

**Merritt TSA**  
**Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

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**Annual Monitoring Report**

*January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008*

*Released March 2009*

**Participating Forest Licensees:**

**Applied Timber Management Ltd. ▪ Ardew Wood Products Ltd. ▪ Aspen Planers Ltd. ▪ BC Timber Sales ▪ Nicola-Pacific Forest Products Ltd. ▪ Princeton & District Community Forest Corporation ▪ Princeton Forest Products ▪ Princeton Wood Preservers/ Hu'kwa Resources Inc. ▪ Qwa'eet Forest Products Ltd. ▪ Stu'wix Resources Ltd. ▪ Tolko Industries Ltd. ▪ Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.**

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## 1.0 Background

Between November 2000 and May 2001, thirteen forest licensees operating in the Merritt Timber Supply Area worked with a group of public stakeholders and First Nation representatives (the SFM Advisory Group) to develop a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan.

Members of the SFM Advisory Group represented a cross-section of local interests including recreation, ranching, forestry, conservation, water, community, and First Nations.

The Plan is based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management System, which is one of the primary certification systems currently being used in British Columbia. The CSA system sets performance goals and targets over a defined forest area to reflect local and regional interests. Consistent with most certifications, the CSA standards expect compliance with existing forest policies, laws and regulations.

Any licensee wishing to become registered to the Canada's national standard, known as CAN/CSA-Z809 could use the plan, in part, to meet the forest certification requirements. The SFM Plan serves as a "roadmap" to current and long-term management in the TSA, setting performance targets and management strategies that reflect the ecological and social values across the TSA.

### *VISION STATEMENT*

*The Merritt TSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan will foster forest management practices based on science, professional experience and local public and First Nations input that contribute to the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems, a strong economy and thriving communities throughout the Merritt TSA.*

## 2.0 Continual Improvement



The SFM Plan contains 33 targets for sustainable forest management. Indicators for these targets are monitored annually based on information provided by each licensee. Annual monitoring reports prepared each spring indicate whether performance measures for each of the targets have been met. These reports are available to the public from the Merritt TSA Certification website:

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm).

The effectiveness of the SFM Plan is continually evaluated through a review of annual monitoring results. This review provides licensees and the public with an opportunity to provide input concerning new or changing public values that can be incorporated into future updates of the SFM Plan. Performance measures (indicators and targets) may also change as additional information becomes available.

## 3.0 Opportunities for Involvement

More information about sustainable forest management in the Merritt TSA (including a copy of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan) can be obtained from the Merritt TSA Certification website: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/SustainableForestry/SustainableForestry.htm). If you would like to become further involved in this initiative please contact one of the participating forest licensees listed on the back of the front cover.

## 4.0 Highlights 2008

The following is a summary of the highlights from the 2008 Merritt TSA Sustainable Forest Management Monitoring Report:

- Slightly less than 10,000 hectares were harvested in 2008. For each of these hectares harvested, most of the 33 performance measures applied. In all but one case licensees met the targets associated with the Plan's performance indicators.
- Licensees operated near or adjacent to a total of 393 riparian areas. In all cases, the plan commitments made by the companies to manage each areas unique riparian values were adhered to.
- Licensees reforested all areas with trees that were ecologically suited to the site. This meant they were diligent in ensuring that the species were appropriate and seedlings met the elevational and geographical planting restrictions. In total, 1,446 hectares were surveyed and met these requirements.
- Licensees are required to reforest areas with appropriate species and stocking levels within a set timeframe. To meet the free growing requirements, these trees must also be judged to be growing free from competition, giving assurance that the young forests will continue to grow unimpeded by competing vegetation. In 2008, 7502 hectares of regenerated forest achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date. On average, these obligations were met 4.6 years earlier than legally required.
- A total of 919 road inspections were completed (99% of planned inspections). Those inspections resulted in 186 action items requiring maintenance. All maintenance items were completed as scheduled.
- Permanent access structures such as roads and landings accounted for 2.8 percent (278 hectares) of the total area harvested in 2008 or roughly ½ of the area demanded by the target (< 6%).
- One hundred percent of soil conservation commitments were achieved on the 9810 hectares harvested during the reporting period.
- 3310 of 3310 hectares (100 percent) of areas prescribed for natural regeneration were successfully regenerated within the allowable timeframe.
- Prompt application of grass seed to newly disturbed road cut banks and fill slopes aids in the stabilization of these slopes reducing erosion and positively influencing water quality. It has the additional benefit of reducing the likelihood that invasive plants will occupy the disturbed site. 208 kilometers of road were grass seeded during the reporting period. On average these areas were seeded in under 3 months of completed road construction. This compares to a target of 12 months for grass seeding to occur.

## 5.0 Performance Summary 2008

Environmental, social and economic performance is assessed according to the six criteria in the CSA standard. The 6 criteria which define the broad parameters of sustainable forest management are biological diversity, forest ecosystem condition and productivity, soil and water resources, contributions to global ecological cycles, benefits to society, and society's responsibility for sustainable development.

Annual performance related to the implementation of the SFM plan is assessed by determining the extent to which targets for individual indicators have been met. The overall achievement of sustainable forest management is assessed by reviewing progress toward the local values identified for the criterion in the SFM plan. Since targets and indicators have been established for each of the local values relating to the criterion, an assessment of progress towards sustainable forest management can be made by reviewing the collective achievement of the indicator results for each criterion. A summary of the 2008 performance results according to CSA criterion is shown below. Indicators with targets that were not achieved have been shown in bold.

Criterion	Related Indicators	Percent Achieved
1. Conservation of Biological Diversity	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 33, 34	100%
2. Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity	3, 5, 9, <b>10</b> , 36	80%
3. Conservation of Soil and Water Resources	2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 32	100%
4. Forest Ecosystem Contribution to Global Ecological Cycles	9, <b>10</b> , 11, 12, 17, 18, 34, 36	87%
5. Multiple Benefits to Society	16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31	100%
6. Accepting Society's Responsibility for Sustainable Development	4, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 35	100%

The target was met in all cases except for indicator 10, which is used to support performance against two CSA criteria. The table below reveals the relative performance level for indicator 10.

Indicator	2008 Performance Level	Percent Achieved
<b>10</b>	7502 of 7509 hectares met free growing requirements on or before late free growing date.	99.9%

## 6.0 Performance by Indicator and Target

In an SFM Plan it is the Indicators and Targets that provide the performance measures that are to be met through on-the-ground forest management activities. Full compliance is required for many targets (i.e., there is no variance). Where full compliance may not be achievable or realistic, an acceptable level of variance is indicated for the target.

**Indicators** are variables that measure or describe the state or condition of a value.

**Targets** are specific statements that describe a desired future state or condition of an indicator.

<b>Indicator (2):</b>	<b>Level of conformance to Riparian management area commitments contained within licensee plans.</b>
Target:	One hundred percent conformance to riparian commitments involving known temperature sensitive streams and their direct tributaries within licensee plans.  One hundred percent conformance to other riparian commitments within licensee plans.
Annual Assessment Results:	One hundred percent (393 of 393) riparian commitments conformed to licensee plans in 2008.
Five year trend:	Riparian commitments have conformed to plans over 99% of the time within the past 5 years.

*Indicator (2) forms part of the overall strategy to manage for biodiversity at the landscape and stand levels. Riparian management areas provide connectivity of forested cover along waterways, which are generally areas with high value for wildlife habitat and movement.*

**Indicator (3):**      **Percent of harvested blocks greater than 5 hectares that have individual wildlife tree/stubs and/or associated wildlife tree patches.**

**Target:**              Ninety percent of cutblocks have stand level biodiversity that will include individual wildlife tree/stubs and/or associated wildlife tree patches.

**Annual Assessment Results:**      196 of 200 cutblocks (98 percent) greater than 5 hectares harvested in 2008 had individual wildlife trees/ stubs or associated wildlife tree patches.



**Five year trend:**              Stand level wildlife tree retention has occurred on over 96% of areas harvested.

*Indicator (3) focuses on management for biodiversity at the stand level. Note that wildlife tree patches may be located outside of cutblocks, along their edge, and still be consistent with provincial policy on wildlife tree retention.*

**Indicator (4):**      **Percent of First Nation commitments addressed.**

**Target:**              Address all Forest Development Plan commitments made relating to First Nation requests (i.e., forest-related traditional knowledge, cultural and heritage values).

Under the Small Scale Salvage Program, ensure that First Nation referral comments or commitments requiring action are carried out by the licensee.

**Annual Assessment Results:**      One hundred percent (150 of 150) of First Nation Forest Development Plan and Forest Stewardship Plan commitments were met by licensees during the reporting period.

**Five year trend:**              All First Nation plan commitments have been addressed every year for the past 5 years.

*As responsible stewards of public forest land, licensees work proactively with First Nations to build mutually beneficial relationships.*

**Indicator (5): Percent of harvested areas that are regenerated with species ecologically suited to the site.**

**Target:** All harvested areas regenerated to species ecologically suited to site.

**Annual Assessment Results:** One hundred percent (1446 of 1446 hectares) of the areas declared free to grow in 2008 were planted in compliance with the stocking standards.



**Five year trend:** Species ecologically suited to the site have been planted over 99% of the time and 100% of the time for the past 3 years.

*Prompt reforestation ensures that the productive capacity of forest land base to grow trees is maintained. Licensees will follow guidelines specifying tree species that are most suited ecologically to maintain natural forest composition in an area.*

**Indicator (6): Degree of protection given to Identified Wildlife.**

**Target:** One hundred percent conformance to plan commitments designed to protect Identified Wildlife species or habitat.

**Annual Assessment Results:** One hundred percent (281 hectares) of harvested areas with commitments to protect Identified Wildlife species or habitat conformed to plan commitments. Species managed for included Mountain Beaver, Coastal Tailed Frog, and Williamson's Sapsucker.

**Five year trend:** All plan commitments designed to protect critical species or their habitat have been addressed every year for the past 5 years.

**Indicator (7):**      **Percent of harvested cutblocks within the mule deer winter range that are managed consistent with the Merritt TSA Mule Deer Strategy.**

**Target:**              All cutblocks within the mule deer winter range managed consistent with government policy.

**Annual Assessment Results:**      One hundred percent (17 of 17) of cut blocks within the mule deer winter range were managed in accordance with the Merritt TSA Mule Deer Strategy.

**Five year trend:**              All cut blocks harvested within deer winter range have been consistent with the strategy every year for the past 5 years.

*Mule deer winter range is forecast as part of the Timber Supply Review.*

**Indicator (8):**      **Percent of areas revegetated with grass seed that is “graded acceptable”.**

**Target:**              All areas revegetated for the control of noxious weeds and erosion will use Canada #1 or equivalent grass seed.

**Assessment Results:**      Licensees reported that 100 percent of the grass seed applied during the 2008 reporting period was graded Canada #1 or equivalent. This result is similar to 2007, the first year that this reporting occurred.

*High levels of germination and quality seed during revegetation will provide less of an opportunity for noxious weed establishment.*

**Indicator (9):** Percent of harvest priorities related catastrophic forest health events (e.g. Mountain Pine Beetle) completed prior to critical time frame.

**Target:** One hundred percent of area committed for harvest prior to critical time frame will be harvested. Variance 20%.

**Annual Assessment Results:** 7837 of the 7848 hectares (over 99 percent) committed to harvest due to catastrophic forest health events were harvested within the critical timeframe. Almost all of the priority harvest was focused on mountain pine beetle salvage, with a minor amount (less than 1%) focused on spruce beetle salvage.

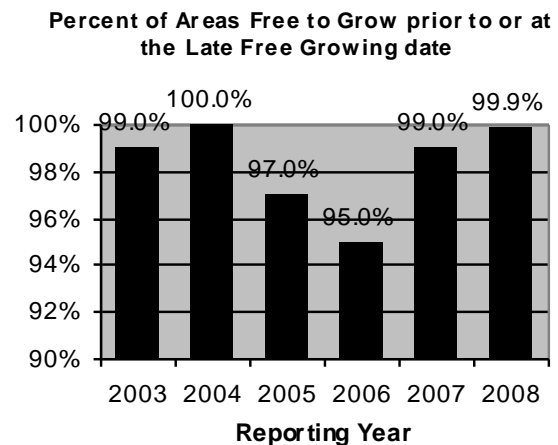
**Five year trend:** Harvesting occurred within the critical timeframe 98% of the time on average over the past five years.

**Indicator (10):** Percentage of cutblock area that meets free growing requirements on or before the latest date.

**Target:** All cutblocks will reach free growing requirements on or before the latest date.

**Assessment Results:** Over ninety nine percent (7502 of 7509 hectares) of harvested areas met free growing requirements on or before the late free growing date. On average, 30 percent of areas were free growing on their early free grow date.

One 7.2 hectare opening achieved free growing requirements after the late free growing date. This area was surveyed late and would have met free growing requirements if the survey information had been collected on time.



**Indicator (11): Area of cutblocks that outperformed late free growing requirements in that year.**

**Target:** Report area of cutblocks that outperformed late free growing requirements and average time by which requirements exceeded.

**Assessment Results:** In the 2008 reporting year, 7476 hectares achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date.

On average, obligations were met 4.6 years earlier than legally required.

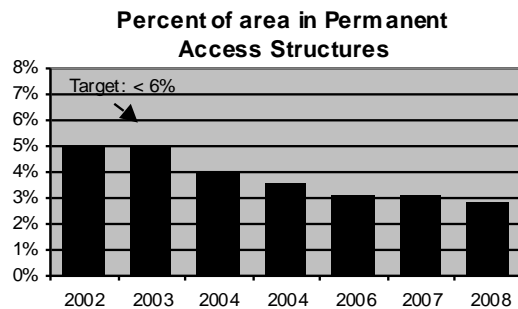
**Five year trend:** The area achieving free growing prior to the late date has more than doubled in the past 5 years (approx. 3000 ha in 2003 and 2004). Over this time period, free growing obligations have been met roughly 4-5 years earlier than their late survey date.

*Achievement of the earliest free growing date will help ensure that the productive capacity of the forest land base to grow trees is maintained.*

**Indicator (12): Annual percent of cutblock areas in permanent access structures (e.g. roads, landings).**

**Target:** Less than 6 percent on average of cutblock areas in permanent access structures.

**Assessment Results:** Permanent access structures such as roads and landings accounted for 2.8 percent (278 hectares) of the total area harvested during 2008.



*Access structures such as roads and landings compact soil, making regeneration difficult, and disrupt the natural connectivity within forest stands. The percent target refers specifically to loss of the timber harvesting land base due to access structures within harvested areas.*

**Indicator (13):**      **Level of conformance to soil conservation commitments contained within licensee plans.**

Target:                      One hundred percent conformance to soil conservation measures contained within licensee plans.

Annual Assessment Results:                      One hundred percent of soil conservation commitments were achieved on the 9810 hectares harvested during the reporting period.

Five year trend:                      Soil conservation commitments have been attained in four of the last five years. In one year there was an 11.4 ha area making up a fraction of one percent of area harvested where commitments were not met.

*Soil conservation standards help to ensure that forest soils remain productive and losses to forest development are minimized.*

**Indicator (14):**      **Number of operationally caused slides occurring as a result of a failure to perform a terrain assessment or to follow the recommendations within a completed assessment.**

Target:                      Zero slides.

Annual Assessment Results:                      There were no operationally caused slides during the reporting period.

Five year trend:                      There have been no operationally caused slides in the past five years.

*Decreased exposure of forest soils reduces the potential for sedimentation and ensures the maintenance of water quality.*

**Indicator (15): Percent of watershed that is equivalent clear cut area (ECA).**

**Target:** Equivalent clear cut area (ECA) not to exceed 35% without doing further hydrological assessments prior to harvesting. Variance 5%.

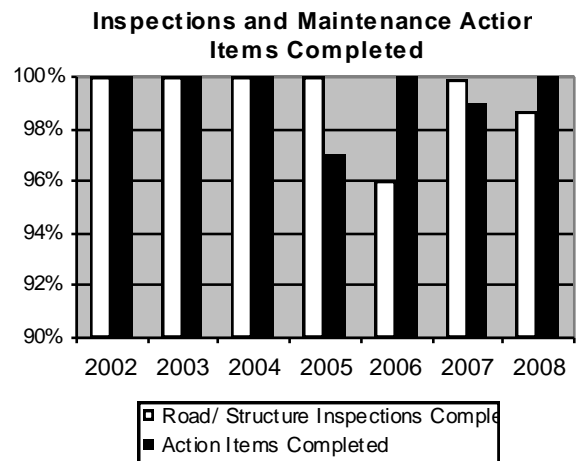
**Annual Assessment Results:** Twenty five cutblocks were harvested during the reporting period within watersheds where the ECA exceeded 35%. These cutblocks were within the Nicola River, Mellin Creek, Shrimpton Creek, Leonards Creek and the Clapperton watershed. Further hydrological assessments were completed for all cutblocks (100 percent) prior to harvesting.

**Five year trend:** Hydrological assessments have been performed in all threshold watersheds in 3 of the past five years. The target (including variance) has been met in four of the past 5 years.

**Indicator (16): Percent of permanent status roads that have inspections and related maintenance completed as per programs.**

**Target:** All permanent status roads will have inspections and related maintenance completed as scheduled (variance 5%).

**Assessment Results:** Ninety nine percent (918 of 935) of scheduled road/structure inspections were completed during the reporting year.



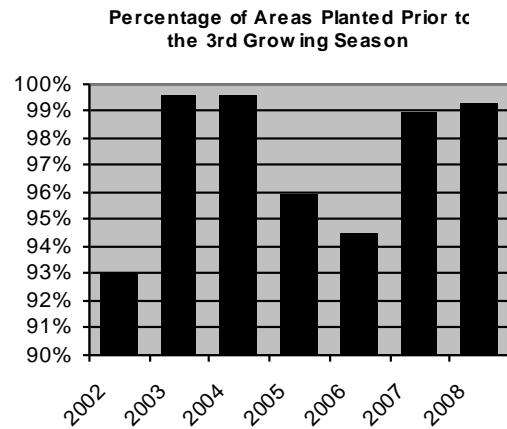
One hundred percent (186 of 186) of scheduled road maintenance action items were completed during the reporting period.

*Indicator (16) recognizes the potential impact of roaded access on forests and waterways.*

**Indicator (17):** Percent of area prescribed for planting that is completed before or during the third growing season; and, percent of natural regeneration area meeting natural regeneration delay.

**Target:** Ninety percent of area prescribed for planting is completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest. Variance 10%.  
All natural regeneration area meeting natural regeneration delay.

**Assessment Results:** Ninety nine percent of areas (7849 hectares of 8006 hectares) prescribed for planting were completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest.  
3311 of 3311 hectares (100 percent) of areas prescribed for natural regeneration with a regeneration expiry date within the reporting period were successfully regenerated.

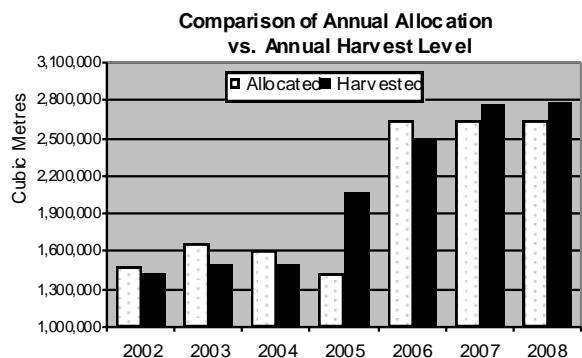


*Prompt reforestation will ensure that the productive capacity of forest land base to grow trees is maintained. Promptness will also aid in providing younger trees a head start against competing vegetation, helping to reduce the need for manual or chemical brushing treatments.*

**Indicator (18):** Annual harvest level as a percent of annual allocation.

**Target:** Full compliance with cut control and annual reporting of harvest level and allocation.

**Assessment Results:** The Crown Licence volume harvested in 2008 was 2,791,028 cubic metres. All licensees were within the cut control variance set out by regulation.



*The Chief Forester determines the sustainable harvest level for the TSA after considering social, economic and biological criteria. Licensees contribute to the sustainable harvest level by adhering to their apportioned harvest volume within the TSA. Cut control regulations dictate the short-term harvest flexibility.*

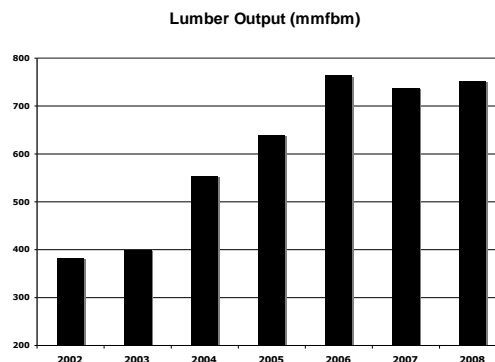
**Indicator (19): Total output of forest products (lumber, chips and other) from sawmills within the TSA.**

**Target:** Report the board feet and chip volume produced by sawmills within the TSA.

**Annual Assessment Results:** The total lumber output from sawmills within the TSA in 2008 was 752,252,000 board feet.

The total chip, shavings and hog fuel output from sawmills within the TSA was 688,956 bone dry tonnes.

The total of other forest products output from sawmills within the TSA was 141,433 cubic metres.



**Indicator (20): Operating level of timber processing facilities.**

**Target:** Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the average number of shifts for days the mill was in production and the number of mill employees on payroll.

**Annual Assessment Results:** Timber processing facilities within the Merritt TSA were in operation an average of 315 days in 2008 with an average of 1.6 shifts a day.

In total, 716 mill employees were on payroll during the reporting period.

**Five year trend:** The sawmills have been running at increasing capacity over the past 5 years, from 250 days per year in 2004 and 2005 to 275 days per year in 2006 and 2007. Shifts per day have decreased over the past 3 years from 1.9 shifts in 2006 and 1.7 shifts in 2007.



**Indicator (21): Conformance with plan commitments related to lakeshore guidelines.**

**Target:** One hundred percent conformance to plan commitments related to lakeshore guidelines.

**Annual Assessment Results:** All area harvested that required management for lakeshore guidelines (140.9 hectares) conformed to plan commitments.

**Five year trend:** Plan commitments have been adhered to in three of the proceeding four years. In one year, plan commitments were absent for an area of 0.8 ha, but the prescribed activities easily met the lakeshore guidelines.

**Indicator (22): Percent of cutblocks in known scenic areas with visual impact assessments completed.**

**Target:** Conduct visual impact assessments in known scenic areas (visual impact assessment demonstrates how harvest meets intent of visual quality objectives).

**Annual Assessment Results:** Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) were carried out for 12 of 12 cutblocks (100 percent) in known scenic areas. Additionally, two VIA's were conducted on areas not within a known scenic area. The VIA's were carried out because the area was in close proximity to a lakeshore management zone with recognized visual values.

**Five year trend:** A total of 178 VIA's have been conducted over the past 5 years, and over 10% of these were completed on areas not within the mapped scenic areas. Only once was a VIA not conducted within a scenic area.

*Visual quality objectives define the amount of visual alteration acceptable from a given viewpoint. The choice of scenic areas and significant viewpoints is based on social preferences.*

**Indicator (23): Number of Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan meetings.**

**Target:** Provide opportunity for public input at Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan meetings.

**Assessment Results:** A total of 300 people attended 32 meetings to discuss Forest Development Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans in 2008. These figures likely over estimate the meeting number and attendance figures as licensees are reporting separately and this will not account for meetings where more than one licensee participated.

**Indicator (24): Maintain an SFM Advisory Group.**

Target: Conduct a minimum of two meetings per year.

Annual Assessment Results: Two SFM Advisory Group meetings and one field trip were held during the 2008 reporting period.

Five year trend: Three meetings have been consistently held each year for the past 5 years. Additional meetings have been added where workload has increased (such as extra efforts to modify the Plan to a revised version of the CSA standard).

*Indicator (24) demonstrates a commitment by licensees to develop and continually improve upon a Sustainable Forest Management Plan, irrespective of whether or not they intend to pursue formal certification. This will ensure consistency of sustainable forest management across the TSA.*

**Indicator (25): Number of information exchanges occurring with First Nations related to their Values and Uses.**

Target: Participate in information exchanges with First Nations related to their values and uses.

Assessment Results: Licensees reported 249 information exchanges with First Nations during the reporting period.

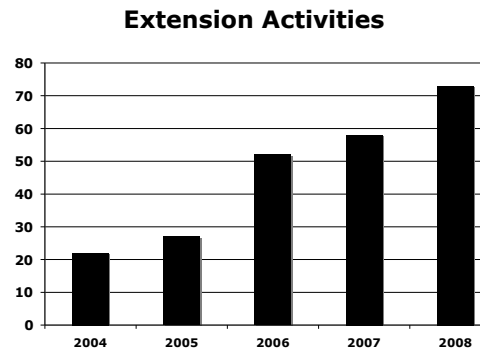
Five year trend: This indicator was revised for 2008. Previously the indicator reported on the number of consultation meetings that licensees participated in. In the previous 4 years between 100 and 150 meetings occurred.

*As responsible stewards of public forest land, licensees work proactively with First Nations to build mutually beneficial relationships.*

**Indicator (27): Maintain number of extension activities offered to reach individuals.**

- Target:
- a) Maintain the number of extension activities such as career days, classroom presentations, tours and open houses.
  - b) TSA Licensees will keep members of the public informed of forestry strategies being developed, and planning occurring by:
    - Maintaining a website
    - Circulating SFMP and other information to the public at least annually (news release/leaflet/open house etc.)
  - c) TSA Licensees respond to all written requests from the public for communication within 30 days of their receipt.

Assessment Results: In 2008, 2265 community people were reached through 73 extension activities. The Sustainable Forestry website was updated during the year and the Merritt Sustainable Forest Management Plan was circulated to the public. Licensees received three written requests from the public during the reporting period. All requests were responded to within three days.



**Indicator (29): Number of annual business initiatives and partnerships.**

Target: Report business initiatives and partnerships.

Assessment Results: A list of the various business initiatives and partnerships that licensees were involved in during the reporting period can be found in Appendix 1.

**Indicator (30):**      **Number of written comments from First Nations related to Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan proposals and the number of responses.**

**Target:**              Open communications with First Nations during FDP reviews will include appropriate consideration of identified values. All written requests will be considered and responded to. Where specific written concerns were not incorporated into the FDP, licensees will provide a letter of explanation (including options for recourse).

**Annual Assessment Results:**      There were 78 written requests from First Nations for the reporting period and 78 written responses.  
**Five year trend:**              All First Nation written requests received by licensees over the past 5 years (221) were considered and responded to.

*Indicator (30) recognizes the importance of open communication and providing opportunities for meaningful participation of First Nations in forestry planning.*

**Indicator (31):**      **Number of written comments from stakeholders and public related to the Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan proposals and the number of responses.**

**Target:**              Open communications with stakeholders and public during Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan reviews will include appropriate consideration of identified values. All written requests will be considered and responded to. Where specific written concerns were not incorporated into the Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan, licensees will provide a letter of explanation (including options for recourse).

Small Scale Salvage licensees will report communication with stakeholders and public that has occurred during the development of their professional submissions. Where these communications result in expressed concerns, these concerns will be addressed in the licence document.

**Assessment Results:**      Licensees responded to 100 percent (5 of 5) of written requests received from stakeholders and the public in regard to Forest Development Plans or Forest Stewardship Plans in 2008.  
**Five year trend:**              All public/stakeholder written requests received by licensees over the past 5 years (51) were considered and responded to.

**Indicator (32): Amount of time for road cut and fill slope grass seeding application.**

**Target:** For roads where grass seeding is planned, all cut and fill slope grass seeding application carried out within 12 months of completed road construction.

**Annual Assessment Results:** 207.6 kilometres of road were grass seeded during the reporting period. On average these areas were seeded within 2.7 months of completed road construction compared to a target of 12 months.



**Five year trend:** A total of 777.7 km of roads have been grass seeded over the past 5 years. The average time for grass seeding to occur following road construction was 3.4 months.

*Prompt revegetation of road cuts and fill slopes will minimize potential for soil movement and sedimentation. This will contribute to maintenance of water quality and long-term productivity of the land. Prompt revegetation of harvested areas will also contribute to noxious weed control.*

**Indicator (33): Protected Ecosystems**

**Target:** Maintain 60,548 hectares of the land base in the Merritt TSA as protected areas. As new inventories are completed, update the areas of the land base that are affected.

Maintain the retention of existing or replacement (draft) old growth management area (OGMA). Variance 5%.

**Annual Assessment Results:** 60, 548 hectares of the land base in the Merritt TSA has been maintained as protected areas.

In 2008, licensees reported 179,354 hectares of OGMA's within their operating areas. There was a net OGMA reduction of 2.45 hectares (a small fraction of one percent) as a result of operations.

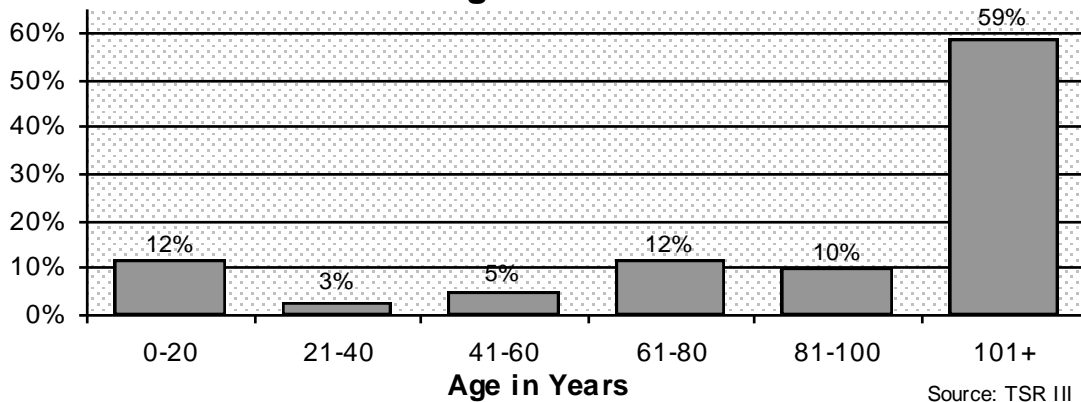
**Five year trend:** For the past 3 years that this indicator has been reported on, the area of draft OGMA has been reduced by a total of 14.4 hectares.

**Indicator (34): Forest Age Class Distribution**

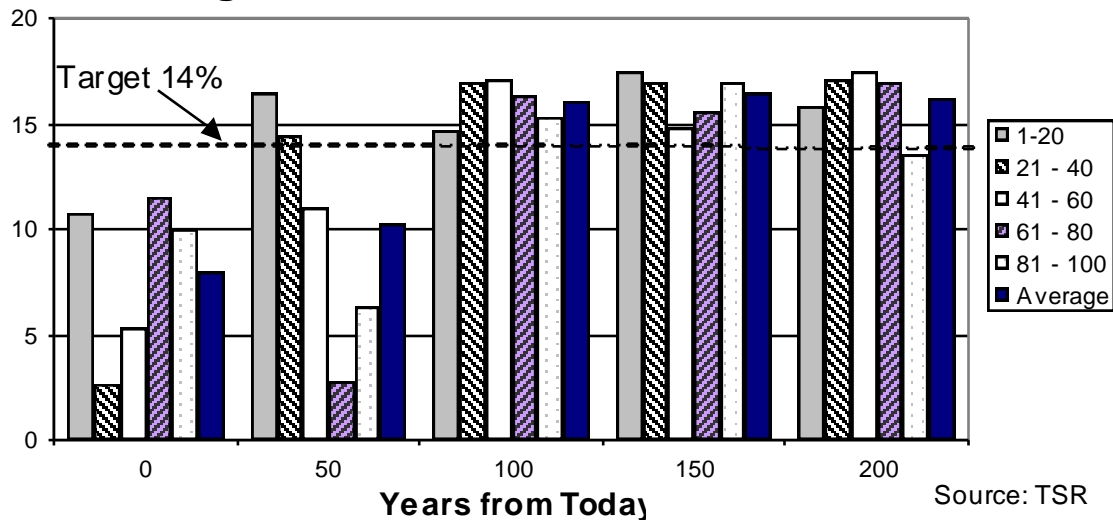
**Target:** Over time, maintain a stable forest age class distribution on the timber harvesting land base. Each age class to 100 years old [1 (1 to 20), 2 (21-40), 3 (41-60), 4 (61-80), 5 (81-100)] occupies at least 14% of the timber harvesting land base.

**Assessment Results:** None of the age classes up to age 100 currently meet the 14% target. Almost 60% of forests in the TSA are older than 100 years, a reflection of harvest history and fire prevention measures in the TSA. TSR II forecasted that the 14% target would be achieved 100 years.

**Current Age Class Distribution**



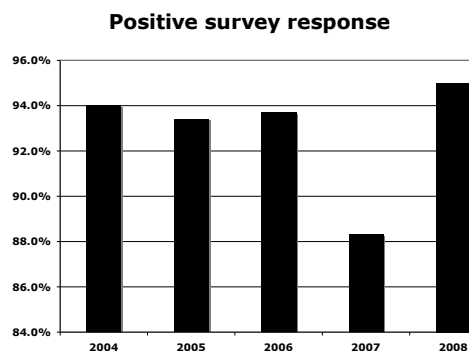
**Age Class Distribution Forecast**



**Indicator (35): Advisory Group Participant Satisfaction Survey**

- Target:
- a) 80% of responses “3” or better.
  - b) All written comments are reviewed and considered, and all line responses averaging less than 3 become action items.

Assessment Results: Seven surveys were completed by Advisory Group members for the reporting period. Respondents rated 14 questions on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Well Done). In 2008, 95 percent of responses to survey questions ranked “3”(satisfactory) or higher. This is slightly higher than 2006, where 88 percent of survey responses ranked “3” or higher. None of the individual questions had a response average of less than “3”. For a summary of survey results by question, refer to Appendix 2.



**Indicator (36): Mean Annual Increment (MAI)**

Target: Maintain the long term productivity of the forest as measured by the mean annual increment (cubic metres/ hectare/ year) for Lodgepole pine.

Assessment Results: Based upon inventory data from TSR III, the current Lodgepole pine MAI is 2.18 cubic metres per hectare per year, the current fir MAI is 1.37 cubic metres per hectare per year and the current spruce MAI is 2.8 cubic metres per year.

# Appendix 1

## *Business Initiatives and Partnerships*

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Business Initiative/ Partnership</b>	<b>Description</b>
Ardew Wood Products Ltd.	Pine Ideas	Supply fibre for furniture stock.
	Nicola Post and Rail	Supply fibre for round wood products.
	Nicola-Pacific Forest Products	Joint venture Forest Licence with Upper Nicola Band.
	Upper Nicola Post and Rail	Supply fibre for round wood products.
Aspen Planers Ltd.	Qwa'eet Forest Products Ltd.	Forest Licence Management.
	Nicola Valley Log Homes Ltd.	Trim block sort business.
	Coldwater Post & Rail	Manufacture and sales of round wood products.
	MWP Cascade	Manufacture and sales of round wood products.
	Stu'wix Resources Ltd.	Forest Licence Management.
	Jaeden Resources Ltd.	Biofuel supply.
BCTS	Five separate First Nations	Service agreements.
	Turtle Track, Rob Scott, Four Quarter Circle Enterprises, Sanders and Company	Service contracts.
	Princeton Post and Rail, Weyerhaeuser, Haulrite, Nadina	Timber Sales.
Stu'wix Resources Ltd.	Princeton Post and Rail	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Nicola Post & Rail	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Upper Nicola Post & Rail	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Cascades Wood Chips	Chip supply
	Canadian Overseas	Chip supply
	Chip Ahoy	Chip supply
Tolko Industries Ltd.	Pine Ideas	Custom cut operation of Nicola fall-down decking. Return product of kiln strips for Nicola mill.
	Highland Block Sort	Joint venture with Nicola mill providing trim blocks for sorting, chopping, and marketing of product through Tolko brokerage (6 <sup>th</sup> year of partnership).
	Ska-Lu-La	Community based program for the disabled. Manufacture of lath and dunnage for all of Nicola's products (10 <sup>th</sup> year of partnership).
	Upper Nicola Band	MoU and contract to manage the Band's Salvage Non-Replaceable Forest License through a Forest and Range Agreement.
	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Annual tree planting contract.

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Business Initiative/ Partnership</b>	<b>Description</b>
Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd.	Princeton Wood Preservers	Supplying post and rail logs.
	Princeton Post and Rail	Supplying post and rail logs.
	Cascade Post and Rail	Supplying post and rail logs.
	SBC Firemaster	Supplying pulp logs for firewood.
	Princeton Cogen	Supplying sawdust for pellets and bedding.
	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Supplying logs for manufacturing.
	Tolko Industries and Gorman Bros.	Log trade agreements.
	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	Cooperative working agreement, road use agreement and log purchase agreements.
	Morphy Resaw	Supply of product for remanufacturing.
Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Strategic partnership for tree planting.	

## Appendix 2

### Advisory Group Evaluation Summary – 2008

Seven members of the Public Advisory Group completed the 2008 survey. Participants were asked to rate the questions below on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Well Done). The chart below shows the average response for each survey question in 2008 in comparison with average responses for each question in previous years.

#### **Survey Questions:**

1. I have a good understanding of the purpose of the advisory group and my role as part of that group.
2. My concerns related to SFM values and objectives are being adequately listened to at the Advisory Group Meetings.
3. Efforts have been made to incorporate my concerns related to SFM values and objectives into the SFM Plan.
4. My concerns related to SFM indicators and targets are being adequately listened to at the Advisory Group Meetings.
5. Efforts have been made to incorporate my concerns related to SFM indicators and targets into the SFM Plan.
6. Information provided in advance of meetings is adequate and organized to allow for me to effectively contribute.
7. Advisory Group Meetings are run efficiently and effectively.
8. The meeting agenda allows for discussion of any related sustainable forestry issues of concern to advisory group members.
9. The meeting minutes capture important aspects of the meeting.
10. Additional information I ask for is provided to me.
11. Communication with advisory group members between meetings is adequate.
12. The outputs generated through discussion with the advisory group (SFM Plan and annual monitoring reports) are clear and concise.
13. Scheduling of meetings held during the year is an adequate balance between meeting continuous improvement objectives of the SFM Plan and use of my time.
14. A broad cross-section of the community is represented at Advisory Group Meetings.
15. Licensees have made an effort to recruit new members.
16. Licensees are proactive about providing new information to the PAG members regarding impacts to environment, sustainability, forestry, etc.

**Comments submitted with the 2008 survey (not all surveys included comments):**

1. Survey question#3: values not discussed.  
Survey question #15: Not really known what efforts made.  
Need more discussion about other indicators and if ones we have truly measure sustainability.  
Not convinced the plan content is a measure of sustainability.  
Concerned plan does not reflect today's concerns over climate change, MPB, current economy.  
Indicator 32 has predicted outcome of maintaining water quality - but we have yet to establish a baseline, nor do measure quality.
2. Group process keeps me informed with the SFM Plan.
3. Survey question #11: Pat gets a 5 rating for this. Pat and Elizabeth seem to be the only ones coming to the meetings prepared.
4. Believes we need to have more frequent meetings.
5. Not in favor of amalgamating the PAG groups. Group is working as well as it should, hopes current commitment to process remains. Impressed with progress made for a plan not always easy to follow.

## **Appendix 3**

### ***Licensee Monitoring Summaries***



# 2008 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



More information on how Tolko performed against all 33 sustainability indicators, can be obtained by contacting Bruce Beech, RPF, Regional Forester – Silviculture at:

Phone: 250 378-2224  
[bruce.beech@tolko.com](mailto:bruce.beech@tolko.com)

1750 Lindley Creek Road  
 Merritt  
 British Columbia  
 V1K 0A2

[www.tolko.com](http://www.tolko.com)



Photo Taken by Vern Latremouille, Area Supervisor, Thompson Nicola Woodlands – Merritt.

## Tolko Industries Ltd.'s 2008 SFM Performance Highlights

*SFM Plan performance targets were achieved for 33 of 33 indicators and objectives relating to the sustainability criteria in the SFM Plan for our Forest Licenses (FL A18696, A18697, & A74911). SFM Plan performance targets were achieved for 15 of 15 indicators and objectives relating to the sustainability criteria in the SFM Plan for our Salvage Non-Replaceable Forest License (SNRFL A75427 & A82565). The following summary highlights Tolko's contribution to the Merritt TSA 2008 Sustainable Forest Management Report:*

- There were **no** non-conformances for the 2008 reporting period.
- There were no non-conformances to riparian commitments.
- 100% of cutblocks greater than 5 ha had associated Wildlife Tree Retention as compared to the target of 90%.
- 24% of cutblocks achieved free growing prior to or at Early Free Growing. All blocks achieved free growing prior to their Late Free Growing Date.
- 99.8% of the areas prescribed for planting were planted within 3 years of harvest, compared to a target of 90 %.
- The harvested area occupied by permanent roads and landings was 4.8 % for our Forest License areas and 5.9 % for our SNRFL area, compared to the target of 6 %.
- On average, road cuts and fill slopes were seeded or planted within 2 months of completed road construction, compared to a target of 12 months.
- 96.8% of roads scheduled for inspections in 2008 were completed, compared to a target of 95%.

## 2008 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



More Information on how BC Timber Sales performed against all 31 indicators can be obtained by contacting Richard Cooper at the Kamloops Business Area office.

**Phone:**  
**(250) 371-6500**

[richard.cooper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:richard.cooper@gov.bc.ca)

**BC Timber Sales**  
**1265 Dalhousie Dr.**  
**Kamloops, B.C.**  
**V2C 5Z5**



Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Hodson, RPF

### BC Timber Sales 2008 SFM Performance Highlights

SFM Plan performance requirements were achieved for 30 of 31 indicators relating to the sustainability criteria in the Merritt TSA SFM Plan being reported on by BC Timber Sales. The following highlights BCTS contribution to the Merritt TSA 2008 Sustainable Forest Management Plan Report.

- BC Timber Sales was recertified to CSA Z809:2002 and ISO 14001:2004 in 2008.
- Permanent access structures occupied 3.6% of total harvested area.
- Extension activities and out reach education, provided by BC Timber Sales, had contact with 455 people from the community.
- VIAs were completed on 100% of blocks located within known scenic areas, where required.
- No landslides, as a result of harvesting, occurred in BC Timber Sales operations.
- Blocks were declared, on average, 2.55 years prior to reaching the Late Free Growing date.
- 99% of blocks were reforested within 3 growing season of being harvested
- Soil disturbance commitments were met on 100% of Timber Sale areas.

SFM plan targets were not achieved for Indicator 10:

There was one opening of 7.2 ha which was surveyed after the Late Free Growing Date in 2008. This block was surveyed 2 months after the LFG date, and the block was found to be FTG. The survey was completed within the same growing season as the LFTG date so it can be assumed the block was FG by the LFTG date. 1423.6 of 1430.8 hectares were declared FG by their FG date. No environmental damage has occurred.

**This report can be located at:**

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dka/TSA/SustainableForestry.htm>

## 2008 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



Weyerhaeuser

*More information on how Weyerhaeuser performed against all 33 sustainability indicators, can be obtained by contacting Brian Drobe, Planning Forester, Weyerhaeuser*

**Weyerhaeuser  
Princeton Timberlands**

Phone: 250 295 4263

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Box 550 Princeton  
British Columbia  
V0X 1W0

[www.weyerhaeuser.com](http://www.weyerhaeuser.com)

### Weyerhaeuser Princeton's SFM Performance Highlights: 2008

SFM Plan performance targets were achieved for 33 of 33 indicators relating to the sustainability criteria in the Merritt TSA SFM Plan. The following summarizes highlights of Weyerhaeuser's contribution to the Merritt TSA 2008 Sustainable Forest Management report.



- The harvested area occupied by permanent roads and landings was 2.8 percent of the total area, which is below the 6 percent target and less than the results from previous years (2007 - 3.3 %, 2006 – 3.4%, 2005 – 3.7%).
- Stand level biodiversity including the elements of individual wildlife tree/stubs and/or wildlife tree patches were achieved on all cutblocks greater than 5 hectares in size.
- Operations involved 106 commitments pertaining to riparian areas. Practices within or adjacent to riparian areas adhered to plan commitments in all 106 locations where this occurred.
- Grass seeding of constructed road cut and fill slopes occurred within an average of 3.0 months from time of construction.
- Soil disturbance levels were at or below the committed plan level for all areas harvested.
- Areas achieving free growing achieved this status on an average of 5 years earlier than the legally required timeframe – same as in 2007.
- 31% of regenerated areas achieved the free growing status on or before the early free growing timeframe.
- All blocks (4839.6 hectares) achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing timeframe
- Other licensees operating within Weyerhaeuser's Defined Forest Area achieved targets for all indicators involving forestry operations.

# 2008 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



**Aspen Planers Ltd.**

**FLA18695**

**FLA55528**

**FLA75062**

**FLA65006**

**&**

**QWA'EET FOREST  
PRODUCTS LTD.**

**FLA55525**

*More information can be  
obtained by contacting  
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Woodlands Manager*

**@**

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## 2008 SFM Performance Highlights

SFM Plan performance targets were achieved on 33 of 33 indicators and objectives in the SFM Plan. The following is a performance summary for each of the CSA Criterion:

### **Conservation of Biological Diversity**

- One hundred percent (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Maintenance and Enhancement of Forest Ecosystem Condition and Productivity**

- One hundred percent (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Conservation of Soil and Water Resources**

- One hundred (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Forest Ecosystem Contribution to Global Ecological Cycles**

- One hundred percent (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Multiple Benefits to Society**

- One hundred (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Accepting Society's Responsibility for Sustainable Development**

- One hundred percent (100%) of the Targets were met.

### **Specific Highlights**

A total of 1917 hectares representing 99% of areas prescribed for planting were planted within 3 years of harvest commencement.

A total of 627 hectares achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date. Fifty-eight (58) % of all areas were free growing on their early free growing date.

The harvested area occupied by permanent roads and landings equaled 1.5% of the total harvest area. {46 ha of permanent roads and landings and 3020 ha of total gross area harvested} This compares to a 7% target.

A total of 96 riparian commitments were managed for in 2008. No riparian related non-conformances occurred in these operations.

Total Lumber output was 260.3 million fbm of mill production with an average of 2 shifts/day in 347 days of operation.

