

Chronology of Changes to the Merritt SFM Plan

Between November 2000 and May 2001, forest licensees worked in conjunction with a group of public and First Nation representatives (the SFM Advisory Group) to develop the initial Merritt Timber Supply Area Sustainable Forest Management (SFM Plan). The SFM Plan, which is based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management System, is an evolving document that is reviewed and revised on an annual basis to address changes in forest condition, policy and local community values. This monitoring process provides an opportunity for licensees, the public and First Nations to bring forward new information and provide input into future versions of the SFM Plan.

Since the initial Merritt TSA SFM Plan was drafted in 2001, it has undergone two substantial sets of revisions. The Plan was revised in 2003 as a result of a benchmarking exercise by Stan Price and Associates identifying the need for more target oriented indicators and more reliance on internal tracking systems. Significant changes were again made to the Plan in 2004 to update it to the new CSA Standard (Z809-02).

The table below summarizes changes that have been made to Merritt TSA SFM Plan indicators since 2004. Wording additions are indicated in “blue”, while deletions are shown in strikethrough text.

INDICATOR	Type of Change	Date	Reason for Change
1. Hectares of old forest greater than 250 years within Natural Disturbance Type 4 (NDT 4) (i.e. Interior Douglas fir biogeoclimatic subzone).	Indicator Deleted	Dec 2005 (2006 Plan)	Incorporated into Indicator #33 as a result of completion of the OGMA process.
4. Percent of First Nation commitments addressed.	Addition to “Target” and “Monitoring and Measurement”	Dec 2005 (2006 Plan)	<p>To tailor the reporting requirements to the Small Scale Salvage Program which does not operate under a Forest Development Plan.</p> <p>Revised wording:</p> <p>TARGET: “Address all Forest Development Plan commitments made relating to First Nation requests (i.e. forest-related traditional knowledge, cultural and heritage values).</p> <p><i>Under the Small Scale Salvage Program, ensure that First Nation referral comments or commitments requiring action are carried out by the licensee.”</i></p> <p>MONITORING & MEASUREMENT: “Licensees will report the number of First Nation commitments related to the Forest Development Plan that were achieved as compared to the total number of First Nations commitments made in the Forest Development Plan.</p> <p><i>The Small Scale Salvage Program will report the number of First Nation referral comments or commitments achieved by the licensee compared to the total number of First Nations referral comments or commitments that required action.”</i></p>

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5. Percent of harvested areas that are regenerated with species ecologically suited to the site.	Revision to "Monitoring and Measurement"	Dec 2005 (2006 Plan)	<p>Wording revised to clarify the intent of the indicator and reporting requirements.</p> <p>Revised wording: "All trees planted regenerated on harvested areas must comply with stocking standards specified in Licensee plans, except in the case of the Small Scale Salvage Program, whereby stocking standards will be specified by the Ministry of Forests and Range. Licensees will report the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of harvested areas which were declared free growing and planted with species ecologically suited to the site regenerated in compliance with stocking standards during the reporting period, as compared to the total number of harvested areas declared free growing during the reporting period. This will be compared to the total number of harvested areas planted."
8. Percent of areas revegetated with grass seed that is "graded acceptable".	Revision to "Monitoring and Measurement"	Dec 2005 (2006 Plan)	<p>Wording revised to improve the relevance of data and enable calculation of a percentage.</p> <p>Revised wording: "Licensees will report the total amount volume of Canada #1 seed or equivalent grass seed purchased that was applied (kilograms) as compared to and the volume of total seed applied (kilograms) for the reporting period. Licensees will calculate the percentage of seed applied during the reporting period that was Canada #1"</p>
9. Percent of harvest priorities, related to catastrophic forest health events (e.g. Mountain Pine Beetle), completed prior to critical time frame.	Revision to "Monitoring & Measurement"	Nov 2004 (2005 Plan)	<p>Wording revised to reflect the change in roles and responsibilities of licensees and the Ministry of Forests and Range.</p> <p>Revised wording: "Harvest priorities will be established in internally and consistent with the District forest health strategy are monitored and revised as new information is made available. These priorities are monitored and revised as new information is made available. Licensees will report the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hectares committed to harvest by critical time frame. • Number of hectares harvested within critical time frame. <p>The licensees will report this figure by catastrophic forest health agent (e.g. mountain pine beetle).</p>

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16. Percent of permanent status roads that have inspections and related maintenance completed as per programs.	Addition to "Target"	Nov 2004 (2005 Plan)	<p>Wording revised to include structures (i.e. bridges and culverts) in the reporting parameters.</p> <p>Revised wording: "All permanent status roads and associated structures will have inspections and related maintenance completed as scheduled."</p>
20. Number of timber processing facility operating days.	Addition to "Monitoring & Measurement"	Nov 2004 (2005 Plan)	<p>Wording added to provide more meaningful information which can be compared from year to year.</p> <p>Revised reporting criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of timber processing facility operating days • The average number of shifts for days the mill was in production • The number of mill employees on payroll
31. Number of written comments from stakeholders and public related to the Forest Development Plan/Forest Stewardship Plan proposals and the number of responses.	Addition to "Target" and "Monitoring and Measurement"	Dec 2005 (2006 Plan)	<p>To tailor the reporting requirements to the Small Scale Salvage Program which does not operate under a Forest Development Plan.</p> <p>Revised Wording:</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Small Scale Salvage licensees will report communications with stakeholders and public that have occurred during the development of their professional submissions. Where these communications result in expressed concerns, these concerns will be addressed in the licence document."</p> <p>MONITORING & MEASUREMENT: "Licensees will report the number of stakeholder and public written comments specifically related to Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan referral that need a response, as compared to the number of Forest Development Plan consultation-comments responded to by licensees during the reporting year.</p> <p>The Small Scale Salvage Program will report on the number of stakeholder and public comments that were reflected in the licence document and the number of stakeholder and public commitments subsequently achieved on the ground."</p>

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33. Protected Ecosystems	Deletion of references to OGMA's from "Forecast" and "Target".	Nov 2004 (2005 Plan)	Deleted references to OGMA's because OGMA Process was completed.
34. Forest Age Class Distribution	Revision to "Variance"	Nov 2004 (2005 Plan)	Wording revised to clarify the intent of the variance. Revised Wording: "Attaining age class balance earlier a benefit. Later — 20 years. Target achieved within 120 years".
35. Advisory Group Participant Satisfaction Survey	Addition to "Target"	April 2005 (2006 Plan)	Wording revised because not all comments required action. Revised Wording: "All written comments be reviewed and considered and all line responses averaging less than 3 become action items."