

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Client General Awareness Document

The purpose of this document is to provide BC Timber Sale clients (supervisors/workers) with a general awareness to the principles of the SFI Forest Management Standard, including SFI basic training requirements in a tailgate training format. To learn more about the SFI organization and its standards go to www.forests.org The SFI principles are based on an array of objectives, performance measures and indicators.

SFI Forest Management Standard Principles

Sustainable Forestry

- Forest Management is a balance of social, economic, and environmental values now and in the future.
- Balancing harvesting with the needs of other values like water, soil, plants, animals, aquatic habitats and ecological communities, recreation, and the capacity of the land to grow trees including consideration of climate change adaptation and mitigation and wildfire resiliency.

Forest Productivity and Health

- Help BCTS maintain the health and productive capacity of the forest land base.
- Protect, and maintain, soil health and productivity.
- Know applicable soil disturbance levels and use appropriate methods to avoid excess soil disturbance. Follow plans designed to minimize impacts to soil health.
- Protect forests from undesirable impacts of wildfire, pests, diseases, and invasive species.
- Become familiar with applicable invasive species in your area take action to minimize their introduction and spread.

Protection of Water Resources

- To protect and maintain water quality and quantity of water bodies and riparian areas, Follow BCTS Environmental Field Procedures (EFPs) and any local Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) applicable to your forest management activities.
- Ensure that forest practices do not degrade water quality values through the introduction of soil/silt; petrochemical products like hydraulic fluid, oil, gas, and diesel; and other chemicals used in forest management activities, e.g., herbicides.
- Maintain the water's natural drainage patterns to the fullest extent possible and re-establish natural drainage patterns upon completion of forest management activities.
- Follow wet weather shutdown procedures where they exist.
- Do not disrupt the natural rate and timing of water flow through road construction or other forest management activities.

Protection of Biological Diversity

- Know that BCTS's Species of Management Concern (SOMC) program is intended to protect threatened or endangered species and ecological communities (plants and animals).
- Know what SOMC exist, or could exist, in areas associated with your forest management activities.
- Become familiar with Project Plans for forest operations to understand how to manage for SOMC.
- Know about and protect biologically significant sites in or around areas of proposed forest management activities, e.g., parks, ecological reserves, old growth management areas, wildlife habitat areas, etc.
- Maintain Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRAs) and other stand-level retention requirements.

Aesthetic Values and Recreation

- Implement Project Plans for forest operations to ensure that visual values on the landscape are maintained.
- Prevent or mitigate potential negative impacts to recreational opportunities as a result your activities.

Protection of Special Sites

- Know about geologically (i.e. Karst) or culturally (i.e. historic, First Nations traditional use) significant sites in or around areas of proposed forest management activities in order to protect their unique qualities.

Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

- Ensure efficient utilization of harvested timber, minimize waste.

Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- Understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge, including non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples.
- Identify and protect spiritually, historically or culturally important sites.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Know the laws applicable to your activities (See <http://www.bclaws.ca/legallinks.html>)
- Make sure your activities are consistent with Project Plans that guide your forestry management activities.
- Follow applicable Safety/WorkSafeBC laws and regulations including employment standards.

Training and Education

- Ensure that supervisors have completed BCTS EMS/SFM Awareness training and show documentation to BCTS.
- Train your crews and maintain training records.
- Commit to continuous learning in the areas in which you are involved in forestry activities.
- Understand what aspects of your job have the greatest environmental impacts and then learn how to implement new procedures, techniques, or technology to minimize potential impacts.

Continuous Improvement

- ✓ STOP WORK if you believe the Project Plan will not work.
- ✓ Monitor and inspect your work.
- ✓ Follow-up on corrective and preventative actions
- ✓ Participate in internal and external audits.
- ✓ Report project changes and inconsistent forest practices.

If you suspect that forest practices are not meeting the SFI principles, you are encouraged to submit a complaint as described on the Western Canadian SFI Implementation Committee (WCSIC) Inconsistent Practices website. To learn more about WCSIC, or how to file a complaint, please refer to the WCSIC 'Procedure for Addressing Allegations of SFI Non-Conformance' at the following web address: <http://www.wcsic.ca/Inconsistent/Practices.php>