

UPDATE Forest Certification



Canadian Forest Products Grande Prairie FMA #9900037

In December 2001, an audit team from KPMG Quality Registrar Inc. carried out a periodic assessment audit of Canfor's Alberta Region woodlands operations. The audit determined the Environmental Management System (EMS) in use at Canfor's Alberta Region continues to meet the ISO 14001 EMS standard. Additionally, the audit determined the Sustainable Forest Management System in use at Canfor's operations on the Grande Prairie FMA (Forest Management Agreement #9900037) continues to meet the Canadian Standards Association's standard for Sustainable Forest Management Systems (CSA-SFM).

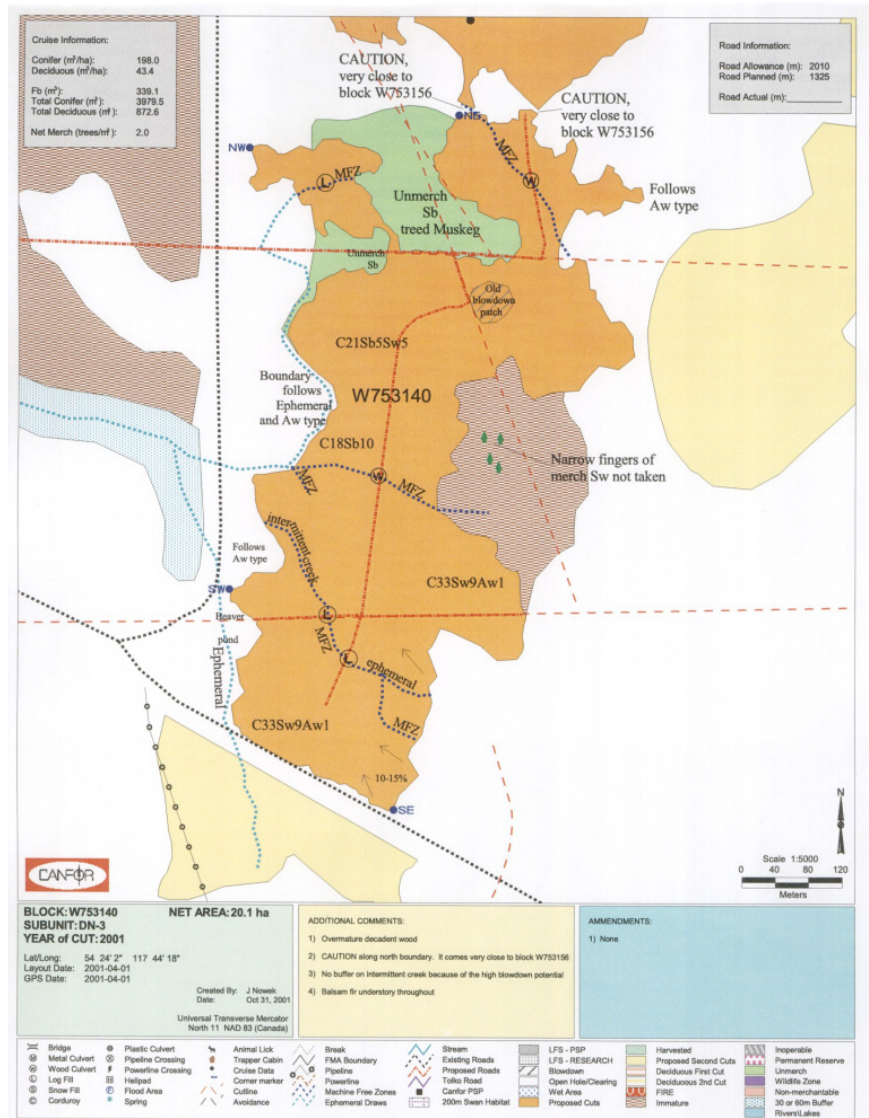


The combination of ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM registration provides a robust framework for implementing and monitoring a sustainable forest management plan for the FMA. The framework of criteria and indicators used in the plan are based on the criteria and critical elements for sustainable forest management developed by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and embodied in the CSA-SFM Standard. The specific indicators selected were achieved through a public involvement process using a multi-interest Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC).

This Certification Update outlines the process used by KPMG auditors during the recent periodic assessment and summarizes KPMG's findings.

Background

- Both the ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM standards require regular audits by the Registrar to assess continuing conformance with the standards.
- A team of two auditors conducted the recent assessment over a three-day period for the Alberta Region.
- The team conducted interviews with staff and contractors, examined EMS records, monitoring information and public involvement information.
- The team conducted a field assessment of conformance and assessed the accuracy of monitoring records.



Field maps have been substantially improved over the last year making it easier for staff and operators to follow plans in the field.

Findings – Grande Prairie FMA #9900037

Noteworthy comments

- Public involvement through the FMAC acted as a cornerstone in the development and finalizing of the recently submitted management plan for the FMA.
- A comprehensive annual SFM report was prepared and released in June covering progress on SFM objectives.
- Continued progress has been made in upgrading fuel storage facilities in camps.
- The recent internal EMS audit conducted by Canfor was comprehensive and thorough.
- Exceptional progress has been made in the quality of field maps used by machine operators.
- A high level of environmental awareness of field foreman and machine operators was noted through interviews in the harvesting camps visited.

Key areas of minor nonconformance

- One isolated minor nonconformance was identified on the FMA. There was no evidence that the random herbicide applicator awareness checks required under Canfor's EMS were carried out during the 2001 herbicide season.

Key opportunities for improvement

- The EMS requires start-up inspections on camps to be completed at the beginning of the season, but does not specify a time frame. The audit determined that some camps did not have an inspection until three weeks after the date of start-up. The wording of the EMS should be clarified to ensure the inspections are completed concurrently with start-up.
- Although field maps have improved significantly, a review of the maps in use identified some minor opportunities for improvement: All symbols on the maps should be included in the legend and ensure all maps are dated.
- An opportunity to formalize the review of documented map inaccuracies to identify trends in layout crew performance was identified. This would help facilitate continual improvement at the important planning stage of road and block layout.



December, 2001 ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM Periodic Assessments	
Major nonconformances	0
Minor nonconformances	1
Opportunities for improvement	3

Major nonconformances:

- Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the EMS/SFM Objectives.

Minor nonconformances:

- Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of EMS/SFM Objectives.

All nonconformances require an action plan within 30 days and must be addressed by the operation.

Major nonconformances must be addressed immediately or registration can not be achieved/maintained.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- Are not nonconformances but are comments on specific areas of the EMS where improvements can be made.

Field operators and foreman continue to show a focus on leaving snags, saplings, and deciduous stems standing to provide increased vertical structure in cutblocks after harvesting.

Through KPMG QRI, KPMGs Vancouver based forestry specialist group is accredited to register forest companies to ISO 14001, CSA-SFM and AF&PA SFI certification standards. The group is lead by Mike Alexander and consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters and industry experts.

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