## Certified by:



NEPCon OU Filosoofi 31 50108 Tartu Estonia www.preferredbynature.org

Tel: +1 (249) 358-9844
Contact person: James Hallworth
Email:
jhallworth@preferredbynature.org

Ver 5 March 2021

## FSC Forest Management Certification

2nd surveillance Report for:

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

in

## Burns Lake, British Columbia Canada

Report Finalized: December 12, 2022

Audit Dates: October 19-20, 2022

Audit Team: James Lucas, Lead Auditor

Type of certificate: Single FMU

Certificate code: NC-FM/CoC- 001758
Certificate December 31, 2020
issue/expiry: December 31, 2022

Organisation Contact: Mr. Frank Varga

Contact details: frank.varga@blcomfor.com

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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 $^{\text{TM}}$  (FSC $^{\text{®}}$ ).

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 <a href="http://info.fsc.org/">http://info.fsc.org/</a>.

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: <a href="http://www.Preferred by Nature.org/impartiality-policy">http://www.Preferred by Nature.org/impartiality-policy</a>

#### **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:

It was observed during the assessment that BLCF had a number of exemplary practices that were worth noting:

- Ongoing outreach efforts to the local community are ongoing including Instagram and TikTok accounts and support for Forestry Week and forest educational outreach at the local highschool in Burns Lake.
- Ongoing efforts focused on ecosystem restoration including continued salvage of dead and dying timber (Blocks 3354, 3376 & 3331), efforts to re-establish fire on the landscape (recent RX burn & larger multi-year plan), ongoing and new monitoring (eg. drone overviews post harvest, fisher/marten project) and planting of expanded species (larch/Douglas fir) which may have wider climate adaptability.
- Strategy of overall access management and efforts to understand/support public values while mitigating access to reduce pressure on wildlife populations.
- Providing ongoing employment opportunities to summer students/seasonal staff and supporting educational opportunities (eg. conferences, continuing education and on the job training) for current staff.

During the field assessment, there were no active harvesting operations as they were shut down temporarily due to unseasonally high temperatures the week of the field assessment. A number of suspended active harvest sites were visited during the field assessment and during those visits, logging equipment was inspected (for spill kits and emergency response equipment) and areas of recent harvesting were reviewed and found to be compliant with Best Management Practices ("BMP's"). One active site of a bridge installation was visited and found to be conforming with BMP's. Training records for harvesting and roads contractors were also reviewed and follow up with contract harvesting companies was also conducted during the assessment.

## 1.2 New Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

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.

□ 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

## 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)

## 1.5 Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples consultation

## 1.5.1 Stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples consultation process

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	$\boxtimes$	
National/Regional Forest NGOs	$\boxtimes$	
Academic		
Government Agencies/Regulators	$\boxtimes$	
Forest Industry	$\boxtimes$	2
National/Regional Recreation Organizations	$\boxtimes$	
Labor Unions/Worker Association		
Indigenous Peoples	$\boxtimes$	1
Local NGOs		
Local Communities/Representatives	$\boxtimes$	2
Local resource users (trappers, hunt & fish clubs, etc.)	$\boxtimes$	3
Local recreationalists (tourism, hiking, etc.)	$\boxtimes$	2
Local businesses		
Forest Owner or Manager		
Buyers		
Contractors	$\boxtimes$	2
Workers	×	4
Other (describe):		

## 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.

The comments below summarize the issues identified by the audit team with a brief discussion of each based upon specific interviews and/or public meeting comments.

Particularly noteworthy is that the organization continues to financially support a wide variety of local causes in the community and that the BLCF provides criticial funding which allows many of these organizations to exist.

A good example of this is the Ride Burns Mountain Bike Association (https://www.rideburns.ca/). This club was founded in 2006 with the Community Forest purchasing a local property of approximately 100 hectares which allowed the organization and its volunteers to construct trails on the property as an operational base. The trail areas were eventually expanded to the Boer Mountain area which has trail networks on over 4,000 ha area of land all of which falls within the boundaries of BLCF. In addition to financial support, BLCF supported the club with the use of their mini excavator which allowed the club to build trails on the Boer Mountain site until they were able to purchase their own machine. At present, the organization has more than 200 members and hosts annual events such bike camps for kids, adults and a women only camp, as well as an annual large event called the Big Pig in the third week of July which offers riders from across BC an opportunity to participate in "world class" multi-disiplinary individual and team competitions. According to their representative, they "would not have been able to run without" without the support of BLCF. It was also just noted that after a recent windstorm (in late October, 2022), the BLCF reached out the mountain bike association to see if they could assist in salvaging/cleaning up the more than 100 trees that were blown down during the storm.

In interviews with another organization, the Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society, it was also noted how critical the funding that the BLCF has provided the organization in meeting their mandate to help maintain camping and recreation sites across the greater Burns Lake area. According to their representative in 2001-02, BC Parks began the process of decommissioning a large number of recreational sites across the greater Burns Lake area. This was in response to the BC government's decision to no longer maintain some of the primitive and semi-primitive sites in the area (3 parks and 27 sites). In response to this decision, the Society was formed as a non-profit and the support of the Community Forest in hosting the initial meeting and providing seed funding was seen as critical to help the flegling organization establish itself. In the years since the founding of the organization, with the exception of three years (2013-15), the BLCF has provided appromately 20% of the organizations annual budget (~\$50,000/year). This funding is seen as critical to the organizations continued existence and the Community Forest continues to provide "huge support" on an annual basis to the Recreation Society.

As part of the discussions with the previously mentioned stakeholder as well as discussion with one BLCF Board Member and representative of the Ts'il Kaz Koh/Burns Lake Band the level of community engagement/education regarding the recently completed (mid-September, 2022) prescribed (RX) burn the south of Burns Lake was reviewed. All those interviewed were aware of the educational and outreach efforts the Community Forest has made to help the local community understand the goals of the RX burn in units 1a & 1b in the mountainous area south of the local community. All stakeholders were aware that the goals of the project were to help create defensible space and fire breaks to reduce the risk of wildfire in the area and to protect the local community from future wildfires like the ones in 2018 (the Island Lake, Nadina Lake and Verdun Mountain wildfires, which together burned more than 1,100 square kilometres) which threatened communities in the local area. Each of the stakeholders stated their support for the efforts to both protect the local areas from wildfire but also bring a restorative force onto the landscape which aligns well with traditional First Nation's resource management approaches.

## 2. AUDIT PROCESS

## 2.1 Certification Standard Used

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

## 2.2 Audit Team and accompanying persons

Name	Role and qualifications
James Lucas, R.P.F. (BC), MF, EMS (LA) Audit Team Leader	James is an experienced auditor in forest management assessments to various audit standards including: FSC, SFI, PEFC, ATFS and CSA Z809. 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 Lead Auditor for FSC FM. He is a Risk Assurance Services Senior Manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers but working as an independent contractor for this audit.

## 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.

Site(s)	Date(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)
Remotely	October 3, 2022	Preparatory communications	JL
Remotely	September 9, 2022	Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples Notification	Preferred by Nature
Burns Lake, BC	October 19 & 20, 2022	Review of evidence	JL
Burns Lake, BC	October 19, 2022	Opening meeting	JL
Burns Lake, BC	October 19 & 20, 2022	Field Visits	JL
Burns Lake, BC and Remotely	October 19 & 20, November 10, 2022	Staff, Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples interviews	JL
Burns Lake, BC	October 20, 2022	Closing meeting	JL

Total LOE for audit: 5.4 days

## 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 but there were recent announcements and changes to both protected areas within the tenure area of the BLCF as well as longer term changes to landscape level planning processes which will affect the management plans of the Community Forest in the future.

In the Spring (April) and Summer (August) of 2022, the BC Government announced plans to defer logging in up to 2.6 million hectares of "old growth" across the Province. A number of these Old Growth Deferral areas (5,758 hectares) fall within the BLCF tenure area. At present, BLCF is engaging with the BC Ministry of Forests at the Ministerial and local level to understand the long-term implications of the deferral areas and how they will affect their operations. As this is a relatively recent announcement and BLCF is still analyzing these deferral areas, it is expected that a broader discussion of these issues will be conducted in 2023 during the next Surveillance Audit.

The second significant change to policy/process in BC is the shift from single or multi-company Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP's) to a landscape level planning approach. This new approach to planning was announced by the BC Government in late October of 2021 and it will eventually dramatically change the planning processes for all tenure holders in the Province. According to the BC Ministry of Forest's Forest Landscape Planning process "will help translate high-level strategic land use planning direction to specific forest management areas." The goal is that they will "bridge the gap" between Strategic Land Use Planning and Operational/Site-level Planning processes while engaging more broadly with other stakeholders including First Nations, local governments and other community members. The Lakes Area, where BLCF has it's tenure, is one of four "Pilot" areas in the Province and members of the BLCF staff are inovolved the "Lakes Area Resliency Project" on various working groups. As this project is ongoing and not complete, this effort should also be reviewed in greater detail in the next Surveillance Audit in 2023. More information on the project is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/sustainable-forest-management-practices/lakes-resiliency-project

Has the management system changed since the previous evaluation?	Yes □ No ⊠
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 auditor visited the Burns Lake Community Forest office on October 19-20. The office and field visits included interviews with Indigenous community representatives, logging and road building contractors, community recreational stakeholders, local forest industry representatives and BLCF staff. The auditor visited a variety of forest management activities including: roads and bridge maintenance/replacement sites, active and completed harvesting sites, recently completed silviculture activities and recent RX burn which is part of a larger landscape burn management plan. In total, 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	х	Illegal settlement	
Soil drainage	х	Bridges/stream crossing	Х
Planned Harvest site	х	Riparian zone	Х
Ongoing Harvest site	х	Wetland	
Completed logging	х	Steep slope/erosion	
Soil scarification	Х	Natural regeneration	Х
Felling by harvester	Х	Reforestation	Х
Felling by forest worker		Plantation	
Skidding/Forwarding	Х	Direct seeding	
Clearfelling/Clearcut	Х	Weed control	
Shelterwood management	Х	Endangered species	
Selective felling	Х	Wildlife management	Х
Sanitation cutting	Х	Buffer zone	Х
Pre-commercial thinning		Special management area	Х
Commercial thinning		Protected area	
Logging camp		Other areas excluded from harvesting	
Chemical products storage		Historical site	
Workshop		Recreational site	
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 ⊠ No □	
Comments: No complaints were received over the past year		
Accident records	Yes ⊠ No □	
Comments: No major accidents were recorded during the audit period.		

Training records	Yes ⊠ No □		
Comments: Training records were reviewed.			
Operational plan(s) for next twelve months	Yes ⊠ No □		
Comments: The 5-year (2021-2026) Forest Stewardship Plan was reviewed.			
Inventory records	Yes ⊠ No □		
Comments: Inventory records were reviewed during the audit (e.g. forest inventory maps silviculture survey records)			
Harvesting records	Yes ⊠ No □		
Comments: Harvest Billings System data was reviewed.			
Sales and shipping records	Yes ⊠ No □		
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 2022	
A. Scope of Forest Area					
Type of certificate: single FMU			SLIMF Ce	rtificate: not applicable	
New FMUs added since previous evaluation		Yes □	No ⊠		

В. І	B. FSC Product categories included in the FM/CoC scope						
$\boxtimes$	⋈ No changes since previous report (do not complete sections below)						
	Level 1	Level 2	Species				
	W1 Rough wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Pinus contorta, Picea engelmannii x glauca, Abies lasiocarpa				
	W2 Wood charcoal						
	W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips					
	W5 Solid wood (sawn, chipped, sliced or peeled)	W5.1 Flitches and boules					
	Non Wood Forest Products N1 Barks						
	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		194,226	208,170	194,226	
Total annual estimated log production (m3):					
Total annual estimates of p	production of certified N	TFP:		_	

(list all certified NTFP by product type):	

D. Forest Area Classification	D. Forest Area Classification					
oxtimes No changes since previous report (de	o not co	mplete section	ns below)			
1. Total certified area (land base)				ha		
2. Total forested area				ha		
<ol><li>Total production forest area (who occures)</li></ol>	iere har	vesting	ha			
4. Total non-productive forest area	(no ha	rvesting)	ha			
4.a Protected forest area (strict reserve	es)	ha				
4.b Areas protected from timber harves and managed only for NTFPs or service	_	ha				
4.c Remaining non-productive forest (ouses)	ther	ha				
5. Total non-forested area (e.g., wa outcrops, etc.)	ater bodi	es, wetlands, fic	elds, rocky	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						
□ No c	hanges since previous report (do not complet	e 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).	Preliminary Old Growth areas have been identified and consist of 5,758 hectares. Analysis of these areas by BLCF is ongoing but for now harvesting is deferred in the areas.	5,758				
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).		
Numbe	r of sites significant to indigenous people and	communities	

#### F. Pesticide Use

 $\boxtimes$  FME does not use pesticides

### G. List of overlapping forest tenure holders

☐ 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

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)

**Important:** Excisions and removals from the certified area must be documented below during each audit.

What are area excisions from the certified area?

Requirements of FSC Excision Policy (FSC-POL-20-003) Sections 1.2, 2.2, 3.2 are applicable.

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.).

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, 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.  Rationale for new excision of area from the certified area  Finding:  Tinding:  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:	Requi applic	rements of FSC Excision Policy (FSC-POL-20-003) Sections 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 are rable.					
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.  Rationale for new excision of area from the certified area  Finding:  Inding:  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.	prope remov in cas	rty. This is considered a removal from the certified area. Possible examples of vals from the certified area: sale of area; conversion of forest to a non-forest area, es such as governmental disposition of lands to be converted for development of an					
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<ul> <li>Is being removed from the certified area.</li> <li>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.     </li> <li>Rationale for new excision of area from the certified area     </li> <li>Finding:         2. Findings explaining conformance against requirements of FSC-POL-20-003     </li> <li>Finding:</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		'					
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What area removals from the certified area?

## 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 NCRstables 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	Conform ance: Yes/No/ NE		•	NCR OBS (#)
		Principle 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FS	C PRINCIPLES	
1.1	NE			
1.2	NE			
1.3	NE			
1.4	NE			
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 were observed during the audit.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul><li>Field visits</li><li>Interviews - BLCF staff</li></ul>	
1.6	NE			
	l	Principle 2. TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RES	PONSIBILITIES	

2.1	NE		
2.2	NE		
2.3	NE		
		Principle 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RI	GHTS
3.1	NE		
3.2	Yes	See previous comments about the Landscape Resliency Pilot (LRP) Project in the Lakes TSA. This pilot is one of four in BC to develop Forest Landscape Plans objectives to replace the FSP and incorporate cumulative effects and multistakeholder input into the planning and landscape management process. The stakeholder involvement in this process will include close collaboration with local First Nations, integrating their perspectives and long term ecological and wildlife interests into the plans. The RX burn (WFM 3222 – Unit 1A) is the first step in a long term fire mitigation strategy to reduce the risk of wildfire in the Burns Lake area and to increase the amount of defensible space (for future fire fighting staging) in the area. Through interviews with First Nation stakeholders, it was found that there was support for this ecologically restorative process and the fire safety that it will provide to the local community.  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, 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	<ul> <li>LRP Terms of Reference</li> <li>RX Fire Plan &amp; records</li> <li>FMP 4</li> <li>Timber Supply Analysis Report v.1.1 (Foresite, 2019)</li> <li>Wet'suwet'en Yin'tah     Stewardship Principles,     Practices &amp; Prescriptions     (2017)</li> <li>Interviews – FM, Comfor     forestry consultant and     Indigenous Peoples'</li> </ul>

3.3	NE	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.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	
J. <del>T</del>	NE	Dringing 4 COMMUNITY DELATIONS AND WOD	VEDCI DICUTO
4.1	Yes	2021 Observation:  OBS 4.1.4/21 had 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.  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.	- Safety and Environmental Handbook (2022) - 2021-22 Staff Training Log - NFW Rx tailgate safety - correspondance

4.2 Yes	2022 Update: As there were no active operations during the field audit, interviews with logging contractors and their workers were not able to take place. Training records were reviewed but this OBS remains open until the 2023 Surveillance Audit happens.  BLCF continues to work with other road users on safety management. A new pipeline management company (Michel's/MCPL) has replaced the previous organization and communications with MCPL have improved and safety issues are being managed on BLCF road networks. Further to the preceeding, BLCF continues to be a Safe Certified organization and succesfully passed their 2022 assessment. Monthly meetings with Comfor staff are ongoing and samples of meeting minutes were reviewed during the audit. The meetings are well documented and comprehensive and help to promote a safety culture within the organization. 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.  The Organization publishes a Safety and Environmental Handbook which details emergency response protocols. The handbook was verified to be in use by contractors. Comfor staff continue to communicate with contractors around the expectations of annual inspections of fire extinguishers and no issues were detected during the audit. The 2021 OBS 4.2.1/21 can be closed as a result.	<ul> <li>2022 Incident Reports</li> <li>Safe Certification - 2022 audit</li> <li>Emails MCPL - Reg - Chad Ball</li> <li>BLCF Health and Safety Policy Statement</li> <li>BLCF monthly safety meeting minutes 2021-2022</li> <li>Safety and Environmental Handbook (2022)</li> <li>2022 Staff Training Log</li> <li>Interviews - FM, workers, contractors, and stakeholders</li> <li>Site visits</li> </ul>	
4.3 NE			
4.4 Yes	The Organization's communications strategy (Burns Lake Community Forest Corporation community engagement strategy report- 2016) is still relevant and can be updated as	<ul> <li>BLCF Instagram and Tik Tok accounts</li> </ul>	

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.

During the Summer of 2022, BLCF hired a local journalism student (Zoey Thom-Lucy) to help rejuvenate their social media presence. Over the Summer and Fall have updated/launched several social media accounts (Instagram/Facebook/Tik Tok) as well as inceasing their educational articles in the local paper and improving and expanding website content. The annual Open House event took place in July, 2022 and was back to the previous in person event as it was pre-Covid. During the BBQ/Open House, a survey was delivered which had a response rate of 139 people. Additional outreach was conducted for National Forestry Week, a career fair was held at the local highschool with other (Comfor – Tatsha – FG Forestry) forestry organizations in the area. A list of 2022 stakeholder correspondence was reviewed and was found to be comprehensive. Outreach regarding access management planned for the Fall. BLCF will reach out directly to user groups (snowmobilers, trappers, hunters, rod and gun club) to get a sense of public perception of road deactivation strategy but additional outreach will be conducted through advertisements in local media. 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.

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

- Interviews FM and stakeholders
- Burns Lake Community Forest Corporation community engagement strategy report-2016
- Online and media outreach
- BLCF website
- Stakeholder correspondence (e.g. individual trappers, Ride Burns Mountain Bike Association, Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society)
- Notice of Activities sample
- BLCF Community Survey 2022 summary
- BLCF annual open house 2022 list of attendees
- Access Management Plan (2020)
- BLCF Group Member Handbook (2020)

4.5	NE	version publicly available via the link is outdated though). The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	
		Principle 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOR	REST
5.1	Yes	The BL Comfor management strategy is contained in the Burns Lake Community Forest Management Plan (version 4, October 2019) as well as a number of other associated documents (eg. BLCF Timber Supply Analysis & AAC Monitoring and Reporting Protocol). The strategy for forest management is laid out in Section 16 of the Plan, Current Forest Operations. The management approach is wholistic with a focus on forest health and restoration due to both long term beetle (MPB) attack and recent fires in the area, including within BL Comfor boundaries. Silviculture strategies are both even and uneven aged, depending on the condition of the forest (eg. >/< 50% mortality in the stand) and harvesting systems are largely Cut to Length (CTL) which are well suited to working in these forest conditions. The CTL systems (both conventional – Ponsse & adapted – single grip processor on an excavator carriage) allow operators to remove both standing and fallen timber and leave tops and other material in the woods both to protect harvesting trails and as CWD. The focus of the last 5 year management has largely been on the dead and dying timber profile with less emphaisis on green timber to help to ensure long term forest health and future growth and timber supply. The 5 year management plan estimates planned harvest operations and the associated costs and revenues for each year. Annual operating plans and budgets are created by the General Manager and approved by the BL Comfor Board of Directors. The overall strategy of the BL Comfor is based on stakeholder engagement and the Board includes representatives from three local First Nation's (Ts'il Kaz Koh	<ul> <li>BLCF Management Plan V4</li> <li>K1A Harvest Map Planning         Overview Map and associated         packages</li> <li>Timber supply analysis report         2019</li> <li>FSP and extension (Aug. 4,         2022) letter</li> <li>Burns Lake Community Forest         Prescribed Fire Program –         2020 update</li> </ul>

		First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs) and the Village of Burns Lake. BL Comfor works hard in the community through stakeholder engagement to ensure that its operations have support within and across the community.  The 5 year and annual plans themselves are based on a detailed understanding forest and other resources across it's tenure using the most up to date information available (eg. Lidar, PEM, VRI & pre-harvest crusing) and gathering more information through TSR sample plots. Active monitoring of completed operations and the entire landbase, through on the ground inspections and surveys, drone overview flights and other means (wildlife monitoring programs) helps to ensure that the effects of any harvesting activities are not compromising long term ecosystem values.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
5.2	Yes	BLCF continue to maximize fibre use while meeting other resource targets and objectives. Markets for poles, sawlogs, bioenergy fibre, and pulp logs are maximized and where economically feasible, logging slash is ground into biomass chips and hog fuel. The organization has an excellent mix of primary (Babine, Decker Lake, Fraser Lake, Tahtsa Timber, pulp mills) mills as well as secondary producers (Pinnacle/Drax) in the area which help BLCF get strong prices for their products and maximizes fibre use across all grades and species of conifers.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul> <li>Mills statements</li> <li>Customer interviews</li> <li>Staff interviews</li> </ul>	
5.3	Yes	From field observations, BLCF has very high utilization standards. It's approach of using CTL processing maximizes log production while leaving all other material in the woods as coarse woody debris. Where whole log processing is used, maximum utilization minimizing top diameters and regular	<ul> <li>Mills statements</li> <li>HBS reports - Oct. 2021-Sept.</li> <li>2022</li> <li>Staff interviews</li> </ul>	

	<u> </u>			
		inspections of top and cull piles ensures that maximum log recovery is ensured. Anecdotally, the BLCF has measured their waste and residue and has found it to be from 10-12 m3/ha while it is said the Lakes average is greater than 35 m3/ha. In addition to maximizing log utilization, there are opportunities for firewood harvesters to pick through waste piles and selected areas and some loads of firewood are delivered to local communities.		
		The Safety and Environmental Handbook (2020) contains standard operating procedures for the mitigation of ecosystem components including soil and water. During the field assessment it was noted that there was little damage to residual stands and other components such as soil during the field visit. In the past, rig mats are used in select areas to minimize soil compaction and damage.		
		The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
5.4	Yes	From a review of annual reports and discussions with BLCF staff, the total spend of the Organization is 90-95% local except in the case of where specialized skill sets (eg. EDI, Shifting Mosaic) are needed. Local contractors and value of spend in the local community from 2020-2021 (according to audited financials) for logging and roads maintenance costs are \$7,756,647.	<ul> <li>Annual report 2020-21</li> <li>Local work policy</li> <li>Financial statements</li> <li>Field reviews</li> <li>Staff interviews</li> </ul>	
		With regard to considerations for the production of non- timber forest products from the forest, the BLCF supports a variety of them including:		
		- Range tenures		
		- Recreation including camping, hiking and mountain biking		
		- Working with other resouce sectors like pipeline project		
		- Riparian protection (wildlife)		
		- Managing for visual quality		

		<ul> <li>Campground restoration – Boer Mountain</li> <li>Protection of a trail systems</li> <li>Mushroom picking</li> <li>The individuals and organizations producing those non-timber forest products are given the opportunity to comment and give input on forest management plans.</li> <li>The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.</li> </ul>	
5.5	Yes	BLCF has identified ecosystem services provided by forest tenure, drawing on existing information and public consultation where necessary. Assessments that have been conducted to assist with this include HCV assessment, fish inventory, watershed, and wildlife habitat. Identification of impacts of forest management practices on ecosystem services are documented in the FMP and FSP, with protection or enhancement measures being planned and implemented. This includes; soil protection, water, fish, wildlife, and biodiversity within riparian areas, visual quality management, traditional use of the forest including trail access and recreational purposes.	<ul> <li>FMP 3&amp;4</li> <li>FSP</li> <li>HCVF assessment 2017</li> <li>Environmental Values report 2017</li> <li>Fish Inventory report 2019</li> <li>Range of Natural Variability Approach report 2018</li> </ul>
5.6	Yes	Management of AAC in the Province is highly regulated through the Timber Supply Review (TSR) and cut control process. BLCF's annual AAC is 194,226 m3 and their 10 year cut contol volume is 19,422,600 m3. The Organization just started their 10 year cut control period and in the first year harvested 215,691 m3. This volume is in the acceptable variance of annual cut control and is acceptable (regarding 5.6.6). Further discussion was had with BLCF staff and the Organization is looking at the potential to gain some uplift in their harvest levels by undertaking commercial thinning	<ul> <li>CF K1A - Cut Control Statement</li> <li>Annual report 2020-21</li> <li>HBS reports - Oct. 2021-Sept. 2022</li> <li>Stand monitoring folder - Fraser Lake sawmills - FP Innovations</li> <li>Schedule A of contract</li> <li>BLCF Timber Supply Review letter - Sept. 3, 2020</li> </ul>

		opportunities of young to medium aged stands. This analysis is ongoing and will be completed in the coming years.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul> <li>BLCF Timber Supply Analysis</li> <li>Report - Forsite - Oct. 17,</li> <li>2019</li> <li>Interviews - BLCF staff</li> </ul>
		Principle 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPA	СТ
6.1	NE		
6.2	Yes	Over the past year BLCF has supported a variety of wildlife and SAR projects including a fisher & marten habitat analysis project, ongoing Grizzly Bear habitat assessment and development of goshawk Best Management Practices with the involvement of MoF District level support (Frank Doyle – MoF Consulting Biologist). The goal of each of these projects is to incorporate the learnings into management with the Community Forest.  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.	<ul> <li>Draft BLCF FSP</li> <li>HCVF maps</li> <li>Forest Management Plan #4</li> <li>Health and Safety Manual (2022d)</li> <li>Environmental Values within the Burns Lake Community Forest (May 2017)</li> <li>Preliminary Grizzly Habitat Assessment Letter (Environmental Dynamics Inc., September 22, 2020)</li> <li>Interviews – BLCF staff</li> </ul>

		The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
6.3	Yes	Use of larch and Douglas fir to enhance species diversity and help to mitigate the impacts of climate change is positive approach and observation for the audit. Further, the reintroduction of fire on the landscape, the continuing of opportunistic harvesting (eg. Block 3353) and continued stand rehabilitation is an excellent example ecosystem restoration across the Community Forest operations and is also a positive observation for the audit. One other good practice should be noted and that is the review of stream classifications (EDI/Michaella Foster) across the tenure is another good practice.	<ul> <li>Review of silvicultural records</li> <li>Field visits</li> <li>Interviews - BLCF staff</li> </ul>	
		The findings from the previous audits and assessments remain valid. 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 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).

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 ocurrence 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 hydroriparian 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 activites 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.

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.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.		
6.4	NE	The organization is in comormanic with this oriention		
6.5	NE			
6.6	NE			
6.7	Yes	2021 Observation:  During field visits, the audit team interviewed on-site four forest workers and inspected one forwarder. OBS 6.7.1/21 has been issed 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.	<ul> <li>Safety and Environmental Handbook (2022)</li> <li>Site visits</li> <li>2022 Staff Training Log</li> <li>Logging equipment inspections</li> </ul>	

6.8	NE	2022 Follow Up: While there were no active harvesting operations observed during the field tour (due to operations being shut down for fire danger) but equipment at all active sites were assessed and all had sufficient spill kits and up to date handbooks. This OBS is closed.	
6.9	Yes	No change in 2022. 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.	<ul> <li>FM and stakeholder</li> <li>interviews</li> <li>Silviculture records</li> <li>Site Visits</li> </ul>
6.10	NE		
		Principle 7. MANAGEMENT PLAN	
7.1	Yes	The Organization was able to provide all of the aspects required in a management plan according to 7.1. The majority of aspects are covered under the Burns Lake Community Forest Management plan #4, Community Forest Agreement K1A, and the BL Comfor Forest Stewardship Plan (approved in December 2017 and extended to July 31, 2023). The Timber Supply Review report (2017) and monitoring/cut control documents and the management strategies outlined within the High Conservation Value Forest Assessment report are other key documents. Section 14.5 of the FMP is dedicated to implementing RONV.  BL Comfor have a full GIS capable mapping capability and the management and ongoing harvesting and forest management activities are supported by sophisticated and well executed mapping work. The organization is in	<ul> <li>Forest Management Plan #4</li> <li>Timber Supply report (Forsite, 2019)</li> <li>Forest Stewardship Plan</li> <li>Interviews</li> </ul>

		conformance with this Criterion that is appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	
7.2	Yes	Ongoing updates to the management plan (version #4 dated Oct. 2019) and to additional documents are made as appropriate. Recently updated documents include: BL Comfor Monitoring Report 2021, Cut Control statements and reports, 2022 survey data and Comfor annual report.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.	<ul> <li>Forest Management Plan #4</li> <li>Timber Supply report (Forsite, 2019)</li> <li>Forest Stewardship Plan</li> <li>Interviews</li> </ul>
7.3	Yes	The organization continues to provide adequate training and supervision of forest workers to ensure the proper implementation of the management plan. Reviewed training with staff, including new staff, regarding training on the management plan and it was stated that during new staff orientation, at least a week of training was spent on the management plan, FSP and the EMS. Other forestry workers are familiarized with the management plans through preharvest meetings and ongoing contract supervision (during and post-harvest) with forestry workers and contractors provide sufficient training and supervision to ensure the proper implementation of the management plan.	<ul> <li>Forest Management Plan #4</li> <li>Timber Supply report (Forsite, 2019)</li> <li>Forest Stewardship Plan</li> <li>Training records</li> <li>Interviews</li> </ul>
7.4	Yes	The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.  The Organization makes publicly available summary information of the management plan both online and in readily accessible formats at their centrally located office. The Organization maintains key documents as publicly available on their website and maintain an open-door policy at their office with a room dedicated to public	<ul><li>BLCF website</li><li>Interviews</li></ul>

		communications. Information readily available includes operational plans, forest inventories, silviculture summaries and maps.  The Organization is in conformance with this Criterion.  Principle 8. MONITORING AND ASSESS	6MENT COMMENT
8.1	NE		
8.2	Yes	BLCF have updated some of their monitoring efforts in the last 12 months. The ongoing fisher/marten project is measuring and monitoring habitat for both species across the tenure. The use of post harvest drone flight for all blocks has allowed management to review all harvest operations and determine the most efficient and effective means to field verify that harvest close out is done properly. Other monitoring of annual markets/sales figures for the BLCF annual report is continuous.  The findings from the previous audits and assessments remain valid. 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 includingLog Inventory Management System (LIMS), Harvest Billing System, Cut Control Review;  • Changes to growth rates & site productivity are reviewed and determined as per theTimber 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;	<ul> <li>Staff and stakeholder interviews</li> <li>Harvest Billing System</li> <li>Timber Supply Review and Analysis - Forsite Report</li> <li>Silviculture surveys</li> <li>Annual reports</li> <li>Site Visits</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>Changes in flora and fauna are reviewed on the landscape usingvarious surveys and biological assessments;</li> <li>Changes to HCVF strategies, as well as effectiveness monitoring are documented through various surveys and biological assessments;;</li> <li>Environmental impacts of operations are documented inpost harvest assessments, waste and residue surveys, drone flights;</li> <li>Social impacts of operations and economic analysis are documented in the annual report; and</li> <li>and Financial records are documented in SAGE.</li> </ul>	
8.3	NE		
8.4	NE		
8.5	NE		
	<u> </u>	Principle 9. MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATIO	N VALUE FORESTS
9.1	NE		
9.2	NE		
9.3	NE		
9.4	Yes	See above regarding grizzly and marten/fisher projects. BLCF has complied all monitoring efforts into one combined document which is referred to as the BLCF Monitoring Report 2021 and covers FSC Principle 1-10 and is organized in that manner. BLCF has listed this publication as a publicly available document in its 2021 Annual Report  The findings from the previous audits and assessments remain valid. The Organization documents annual monitoring efforts to demonstrate, in part, maintenance and	<ul> <li>HCVF Map</li> <li>Drone/UAV flights - pre &amp; post-harvest</li> <li>Silviculture surveys</li> <li>Annual reports</li> <li>Staff and stakeholder interviews</li> <li>Site Visits</li> </ul>

		enhancement of conservation attributes. Monitoring is conducted prior, during and after forest management activities, to assess the 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.	
		Principle 10. PLANTATIONS	
10.1	NE	THIS PLANTATIONS	
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)

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

Scope Definition of CoC Certificate: Does the FME further process material before transfer at forest gate? (If yes then processing must be evaluated to full CoC checklist for CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 v2.) Note: This does not apply to on-site production of chips/biomass from wood harvested from the evaluated forest area.	Yes □ No ⊠
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? (If yes then CoC procedures for all relevant CoC criteria shall be documented.)	Yes ⊠ No □
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 □ No ⊠
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? (If yes a finding is required for criterion CoC 7 below.)	Yes □ No ⊠
Comments:	
Does FME purchase certified wood from other FSC certificate holders and plan to sell that material as FSC certified? (If yes then a separate CoC certificate is required that includes a full evaluation of the operation against FSC-STD-40-004 v2.).	Yes □ No ⊠

Comments: No other FSC materials are purchased as all material originates certified FME.	s from the
Does FME use FSC and/or Rainforest Alliance trademarks for promotion or product labeling? (If FME does not or has no plans to use FSC/RA trademarks delete trademark criteria checklist below.)	Yes ⊠ No □
Comments: Trademark use procedures (both on and off-product) are in plattee EME is only using promotional trademarks	ace. Currently,

## 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 ⊠ No □			
<b>Findings:</b> The CoC procedures name Frank Varga as responsible for implementation control system.	enting the CoC			
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 ⊠ No □			
<b>Findings:</b> The staff confirmed awareness of the CoC procedures document a requirements to reference it to implement the CoC control system.	nd			
<ul> <li>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</i> (&gt;10,000ha) and Group Managers, CoC procedures covering all relevant CoC criteria shall be documented. Including: <ul> <li>a) Procedures for physical segregation and identification of FSC certified from non-FSC certified material. (If applicable)</li> <li>b) Procedures to ensure that non-FSC certified material is not represented as FSC certified on sales and shipping documentation. (If applicable)</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>e) Procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable FSC/Preferred by Nature trademark use requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Yes ⊠ No □			
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 ladings, 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			
<ul> <li>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:</li> <li>a) Physical segregation and identification of FSC certified from non-FSC certified material.</li> <li>b) A system to ensure that non-FSC certified material is not represented as FSC certified on sales and shipping documentation.</li> <li>Note: If no outside wood is handled by FME within scope of certificate, mark as N/A.</li> </ul>	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 □		
<b>Findings:</b> Where logs are sent to sawmills the forest gate is the buyer's desiste. For pulp logs, dead and pulp logs are chipped on the landing and sent 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 □		
<b>Findings:</b> The provincial timbermark system is used to track logs from the forest gate. The information on the timbermark (forest license holder, cutting tenure of origin) is linked to the shipping documentation that accompanies of the shipping documentation	ng permit, and		
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.  Note: If no outside wood is handled by FME within scope of certificate, mark as N/A.	Yes □ No □ NA ⊠		
<b>Findings:</b> The Organization does not handle or purchase outside wood that with certified wood prior to delivery at the forest gate.	could be mixed		

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:  a) FME FSC certificate registration code, and b) FSC certified claim: FSC 100%	Yes ⊠ No □

<b>Findings:</b> The inventory and administration systems are adequate to ensure certificate registration code, and FSC certified claims: FSC 100% are include no FSC sales during the last audit period, therefore no FSC claims on sales a documentation. Staff demonstrated an awareness of necessary procedures that FSC sales occur.	ed. There were and shipping
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 □
<b>Findings:</b> No FSC sales occurred during the audit period, nonetheless the pr manual outline that the Organization maintains records for a minimum of 5	
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 □
<b>Findings:</b> The Manager maintains a summary of the material harvested and certified sales were made during the audit period. Summaries for the BLCF 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<sup>™</sup> (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

Yes ⊠ No □

requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.	
<b>Findings:</b> The Auditor confirmed the Organization has an FSC trademark lice agreement.	ense
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)  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.	Yes ⊠ No □
<b>Findings:</b> The Auditor reviewed promotional trademark uses for website and approvals which all conformed to the requirements.	d banner
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)	Yes ⊠ No □ N/A □
Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requi	irement.
<ul> <li>TMK 4: The FSC trademarks shall not be used (2.1):</li> <li>a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification;</li> <li>d) in product brand or company names, such as 'FSC Golden Timber' or website domain names;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Yes ⊠ No □
Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requi	irement.
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)	Yes ⊠ No □ N/A □
Findings: The Organization does not use segregation marks.	
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)	Yes ⊠ No □
NOTE: FSC certification audits do not address compliance with such national requirements and laws.	
Findings: The Auditor confirmed that the Organiztion is aware of this require	ement.

## On product use

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

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).			
<ul> <li>TMK 13: If the FSC trademarks are used off-product, the Organization shall ensure:</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>d) FSC-certified products shall not be promoted with the certification body logo alone. (7.4)</li> </ul>	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 ad 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 □		

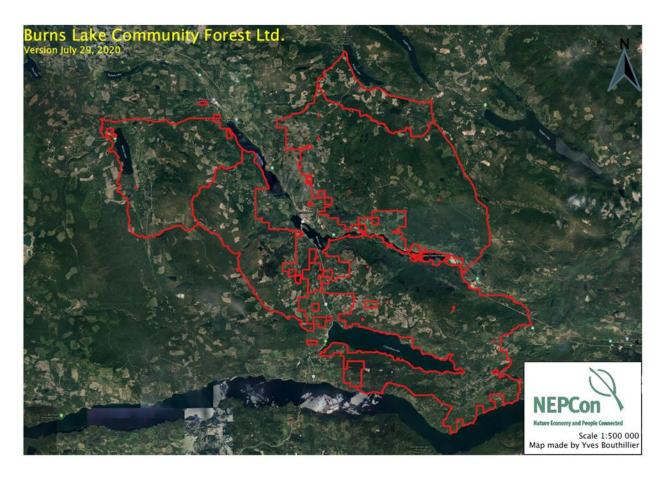
Findings: The auditor confirmed that the Organization is aware of this requirement. By submitting all trademark uses to Preferred by Nature for approval, they will ensure that 5.16-5.22 below are met. TMK 16: When referring to FSC certification without using FSC logo or Yes ⊠ No □ 'Forests For All Forever' marks, the license code shall be included at least N/A □ once per material. (5.5) 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 Yes ⊠ No □ text such as "Look for our FSC®-certified products" shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-N/A □ certified products shall be clearly identified. b) If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this shall be clearly stated. TMK 18: If the FSC trademarks are used for promotion on invoice templates, delivery notes, and similar documents that may be used for Yes ⊠ No □ FSC and non-FSC products, the following or similar statement shall be N/A □ included: "Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC® certified." (6.2) TMK 19: The FSC logo with the license code may be used on promotional Yes ⊠ No □ items not for sale, such as mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, and N/A □ company vehicles. TMK 20: If promotional items are made wholly or partly of wood (e.g. Yes □ No □ pencils or memory sticks), they must meet the applicable labelling requirements as specified by FSC-STD-40-004, but do not need to carry N/A ⊠ an on-product label. TMK 21: When FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization shall: a) clearly mark which products are FSC certified, or Yes ⊠ No □ b) add a visible disclaimer stating "Ask for our FSC®-certified products" or similar if no FSC-certified products are N/A □ displayed. Text used to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer. TMK 22: When used on the same promotional material as marks of other Yes ⊠ No □ certification schemes, the FSC trademarks shall not be used in a way N/A □ which disadvantages FSC in terms of size or placement. (7.2)

## Annex III: List of all visited sites (confidential)

	New FMU If yes, put an X	FMU	Block/sector	Description of site audited  Ex. Justification for selection, type of operations, workers met, machines inspected, etc.	
1.		K1A	N/A	Planer bridge upgrade – recent upgrade to bridge panels to support recreational use. The location of this bridge is across a designated trail. There are no short term (next 5 years) industrial or operational harvest plans in this area proposed.	
2.		K1A	3427	Recent completed clearcut of 127 ha of mixed wood spruce, balsam fir and pine. Roads stable, site to biomass chipped and roads closed out once planting completed in the Spring of 2023. No issues observed.	
3.		K1A	3331	Active harvest unit. Patch clearcuts with shelterwood separation strips. Cut to length (CTL) harvest system focused on removal of all merchantable timber and retaining all green trees and advanced regeneration. Excellent operator performance and restoration of a healthy forest. No workers on site as operations were shut down due to high fire danger.	
4.		K1A	N/A	Review of planned installation of 140' bridge crossing at Burns Lake Narrows.	
5.		K1A	3354	2022 planted site – Lx/Fd/Sx – salvage/blowdown area – Tahsta Timber harvested the site – piles burned.	
6.		K1A	N/A	Bridge installs at 24.5 km and 25.5 km on the Owl Road. Good plans and oversight. Build to plan and signed off.	
7.		K1A	N/A	Coal Road maintenance program – good maintenance regime. No issues observed.	
8.		K1A	N/A	Augier-Ling Road temporary bridge install – just completed. BMP's in place. Good operator awareness. Had 2021 book in machine but new 2022 book in truck. Not a finding.	
9.		K1A	3385	Active harvest unit – 100 ha. Doug Bateson contractor – conventional feller buncher/skidder operation. Road building into next unit – currently dry but	

	New FMU <i>If yes, put</i> <i>an X</i>	FMU	Block/sector	Description of site audited  Ex. Justification for selection, type of operations, workers met, machines inspected, etc.
				culverts to be added. Reviewed Pre-work documents, good progress to date, no issues. All machines have spill kits, tagged fire extinguishers/fire tools and EMS books.
10.		K1A	1018	2022 fill plant – Lx/Fd fill plant – Sx/Pl 3-5 years old with a number of naturals. Site well stocked and healthy.
11.		K1A	916	Free Growing block - Pl leading/Sx/Bl minor component. Target 1200 tph, 1178 Well Spaced - 1078 Preferred.
12.		K1A	3376	Right of Way completed for this unit. Stand is variable in areas with heavy understory Sx/Pl in some areas with ~40% blowdown – other areas of doghair high density Pl.

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]	<b>Title</b> [Affiliation, if any]	Contact [preferably email or phone, if available; otherwise address]	Type of Participation [Notification, interview, and/or public meeting]
Frank Vargas	General Manager R.P.F., Burns Lake Community Forest	frank.varga@blcomfor. com 250-692-7724	Opening Meeting/ Field Tour Guide/ Interview/Closing Meeting
Reg Blackwell	Roads and Construction supervisor	250-692-7724	Opening Meeting
Zoey Thom-Lucy	Summer Student/Social Media Guru	communications@blco mfor.com	Opening Meeting/ Interview/ Closing Meeting
Matt Bavis	Comfor Forester	778-676-1085	Opening Meeting/ Interview/ Closing Meeting
Michaella Foster	GIS Analyst, Burns Lake Community Forest	250-692-7724	Opening & Closing 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
Tara William	Burns Lake Community Forest Board member	250-692-7724	Interview
Pius Charlie	Burns Lake Community Forest Board member	250-692-4214	Interview
Satnam Manhas	Consultant to BLCF	604-616-3680 satnammanhas@gmail. com	Opening Meeting/ Interview/ Closing Meeting

## List of other Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples Consulted

## CONFIDENTIAL - ONLY FOR PREFERRED BY NATURE AND THE AUDITORS

List is kept on file