



Olympic Resource Management 2015 SFI Public Summary Report Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard [2010-2014]

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed a SFI Surveillance Assessment on lands managed by Olympic Resource Management (ORM). The Lead Assessor was James Lucas, RPF, EMS (LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to assess the multi-site SFI management system at the corporate level and to evaluate ORM's implementation of the SFI Standard in the office and the field.

Description of Forest Lands

ORM operates a multi-site SFI forest management system, which includes Pope Resources' Hood Canal and Columbia Tree Farms; ORM Timber Operating Company II, LLC lands in Washington State and Oregon; and ORM Timber Fund III Inc., lands in Washington State, Oregon and California which includes the ORM Tree Farm in McCloud, CA.

ORM's head office is located in Poulsbo, WA, and this office manages the 69,001 acre Hood Canal Tree Farm. The Chehalis, WA office manages 65,257 acres in Washington and the Wilsonville, OR office manages 37,326 acres in Oregon. The forest manager for the 18,990 acre McCloud Tree Farm in California is based in McCloud, CA.

The forest types on the Willapa and Copper Creek Tree Farms are primarily Douglas fir and Western hemlock and include minor amounts of Sitka spruce, Western red cedar and Red alder. Silviculture systems in Washington and Oregon used by ORM are clear cut harvests with artificial regeneration.

Indicators

All of the indicators in the SFI Standard were within the scope of the assessment, except for Objectives 8-13, since the Group does not procure fiber, and Objective 18, since none of the land in the Group is public land. There were no substitute indicators.

Assessment Process

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements. The 2015 field assessment was conducted on lands managed by ORM's Chehalis, WA office, which

included the Willapa Tree Farm in Washington and on lands managed by ORM's Wilsonville, OR office which included the Copper Creek Tree Farm in Oregon. The report was dated October 28, 2015.

Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices

ORM has developed a long-term management plan and resource analysis with a 50 year planning horizon. Forest management plans are developed for each property and growth and yield tables are developed in-house. Forest inventories are continually updated and a cut out analysis completed annually to determine their accuracy. Sustainable harvest levels are determined every three years and form the basis for ten year harvest plans. ORM identifies visually sensitive areas and management and layout design ideas are defined for each unit.

Information on special sites, including cultural heritage information, threatened and endangered species, and species and habitats of concern are maintained in GIS layers which are provided to planning foresters. Where special sites are identified, these are identified in the forest management plans.

Where the silvicultural regime requires artificial regeneration, harvesting areas are designated for re-planting with native stock and stands are planted within two years of harvest. Regeneration surveys are conducted one year following planting and if deficiencies are found, a replant or interplant is scheduled. ORM considers seed zone, elevation and site conditions when selecting seed for restocking. ORM maintains seed orchards on their tree farms and conducts research trials to improve planting stock.

Where necessary, aerial and ground applications of chemical herbicides are used to control brush competition. ORM staff are trained and certified in herbicide use, and ORM minimizes herbicide use through lower dosages on all prescriptions, and through mechanical treatments, hand spraying, and pre-harvest site preparation spraying. All chemical use is conducted by licensed applicators.

Soil maps are used for planning harvesting units and for road construction. ORM uses cable yarding harvesting systems and low ground pressure equipment in areas with sensitive soils and steep slopes and has a wet weather policy with guidance on soil protection. Existing roads and skid trails are used and where feasible, skid trails and spur roads are reclaimed and planted following harvesting. ORM participates in the Washington State RMAP program to identify, maintain and improve their older roads.

Management and protection of streams and riparian areas is achieved through California, Oregon and Washington State forest practices regulations, through placement of reserve trees in riparian areas and wetlands, and selection of harvesting system and road layout to minimize crossings. Road construction follows state best management practices and ORM 'daylights' roads by clearing right-of-way vegetation to improve safety and reduce sediment delivery, as roads dry out faster and provide a better surface for hauling on. ORM has documented wet weather shutdown procedures that are provided to contractors and supported by regulations in the States they operate in. ORM allows non-motorized access to their lands, working with various clubs for the construction of recreation trails and sanctioned race events.

ORM has a systematic approach to implementing BMPs, including: staff training; knowledge of legal requirements and process; use of trained loggers; use of Lidar (where available) to consider soils, slopes, and riparian areas; and ground truthing. Inspection forms are used for pre-work, operational inspections and final inspections. ORM maintains a database to ensure issues are documented, corrective actions assigned and closed off. The database is used to identify, monitor and address any systemic issues.

ORM requires that all contractors be certified through the respective professional logger associations in each of the three States that ORM operates in. ORM foresters provide SFI training for contractors and conduct weekly inspections of operations and maintain detailed inspection notes.

ORM staff receive annual in-house SFI training, including updates on research and best management practices for addressing climate change impacts on wildlife, ecosystems and biodiversity, and forest health. ORM participates in, and provides financial support for several research co-operatives and is active on SFI Implementation Committees.

ORM conducts a thorough internal review of their management systems and effectively communicates the results, including the status of corrective actions, to upper management through an annual management review meeting. Both the internal audit and management review are very well documented.

Specific Good management practices are noted below:

- A strong commitment to the continual improvement of forest management practices, including significant progress towards implementing processes to address the changes in the new standard;
- A thorough internal SFI audit process;
- High quality harvest unit engineering; and
- A strong focus on log utilization and quality.

Summary of Findings

An opportunity for improvement was identified with regard to reinforcing the requirements for spill kits and fire tools with contractors.

Conclusion

ORM has maintained conformance with the requirements of the SFI Standard. The Certificate can be can be obtained by contacting Mr. Patrick Raymond of Olympic Resource Management (360-297-0570 ext. 222).