

Introduction

The following document has been created to provide key information points for the general public and our stakeholders, which includes First Nations, to access information concerning BC Timber Sales Chinook Business Area's (BCTS Chinook) 3rd party certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The SFI organization has a 2010-2014 Standard that outlines the specific Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators, that must be achieved to obtain and retain certification under their organization. These Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures, and, Indicators encompass the ecological, social, and economic dimensions of forest management.

BCTS Chinook undergoes periodic assessments by a 3rd party certification body to ensure that BCTS Chinook is meeting all of its commitments made towards meeting the SFI Standard. There is also an internal review process that when combined with the external audits, results in continual improvement which is a critical component of both SFI certification and enhancement of forest management activities as the program moves forward.

Our sustainability commitment means that we:

- **Conduct forest management activities to comply with relevant legislation, regulations, policies and other organizational requirements**
- **Practice and promote scientifically-based sustainable forest management that is environmentally, socially, and economically responsible**
- **Maintain a framework that sets and reviews environmental objectives and targets**
- **Review SFMP performance measures to ensure protection of; water and riparian zones, soils and forest productivity, biological diversity, and forests and lands of special ecological and cultural significance.**
- **Provide opportunities for First Nations to participate in forest management planning activities in a manner that respects their aboriginal rights and interests.**
- **Prevent pollution associated with our forest management activities**
- **Monitor and evaluate SFM practices and key BCTS operations, and implement changes using continuous improvement principles**
- **Promote safe and healthy work environment for staff, clients, and the public, and,**
- **Communicate BCTS business activities and policies to all staff, clients, and stakeholders which includes First Nations**

It is also important to stress that until December 31, 2010 BCTS Chinook will be operating under SFI's 2005-2009 Standard and after December 31st 2010 BCTS Chinook must be fully implementing the new 2010-2014 SFI Standard. To see complete details related to the SFI Standard please access the information by using the following website: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

It is important to outline that up until end of this year each BC Timber Sales Office, that had SFI certification, have their own individual certification. The province is moving to a single certificate for all relevant business areas and the move to a single certificate model will see its first audit beginning in the early part of 2011. Through this initiative benefits will include a sharing of expertise related to issues like management of Species At Risk, or enhancing management of the forest resources by sharing of knowledge and expertise. Additional benefits include a reduction in the costs relate to meeting the SFI commitments.

BCTS Chinook welcomes any and all comments concerning our forest management practices and more specifically, we wish to ensure that the full range of individuals and stakeholders have opportunities to:

1. Review BCTS Chinook's SFI related documents
2. Have the opportunity to file complaints concerning practices that individuals or stakeholders may feel do not reflect our obligations under our SFI certification commitments.

The BCTS Chinook's public website has all of the relevant SFI documents which include the:

1. Provincial Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Policy;
2. SFI SFM Plan: the strategic document that outlines how the SFI Standard will be achieved; and the
3. SFI Awareness Information document for BCTS Staff, Licensees, and Contractors

Key Web Links

- BCTS Chinook Public Website: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/BCTS/areas/TCH.htm>
- BCTS Chinook Certification links which includes our Environmental Management System (EMS) via our ISO 14001 certification: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TCH_certification.htm
- BCTS Chinook SFI certification website: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/BCTS/areas/TCH/TCH_SFM.htm
- Link to the Western Canada SFI Implementation Committee (WCSIC) Inconsistent Practices reporting procedures: <http://www.wcsic.ca/Inconsistent/Practices.php>

Contact Us

BCTS invites public input on our SFM management program. To submit comments or learn more, contact the BCTS Chinook Office in Chilliwack, BC at:

Mail: Chinook Business Area, 46360 Airport Road, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 1A5

Phone: 604-702-5700, or,

Email: Forests.ChinookTimberSalesOffice@gov.bc.ca