

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC) woodlands operations are situated on Crown tenure in British Columbia, Canada managed as TFL 56. The TFL is 120,000 ha in area, of which 22,220 ha is in the timber harvest land base with an annual allowable cut (AAC) of 78,520 cubic meters. TFL 56 is located in the rugged Columbia Mountains one hour north of the City of Revelstoke in the Downie Creek and Goldstream River drainages.

RCFC is a community owned forest company with objectives to manage for community values.

RCFC supplies logs to the open market and does not have any post-harvest processing facilities, nor do they procure any fibre. More information on RCFC is available on the web site: <http://rcfc.bc.ca/>

The company SFI representative is Mr. Michael Copperthwaite, RPF.

AUDIT

During the period of June 7 to June 9, RCFC underwent a S2 Surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office including stakeholder and First Nations communication.

The SFI program third-party audit was undertaken by SAI Global. SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Standard ensuring the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, RPF, audit team leader. The auditor is a Professional Forester and a certified auditor.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	X	NA
Multi-site		
Group		

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

Management Planning on TFL 56 is guided by the 2009-05-25 Management Plan #4 for TFL 56.

The objectives are outlined in the plan as:

- Manage the license area according to environmentally sound integrated resource use principles and land-use plans within the context of government regulations and guidelines.
- Harvest the various forest types in proportion to their relative abundance within the operable land base. This is sometimes referred to as “harvesting the profile”
- Use forest management and harvest planning strategies that will sustain the long term productivity of the working forest while minimizing impact on non-timber resources including fish, wildlife, recreation, biological diversity, wilderness and water.
- Use harvest methods that best suit the on-site conditions and that allow access to all areas of the timber harvesting land base.
- Maximize conifer timber utilization.
- Explore utilization of the deciduous timber resource.
- Manage the forest in a manner that will produce a continuous flow of logs of suitable quality and quantity while maintaining other resource management goals.
- Recommend an annual allowable cut (AAC) which reflects the timber producing capacity of the land base, the needs of non-timber resource users, and the social and economic values related to TFL 56.
- Cooperate with the Timber Sales Manager in the sale of BC Timber Sales timber licenses within the TFL, explore the possibility of defining a fixed area for BCTS to permanently operate in, and encourage the use of the same standards for calculation of harvest volumes.

Situated 40 kilometers north of Revelstoke, TFL 56 covers an area of approximately 119,820 hectares. It is bounded on the west by the Lake Revelstoke reservoir, on the east by the height-of-land of the Selkirk Mountains, on the north by the Goldstream River and on the south by the Downie-Carnes height-of-land.

The land is extremely rugged and dominated by two roughly east-west valleys – those of Downie Creek and Goldstream River – and one north-south valley, that of the Columbia River (Lake Revelstoke Reservoir). Elevation ranges from 573 meters at reservoir level to 3050 meters at Carnes Peak.

The forested land base is a relatively small proportion of total area and the timber harvesting land base is even a smaller proportion still. Most harvesting is confined to valley sidewalls and valley bottoms. The remaining “high country” is too rugged or does not support marketable timber.

The ruggedness has minimized human use, hence there are no settlements, little private land, and until recently little recreation use. One highway (Hwy 23N) traverses the TFL. Traffic is light and dominated by logging and other industrial traffic.

Wildlife utilizes the TFL area extensively. Grizzly bears, black bears, moose, deer, and caribou are common. Caribou have become a management issue because they have been extirpated over much of their former range.

The forest cover on TFL 56 is dominated by older forests with a high proportion of low value timber. The current proportions, by volume of leading species are; cedar 31%, spruce 31%, hemlock 24%, Douglas-fir 9%, and subalpine fir 5%.

Because of the older forest cover type silviculture systems are dominantly clear cut and clear cut with reserves, though some partial cutting has occurred to meet other objectives. As such, even-aged management occurs where difficult but machine accessible sites are site prepped and all sites are planted.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, RPF, audit team leader. The auditor is a Professional Forester and a certified auditor.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the auditor evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 3, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 3, Table 2.

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a list of active sites and sites where forest management activities occurred since the last audit. The site choice also considered activity type, and risk factors, related to the audit objectives selected for review, as well as the opportunity to verify implementation of corrective actions for previous non-conformities.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore the complaint handling process could not be verified.

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	1.75
Field review:	1
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	5
Harvesting Blocks	1
Silviculture Sites	2
Operations visited: N/A	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2016-01	Minor	Section 5, clause 3.4 and 3.5 (PM not applicable)	Off-product SFI logo use	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

Opportunities for improvement

Not applicable.

OR

- Staff and contractor training requirements for 2015 WHMIS update.
- Explicit wording in logging contracts that indicate contractors will take QLP training.
- Retaining documentation for all QLP requirements including Safety and WCB requirements (First Aid, Transportation Endorsement) to demonstrate requirements are met.
- Improved record keeping for SFI annual report documentation.
- Removal of caristraps from CP308-1 aligned with the RCFC zero waste tolerance policy.

Exceptional practices

- Innovative road maintenance techniques used to manage unique alpine conditions.
- The wording in the Logging Rate Agreement about training employees on SOPS is excellent.
- In-kind support of research exceptional for size of organization.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Surveillance Audit

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria. The action plans related to the non-conformances has been reviewed and considered acceptable. As applicable, any major non-conformance has been closed and implementation of action plan for minor non-conformance will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

Appendices

Appendix 1: DEFINITIONS

Major Non-Conformances

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial audit or registration cannot be achieved. Subsequently for surveillance audits, an action plan shall be implemented by the auditee within 60 days for the registration to be maintained.

Minor Non-Conformances

Isolated incidents that are non-critical but must be addressed before the next surveillance audit to maintain compliance to the SFI standard. Non resolved minor non-conformance will be escalated to a major non-conformance.

Opportunity for Improvement

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

Exceptional practices

Areas that are deemed to be of outstanding practices.

Appendix 2: MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

This multi-site / group organization maintains an internal audit program determined to be reliable, in this case SAI Global sampling approach is as follow where n = number of sites:

- i. \sqrt{n} for initial certification audits
- ii. $0.6 \sqrt{n}$ for surveillance audits
- iii. $0.8 \sqrt{n}$ for re-registration audits

The central office function is audited annually.

OR

This multi-site / group organization did not maintain its internal audit program. SAI Global applies the following sampling where n = number of sites:

\sqrt{n}

The central office function is audited annually.

Appendix 3: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	X
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	Field only
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	Field only
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cutblock size calculations	X
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X

EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual		Annual management review records	X
Timber supply review	X	Internal audit records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards		Education/community involvement records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage)		Records of public inquiries and complaints	
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)		Stakeholder communications records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits		Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Reforestation plans		Wood producer information package	X
Pest management plan		SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports		SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification		Research and discussion papers	X
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	X
Green-up records		External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records		External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records			
Harvest inspection records	X		

Road and bridge inspection records	X		
Pre-harvest inspection records	X		
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records	X		



SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFI Forest Management, SFI CoC, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing Label, PEFC CoC, FSC® Forest Management, FSC® CoC.

The group, led by Sylvain Frappier, Technical Manager - Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts.

Contact certification.americas@saiglobal.com for more information.

Michael Copperthwaite, RPF
Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
General Manager
Office: 250-837-5733
Cell: 250-814-8972
mike@rcfc.bc.ca

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