



**Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd.  
Barriere, B.C.**

**SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**CAN/CSA-Z809-2008**

**Date(s) of Audit:** January 25, 2011 to January 27, 2011  
**Audit Team Leader:** Nathan Ryant  
**Type of Audit:** Re-Assessment Audit

**Scope Description**

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to forest management activities including planning, harvesting, hauling, road construction and maintenance, and silviculture activities on the Defined Forest Area encompassing Forest License A18692, Timber License TO713 and all Non-replaceable Forest License's managed by the company.

**Recommendations:** Gilbert Smith Forest Products has implemented and maintained an effective Sustainable Forest Management system to ensure the SFMP is suitably managed over the companies Defined Forest Area. The company has demonstrated that their management is commendable and they will be recommended for re-registration to the new CAN/CSA Z809:2008 standard.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFINED FOREST AREA (DFA):**

The Defined Forest Area for Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd. operations are located in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area (TSA). The specific boundary of the defined area is contained within the GIS and has been agreed upon by all Licensees and by Government.

**Description of QMI-SAI Global and the QMI-SAI Global Audit Team:**

QMI-SAI Global is a third party management system certification Registrar. Established in 1984, QMI-SAI Global has worked with thousands of organizations in North America and around the world, issuing registration certificates to those that meet international and national management system standards.



Accreditation number No.19/06  
Validity of the accreditation  
from 2007/01/16 to the  
expiration date 2011/01/15



The QMI-SAI Global Sustainable Forest Management audit team members bring with them considerable experience in the area of sustainable forest management and environmental management systems auditing. Audit teams are comprised of certified auditors and registered professional foresters. All audit team members are subject to strict confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements.

#### **Audit Coverage:**

#### **Operations / Cut-Blocks Visited during the field audit include:**

Road Permit R17456 Active R/W Harvest – Dora Creek Contracting  
CP 703 Blk B-3 In Active – Partially Complete  
CP 703 Blk B-24a Harvest Complete

#### **Personnel interviewed in the field:**

Owner of BVR Contracting  
Owner's of Dora Creek Contracting  
Truck Driver BVR Contracting  
Loaderman Dora Creek Contracting  
Layout Personnel Thompson Resource Management

#### **Members of the public participation process interviewed:** Brian Dack

- Gilbert Smith has been very good to work with on their portion of the DFA
- Receiving good referrals and advanced notifications of road deactivation plans from Gilbert Smith
- Concerned about monocultures being planted even though there are indicators in the SFMP to address 3 or more native species at FTG
- Concerned the government is not monitoring the issues on the DFA
- Would like to see a spring field trip planned so he could attend
- Good information continues to be provided to support the issues on the DFA
- Doesn't feel his concerns are being addressed by the PAG

**Provincial Government personnel interviewed:** Mr. Richard Freeman, Compliance and Enforcement Technician – Ministry of Natural Resources Operations

#### **Summary:**

- Presently there are no active investigations on Gilbert Smith operations.
- There continues to be a good working relationship with the company
- The company is deemed to be a low risk company in terms of C&E inspections due to past performance and their proactive approach to self reporting their incidents and responsiveness in providing corrective and preventative measures
- Wishes that all licensees could be as compliant as Gilbert Smith



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**Aboriginal People interviewed:** Joe Jules, Simpcw First Nations – Title and Rights Coordinator, Head of Archeological Program and Head of Referral Process

**Summary:**

- Not part of PAG although some band representatives (Forestry Staff) occasionally sit on PAG as time constraints are the issue
- Gilbert Smith has continued to be very upfront with Simpcw on their forest development and operations
- Band members work for Gilbert Smith in the mill and field
- Simpcw and Gilbert Smith sit down on an annual basis to review the MOU
- Gilbert Smith is very good at consulting and referring information with Simpcw
- Gilbert Smith has recognized and respected Simpcw's Aboriginal rights and values

**AUDIT FINDINGS**

**Documentation Review:**

The audit team reviewed the SFM documentation (September 2010 SFMP, 2010 SFM monitoring report) and supporting documentation and records.

**Status of any previously recorded non-conformances (NCRs)**

No previously recorded or outstanding NCRs.

**Status of any previously recorded non-conformances (AOCs)**

No previously recorded or outstanding AOCs..

**Significant Issues:**

None identified

**Positive Aspects of the Management System:**

1. Continued excellent relationship with the local First Nations community.
2. An excellent relationship with the MNRO continues to exist.
3. Excellent use of the company Communication Tracker.
4. Very well documented Environmental Incident Reports.
5. Revisions and Updates to the EMS documentation including the manual, SOP's and ERP's.
6. Excellent post harvest assessments for compliance and indicator monitoring.
7. The new company website with a section on the company's sustainability and certification efforts.

## Effectiveness of the Internal Quality Audit System:

The annual internal audit was performed according to the Gilbert Smith procedures and was adequate in verifying the implementation and maintenance of the SFM system.

### Areas of Concern (AoC):

5.3 Basic Operating Rules: Ensure the Terms of Reference include a dispute resolution mechanism as defined in the standard.

7.4.3 Communication: Ensure the Gilbert Smith external audit report summary of the findings is included on the Public SFM website.

7.5.4 Internal Audit: Ensure the internal audit includes audit records to ensure an audit trail exists to verify the elements were reviewed fully.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 2.2.3 – Ensure there is no variance applied to a legal requirement such as suggested in the Riparian Management indicator.

### Opportunities for Improvement (OFI):

5.5 Communication: Consider improving the meeting minutes to include a record of who said what and the response provided.

7.5.4 Internal Audit: Consider developing a 3 year audit plan where all elements and indicators are reviewed over the period of the certificate.

7.6 Management Review: Consider adding a section to include a summary of the company's continual improvement efforts for the upcoming year.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 1.1.2 – Consider revising the target to remove the inventory label requirement and use the actual survey data to measure the tree species on the site.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 1.1.3 – Consider providing the age class distribution data for all 3 TSA's in the DFA.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 1.4.1 – Consider developing a list of Red Listed Ecological Communities for the Merritt TSA.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 5.1.1 – Consider defining the term "meaningful in the indicator to ensure consistent reporting on the DFA by all licensee's.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 5.1.1 – Consider including a response for all requests for information not just written requests.

6.1 Performance Measures: Indicator 5.1.1 – Consider adding a timeline for a response to a request.



## SECTION 6 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the review of the company's SFM program, and the audit results, the following recommendation is made:

### **Re-Assessment:**

The results of the Re-assessment including the review of the performance of the Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd. Management System over the past 3 years and the Re-assessment Audit, indicate that Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd.'s Management System meets the following criteria for maintenance of registration to CAN/CSA - Z809-2008.

**Next Scheduled Audit:** June 5-7, 2012

### **Statement of Confidentiality**

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