

**December 4, 2008 Insert to the
2008 Merritt Timber Supply Area
Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

(revised April 2, 2009 – see item #8)

Purpose:

The changes contained in this insert to the 2008 SFM Plan in addition to the 2008 Plan will constitute the 2009 SFM Plan for the Merritt TSA. A new 2009 Plan will not be printed. Work is planned for later in 2009 to make the necessary Plan changes required by revisions to the CSA SFM standard (publishing of the standard expected in March, 2009).

SFM Plan text changes to the 2008 Plan for 2009 (shown in red italic):

1. N/A – group agreed **not** to change the historical reference to number of licensees (pages III and 7).
2. Page 7 – Licensee participation; rights of those not signing the plan will be respected (insert the text below after paragraph on NRFL holder reporting).

Forest Licensees participating in this plan agree to respect the rights and responsibilities of other stakeholders (e.g., trappers, ranchers) who are not signatories to the plan.

3. Page 9 – update section; recognize no LRMP to occur for the TSA.
Resource use planning in British Columbia occurs at a variety of levels ranging from strategic land use to site specific plans for small areas (e.g., site plans for individual cut blocks).

Strategic land use plans (such as those created by the Commission on Resources and Environment process or by the Land and Resource Management processes) provide broad direction for the sustainable management of land and resources through the establishment of resource management zones (e.g., protected areas, special management areas and general resource management zones). Within these zones, management objectives and strategies are developed to guide land and resource management activities.

Operational and site plans address resource management at a site specific level and are guided and often regulated by objectives and strategies in strategic land use plans or by broader government objectives such as those within the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

A formal strategic land use plan was not completed for the Merritt TSA. Forest planning and practices are guided by other broad plans such as the Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forest Society’s Forestry Plan or by the legislation itself. In their development of Forest Stewardship Plans, forest licensees are mandated to include results and strategies that meet government’s objectives for resource values such as water, wildlife, soils, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

4. Update Section 3.1.2 (page 5) confirming FN participation is without prejudice.

***Advisory Group participation:** The CSA standards require informed, inclusive, and fair consultation with First Nations and members of the public during the development and implementation of the SFM Plan. The Merritt SFM Advisory Group was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Merritt TSA Licensees regarding the development of values, objectives, indicators and targets. First Nations participation in this process is without prejudice to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.*

5. Appendix 2, Indicator 25 (page 93) – clarify that the type/variety of FN information exchanges need to be reported on.

25	Monitoring/Reporting: Licensees will report the number of information exchanges with First Nations related to their Values and Uses.	_____ # information exchanges <i>List type of information exchanges:</i> _____ _____ _____ _____
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6. Delete Appendix 5 of the Plan (pages 113-116) and revise wording to the paragraph on Rare Features and Species at Risk (page 11). Provide link on page 11 to the BC government Identified Wildlife list.

Appendix 5 – DELETE

Rare Features and Species at Risk

Existing forest legislation outlines the management requirements for rare features and species at risk (referenced as identified wildlife). Plants and animals that are designated as identified wildlife within the Cascades Forest District can be found by searching the governments BC Species and Ecosystems explorer website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html> - top*

** The provincial list of Identified Wildlife includes all species in BC that are designated within Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act plus other species felt be of regional importance. Information on the federal list of species at risk can be found at the website: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm. Companies are obligated to adequately manage the habitat associated with Identified Wildlife.*

7. Replace Appendix 6 (pages 117-124) with the December 4, 2008 Terms of Reference that was reviewed and approved at the meeting of the same date.

Appendix 6 – Replace with Dec 4, 2008 ToR (appended)

8. April 2, 2009 – additional change to SFM Plan (refer to April 2 meeting minutes).

Revise target for Indicator #20:

Operating level of timber processing facilities

Agreed to change the target, moving away from reporting on the average number of shifts worked per day to the total number of man hours that were worked (including woods staff). This reporting is to occur for the 2009 SFM Plan. This indicator remains not-applicable to BCTS and Stuwix (licensees without timber processing facilities). The target for Indicator 20 is revised as follows:

Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the total number of man hours worked and the number of mill employees on payroll.

Merritt Timber Supply Area Sustainable Forest Management Plan

SFM Advisory Group Terms of Reference and Procedures

December 4, 2008

Introduction

The purpose of the Terms of Reference and Procedures is to define the goals, tasks, roles and procedures that will guide the development of Merritt Timber Supply Area Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan. The SFM Plan will be developed based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard CAN/CSA-Z809, and will be complimentary to previous work, ongoing and future initiatives.

The Terms of Reference and Procedures include the following sections:

- Goals
- Operating guidelines
- Timelines
- Conflict of Interest
- Roles and responsibilities
- Resources
- Decision-making process
- Information
- Communication
- Changes to the process.

Goals

The goals of the process are to:

- Develop a SFM plan in accordance with the CSA guidelines
- Develop procedures for the Advisory Group to monitor the effectiveness of the SFM Plan.
- Provide ongoing public input into the implementation, monitoring and continual improvement of the SFM Plan.
- Active and open public participation process.

Operating Guidelines

The SFM Plan will be developed by the Merritt TSA licensees based on advice and recommendations provided by the SFM Advisory Group. Efforts will be made to ensure that the SFM Advisory Group includes a

cross-section of participants with varying interests and backgrounds. Participants in the process will:

- contribute to the development of the SFM Plan
- attend meetings on a regular basis
- consider the views of others in developing recommendations
- act in “good faith” in all aspects of the process
- aim to reach decisions on the basis of consensus
- support an open and transparent process in both the development and implementation of the SFM Plan.

Meetings of the SFM Advisory Group will be open to the general public.

Members of the general public may choose to become members of the SFM Advisory Group by making a request to the facilitator. New members will be accepted provided the size of the group is not becoming too large and that they agree to:

- abide by the Terms of Reference and Procedures; and,
- become familiar with the past work completed by the SFM Advisory Group (to assist with this, Licensees agree to provide adequate orientation of the SFM Plan and Advisory Group process to new members).

The SFM Plan for the Merritt TSA will comply with all existing legislation and regulations and will be amended as required to be consistent with the strategic direction and intent of any future initiatives.

Sustainable ecosystem management will be characterized by resource management practices that are ecologically sound, scientifically based, socially and culturally responsible, and recognize and respect First Nations interests.

Conflict of Interest

Advisory group members will declare any possible or perceived conflict of interest pertaining to a specific discussion topic, should the situation arise. In such cases, the advisory group will decide on the members’ level of involvement relative to the specific topic matter.

Timelines

The SFM Advisory Group will meet periodically each year to review annual progress on performance measures with a goal of continual improvement.

Roles and Responsibilities

Participation in the SFM Advisory Group is open to all interested members of the public. First Nation participation in the advisory group is valued and will be encouraged. Government participation and support is valued, particularly in the capacity of technical advisor on how the SFM Plan aligns with legislation, policy and government direction. Public members agree to participate in the advisory group as an individual member of the public (bringing with them their background and experience) and not as a representative of any interest group. A record of attendance will be included as part of each meeting summary.

The roles and responsibilities of participants in the process are to assist the Merritt TSA licensees in developing and maintaining the SFM Plan by:

- expressing local values that relate to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) SFM criteria and critical elements
- setting objectives that describe a desired future state or condition for each value
- developing indicators to be used to assess progress in meeting objectives
- setting targets related to each indicator that will provide a clear, specific statement of expected results, and updating as necessary
- monitoring the effectiveness of the SFM plan including annual meetings of the SFM Advisory Group to review results of performance measures and the outcomes of any CSA audits.

Merritt TSA licensees will engage a facilitator who is knowledgeable about the CSA certification process to assist the SFM Advisory Group in its work. The role of the facilitator will be to:

- facilitate advisory group meetings
- prepare agendas and summaries for meetings
- prepare a work plan and time table for the process
- assist participants in developing recommendations for the SFM Plan
- develop the SFM Plan based on recommendations provided.

Active Members of the Public Advisory Group (PAG)

Active members of the PAG commit to regular attendance to, and participation in, Advisory Group meetings and field trips. Active members receive all PAG information and communication including the most recent SFM Plan and Monitoring Report, draft agendas, meeting summaries, information of interest, and invitations for additional participation (audits, special non PAG meetings and information sessions). A list of active members, including contact information, is maintained.

Interested Parties

Interested parties are those that are interested in the SFM Plan process but have decided they cannot fully commit the time and effort to be an active member of the Advisory Group. Interested parties receive the most recent SFM Plan and Monitoring Report. Included with this correspondence is an invitation, and encouragement, to more fully participate as an active member of the Advisory Group. Any additional Advisory Group communication is available to interested parties on request. A list of interested parties, including contact information, is maintained.

Resources

Public participants who incur traveling expenses to attend meetings will be reimbursed at a rate equivalent to the provincial government Group I rate.

Expenses incurred in the development of this Plan will be the responsibility of Merritt TSA licensees.

Decision-making Process

Participants in the process will aim to reach decisions on the basis of consensus. Consensus is defined as "agreement by all participants on a recommendation related to the SFM Plan process or on the final SFM Plan".

In negotiating to reach consensus, participants agree to:

- negotiate in good faith
- state concerns openly and directly and as interests rather than positions¹

¹ Interests are defined as the needs, wants, fears and concerns that are connected to an issue. Positions are defined as a predetermined solution to a problem without consideration for the interests of others.

- listen carefully, ask questions and educate themselves regarding the interests of others
- share relevant information.

When consensus is reached, a written record of the agreement will be recorded in the meeting summary.

If consensus is not achieved, the facilitator will assist the participants in resolving their differences through the application of interest-based negotiation procedures. If consensus is still not achieved, participants will agree to disagree and the options defined in the negotiation process will be recorded in the meeting summary. Merritt TSA licensees will consider all options in development of the final SFM plan and will provide a written explanation for decisions taken where consensus was not achieved.

Merritt TSA licensees will consider consensus recommendations of the SFM Advisory Group as advice to guide the development of the SFM Plan. In the event that Merritt TSA licensees decide not to accept a consensus recommendation of the SFM Advisory Group, a written explanation for this decision will be included in the SFM Plan process documents.

Consensus will not be required for housekeeping items such as scheduling meeting dates and locations.

Information

The SFM Plan process will be supported by relevant information including the CSA SFM guidelines and supporting reference documents, examples of other British Columbia-based SFM Plans, and other technical information as required. Where desired by the advisory group TSA licensees will seek to provide internal or external experts to gain a better understanding of a particular issue.

Communication

Agendas and meeting summaries will be prepared for each meeting. These materials will be distributed to members of the SFM Advisory Group and as requested, to other interested members of the public. Revised SFM Plans and Annual Monitoring Reports will be shared with advisory group members and with a wider audience of individuals who have expressed some level of interest in the public process. The Plans and Reports will also be shared with First Nation communities in the TSA.

A website offering general information on the SFM process and information specific to the Merritt TSA SFM Plan will be maintained.

Changes to the Process

The Terms of Reference and Procedures for the SFM Plan process may be changed at any time during the process in accordance with the decision-making process described above.