PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 – Public Summary Report

Certification Body:	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), an SCC-accredited and PEFC Canada-Notified Certification Body
Client Name:	Western Forest Products Inc.
Description of Client:	Western is an integrated Canadian company sustainably managing forests and manufacturing wood products on the coast of British Columbia and in Washington State. The Company has an annual total available harvest of approximately 5.6 million cubic meters of timber. Western has five sawmills and two remanufacturing facilities with an annual lumber production capacity of approximately 785 million board feet. Principal activities conducted by the Company include timber harvesting, reforestation, milling logs into lumber and wood chips, and value-added remanufacturing.
Report Date:	October 13, 2026
Reporting Period:	May 2025-May 2026

Company – Division(s)

As a component of Western Forest Products ongoing commitment to sustainable forest management and forest certification, an Assessment Team from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) conducted a PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 Registration/Transition Assessment on the North Island (TFL 6) and La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited (TFL 64) from May 8-25, 2026. The North Island Division was the primary site reviewed during the assessment which included both office and field assessments while the La-kwa sa muqw Division was the secondary site and was subject to field assessments with limited office review.

The assessment determined that Western Forest Products Inc. had implemented a Sustainable Forest Management System and developed a Sustainable Forest Management (“SFM”) Plan for their North Island Division that meets the requirements of the PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 Standard for Sustainable Forest Management. The assessment results demonstrate Western Forest Products' commitment to Sustainable Forest Management on the lands that it manages.

Background Information

Total Certified Area (hectares): 236,660 ha in 2025 (Crown and private lands)

Description of Certified Area:

The Defined Forest Area (DFA) consists of Tree Farm License (TFL) 6, Managed Forests (MF) 29, 31 and 61 as well as other related Licenses (see Figure 3). In early 2025 MF 29, 31 and 61 were sold. The remaining area was consolidated into MF 20. Effective January 2015, Block 4 of TFL 39 was amended into TFL 6 and all previous references to TFL 39 were updated to reflect its inclusion into TFL 6. At present, the DFA encompasses approximately 221,173 hectares of managed forests (Crown and private lands) with an annual harvest of approximately 1,350,422 m3.

The forests of the DFA lie within the wetter maritime Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic zones. Annual precipitation levels reach 3,000 mm to 5,000mm. The climate is characterized by mild, wet winters with daily mean minimum temperatures of 0 to 2 degrees Celsius (December to February). Summers are generally cool and moist, with mean daily maximum temperatures of 18 to 20 degrees Celsius during July and August. However, local climates within the DFA can vary significantly due to topographic influences and the movement of low cloud and fog from offshore areas onto northern Vancouver Island. The dominant timber species is western hemlock, which occurs in conifer stands mixed with varying amounts of amabilis fir and western red cedar. Lesser amounts of Sitka spruce, yellow cedar, Douglas fir, red alder, lodgepole pine and mountain hemlock also occur.

The topography within the DFA is variable. Relatively low relief and undulating terrain characterizes the easterly and westerly sections of the DFA. The central and inland portions of the DFA are characterized as mountainous and steep. Numerous rivers and streams drain the area. Most streams support significant anadromous and resident fish populations. Large animals, such as Columbia black-tailed deer, cougar, and black bear, are abundant throughout the DFA area. Numerous other large and small mammals, amphibians, fish, and birds can also be found.

The SFM Plan DFA falls within the traditional territories of the following First Nations: Quatsino First Nation, Tlatlasikwala First Nation, Kwakiutl First Nation, ‘Namgis First Nation and the Tlowitsis First Nation.

There are seven north island communities within or adjacent to these managed forests that depend mostly, or in part, on economic activities generated from them. These include Port McNeill, Port Alice, Port Hardy, Holberg, Coal Harbour, Winter Harbour, and Quatsino.

Western harvesting operations on the DFA are a major employment source for North Vancouver Island. Within the North Island, there is also economic activity derived from other sources, such as other licensees (including BCTS, Woodlots and the North Island Community Forest), aquaculture, commercial and recreational fishing and expanding tourism opportunities.

Local Public Advisory Group

The public advisory group, referred to as the Vancouver Island North Woodlands Advisory Group (VINWAG), was formed in February 2001. It consists of a representative matrix of a diversity of stakeholders from the local communities. Sectors represented include youth and education, small business, labour, aquaculture, local government and a “community at large" representative. Together, this group and Western Forest Products continue to develop the SFM performance framework that is incorporated in this SFM Plan. This SFM Plan involved review with local communities to develop the SFM framework, including the local Values, Objectives, Indicators, and Targets (VOIT). VINWAG operates under a Terms of Reference in accordance with the PEFC requirements.

More information on the SFM Plan and VINWAG is available here: Public Advisory Groups Western Forest Products

Assessment Scope, Objectives, and Process:

Certification to the PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 requires independent third-party assessments.

Assessment Scope: North Island (TFL 6) & La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited (TFL 64) Divisions for the past 12 month period including office and field activities carried out by company employees and contractors.

Assessment Objectives: To assess conformity with PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 and the client's SFM system.

Standards and Certification Criteria Applied: PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 and applicable PEFC Canada requirements.

Summary of Risk Assessment: PwC takes a risk assessment approach during assessment planning to help determine assessment length and focus areas. Potential risks include past assessment findings, known historical resource challenges or new issues, First Nations or public complaints or feedback.

Assessment Process: The PwC Assessment Team (Assessment Team) met with and interviewed Western staff and contractors, conducted field observations, and examined the SFM Plans, Forest Stewardship Plans, site plans, GIS data, block files including various assessments and First Nations Information Sharing processes, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), monitoring information, and the minutes and operating procedures of the Public Advisory Groups. The Assessment Team conducted field assessments to assess the company's planning, harvesting, silviculture, road construction, road maintenance, road deactivation, and fuel management.

As required by the Standard, PwC conducted a review of the client's process for engagement of Indigenous Peoples and affected stakeholders. This review was conducted prior to office and field assessments and helped to inform and identify areas of focus for the assessment. More detail regarding the review process and outcomes is found in the Stakeholder and Indigenous Review Process of this public summary report.

Use of Remote Technology (if applicable)

The team conducted a limited number of interviews using Microsoft Teams to help limit additional travel for some staff based in other locations. Microsoft Teams was used for some interviews with Western, First Nations and other Stakeholder. These remote interviews were conducted in accordance with PwC's Information Communication Technology (ICT) policies and procedures.

SFM Indicators Assessed:

Elements Assessed	Indicators Reviewed	Office/Field
Element 1.1 — Ecosystem diversity	**Indicator 1.1.1** Ecosystem area by type	Office
	Indicator 1.1.2 Forest area by type or species composition	Office/Field
	Indicator 1.1.3 Forest area by seral stage or age class	Office/Field
	Indicator 1.1.4 Degree of within-stand structural retention	Office/Field
Element 1.2 — Species diversity	**Indicator 1.2.1** Degree of habitat protection for selected focal species, including species at risk	Office/Field
	Indicator 1.2.2 Degree of suitable habitat in the long term for selected focal species, including species at risk	Office
	Indicator 1.2.3 Proportion of regeneration comprised of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions	Office/Field

	Indicator 1.3.1 Percentage of the trees planted annually that are GMOs (Non-core Indicator)	Office/Field
Element 1.4 — Protected areas and sites of special significance	**Indicator 1.4.1** Protection of sites of special significance	Office/Field
	Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of identified sites with implemented management strategies	Office/Field
	Indicator 1.4.3 Protection of Identified Karst Features (Non-core Indicator)	Office/Field
Element 2.1 — Forest ecosystem condition and productivity	**Indicator 2.1.1** Reforestation success	Office/Field
	Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of regeneration comprised of native species	Office/Field
	Indicator 2.1.3 Additions and deletions to the forest area	Office
	Indicator 2.1.4 Proportion of the calculated long-term sustainable harvest level that is harvested	Office
	Indicator 2.1.5 High Windfall Risk Edges Treated (Non-core Indicator)	Office/Field
Element 3.1 — Soil quality and quantity	**Indicator 3.1.1** Level of soil disturbance	Office
	Indicator 3.1.2 Level of downed woody material	Office/Field
Element 3.2 — Water quality and quantity	**Indicator 3.2.1** Proportion of watershed or water management areas with recent stand-replacing disturbance	Office
	Indicator 3.2.2 Proportion of forest management activities consistent with prescriptions to protect identified water features	Office/Field
Element 4.1 — Carbon uptake and storage	**Indicator 4.1.1** Net carbon uptake	Office
	Indicator 4.1.2 Reforestation success	Office/Field
Element 4.2 — Forest conversion and afforestation	**Indicator 4.2.1** Additions and deletions to the forest area	Office
Element 5.1 — Timber and non-timber benefits	**Indicator 5.1.1** Documentation of the diversity of timber and non-timber resources, including products and services produced in the DFA	Office
	Indicator 5.1.2 Evidence of open and respectful communications with forest-dependent businesses, forest users, Indigenous peoples, and local communities to integrate non-timber resources into forest management planning	Office
	Indicator 5.1.3 Projected Percent Changes in AAC (Non-core Indicator)	Office
	Indicator 5.1.4 Cooperation with Forest-Dependent Groups to Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy (Non-core Indicator)	Office
Element 5.2 — Communities and sustainability	**Indicator 5.2.1** Level of participation and support in initiatives that contribute to community sustainability	Office
	Indicator 5.2.2 Level of participation and support in training and skills development	Office
	Indicator 5.2.3 Level of direct and indirect employment	Office
	Indicator 5.2.4 Cooperation with Forest-Dependent Groups to Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy (Non-core Indicator)	Office

	Indicator 5.2.5 Opportunity for Local Suppliers, Contractors and Consultants (Non-core Indicator)	Office
	Indicator 5.2.6 New Hires that are Local (Non-core Indicator)	Office
	Indicator 5.2.7 Educational Outreach (Non-core Indicator)	Office
Element 6.1 — Fair and effective decision-making	**Indicator 6.1.1** Level of participant satisfaction with the public participation process	Office
	Indicator 6.1.2 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation in general	Office
	Indicator 6.1.3 Availability of summary information on issues of concern to the public	Office
	Indicator 6.1.4 Number of VINWAG Meetings (Non-core Indicator)	Office
Element 6.2 — Safety	**Indicator 6.2.1** Evidence of co-operation with DFA-related workers to improve and enhance safety standards, procedures, and outcomes in all DFA-related workplaces and affected communities	Office
	Indicator 6.2.2 Evidence that a worker safety program has been implemented and is periodically reviewed and improved	Office
Element 7.1 — Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights	**Indicator 7.1.1** Evidence of a good understanding of the nature of Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights, including title	Office
	Indicator 7.1.2 Evidence of ongoing open and respectful communications with Indigenous peoples to foster meaningful engagement and consideration of Indigenous values, priorities, and rights	Office
Element 7.2 — Respect for Indigenous forest values, knowledge, and uses	**Indicator 7.2.1** Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation for Indigenous individuals, communities, and resource-based companies	Office
	Indicator 7.2.2 Evidence of understanding and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge through engagement with willing Indigenous communities	Office
	Indicator 7.2.3 Efforts to include Indigenous-informed forest management with willing Nations and/or protection of areas where culturally important practices, values, and resources occur	Office
	Indicator 7.2.4 Level of Aboriginal Participation in the Forest Economy (Non-core Indicator)	Office

Assessment Plan Summary

Assessment Dates: April 6-May 8, 2026 – Indigenous Peoples and Stakeholder Review; May 8-25, 2026 – On site Assessment

Indigenous Peoples and Affected Stakeholder Review Process:

The PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 requires a review with Indigenous Peoples and Affected Stakeholders prior to the on-site assessment. The purpose of this review is to assess the certified organization's identification, notification and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Affected Stakeholders in the DFA's within the scope of the assessment.

As part of the assessment process, PwC reviewed the traditional territories within TFL 6 and 64, sampled and remotely interviewed selected First Nations communities within those DFA's. In total, three First Nations and one First Nation's Council were contacted and interviewed. A list of Affected Stakeholders was also provided to PwC and interviews with these stakeholders as well as other potential stakeholders were held.

The outcome of these interviews resulted in three Opportunities for Improvement (outlined below). In response to the values and some input that were shared by First Nations and other stakeholders, some adjustments were made in the audit plan and team members to bring added experience in particular areas of focus. As well, additional interviews with Ministry of Forests staff (North Island District Manager and North Island FREP Specialist) were conducted. In addition, the field sample in TFL 6 was expanded and focused on riparian management and other identified First Nation's areas of values on the land base.

Locations and Activities Assessed:

North Island (TFL 6) and La-kwa sa muqw Forestry Limited (TFL 64) Divisions were the focus of the assessment. As Western Forest Products is a multi-site organization with five separate Divisions within their PEFC CAN FM certificate, Divisions are visited in a rotation in conformance with IAF MD 1 requirements. The North Island Division was the primary site for the assessment (office and field assessment) while TFL 64 was the secondary site, and activities were reviewed in the field with limited office review.

The team conducted field assessments to the PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 standard on over 40 sites to assess the company's planning, harvesting, silviculture, road construction, road maintenance, road deactivation, and fuel management. Field assessments were sampled on a risk basis which focused on higher risk areas (eg. riparian or wildlife features, steep slopes or other terrain issues, archaeological or other values important to First Nations).

In total, 25 harvest (11 active) sites were visited and assessed, 4 active or completed road building or maintenance sites were visited and 10 silviculture sites were visited across TFLs 6 & 64. In addition, a number of sites which were deemed of significance under the Standard (eg. First Nation's significance, recreation sites, important wildlife habitat) were visited and/or reviewed in the field.

Assessment Duration:

A total of 12.5 assessor days were spent during the assessment which includes office and field time. The majority of the assessment was conducted in person but 2.5 days of the total assessment time were conducted remotely. An additional 3 days was spent during the Indigenous Peoples and Stakeholder review process.

Assessment Team:

A three-person team of assessors from PwC conducted the assessments.

- **Lead Assessor:** James Lucas, RPF, MF, EMS(LA)
- **Assessor:** Nick Beals, RPF, EMS(LA)
- **Specialist:** Jonathan Fane, RPF
- **Observers:** Gillian Koh, Standards Council of Canada, Will Sloan, PEFC Canada, Steven Raduy, Director, PwC, Multiple Public Advisory Group members

Assessment Results Summary:

Conformity Summary

Clause	Conformity Statement	Non-conformity #
4. Sustainable forest management requirements	Non-conforming	Minor NC#01
5. Indigenous and public participation requirements	Conforming with Opportunities for Improvement	N/A
6. SFM performance requirements	Conforming with Opportunities for Improvement	N/A
7. SFM system requirements	Conforming with Opportunities for Improvement	N/A

Good Management Practices

The Assessment Team identified a number of Sustainable Forest Management good practices:

- During the assessment, it was noted that Western has worked to establish positive relations with First Nations and has integrated a variety of collaborative planning processes that support First Nations' values and resource considerations during forest management activities (TFLs 6, 37 & 64).
- Riparian protections were well done in many units. This includes high stumping for some S-6's on various units, using the super snorkel to move logs out of riparian areas on two harvest units, controlled light use of a designated crossing in one unit and the overall care and attention on working around riparian areas on the majority of harvest units.
- The overall knowledge of Operators interviewed was high. Operators were aware of the EMS (Environmental Management System) requirements of their jobs, were clear on spill reporting and fuels management and all machines (~20) inspected during the field assessment had all required environmental and safety related equipment on board.
- The level of bear den protection observed on TFL 6 & 64 was high, and the vast majority of bear dens had significant buffers which supported their long-term protection. Furthermore, Bear Disturbance Buffers and processes respected active dens, and operations were restricted during hibernation seasons.
- The Western Conservation Network which has been developed and covers all of TFL's 6, 37 and 64, is a progressive and innovative practice which helps protect key values (riparian, old growth and wildlife habitat) in a consistent and well thought out manner.
- The use of lower grade log material to protect culverts on some areas of TFL 6 operations helps to protect steel pipes, such that most of those pipes can be reused in future operations.
- One unit in TFL 6 demonstrated strong integrated resource planning and operational implementation, including alignment with First Nation requested objectives, safe operations near powerlines, visual harvest design, removal of legacy logging debris, careful management of steep slopes and drainage features, and tree crown modification.

Nonconformities

The Assessment Team identified one minor nonconformity against the Standard and/or Company policies. The Company has subsequently provided PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP with action plans, including timelines, for addressing these issues:

The status' of the nonconformities are listed below.

NC #	Major/ Minor	Description	Corrective Actions	Effectiveness Verification	Status
480-RA/TA-NC-01	Minor	During review of sales documentation, invoices issued by La-kwa sa muqw Forestry to Western were found to be missing the certification claim and certificate number. Therefore, the organization did not ensure that sales documents for the transfer of products from TFL 64 certified under this standard contained all required sales information.	Western has revised its procedures for generating sales documentation so as to include the Certification Claim and the PEFC CoC Certificate number.	PwC will review the implementation of the corrective action during the next Assessment.	OPEN

Opportunities for Improvement

The Assessment Team also identified six Opportunities for Improvement for the Company's consideration:

- During the First Nations and Stakeholder review process, three First Nations and a First Nations Council were interviewed. It was found that in general, relations with Western planning staff and upper management were seen as positive and productive. It was noted that in some cases, there could be further cultural awareness training for some staff in Operations.

- During the First Nations and Stakeholder review process, the list of Stakeholders was provided to PwC. While this list represents a substantial percentage of Stakeholders, Western may wish to review the stakeholder determination process to ensure it is comprehensive and captures all Affected Stakeholders.

- Western may wish to consider reviewing the approach for initiating formal Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP) in the case of communicated disagreements regarding the Organization's forest management activities where a binding agreement is in place. This could include strengthening the current DRP by formalizing specific triggers and timelines for invoking the DRP. Furthermore, consideration may be given to articulating guiding principles for initiating DRP based on Western's experiences and industry practices with the goal and objective to mitigate, resolve and prevent the escalation of dispute circumstances.

- SFM Performance Requirements: During the assessment, all Indicators in the TFL 6 SFMP were reviewed. During that review, a number of Indicators were found that could be updated. These Indicators include: 1.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 5.2.7 & 6.1.3. Specifically, each of these Indicators had some modification from historical targets which has resulted in the Target or Variance not being met or needing updates for new information.

- In general, riparian management found during the assessments was in place as expected. There were two buried (processing material) culverts on one harvest unit. It should be noted that there was no running water at the time of the field visit and the block cleanup was commencing within the next 48 hours. Western may wish to consider ensuring that all processing material is removed from the inlets and outlets of the two culverts and that the processing operator is reminded that culverts are to be kept clean and functional during all phases of operations.

- During the PEFC CAN FM assessment, it was observed that Western understands and incorporates First Nations values into their forestry operations. For the portion of TFL 6 which overlaps one First Nation's traditional territory, Western deploys various planning processes (riparian, archaeological, wildlife assessments), conservation measures (conservation network, bear den management areas), and plans (site plans) which address many of the elements presented in that First Nation's Land Use Plan document. Further, Western has been sharing this information with the First Nation with cut block shape files and through cut block information sharing summaries. While these efforts meet the requirements of the Standard, the Land Use Plan provides high level guidance at present, and there is an opportunity to gain

better understanding and alignment of land use planning and management strategies through greater, productive communication between Western and that First Nation going forward.

All of the Nonconformities and Opportunities for Improvement will be followed up by the Assessment Team at the next assessment.

Conclusion & Recommendation

The Company has attained conformance with the requirements of the PEFC CAN ST 1001:2025 Standard. Based on assessment evidence, the Assessment Team recommended that Certification be granted. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting the Western Environment Team by email at environment@westernforest.com . More information on the Company's sustainable forestry program can be found at: Western Forest Products - Our Sustainable Future. The next assessment will be a Maintenance Assessment in May, 2027. The registration expires on October 12, 2031.