



## **Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.**

### **Sustainable Forest Management System**

#### **Okanagan SFM**

### **Overview of Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., Westbank**

The Defined Forest Area for Gorman's Woodlands is part of the Tolko/Gorman Bros./BCTS/Westbank First Nations Okanagan Operations SFMP DFA. It includes Gorman's operating areas in the Okanagan TSA encompassed by Forest License A18671.

The Gorman's Woodlands Operation consists of planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, transportation, and silviculture. At the time of the audit the total area of the DFA was 165,966 ha, with a harvest of 246,000 M<sup>3</sup>.

The DFA has forests with a mix of age classes and species types. The distribution of age classes is weighed slightly towards trees 140 to 250 years of age (25 percent of all forests). Coniferous tree species comprise 96 percent of the forest types.

### **Background**

During the period of September 27-30, 2010, Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., Westbank, underwent a surveillance audit to the CAN/CSA Z809:2008 Standard. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and results of the QMI-SAI Global re-assessment audit.

### **Scope of Certification**

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to the forest management activities on the Defined Forest Area, FL A18671. These activities include planning, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, transportation, and silviculture.



## Executive Summary

The CAN/CSA Z809:2008 third-party surveillance audit was undertaken by QMI-SAI Global. QMI-SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for registrations to the CAN/CSA Z809:2008 standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed completed harvest operations through interviews with Gorman staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFM and supporting EMS documentation and records at Gorman's Westbank office.

For this surveillance audit, the on-going effectiveness of the SFM system to deliver the intended outputs was assessed against selected elements of the CAN/Z809:2008 Standard. Based on the results of the audit, it was identified that Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., Okanagan SFM, has continued to commit the time, resources, and effort necessary to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an effective SFM system.

No non-conformances were identified during the audit; however 3 areas of concern and 4 opportunities for improvement were noted as detailed in this report.



*Rehabilitation of a fish stream crossing; note the grass seeding to minimize sediment input to the stream. The inset picture is a view taken during the 2009 audit when the crossing was still active.*

### CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Re-Registration Audit

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Non-conformance (NCR) .....  | 0 |
| Areas of Concern (AOC) ..... | 3 |
| Recommendations(OFI) .....   | 4 |
| Positive Aspects .....       | 6 |

#### Non-conformances

Non-conformance (NCR):  
A systemic failure of the program Participant's EMS/SFM system to meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

All non-conformances require an action plan within 30 days. Non-conformance must be addressed by the operation or registration cannot be achieved / maintained.

Area of Concern (AOC):  
An isolated lapse in EMS/SFM system implementation which does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

Opportunity for Improvement (OFI):  
Are isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of EMS/SFM objectives.

#### Positive Aspects

Are features of the EMS/SFM system that are considered as enhancements to the expected level of EMS/SFM performance.

## The auditors

The QMI audit team who performed the audit consisted of Will Sloan, RFT, EMS(LA), SFM(LA). The auditor is a Forest Professional and certified lead auditor.

## Key Areas of Non-conformance

- No areas of non-conformance were identified during the audit.

## Key Areas of Concern

- 6.1 DFA-Specific Performance Requirements: the Standard requires that for each Indicator, forecasts shall be prepared for the expected response. The audit found the Forecasts; Predicted Results or Outcome as presented in the Indicator Matrices of the April 2010 SFM Plan to be more reflective of the baseline of the Indicator Target(s). Ensure that the required forecasts are clearly identified.
- 7.3.5 SFM Plan: The Standard requires that the conclusions drawn in the management review be included in the SFMP. The audit found this had not been done. Ensure the management review summary is included in the SFMP.
- 7.6 Management Review: The Standard requires that the SFM Requirements be reviewed by Top Management but the audit found that SFM Performance Requirements had not been reviewed. Ensure that all the SFM Requirements are included in the Management Review.



*Specialized equipment, like this cable harvesting system, is used to protect more sensitive sites.*

## Key Opportunities for Improvement

- 5.3 Operating Rules: consider developing a process for removing a PAG member to include in the PAG Terms of Reference. The audit found that there is no formal method for removing a PAG member from the group.
- 7.4.3 Communications: consider including more detail in the Annual Report when an indicator/target is not met. The 2009 report noted that 9 targets had not been achieved but provides little or no detail on the reasons why or suggested preventative actions.

## Key Opportunities for Improvement continued

- 7.3.4 c) Rights and Regulations: consider reviewing with contractor's safety requirements for visitors to active work sites. On the field portion of the audit, contractors did not provide suitable safety orientations to inform the audit team of hazards at the work site.
- 6.3 Indicator/Target specific:
  - Indicator 2.2.1, Additions and Deletions to the forest area: The current indicator/target only accounts for deletions resulting from permanent roads and landings and does not cover any additions. Consider reviewing the indicator and target to account for additions and other deletions to the forest area.
  - Indicator 3.2.5, Amount of time for road cut and fill slope revegetation application (non-core indicator): consider including other types of recently exposed soils, such as deactivation, in the indicator.
  - Indicator 5.2.5, Opportunities for public access and for public input (non-core indicator): consider removing this indicator as all three targets are reported as part of core indicators.

## Positive Aspects

- Well documented internal audit, complete with pictures of field sites;
- C&E were very positive in their views of Gorman's compliance performance;
- There was excellent communications between the PAG member on the field portion of the audit and Gorman's staff and contractors;
- Excellent take of the grass seeding for the CP 349-9 access deactivation was noted during the field audit;
- One harvesting contractor noted improved utilization of fibre, with less waste in the woods, in the last year; and
- The PAG member interviewed was very positive in the process and felt the revised CSA SFM standard is an improvement



*Trees that can be made into poles are marked in the field prior to harvest so their value can be maintained. The PAG member who accompanied the audit team on the field day is shown next to such a tree.*

QM-SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 SFM, FSC FM & CoC, SFIS, SFI CoC and PEFC. The group, led by Guillaume Gignac, Product Manager, Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts. Contact [marketingservices@qmi.com](mailto:marketingservices@qmi.com) for more information.

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