

Project No. 1046463-06

November 13, 2016

Trevor Ball
Aspen Planers Ltd.
Woodlands Department
2399 Quilchena Ave.
Merritt, BC
CAN, V1K 1B8

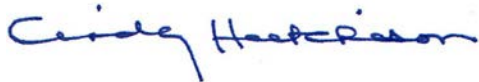
SUBJECT: REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Ball,

Please find attached the Audit Report raised as a result of our Re-registration Audit of your management system to the CAN/CSA - Z809-2008 standard conducted in your Merritt facility on October 25, 2016.

We thank you and your organization for the support and co-operation given during the audit.

Best regards,
SAI Global



Cindy Hutchison

Team Leader
Encls.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
CAN/CSA-Z809-2008

Auditee: Aspen Planers Ltd.
Address: 2399 Quilchena Ave. Merritt British Columbia, CAN V1K 1B8
Contact: Mr. Trevor Ball
Dates of Audit: Oct 25, 2016 to Oct 27, 2016
Total Number of Audit Days: 6 (2 people for 3 days)
Audit Team Leader: Cindy Hutchison
Type of Audit: Re-registration
Audit Frequency: Annual
SIC / NACE Code: 0811 2421 A02.0 DD20.1

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REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Aspen Planers Ltd.
SAI GLOBAL File
Cindy Hutchison
Dave Barker

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SECTION 1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope #	Scope Description
1	Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA.

Site:

Aspen Planers Ltd.
2399 Quilchena Ave.
Merritt, British Columbia
CAN, V1K 1B8

Summary of Audit Findings:

A re-registration audit was conducted on October 25th and 27th, 2016 on the Aspen Planers Ltd. sustainable forest management (SFM) system on tenures in the Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA.

No non-conformances and eight opportunities for improvement were identified. The audit team found that Aspen Planers Ltd. SMF system conforms to the requirements of CAN/CSA Z809-2008 and adheres to the company's requirements. Six positive attributes of the management system were also noted.

Recommendation:

The results of the re-assessment, including the review of the performance of the Aspen Planers Ltd. Management System over the past 3 years, and the re-registration audit, indicate that Aspen Planers Ltd.'s Management System meets the criteria for maintenance of registration to CAN/CSA - Z809-2008.

An effective inter-action exists between all elements of the management system. The entire management system is effective in light of any changes. Top management has demonstrated a commitment to maintain the effectiveness of the system.

SECTION 2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFINED FOREST AREA (DFA):

Geographic Locations, Forest Types, Size, Legal Tenure and SLF Description:

The Nicola Thompson Fraser SFM Plan area is situated in the southern interior, east of the Coast Mountains and encompassing the Thompson-Okanagan Plateau. The area extends south to the Canada-USA border and northward to Wells Gray Provincial Park. The overall Plan area follows the administrative boundaries of the Cascades Forest District (Merritt TSA and Lillooet TSA) and the Thompson Rivers Forest District (Kamloops TSA).

The topography of Nicola Thompson Fraser is one of sharp contrasts, from dry, hot grasslands to large lakes and rugged mountains. The Nicola and Thompson Rivers join the Fraser River in the western section of the Plan area while the Similkameen River flows through the southern portion. The Plan area encompasses a wide range of Biogeoclimatic zones and subzones that reflect the complexity of the landscape and the different topographical conditions in each TSA.

In the north, the North Thompson River is bounded by the high peaks of the Monashee and Cariboo Mountains. Cool, wet conditions, with high snowfalls and dense spruce and cedar forests, are reflective of the Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir zone. In the central and southern portion, the mountains give way to high plateaus dissected by steep valleys and dotted with lakes and rivers. Moist and dry subzones of the Montane Spruce and Interior Douglas-fir zones, with mixed pine and pine-fir forests, reflect the differences in climate between east and west sides of the major valleys.

The landscape continues to become drier and gentler towards the south, with rolling uplands and numerous lakes. The driest Interior Douglas-fir subzones occur on the uplands, with the grasslands of the Bunchgrass subzones in the river valleys. The western boundary is influenced by the Coastal Mountains, where cool, wet coastal conditions predominate. Extensive areas of alpine and sub-alpine conditions limit forests to the middle and lower slopes of the deep valleys and wide river junctions. Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine fir, Montane Spruce and Interior Douglas-fir subzones closely follow the topography.

The diverse ecology of the area provides habitat for a wide range of fish and wildlife species including moose, mule deer, elk, mountain goat, and over 200 bird species. Predator species such as black bear, marten, cougar and coyote are also found. Many wildlife species range over large areas and some have specific habitat requirements at different times of the year. The area is also home to a number of wildlife species identified as Species at Risk, including spotted owl, American badger, bighorn sheep, grizzly bear and wolverine.

The numerous lakes and watercourses within the area are home to many fish species, including all five species of salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, kokanee, brook trout, bull trout, and white sturgeon.

The forests of the Nicola Thompson Fraser provide numerous natural resource values, including forest products, minerals, fish, wildlife, and recreation and tourism opportunities. Extensive grassland and forested areas provide forage for both livestock and wildlife.

Major highways pass through areas of exceptional natural scenery, providing easy access to a number of communities ranging from the City of Kamloops with over 80,000 people to smaller towns such as Merritt with a population of 7,000, Lillooet, population 2,324, Cache Creek, population 1,037, and many smaller communities with populations of 200 or less. Other highways and hundreds of kilometres of unpaved roads provide access into the extensive grasslands, forested lands and backcountry areas.

A number of significant provincial parks, such as Wells Gray Provincial Park, Manning Provincial Park, Cathedral Provincial Park, Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and Spruce Lake Protected Area are situated in the Plan area. Numerous smaller provincial parks, recreation sites and other Crown lands provide the setting for a host of activities including camping, hiking, wildlife

and scenic viewing, fishing, hunting, hang-gliding, boating, river rafting, mountain-biking, four-wheel driving, ATV use, snowmobiling, and downhill, helicopter and cross country skiing.

Area of DFA:

Land base summary for the SFM Plan Area

	Kamloops	TFL 18	Lillooet	Merritt	Plan Area
Total Area (ha)	2,231,164	74,542	958,712	920,151	4,184,569
Productive Forest (ha)	1,479,005	67,315	505,178	812,685	2,864,183
Non-productive (ha)	752,154	7227	453,534	107,467	1,320,382
Productive reductions (ha)	469,700	3503	114,858	188,561	776,622
Long Term THLB (ha)	1,009,305	63,184	292,357	624,123	1,988,969

AAC apportionment summary for the SFM Plan Area

Management Unit	AAC (m ³)	Percent
Kamloops	4,000,000	51.7
TFL 18	290,000	3.7
Lillooet	635,000	8.2
Merritt	2,814,171	36.4
Total Plan Area	7,674,171	100

Volume allocation participating licencees	AAC (m ³)	Percent of Plan Area (based on volume)
Aspen DFA	1,070,285	13.9
BCTS DFA	1,359,712	17.7
Canfor DFA	489,138	6.4
Gilbert Smith	61,940	0.8
DFA Tolko DFA	811,206	10.6
Total in DFA	3,792,281	49.4
Volume allocation other parties reporting	275,421	3.6
Total volume reporting into Plan	4,067,702	53.0
Volume allocation SFI certified licencees	2,472,954	32.3
Ainsworth, Interfor, Stuwix, West Fraser, Weyerhaeuser (including NRFL's allocated to or managed by these companies)		
Total volume managed by this NTF Plan or by company SFI Plans	6,540,656	85.2

Legal Tenure / Licence Description for Aspen Planers Ltd.:

The scope of the DFA within the SFM Plan area by company includes forestry and logging operations on Crown land within the following agreements (includes Licences issued to others with management responsibilities assigned to the Company):

FL A18695, A75062, A18700, A18701, A81042, A81043, and Logan Lake Community Forest Licence CFAK2E. Also for A65006, all cutting permits managed by Aspen Planers Ltd. including all those under the authority of Aspen Planers Ltd.'s FSP ID# 76 (as opposed to those managed independently by Stuwix). Aspen Planers Ltd. also manages numerous Forestry Licences to Cut and Non-Replaceable Forest Licences which are identified within one of two Forest Stewardship Plans –

FSP ID#76 (Merritt TSA) and FSP ID#379 (Lillooet TSA). In the Kamloops TSA, Aspen Planers Ltd.-managed blocks under A84885, A89254, and A81371 are also included.

The above referenced forest tenures provide Aspen Planers Ltd. the authority to access and harvest trees on Crown land along with responsibilities for forest planning, reforestation, and road maintenance.

Species Harvested by Aspen Planers Ltd.:

Lodgepole Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Interior Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, Engelmann Spruce, and Western Larch.

Volume Harvest by Aspen Planers Ltd.:

1,070,285 m³

SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION:

Description of the DFA Workforce:

In 2015, across the plan area, licensees with timber processing facilities reported 2,047,000 man hours worked (2,091,000 in 2014) and 1,064 full or part time manufacturing employees on payroll (1,074 in 2014). Direct and indirect employment is estimated at 13,501 jobs.

Management Objectives and Responsibilities on the DFA:

The SFM Vision Statement indicates: The Nicola Thompson Fraser Sustainable Forest Management Plan will foster forest management practices based on science, professional experience and local public and First Nations input that contribute to the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems, a strong economy and thriving communities throughout the Plan area.

Aspen Planers Ltd., B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS), Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd., and Tolko Industries Ltd. are the participating entities in the Nicola Thompson Fraser Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Aboriginals Consultation Process:

The Province is legally obligated to consult and accommodate First Nations, where required, on land and resource decisions that could impact their Aboriginal Interests. While the Province is responsible for ensuring adequate and appropriate consultation and accommodation, it may involve the proponent in the procedural aspects of consultation.

Also, proponents are generally encouraged to engage with First Nations as early as possible in the planning stages to build relationships and for information sharing purposes that may support consultation processes.

SECTION 4 - AUDIT FINDINGS:

Audit Objective:

To confirm the management system complies with the applicable elements of the Standard; to confirm the organization complies with its own policies and procedures; to confirm the management system is suitable for the organization; to confirm that the management system is suitable and effective, and enables the client to achieve its own objectives.

Audit Criteria:

CSA Z809:2008

Audit Scope and Coverage:

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA.

Description of SAI Global and the SAI Global Audit Team:

SAI Global is a third party management system certification Registrar. Established in 1984, 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.

The 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.

The following personnel conducted this audit:

Position	Name
Team Leader	Cindy Hutchison, RPF
Team Member	Dave Barker, RPF

Noted Deviations from the Audit Plan:

None.

Field Sites Visited and Activities Observed:

Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA, Aspen Planers Ltd. Operations	
Block / Road Number / Name	Activities Observed
382-2	Active block: 1. roads - constructed and maintenance, S6 crossing, riparian okay, some ditches. 2. harvest retention, WTP, buffer on lake, range holder, cows, fences, no known SARA, no archeological issues, recreation-hunting, VQO from lake, CWD, OGMA nearby, protected, individual wildlife trees, spill kits, refueling, fire equipment, competence, training, communication, fire drill, water control, noxious weeds, contractor log book.
345-2	Completed block: 1. roads - rehabbed and grass seeded, no stream crossing 2. harvest-retention, WTP, Buffer on W3, range holder, no known SARA, archeological in WTP, recreation-hunting, CWD, individual WL trees. 3. Site prep done well, disc trench, retained retention. 4. Planted PI, Sx, 1600 s/ha.
572-2	Completed block: 1. Roads - not yet rehabbed and grass seeded, NCD crossing. 2. harvest-2016, retention, WTP, buffer on W3, range holder notified, unofficial heritage feature protected with stubbing (telephone line), no known SARA, recreation-hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, CWD, individual and clumps of WL trees.
565-5	Completed block: 1. Roads- rehabbed and grass seeded, no stream crossing. 2. Harvest retention, WTP, Buffer on W3, W1, S4, range holder notified, no known SARA, no archeo, recreation-hunting, CWD, individual WL trees. 3. Site prep done well, dragging, retained retention. 4. Planted PI, Sx, 1600 s/ha
Block V12	Planning for forest land fire-proofing (Interface Wildfire Hazard Reduction project): features Coquihalla Highway Interchange, private land, range tenure holder, Coldwater IR, public road to ranch, invasive species, CMT, protect FN traditional use plant "morning glory", invasive plants, cattle use, stream protection, community watershed, heavy underbrush, steep, benchy ground, cattle guard and fences, heavy recreation use (camping, hunting), VQO to Coquihalla Highway, OGMA nearby, UWR on western edge, multi-agency interest - Highways, MOFLNRO, parks and recreation, Fire Protection Branch. This project has taken about 4 years of planning to get to this stage. Planning for operations to start soon.
Blackhills Road (EeR1255)	Road reconstruction: First Nation communications, protection of culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites, conformance to all plan commitments specifically designed to manage for culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped, operational planning for best management practices.

CP711-8	Post-harvest: tree species planted, planting completed within the third growing season, wildlife trees, grass seeding, conformance to soil conservation measures, coarse woody debris, First Nation communications.
CP711-1	Current harvesting, cable: operational planning for best management practices, document control, monitoring, training, conformance to soil conservation measures, coarse woody debris, wildlife trees, conformance to riparian commitments.
CP711-9	Post-harvest: tree species planted, planting completed within the third growing season, wildlife trees, grass seeding, conformance to soil conservation measures, coarse woody debris, First Nation communications, harvest adjacent to UWR.
FLTC 92814-1	Post-harvest: Co-managed with Coldwater Indian Band, operational planning for best management practices, tree species planted, planting completed within the third growing season, wildlife trees, grass seeding, conformance to soil conservation measures, coarse woody debris, First Nation communications,.

Interviews:

Office Personnel

- Aspen Planers, Chief Forester
- Aspen Planers Planning Forester
- Aspen Planers Roads Technician
- Aspen Planers, Receptionist
- Aspen Planers Woodlands Clerk,
- Aspen Planers, First Nations Liaison
- Aspen Planers, Operations Manager Lillooet
- Aspen Planers, Forestry Planner Lillooet
- Aspen Planers Silviculture Planner
- Aspen Planers, Silviculture Forester
- Aspen Planers, GIS Analyst
- Aspen Planers, Logging Supervisor

Field Personnel

- Aspen Planers, Contract Logging Supervisor (2)
- Nadina Logging Ltd: Site Supervisor
- Nadina Logging Ltd: Skidder Operator
- Nadina Logging Ltd: Grader Operator
- Nadina Logging Ltd: Processor Operators (2)
- Beattie Enterprises: Owner
- Beattie Enterprises: Loader
- Beattie Enterprises: Engineer

Members of the public participation process

Declined to participate.

Provincial Government personnel

Declined interview.

Aboriginal People

Declined interview.

Other Interested Parties

None.

Elements Audited:

Reference	CAN/CSA Z809:2008	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
1.1	Scope & Use Of Certificates & Logos	X
4.1	General Requirements	X
4.2	Required Activities	X
5.1	Basic Requirements (Public Participation)	X
5.2	Interested Parties	X
5.3	Process: Basic Operating Rules	X
5.4	Content	X
5.5	Communication	X
6.1	DFA Specific Performance Requirements	X-F
6.2	SFM Criteria – General	X
6.3	SFM criteria, elements and core indicators	X
6.3.1-6	Criterion 1-6	X-F
7.1	General	X
7.2	SFM Policy	X
7.3.1	Defined Forest Area	X
7.3.2	Shared Responsibilities	X
7.3.3 Mandatory	Rights & Regulations	X –F
7.3.4	Incorporation of Public Participation Requirements	X
7.3.5	SFM Plan	X
7.4.1	Structure & Responsibility	X
7.4.2	Training, Awareness, Qualifications & Knowledge	X –F
7.4.3	Communication	X-F
7.4.4	SFM Documentation	X
7.4.5	Document Control	X –F
7.4.6	Operational Procedures & Control	X –F
7.4.7	Emergency Preparedness & Response	X-F
7.5.1 Mandatory	Monitoring & Measurement	X –F
7.5.2	Corrective & Preventive Action	X
7.5.3	Records	X
7.5.4 Mandatory	Internal Audits to the SFM Requirements	X
7.6 Mandatory	Management Review	X

Indicators Audited:

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
1.1.1 Ecosystem area by type	1. Maintain the presence of Biogeoclimatic Zones to the subzone level within the Plan area.	X
1.1.2 Forest area by type or species composition	2. 70% of harvested cutblocks having three or more tree species (non-ESSF) or two or more species (ESSF) identified in the free growing inventory.	X
1.1.3 Forest area by seral stage or age class	3. Progress towards a stable forest age class distribution on the timber harvesting land base. 4. Maintain the existing old growth management area (no net loss).	X

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
1.1.4 Degree of within-stand structural retention or age class	5. 80 percent of cutblocks greater than 10 hectares will have individual wildlife trees/stubs and/or wildlife tree patches within the block. Of the blocks that have individual wildlife trees/stubs and/or wildlife tree patches; at least 50 percent of the time these blocks will have dispersed individual trees, stubs or small (<0.25 ha) patches retained.	X-F
1.2.1 Degree of habitat protection for selected focal species, including species at risk.	6. Identification and protection of wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians) at risk. 7. Affected licencees adhere to the current management strategies for mountain caribou. 8. Affected licencees adhere to the current management strategies for northern spotted owl.	X
1.2.2 Degree of suitable habitat in the long term for selected focal species, including species at risk	7. Affected licencees adhere to the current management strategies for mountain caribou. 8. Affected licencees adhere to the current management strategies for northern spotted owl. 9. 100% conservation of habitat for select focal species	X
1.2.3 Proportion of regeneration comprised of native species	10. 100% of trees planted will conform to plan commitments related to the species requirements within approved stocking standard (requires reforestation with commercially valuable and ecologically suitable tree species).	X-F
1.2.4 Timing of grass seed application (non-core indicator)	11. All planned road cut and fill slope seeding application will be carried out using certified seed and within 12 months of completed road construction on disturbed sites suitable for germination.	X-F
1.4.1 Proportion of identified sites with implemented management strategies	<u>Kamloops</u> 12. Prioritized Red-listed ecological communities will be protected by retaining existing forest. <u>Lillooet</u> 13. Harvesting not to exceed greater than 50% of the total of each identified rare landscape unit / BEC zone variants. <u>Merritt</u> 6. Proactive habitat protection targets established in accordance with non-legally binding guidelines and best practices.	X
1.4.2 Protection of identified sacred and culturally important sites	14. 100% protection of culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped <u>and</u> 100% conformance to all plan commitments specifically designed to manage for culturally important, sacred, and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped.	X-F

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
1.4.3 Management and or protection of special geological features (non- core indicator).	15. Report the special geological features that were identified and managed. Additionally, Licencees will report the management activities that they undertook for each special geological feature.	X
2.1.1 Reforestation success	16. 90% of area prescribed for planting is completed within the third growing season from start date of harvest. 17. All cutblocks will reach free growing requirements on or before the latest date.	X –F
2.2.1 Additions and deletions to the forest area	18. Less than 6%, (7% within the Lillooet TSA), on average, of harvested areas will be in permanent roads and landings.	X –F
2.2.2 Proportion of the calculated long-term sustainable harvest level that is actually harvested	19. Harvest the cut allocation for the year consistent with the cut control regulation and policy.	X
2.2.3 Riparian conformance (non-core indicator)	20. 100% conformance to riparian and lakeshore commitments made within plans.	X-F
3.1.1 Level of soil disturbance	18. Less than 6%, (7% within the Lillooet TSA), on average, of harvested areas will be in permanent roads and landings. 21. 100% conformance to soil conservation measures contained with operational plans. 22. No operationally caused slides resulting from a failure to perform a terrain stability field assessment or from a failure to follow the recommendations within a completed assessment.	X-F
3.1.2 Level of downed woody debris	23. 100 percent of cutblocks will manage coarse woody debris (CWD) consistent with commitments in operational plans (5% variance).	X-F
3.2.1 Proportion of watershed or water management areas with recent stand-replacing disturbance	24. Equivalent clear cut area (ECA) not to exceed 35% (at the sub-basin level) without doing further hydrological assessments prior to harvesting. For Kamloops, the target applies only to the highest risk rated watersheds (post MPB).	X
3.2.2 Managing water quality through road inspections (non- core indicator).	25. All permanent status roads and associated structures will have inspections and related maintenance completed as scheduled.	X

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
4.1.1 Net carbon uptake	<p>3. Progress towards a stable forest age class distribution on the timber harvesting land base.</p> <p>18. Less than 6%, (7% within the Lillooet TSA), on average, of harvested areas will be in permanent roads and landings.</p>	X
5.1.1 Quantity and quality of timber and non-timber benefits, products, and services produced in the DFA	<p>19. Harvest the cut allocation for the year consistent with the cut control regulation and policy.</p> <p>27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations.</p> <p>28. Licencees will demonstrate efforts by participating in public multi-stakeholder meetings at both the strategic and at the local level. Licencees will report on the number of community meetings held or attended. Licencees will also report on the number of communications with concerned and engaged recreational users. Participating licencees respond to all written requests from the public for communication within 30 days of their receipt.</p> <p>29. 100% conformance to strategies in plans designed to achieve preservation and partial retention visual quality objectives.</p> <p>30. 100% of known pre-existing recreational trails retained for continued recreational use on areas harvested in the reporting period.</p> <p>31. Report business initiatives and partnerships.</p>	X
5.2.1 Level of investment in initiatives that contribute to community sustainability	<p>19. Harvest the cut allocation for the year consistent with the cut control regulation and policy.</p> <p>31. Report business initiatives and partnerships.</p> <p>32. Report the board feet and chip volume produced by sawmills within the TSA.</p> <p>33. Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the total number of man hours worked and the number of mill employees on payroll.</p>	X
5.2.2 Level of investment in training and skills development	<p>34. 100% of DFA forest contractors will have both environmental and safety training (10% variance). 100% of woodlands employees are trained in accordance with training plans (10% variance)</p>	X-F

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
5.2.3 Level of direct and indirect employment	19. Harvest the cut allocation for the year consistent with the cut control regulation and policy. 32. Report the board feet and chip volume produced by sawmills within the TSA. 33. Report number of timber processing facility operating days, the total number of man hours worked and the number of mill employees on payroll.	X
5.2.4 Level of Aboriginal participation in the forest economy	35. Maintain and/or increase the number of working relationships (partnerships, joint ventures, co-operative agreements, business contracts) with First Nations.	X
6.1.1 Evidence of a good understanding of the nature of Aboriginal title and rights	27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations.	X-F
6.1.2 Evidence of best efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans based on Aboriginal communities having a clear understanding of the plans	27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations.	X-F
6.1.3 Level of management and/or protection of areas where culturally important practices and activities (hunting, fishing, gathering) occurS-1	27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations. 14. 100% protection of culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped <u>and</u> 100% conformance to all plan commitments specifically designed to manage for culturally important, sacred, and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped.	X-F
6.2.1 Evidence of understanding and use of Aboriginal knowledge through the engagement of willing Aboriginal communities, using a process that identifies and manages culturally important resources and values	27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations. 14. 100% protection of culturally important, sacred and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped <u>and</u> 100% conformance to all plan commitments specifically designed to manage for culturally important, sacred, and spiritual sites that have been identified and mapped.	X –F

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
<p>6.3.1 Evidence that the organization has co-operated with other forest-dependent businesses, forest users, and the local community to strengthen and diversify the local economy</p>	<p>28. Licencees will demonstrate efforts by participating in public multi-stakeholder meetings at both the strategic and at the local level. Licencees will report on the number of community meetings held or attended. Licencees will also report on the number of communications with concerned and engaged recreational users. Participating licencees respond to all written requests from the public for communication within 30 days of their receipt.</p> <p>29. 100% conformance to strategies in plans designed to achieve preservation and partial retention visual quality objectives.</p> <p>31. Report business initiatives and partnerships.</p> <p>36. Where forest operations are planned within range units, the forest Licencee will communicate with the rancher in advance of those operations to minimize impact to affected ranchers.</p> <p>37. Communication of forest operations to occur with trappers 100% of the time in advance of operations.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>6.3.2 Evidence of co-operation with DFA-related workers and their unions to improve and enhance safety standards, procedures, and outcomes in all DFA-related workplaces and affected communities</p>	<p>38. A minimum of 80% of contractors conducting on-the-ground work are SAFE Company, or equivalent, registered and/or certified. And for BCTS, that a minimum of 80% of the Licences or contracts awarded were SAFE Company, or equivalent, registered and/or certified.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>6.3.3 Evidence that a worker safety program has been implemented and is periodically reviewed and improved</p>	<p>39. All forest companies/organizations subscribing to the SFM Plan are SAFE Company or have a worker safety program that has been implemented and is periodically reviewed and improved.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>6.4.1 Level of participant satisfaction with the public participation process</p>	<p>40. Completion of annual PAG survey: 80% of survey responses "3" or better. All written comments are reviewed and considered, and all line responses averaging less than 3 become action items.</p> <p>41. Participating licencees will maintain educational support that leads to a balanced and broad-based understanding of forestry. One focus is forestry programs at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Target 40 action per year in each of the Merritt and Kamloops TSAs, and 10 actions per year in Lillooet TSA.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>6.4.2 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation in general</p>	<p>41. Participating licencees will maintain educational support that leads to a balanced and broad-based understanding of forestry. One focus is forestry programs at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Target 40 action per year in each of the Merritt and Kamloops TSAs, and 10 actions per year in Lillooet TSA.</p>	<p>X</p>

INDICATOR	TARGET	Field (F) and/or Office (X)
6.4.3 Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation for Aboriginal communities	<p>41. Participating licencees will maintain educational support that leads to a balanced and broad-based understanding of forestry. One focus is forestry programs at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Target 40 action per year in each of the Merritt and Kamloops TSAs, and 10 actions per year in Lillooet TSA.</p> <p>27. Open communication with local First Nations will include an understanding of traditional territories and other aboriginal rights including cultural and spiritual values. Participating Licencees respond to all written requests for communication/information from First Nations.</p>	X
6.5.1 Number of people reached through educational outreach	41. Participating licencees will maintain educational support that leads to a balanced and broad-based understanding of forestry. One focus is forestry programs at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Target 40 action per year in each of the Merritt and Kamloops TSAs, and 10 actions per year in Lillooet TSA.	X
6.5.2 Availability of summary information on issues of concern to the public	42. Licencees will keep members of the public informed of TSA strategies being developed, and planning occurring by: Maintaining a website. Circulating the SFM plan and other information to the public at least annually (news release/leaflet/open house/Local Resource Use Plan, etc.).	X

Review of Changes:

The overall responsibility for the Management System and CSA Z809 standard now lies with Trevor Ball. The company continues to introduce new employees to the system.

Audit Process:

The audit process includes the following:

Opening Meeting

The Opening meeting, where the scope and the method of performing the audit were explained, was attended by the persons listed in the Meeting Attendees form, which is maintained on file at SAI Global.

Audit Plan

The audit plan included an office review and field audit (per the audit plan) whereby the auditor,

- Reviewed operations located in the Merritt Area, as managed by Aspen Planers Ltd. Woodlands Division.
- Looked for objective evidence to draw conclusions,
- Talked with those performing the task,
- Used a sampling method to review processes, systems, and procedures.

Documentation Review

The audit team reviewed the SFM documentation (interim SFM monitoring report, SFM plan), maps, site plans, PAG meeting minutes, relevant sections of the company EMS Manual, procedures, the Forest Stewardship Plan, and associated records.

Closing Meeting

The persons listed in the Meeting Attendees form attended a closing meeting. The Audit Team Leader commenced the closing meeting by thanking the Aspen Planers Ltd. staff for the cooperation and courtesy extended to the audit team during the audit. The findings were discussed.

Audit Results:

Documentation Review

The audit team reviewed the SFM documentation including the interim SFM monitoring report and SFM plan. Additionally, documentation on the public participation process, available on the Nicola Thompson Fraser DFA website was reviewed.

Status of any previously recorded non-conformances (NCRs)

The implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions relating to previously recorded non-conformance was verified, accepted, and the non-conformance was cleared. The relevant comments were recorded in the 2015 audit reports.

The following non-conformances are now closed:

Function/Area/Process:	Document control (7.4.5.1 & 7.4.5.2)			Site:	PO Box 160, Merritt
Std. and Clause No(s):	CAN/CSA - Z809-2008 7.4.5	NCR#:	2015-01	Category:	Minor
Section 1- Details of non-conforming situation:					
Non-conforming situation:					
Nadina Logging has "EMS Binder" with contents updated to 2013. Current documents not available at point of use, and obsolete documents not removed.					

Function/Area/Process:	Element 6.2 Respect for aboriginal forest values, knowledge and uses			Site:	PO Box 160, Merritt
Std. and Clause No(s):	CAN/CSA - Z809-2008 6.3.6 Criterion 6	NCR#:	2015-02	Category:	Major
Section 1- Details of non-conforming situation:					
Non-conforming situation:					
Aspen Planers efforts have been insufficient to obtain acceptance of management plans based on Aboriginal communities having a clear understanding of the plans in the UNB Traditional Territory. Aspen Planers has not made efforts to solicit, understand, and use Aboriginal knowledge in the context of the Suxw txtem Principles.					

Function/Area/Process:	Shared responsibilities			Site:	PO Box 160, Merritt
Std. and Clause No(s):	CAN/CSA - Z809-2008 7.3.2	NCR#:	2015-03	Category:	Minor
Section 1- Details of non-conforming situation:					
Non-conforming situation:					
Interviews with Aspen Planers employees demonstrated that those working in the UNB area were unaware of the (Framework) Agreement to follow the Suxwtxtem principles, and the forest management requirements outlined in those principles.					

Positive Aspects of the Management System

- The auditor received a very complete safety briefing from Aspen supervisors and a harvest and road building contractor.
- Aspen Planers has invested significant resources in forest management planning and communication with many stakeholders to create a comprehensive fire hazard reduction plan near Iron Mountain.

- There is comprehensive tracking of corrective action for a variety of items, so they are all in one place.
- Policy of no net gain in roads in Lillooet Operating Area. Requested by FN to reduce hunting access but also has productivity implications.
- FLTC 92814-1 (Veale Road) is a showpiece for forest practices to meet multiple stakeholder needs (First Nations, Range, Forestry, Highways) in the community interface.
- Long-term relationships with community partners demonstrated in the Lillooet Operation.

Non-conformances

Not applicable.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)

Consider:

- (7.5.3 Records) strengthening efforts to enter on-block road status information in a geographical data base.
- (6.3.1 Criterion 1 — Biological diversity, element 1.3 Genetic Diversity) indicating in the SFM Plan how Element 1.3: “ensuring that reforestation programs are free of genetically modified organisms” is addressed.
- (7.5.4 Internal audits to the SFM requirements) reviewing and updating the timeline to receive the internal audit and review with top management in the EMS Manual Audit as practice does not match procedure.
- (target 2: >3 tree species at FG) a procedure to report out survey inventories for target 2 with 1% detail.
- (target 16: planting within 3rd growing season) clarifying the intent (prompt reforestation)/wording of the reporting for target 16. When does the growing season end?
- (target 17: Free Growing) an updated review of target 17 as the data in Phoenix used to measure progress has changed since this was originally reported.
- (target 19: Annual cut consistent with cut control) reviewing the intent of data collection for target 19 as annual reporting may not indicate any trend.
- (target 39: worker safety program that has been implemented and is periodically reviewed and improved) improving procedures around how Aspen Planers “periodically reviews and improves” the safety program.

Please note that the non-conformances and opportunities for improvement will be reviewed as part of the preparation for the next audit.

SECTION 5 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION:

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

An effective inter-action exists between all elements of the management system. The entire management system is effective in light of any changes. Top management has demonstrated a commitment to maintain the effectiveness of the system.

Next Scheduled Audit:

Dates:	October 24, 2015
Type of Audit:	S1 Surveillance
No of Persons:	2
No of Audit Days Required:	2.25 (total 4.5)

Forest Areas for the Next Audit:

Lillooet TSA

Cindy Hutchison
SAI Global
Team Leader

Date: November 13, 2016