

Forest Certification UPDATE



REVELSTOKE COMMUNITY FOREST CORPORATION

Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC) woodlands operations are situated on Crown Lands in British Columbia, Canada and comprise of TFL 56. The TFL is 120,000 ha in area, 59,000 ha is non forested, 61,000 ha is forested, and 22,220 ha is in the timber harvest land base. 38,780 ha is forested reserve. RCFC has an annual allowable cut (AAC) of 78,500 cubic meters. It is managed from the RCFC office located in Revelstoke, BC.

RCFC supplies logs to the open market and does not have any post-harvest processing facilities, nor do they procure any fiber.

More information on RCFC is available on the web site: <http://rcfc.bc.ca/overview/>

BACKGROUND

During the period of July 3 and 4, 2013, RCFC underwent a 24 month surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Standard 2010-2014. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and results of the SAI Global surveillance audit.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities . planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on TFL 56. - Objectives 1-7 and 14-20.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SFI Program third-party 24 month surveillance 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 SFIS 2010-2014. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed completed harvest operations through interviews with RCFC staff. The audit also assessed the SFIS and supporting EMS documentation and records at the RCFC office. At the time of the audit, there were no active operations.



THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of William Sloan, RFT, as the lead auditor and Cindy Hutchison, RPF, as a SAI Observer. The auditors are Forest Professionals and William Sloan is a certified lead auditor.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

No areas of non-conformance were identified during the audit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The following Opportunities for Improvement of RCFC's SFI program were noted:

2.4/3.2: RCFC may wish to consider reviewing the OMS documentation for accuracy. For example, the audit found:

- In the Spill Response Plan that some references to the various appendices are not valid. For example:
 - Section 5 refers to the Spill Response Action Steps as Appendix 1 when it is actually Appendix 2;
 - Section 5.1 refers to the minimum spill response equipment as Appendix 6 but there is no appendix 6;
- In the Fire Plan, there is a reference to an employee is who is no longer employed by RCFC.

14.1: RCFC may wish to review the assessment of compliance program to verify that it is meeting the requirements as detailed in the OMS Manual.

14.2.2 and 17.3.2: RCFC may wish to consider including in the OMS and Evidence Package the actual wording for SAI's expectations with regards to timing of forwarding complaints to SAI.

20.1: RCFC may wish to include more detail in the Management Review meeting minutes as it was difficult to determine from the minutes for the 2013 review that all the requirements as listed in the OMS Manual Section 6, Management Review Table 6.1-1 had been addressed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS

As no non-conformances were identified, no corrective action plans are required.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

The following positive aspects of RCFC's SFI program were noted:

- Marking of leave areas when the harvesting contractor is on-site;
- RCFC is open to looking at alternate management options, such as:

SFIS 2010-2014

Periodic Assessments

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

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



- Broadcast burning in cooperation with MOFR;
- Hand seeding of select areas;
- Managing for visuals when not required to.
- Good community communications, including:
 - Writing forestry related articles for posting on the revised RCFC web site;
 - Cooperating with local newspaper to get 3 articles into the paper;
 - Having a booth at the southern interior municipalities conference.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

Evidence that was assessed to determine RCFC's conformity with the SFIS 2010-2014 standard appears below. As it was a surveillance audit, not all Objectives, Programs and Indicators were audited:

SFI-01 Forest Management Planning

Not audited in 2013.

SFI-02 Forest Productivity

Forest Stewardship Plans, Site Plans, Standard Operating Procedures, Logging Plan maps, silviculture reports, planting program data and prescriptions, pre-work and inspection records, Fire Preparedness Plans, Training records, Interviews. 3 sites and activities were observed.

SFI-03 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

Forest Stewardship Plans, Standard Operating Procedures, Site Plans, Harvest and road pre-work and inspection records, Training records, Logging agreements, Interviews. 3 sites and activities were observed.

SFI-04 Conservation of Biological Diversity

Forest Stewardship Plans, species and ecological communities at risk lists; Site Plans, Operational pre-works and inspection records; Training records, Interviews.

SFI-05 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

Forest Stewardship Plans, Site Plans, Reports generated from the Company's database specific to cut block size, Free to Grow Surveys, silviculture treatments, referrals and stakeholder communications, Interviews. 3 sites and activities were observed.

SFI-06 Protection of Special Sites

Not audited in 2013.

SFI-07 Efficient Use of Forest Resources

Not audited in 2013.



Broadcast burn site preparation from the fall of 2012

SFI-08 to 13 are not applicable to RCFC as they do not procure fibre

SFI-14 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

EMS, Laws, Legislation, regulations, Management review meeting minutes, Inspection records, Compliance tracking records, Government compliance and enforcement records, Corrective Action plans, Environmental and SFM Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Harassment and Discrimination Policy. 3 sites and activities were observed.

SFI-15 Forestry Research & Technology

Summary of research projects, Inspection records, Interviews.

SFI-16 Training and Education

EMS guidebook, Sustainable Forest Management & Environmental Policies, Health and Safety Policy, Training records, staff and contractor training, meeting minutes, Interviews.

SFI-17 Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry

SIC meeting minutes, SFI Evidence Package, Forest Stewardship Plans and associated referral information, Site Plans, pre-works, Records of public inquiries, Interviews.

SFI-18 Public Land Management Responsibilities

Forest Stewardship Plans, Site Plans; Records respecting the Company's involvement in public land planning and management activities; First Nations and stakeholder and external correspondence files/records; Cutting Permit development and block files.

SFI-19 Communications and Public Reporting

Communication strategy files/records, meeting minutes, SFI website, Interviews.

SFI-20 Management Review and Continual Improvement

Management review meeting minutes and associated input/output records, Field inspection records, Corrective Action Plans, Field Inspections, Interviews.

SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFIS, SFI CoC, PEFC CoC. QMI-SAI Global registers/certifies forest companies to FSC FM and 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.

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