

## Downie Timber's Wood Procurement Program

### 1. Introduction

Downie Timber Ltd is a member off the Western Canada Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee (WCSIC) which is made up of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program participants in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. SFI Program participants are SFI certified forest companies or organizations that believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable public and private forest forestlands. SFI program participants support sustainable forestry practices on forestland they manage and promote it on other lands. They support efforts to protect private property rights, and to help all landowners manage their forestland sustainably. The WCSIC performs local outreach and education activities that promote sustainable forestry, the SFI program, and SFI Standard compliance on public and private forestlands.

The Wood Producer Information Package is an outreach to landowners supplying wood to SFI program participants. The Wood Producer information package provides guidance for managing forestlands consistent with SFI Program principles and objectives. SFI program participants also encourage forest landowners to participate in forest management certification. Landowners considering certifying their lands should contact the nearest SFI program participant or the WCSIC at [www.WCSIC.ca](http://www.WCSIC.ca).

### 2. About SFI

SFI Program participants support the following principles:

1. Sustainable Forestry
2. Forest Productivity and Health
3. Protection of Water Resources
4. Protection of Biological Diversity
5. Aesthetics and Recreation
6. Protection of Special Sites
7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America
8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing
9. Legal Compliance
10. Research

11. Training and Education
12. Public Involvement
13. Transparency
14. Continual Improvement

Many forest companies and organizations have currently achieved SFI certification, or certification to other sustainable forest management standards to help ensure the future well being of the forest ecosystem.

To demonstrate conformance with SFI or other standards, companies hire independent auditors, who verify that the companies' forest practices and environmental management meet the requirements of the certification system. The audit verification is an ongoing process that ensures continuing conformance with the sustainable forest management standards. For more information on the SFI Standard please refer to the SFI website, [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org).

### **3. SFI Objectives**

The SFI standard contains objectives, performance measures for these objectives and measurable indicators to help verify compliance with the objectives. The following are the 20 objectives of the SFI Standard:

#### **Forest Land Management Objectives**

- Objective 1 – Forest Management Planning
- Objective 2 – Forest Productivity
- Objective 3 – Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources
- Objective 4 – Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
- Objective 5 – Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits
- Objective 6 – Protection of Special Sites
- Objective 7 – Efficient Use of Forest Resources

#### **Fiber Sourcing Objectives**

- Objective 8 – Landowner Outreach
- Objective 9 – Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals
- Objective 10 – Adherence to Best Management Practices
- 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

### **Forest Land Management and Fiber Sourcing Objectives**

Objective 14 – Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Objective 15 – Forestry Research, Science, and Technology

Objective 16 – Training and Education

Objective 17 – Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry

Objective 18 – Public Land Management Responsibilities

Objective 19 – Communications and Public Reporting

Objective 20 – Management Review and Continual Improvement

## **4. Sustainable Forest Management Practices**

The WCSIC supports forest land managers in conducting sustainable forest management operations. Wood producers are expected to conduct harvesting operations in compliance with any applicable provincial or federal legislation. There is legislation that applies to both crown (public) forestland and private land that is managed for forestry. SFI program participants encourage wood producers to consider the following guidance on forestland managed by the wood producer or landowner. Landowners should contact an appropriate qualified resource professional for additional guidance particularly with respect to Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

- a) Reforestation: Prompt reforestation of lands being managed for forestry will help to ensure successive crops of trees. Reforestation plans can detail the steps needed to successfully re-establish seedlings on harvested forestlands. SFI program participants will, on request, supply a list of registered forest professionals to assist you in developing a reforestation plan for your site. A list of seedling nurseries can also be obtained from the SFI program participants. Note that seedlings generally need to be ordered at least one year in advance of planting dates.
- b) Afforestation: When feasible forestland owners are encouraged to practice afforestation; converting lands back to productive forests or planting trees on lands that have not recently supported forests. Afforestation has many benefits to the environment; two examples are increased overall productivity and increasing carbon storage. Afforestation may qualify as carbon credits for offsetting green house gas emissions. For information about carbon offset projects refer to Pacific Carbon Trust: [www.pacificcarbontrust.com/](http://www.pacificcarbontrust.com/) or Carbon Offset Solutions (Alberta based): <http://carbonoffsetsolutions.climatechangecentral.com/offset-registry>
- c) Invasive Exotic Plants and Animals: The SFI standard requires participants to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and

animal communities. Information the control of invasive plants can be found through the invasive plant councils in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The federal government of Canada, documents incidences and develops strategies for “Invasive Alien Species in Canada”. The program includes invasive plants and animals: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/eee-ias/>

- d) **Water Quality and Riparian Management:** Riparian habitat (area adjacent to creeks, lakes and wetlands) is very important for protecting water quality and provides high value wildlife habitat. Special measures are often required in riparian habitat to ensure water quality and habitat is managed on a sustainable basis. SFI program participants will, on request, supply a list of qualified resource professionals to assist you in preparing prescriptions to manage riparian habitat.
  
- e) **Soil Conservation:** Protecting the soil resource is the key to long-term productivity of forestlands. Conducting operations in a manner that conserves the soil resource is critical to sustainable forestry. Weather conditions can be a major factor in soil disturbance. Operations should avoid conditions that create excessive rutting or compaction. Plan operations with soil disturbance in mind. Weather conditions and soil disturbance should be assessed and consideration given to curtailing or stopping activities causing soil disturbance when soils are too wet to support equipment. For example, in the Interior consider winter harvesting on wet ground to better support equipment. With different soil types, and phases of harvesting, it may be possible to carry out some operations in wet weather without causing excessive soil disturbance. Appropriate equipment should be used to minimize soil disturbance.

The area in permanent roads, trails and landings should be minimized to maintain productive forestland. SFI program participants will, on request, supply a list of qualified resource professionals to assist you in managing the soil resource on your forestlands.

- f) **Wildlife Management:** Managing forest lands for general wildlife features as well as specific management for endangered species are important components of sustainable forestry. SFI program participants may have guides for endangered species management that could be made available upon request. In addition SFI program participants will supply a list of qualified resource professionals to assist you in developing wildlife management strategies.

There is also a website that contains information on threatened and endangered species management. The following website:

[www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/default_e.cfm) may have species-specific information that applies to your situation.

- g) Forests with exceptional conservation value (FECV): Forestland owners are encouraged to evaluate their lands to determine FECV. FECV are lands with critically imperiled (G1) and imperiled (G2) species and ecological communities. Landowners may seek assistance from SFI program participants or by contacting an appropriate qualified resource professional.
- h) Special Sites: The SFI standard requires program participants to manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. Identification and management of special sites covers a broad range of values, ecological, geological, historical, cultural and spiritual. Landowners may consult with local historians, archeologists, first nations or local governments to determine significance to map and manage for their unique features.
- i) Coarse woody debris/harvest residue: The SFI standard requires participants to manage harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) with consideration given to economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs. In the absence of landowner harvest residue management plans, landowners should contact SFI program participants or qualified resource professionals in their area for suggested management practices for their forestlands.
- j) Visual Quality: Managing harvesting operations to minimize visual impact are an important part of sustainable forestry. Operations on private land may impact the views of many individuals and communities. The WCSIC recommends that the visual impact of harvesting be considered visually sensitive areas. For guidance or advice landowners are encouraged to contact a qualified resource professional knowledgeable in visual management assessment and planning.
- k) Qualified Professionals: The WCSIC and SFI program participants do not endorse specific professionals or companies as to their appropriateness to landowners. The following lists are intended to inform landowners seeking assistance from qualified professionals to further manage and or develop their lands consistent with SFI principles. The WCSIC or SFI program participants may assist landowners in contacting qualified professionals.

## Qualified Resource Professionals

- Forestry:

A list of Qualified Resource Professionals (Professional Foresters, Biologists, Engineers, etc.) in BC can be accessed through the Consulting Foresters of BC website at [www.cfbc.bc.ca](http://www.cfbc.bc.ca) . The membership directory can help you identify forestry consultants to assist you in planning all aspects of forest management including reforestation plans, visual management, riparian management, soil conservation and wildlife management. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, please consult with the SFI program participants for a list of suggested Qualified Resource Professionals.

- Biologists:

The College of applied Biology- BC has a membership database that can be accessed at [www.cab-bc.org](http://www.cab-bc.org). The membership database lists biologists and their employer. The members could assist you in such areas as planning for riparian management and wildlife management. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, please contact the SFI program participant or member company for a list of suggested consulting biologists or contact the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists at [www.aspb.ab.ca/contact](http://www.aspb.ab.ca/contact).

- Engineering:

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC can be accessed through [www.apeq.bc.ca](http://www.apeq.bc.ca) . The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta can be accessed at [www.apegga.org/](http://www.apegga.org/). The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan can be contacted at: <http://www.apegs.sk.ca>. These websites have a member's section that provides information on qualified professionals to assist in such areas as operations on potentially unstable or steep terrain and engineered structures such as bridges.

- Seedling Nurseries and Seed Procurement:

A list of Canadian Forest Seedling Nurseries and services is available on the BC Ministry of Forests and Range website under the Nursery Services Section. The list includes wood producers in BC and Alberta. The website can be accessed at

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/extensn/AlphaNurseryDirectory.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/extensn/AlphaNurseryDirectory.htm) .

The nurseries can assist you in selecting and procuring appropriate seedlings for a reforestation project. In Saskatchewan please consult with the SFI member company for advice on obtaining seedlings.

l) Qualified Logging Professionals

The WCSIC encourages wood producers to utilize the services of qualified logging professionals. These loggers will have successfully completed a training program recognized by the WCSIC. A list of local qualified logging professional can be obtained from an SFI program participant.

m) Guidebooks and sustainable forestry management practices: The WCSIC supports small forestland owners' forestry operations through promotion of sustainable forestry management. Wood producers are expected to conduct harvesting operations in compliance with applicable provincial or federal legislation. The intent of sustainable forestry practices for these lands is to maintain or protect where practical, forest resource values. The WCSIC provides and or directs small private landowners to information about sustainable forestry practices for reforestation, riparian management, soil conservation, wildlife management and visual or scenic quality. Resources for landowners can be found with the following organizations and on their websites:

- Private Forest Landowners Association  
<<http://www.pfla.bc.ca/environment/best-management-practices>>
- Private Managed Forest Land Council Field Practices Guide Infoflip™  
<<http://www.pmflc.ca/program.html#guide>>
- Conservation and Logging on Private Land in Alberta  
<[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3492?opendocument](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3492?opendocument)>
- BC Small Woodland Partnership Outreach  
<<http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/swp/>>

The WCSIC members or SFI program participants will not purchase wood from unknown sources or wood producers whose practices are illegal or do not meet regulations for private land management.

## **5. Other Considerations**

- a) **Spill Response Plan:** Fuel and other material spills have the potential to cause environmental damage. Wood producers are encouraged to become familiar with spill reporting requirements and to have an action plan and a supply of spill containment and mop up equipment available on site. Reportable spills must be phoned in to the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) at 1-800-663-3456 or contact the RCMP. In Alberta call Alberta Environmental Protection at 1-800-222-6514. In Saskatchewan call the Spill Report Centre at 1-800-667-7525.
  
- b) **Fire Preparedness Plan:** Wood producers are encouraged to become familiar with the Wildfire Act and Regulations and to have an action plan and supply of fire fighting equipment as required. Forest fires can be reported to the Ministry of Forests at 1-800-663-5555. In Alberta call Report-A-Fire at 310-FIRE (310-3473). In Saskatchewan call the Forest Fire Control Centre at 1-800-667-9660.

## **6. Company Audits**

As part of the SFI program participant's commitment to sustainable forestry management, an on-site visit to the wood producers operations may be conducted to answer any questions about the SFI program. The visit may also include an assessment of the conditions on the logging site as part of our requirements to meet the SFI standards.