation. (Also see Connectivity).

**Free Growing (free to grow)** - a stand of healthy trees of ecologically suitable, commercially valuable species, the growth of which is not impeded by competition from plants, shrubs, or other trees. Silviculture regulations and stocking standards define the criteria (e.g., species, density, and size) that a regenerating forest must meet to be declared free growing.

**Genetically modified organism (GMO)** - an organism that, through human intervention in a laboratory, has had its genome or genetic code deliberately altered through the mechanical insertion of a specific identified sequence of genetic coding material (generally DNA) that has been either manufactured or physically excised from the genome of another organism. Note: Genetic modification can be used to alter a wide range of traits, including insect and disease resistance, herbicide tolerance, tissue composition, and growth rate (adapted from Alberta Forest Genetic Resources Council statement).

**Goal** - A broad, general statement that describes a desired state or condition related to one or more forest values.

**Green-up** - A reforested cutblock with a stand of trees that has attained the height specified in a higher-level plan for the area or that, in the absence of a higher-level plan, has attained a height of at least 3 meters is said to have achieved green-up.

**Guidebook** - guidebooks were one of the four components of the Forest Practices Code. Guidebooks consist of guidelines and recommendations intended to help users exercise their professional judgement in developing site-specific management strategies and prescriptions designed to accommodate resource management objectives. Guidebooks constitute part of the “non-legal” realm of FRPA, and MFR Guidebooks can be used or other guidance developed using appropriate expertise.

**High Conservation Value (HCV) area** - An area in which the conservation of any of numerous social or ecological values is deemed to have an especially high priority. Harvesting in HCV areas is typically very restricted and depending on the nature of the identified value(s) may be precluded entirely. Identification of HCV areas may result from information supplied by First Nations, government agencies, company personnel or other stakeholders. (See Environmentally Sensitive Area).

**Higher Level Plan** - some of the objectives for forest resources in a strategic land use plan can be “declared” as a legal requirement under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR).

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**Hoe-Chucking - A** hoe-chucking operation is where a machine picks up the logs and moves them over the ground so there is little or no ground disturbance.

**Identified Wildlife** - Identified Wildlife are species at risk that have been designated by the Chief Forester (MoF) and Deputy Minister (BCENV) as requiring special management attention during forest and range operational planning or higher-level planning.

**Identified Wildlife Management Strategy (IWMS)** - Its goal is to preserve elements of biodiversity that are not addressed through other components of legislation and regulation. For the most part these are threatened and endangered species (i.e., Vancouver Island Marmots) or plant communities (i.e., Douglas-fir / Garry Oak - onion grass). The Identified Wildlife Management Strategy provides foresters and ranchers with best management practices for managing habitats for these species and plant communities. The management practices must be followed within areas set aside for a particular species or plant community. These areas are called "wildlife habitat areas" and are officially designated under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR).

**Independent (impartial)** - free from bias. Note: a registrar is not considered independent (impartial) if, in the two years preceding an audit, it or any of its personnel, subcontractors or related bodies provided or have provided assistance or consulting services to the organization being audited and, as a result of the audit, certified (see definition of Related body).

**Indicator** – a variable that measures or describes the state or condition of a value.

**Indigenous** – an accepted term currently used to refer to the three distinct groups of Aboriginal peoples of Canada: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous (Aboriginal) peoples: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

**Inoperable** - forested areas that are expected to be unsuited for commercial timber production due to high elevation, rugged topography, inaccessible location, low timber value, small average timber size, steep or unstable soils, protection of the environment, or difficulty to reforest. Areas designated as parks, wilderness areas, or other uses incompatible with timber harvest are included in many definitions.

**Integrated Resource Management Plan** - A non-legal landscape level plan designed to inform legal land use planning processes and operational activities with First Nations values. Note. Plans may be developed by a Nation for their territory, or a Nation or Nations may work collaboratively with La-kwa sa muqw on a plan for the tenure area.

**Interested party** – an individual or organization interested in or affected by the management activities of a DFA.

**Introduced species** – plants, animals, or micro-organisms that have been introduced by human action outside their natural past or present distribution, and whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and negative impacts can be avoided or minimized.

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**Invasive alien species** – plants, animals, or micro-organisms that have been introduced by human action outside their natural past or present distribution, and whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. [CFIA, 2006]

**Land Resource Manager (LRM)** - Land Resource Manager (LRM) solution is an Enterprise application for managing tabular and spatial information with the land and forest business. [https://forestry.trimble.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CFForest\\_LandResourceManager\\_DS\\_ENG\\_1218.pdf](https://forestry.trimble.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CFForest_LandResourceManager_DS_ENG_1218.pdf)

**Landing** - an area modified as a place to accumulate logs before they are transported.

**Landscape level** - a watershed, or series of interacting watersheds or other natural ecological units. This term is used for conservation planning and is not associated with visual landscape management.

**Landscape unit** - a planning area with established objectives, delineated on the basis of geographic and/or ecological features such as watersheds. Typically, they cover a watershed or series of watersheds, and range in size from 5000 to 100,000 ha.

**Large Cultural cedar** - LCC are defined as cedar logs greater than 100cm dbh with no rot, twist or defect that will be suitable for either house logs, totem logs or canoe logs

**Long term** – in the context of making forecasts regarding forest structure and composition, at minimum, twice the average life expectancy of the predominant trees in a DFA, up to a maximum of 300 years.

**Management Plan (MP)** - TFL management plans usually cover a period of up to ten years and specify proposed management activities to establish, tend, protect, and harvest timber resources and to conserve other resource values. MPs include inventories of the forest, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, range, and cultural heritage resources in the Tree Farm License area. They include a timber supply analysis that analyzes the short term and long-term availability of timber for harvesting in the Tree Farm License area, including the impact of management practices on the availability of forest values.

**Mature forest** - generally, stands of timber where the age of the leading species is greater than the specified cutting age. Cutting ages are established to meet forest management objectives.

**Migratory bird** – a migratory bird referred to in Canada's Migratory Birds Convention Act and includes the sperm, eggs, embryos, tissue cultures and parts of the bird.

**MIR (Medical Incidence Rate)** - A recordable measure for which an employee receives first aid, medical aid, or medical treatment for a workplace incident that results in the employee unable to return to their regular duties or is required to perform restricted duties on the advice of a physician. Incidents resulting from a pre-existing injury or for unspecified pain management are not included in the MIR.

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**Monumental Cedar** - Cedar or Cypress tree, roughly greater than 2m diameter above the butt flare, approximately 12m long with a top diameter of greater than 1.7m and relatively free of limbs in at least 2-3 quadrants (fine knots are acceptable). Definition source: Western Cultural Heritage Resources SOP.

**Multi-site certification**— a certification approach where multiple sites are managed under a single central entity covered under one certification.

**Native species** – a species that occurs naturally in an area; a species that is not introduced.

**Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)** - all forest products except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products.

**Not Satisfactorily Restocked (NSR)** - productive forest land that has been denuded and has not yet been regenerated to the specified stocking standards for the site.

**Objective** – a broad statement describing a desired future state or condition of a value.

**Old growth forest** – an old growth forest differs significantly from younger stands in structure, ecological function, and species composition with respect to canopy closure, age class structure, accumulation of woody debris, and the presence of species and functional processes that are representative of the potential natural community. [Canadian Forest Service’s Forestry Glossary]. Note: The age and structure of old growth forests vary significantly by forest type and from one eco-region to another.

**Old-growth Management Area (OGMA)** - an area established under a higher-level plan that contains or is managed to replace specific structural old-growth attributes, and which are mapped out and treated as special management areas.

**Opening** - usually used synonymously with cut block (see above) to include all of an area that has been harvested or is designated for harvesting, including the trees retained singly or in groups within the area. Less often, used to describe the actual cleared area(s) within a cut block.

**Organization** – a company, corporation, firm, enterprise, government, authority, or combination thereof, incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration, and that, for the purposes of this Standard, applies for certification. Note: For organizations with more than one operating unit (e.g., a division), a single operating unit may be defined as an organization.

**PEFC Canada** – the National Governing Body of PEFC within Canada.

**PEFC claim** – the declaration of organizations certified to this SFM Standard on material/products, as stated in sales and delivery documentation, namely the claim “100% PEFC certified” or “100% PEFC origin.” Note: A list of PEFC accepted abbreviations and translations of PEFC claims is available on the PEFC website.

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**PEFC recognized certificate** – a valid accredited forest management certificate issued by a PEFC certification body.

**Permanent Access Structure (PAS)** - a built structure, including a road, bridge, landing, gravel pit, etc.

**Personnel** – management, contractors, and DFA-related workers employed by an organization.

**Plantation** - a forest area that does not follow natural succession patterns due to reforestation involving high-intensity silviculture practices. Notes: (1) Plantations are highly managed treed areas with few natural characteristics; they are generally managed for a single purpose. (2) Not all areas subjected to intensive silvicultural treatments are plantations.

**Preventative Action** - action to eliminate the cause of a potential non-conformity or other undesirable. Note: There can be more than one cause for a potential non-conformity. Preventative action is taken to prevent occurrence whereas corrective action is taken to prevent recurrence.

**Productive Forest** - forest land that is capable of producing a merchantable stand of timber within a defined period of time.

**Productivity** – the ability of a forest ecosystem to capture energy, support life forms, and produce goods and services.

**Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** – is a global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, PEFC is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. [<https://pefc.org/discover-pefc/what-is-pefc>]

**Protected area** – an area of land and/or sea specifically dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and of natural and associated cultural resources and managed through legal or other effective means. [IUCN, 1994]

**Protected Area Strategy (PAS)** - a BC strategy to develop and expand the provincial protected area system. This includes representative examples of natural diversity, and special, natural, recreational, or cultural heritage features.

**Red-listed** - refers to plants, animals and plant communities assessed by the BC Conservation Data Centre or COSEWIC to be extirpated, endangered, or threatened.

**Reforestation** – the re-establishment of trees on forest land following natural (e.g., fire) or human (e.g., timber harvest) disturbance.

**Regional Land Use Plans (RLUP)** - the regional land use plan (RLUP) is a strategic land use plan that defines land and resource values and provides goals for these values at a regional level. It provides a strategy to maintain and/or protect these values by establishing land-use

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categories, which define the type of resource management that will occur there. The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan is an example.

**Registrar** - Refers to the independent, third party, certifying body that conducts audits on the Defined Forest Area regarding conformance with the PEFC CAN – SFM Standard requirements. Following successful audits, a certificate is issued to the organization.

**Reserve Zones** - zones where timber harvesting is not permitted.

**Riparian** - an area of land adjacent to a stream, river, lake, or wetland that contains vegetation that, due to the presence of water, is distinctly different from the vegetation of adjacent upland areas.

**Riparian Management Zone (RMZ)** - an area of a width adjacent to streams or Riparian Reserve Zones in which management objectives for riparian or habitat attributes are considered. The width of these zones is determined by attributes and classification of streams, wetlands or lakes, and adjacent terrestrial ecosystems.

**Riparian Reserve Zone (RRZ)** - an area of a width adjacent to streams in which harvest is restricted by regulation. The width of these zones is determined by attributes and classification of streams, wetlands or lakes, and adjacent terrestrial ecosystems.

**S1-6 stream** - Stream classification system for riparian management. S1 to S4 streams are fish streams or streams in a community watershed. S5 and S6 streams are not fish streams and are not in a community watershed. Each class also denotes a range of stream width: S1 is >20m, S2 is >5-20m, S3 is = 1.5-5m and S4 is <1.5m; for streams that are non-fish bearing or not within a community watershed, S5 is >3m and S6 is <3m.

**Second growth** - Typically, younger (i.e., less than 120 years on the BC Coast) forests that have been established by planting and/or natural regeneration after removal of a previous stand by fire, harvesting, insect attack or other cause. (See mature and old growth.)

**Sensitive Soils** - forest land areas that have a high to very high hazard (coastal forests) for soil compaction, erosion, or displacement.

**Seral stage** – an identifiable period of vegetative community development.

**SFM performance** – the assessable results of SFM as measured by the level of achievement of the targets set for a DFA.

**SFM policy** – an organization’s statement of intentions and principles in relation to SFM that provides a framework for objectives, targets, practices, and actions.

**SFM requirements** – the public participation, performance, and system requirements of this Standard.

**SFM system** – the structure, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and time frames specified by a certification body for implementing, maintaining, and improving SFM.

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**Short-term Operational Plans** - annual or five-year plans.

**Silvicultural system** - a planned program of treatments throughout the life of the stand to achieve defined objectives. A silviculture system includes harvesting, regeneration and stand tending. It covers all activities for the entire length of a rotation or cutting cycle. In BC this includes eight major categories: clearcut, clearcut with reserves, patch-cut, coppice, seed tree, shelterwood, retention and selection.

**Silviculture** - the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands. Silviculture entails the manipulation of forest and woodland vegetation in stands and on landscapes to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis.

**Site Plan (SP)** - a site-specific operational plan under FRPA. Site Plans describe how the results and strategies specified within the FSP apply to the site.

**Site series** - A unit of ecosystem site classification that represents climatically uniform groups of ecosystems regardless of the actual vegetation residing.

**Snag** - A large, standing dead tree.

**Special Management Zone (SMZ)** - an area under a strategic land use plan, where special management is needed to address sensitive values such as fish and wildlife habitat, visual quality, recreation, tourism, and cultural heritage features. The management intent of SMZs is to maintain these values while allowing some level of compatible resource extractive use and development.

**Species at risk** – species defined as at risk by national and provincial legislation applicable to a given DFA.

**Species At Risk Act (SARA)** - legislation introduced in order to protect species within Canada identified as “Species at Risk” under SARA.

**Species of special interest:** Species deemed not at-risk whose habitat needs nevertheless require particular attention. Identification of these species is normally facilitated by regulatory agencies in consultation with stakeholders.

**Stand** – a community of trees possessing sufficient uniformity in composition, age, arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from the forest or other growth on adjoining areas, thus forming a silvicultural or management entity [Canadian Forest Service’s Forestry Glossary].

**Stand level** - level of forest management at which a relatively homogenous (usually small) land unit can be managed under a single prescription, or a set of treatments, to meet well-defined objectives.

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**Stewardship zones** - Under the BC Coastal Group's Forest Strategy, all public and private forest lands have been (or will be) designated as a Timber, Habitat or Old Growth zone. Each zone has a distinct set of management priorities, targets for forest retention and allowable silviculture systems. Management practices in each zone meet or exceed legal requirements.

**Strategic Land Use Plans** - a plan at the regional, sub-regional, and, in some cases, at the local level, which results in land use allocation and/or resource management direction. Strategic land use planning at the regional and sub-regional level involves the preparation of resource management zones, objectives, and strategies. Portions of these strategic plans may become designated as higher-level plans under FRPA, if they meet set criteria.

**Strategy** – a coordinated set of actions designed to meet established targets.

**Structural diversity** - Variety of canopy layers (vertical structure) and spatial patchiness (horizontal structure).

**Sustainable forest management (SFM)** – management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, social, cultural, and economic opportunities for present and future generations.

**Sustainable harvest level** – the harvest level of forest products that, with consideration for environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors, leads to no significant reduction of the forest ecosystem's capacity to support the same harvest level over the long term.

**Target** – a specific statement describing a desired future state or condition of an indicator. Note: Targets should be clearly defined, time-limited, and quantified, if possible.

**Tenure** – the terms under which a forest manager or owner possesses the rights, and assumes the responsibilities, to use, harvest, or manage one or more forest resources in a specified forest area for a specified period of time.

**Timber Supply Analysis** - an assessment of future timber supplies over long planning horizons by using timber supply models for different scenarios identified in the planning process. Timber supply analyses forecast the long-term effects of management options on timber and forest values availability.

**Timber Supply Area (TSA)** - an integrated resource management unit established in accordance with section 6 of the Forest Act.

**Timber Supply Review** - Initiated in 1992 to update the understanding of timber supply in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas. It is based on a review of a management unit, through which the chief forester of BC determines the allowable annual cut. The Chief Forester must determine the AAC for each TSA and TFL every 10 years (MoF, Timber Supply Review Backgrounder, Jan 2017)

**Top management** – persons with decision-making authority regarding SFM policy, resource allocation, and planning in the DFA.

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**Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)** - Knowledge that indigenous people have accumulated over countless generations of intimate contact with all aspects of local ecosystems, including plants, animals and other natural phenomena.

**Tree Farm License (TFL)** - privately managed sustained yield units. TFLs are designed to enable owners of Crown-granted forestlands and old temporary tenures or the timber Licenses, which replace them; to combine these with enough unencumbered Crown land to form self-contained sustained yield management units. These Licenses commit the licensee to manage the entire area under the general supervision of the MoF. Cutting from all lands requires MoF approval through the issuance of cutting permits or road permits. TFLs should not be confused with Tree Farms under the Taxation Act, though some TFL land (Crown-granted) may comprise a part of the TFL. A TFL has a term of 25 years and is renewable.

**Value** – a DFA characteristic, component, or quality considered by an interested party to be important in relation to an SFM element or other locally identified element.

**Variable Retention (VR)** - An approach to harvesting and silviculture systems that follows nature's model by always retaining part of the forest after harvesting. Standing trees are left in dispersed and/or grouped patterns to meet objectives such as retaining old growth structure, habitat protection and visual quality. Variable retention retains structural features (snags, large woody debris, live trees of varying sizes and canopy levels) as habitat for a host of forest organisms and maintains forest and residual tree influences. There are two main types of variable retention: dispersed retention, which retains individual trees scattered throughout a cutblock, and aggregate (or group) retention, which retains trees in patches of intact forest.

**Visual Quality Objective (VQO)** - An approved resource management objective that reflects a desired level of visual quality based on the physical and sociological characteristics of the area; refers to the degree of acceptable human alteration to the characteristic landscape.

**Watershed** – an area that drains all precipitation received as a runoff or base flow (groundwater sources) into a particular river or set of rivers.

**Wetlands** – areas that are seasonally or permanently waterlogged and characterized by vegetation adapted for life in saturated/flooded conditions. Wetlands can be treed, shrubby, or open, and include bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, and shallow open water areas. Some wetlands are stagnant systems (e.g., bogs), slow flowing (e.g., fens, swamps), or have fluctuating water levels (e.g., marshes, shallow open water).

**Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA)** - designated areas of land and water that support specific wildlife or groups of wildlife.

**Wildlife Tree** - a standing live or dead tree with particular values, such as old-growth characteristics, tree size or structure, which provide or recruit valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife.

**Wildlife Tree Patch (WTP) / Wildlife Tree Retention Area (WTRA)** - wildlife trees retained in or around cut blocks to achieve stand level biodiversity strategies.

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**Windthrow** - trees uprooted as a result of wind events.

**Woodlot** – small area of wooded land, often privately owned.

**Yarding** - in logging, the hauling of felled timber to the landing or temporary storage site from where trucks (usually) transport it to the mill site. Yarding methods include cable yarding, ground skidding, and aerial methods such as helicopter yarding.