



Forest Certification in the Lakes Timber Supply Area

The Morice & Lakes Innovative Forest Practices Agreement is a partnership between six regional forest licensees and BC Timber Sales in both the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas. It is developing sustainable forest management plans using innovative approaches in public involvement, forest productivity and ecosystem-based management.



SFM and Certification

Timber that is harvested using the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) is eligible to be certified. This lets consumers know that they're buying sustainably managed wood products. In order to achieve certification, forest companies must show that they are operating in ways that balance social, environmental and economic values. Certification has emerged as a vital marketing tool to help forestry companies promote and communicate a commitment to sustainable forest management to customers and the public.

Certification and the M&L IFPA

Through participation in the M&L IFPA sustainable forest management planning process, IFPA partners can be certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), which has an SFM certification system ranked among the best in the world by the international community.

According to CSA standards, forest companies must follow a comprehensive SFM system and establish on-the-ground performance objectives. As a minimum, they must address 18 elements linked to the Canadian Council of Forest Minister's criteria outlined in the National Forest Strategy (1992). In addition they must develop objectives to address local values identified through a public participation process.



The Morice & Lakes IFPA meets these

requirements by developing SFM objectives, targets and indicators for performance that meet CSA standards. Further, the IFPA uses an innovative public consultation method and public advisory groups in developing these targets and indicators. Through this process, partner companies demonstrate that they are practicing sustainable forest management on lands that they manage. The IFPA planning process has provided the stepping stone for several participating companies to pursue certification.

In the Lakes, for example, the scenario planning process is providing the stepping stone for BC Timber Sales and Canfor to pursue certification on their woodlands operations in the Lakes Timber Supply Area through the CSA's Sustainable Forest Management Standard. In addition, Babine Forest Products (which is already CSA certified) is updating to the new CSA standard using the IFPA planning process to take advantage of its forecasting and planning tools.



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How Does Certification Work?

First, a company decides which certification scheme to use. Each scheme has different standards that can take some time to apply. Next, an independent auditor audits the company to see if it meets the criteria for SFM set out by the certifying organization.

Major Certification Schemes in BC

- 1) Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- 2) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- 3) International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- 4) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

CSA: Certifies management systems and specific forest management performance measures developed through consultation. Currently limited to Canadian industrial companies.

FSC: Has principles and criteria to assess plans and on-the-ground performance. Currently has members in 61 countries.

ISO: Sets operational and quality control standards for businesses in over 149 countries (March 2005) around the world. ISO certifies a company's environmental management system, and includes requirements covering all environmental aspects of forest operations.

SFI: Was developed by the American Forest and Paper Association. It requires companies to meet a comprehensive system of principles, objectives, performance measures and core indicators.



Sources

McGregor Model Forest "A Sustaining Vision" © 2003

Ministry of Forests and Range website: Forest Management Certification

www.bcforestinformation.com