



CAN/CSA Z809-2016 External Assessment Public Report Summary
Maintenance Assessment of Western Forest Products Inc. Stillwater Forest Operation,
Quatsino Sound Forest Operation, and Port McNeill Forest Operation
Report Date: November 25, 2022

Western Forest Products Inc. (“WFP”) underwent a Maintenance Assessment of their Sustainable Forest Management (“SFM”) system to the CAN/CSA Z809-2016 Sustainable Forest Management Standard on May 19th (document review), May 26th (office review) and May 30th-June 1st, 2022 (field assessments) with a closing meeting held on June 3rd, 2022. The Assessment was conducted by Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (“PwC”) with the scope being the Defined Forest Area for the Stillwater, Quatsino Sound and Port McNeill forest operations as well as at the WFP Timberlands Corporate Office located in Campbell River, BC. These sites formed the 2022 sample for this multisite registration. The Lead Assessor was James Lucas, RPF, EMS (LA). The additional assessment team members were Khoi Mai, FIT, EMS (A), Nick Beals, RPF, EMS (A), Luke Dimler, FIT, EMS (A) and PwC Assessor, Del Ferguson, P.Geo., Eng.L, FGAC. The assessment team was accompanied by WFP’s certification representatives, Will Sloan, RFT and Sarah Germain, RPF, BIT.

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

Activities assessed at the Port McNeill (part of the North Island DFA) operations included the following forest management activities: 3 harvest sites (2 active and 1 completed), 2 road construction/maintenance (1 active) sites and 3 silviculture (2 planted sites and 1 survey site) activities.

Activities assessed at the Quatsino (part of the North Island DFA) operations included the following forest management activities: 3 harvest sites (2 active and 1 completed), 2 road construction/maintenance (2 active) sites and 2 silviculture (1 planted site and 1 brushing site) activities.

In some cases, single field sites reviewed had multiple activities occurring and/or completed activities which have been included in the summary of sampled sites. The WFP Timberlands Corporate Office was also assessed for corporate requirements related to the multisite registration and SFM indicators managed by corporate staff. A total of 17 WFP staff (including one WFP logging crew), 5 contractors and 3 members of the Stillwater Public Advisory Group were interviewed during this assessment.

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

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

The Defined Forest Areas within scope are: Tree Farm License TFL6, Managed Forests MF29, MF31, MF61, Forest License FL A94737, T0860, T0592 at WFP’s Port McNeill and Quatsino Sound forest operations; TFL 37 at Englewood Forest Operation, TFL 39 Block 2 at WFP’s Mid-Island Forest Operation; TFL 44 at Tsawak-qin Forestry Inc. (as the general partner of and for the sole benefit of Tsawak-qin Forestry Limited Partnership), and TFL 39 Block 1 at WFP’s Stillwater Forest Operation.

A total of 824.809 hectares are included in WFP’s CSA SFM Defined Forest Area with an annual allowable cut of 4,417,864 m³.

SFM REQUIREMENTS ASSESSED

Defined Forest Area (DFA) – Stillwater (SFO) and North Island (NIFO) Operations and Timberlands Corporate Office (Office Review)

Elements Audited	Indicators Reviewed	Office/Field
<u>Element 1.1</u> – Ecosystem Diversity	1.1.4 Within-stand Structural Retention D1-1: Invasive Species	Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 1.2</u> – Species Diversity	1.2.2 Degree of Suitable Habitat in the Long Term for Selected Focal Species 1.2.3 Proportion of Regeneration Composed of Native Species	Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 1.4</u> – Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological, Geological, Heritage or Cultural Significance	1.4.1 Protection of Sites of Special Significance 1.4.2 Proportion of Identified Sites with Implemented Management Strategies	Office/Field Office/Field
<u>Element 2.1</u> – Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity	2.1.1 Reforestation Success 2.1.A Regeneration Delay 2.1.4 Proportion of the Calculated Long-Term Sustainable Harvest Level that is Actually Harvested C2.1.5: High Windfall Risk Edges Treated (VINWAG) C2.1.6: Hectares of land withdrawn from forestry uses (VINWAG) C2.1.6: The amount of area treated with herbicide is used for brush control on the DFA (Stillwater)	Office/Field Office Office Office/Field Office Office/Field
<u>Element 3.1</u> – Soil Quality and Quantity	3.1.1 Level of Soil Disturbance	Office/Field
<u>Element 3.2</u> – Water Quality and Quantity	3.2.1 Watershed Area with Recent Replacing Disturbance	Office/Field
<u>Element 4.1</u> – Carbon Update and Storage	4.1.1 Net Carbon Uptake D4-1: Long Term Products	Office Office
<u>Element 5.1</u> – Timber and Non-Timber Benefits	5.1.1 Diversity of Timber and Non-Timber Resources Produced in the DFA 5.1.2 Respectful Communications with Economic Stakeholders to Integrate Non-Timber Resources	Office Office
<u>Element 5.2</u> – Communities and Sustainability	5.2.1 Level of Participation and Support in Initiatives that Contribute to Community Stability 5.2.2 Level of Participation and Support in Training and Skills Development	Office Office Office

	5.2.4 - CAG is informed of corporate policy, program changes and initiatives in a timely manner (Stillwater)	Office
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	C5.2.5: Opportunity for local suppliers, contractors and consultants (VINWAG)	Office
	C5.2.5: The % of reviews or field walks completed where harvesting is planned consistent with the approved Management Principles along the Sunshine Coast trail (Stillwater)	Office
	C5.2.6: New hires that are local (VINWAG)	Office
	C5.2.6: Number of opportunities for educational outreach (Stillwater)	Office
	C5.2.7: Educational outreach (VINWAG)	Office
<u>Element 6.1</u> – Fair and Effective Decision-Making	6.1.1 Level of Participant Satisfaction with the Public Participation Process	Office
	6.1.3 Public Concerns	Office
<u>Element 6.2</u> – Safety	D5-2: Public Safety	Office
<u>Element 7.1</u> – Aboriginal and Treaty Rights	7.1.1 Understanding the Nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights	Office
	7.1.2 Evidence of Open and Respectful Communications with Aboriginal Communities	Office
<u>Element 7.2</u> – Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge and Uses	7.2.3 Management & Protection of Culturally Important Sites	Office/Field
	7.2.3 Management and/or Protection of Culturally Important Practices and Activities	Office
	7.2.4: Level of Aboriginal participation in the forest economy (VINWAG)	Office

Previous Nonconformity Update

Previous assessment results were reviewed, and 4 Minor Nonconformities that had been open from past audits are now closed.

Results of the 2022 Maintenance Assessment

There were no non-conformities identified and 3 opportunities for improvement.

There were 3 Opportunities for Improvement identified:

480-A1-OFI-01: WFP has recently updated their internal audit process which includes reviews by WFP staff and includes a focused monitoring process. While this is acceptable in the majority of cases, it should be noted that there may be some situations where WFP may need to source an independent qualified person to review some of the programs or processes.

480-A1 -OFI-02: In one harvest unit in SFO, the Fall Away/Yard Away prescription on stream 3R3 was not operationally achievable and 10 trees had to be felled across the stream. No negative environmental impacts resulted. Similarly, in one other harvest unit, one tree had to be felled across the stream. This prescription could be reworded to allow for site plan conformance while maintaining requirements of SOPs.

480-A1 -OFI-05: In SFO informal (text messages) and or oral communication with contractors pertaining to changes to planned activities were not being formally documented for long-term information retention on file. WFP may consider procedures for long-term retention and archiving of these discussions.

Good Management Practices

The following good management practices were noted:

- Mentoring processes ongoing with contractors and new/young workers as well as WFP staff (wooden box culvert installs on various units).
- Contractor's level of EMS awareness and performance across all Divisions.
- Internal monitoring process helps to focus on key programs (eg. variable retention) to evaluate success in delivering programs.
- Increase of initial survival survey plot intensity (1.5 plots/ha) over general guidance of 1 plot per Ha where known limiting factors such as rocky ground, animal browsing, etc. exist. This enables increased coverage of reforestation activities which in turn could ensure any voids or damage is identified and then addressed appropriately so that silviculture obligations are met on time and to internal standards.
- Slowing down of initial planting activity by having planting commence on fill plant operations first so that planters have to think more about spacing density around naturals/existing crop trees and in turn identification of preferred microsites.
- Utilization of Pika protectors on one planted unit to mitigate elk browsing on planted cedar stock. Observation onsite showed high % of success at preventing browsing where it was used.
- Research trial setup on one unit to review efficacy and impact of nursery treatments of fertilization or mycorrhizal inoculation in comparison to using traditional tea bag fertilization onsite by planters. The significance of this study is to see different approaches to improving initial seedling establishment/ development and mycorrhizal connectivity.
- Effective erosion control on steep grade into one harvest unit above fish stream, mainline and one recreation site (rock ballasting, ditchline-armoured dams and hay bales).
- Two-person fueling process is currently used in marine situations (i.e. Powell Lake log dump) as a mitigative measure to avoid spills. This mitigative strategy has been recommended in areas of riparian adjacency or proximity where fueling may be hazardous.
- The Super 6 am meeting in Quatsino (Holberg) operation is a good tool to ensure organizational communication, coordination of staff and emergency response as well kudos for exceptional staff performance.
- The level of stream protection in two Quatsino harvest units including efforts of fallers to Fall Away in prescription was exceptional.

Conclusion of the Assessment

Western Forest Products Inc. continues to be registered to the CAN/CSA Z809-2016 Sustainable Forest Management Standard. All of the applicable requirements of the standard were considered to be adequately implemented. The current certification was re-issued on November 6, 2021 and will expire on November 5, 2026. The next audit will be scheduled for June, 2022.

For further information on the WFPs SFM system please view the WFP website (<https://www.westernforest.com/responsibility/environment/certification/>) or contact Will Sloan, at wsloan@westernforest.com.