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Ver 12 September 2019

FSC Forest Management Certification

1st surveillance

Report for:

Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF)
Certified area: Community Forest

in

Burns Lake, British Columbia
Canada

Report Finalized:	December 1, 2021
Audit Dates:	September 23-24, 2021
Audit Team:	James Hallworth; Lead Auditor James Lucas, Auditor-in-Training
Type of certificate:	Single FMU
Certificate code:	NC-FM/CoC- 001758
Certificate issue/expiry:	December 31, 2020 December 30, 2025
Organisation Contact:	Mr. Frank Varga
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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent certification audit conducted by a team of specialists representing Preferred by Nature. The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social performance of Burns Lake Community Forest (BLCF) forest management as defined by the Principles and Criteria established by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®).

This report contains various sections of information and findings and several annexes. Sections 1-4 of the report will become public information about the forest management operation and may be distributed by Preferred by Nature or the FSC to interested parties. The remainder of the annexes are confidential, to be reviewed only by authorized Preferred by Nature and FSC personnel bound by confidentiality agreements. A copy of the public summary of this report can be obtained on the FSC website at <http://info.fsc.org/>.

Dispute resolution: If Preferred by Nature clients encounter organisations or individuals having concerns or comments about Preferred by Nature and our services, these parties are strongly encouraged to contact relevant Preferred by Nature regional office. Formal complaints and concerns should be sent in writing.

Impartiality commitment: Preferred by Nature commits to using impartial auditors and our clients are encouraged to inform Preferred by Nature management if violations of this are noted. Please see our Impartiality Policy here: http://www.Preferred_by_Nature.org/impartiality-policy

Standard Conversions

1 mbf = 2.4 m³
1 cord = 3.6 m³
100 tons hardwood = 97 m³
100 tons = 101 m³
1 acre = 0.404687 hectares

1. AUDIT CONCLUSIONS

1.1 Audit Recommendation and certification decision

Based on Organisation's conformance with certification requirements, the following recommendation is made:

- Certification approved:
No NCRs issued

 - Certification not approved:
-

Additional comments, including issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate and explanation of the conclusion reached:

Note: NCRs describe evidences of Organisation non-conformities identified during audits. NCRs include defined timelines for the Organisation to demonstrate conformity. MAJOR NCRs issued during assessments/reassessments shall be closed prior to issuance of certificate. MAJOR NCRs issued during anual audits shall be closed within timeline or result in suspension.

1.2 New Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

- Check if no NCR(s) have been issued

1.3 Observations

Note: Observations are issued for the early stages of a problem which does not of itself constitute a non-conformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future non-conformance if not addressed by the organization; observations may lead to direct non-conformances if not addressed.

- No observations

OBS: 4.1.4/21	Standard & Requirement:	Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards
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		for British Columbia - Main Standards (2005) Indicator 4.1.4
	Report Section	Annex I
Description of findings leading to observation:	<p>Requirement: 4.1.4 The manager and contractors provide training opportunities and/or collaborate with local training providers and institutions, such that: b) forest workers receive the training needed to comply with the FSC-BC Regional Standards and legal requirements applicable to their responsibilities.</p> <p>Finding: An observation has been issued to the Organization regarding the continued requirement to ensure forest workers receive the training needed to comply with the FSC-BC Regional Standards and legal requirements applicable to their responsibilities. A worker interviewed on-site had not reported recent sightings of a small carnivore (possibly weasel family) but workers interviewed on other sites had reported and flagged piles where weasels had been seen as using as possible den sites. This is an observation as there are procedures in place to provide and continue training, for example during the pre-harvest meeting, the Organizations supervisor goes through standard operating procedures and best management practices outlined in the Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) which is updated annually. This includes the identification of species at risk and rare or threatened species (as per requirements under 6.2.4). As specified in the contractor agreements, contractors are responsible for all training required to complete their contract, this is checked and monitored by the Organization's supervisor. This was verified by staff and worker interviews.</p>	
Observation:	FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 4.1.4.	

OBS: 4.2.1/21	Standard & Requirement:	Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia - Main Standards (2005) Indicator 4.2.1
	Report Section	Annex I
Description of findings leading to observation:	<p>Requirement: 4.2.1 The manager develops and implements a safety program (for all forest workers) to meet or exceed occupational health and safety regulations.</p> <p>Finding:</p>	

	<p>During field visits, the audit team interviewed on-site four forest workers and inspected one forwarder and two trucks. It was observed that fire extinguishers are visually inspected regularly and are checked by a certified contractor once every two years, however there is some ambiguity on how often a certified contractor needs to conduct a full inspection as per BC regulations, OBS 4.2.1/21 being issued. This is issued as an observation as the Organization has developed a safety program - a Safety and Environmental Handbook which details emergency response protocols and is updated on an annual basis. The handbook was verified to be in use by contractors and employees. No dangerous situation was witnessed during the field visit. The organization also maintains a corrective action log, that documents all safety issues and measures towards continual improvement. BLCF is also a SAFE certified company with the latest 2021 inspection finding them in compliance.</p>
Observation:	FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 4.2.1.

OBS: 6.7.1/21	Standard & Requirement:	Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia - Main Standards (2005) Indicator 6.7.1
	Report Section	Annex I
Description of findings leading to observation:	<p>Requirement: 6.7.1 The manager implements measures, including worker training, to prevent the unintended release of chemicals, petroleum products, containers and non-organic wastes, and avoid health and environmental risks due to their disposal.</p> <p>Finding: During field visits, the audit team interviewed on-site four forest workers and inspected one forwarder. OBS 6.7.1/21 has been issued as the forwarder inspected did not contain a spill kit however it was observed to be in the vehicle near the site of active operations (300m approx.). The Organization provides a Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) to its forest workers and employees which outlines chemical use and spill procedures. Training is provided to employees and updated as necessary. Contractors are responsible for their own training as per their contract agreement but are frequently updated and monitored by the Organizations supervisor and are expected to follow all procedures outlined in the Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) which is updated annually. The audit team witnessed no spills and notes that the Organization has a good (low) record of spill-</p>	

	related incidents, therefore this is deemed an observation only.
Observation:	FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 6.7.1.

1.4 Conformance with Applicable Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

Note: this section indicates the Organisation's actions to comply with NCRs that have been issued during or since the last audit. Failure to comply with a minor NCR results in the NCR being upgraded to major; the specified follow-up action is required by the Organization or involuntary suspension will take place.

Status Categories	Explanation
CLOSED	Operation has successfully met the NCR
OPEN	Operation has either not met or has partially met the NCR

Check if N/A (there are no open NCRs to review)

NCR: 7.1.14/20	NC Classification: minor
Standard & Requirement:	Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia - Main Standards (2005) section 7.1.14
Report Section:	Annex I, Indicator 7.1.14
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
<p><u>Requirement:</u> The management plan contains provisions for rare, threatened, and endangered species (See also Criterion 6.2).</p> <p><u>Finding:</u> The Organization has demonstrated that measures are in place for the protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species (as per indicator 6.2.2 of this Standard). Examples of this include listing species and ecosystems within their Safety and Environmental Handbook, including operating procedures for when encountering these species in the field. Interviews confirmed staff awareness and examples of consulting wildlife experts to confirm species sightings or habitat suitability and that these findings are incorporated into operational planning to ensure these values are maintained. While the 2017 Environmental Values Report contains a series of management practices or measures recommended for each of these focal species, as a third-party report there is no provision that these measures have been formally adopted by the Organization. The recently approved FMP, and supporting FSP, do not provide clear provisions, such as objectives or</p>	

strategies, for all the rare, threatened, and endangered species found within and being managed for by the BLCF.

Evidence:

Forest Management Plan #4

Forest Stewardship Plan

Safety and Environmental Handbook (2020)

Interviews

Environmental Values Report (Keystone, 2017)

Preliminary Grizzly Habitat Assessment Letter (Environmental Dynamics Inc., September 22, 2020)

Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	<p>Within 12 months from report draft date</p> <p>Due date: 2021-10-19</p>
NCR Evaluation Type	On-site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desk Review <input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	Current Forest Management Plan, Draft Forest Stewardship Plan, Updated Safety and Environmental Manual (2021)
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	BLCF has updated its Safety and Environmental Manual to include identification keys for Red and Blue listed species as well as SOP's for sightings of goshawks and fisher as well as a SOP for habitat retention for marten (local species of interest). Additional commentary has been noted/added to the draft Forest Stewardship Plan (which is currently under review by the Ministry as the previous FSP is expiring) and current Forest Management Plan. Training with staff and contractors includes the updated Environmental Manual and this was confirmed through discussions with contractors, field review and review of training records. Based on the preceding, the finding is closed.
NCR Status:	CLOSED
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 8.5.1/20	NC Classification: minor
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Standard & Requirement:	Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia - Main Standards (2005) section 8.5.1
Report Section:	Annex I, Indicator 8.5.1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
<p>Requirement: A regular summary is compiled of the results of monitoring. The summary is made available to interested parties.</p> <p>Finding: A variety of monitoring results are available in different formats. The back of the monitoring plan includes a summary of some monitoring results (although had not been updated since 2019's annual audit). The annual report provides summaries of the monitoring of financial records. Other summaries, including on harvest yields or silviculture records can be made available by requesting customized reports from the Phoenix database. However, the results, particularly of the monitoring indicators outlined within the monitoring plan and management plan, or those listed in Criterion 8.2, were not updated in a readily accessible summarized format.</p> <p>Evidence: Phoenix connect database Timber supply report (Forsite, 2019) BLCF Monitoring plan (2019) 2019 Annual Report Harvest Billings System data Silviculture surveys Interviews</p>	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	<p>Within 12 months from report draft date</p> <p>Due date: 2021-10-19</p>
NCR Evaluation Type	On-site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desk Review <input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	<p>BLCF Annual Report 2020</p> <p>BLCF Monitoring Plan (2020)</p>
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	BLCF has complied all monitoring efforts into one combined document which is referred to as the BLCF Monitoring Plan and covers FSC Principle 1-10 and is organized in that manner. BLCF has listed this publication as a publicly

	available document in its 2020 Annual Report. This finding is Closed.
NCR Status:	CLOSED
Comments (optional):	

1.5 Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples consultation

1.5.1 Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples consultation process

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation strategy was to ensure that the public is aware of and informed about the audit process and its objectives. Broad public notification of the audit was made by Preferred by Nature on August 9th, 2021. This notice was emailed to Preferred by Nature's stakeholder list and was posted on the FSC Canada and Preferred by Nature websites.

A more targeted approach was then used by the audit team, selecting stakeholders using a comprehensive database provided by the client and past stakeholder consultation records. Engagement with stakeholders consisted of email, interviews and telephone correspondence. Members of the key local stakeholder groups were contacted by telephone and interviews were conducted. BLCF has a diverse list of groups that use the forest for their activities.

Stakeholder Type (NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples Notified (X)	Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples consulted directly or provided input (#)
National/Regional ENGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
National/Regional Forest NGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Academic	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Government Agencies/Regulators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Forest Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
National/Regional Recreation Organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Labor Unions/Worker Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Indigenous Peoples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Local NGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local Communities/Representatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local resource users (trappers, hunt & fish clubs, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local recreationalists (tourism, hiking, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Local businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Forest Owner or Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1

Buyers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Contractors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
Workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Other (Employees):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2

1.5.2 Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples comments

No outstanding stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples' issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported or discovered by the auditors.

Particularly noteworthy is that the organization continues to hold open house sessions related to its planning processes that have a high rate of participation from the public. An open house BBQ was held this year, being adapted to follow provincial safety precautions regarding COVID-19, approximately 100 surveys were completed by individuals to gather feedback on how the forest has been managed. Further findings regarding stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples' interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.

2. AUDIT PROCESS

2.1 Certification Standard Used

Standards Used:	<p>Forest Stewardship Council Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia – Main Standards https://ca.fsc.org/preview.bc-standard.a-829.pdf</p> <p>Chain of Custody Standard for FM https://www.Preferred by Nature.org/library/standard/Preferred by Nature-chain-custody-standard-forest-management-enterprises</p> <p>FSC and Rainforest Alliance trademarks use https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/225</p>
Local Adaptation: (if applicable)	Not applicable

2.2 Audit Team and accompanying persons

Name	Role and qualifications
James Hallworth, R.P.F., Audit Team Leader	James is a Forestry Specialist for Preferred by Nature and a Registered Professional Forester in Ontario with over 6 years of experience in forest and resource management. He successfully completed Preferred by Nature's FSC FM and CoC lead auditor courses in 2020 and has so far participated in over 9 FSC FM audits, including several as lead auditor. After his Master's degree in Environmental Assessment, James has worked in a variety of positions within the forestry and environmental sectors. Past work experiences include the development and implementation of forest management plans as a district forester for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Northern Ontario, forest resource inventory, timber cruising and plan development within Ontario, in addition to implementing several conservation projects globally including within the UK, China, India and the USA.
James Lucas, R.P.F. (BC), Auditor-in-training	James is an experienced auditor in forest management assessments to various audit standards including: SFI, PEFC, ATFS, CSA Z809 and FSC. Other Sustainability and Forestry Consulting projects include: bioenergy, forestland appraisal reviews, benchmarking and GhG projects. He

	successfully completed Preferred by Nature’s FSC FM lead auditor course in 2020 and is an auditor in training for FSC FM. He is the Risk Assurance Services Manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers.
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2.3 Audit Overview

Note: The table below provides an overview of the audit scope and auditors. See standard checklist annex for specific details on people interviewed and audit findings per site audited.

Date(s)	Site(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)/Org
August 9th,	Remotely	Stakeholder notification	Preferred by Nature
Sept 14	Remotely	Preparatory call	All
Sept 23	On-site	Opening meeting and start of on-site audit	All
Sept 23-24	On-site	On-site audit (field visits, interviews, stakeholders, etc.)	All
Sept 24	On-site	Closing meeting and end of on-site audit	All
Total LOE for audit: 5.5 days = days for preparation, on-site audit, site visits, stakeholder consultation and follow-up			

2.4 Audit Background

2.4.1 Changes in FMEs’ forest management and associated effects on conformance to standard requirements

There have been no substantive changes in the FME’s management system since the last audit. Of note, the Organization’s Forest Management Plan #4 (FMP), including an updated Allowable Annual Cut, was approved by the Provincial Government in September of 2020. Also, Forest Stewardship Plan 2021-2026 has been approved.

Has the management system changed since the previous evaluation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, briefly review the changes:	

Have there been any complaints, disputes, or allegations of non-conformity with the standards raised against the Organisation during the audit period:

Yes No

If yes, reference standard and criteria where corresponding findings are found in report:

2.5 Description of Overall Audit Process

The audit team visited the Burns Lake Community Forest office between September 23-24. The field visit included interviews with Indigenous community representatives, government agents, resource users and BLCF staff. The audit team visited a variety of forest management sites, including stream crossings, active harvesting, treated fire abatement sites, recreational trails and bridge replacement. Twelve separate sites were included, providing samples of various silviculture methods (e.g. clearcuts, partial cuts, selective harvesting).

2.5.1 Changes to the certificate scope

There have been no changes in the number of FMUs or certified area since the last audit period.

Total hectares in the certificate:	92,304.00
Number of FMUs (properties) in the certificate:	1

2.5.2 List of management aspects reviewed by audit team

Type of site	Sites visited	Type of site	Sites visited
Road construction	x	Illegal settlement	
Soil drainage	x	Bridges/stream crossing	x
Planned Harvest site	x	Riparian zone	x
Ongoing Harvest site	x	Wetland	
Completed logging	x	Steep slope/erosion	
Soil scarification	x	Natural regeneration	x
Felling by harvester		Reforestation	
Felling by forest worker		Plantation	
Skidding/Forwarding	x	Direct seeding	x
Clearfelling/Clearcut	x	Weed control	
Shelterwood management		Endangered species	
Selective felling	x	Wildlife management	x

Sanitation cutting	x	Buffer zone	x
Pre-commercial thinning		Special management area	x
Commercial thinning		Protected area	
Logging camp		Other areas excluded from harvesting	
Chemical products storage		Historical site	
Workshop		Recreational site	x
Nursery		Local/indigenous community	

2.5.3 Review of FME Documentation and required records

a) All certificate types

Required Records	Reviewed
Complaints received by FME from stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples, actions taken, follow up communication	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: No complaints led to investigate formal dispute resolution procedures.	
Accident records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: No major accidents were recorded during the audit period.	
Training records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Training records were reviewed.	
Operational plan(s) for next twelve months	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The 5-year (2021-2026) Forest Stewardship Plan was reviewed.	
Inventory records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Inventory records were reviewed during the audit (e.g. forest inventory maps, silviculture survey records)	
Harvesting records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Harvest Billings System data was reviewed.	
Sales and shipping records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The Manager maintains a summary of the material harvested and sold. No FSC certified sales were made during the audit period.	

3. COMPANY DETAILS

3.1 Certificate Scope

3.1.1 Description

Reporting period:	Previous 12 month period	Dates	Ex. Fiscal year end October 2020
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A. Scope of Forest Area	
Type of certificate: single FMU	SLIMF Certificate: not applicable
New FMUs added since previous evaluation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. FSC Product categories included in the FM/CoC scope			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete sections below)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Species
<input type="checkbox"/>	W1 Rough wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W2 Wood charcoal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W5 Solid wood (sawn, chipped, sliced or peeled)	W5.1 Flitches and boules	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Wood Forest Products N1 Barks		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		

C. Species and Sustainable Rate of Harvest (AAC)				
Latin name	Common trade name	Annual allowable cut (m3)	Actual harvest (m3) year	Projected harvest for next year (m3)
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole Pine (dead)		105,353	
Picea engelmannii x glauca	Hybrid White Spruce		22,500	
Abies lasiocarpa	Subalpine Fir		3,839	
Total AAC		225,000	131,692	219,000
Total annual estimated log production (m3):				
Total annual estimates of production of certified NTFP:			----	
(list all certified NTFP by product type):				

D. Forest Area Classification			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete sections below)			
1. Total certified area (land base)			ha
2. Total forested area			ha
3. Total production forest area (where harvesting occurs)		ha	
4. Total non-productive forest area (no harvesting)		ha	
4.a Protected forest area (strict reserves)	ha		
4.b Areas protected from timber harvesting and managed only for NTFPs or services	ha		
4.c Remaining non-productive forest (other uses)	ha		
5. Total non-forested area (e.g., water bodies, wetlands, fields, rocky outcrops, etc.)			ha
Forest zone		DROP-DOWN MENU	
Certified Area (ha) under Forest Type			
Natural			
Semi-Natural			
Plantation			
Stream sides and water bodies (Linear Kilometers)			

E. High Conservation Values identified via formal HCV assessment by the FME and respective areas			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete section below)			
Code	HCV TYPES	Description:	Area (ha)
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).		
HCV2	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.		
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		

HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		
HCV6	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		
Number of sites significant to indigenous people and communities			

F. Pesticide Use	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides

G. List of overlapping forest tenure holders	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FME has no overlapping forest tenure holders in scope or no changes since previous audit

3.1.2 Excision of areas from the scope of certificate

A. Applicability of FSC partial certification	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All forest land owned or managed by the FME is included in the scope of the certificate.

B. Applicability of FSC excision policy (FSC-POL-20-003)	
<p>Important: Excisions and removals from the certified area must be documented below during each audit.</p> <p><u>What are area excisions from the certified area?</u></p> <p>Requirements of FSC Excision Policy (FSC-POL-20-003) Sections 1.2, 2.2, 3.2 are applicable.</p> <p>Applicable when the certificate holder decides to isolate/separate an area from the certified area because this area cannot meet the FSC requirements for reasons either within or beyond its control. Possible examples of excisions: nurseries, areas within the FMU that are influenced / affected by activities from other users that result in non-compliance with FSC requirements (ex. Oil and gas, powerline ROWs, commercial gravel, etc.).</p> <p><u>What area removals from the certified area?</u></p> <p>Requirements of FSC Excision Policy (FSC-POL-20-003) Sections 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 are applicable.</p> <p>Applicable generally when an area of the certified area is changing tenure type or property. This is considered a removal from the certified area. Possible examples of removals from the certified area: sale of area; conversion of forest to a non-forest area,</p>	

in cases such as governmental disposition of lands to be converted for development of an infrastructure.



Past excisions or removals from the certified area

Check this box and complete sections 2 and 3 below and document conformance to FSC-POL-20-003 if in the past years, any area of the certified area has been:

- Excised and its excision proposal evaluated during an audit; **AND/OR**
- Removed by another entity (ex. government)



New or potential excisions and removals from the certified area

Check this box and complete sections 1,2 and 3 of below and document conformance to FSC-POL-20-003 if any area of the certified area under evaluation:

- Is proposed to be excised from the certified area; **AND/OR**
- Is being removed from the certified area.



Not applicable

The organization has not excised or removed areas from the certified area or does not plan to do so before their next audit.

1. Rationale for new excision of area from the certified area

Finding:

N/A

2. Findings explaining conformance against requirements of FSC-POL-20-003

Finding:

2019 audit: Description of project: East-west corridor for the Coastal Gas Link through southern sections of BLCF (244.6 ha). The trees harvested within the Coastal Gas Link are being administered under a Master Licence to Cut permit that is not administered by the FME manager. Ownership rights to this volume of wood has already been transferred therefore there is no risk of contamination or third-party sales of FSC materials.

3. Details of control measures implemented to prevent contamination of FSC certified wood from the certified area with the wood that cannot be certified from the excised/removed forest areas.

Finding:

2019 audit: Coastal Gas Link has a Master Licence to Cut Permit from the Government of BC for their disposition licence. The licence is being administered by Coastal Gas Link, including plans for harvesting. An agreement between Burns Lake Community Forest and Coastal Gas Link stipulates terms for the compensation for the loss of access to resources/timber along the 244 hectare right-of-way corridor, and absolves the Burns Lake Community Forest from any liability/responsibility for the timber harvested from this area or silvicultural responsibilities. As such, the timber harvested from the proposed excised site will not be harvested by BLCF and not carry any FSC claims.

Annex I: FSC forest management standard conformance (confidential)

The table below demonstrates conformance or non-conformance with the Forest Stewardship Standard used for evaluation as required by FSC. The Preferred by Nature Task Manager should provide guidance on which sections of the standard should be evaluated in a particular audit. Preferred by Nature may evaluate only a subset of the criteria or principles of the standard in any one particular audit provided that the FME is evaluated against the entire standard by the end of the certificate duration. Findings of conformance or non conformance at the criterion level will be documented in the following table with a reference to an applicable NCR or OBS. The nonconformance and NCR is also summarized in the NCR tables in Section 1.2. All non-conformances identified are described on the criterion level though reference to the specific indicator shall be noted. Criteria not evaluated are identified with a NE.

P & C	Conformance: Yes/No/ NE	Findings	Evidence Reviewed	NCR OBS (#)
Principle 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES				
1.1	Yes	The FM has links to all applicable legislation available on-line, the FM also being updated through regular legislature update emails. The key pending change for the current period is the draft Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) which has been submitted to the Ministry for approval. The current FSP expires Dec. 3, 2021 but could be extended for 6 more months. The Manager and staff interviewed had sufficient knowledge of legal requirements applicable to their work. Regarding legal compliance, a discussion was had with the local Ministry Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Supervisor. There are a number of ongoing compliance investigations with regard to salvage/fire risk mitigation harvesting in Landscape Connectivity Matrices (LCM) as well as one regarding salvage harvesting in a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) area near Maxan Lake. In discussions with the Natural Resources (C&E) Supervisor, it is clear that these particular issues are professional disputes regarding interpretation of the current FSP and it is recommended that the issue is followed up once the full investigation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft BLCF FSP - 2020-21 C&E Reports – Boer Mountain & Maxan Lake - Interview – BLCF staff Natural Resources Supervisor - Site visit – Boer Mountain area 	

		appeal process is completed. For the purposes of this audit, these two compliance issues are not evidence of a lack of legal compliance, but rather the FM's attempt to mitigate both fire risk and salvage opportunities to help promote mid-term timber supply and restoration of the forests in the Community Forest while meeting the current FSP. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
1.2	Yes	Reviewed the stumpage and rent files with the Forest Manager Generally, the mill pay stumpage owing directly to government, while BLCF pays stumpage for Pinnacle (biomass) logs as well annual rent directly. A review of the accounting system showed that all fees, rents and taxes are up to date and the organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Harvest Billing System data - Stumpage/rent reconciliation file - BLCF Annual Report 2020 - Interviews - BLCF staff 	
1.3	Yes	The Organization maintains a hyperlink listing of the binding international agreements and demonstrates familiarity with those aspects of the agreements that are relevant to their operations. There are no new requirements for 2020-21. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of binding international agreements - Interviews - BLCF staff 	
1.4	Yes	As per 2020, there have been no situations where the managers compliance with the law precludes compliance with the GSC-BC Regional Standards. The Organization is in conformance with this criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews - BLCF staff 	
1.5	Yes	BCLF staff are aware of responsibilities with regard to legal compliance regarding Community Forest boundaries as well as other tenure holders legal harvest areas. No evidence of illegal harvesting, settlement, and other unauthorized activities was observed during the audit. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field visits - Interviews - BLCF staff 	
1.6	Yes	The Organization maintains a written commitment to adhere to the FSC Standards and it is available publicly on their website (https://blcomfor.com/fsc-certification/). The adherence to FSC Principles is also stated in the current Forest Management Plan (Management Plan 4 - Sept. 03,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLCF website - Draft FSP 2021-2026 	

		2020) and is also mentioned in the new BLCF FSP. The Organization is in conformance with this criterion.		
Principle 2. TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES				
2.1	Yes	<p>The Organization has an official agreement with the Crown to use the Forest on the community forest (Tenure CFA K1A). The documentation is clear and kept on file by the Organization. The current Forest Management Plan (#4, 2019) clearly articulates the legal license for the 25-year renewable area-based tenure (Community Forest Agreement K1A). The CFA license (renewed in 2014) provides the legal description of the lands and rights in the area and is publicly available on the BLCF website. The K1A boundary is not demarcated, however any operations adjacent to the boundary which are next to private or volume-based crown land receive formal communication with the landowners. If there is any doubt, survey level 3 assessments are completed, utilizing the land titles office for legal survey markers as reference to delineate exact location. This is then followed up by boundary line delineation ribboning, GPS reference and mapping. These steps ensure boundaries are respected and not compromised.</p> <p>Other tenure and forest use rights exist on this FMU including trappers. The FM engages with these other tenure holders regarding forest management. These tenures do not undermine achievement of management plan objectives. The recent right-of-way area for the Coastal Gas Link project has been formally withdrawn from the area of the Community Forest by way of a Lands Act Utility Disposition License. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMP 4 - Community Forest Agreement K1A - FMP 4 - Community Forest Agreement K1A - Various stakeholder correspondance - Interviews - FM 	
2.2	Yes	The current Forest Management Plan (#4, 2019) clearly articulates the legal license for the 25-year renewable area-based tenure (Community Forest Agreement K1A). The CFA license (renewed in 2014) provides the legal description of the lands and rights in the area. The manager maintains a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMP 4 - Access Management Plan 2020 v3 - Stakeholder_Mailing_List 	

		<p>database of stakeholders which includes Indigenous communities with the FM providing multiple opportunities for engagement regarding their tenure and use rights.</p> <p>There are 8 First Nations territories that are adjacent to or overlap within the BLCF area-based tenure. The Organization has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with some of these First Nation groups. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Interviews – FM, stakeholder, and Indigenous Peoples’ 	
2.3	Yes	<p>The Organization has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local First Nation groups and has been in consultation with them regarding their tenure and use rights. The audit team notes that the draft 2020 Access Management Plan states that the Organization will obtain resource users ‘opinions’ about pre and post-harvest operations, however the standard requires their consent where any portion of the management plan affects their rights and resources. Interviews with local stakeholders identified no diminishment or threat to forest users tenure and use rights.</p> <p>The BLCF Group Member Handbook (2020) contains a dispute resolution policy. The FM or the auditor, as defined by FSC, have identified no disputes. BLCF keeps a log of all disputes, though none have been filed to date. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FMP 4 – Community Forest Agreement K1A – Access Management Plan 2020 v3 – BLCF Group Member Handbook (2020) – Interviews – FM, stakeholder, and Indigenous Peoples’ 	
Principle 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS				
3.1	NE			
3.2	Yes	<p>The findings from previous audits and assessments remain valid. Through implementation of strategies to maintain High Conservation Value Forest (e.g. intact reserve corridors, riparian buffers etc.), application of innovative silviculture systems within sensitive areas (e.g. partial harvest, select harvest) a commitment to restoration (e.g. prescribed fire,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FMP 4 – Timber Supply Analysis Report v.1.1 (Foresite, 2019) – Wet’suwet’en Yin’tah Stewardship Principles, 	

		salvage logging), and ongoing and open communications with First Nations, the forest management activities do not threaten or diminish the resource or tenure rights of Indigenous peoples. Where specific stewardship concerns are raised, such as the Wet'suwet'en Yin'tah Stewardship Principles, the manager has outright adopted them into their Management Plan and demonstrates consideration for implementing the principles at an operational scale. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	Practices & Prescriptions (2017) – Interviews – FM, and Indigenous Peoples'	
3.3	NE			
3.4	NE			
Principle 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS				
4.1	NE	<p>OBS 4.1.4/21 has been issued to the Organization regarding the continued requirement to ensure forest workers receive the training needed to comply with the FSC-BC Regional Standards and legal requirements applicable to their responsibilities. A worker interviewed on-site had not reported recent sightings of a small carnivore (possibly weasel family) but other workers interviewed on other sites had reported and flagged piles where weasels had been seen as using as possible den sites. As verified by staff and worker interviews, during the pre-harvest meeting, the Organizations supervisor goes through standard operating procedures and best management practices outlined in the Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021). This includes the identification of species at risk and rare or threatened species (as per requirements under 6.2.4). As specified in the contractor agreements, contractors are responsible for all training required to complete their contract, this is checked and monitored by the Organization's supervisor.</p> <p>The Organization provides training to its employees as needed in the past and will do according to new needs, an employee training record being kept and updated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Interviews – FM and workers – Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) – 2021 Staff Training Log – NFWRx tailgate safety - correspondance 	OBS 4.1.4/2 1

4.2	Yes	<p>The Organization publishes a Safety and Environmental Handbook which details emergency response protocols. The handbook was verified to be in use by contractors. The employees follow all applicable health and safety regulations in the course of their work. This was confirmed through the documentation provided and interviews with the staff, contractors, and manager. No dangerous situation was witnessed during the field visit. The organization also maintains a corrective action log, that documents all safety issues and measures towards continual improvement.</p> <p>It was observed that fire extinguishers are visually inspected regularly and are checked by a certified contractor, however there is some ambiguity on how often a certified contractor needs to conduct a full inspection as per BC regulations, OBS 4.2.1/21 being issued. BLCF is a Safe certified company with the latest 2021 inspection finding them in compliance.</p> <p>No major incidents were noted in the Organizations incident log however there continue to be incidents with the gas line trucks which the Organization continues to communicate with in regards to safety and safe driving principles. There is a low accident frequency rate, this was verified with contractor and staff interviews. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLCF Health and Safety Policy Statement - Presentation_PAPC Resource Road Safety 19_07_2021 - Interviews - FM, workers, contractors, and stakeholders - Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) - 2021 Staff Training Log - NFWRx tailgate safety - correspondence - NFWRx crew certification - Safety Meeting summaries (January - September 2021) - Appendix_3.0-BLCF_Corrective_Action_Log_2021 - Incident reports - Bridge and Culvert Inspection Reports - Logging Practices Inspection Report sample - PAPC correspondence (June, 2021) - Site visits 	<p>OBS 4.2.1/2 1</p>
4.3	NE			
4.4	Yes	<p>The Organization's communications strategy (Burns Lake Community Forest Corporation community engagement strategy report- 2016) is still relevant and can be updated as necessary. Documents, including letters of support from a range of community organizations, tenure right holders and forest users indicate a wide range of support. Through annual public events and an 'open door' policy at the BLCF office, there remain clear opportunities for ongoing public participation in management planning. The organization continues to hold open house sessions related to its planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://blcomfor.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Engagement-Documents_FSC_Public-Aug-2017.pdf - Interviews - FM and stakeholders - Burns Lake Community Forest Corporation community 	

		<p>processes that have a high rate of participation from the public. This includes an annual open house BBQ, which was adapted this year to follow safety precautions regarding COVID-19, approximately 100 surveys were completed by individuals to gather feedback on how the forest has been managed. Correspondence between the FM and stakeholders verified that the FM takes steps to implement protective measures for affected parties through a process of engagement. Most forest management documentation is available on their website.</p> <p>There were no records or evidence of disputes against the Organization. The BLCF Group Member Handbook contains a dispute resolution policy and a version is available through the BLCF website https://blcomfor.com/community/ (the version publicly available via the link is outdated though). The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>	<p>engagement strategy report-2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online and media outreach - BLCF website - Stakeholder correspondence (e.g. individual trappers, Burns Lake Mountain Bike Association, Snowmobile Club, Wetzink'kwa Water Sustainability Project) - Notice of Activities sample - BLCF Community Survey 2021 summary - BLCF annual open house 2021 list of attendees - Draft Access Management Plan (2020) - BLCF Group Member Handbook (2020) 	
4.5	NE			
Principle 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST				
5.1	NE			
5.2	NE			
5.3	NE			
5.4	NE			
5.5	NE			
5.6	Yes	<p>Reviewed the 2015-19 AAC Cut Control statement. At the time of the audit, there was an undercut of 156,626 m3, which included both live and dead timber. In late 2020, a new AAC determination was released, which included a 10-year AAC of 121,275 m3 of live timber and 72,951 m3 annually of dead timber. This level was based on the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CF K1A – Cut Control Statement - BLCF Timber Supply Review letter – Sept. 3, 2020 	

	<p>Forsite/J.H. Thrower Timber Supply Analysis which included detailed sampling, growth and yield updates and timber supply modelling. This AAC determination was signed off by the Regional Executive Director on behalf of Chief Forester.</p> <p>The timber supply analysis process for the BLCF is regulated and reviewed by the Ministry of Forests but much of the harvest level analysis is conducted by the BLCF or its consultants.</p> <p>For the current period (2020-2030) BLCF provides forecasts of future harvest levels over time with consideration of a wide range of physical, biological, social and economic factors. As per, the BLCF Timber Supply Analysis, "these factors encompass both the timber and non-timber values found in our forests and ensure that timber harvesting objectives are balanced against social and ecological values such as wildlife, biodiversity, watershed health, and recreational opportunities. An Information Package (IP) that provides detailed technical information and assumptions regarding current forest management practices, policy and legislation for use in this analysis underwent 60 days of public review beginning in January 2019. A number of changes have been made to the Information Package as a result of feedback received as well as additional direction received from the Community Forest. The revised Information Package detailing these changes is provided as an Appendix within this Analysis Report.</p> <p>This report focuses on a forest management scenario known as the Base Case that reflects "status quo" assumptions, as well as two Alternate VQO Management Strategy scenarios. These additional scenarios reflect an alternative approach to VQO management that was developed as a component of the MPB mitigation plan."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLCF Timber Supply Analysis Report – Forsite – October 17, 2019 - Interviews – BLCF staff 	
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		Based on past performance, operations should not, and legally cannot exceed the long-term sustainable harvest rate. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
Principle 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT				
6.1	NE			
6.2	Yes	The findings from the previous audits and assessments remain valid. The Organization demonstrates that safeguards are in place to protect SAR and their habitats, through higher level planning processes, formal assessments of the BLCF tenure area, formally recognized conservation zones and avoidance of sensitive habitats. The Environmental Values report describes habitats of red and blue-listed species and plant communities. Habitats are mapped within HCVF mapping (using associated BEC variants) which is used in the planning stages by prescribing foresters. Buffers (e.g. Northern Goshawk) or avoidance (e.g. Grizzly Management Area) are mapped and incorporated into planning, as validated through interviews and auditor reviews of maps. Training for staff and contractors regarding SAR is contained in the BLCF Health and Safety Manual (2021) and this information is provided to contractors during pre-work reviews and staff in annual training sessions. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft BLCF FSP - HCVF maps - Forest Management Plan #4 - Health and Safety Manual (2021) - Environmental Values within the Burns Lake Community Forest (May 2017) - Preliminary Grizzly Habitat Assessment Letter (Environmental Dynamics Inc., September 22, 2020) - Interviews – BLCF staff 	
6.3	Yes	Forest regeneration, through a mix of mainly artificial regeneration and some natural regeneration, in concert with silviculture systems like shelterwood, clearcuts with reserves, and seed tree retention has supported successful forest regeneration on the BLCF. Active salvage from mountain pine beetle/fire and ongoing ecological restoration efforts through salvage harvesting and the use of fire has allowed the Organization to focus on reforesting previously killed areas while retaining advanced regeneration and standing live timber were still healthy. Post planting surveys at 2 years after planting (establishment) and between 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of silvicultural records - Field visits - Interviews – BLCF staff 	

		<p>years stocking survey and final free growing surveys at 12-15 years continue to occur. The Organization is planting ecologically appropriate tree species (white spruce, lodgepole pine) found in the surrounding area and is also planting smaller components of tree species (larch and Douglas fir) which make up a small component of the local forest but will likely increase over time due to climate change. All species are legally allowed under the Provinces' Silviculture regulations and the Chief Foresters Seed Transfer Guidelines. RONV is addressed through the TSR modelling as well as other discrete analysis and access management is ongoing due to various rationales such as species protection (moose) and risk mitigation (fire and soil disturbance/water control).</p> <p>Landscape management objectives are covered through a variety of processes including Landscape Connectivity and Stand Level Biodiversity considerations. BLCF's FSP commits that Landscape Connectivity will be protected by ensuring that for Forest Development Units ("FDU's") 1 & 2, seral stages of 100+ years will be maintained at 70% of their occurrence on the landscape. Further, BLCF commits to protect and maintain more than 30% of the width of the LCM being younger than 100 years old; retention of 100% of the forested area within the red and blue-listed ecological communities identified and retention of 100% of the hydro-riparian ecosystems. In FDU 3, primary forest operations may result in exceptions to landscape connectivity corridors within the BLCF boundaries as a means to address substantiated forest health factors contributing to severe wildfire hazards and significant public safety concerns in and around the BLCF. Further targets exist regarding salvage activities in stands where only 50% or more of the total stand is deal and harvesting can take place while maintaining connectivity. Further restrictions exist on the size of (2-4 acres) in landscape corridors.</p>		
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		<p>The FSP also specifies Stand Level Biodiversity Conservation Objectives for Wildlife Tree Retention. In all FDUs, the Licensee commits to the wildlife tree retention requirements as described in Objective 3 of the Lakes North SRMP and Objective 6 of Lakes South SRMP. In FDUs 1 and 3, the Licensee commits to maintaining stand level structural diversity by retaining WTRAs in the Lakes North plan area, and will ensure that during the calendar year, WTRA's make up an average of 7% of the total area of the cutblocks and at the completion of harvesting the total amount of WTRAs that relate to the cutblock will be a minimum of 3.5% of the cutblock area. BLCF also commits in the FSP to ensure that high wildlife value trees/areas are retained after harvest and where there are few trees with high value wildlife attributes available, will locate retention to prioritize micro-riparian areas to reduce visibility of wetlands for moose cover, areas most suitable for long-term wildlife tree recruitment, and in areas that are representative of the pre-harvest stand. In FDU 2, the FSP commits to maintain structural diversity in managed stands by retaining WTPs in each cutblock to the characteristics described previously as shifting or varying targets among cutblocks within a harvest unit may be considered when risks to biodiversity are low or when based on a sound biological rationale.</p> <p>The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</p>		
6.4	NE			
6.5	NE			
6.6	NE			
6.7	NE	<p>During field visits, the audit team interviewed on-site four forest workers and inspected one forwarder. OBS 6.7.1/21 has been issued as the forwarder inspected did not contain a spill kit however it was observed to be in the vehicle near the site of active operations (300m approx.). The</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) - Interviews - FM, and workers - Site visits - 2021 Staff Training Log 	<p>OBS 6.7.1/2 1</p>

		Organization provides a Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) to its forest workers and employees which outlines chemical use and spill procedures. Training is provided to employees and updated as necessary. Contractors are responsible for their own training as per their contract agreement but are frequently updated and monitored by the Organizations supervisor and are expected to follow all procedures outlined in the Safety and Environmental Handbook (2021) which is updated annually.	– NFWRx tailgate safety - correspondance	
6.8	NE			
6.9	Yes	No use of exotics for reforestation or erosion control are being used or introduced on the BLCF. Legislation in BC prohibits the use of exotic tree species on public lands in the Province. In 2020, a review of the seed grass mix confirmed the content did not include exotic species. The Organization is in conformance with this criterion.	– FM and stakeholder – interviews – Silviculture records – Site Visits	
6.10	NE			
Principle 7. MANAGEMENT PLAN				
7.1	NE			
7.2	NE			
7.3	NE			
7.4	NE			
Principle 8. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT				
8.1	NE			
8.2	Yes	The Organization uses a wide variety of research and data to make decisions or monitor including: • Volume, species and type of forest products harvested are documented in various system including Log Inventory Management System (LIMS), Harvest Billing System, Cut Control Review;	– Staff and stakeholder interviews – Harvest Billing System – Timber Supply Review and Analysis - Forsite Report – Silviculture surveys	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to growth rates & site productivity are reviewed and determined as per the Timber Supply Review and Analysis - Forsite Report; • Regeneration success is documented by silviculture surveys; • Forest condition & health are assessed and documented in post harvest assessments, inventory, Lidar, drone flights; • Changes in flora and fauna are reviewed on the landscape using various surveys and biological assessments; • Changes to HCVF strategies, as well as effectiveness monitoring are documented through various surveys and biological assessments; ; • Environmental impacts of operations are documented in post harvest assessments, waste and residue surveys, drone flights; • Social impacts of operations and economic analysis are documented in the annual report; and • and Financial records are documented in SAGE. <p>The Organization is in conformance with this criterion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual reports - Site Visits 	
8.3	NE			
8.4	NE			
8.5	NE			
Principle 9. MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS				
9.1	NE			
9.2	NE			
9.3	NE			
9.4	Yes	The Organization documents annual monitoring efforts to demonstrate, in part, maintenance and enhancement of conservation attributes. Monitoring is conducted prior, during and after forest management activities, to assess the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HCVF Map - Drone/UAV flights – pre & post-harvest - Silviculture surveys 	

		effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the conservation attributes. A variety of other survey and monitoring efforts are made including: Visual Impact Assessments, forest cover assessments in areas such as Old Growth Management Areas, and drone/UAV-imagery post harvest reviews on most harvesting or restoration areas. The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual reports - Staff and stakeholder interviews - Site Visits 	
Principle 10. PLANTATIONS				
10.1	NE			
10.2	NE			
10.3	NE			
10.4	NE			
10.5	NE			
10.6	NE			
10.7	NE			
10.8	NE			
10.9	NE			

Annex II: Conformance to FSC Chain-of-Custody and Trademarks requirements (confidential)

Note: This CoC Annex is used for FMEs only selling standing timber, stumpage, logs and/or chips produced within a FMU covered by the scope of the certificate. FME certificate scopes that include primary or secondary processing facilities shall include an evaluation against the full FSC CoC standard: FSC-STD-40-004. Refer to that separate report Annex.

A. Definition of Forest Gate: (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Tree/Stump: FME sells standing timber via stumpage sales.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Log Landing: FME sells wood from the landing/yarding area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	On-site Concentration Yard: Transfer of ownership occurs at a concentration yard under the control of the FME.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Off-site Mill/Log Yard: Transfer of ownership occurs when offloaded at purchaser's facility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <i>explanation</i>
Comments:	

<p>Scope Definition of CoC Certificate: Does the FME further process material before transfer at forest gate? <i>(If yes then processing must be evaluated to full CoC checklist for CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 v2.)</i> Note: This does not apply to on-site production of chips/biomass from wood harvested from the evaluated forest area.</p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments: No material is processed for sale before the forest gate.	
Is the FME a large scale operation (>10,000 hectares) or a Group Certificate? <i>(If yes then CoC procedures for all relevant CoC criteria shall be documented.)</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: CoC procedures are documented for the certificate holder.	
Does non-FSC certified material enter the scope of this certificate prior to the forest gate, resulting in a risk of contamination with wood from the evaluated forest area (e.g. FME owns/manages both FSC certified and non-FSC certified FMUs)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments: No non-FSC certified material enters the supply chain prior to the forest gate.	
Does FME outsource handling or processing of FSC certified material to subcontractors (i.e. milling or concentration yards) prior to transfer of ownership at the forest gate? <i>(If yes a finding is required for criterion CoC 7 below.)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Does FME purchase certified wood from other FSC certificate holders and plan to sell that material as FSC certified? <i>(If yes then a separate CoC certificate is required that includes a full evaluation of the operation against FSC-STD-40-004 v2.)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments: No other FSC materials are purchased as all material originates from the certified FME.	
Does FME use FSC and/or Rainforest Alliance trademarks for promotion or product labeling? <i>(If FME does not or has no plans to use FSC/RA trademarks delete trademark criteria checklist below.)</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Trademark use procedures (both on and off-product) are in place. Currently, the FME is only using promotional trademarks.	

B. Chain-of-Custody Criteria

1. Quality Management	
COC 1.1: FME shall define the personnel/position(s) responsible for implementing the CoC control system.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Findings: The CoC procedures name Frank Varga as responsible for implementing the CoC control system.	
COC 1.2: All relevant staff shall demonstrate awareness of the FME's procedures and competence in implementing the FME's CoC control system.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Findings: The staff confirmed awareness of the CoC procedures document and requirements to reference it to implement the CoC control system.	
CoC 1.3: FME procedures/work instructions shall provide effective control of FSC certified forest products from standing timber until ownership is transferred at the forest gate. <i>Note: For large scale operations (>10,000ha) and Group Managers, CoC procedures covering all relevant CoC criteria shall be documented.</i> Including: a) Procedures for physical segregation and identification of FSC certified from non-FSC certified material. (If applicable)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

- b) Procedures to ensure that non-FSC certified material is not represented as FSC certified on sales and shipping documentation. **(If applicable)**
- c) Procedures to include FME FSC certificate registration code and FSC claim (FSC 100%) on all sales and shipping documentation for sales of FSC certified products.
- d) Recordkeeping procedures to ensure that all applicable records related to the production and sales of FSC certified products (e.g. harvest summaries, sales summaries, invoices, bills of lading) are maintained for a minimum of 5 years.
- e) Procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable FSC/Preferred by Nature trademark use requirements.

Note: In the case of group certificates, the Group Manager must ensure Group Members implement CoC control system as defined in documents procedures/work instruction.

Findings: BLCF has prepared CoC procedures that include:

- a) N/A;
- b) N/A;
- c) The inclusion of the FM/CoC code and FSC product group claim "FSC 100%" for sales and shipping documents;
- d) The requirement that records of inputs, outputs, harvest summaries, scale summaries, invoices, bill of lading, and trademark requests will be kept on file and current. The procedures include the requirements that these documents be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.
- e) Details regarding the use and submission of FSC trademarks

2. Certified Material Handling and Segregation

COC 2.1: FME shall have a CoC control system in place to prevent the mixing of non-FSC certified materials with FSC certified forest products from the evaluated forest area, including:

- a) Physical segregation and identification of FSC certified from non-FSC certified material.
- b) A system to ensure that non-FSC certified material is not represented as FSC certified on sales and shipping documentation.

Note: If no outside wood is handled by FME within scope of certificate, mark as N/A.

Yes No
NA

Findings:

CoC 2.2: FME shall identify the sales system(s) or "Forest Gate", for each FSC certified product covered by the Chain of Custody system: i.e. standing stock; sale from log yard in the forest; sale at the buyer's gate; sale from a log concentration yard, etc.

Yes No

Findings: Where logs are sent to sawmills the forest gate is the buyer's designated scale site. For pulp logs, dead and pulp logs are chipped on the landing and sent to be scaled at the pup mill. Ownership is transferred at the stump.

CoC 2.3: FME shall have a system that ensures that FME products are reliably identified as FSC certified (e.g. through documentation or marking system) at the forest gate. Yes No

Findings: The provincial timbermark system is used to track logs from the forest to the forest gate. The information on the timbermark (forest license holder, cutting permit, and tenure of origin) is linked to the shipping documentation that accompanies each load.

CoC 2.4: FME shall ensure that certified material is not mixed with non-FSC certified material at any stage, up to and including the sale of the material. Yes No
Note: If no outside wood is handled by FME within scope of certificate, mark as N/A. NA

Findings: The Organization does not handle or purchase outside wood that could be mixed with certified wood prior to delivery at the forest gate.

3. Certified Sales and Recordkeeping

CoC 3.1: For material sold with FSC claim the FME shall include the following information on sales and shipping documentation: Yes No
a) FME FSC certificate registration code, and
b) FSC certified claim: FSC 100%

Findings: The inventory and administration systems are adequate to ensure that FME FSC certificate registration code, and FSC certified claims: FSC 100% are included. There were no FSC sales during the last audit period, therefore no FSC claims on sales and shipping documentation. Staff demonstrated an awareness of necessary procedures in the event that FSC sales occur.

CoC 3.2: FME shall maintain certification production and sales related documents (e.g. harvest summaries, invoices, bills of lading) for a minimum of 5 years. Documents shall be kept in a central location and/or are easily available for inspection during audits. Yes No

Findings: No FSC sales occurred during the audit period, nonetheless the procedures manual outline that the Organization maintains records for a minimum of 5 years.

CoC 3.3: FME shall compile an annual report on FSC certified sales for Preferred by Nature containing monthly sales in terms of volume of each FSC certified product sold to each customer. Yes No

Findings: The Manager maintains a summary of the material harvested and sold. No FSC certified sales were made during the audit period. Summaries for the BLCF were reviewed during the audit.

1. Outsourcing

NA

C. FSC Trademark (TMK)/Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal Use Criteria

Standard Requirement

The following section summarizes the FME's compliance with FSC and Preferred by Nature trademark requirements. Trademarks include the Forest Stewardship Council and Rainforest Alliance or Preferred by Nature names, acronyms (FSC), logos, labels, and seals. This checklist is directly based on the FSC trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0. References to FSC standard requirement numbers are included in parenthesis at the end of each requirement.

NOTE: For former RA certificate holders that continue to use the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ (RAC) seal, auditors shall evaluate conformance with the requirements below for RAC seal use.

Check if section not applicable (Organization does not, and does not plan to use the FSC trademarks)— do not complete sections below

TMK 1: In order to use these FSC trademarks, the organization shall have a valid FSC trademark licence agreement and hold a valid certificate. (1.2)

NOTE: Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.

Yes No

Findings: The Auditor confirmed the Organization has an FSC trademark license agreement.

TMK 2: The organization shall submit all intended uses of FSC and/or the Rainforest Alliance trademarks (names and seal) to Preferred by Nature for approval. (1.5)

Yes No

<p>NOTE: Organizations using the Preferred by Nature Community site in Salesforce for trademark submissions may use the records saved on the site as evidence to demonstrate conformance to this clause.</p>	
<p>Findings: The Auditor reviewed promotional trademark uses for website and banner approvals which all conformed to the requirements.</p>	
<p>TMK 3: The products which are intended to be labelled with the FSC on-product label or promoted as FSC certified shall be included in the organization’s certificate scope and shall meet the eligibility requirements for labelling, as stipulated by the respective FSC standard. (1.6)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement.</p>	
<p>TMK 4: The FSC trademarks shall not be used (2.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood– they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC Controlled Wood claims in sales and delivery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement.</p>	
<p>TMK 5: FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale, or are delivered to uncertified organizations. (4.6)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Findings: The Organization does not use segregation marks.</p>	
<p>TMK 6: Organizations are responsible for compliance with national labelling requirements and consumer protection laws in those countries in which FSC-certified products are promoted, distributed, and sold and in which promotional materials are distributed. (3.5 and 5.6)</p> <p>NOTE: FSC certification audits do not address compliance with such national requirements and laws.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement.</p>	

On product use

Check if section not applicable (Organization does not, and does not plan to use the FSC trademarks on-product)—do not complete section below

TMK 7: If the FSC trademarks are used on-product, the Organization shall ensure:

- a) the organization shall select the correct FSC label on the basis of the FSC claim. A text reference to FSC certification on a product may only be made in addition to an on-product label. (3.1)
- b) All compulsory elements of the FSC on-product label are used (3.3)
- c) Only the FSC label artwork provided by the trademark portal, or otherwise issued and approved by Preferred by Nature or FSC, shall be used. (3.4)

Yes No

Findings:

TMK 8: When applicable to the Organization's on-product labeling, the criteria below (5.9 – 5.12) shall be met:

Yes No

Findings:

TMK 9: Specific product names shall not be used as product types. A list of product types (e.g. 'paper', 'wood') is provided in the trademark portal. (3.7)

Yes No
N/A

TMK 10: The FSC label should be clearly visible on the product, its packaging, or both. (4.2)

Yes No

TMK 11: When a product is FSC labelled, marks of other forest certification schemes shall not be used on the same product. (4.3)

Yes No
N/A

TMK 12: The FSC logo with the licence code alone may be applied directly to the product (e.g. heat branded) only if an on-product label is used on the packaging, on a hang-tag, or similar. (4.4)

Yes No
N/A

Off-product / Promotional

Check if section not applicable (Organization does not, and does not plan to use the FSC trademarks off-product or in promotional pieces)—do not complete section below

Note: promotional use items include advertisements, brochures, web pages, catalogues, press releases, tradeshow booths, stationary templates, corporate promotional items (e.g., t-shirts, mugs, hats, gifts).

TMK 13: If the FSC trademarks are used off-product, the Organization shall ensure:

- a) all compulsory elements shall be present when promoting either the FSC logo or the "Forests For All Forever" marks. The elements may also be presented separately, for example on different parts of a web page. One use of an element (e.g. license code) per material is sufficient. (5.2, 5.3, and 5.4)
- b) The FSC trademarks shall not be used in a way that implies equivalence to other forest certification schemes (e.g. FSC/xxx certification). (7.1)
- c) The FSC logo or 'Forests For All Forever' marks shall not be used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the organization's FSC certification, with licence code, is allowed, for example "We are FSC® certified (FSC® C#####)" or "We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C#####)". (7.3)
- d) FSC-certified products shall not be promoted with the certification body logo alone. (7.4)

Yes No

Findings: The auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement. By submitting all trademark uses to Preferred by Nature for approval, they will ensure that a-d above are met.

TMK 14: Organizations shall take full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks by investment companies and others making financial claims based on their FSC-certified operations. Any such claims shall be accompanied by a disclaimer: "FSC® is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments." (6.6, and 6.7)

Yes No
N/A

Findings: The auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement.

TMK 15: When applicable to the Organization's promotional / off-product use of the trademarks, the criteria below (3.4 – 3.10) shall be met:

Yes No

Findings: The auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement. By submitting all trademark uses to Preferred by Nature for approval, they will ensure that 5.16-5.22 below are met.

TMK 16: When referring to FSC certification without using FSC logo or 'Forests For All Forever' marks, the license code shall be included at least once per material. (5.5)

Yes No
N/A

TMK 17: It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc. (6.1)

- a) If they list both FSC-certified and uncertified products, a text such as "Look for our FSC®-certified products" shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified.

Yes No
N/A

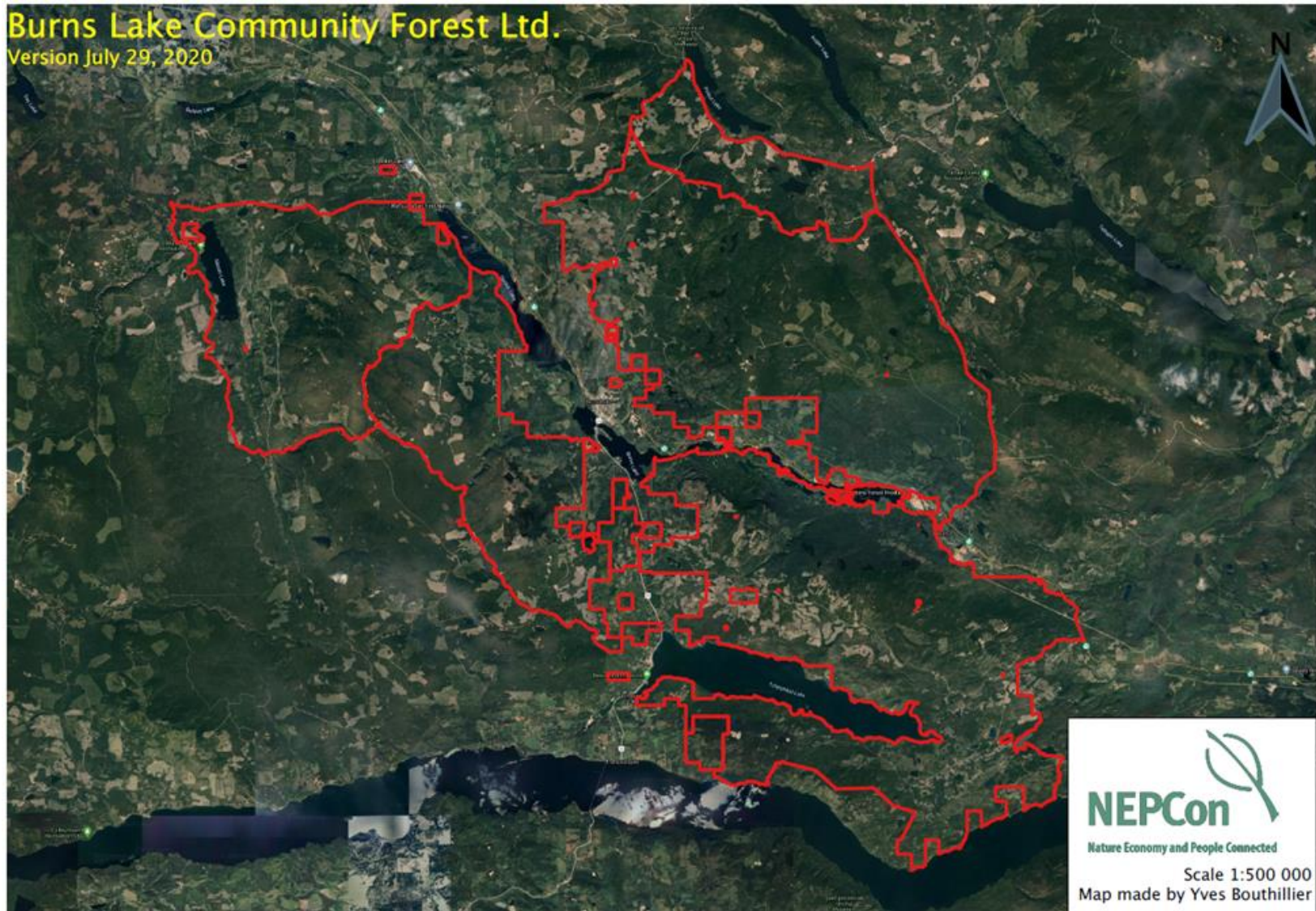
<p>b) If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this shall be clearly stated.</p>	
<p>TMK 18: If the FSC trademarks are used for promotion on invoice templates, delivery notes, and similar documents that may be used for FSC and non-FSC products, the following or similar statement shall be included: "Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC® certified." (6.2)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>TMK 19: The FSC logo with the license code may be used on promotional items not for sale, such as mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, and company vehicles.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>TMK 20: If promotional items are made wholly or partly of wood (e.g. pencils or memory sticks), they must meet the applicable labelling requirements as specified by FSC-STD-40-004, but do not need to carry an on-product label.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>TMK 21: When FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) clearly mark which products are FSC certified, or b) add a visible disclaimer stating "Ask for our FSC®-certified products" or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. <p>Text used to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>TMK 22: When used on the same promotional material as marks of other certification schemes, the FSC trademarks shall not be used in a way which disadvantages FSC in terms of size or placement. (7.2)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Annex III: List of all visited sites (confidential)

	FMU	Block/sector	Description of site audited <i>Ex. Justification for selection, type of operations, workers met, machines inspected, etc.</i>
1.	K1A	3253	Recent completed logging in 2019-2020 of 5ha Lodgepole Pine (dead), recent planting within clearcut silviculture system of species - Lodgepole Pine, interior Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , Hybrid Spruce and Western larch <i>Larix occidentalis</i> . Inspection of Riparian buffer. Fuel hazard abatement work (pile and burning) and interview of burn crew on site, vehicle inspection.
2.	K1A	3252	Recent completed clearcut in 2019-2020 of 15 ha of Lodgepole Pine. Recent 2021 planting of species - Lodgepole Pine (30%), interior Douglas Fir (15%), Hybrid Spruce (40%) and Western larch <i>Larix occidentalis</i> (15%).
3.	K1A	3257	Clean-up of previous clearcut/partial harvest. Inspection of forwarder, truck and worker interviewed.
4.	K1A	Guyishton rd.	Firebreak prescriptions including harvesting and raking as well as pruning and spacing to meet fuel break guidelines along the 75m right of way
5.	K1A	11	Planned 2021-2022 partial harvest of Spruce. Wildlife Tree Patch (WTP) along south side adjacent to wetland and lake.
6.	K1A	446	Nearing free growing status. Plant of Lodgepole Pine and Hybrid Spruce.
7.	K1A	Tibbets rd (7.6 km)	Inspection of completed (summer 2021) Tibbets connector bridge and riparian zone.
8.	K1A	3338	Recent clearcut 2021 with reserves. Wildlife tree retention and utilization. Hazard abatement (raking and piling).

	FMU	Block/sector	Description of site audited <i>Ex. Justification for selection, type of operations, workers met, machines inspected, etc.</i>
9.	K1A	3319	Recent clearcut 2021. Wildlife tree retention (majority hardwood Trembling Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i>) and utilization. Hazard abatement. Interview of one worker.
10.	K1A	Boer Mountain Rec.site / Block 2041	Partial and select harvesting within HCVFs (recreation site and Landscape Connectivity Matrix reserve areas). Access management and new campsite/rec site clearing observed. Completed fuel hazard abatement work.

Annex IV: Map of certified area (confidential)



Annex V: Detailed list of stakeholders and indigenous communities/peoples consulted (confidential)

List of FME Staff Consulted

Name [Last, First]	Title [Affiliation, if any]	Contact [preferably email or phone, if available; otherwise address]	Type of Participation [Notification, interview, and/or public meeting]
Satnam Manhas	Consultant to BLCF	604-616-3680 satnammanhas@gmail.com	Interview
Frank Vargas	General Manager R.P.F., Burns Lake Community Forest	frank.varga@blcomfor.com 250-692-7724	Interview
Ron Harrison	RFT Area Supervisor, Burns Lake Community Forest	250-692-7724	Interview
Michaella Foster	GIS Analyst, Burns Lake Community Forest	250-692-7724	Opening meeting
Paul Davidson	Burns Lake Community Forest Board member	250-692-7724	Opening & Closing meeting
Crystal Fischer	Burns Lake Community Forest Board member	250-692-7724	Closing meeting
Reg Blackwell	Roads and Construction supervisor	250-692-7724	Opening meeting
Tara William	Burns Lake Community Forest Board member	250-692-7724	Interview

List of other Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples Consulted

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List is kept on file

