

# Forest Certification UPDATE



## WEYERHAEUSER COLUMBIA TIMBERLANDS

### DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

The Washington and Oregon State Weyerhaeuser Columbia Timberlands are located on approximately 635,000 acres at multiple tree farm units in Washington and Oregon with a central office located in Longview, Washington. This is the former Longview Timber operations that were purchased by Weyerhaeuser in July 2013.

Columbia Timberlands was originally registered to the SFI 2005-2009 Standard on July 25, 2008 as Longview Timber and has continued to maintain its certification status to the SFI Forest Management Standard under the new ownership.

### BACKGROUND

During the period of July 28 to July 30, 2015 Weyerhaeuser Columbia Timberlands underwent a re-registration audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and the results of the SAI Global evaluation.

### SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation, and silviculture on private land owned by the organization in the states of Washington and Oregon.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (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) for registrations to SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations at the North Cascades Tree Farm through interviews with the company staff, contractors, and a local tribe member. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's offices in Longview and Sedro-Woolley.

### THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit team who performed the site audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, audit team leader and Laird Van Damme, audit team member. The auditors are Professional Foresters and certified lead auditors. The corporate head office functions were audited by Ken Hall. Ken is a Forest Technician and a certified lead auditor.



## AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

No areas of non-conformance were identified.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Consider:

- specific training for foresters on the identification and delineation of alluvial/debris fans;
- a greater emphasis on identifying steep areas below landings during harvest layout and discussing methods for reducing slash accumulation on steep slopes with logging contractors; and
- using indicator 8.3.1 (awareness of forest related knowledge) as a starting point for further discussion with tribes on what opportunities there are for further recognition and protection of cultural heritage sites.

## COMPLAINTS

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

## POSITIVE ASPECTS

- The brochure “A message for our neighbors” is sent out certified mail and explains about chemical site preparation to adjacent landowners.
- Provision of voluntary forestry expertise/extension services on a phone call basis to the public.
- The annual team leader summary on SFI implementation demonstrates thoughtful consideration, and commitment to continual improvement of sustainable forestry practices at a management level.
- Removal of road on braided stream for RMAP project rather than installing more culverts.

### SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances:	0
Minor non-conformances:	0
Opportunities for Improvement:	3
Positive Aspects:	4

### 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 and subsequently 60 days or registration cannot be achieved/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.

### Opportunity for Improvement

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

### Positive Aspects

Areas that are deemed to be of best practices.

**EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**

**Objectives Audited**

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	X
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	X
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	X
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	X
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	X
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

**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	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	
SFI/EMS training agenda		Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	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/inventory standards	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other: )	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	X
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	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	
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	
Pest management plan	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	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	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Tree improvement reports	X	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	X	Public information brochure regarding chemical spray plans	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Slope stability reviews/plans	X
Road and bridge inspection records		Soil surveys	X
Pre-harvest inspection records	X	Forest cover analysis	X
Post-harvest inspection records		Review of logos used on site.	X
Government compliance records			

**CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**

**Re-registration Audit**

Based on the results of this re-registration audit it has been determined that the management system of Weyerhaeuser Columbia Timberlands is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation for registration is made to SAI Global.

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](mailto:certification.americas@saiglobal.com) for more information.

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