

Certification Report



Western Forest Products Inc. – Tsawak-qin Forestry Limited Partnership and Englewood Divisions – January 26, 2024

As a component of Western Forest Products Inc.'s ongoing commitment to sustainable forest management and forest certification, an assessment team from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") conducted a CAN/CSA Z809-16 Registration Assessment on the Head Office, Port Alberni, and Englewood on June 2, 6-8, 17, Nov. 1-2, 2023.

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

Background Information

WFP is an integrated Canadian company sustainably managing forests and manufacturing wood products on the coast of British Columbia. The Company has an annual available harvest of approximately 5.7 million cubic meters of timber, of which approximately 5.6 million cubic meters is from Crown lands. WFP has a lumber capacity in excess of 1.1 billion board feet from 5 milling facilities in Canada and 1 in the US plus two value added facilities. Principal activities conducted by the Company include timber harvesting, reforestation, milling logs into lumber and wood chips, and value-added remanufacturing.

The scope of their CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard for Sustainable Forest Management certificate is as follows:

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

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

A 3-person team of assessors from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP conducted the assessment:

Role	Name	Designations
Lead Assessor	James Lucas	RPF, EMS (LA)
Assessor	Jenny Knoth	EMS (LA)
Assessor	Derry V. Sorgen	EMS (LA)

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"PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership.

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- The team met with and interviewed staff and contractors, conducted field observations, and examined the SFM Plan, Forest Stewardship Plans, site plans, GIS data, block files, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), monitoring information, and the minutes and operating procedures of the Public Advisory Group.
- The team conducted field assessments on 28 sites during the assessment to assess the company's planning, harvesting, silviculture, road construction, road maintenance, road deactivation, fuel management and facilities management.

Good Management Practices

The assessment team identified 12 Sustainable Forest Management practices that exceeded expectations. A sample of the good management practices are listed below:

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- WFP has extensive detail included in the CSA public advisory survey for the Port Alberni Division.
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- The WFP truck driver and "logging" schools have assisted WFP in increasing worker base availability.
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- The reviewed maps of the assessment were of high quality and provided a lot of detail.
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- WFP's approach to fire risk in the Englewood Division is conservative and cautious.
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- WFP has a strong engagement with First Nation partners on landscape level planning projects.
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- Mt. Sicker crew performance – well trained, good EMS awareness, well-spoken and conscientious. Example of proactive riparian protection by log cribbing culverts on block 782107
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- TFL 44 (Tsawak-qin) has 5 weather stations across their operations which helps in monitoring weather (eg. heat or rainfall) to address ongoing potential environmental issues.
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- The banding cedar and fir trees on block 782107 has helped to protect log quality and value.
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- The Witwak Forest Guardian program has helped to create a positive engagement with the public on the land base and helps with resource protection and care.
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- The quality of internal audit/monitoring program on the Tsawak-qin DFA was high (Nov. 2022 & March 2023)
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- Tsawak-qin Forestry has a very comprehensive survey as well as a summary report following all meetings. Participants were extremely happy with the facilitator and were pleased with the meeting presentation and content.
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- The research trial on mycorrhizae on Douglas fir in the Tsawak-qin DFA is innovative.
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Nonconformities

The assessment team identified 1 minor nonconformity against the Standard and Western Forest Products Inc. policies. Western Forest Products Inc. has subsequently provided PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP with action plans, including timelines, for addressing this issue:

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- WFP has an ongoing obligation to provide the public access to up-to-date information regarding their SFM plans, indicators and other information via both Divisional and Corporate websites. During the assessment, a review of the TFL 44/Tsawak qin Public Advisory website showed a 2020 version of the SFM plan as the most up to date version available and WIWAG meeting minutes last updated in 2021. Additionally, a review of the WFP Corporate website revealed that a number of links to PAG websites (Englewood and Stillwater) were non-functional and some public documentation (Sustainability & Carbon reporting) on the Corporate website was out of date. It was noted that the issue for the WIWAG was noted in the November 2022 internal audit but had not yet been addressed at the time of the CSA field audit in November 2023.

The information on these websites should be updated to ensure that WFP meets its ongoing commitments to provide CSA information to the public.

Opportunities for Improvement

The assessment team also identified 6 opportunities for improvement for Western Forest Products Inc.'s consideration. The following list is a representative sample of their suggestions:

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

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- On one unit (NS-017) in Englewood, the hoe operator had all SOP's with the exception of the goshawk card. He was aware that goshawks were a species of concern but could not identify one.
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- Generally, riparian protection on all units in Englewood was good and met RX. On one unit, KH-504, the operator protected an S-6 well in most sections but missed a section of wet ground at the point of inception as well as in a 200 m section adjacent to the tree line. WFP could review this stream with the operator to ensure the RX was met and discuss how the language of the RX might be modified in the future to better protect streams like this.
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- The SFMP for the Tsawak-qin Forestry Division, it was noted that general public concerns could be added to the list of sources for the indicator results as the current sources are largely geared towards the TPAG process.
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- WFP could consider updating the Indicator 5.2.3 - Level of Direct & Indirect Employment. This indicator has to do with meeting AAC levels and not been met for various reasons over the past 6 5-year rolling average periods. The client should revise indicator to reflect realistic/expected harvest levels. This issue was identified in the past internal audit.
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- WFP reports annually on Net Carbon Uptake (Indicator 4.1.1) While the equations and procedures for reporting are clear and well documented, the conversion factors (log species densities and fuel Co2 conversion factors) could be better referenced.
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- While in general, the riparian protection across all harvest units visited on the field inspections was implemented and met harvest prescriptions, on one harvest unit in the Tsawak qin DFA, some stream cleaning could be implemented to remove logging debris from the S-6 stream.
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Conclusion

The Western Forest Products Inc. has maintained conformance with the requirements of the CAN/CSA Z809-16 Standard. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Mr. Will Sloan of Western Forest Products Inc. at +1 (250) 202-5290. More information on Western Forest Products Inc.'s sustainable forestry program can be found at: <https://www.westernforest.com/>.

The next Assessment will be a Maintenance Assessment in May, 2024. The registration expires on November 05, 2026.