



## **WC SFI Implementation Committee**

### Western Canadian Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee

### Purchase Wood Information Package

January 2008



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### 1. Introduction

This document is intended to provide information to suppliers of logs to British Columbia and Alberta participants in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program (SFI). Program Participants are committed to practicing sustainable forest management in compliance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard. Log suppliers are encouraged to also practice sustainable forest management. This package has been prepared with the purpose of informing log suppliers of the objectives of the SFI Program and to assist you in managing and protecting your forest lands.

### 2. About SFI

SFI Program Participants support the following principles:

- a. To practice sustainable forestry
- b. To use and promote responsible practices
- c. To reforest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest landbase
- d. To maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity
- e. To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity
- f. To protect water resources
- g. To manage special sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote biological diversity
- h. To comply with applicable forestry law
- i. To continually improve the practice of forest management

Many forest companies have currently achieved the SFI, or other sustainable forest management standards to help ensure the future well being of the forest ecosystem.

To demonstrate compliance with SFI or other standards, companies hire independent auditors, who verify that the companies' forest practices and environmental management meet the requirements of the certification system. The audit verification is an ongoing process that ensures continuing compliance with the sustainable forest management standards. For more information on the SFI Standard please refer to the SFI website, [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org).

### 3. SFI Objectives

The SFI standard contains objectives, performance measures for these objectives and measurable indicators to help verify compliance with the objectives. The following are the thirteen objectives of the SFI Standard:

- 1) To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term harvest levels based on the use of the best scientific information available..
- 2) To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.
- 3) To protect the water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.
- 4) To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand – and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals including aquatic fauna.
- 5) To manage the visual impact of harvesting and other forest operations.
- 6) To manage program participant lands that are ecologically, geologically, culturally important in a manner that recognizes their special qualities.
- 7) To promote the efficient use of forest resources.
- 8) To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through procurement programs.
- 9) To improve forestry research, science and technology, upon which sound forest management decisions are based.
- 10) To improve the practice of sustainable forest management by resource professionals, logging professionals and contractors through appropriate training and education programs.
- 11) Commitment to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.
- 12) To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry and publicly report progress.
- 13) To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry and monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

### 4. Best Management Practices

The WC SIC supports forest land managers in conducting sustainable forest management operations. Wood suppliers are expected to conduct harvesting operations in compliance with any applicable provincial or federal legislation. There is legislation that applies to both crown forest land and private land that is managed for forestry. Program Participants encourage wood suppliers to consider the following elements of sustainable forestry on land to be managed by the supplier:

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- a) **Reforestation:** Prompt reforestation of land being managed for forestry will help to ensure successive crops of trees. Reforestation plans can detail the steps needed to successfully re-establish a plantation on your land. Program Participants will, on request, supply a list of registered forest professionals to assist you in developing a reforestation plan for your site. A list of seedling nurseries to assist in your reforestation efforts can also be obtained from the WC SIC members. Note that seedlings generally need to be ordered at least one year in advance of planting dates.
- b) **Riparian Management:** Riparian habitat (area adjacent to creeks, lakes and wetlands) is very important for protecting water quality and provides high value wildlife habitat. Special measures are often required in riparian habitat to ensure water quality and habitat is managed on a sustainable basis. Program Participants will, on request, supply a list of qualified professionals to assist you in preparing prescriptions to manage riparian habitat.
- c) **Soil Conservation:** Protecting the soil resource is the key to long-term productivity of forestlands. Conducting operations in a manner that conserves the soil resource is critical to sustainable forestry. Weather conditions can be a major factor in soil disturbance. Operations should avoid conditions that create excessive rutting or compaction. Plan operations with soil disturbance in mind. Weather conditions and soil disturbance should be assessed and consideration given to curtailing or stopping activities causing soil disturbance when soils are too wet to support equipment. For example, in the Interior consider winter harvesting on wet ground to better support equipment. With different soil types, and phases of harvesting, it may be possible to carry out some operations in wet weather without causing excessive soil disturbance. Consulting foresters can offer advice on soil disturbance levels resulting from operations. Appropriate equipment should be used to minimize soil disturbance.

The area in permanent roads, trails and landings should be minimized to maintain productive forestland. Program Participants will, on request, supply a list of qualified professionals to assist you in managing the soil resource on your forestlands.

- d) **Wildlife Management:** Managing forest lands for general wildlife features as well as specific management for endangered species are important components of sustainable forestry. WC SIC member companies may have available a guide for endangered species management that will be made available upon request. In addition we can supply a list of qualified professionals to assist you in developing wildlife management strategies.

There is also a website that contains information on threatened and endangered species management. This site at [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/default_e.cfm) may have species specific information that applies to your situation.

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- e) **Visual Quality:** Managing harvesting operations to minimize visual impact is an important part of sustainable forestry. Operations on private land may impact the views of many individuals and communities. The WC SIC recommends that the visual impact of harvesting be considered in all cases, and in visually sensitive areas, a consultant who is knowledgeable in visual management techniques be retained.
- f) **Qualified Professionals:**

A list of Forestry Professionals in BC can be accessed through the Consulting Foresters of BC website at [www.cfbc.bc.ca](http://www.cfbc.bc.ca) . The membership directory can help you identify forestry consultants to assist you in planning all aspects of forest management including reforestation plans, visual management, , riparian management, soil conservation and wildlife management. In Alberta, please talk to the SFI member company for a list of suggesting consulting foresters.

The College of applied Biology- BC has a membership data base that can be accessed at [www.cab-bc.org](http://www.cab-bc.org). The membership data base list biologists and their employer. The members could assist you in such areas as planning for riparian management and wildlife management. In Alberta, please talk to the SFI member company for a list of suggesting consulting biologists.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC can be accessed through [www.apeg.bc.ca](http://www.apeg.bc.ca) . The website has a members section that provides information on qualified professionals to assist in such areas as operations on potentially unstable or steep terrain and engineered structures such as bridges. In Alberta, please talk to the SFI member company for a list of suggesting consulting engineers and geoscientists.

Advice on qualified logging professionals can be obtained from Program Participants. These loggers will have successfully completed training programs enabling them to conduct operations in a sustainable manner.

A list of nurseries producing forest seedlings is available on the Ministry of Forests website under the Nursery Services Section. The website can be accessed at [www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca) . The nurseries can assist you in selecting and procuring appropriate seedlings for a reforestation project.

The WC SIC Program Participants do not endorse specific professionals or companies as to their appropriateness to your specific circumstances, but will assist you by sharing in our knowledge of local contractors with whom we are familiar. We can also assist you in contacting any of the listed information sources if requested.



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### Other Considerations

- f) Spill Response Plan: Fuel and other material spills have the potential to cause environmental damage. Wood suppliers are encouraged to become familiar with spill reporting requirements and to have an action plan and a supply of spill containment and mop up equipment available on site. Reportable spills must be phoned in to the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) at 1-800-663-3456 or contact the RCMP. In Alberta call Alberta Environmental Protection at 1-800-222-6514.
- g) Fire Preparedness Plan: Wood suppliers are encouraged to become familiar with the Wildfire Act and Regulations and to have an action plan and supply of fire fighting equipment as required. Forest fires can be reported to the Ministry of Forests at 1-800-663-5555. In Alberta call Report-A-Fire at 310-FIRE (310-3473)

Another resource of information is the [www.wcsic.ca](http://www.wcsic.ca) which links together a number of resources for small woodlot holders.

## 6. Company Audits

As part of Program Participant's commitment to sustainable forestry management, an on-site visit to your operations may be conducted to answer any questions you have about the SFI program. The visit may also include an assessment of the conditions on the logging site as part of our requirements to meet the SFI standards.