



SECTION NINE  
FOREST CERTIFICATION

# DFMP

DETAILED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

TEXT REPORT



BLUE RIDGE LUMBER INC.  
A SUBSIDIARY OF WEST FRASER MILLS LTD.

## 9 Forest Certification

Certification programs provide assurance for our customers, our shareholders, our employees, and the general public that West Fraser Mills is living up to its environmental commitments.

Blue Ridge Lumber has achieved or is actively achieving certification in various continuous improvement programs. These programs are very credible and are being administered in a very professional manner.

Independent third party registrars and auditors administrate all three forest certification programs. Due to the wide variety of markets that Blue Ridge Lumber products are being sold and the wide assortment of external stakeholder groups that the Company is involved with, more than one certification system is required.

Blue Ridge Lumber is certified in the following programs:

### **ForestCare Program**

Year First Certified – 1999  
 Last Registration Audit – 2005

### **Environmental Management System (EMS) – ISO 14001**

Year First Certified – 2001  
 Last Registration Audit – 2004

### **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification System**

Year First Certified – 2004  
 Last Registration Audit – 2004

These forest certification programs will assist Blue Ridge Lumber in meeting the goals and objectives of sustainable forest management (economic, environmental, cultural and social values) and environmental protection practices.

## 9.1 FORESTCARE

Blue Ridge Lumber Woodlands and Sawmill operations became a FORESTCARE Certified member in November and December 1999. FORESTCARE is a voluntary self-improving program of the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) that was implemented in 1995. This program is designed to improve the forest industry's performance and to communicate these improvements, locally and provincially.



The FORESTCARE Program focuses on three core subject areas: Care for the Forest, Care for the Environment and Care for the Community. The program is based on the following six Guiding Principles: forest sustainability, integrated land use, environmental protection, health and safety, public involvement and economic stability. There were 72 original codes of practice with 113 performance elements.

The initial FORESTCARE woods audit results for Blue Ridge Lumber were presented to the Regional Forest Advisory Committee and the general public in the winter of 1999-2000.

The AFPA commitment to continuous improvement applies to both the components of FORESTCARE and the structure of the program. A major strategic review has just being completed and the new revised protocols are planned to be implemented by the spring of 2002. The new revised protocols of 36 woodlands operations and 5 health and safety codes have been implemented. The new program will be administered by an independent third party.

Due to the fact that numerous Alberta forest companies are enrolled in various forest certification programs the AFPA has adopted "mutual recognition" of the other certification programs and has developed a FORESTCARE equivalency program. This program recognizes certification of one of three Sustainable Forest Management programs, Certification of Recognition (COR) in the Partners in Injury Reduction program for companies and their contractors. The BRL woodlands department successfully achieved FORESTCARE equivalency in August 2005.

## 9.2 ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System (EMS)

Blue Ridge Lumber Woodland’s operations along with other West Fraser Canadian Woodlands Divisions achieved corporate ISO environmental standards in December 2001. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies, which sets standards for many management systems. The Environmental Management Systems (EMS) is ISO 14001.



The general steps in establishing the Environmental Management System (EMS) are:

- Establishing an Environmental Policy and identification of legal and other requirements.
- Identification and ranking the environmental risks (aspects).
- Setting objectives, indicators and targets (OIT) and action plans to reduce the potential risks or impacts of Company operations on the environment.
- Creating operational controls to implement these plans and ensure conformance to the Environmental Policy.
- Checking and corrective action to improve performance.
- Management review to improve the system.

KPMG is the independent, accredited organization that audited Blue Ridge Lumber’s Environmental Management System (EMS) and they determined that the Blue Ridge Lumber EMS meets the requirements of the ISO 14001 Standard. Annual internal or external periodic assessments are completed to ensure that Blue Ridge Lumber maintains the ISO Standards. BRL successfully completed the ISO 14001 renewal audit in the summer of 2004 and was successfully re-registered.



## 9.3 Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Blue Ridge Lumber woodlands operations along with the other wholly owned West Fraser Canadian Woods Divisions became certified to the American Forest & Paper Association's (AF&PA) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program on November 11, 2004.



As part of the certification process, West Fraser implemented a Company wide sustainable forest management plan, an endangered species management program and a wood procurement system that monitors private wood suppliers.

This program provides environmental quality assurance that sustainable forestry practices are being employed. The SFI audit is very compatible with a FORESTCARE audit and the present Blue Ridge Lumber Environmental Management System.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard has six program principles; Sustainable Forestry, Responsible Practices, Forest Health & Productivity, Protect Special Sites, Legal Compliance and Continual Improvement. There are 11 objectives that are fundamental to the goal of Sustainable Forestry Management, 34 performance measures that ensure that the objectives are being met and 123 core indicators that are common to all the verifications. The following are the 11 key objectives:

1. Broaden Practice of Sustainable Forestry
2. Forest Productivity and Conservation of Forest Resources
3. Protect Water Quality
4. Enhance Wildlife Habitat and Conserve Biodiversity
5. Manage Impact on Visual Quality
6. Protect Special Sites
7. Promote Efficient Use of the Forest Resources
8. Broaden the Practice of Sustainable Forestry
9. Publicly Report Performance on Sustainable Forestry
10. Public and Forestry Community Participation in the Commitment to Sustainable Forestry
11. Promote Continual Improvement in Practices of Sustainable Forestry

## 9.4 Partners in Injury Reduction Program

Health and safety is extremely important to Blue Ridge Lumber and their employees. Blue Ridge Lumber achieved a Certification of Recognition (COR) in November 2000 with the Worker's Compensation Board in the Partners in Injury Reduction Program (PIR). This program is designed to encourage injury prevention and the development of effective workplace health, safety and disability management systems. PIR is a voluntary program that operates through combined efforts of the Alberta Worker's Compensation Board, Alberta Human Resources and Employment, industry partners, safety associations, employers and labor groups. This program is based on the concept that when employers and workers build effective health and safety systems, the human and financial costs of workplace injuries and illnesses can be reduced.

The achievement of a Certification of Recognition (COR) is based on an external third party audit, with the requirement of yearly internal audits after a 12 and 24 month period. Re-certification is based on an external third party audit.

It is the goal of Blue Ridge Lumber that all full time woods contractors achieve their Certification of Recognition (COR) in the Partners in Injury Reduction Program by summer 2005.