



# Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Awareness Supplement Information Sheet

## CHINOOK BUSINESS AREA

### Introduction

This document is to provide a brief summary of the commitments the Chinook Business Area (BA) has made in relation to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification. Our licensees and contractors play a significant role in ensuring that the BA maintains the Provincial SFI certification.

### Purpose

This document is to provide licensees and contractors a description of the specific SFI commitments that relate to them. This document is to be reviewed at pre-work meetings between BCTS Chinook BA staff and the licensees or contractors.

### Key Considerations

- **Professional Reliance**
  - a. Requirement for RPF/RFT over site of harvesting operations
  - b. Any changes to plans must be prepared and signed off by a qualified professional prior to changes occurring and rationales must be included for the variance explaining how the decision was made to vary and what factors were considered. These must be made available upon request
  - c. When making changes to any of the plans provided with the timber sale package the qualified professional making the change(s), on behalf of the TSL holder must contact the original prescriber to ensure a full understanding of the issues considered when developing the original plan.
  - d. All individuals operating on the site must understand the impact their activity can have on the environment and how they can mitigate these impacts
- **Retention Tree Patches and Wildlife Tree Retention Areas**

The maintenance of trees individually or in groups may have been done to address a variety of values. These values include but are not limited to, protecting; biodiversity, species at risk, visual values, water quality, botanical values of cultural importance, archaeology features, karsts and/or wildlife habitat. If these values exist within or near the licence or contract area they will be discussed at the pre-work conducted by BCTS; it is imperative that licensee review the silvicultural prescription(s) included in the licence package(s) and contractors review the specifics contained within the contract so that they have a thorough understanding of why the tree or trees are being maintained where they are. When proposing any changes to the plan, a qualified professional must be engaged to ensure that these and any other previously unidentified values will be



## Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Awareness Supplement Information Sheet

### CHINOOK BUSINESS AREA

adequately addressed and managed for. Proposed changes may not be allowed depending upon the values that may be at risk.

- **Wildlife Habitat and Archaeology Features**

The licence or contract area may have wildlife habitat or archaeology feature considerations; these will have been managed for during the development of the licence blocks or the contract works. The management may have impacts on the licence or contract area in the nature of operational timing restrictions for goat winter range and Bald Eagle wintering areas for example to spotted owl special resource management zones and archaeology features will be protected by maintaining them outside the block boundaries or possibly within retention tree patches (as discussed above); if any of these exist they will be reviewed at the pre-work meeting between the licensee or contractor with BCTS Staff.

- **Species At Risk**

Management for Species at Risk (SAR) are of utmost importance both in terms of maintaining our commitment to sustainable forest management, as well as, assuring the public and our mutual consumers that the Chinook BA and its licensees and contractors are committed to protecting species at risk.

It is important that licensees and contractors are familiar with any SAR that have been identified and discussed during the pre-work within the proposed area of operations, how they have been managed for, and, that where any deviations from the existing plan are desired, that a qualified professional has been engaged to ensure that the 'new' plan adequately addresses SAR. If a SAR is encountered that has not been addressed in the plan the licensee or contractor is required to stop operations and contact the BCTS representative so that appropriate steps can be taken to manage for that value.

- **Invasive Plants**

Invasive plants (IP) have become one of the greatest threats to the natural biodiversity of British Columbia. The plan that has been prepared for the area of proposed operations has considered the IP's in the area, the ways in which they spread, and what parts of the ecosystem they threaten. Road Construction, maintenance, and deactivation are the primary means of spreading invasive plants because they create suitable seedbeds through the creation of freshly disturbed soil, as well as, the movement of seed and vegetative material from areas of infestation to non-infested areas.



## Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Awareness Supplement Information Sheet

### CHINOOK BUSINESS AREA

This can be done via grading, using material from infested gravel/borrow pits, or by bringing in reproductive material that is attached to the equipment from one job site to another.

To help eliminate this threat:

- a. become familiar with the IPs in the licence or contract area of operation as reviewed at the pre-work,
- b. clean equipment of plant material before moving from one location to the next,
- c. if grass seeding is a requirement within the licence or contract, ensure the seeding is complete once operations are complete as exposed soil is the primary mode of IP spread,
- d. when grading always grade towards the infection so reproductive material is not moved into uninfected areas.
- e. avoid the use of borrow pits/gravel pits that are infested with IPs whenever possible

- **Water Quality**

Water quality also has a significant focus within the SFI and Environmental Management System (EMS) Certifications held by the Chinook BA. Wet weather safety shutdown guidelines may have been included within the licence or contract, these guidelines can help in ensuring that operations have ceased prior to any man cause landslide initiations, erosion and sedimentation into water bodies. In most cases operations may have already ceased prior to reaching these shutdown guideline limits due to the requirements of other operational controls.

The primary control mechanism to protect water quality is through the operational controls of the EMS. The EMS plays a significant role in managing water quality as it requires the licensees and contractors to appropriately manage erosion and sedimentation into water bodies that will have an impact on aquatic life and potable water; if the operational controls cannot adequately manage water quality, operations would be required to cease.

- **Visual Values**

The design of the block(s) and associated road network(s) may have considered visual impacts; this will have been discussed at the pre-work meeting. Any proposed deviation from the approved plan for licences or contracts that have visual impact considerations will require that any changes re-consider those visual values and will require discussion with BCTS staff prior to any change. This may require that a visual impact assessment be completed prior to making any change.



## Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Awareness Supplement Information Sheet

CHINOOK BUSINESS AREA

- **Aesthetic Management**

Aesthetics mean more than how we manage visual values. It means how the public will see our operations if they were to encounter them on a day to day basis.

Aesthetic management means that our staff and LPC's need to ensure that they look at their operations with a critical eye geared towards wanting to put forward the best possible image of our operations. Things like garbage strewn across the ground, water with oil slicks, trees lying down road banks, etc all reflect poorly on our image and directly impact how our forest management activities are perceived regardless of how diligent we have been.

- **Training**

Having well trained licensees and contractors is an important part of BCTS's certification and management commitments. It is recognized that training takes time but training is the primary means of knowledge transfer. Given the complicated nature of the forest industry it is understandable why training is one of the key components of the BA's commitments and of the certification requirements. Obtaining SFI certification has added an additional level of awareness and / or training so that cooperatively we can continue to be leaders in the area of sustainable forest management nationally and internationally.

**It is critical to the success of the licence or contract objectives that the pre-work documentation is reviewed and signed off with workers on the licence and or contract so that they are aware of all the requirements and the reasons for those requirements.**