

# SFI 2022 – Summary Audit Report

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CERTIFIED ORGANIZATION

Stuwix Resources Joint Venture (Stuwix) is a First Nations owned and operated company in the Southern Interior of British Columbia that was established in 2004 and named in honour of the Stuwix People; First Nations ancestors of long ago. Stuwix harvests timber under a management system that reflects its social, cultural, and environmental values while benefiting its communities economically.

Stuwix's vision is to promote healthy ecosystems and healthy independent communities, while integrating First Nations' traditional use and practices into forest management. Stuwix is responsible for the overall management of several licences, including planning, developing, marketing, timber-harvesting, road-building and silviculture. A management committee, made up of representatives from the eight bands, operates the joint-venture.

The certified area is from Crown land in the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA), with an annual cut of 194,653 m<sup>3</sup>. The primary species harvested is lodgepole pine. The logs are sold to local area mills for use in producing lumber, chips, and co-products. The top diameter log is salvaged and used for post and rails and pulp, and the remaining waste harvested for biofuels. Stuwix has taken a leadership role in capacity building for local First Nations' communities, ensuring First Nations employment in their company, and providing a ripple of economic benefits to local businesses.

The company SFI representative is Dennis MacDonald.

## AUDIT PROCESS

During the period of July 25, 2022 to July 29, 2022, Stuwix Resources Joint Venture underwent a recertification audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2022 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over five years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office including stakeholder and Indigenous people communication.

The SFI program third-party audit was undertaken by SAI Global. SAI Global is an independent third-party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Standard ensuring the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

## THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, audit team leader. The auditors is a Professional Foresters and a certified auditor.

**REGISTRATION TYPE**

Certificate Type	SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION**

Not applicable. The certification is not a multi-site or group.

# SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard

## FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

Management plan	The land area managed by Stuwix are under volume-based tenures and woodlots. Volume-based tenures are managed based on a legislated cut level and objectives set by government. A formal management plan is not required, however, government objectives allows flexibility such that Stuwix has been able to set their own goals and objectives of promoting First Nations involvement throughout the Timber Supply Area where they are operating. A company Forest Stewardship Plan indicates how government objectives will be met, and is legally binding.
Area of ownership	Stuwix manages government license agreements for First Nations in operating areas agreed upon through consensus with other licensees.
Major timber types	Stuwix's operating area covers a broad spectrum of ecological areas from the dry lowlands of the Interior Douglas-fir through the montane spruce stands and then up to the Engelmann spruce subalpine fir stands at the height of land. The majority of operations occur in the montane spruce zone that consists mainly of even aged lodgepole pine mixed in with stands of lodgepole and Douglas-fir to stands with mixed lodgepole and Engelmann spruce.
Management approaches	Stuwix values have been incorporated into management policies and objectives resulting in synergistic outcomes for non-First Nations communities and a stronger forest environment within the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA). Stuwix has developed a program that requires site prep and planting within two years of harvest. Stuwix's road management strategy prescribes rehabilitation or deactivation of roads soon after harvest if they are not to be used in the near future. Planting is the preferred method of regeneration but Stuwix also prescribes natural regeneration in areas that have high probability of success through natural regeneration. Sites prescribed for natural regeneration are drag scarified to promote natural seed growth. Planted stands are either raw planted with no site prep or are power disc trenched and or excavator screefed. Stuwix has promoted optimum fiber management by marketing of a number of different products. Through higher standards of fiber utilization and marketing of fiber Stuwix has been able to increase the net return per cubic meter of wood.
Long-term harvest level	The certified area is Crown land in the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA), with an annual cut of 194,653 m <sup>3</sup> .

## SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation, and silviculture on all licenses managed by Stuwix Resources Joint Venture, and silviculture liabilities on expired licences. Fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

There has been no modification to the scope since the last public summary audit report.

## AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of Conformity to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard.

A sample sites (for the field audit) were chosen from a list of active sites and sites where forest management activities occurred since the last audit. The site choice also considered activity type, and risk factors, related to the audit objectives selected for review, as well as the opportunity to verify implementation of corrective actions for previous non-conformities.

## SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

Not applicable. No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

## COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received.

## AUDIT TIME, SITES AND ACTIVITIES AUDITED

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation	0.25
On-site audit	3.50
Off-site audit	0.00
Field audit	1.00
Sites	Activities audited
FL A18698 CP 778 / R07751 Friday Mountain	Bar S contracting – harvesting and roads Supervision and inspections/prework, leave trees, soil disturbance, riparian management, coarse woody debris/critter piles, fire preparedness, spill preparedness, training/QLPs, species at risk, road building, trails, SFI, health and safety, legal requirements.

FL A65005 CP 352-1 Vinson Lake	Silviculture Road rehabilitation, planting timing and species, piling/fire management/utilization, site preparation, climate/drought considerations, legal requirements.
FL A65005 CP 352-7 Vinson Lake	Silviculture Road rehabilitation, planting timing and species, piling/fire management/utilization, site preparation, climate/drought considerations, legal requirements.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

### Non-conformances (NC) identified during this audit

Not applicable. No non-conformances were identified.

NC	Type	Performance Measure and Indicator	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2022-01	Minor	9.2.3.	Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall develop a program to identify and address greenhouse gas emissions within their operational control.	New indicator for 2022. Action plan has been reviewed and accepted. Implementation will be verified prior to December 31 2022
2022-02	Minor	11.1.2.	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws, and regulations.	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit.
2022-03	Minor	Section 6 Part 7, 7.2	The ® only needs to be included the first time “Sustainable Forestry Initiative” or “SFI” word marks appears in a document, whether it is in a title or in text. If both word marks are used, the correct format is: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), and then the first use of “SFI” also carries an ® (e.g., SFI®). 7.3 A word mark	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit.

			must be an adjective, it cannot be a noun, so when it is used in text, the word “standard” must appear after the mark. The mark should not be plural or possessive	
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List of new indicators for the 2022 transition:

PM 1.1 Ind. 6	PM 1.2 Ind. 2d	PM 1.4 Ind. 1	PM 8.1 Ind. 1	PM 8.2 Ind. 1e, 1d	PM 9.1 Ind. All
PM 9.2 Ind. All	PM 10.1 Ind. All	PM 10.2 Ind. All	PM 12.1 Ind. 2	PM 12.2 Ind. 1f	PM 14.1 Ind. 2i, j, k

### ***Opportunities for improvement***

Not applicable. No OFIs were identified.

Consider

- regularly monitoring backpack pump water level or eliminating them.
- adding a check for old growth deferral area to the FSP checklist.
- reviewing the SFI guidance regarding regional climate adaptation strategies in order to make the climate adaptation plan (9.1.3) more robust.
- including a record of orientation to the HR employment regulations as part of the EMS-SFM Employee record of training and certifications form as this will put the QLP requirements in one location.
- liability...if the contractor should be able to provide evidence/training records of original S100 for each employee.
- liability...if the requirement for contractors to be safe certified should be contractual.
- developing/sharing a WCSIC training package for the Special Sites Objective.
- re-uploading SFI logo use into the SFI database for approval for the field guide and contractor guide to ensure that the approval records are retained.

### ***Exceptional management practices***

Not applicable. No exceptional practices were identified.

- Roads, bridges, survey areas impacted by a major event now triggers and inspection.
- Very thorough management review and oversight of SFI objectives
- previous non-conformances well addressed and used to improve.
- Willingness to engage with SFI to improve the standard with a indigenous perspective.
- No excuses – always wanting to improve.
- BarS redemption – qualifications demonstrated, enrollment in Stuwix objectives.

### **Status of previous audit non-conformance(s)**

Not applicable.

The status of previous audit non-conformances is as follows:

NC	Type	Performance Measure and Indicator	Status
2021-01	Major	9.1.2	Closed.
2021-02	Major	Objective 15	Closed.
2021-03	Minor	3.1.2	Closed.
2021-04	Minor	3.1.3	Closed.

### CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

#### **Recertification Audit**

Based on the results of this audit, it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria.

The action plan related to the non-conformance(s) has (have) been reviewed and is (are) considered acceptable.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No Major NC(s) issued	<input type="checkbox"/>
For the Minor NC(s) issued - Implementation will be verified during the next surveillandce audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For Minor NC(s) issued to the new 2022 indicator(s). Implementation will be verified prior to December 31 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For this recertification audit, a recommendation to maintain the certification is made to SAI Global

**EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**
**Table 1 Objectives Audited**

1.4	Forest Management Standard Principles	☒
Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	☒
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	☒
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	☒
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	☒
Objective 5	Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits	☒
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	☒
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	☒
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	☒
Objective 9	Climate Smart Forestry	☒
Objective 10	Fire Resilience and Awareness	☒
Objective 11	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	☒
Objective 12	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	☒
Objective 13	Training and Education	☒
Objective 14	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	☒
Objective 15	Public Land Management Responsibilities	☒
Objective 16	Communications and Public Reporting	☒
Objective 17	Management Review and Continual Improvement	☒



**Table 2 Evidence Observed**

<b>Objective 1 Forest Management Planning</b>	
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timber supply review and AAC determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timber development standards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cutting/harvesting permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Landscape assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Stewardship Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cut control records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 2 Forest Health and Productivity</b>	
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reforestation plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planting program records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Silviculture surveys and reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standards for seed use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chemical use/spray records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemical applicator certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-harvest site assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree improvement reports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harvest / Silviculture inspection records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Road and bridge inspection records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Preparedness Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 3 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources</b>	
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest Stewardship Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government Orders / Guidelines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BMP monitoring records / reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMS and SFI field handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Logging agreements and/or contracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pre-work discussions/meeting records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire preparedness plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Spill prevention and response plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wet weather procedures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 4 Conservation of Biological Diversity</b>	
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest Stewardship Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMS and SFI field handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timber development standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Impact assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood producer training programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC Ecosystem Explorer queries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government Orders / Guidelines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research support records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observation / survey forms and records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications with Indigenous communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 5 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits</b>	
Visual assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest Stewardship Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cut block size calculations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Green-up records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Free growing records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 6 Protection of Special Sites</b>	
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communications with Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 7 Efficient Use of Forest Resources</b>	
Utilization records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Log quality specifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 8 Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights</b>	
Maps / GIS inventories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Written policies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field review / interviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 9 Climate Smart Forestry</b>	
Climate change risk assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate adaptation plan / strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Silviculture plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planting program records	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Silviculture surveys and reports	<input type="checkbox"/>
SFI annual progress report	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 10 Fire Resilience and Awareness</b>	
Wildfire impact risk assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire preparedness plan / fire prevention program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regional Fire Working Group meetings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire management awareness program	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 11 Legal and Regulatory Compliance</b>	
Laws, legislation, regulations records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regulatory action information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corrective action logs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring of legal requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Objective 12 Forestry Research, Science and Technology</b>	
Support for research and science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research and discussion papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communication on research / implementation of research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research knowledge transfer participation / communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 13 Training and Education</b>	
SFI policy / written policies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roles and responsibilities documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Training agenda / checklists	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Training records (staff and contractors)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Written agreements / contracts for the use of qualified logging professionals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wood producer information package	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
QLP training completion evidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
QLP continuing education criteria and delivery mechanisms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 14 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach</b>	
SFI Annual Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SFI and company websites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SFI brochure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SFI Implementation Committee (participation/support)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary market-based incentive program information / participation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood producer information package	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education/community involvement records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SFI Implementation Committee non-conformance process information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 15 Public Land Management Responsibilities</b>	
Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stakeholder communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Objective 16 Communications and Public Reporting</b>	
Summary audit report posting in SFI database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Past SFI Annual Progress Report and submission information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SFI Annual Progress Report data summary records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Objective 17 Management Review and Continual Improvement	
Internal audit records / evidence package	☒
Annual management review records	☒
Corrective action logs	☒

	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Appendix 1: Definitions and Sampling Approach

## DEFINITIONS

### ***Major Non-Conformances***

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial/Recertification audit or certification cannot be achieved. During a surveillance audit, an unresolved major nonconformity will lead to the suspension of the certificate.

### ***Minor Non-Conformances***

Isolated incidents that are non-critical but must be addressed before the next surveillance audit to maintain compliance to the SFI standard. Non resolved minor non-conformance will be escalated to a major non-conformance.

### ***Opportunity for Improvement***

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

### ***Exceptional Practices***

Creative and unusual management practice worth mentioning.

## MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

<p>Where the multi-site / group organization maintains an internal audit program, which has been determined to be reliable, the SAI Global sampling approach is as follows: n = number of sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <math>\sqrt{(n)}</math> for initial certification audits</li> <li>ii. <math>0.6 \sqrt{(n)}</math> for surveillance audits</li> <li>iii. <math>0.8 \sqrt{(n)}</math> for re-registration audits</li> </ul> <p>The central office function is audited annually.</p>	<p>Where the multi-site / group organization did not maintain its internal audit program, the SAI Global sampling approach is as follows: n = number of sites:</p> <p><math>\sqrt{(n)}</math></p> <p>The central office function is audited annually.</p>
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SAI Global certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, SFI Forest Management, SFI Chain of Custody, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing, PEFC Chain of Custody, FSC® Forest Management, and FSC® Chain of Custody.

The group, led by Sylvain Frappier, Global programme manager - Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts.

Contact [SAI Global Assurance](#) for more information.

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