

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

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**Annual Monitoring Report**

*January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007*

*Released March 2008*

**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 34 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 (targets and indicators) 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 2007

The following is a summary of the highlights from the 2007 Merritt TSA Sustainable Forest Management Monitoring Report:

- One hundred percent (333 of 333) riparian commitments conformed to licensee plans during the reporting period.
- One hundred percent (1672 of 1672 hectares) of the areas declared free to grow in 2007 were reforested in compliance with the stocking standards.
- 5607 hectares of regenerated forest achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date. On average, obligations were met 5.2 years earlier than legally required.
- Permanent access structures such as roads and landings accounted for 3.7 percent (343 hectares) of the total area harvested in 2007 as compared to a target of less than 6%.
- One hundred percent of soil conservation commitments were achieved on the 9549 hectares harvested during the reporting period.
- 3244 of 3244 hectares (100 percent) of areas prescribed for natural regeneration were successfully regenerated within the allowable timeframe.
- 204 kilometres of road were grass seeded during the reporting period. On average these areas were seeded within 3 months of completed road construction compared to a target of 12 months.

## 5.0 Performance Summary 2007

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 2007 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, 10, 36	80%
3. Conservation of Soil and Water Resources	2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 32	71%
4. Forest Ecosystem Contribution to Global Ecological Cycles	9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 34, 36	87%
5. Multiple Benefits to Society	16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31	83%
6. Accepting Society's Responsibility for Sustainable Development	4, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 35	100%

Targets were not met for four indicators (10, 15, 16, 22) relating to four CSA criteria during the 2007 reporting period. The table below shows the performance level for each of the indicators that were not fully achieved.

Indicator	2007 Performance Level	Percent Achieved
<b>10</b>	5670 of 5744 hectares met free growing requirements on or before late free growing date.	99%
<b>15</b>	3 of 5 blocks harvested with a watershed ECA greater than 35% had further hydrological assessments completed.	60%
<b>16 a)</b>	672 of 673 road/ structure inspections scheduled were completed during the reporting year.	99.9%
<b>16 b)</b>	136 of 137 road maintenance action items were completed as scheduled.	99%
<b>22</b>	Visual Impact Assessments were completed for 30 of 31 cutblocks in known scenic areas.	97%

## 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, 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.

**Indicator (2):**      **Level of conformance to Riparian management area commitments contained within licensee plans.**

**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.

**Assessment Results:**      One hundred percent (333 of 333) riparian commitments conformed to licensee plans in 2007.

*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.

**Assessment Results:**      275 of 275 cutblocks (100 percent) greater than 5 hectares harvested in 2007 had individual wildlife trees/ stubs or associated wildlife tree patches.



*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.

**Assessment Results:** One hundred percent (177 of 177) of First Nation Forest Development Plan and Forest Stewardship Plan commitments were met by licensees during the reporting period.

*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.

**Assessment Results:** One hundred percent (1672 of 1672 hectares) of the areas declared free to grow in 2007 were planted in compliance with the stocking standards.



*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.

**Assessment Results:** One hundred percent (165 hectares) of harvested areas with commitments to protect Identified Wildlife species or habitat conformed to plan commitments. Species managed for were Mountain Beaver, Goshawk and Coastal Tailed Frog.

**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.

**Assessment Results:**      One hundred percent (32 of 32) of cutblocks within the mule deer winter range were managed in accordance with the Merritt TSA Mule Deer Strategy.

*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 2007 reporting period was graded Canada #1 or equivalent.

*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%.

**Assessment Results:**      8238 of the 8721 hectares (94 percent) committed to harvest due to catastrophic forest health events was harvested within the critical timeframe. Licensees attributed 8070 hectares of this volume to Mountain Pine Beetle, 113 hectares to Root Disease and Mountain Pine Beetle and 55 hectares to blowdown. BC Timber Sales reported that fewer hectares were harvested within the critical timeframe than planned because several advertised timber sales did not sell.

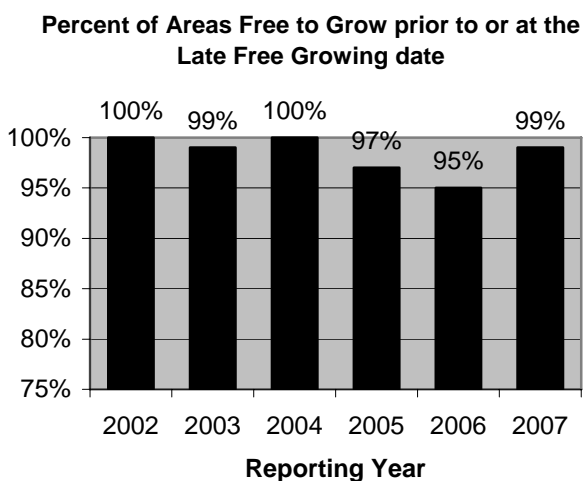
*The Ministry of Forests and Range is responsible for providing guidelines on key dates such as free growing, based on specific biogeoclimatic information for each site.*

**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:** Ninety nine percent (5670 of 5744 hectares) of harvested areas met free growing requirements on or before the late free growing date. On average, 63 percent of areas were free growing on their early free grow date.

Four openings totaling 74.5 hectares achieved free growing requirements after the late free growing date. Of this area, 58 hectares were surveyed late and would have met free growing requirements if the survey information had been collected on time. The remaining 16.5 hectare opening was surveyed in 2002 and found to be free growing, but was never declared. The opening was resurveyed and declared free to grow in 2007.



*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 (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 2007 reporting year, 5607 hectares achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date.

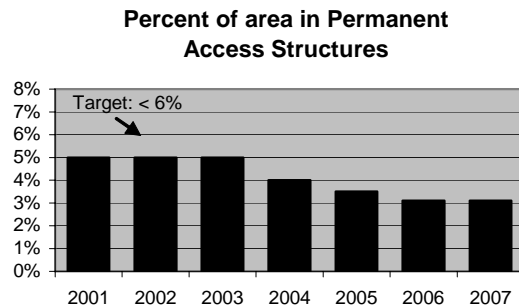
On average, obligations were met 5.2 years earlier than legally required.

*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 3.1 percent (289 hectares) of the total area harvested during 2007.



*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 to 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.

**Assessment Results:** One hundred percent of soil conservation commitments were achieved on the 9549 hectares harvested during the reporting period.

*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.

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

*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).**

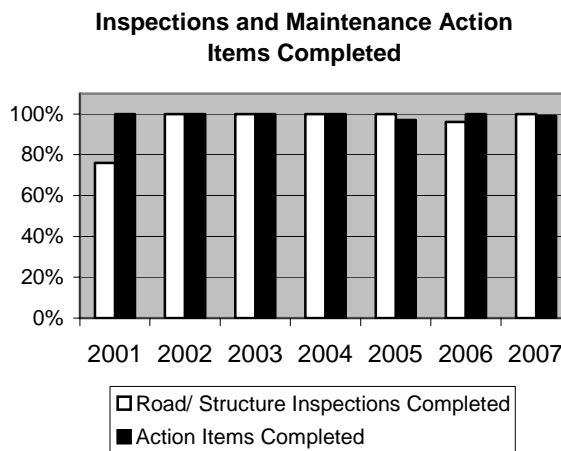
**Target:** Equivalent clear cut area (ECA) not to exceed 35% without doing further hydrological assessments prior to harvesting. Variance 5%.

**Assessment Results:** Five cutblocks were harvested during the reporting period within watersheds where the ECA exceeded 35%. These cutblocks were within the Mabel Creek watershed, the sub-basin SILMSD000077 Armstrong Creek and the Clapperton watershed. Further hydrological assessments were completed for 3 of these cutblocks (60 percent) prior to harvesting. The two blocks which did not have further hydrological assessments were classified as major expedited salvage, where the priority was placed on removing the infested timber as quickly as possible to prevent the spread of beetle to adjacent stands.

**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.

**Assessment Results:** Ninety nine percent (672 of 673) of scheduled road/structure inspections were completed during the reporting year. The one inspection that was missed involved a 40 metre section of road which was of low risk. The road has been rescheduled for inspection in 2008. Licensees completed an additional 59 unscheduled road/structure inspections in 2007.



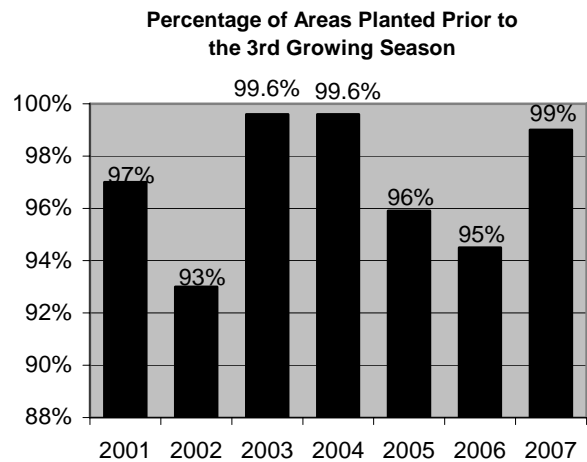
Ninety nine percent (136 of 137) of scheduled road maintenance action items were completed during the reporting period. The only maintenance action item which was not completed involved a 1000 mm pipe on a tributary of Skwum Creek which was starting to cave in. Replacement of this pipe has been rescheduled for removal/extension in 2008.

*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 (9032 hectares of 9125 hectares) prescribed for planting were completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest.  
  
3244 of 3244 hectares (100 percent) of areas prescribed for natural regeneration with a regeneration expiry date within the reporting period were successfully regenerated.

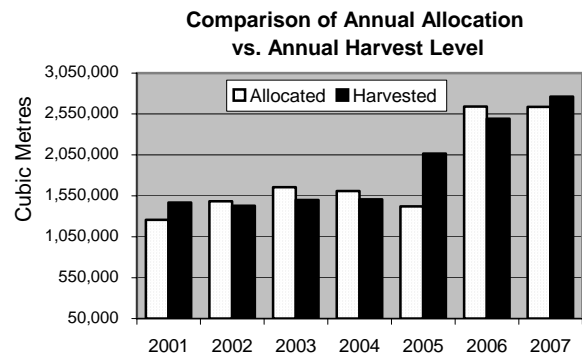


*Prompt reforestation will ensure that the productive capacity of forest land base to grow trees is maintained. Promptness will also aid in providing younger trees a head start against competing vegetation, helping to reduce the need for manual or chemical brushing treatments.*

**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 2007 was 2,759,678 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.

**Assessment Results:** The total lumber output from sawmills within the TSA in 2007 was 737,501,000 board feet.

The total chip, shavings and hog fuel output from sawmills within the TSA was 645,676 bone dry tonnes.

The total of other forest products output from sawmills within the TSA was 39,630 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.

**Assessment Results:** Timber processing facilities within the Merritt TSA were in operation an average of 273 days in 2007 with an average of 1.7 shifts a day.

In total, 691 mill employees were on payroll during the reporting period.



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

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

**Assessment Results:** 909 of 909 hectares (100 percent) of areas harvested that required management for lakeshore guidelines conformed to plan commitments.

**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).

**Assessment Results:**      Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) were carried out for 30 of 31 cutblocks (97 percent) in known scenic areas. The one block for which a VIA was not conducted involved a 1 hectare area which fell within an identified scenic area with a recommended VQO of modification. No VIA was conducted for this block because the site plan did not acknowledge that that it was within a scenic area. Due to the small size of the opening and recommended VQO, there was no negative impact to scenic quality.

One licensee reported that an additional VIA was conducted for an area which was not within a known scenic area. The VIA was carried out because the area was in close proximity to a lakeshore management zone with recognized visual values.

*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 174 people attended 71 meetings to discuss Forest Development Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans in 2007.

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

**Target:**              Conduct a minimum of two meetings per year.

**Assessment Results:**      Two SFM Advisory Group meetings and one field trip were held during the 2007 reporting period.

*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 First Nations consultation meetings attended related to Forest Development Plans/ Forest Stewardship Plans.**

**Target:** Participate in Forest Development Plan/ Forest Stewardship Plan consultation meetings with First Nations related to government consultation process.

**Assessment Results:** Licensees attended 111 First Nations consultation meetings in the TSA during the reporting period.

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

**Indicator (26): First Nations involvement in Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society.**

**Target:** Report on First Nations involvement in Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society.

**Assessment Results:** The Nicola Tribal Association and Upper Similkameen Indian Band are represented on the Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society's Board of Directors and Technical Committee. In addition, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Nicola Tribal Association, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Esh-kn-em Joint Ventures are major recipients of Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society contracts.

*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 2007, 1322 community people were reached through 58 extension activities. The Sustainable Forestry website was updated during the year and the Merritt Sustainable Forest Management Plan was circulated to the public. Eight written requests from the public were received by licensees during the reporting period. All requests were responded to within one day.

**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).

Assessment Results:      There were 20 written requests from First Nations for the reporting period and 20 written responses.

*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 stake-holders 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 (23 of 23) of written requests received from stakeholders and the public in regard to Forest Development Plans or Forest Stewardship Plans in 2007.

**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.

**Assessment Results:** 204 kilometres of road were grass seeded during the reporting period. On average these areas were seeded within 3 months of completed road construction compared to a target of 12 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%.

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

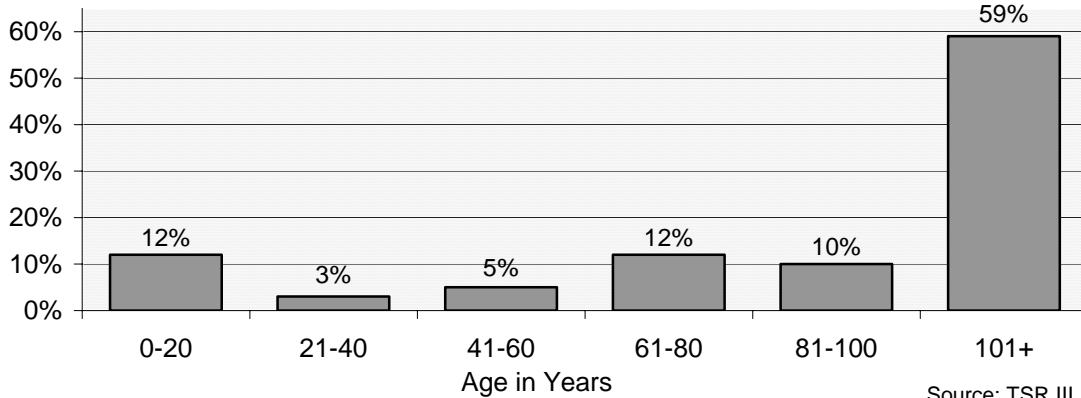
In 2007, licensees reported 179,353 hectares of draft OGMA within their operating areas. There was a net OGMA reduction of 8.75 hectares (less than a percent) as a result of operations.

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

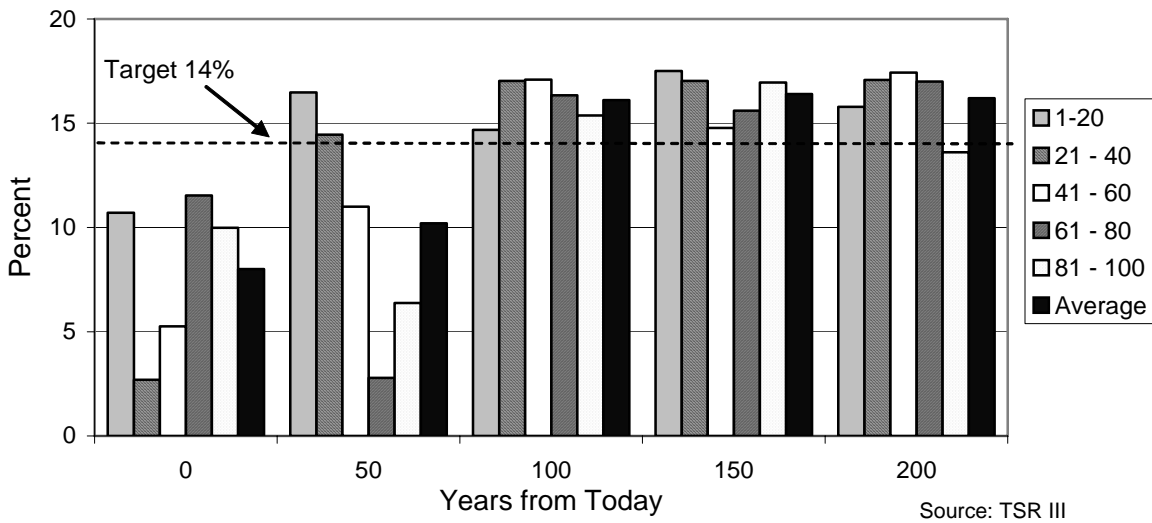
**Target:** Over time, maintain a stable forest age class distribution on the timber harvesting land base. Each age class to 100 years old [1 (1 to 20), 2 (21-40), 3 (41-60), 4 (61-80), 5 (81-100)] occupies at least 14% of the timber harvesting land base.

**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 2007, 88 percent of responses to survey questions ranked “3”(satisfactory) or higher. This is slightly lower than 2006, where 94 percent of survey responses ranked “3” or higher. However, none of the questions had a response average of less than “3” which is an improvement over 2006.

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.
Princeton & District Community Forest Corporation	Princeton Forest Products	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Princeton Wood Preservers	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Princeton Post and Rail	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
	Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.	Supply of post & rail material or sawlogs.
Stu'wix Resources Ltd.	Princeton Post and Rail	Sales to "value added" forest product industries.
	Nicola Post & Rail	Sales to "value added" forest product industries.
	Coldwater Post & Rail	Sales to "value added" forest product industries.
	Firemaster	Sales to "value added" forest product industries.
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 (5 <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 (9 <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.	

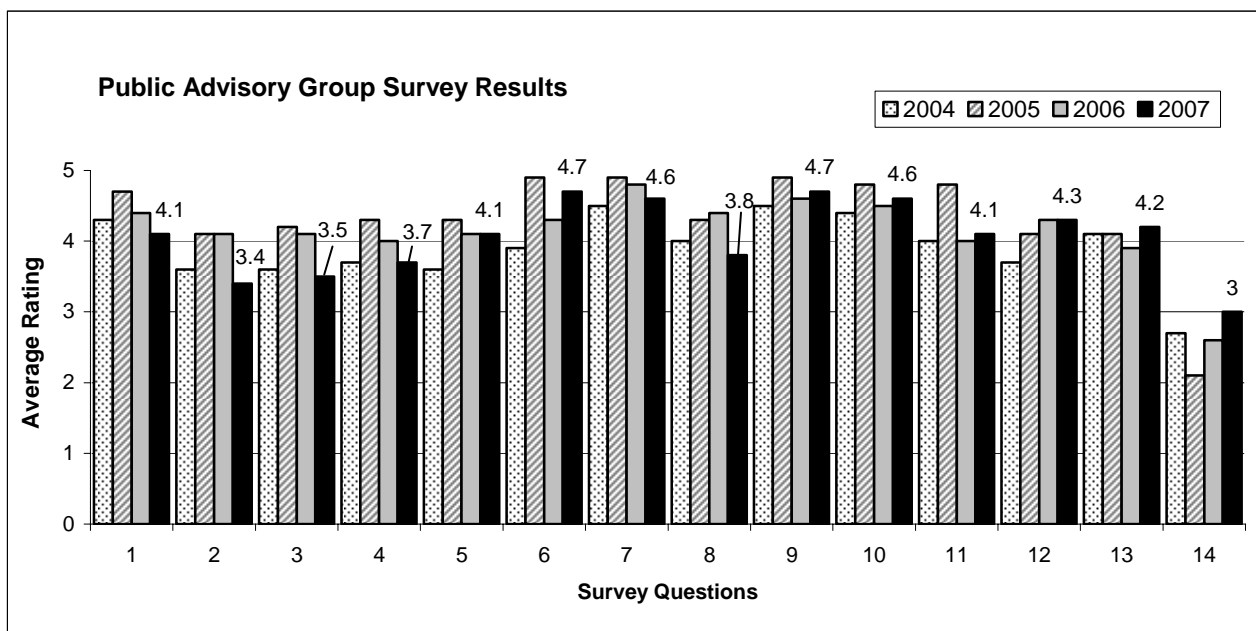
## Appendix 2

### Advisory Group Evaluation Summary – 2007

Seven members of the Public Advisory Group completed the 2007 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 2007 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.



**Comments submitted with the 2007 survey:**

1. Maybe more meetings annually.
2. Membership could include more diversity (non-forestry people).
3. The general public has no idea what is happening to our forests. Must be much more emphasis on selective logging leaving trees of all ages. Giant clearcuts and smoldering slash piles are so 19<sup>th</sup> century!
4. re: Survey question #3: Values were not examined in 2007 and some objectives.  
re: Survey question #4: I'm still not satisfied with the target for indicators 26, 27 and 19.  
re: Survey question #10: Licensees should be more pro-active about providing information (additional).  
re: Survey question #13: I favour one more meeting/ year, perhaps, without licensees. Speaking for myself, the issue should not be "an adequate balance", but rather are members of the public adequately prepared for PAG meetings.  
Comments/ suggestions: Guest speaker on current issues e.g. update on Mountain Pine Beetle and its effect on hydrology, harvesting guidelines, future sustainability – e.g. new research and results e.g. auditors and how they assess the operations e.g. other indicators and how they would be better.

## **Appendix 3**

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



## 2007 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



More information on how Tolko performed against all 34 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)

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Photo Taken by Dale Jones, Area Supervisor, Thompson Nicola Woodlands – Merritt. Location: George Creek

### Tolko Industries Ltd.'s 2007 SFM Performance Highlights

*SFM Plan performance targets were achieved for 31 of 34 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 2007 Sustainable Forest Management report:*

- There were no non-conformances in Tolko's SNRFL A75427 for the 2007 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%.
- 44% of cutblocks achieved free growing prior to or at Early Free Growing.
- 99.97% 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 5.0 % for our Forest License areas and 6.0 % for our SNRFL area, compared to the target of 6 %.
- On average, road cuts and fill slopes were seeded or planted within 2.5 months of completed road construction, compared to a target of 12 months.
- 100% retention of net OGMA area as compared to a target of 100%.



More information on how Tolko performed against all 34 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)

SFM Plan performance targets were not achieved for 3 indicators (Forest License Areas). These indicators are listed below along with a brief explanation as to why the indicator was not met.

Targets were not achieved for the following indicators:

- Indicator No.: 10 The number of hectares achieving free growing on or before late free growing was 93% as compared to a target of 100%.  
Three blocks totalling 58 ha were not surveyed or reported prior to the late free growing date. However, all three areas would have met free growing requirements if the survey information was collected within the appropriate time frame.
- Indicator No.: 16 Road maintenance inspections were completed on 99.7% of items scheduled for completion as compared to a target of 100%.  
A 40 m section of road was missed during inspection this year. This road poses very low risk and will be rescheduled for 2008. The total length of inspected roads to be completed was 744 889.5. The percentage of roads not completed by length is .005%.  
Road maintenance items were completed on 94% of the items scheduled as compared to a target of 100%.  
Section 17-30 – Fill over 1000 mm pipe (on tributary of Skwum Creek) is starting to erode. The scheduled removable/extension of the pipe in 2007 was not carried out. Rescheduled for 2008.
- Indicator No.: 22 Visual impact assessments (VIAs) completed on 87.5% of cutblocks requiring VIAs as compared to a target of 100%.  
A 1.0 ha portion of a 1.3 ha opening in CP 225-4-A18696 falls within an identified scenic area, which had a known recommended VQO of Modification. The Site Plan (dated June 7, 1998) did not acknowledge that the area was within a scenic area. As a consequence, no VIA was completed. In reviewing the opening size and the recommended VQO, there is no negative impact on the scenic quality.

## 2007 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



More Information on how BC Timber Sales performed against the 32 indicators can be obtained by contacting Richard Cooper at the Kamloops Business Area office.

Ph: (250) 371-6500

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

BC Timber Sales  
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Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Hodson, RPF

### BC Timber Sales 2007 SFM Performance Highlights

SFM Plan performance requirements were achieved for 29 of 32 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 2007 Sustainable Forest Management Plan Report.

- BC Timber Sales maintained certification to CAN / CSA Z809:2002 and ISO 14001:2004 with third party certification in 2007.
- BCTS licencees harvested 575,282m<sup>3</sup> of wood through the Timber Sales program in 2007.
- Permanent access structures occupied 3.2% of total harvested area.
- Extension activities and out reach education, provided by BC Timber Sales, had contact with 332 people from the community.
- VIAs were completed on 100% of blocks located within known scenic areas, where required.
- No landslide, as a result of harvesting occurred in BC Timber Sales operating areas.
- Blocks were declared, on average, 2.78 years prior to reaching the Late Free Growing date.
- 95% of blocks were reforested within 3 growing season of being harvested
- Soil disturbance commitments were met on 100% of Timber Sale areas.

SFM Plan performance targets were not achieved for 3 of 32 indicators relating to the sustainability criteria in the Merritt TSA SFM Plan that BCTS reports on. Targets were not achieved for Indicator 9, 10, and 15, as follows:

Indicator 9: BCTS committed to selling 2081ha of mountain pine beetle infested timber. Although this entire volume was offered for sale, several sales received no bids and the actual volume sold in 2007 was 1661 ha.

Indicator 10: There was one opening of 16.5 ha which was declared beyond the Late Free Growing Date of 2005. This block had a survey showing it was free growing in 2002 but the declaration was not made at that time. The block was resurveyed in 2007 and declared Free Growing. No environmental damage has occurred.

Indicator 15: There was one block in the Armstrong sub-basin in the Wolfe-Belgie area where the Equivalent Clear-cut Area (ECA) exceeds 35% and no further hydrological assessments was completed. On the ground riparian work was completed. Results of detailed analysis would not have changed harvesting plan to remove beetle infected wood.

This report can be located at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dka/TSA/SustainableForestry.htm>



## 2007 SFM MONITORING SUMMARY



*More information on how Weyerhaeuser performed against all 34 sustainability indicators, can be obtained by contacting Brian Drobe, Planning Forester, Weyerhaeuser*

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Princeton**

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### Weyerhaeuser Princeton's SFM Performance Highlights: 2007

SFM Plan performance targets were achieved for 34 of 34 indicators relating to the sustainability criteria in the Merritt TSA SFM Plan. The following summarizes highlights of Weyerhaeuser's contribution to the Merritt TSA 2007 Sustainable Forest Management report.



- The harvested area occupied by permanent roads and landings was 3.3 percent of the total area, which is below the 7 percent target and less than the results from previous years (2006 - 3.4 %, 2005 – 3.7%, 2004 – 3.9%).
- 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 41 commitments pertaining to riparian areas. Practices within or adjacent to riparian areas adhered to plan commitments in all 41 locations where this occurred.
- Grass seeding of constructed road cut and fill slopes occurred within an average of 4.9 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.
- 59% of regenerated areas achieved the free growing status on or before the early free growing timeframe.
- All blocks (3414.9 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.



# 2007 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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1375 Houston Street,

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British Columbia

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## 2007 SFM Performance Highlights

*SFM Plan performance targets were achieved on 34 of 34 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 2485 hectares representing 100% of areas prescribed for planting were planted within 3 years of harvest commencement.*

*A total of 476 hectares achieved free growing status prior to the late free growing date. Sixty-seven (67) % of all areas were free growing on their early free growing date.*

*The harvested area occupied by permanent roads and landings equaled 1.9% of the total harvest area. {35 ha of permanent roads and landings and 1869 ha of total gross area harvested} This compares to a 7% target.*

*A total of 90 riparian commitments were managed for in 2007. No riparian related non-conformances occurred in these operations.*

*Total Lumber output was 238.3 million fbm of mill production with an average of 2 shifts/day in 360 days of operation.*

