

# Forest Certification UPDATE



## **WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY AND WEYERHAEUSER NR COMPANY, WESTERN TIMBERLANDS**

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY**

Weyerhaeuser Company and Weyerhaeuser NR Company, Western Timberlands Operations (Weyerhaeuser) are located in Washington and Oregon States and have a head office in Vancouver, Washington.

Western Timberlands is registered as a multi-site certificate, and includes Washington's Coastal, Central, and Longview Operations, and Oregon's Coos Bay, Springfield, North Valley, and South Valley Operations.

The company's Western Timberlands Sustainable Forest Management program has been registered to the SFI Standard since August 28, 2001.

### **BACKGROUND**

During the period of July 13 to July 17, 2015 Weyerhaeuser underwent a 24 month surveillance audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management and SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing standards. 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 program participant in the states of Washington and Oregon.

Sourcing of fiber from forests in the United States Pacific Northwest Region.

### **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 and SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed active and 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.

The 2015 sample sites for SFI Forest Management included Washington Coastal and South Valley Operations, and for Fiber Sourcing included Longview procurement operations. Vancouver Regional Office was assessed for conformance with head office requirements for both standards.

### **THE AUDITORS**

The SAI Global audit team who performed the Western Timberlands audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, audit team leader and Dan Simonds, audit team



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member. Cindy and Dan 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 non-conformances were identified during the audit.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

#### *South Valley*

Consider

- a more explicit definition of criteria for stand-level retention of wildlife and biodiversity elements.
- documentation of rationales where practices are deemed to be inconsistent, or potentially inconsistent, with Best Management Practices (and/or regulations).

#### *Washington Coastal*

Consider

- digital modeling of post-harvest visual conditions for visual corridors;
- using more effective way to communicate the Corporate Sustainable Forestry Policy to field staff; particularly when updates are made;
- updating the staff and contractor training matrices based on the requirements outlined in the EMS (Training, Awareness, and Competence Process);
- clarifying soil disturbance levels on harvesting maps as polygons are hard to read;
- providing laminated maps for fallers who do not have tablets;
- offering WY SFI Training to contractor employees;
- updating and re-distributing Spanish language EMS and T and E training.

### COMPLAINTS

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

### POSITIVE ASPECTS

#### *Vancouver Head Office*

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

Major non-conformances:	0
Minor non-conformances:	0
Opportunities for Improvement:	9
Positive Aspects:	9

#### SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances:	0
Minor non-conformances:	0
Opportunities for Improvement:	0
Positive Aspects:	1

#### 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.

- Western Timberlands Forestry Learning Centre maintained at Mount Saint Helens.
- EMS process found to be robust, as field forester was able to identify unknown occurrences of G1 plant Chamber's Paintbrush.

***South Valley***

- Impressive cross-functional collaboration of the South Valley land management staff.
- Depth and sophistication of South Valley reforestation and young stand management programs.
- Tight connections between strategic and operational forest planning.

***Washington Coastal***

- Outstanding emphasis and pride in sustainable forestry in all work.
- Use of the TLSAM program to determine scheduling of commercial thinning is an impressive use of modeling technology.
- Fish passage re-establishment projects were impressive in engineering and commitment to environmental care.
- Providing Spanish level EMS and Best Management Practice information to contractors.

***Longview***

- High level of participation from Qualified Logging Professionals in Fiber Sourcing.

**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 (indicator 2.4 only)	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits (indicator 5.1 only)	X
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	X
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach (indicator 12.3 only)	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
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	
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)		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	
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards		Education/community involvement records	
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other: )		Records of public inquiries and complaints	
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	
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Government meeting minutes and discussions.	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines		Wood producer training programs	X
Reforestation plans		Wood producer information package	
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	
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification		Research and discussion papers	
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	
Green-up records		External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records		External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records		Forest health reports and procedures	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Threatened and endangered species protection plans	X
Road and bridge inspection records		Lists of Qualified Logging Professionals	X
Pre-harvest inspection records	X	Pre-commercial thinning modelling and planning documents	X
Post-harvest inspection records	X	SIC emails, meeting minutes, reports	X
Government compliance records			

**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 of Weyerhaeuser Company and Weyerhaeuser NR Company, Western Timberlands is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

**EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD**

**Objectives Audited**

<b>Fiber Sourcing Within the United States and Canada</b>		
Objective 1	Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing	X
Objective 2	Adherence to Best Management Practices	X
Objective 3	Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals	
Objective 4	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 5	Forestry Research, Science, and Technology	
Objective 6	Training and Education	X
Objective 7	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach (indicator 7.3 only)	X
Objective 8	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 9	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 10	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

<b>Fiber Sourcing Outside the United States and Canada</b>		
Objective 11	Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas	
Objective 12	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging	
Objective 13	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws	

**Evidence Observed**

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Written policies	X	SFI and company websites	
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	SFI brochure	X
EMS and SFI field handbook		SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Training records (staff and contractors)		External audit field inspections	X
SFI/EMS training/agenda	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Cutting/harvesting permits		Supplier and Contractor letter	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	SIC email, reports, website	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X		
Reforestation plans			
Best management practices monitoring records	X		
Evaluation of best management practices	X		
Government compliance records			
Pre-work discussions/meeting records			
Monitoring records for non-timber values	X		
Utilization records			
Laws, legislation, regulations records			
Corrective action logs	X		
Education/community involvement records			
Records of public inquiries and complaints			
Stakeholder communications records			
Logging agreements and/or contracts	X		
Wood producer training programs			
Wood producer information package	X		
Policies provided to wood producers	X		
Education and outreach to forest landowners			
List of qualified logging professional/certified logging professional	X		
Agreements for purchased stumpage	X		
Program to assess and address risk of Illegal logging	X		
Research and discussion papers			
Support for research and science			
Climate change information and/or meeting minutes			

Additional evidence for Objectives 11 -13 Sourcing from Outside Canada and USA			
Use of information from sources such as: Biodiversity hot spots, high biodiversity wilderness areas, rare species, habitat information		When identified, Program to address significant risk for countries without effective laws	
Info about direct supplier's application of principle of sustainable forestry		When identified, Program to address significant risk of Illegal logging	
Program in place to reduce risk of Illegal logging			
Program in place to assess risk for countries without effective laws			

**CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD**

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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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