



QUALIFOR PROGRAMME

Associated Documents

Number	AD 65
Title	FM Main Assessment Report
Page	1 of 44
Issue	04
Date	1 April 2000

Forest Management Certification

Public Summary Information

Project Number:	7071-CA
Client:	Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc
Country:	Canada
Scope:	French/Severn Forest 855,446 ha of mixed conifer and hardwoods
Main species/products:	White pine, red pine, oak, maple
Annual production:	300,000 m ³
Assessment date:	26 June – 03 July 2001
Certificate Number:	SGS-FM/COC-0931
Date of Issue:	14.02.02
Duration:	5 years
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SECTION I - PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

This report presents the results of an assessment of Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.'s forest management operations in the French/Severn Forest, Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, carried out by SGS QUALIFOR during the period 26 June to 03 July 2001.

The purpose was to assess the operations against the requirements of the QUALIFOR Programme, the SGS Group's forest certification programme accredited by Forest Stewardship Council.

The Assessment covered all forest management operations on the following forest areas:

Area	Total Area (ha)	Average Annual Production (m ³)
French/Severn Forest	855,446 (532,687 forest land)	300,000

2. COMPANY BACKGROUND

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. is a not for profit community based forest management company. Their purpose is to manage certain aspects of forest management on the publicly owned French /Severn Forest on behalf of and according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) forest management program. This is carried out under the authority of a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) signed in 1998.

The company is governed by a local Board of Directors that includes four community and three forest industry representatives. The community directors are independent and represent a broad range of community interests from across the District. The industry directors represent the two largest partners as well as the independent partners.

Westwind delivers management planning, compliance, and silvicultural operations on the French/Severn Forest but does not harvest timber. Timber is harvested by a few large and medium sized forest industry partners and by a range of independent operators. OMNR retains management responsibility for some aspects of forest management as well as ultimate responsibility for the entire forest management package. Westwind is funded by the forest industry and also receives funding from private sources to undertake special projects.

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3. FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

3.1. Bio-physical setting

The French/Severn Forest is located in the Parry Sound District in south/central Ontario, two hours north of Toronto. It occurs on a gently sloping plain rising from Georgian Bay to Algonquin Provincial Park. The total area is 1.4 million hectares, of which 884,586 ha is public Crown land (including 27,875 ha of parks, with significant additional areas now being created through the Ontario Living Legacy exercise), and 514,473 is private (Patent) land. The private land is largely located along a central corridor running north/south through the district and is interspersed amongst the Crown land in a range of small and medium sized parcels. The scope of the certification assessment includes the Crown Land portion only.

The distinguishing landform is the Algonquin Dome in the eastern part of the forest rising to its summit in Algonquin Park. To the west of the forest area is Georgian Bay. Within the southern reaches of the forest soil formation is limited as a result of glaciation and fire, with rock outcrops common. Approximately half of the forest area is dominated by tolerant hardwoods (principally maple), 20% dominated by intolerant hardwoods and the remainder by conifer and mixed conifer/hardwood stands. Spatially, forest cover is characterised by stands of mixed conifer (mainly white and red pine) in the western townships and areas dominated by mixed tolerant hardwoods in the eastern townships. Stands are predominantly un-evenaged with the age class structure skewed towards the older age classes.

3.2. History of use

The forest has been heavily modified by historical logging activities and fire events up to the 1930's when fire suppression was implemented. The pine forests adjacent Georgian Bay were logged beginning in the 1850's and largely liquidated by the turn of the century. Harvesting of tolerant hardwoods began in the early 20th century although harvest controls did not begin until the 1950's-1970's during which diameter limit cutting (including high grading) was predominantly used. Since the 1970's, tree marking of timber to cut or leave has been the principle means of cut control and silvicultural manipulation.

The result of past management (including the exclusion of fire) has created an abundance of degraded forest types, low quality stands, off site stands and changes (reductions) in historical species compositions. The existing management plan seeks to address these issues through management strategies aimed at improving stand quality and restoration of off site forest cover.

3.3. Planning process

As a result of recent changes effected by the OMNR, bringing in the concept of the SFL, the traditional roles of the major actors in forest management have been significantly altered through the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Under this new arrangement the responsibility and associated cost for planning and executing the forest management

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programme rests with the SFL holder. The OMNR retains authority for policing, licensing and directing new wood commitments. The OMNR is responsible for ensuring that the SFL holders conduct business in an acceptable manner and ensures sustainability of the forest through policy development and regulation. The OMNR is responsible for wood measurement and collection of stumpage fees as well as portions of the planning process such as coordination of the Local Citizens' Committee.

3.4. Harvest and regeneration

Industrial uses of the forest are mainly logging and sawmill based. Logging is conducted by operators with traditional allocations of timber from the management unit. Tembec, the largest, are entitled to 43% of the total available volume of traditional harvest levels, while four medium-sized companies are entitled to a further 35% of the volume. The remaining 22% is allocated amongst 24 small independent operators who are 'shareholder/partners' (see section 7.1), the majority of whom operate seasonally and do not derive their primary income from forestry.

Production focuses primarily on sawlogs of which approximately 65% are processed locally in facilities located within or adjacent to the District. Pulpwood and chips are produced locally the majority of which is exported out of the district and as far away as Pennsylvania. None of the mills are entirely dependant on wood from the French/Severn management unit and most procure wood from other management units and from private lands.

3.5. Silviculture

Forest management within the French/Severn forest has been aimed at matching the species to the physiographic site and to use the silvicultural system which most closely emulates natural patterns and processes in managing the particular site. Silvicultural systems which encourage natural regeneration are preferred. Many of the forest stands can be managed through shelterwood or one of the modifications of the clearcutting system – where there is a choice shelterwood systems are preferred to ensure natural regeneration. Tolerant hardwoods can be managed through selection or shelterwood systems. Traditionally selection systems have been used for managing tolerant hardwood stands. Moderately tolerant species are assigned to management through uniform shelterwood.

Young forests often have to be protected from insects, competing vegetation and forest fires. Nevertheless, fire and insects are natural parts of healthy forest ecosystems in Ontario. When old and unhealthy trees die, they allow young, vigorous forests and trees to establish themselves. Forest protection activities are carried out when there is a threat to property or large financial investments, and human life in the case of fire.

Vegetation control is sometimes needed to protect young seedlings from competing plants. The methods used in Ontario include the use of herbicides and the physical removal of competing vegetation. In addition, site preparation techniques are often designed to reduce the abundance of competing vegetation after regeneration is established.

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3.6. Monitoring processes

The OMNR are responsible for ensuring that forest operations are monitored, evaluation of the effects of management on the forest and dissemination of the results to the public. Each forest management plan includes a description of the monitoring programme for the forest unit. This must ensure compliance with all applicable legislation, regulations, the prescriptions within the management plan and with OMNR manuals and guidelines. The monitoring process is devolved through the actors in the process, each carrying out internal monitoring and reporting and being audited by the next level using the Forest Operations Compliance Inspection System (FOCIS). Four levels of monitoring are described and implemented:

- i) internal contractor audits
- ii) SFL holder (Westwind) audits
- iii) OMNR audits
- iv) provincial audits

4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

4.1. Social aspects

The resident population of 77,000 live in four main communities located within the forest area: Huntsville, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Parry Sound as well as in rural areas concentrated along the corridor between Gravenhurst and South River. The population increases by a factor of three during summer months due to seasonal (cottage) residents primarily from southern Ontario.

The local economy is heavily dependant on the forest for tourism which is the main source of business employment. Non-industrial uses of the forest including tourism, recreation, fishing, and hunting centre on the extensive waterways and lakes, which are world-renowned. There is also an extensive network of snowmobile trails throughout the management unit that are used during winter months.

There are six aboriginal 'First Nations' Communities living on reserve lands within the Forest District. These communities have not historically had much involvement in the forest sector but have started to express more interest in forest values, planning and in employment opportunities from forestry. Westwind's mission is to involve First Nations in forestry and has signed an MOU with the Tribal Association representing 4 out of 6 of the groups that focuses on training, involvement in planning, and shared opportunities to do silviculture work.

4.2. Environmental aspects

In this region, coniferous trees such as eastern white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock and white cedar commonly mix with deciduous broad-leaved species such as yellow birch, sugar and red maples, basswood and red oak. Species more common in the boreal forest, such as white and

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black spruce, jack pine, aspen and white birch, also exist here. This forest contains many species of fungi, ferns, mosses and shrubs.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, wolves, pileated woodpecker, various migratory birds, beaver, muskrat, otter and many other mammals, birds, fish and insects. In February 1997 the Ontario Government initiated the Lands for Life planning program to provide land use and resource management direction for Crown lands and resources in an area covering 45% of Ontario. The planning process involved a series of planning phases with extensive public consultation. The approved Land Use Strategy documents the direction that resulted from this process.

4.3. Regulations

There is a wide range of applicable regulations at both federal and provincial levels. At provincial level the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* provides for the regulation of forest planning, public involvement, information management, operations, licensing, trust funds for reforestation and processing facilities such as sawmills. The legislation also has sanctions and penalties for non-compliance. Forestry activities on Crown lands in Ontario are also subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Ontario also has laws concerning hunting and fishing, provincial parks, prevention of forest fires and protection of endangered species. In addition, Ontario fosters good management of private land through tree cutting by-laws and land-use planning legislation and supports stewardship efforts with programs such as the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. Specific legislation includes:

- Forestry Act
- Forest Fires Prevention Act
- Forest Workers Employment Act
- Environmental Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act.

5. LOCAL STANDARDS

At the time of assessment there was no FSC-endorsed local standard. A draft regional standard had been prepared by the Great Lakes–St Lawrence Regional FSC Initiative Steering Committee – *Standards for Well Managed Forests in the Central and Southern Great Lakes – St Lawrence Forests of Ontario*. The assessment checklist was developed using the draft regional standard (March 2001 draft). This was supplemented with the QUALIFOR interim checklist previously used in British Columbia. In all criteria the most stringent requirement from the two documents was adopted.

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6. THE ASSESSMENT

6.1. Schedule

The Assessment was preceded by a pre-assessment by SGS QUALIFOR during July 2000. This examined the management systems and identified any gaps that might preclude certification. Information gathered was used to plan the main assessment. Key stakeholders were identified.

The main assessment was carried out during the period 26 June to 03 July 2001. A detailed schedule is shown in Appendix I of the full report.

6.2. Team

- Lead Assessor and Team Leader: QUALIFOR Lead Assessor with 13 years international experience.
- Local Specialist: forest ecology specialist with 15 years experience
- Local Specialist: First Nations and social issues specialist with 30 years experience
- Local Specialist: Ontario RPF with 30 years experience

Curricula vitae are provided in Appendix II of the full report.

6.3. Peer Reviewers

Three independent specialists from Ontario have been selected to review this report. They include an Aboriginal environmental specialist, a forest management expert, and an ecological specialist.

6.4. Process

The Main Assessment was conducted in the steps outlined below.

Preparation

Using the results from the pre-assessment and the local standard, a checklist was prepared from the generic QUALIFOR checklist.

Stakeholder notification

A wide range of stakeholders were contacted to inform them of the planned assessment and ask for their views on relevant forest management issues. These included environmental interest groups, local government agencies and forestry authorities, forest user groups, and workers' unions (see Appendix V of full report).

Opening meeting

An opening meeting was held with Westwind board members and staff, and representatives from OMNR at Parry Sound. The scope of the assessment was explained and schedules were determined (see Appendix I of full report for attendance sheets).

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Document review

A review of the main forest management documentation was conducted to evaluate the adequacy of coverage of the QUALIFOR Programme requirements. This involved examination of policies, management plans, systems, procedures, instructions and controls.

Field assessments

Field assessments aimed to determine how closely activities in the field complied with documented management systems and QUALIFOR Programme requirements. Interviews with staff, operators and contractors were conducted to determine their familiarity with and their application of policies, procedures and practices that are relevant to their activities. A randomly selected sample of sites were visited to evaluate whether practices met the required performance levels.

First Nations and Stakeholder interviews

Meetings or telephone interviews were held with First Nations and stakeholders as determined by the responses to notification letters. These aimed to clarify any issues raised and the company's responses to them. A meeting was convened for all First Nations within the French/Severn Forest area and subsequent interviews were held, together with visits to two First Nations. A list of all meetings held during the assessment is included in Appendix V. Representatives of the following First Nations were met:

- Henvey Inlet First Nation
- Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association (representing four communities)
- Parry Island First Nation
- Shawanga First Nation

Summing up and closing meeting

At the conclusion of the field assessment, findings were presented to company management at a closing meeting. Any areas of non-conformance with the QUALIFOR Programme were raised as one of two types of Corrective Action Request (CAR):

- **Major CARs** - which must be addressed and re-assessed before certification can proceed
- **Minor CARs** - which do not preclude certification, but must be addressed within an agreed time frame, and will be checked at the first surveillance visit

6.5. Sampling

Field sites visited during the assessment were as follows:

Ongoing operations

Vegetation management

Restoration

Tree marking

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Recreation

Protection areas

Completed operations

Harvesting

Roading

Other sites

Henvey Inlet First Nation

Shawanaga First Nation

Huntsville Mill (Tembec)

Muskoka Timber Mills

7. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Detailed assessment findings are included in the full report. For each QUALIFOR requirement, these show the related findings, and any observations or corrective actions raised. The main issues are discussed below.

7.1. Findings related to the general QUALIFOR Programme

PRINCIPLE 1 Compliance with law and FSC Principles

- ***Respect for national and local laws and administrative requirements***

The Company has an up to date registry of federal, provincial and municipal legislation, regulations and guidelines. The office has a library of acts and regulations either in paper or electronic form. Consideration should be given to signing up with one of the environmental newsletters that provides a service of updating legislation. The Office Manager is responsible for updates and most updates are done through monitoring changes via the Internet. All changes are circulated to staff and highlighted at staff meetings. There is a listing in the Overlapping License Agreements of Acts and regulations of which the Licensee has to be aware and conform.

- ***Payment of legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges***

There was no evidence of outstanding debts to Overlapping Agreement Holders. There is a requirement for the Company to maintain a minimum balance in the Trust Account. There is evidence that this is being done and the Company is maintaining a balance in excess of requirements.

- ***Respect for provisions of international agreements***

Westwind staff are aware of the general requirements of international agreements. Copies of agreements are maintained at Westwind's office. Any new requirements have and are being circulated to staff. MNR staff

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have been providing the Company with the effects that changing principles and guidelines will have on operations.

- ***Conflicts between laws and regulations, and the FSC P&C***

No conflicts observed.

- ***Protection of forests from illegal activities***

MNR and MOE officers are active in the FMU. Company staff regularly provide assistance to field officers in reporting incidents. Incidences of unauthorised use are low but include tipping of garbage and damage to roads. Westwind staff take appropriate action to prevent problems, identify perpetrators and report to the authorities when necessary.

- ***Demonstration of a long-term commitment to the FSC P&C***

Westwind has detailed their long-term commitment to the FSC P&C in their Annual Report, which is available to the public. Specifically, there is a commitment to FSC P&C within the Company Policy statement and company brochure. Minutes of Company meetings indicate a number of resolutions that support the FSC certification program.

PRINCIPLE 2 Tenure and use rights and responsibilities

- ***Demonstration of land tenure and forest use rights***

Westwind holds a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) issued by the Province of Ontario under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Sustainable Forestry License (SFL) # 542411(all tree species, 5455 km²). The SFL is issued for 20 years and is renewable every five years. Performance of the licence is audited by independent auditors very five years prior for renew of the licence. The SFL gives Westwind and its partners responsibility for planning, managing, harvesting and reforestation within the French/Severn Forest in cooperation with local communities and stakeholders. The 29 'Shareholders/Partners' of Westwind hold Overlapping Licence Agreements with Westwind that guarantee them a share of timber and silvicultural responsibility under the SFL. The 29 holders of Overlapping Licence Agreements each hold a renewable Forest Resource Licence (FRL) that gives them the right to cut trees from Crown lands.

- ***Local communities' legal or customary tenure or use rights***

Through the FMP Westwind has established a comprehensive list of all stakeholders that are included on a mailing list. All stakeholders are contacted about the Planning process, in addition to First Nations (see Principle 3). Local mayors, business leaders and cottage reps. are contacted as part of the planning process. The Local Citizens' Committee (LCC), which represents fifteen community groups and stakeholders, meets regularly with Westwind staff during the FMP development process. Westwind and the forest companies are part of a partnership agreement that provides opportunities to interested citizens to purchase firewood permits. Citizens are allowed free access to Crown forests for minor non-timber forest products such as berries, nuts, etc. There is 42,000 km of snowmobile trails within the Forest. Snowmobilers can purchase an annual

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permit from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs for the right to use these trails; hikers are allowed free access to the trails.

All owners who may have an interest in forest operations are given notice prior to operations beginning. Private land boundaries are laid out well in advance of operations. Impacts and resolution of issues are discussed at the local Citizens meetings, directly with stakeholders and during the FMP process.

- ***Disputes over tenure claims and use rights***

Landowner boundary concerns are dealt with on a case by case basis. MNR staff are involved in trying to clear up past historical issues of retained Crown timber rights on patented land. Westwind is kept informed of changes to these timber rights issues. There are no major outstanding disputes with Westwind. Westwind staff seems to be good at dispute resolution and are effective at working out problems with communities and individuals.

For the FMP process, there is an extensive system to deal with issues, including open houses, OMNR District Manager reviews, OMNR Regional Director reviews, and Ontario MOE Environmental Assessment “Bump Ups”. MNR staff provide a means for landowners to resolve disputes if they cannot be resolved with the Company staff. Citizens of the Province of Ontario can and do contact the local District Manager of the ministry of Natural resources if and when an issue arises. All parties contacted (except First Nations) stated that minor disputes were handled effectively during the FMP consultation process or with Westwind and or companies and contractors during operations.

PRINCIPLE 3 Indigenous peoples’ rights

- ***Indigenous peoples’ control of forest management***

Procedures for consulting with First Nations are included in the Forest Management Planning Manual for Crown Lands in Ontario. The procedures outlined in the manual have been followed and in some instances, exceeded. Westwind has visited each First Nation community in the French/Severn Forest. Some First Nations communities received more than one visit. Visits included presentations and community forums to determine how individual communities wanted to be involved in the preparation of the French/Severn Forest FMP. Options provided for this involvement have included: offering a separate consultation process from that of the general populace for First Nations communities; provision of funding for First Nations communities wishing to prepare a Native Background Information Report; and a First Nations community representative was part of the FMP Planning Team and was invited to attend and participate in all FMP team meetings.

There are twice annual forestry initiative meetings where the six First Nations are invited to meet with Westwind and MNR staff. Issues discussed are the FMP, silviculture worker opportunities, training, values mapping, etc.

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However, there has not been a strategic approach to identifying how First Nations will be involved in planning and forest management within the French/Severn Forest. There has been limited involvement of First Nations in the prescription stage of the management process or evaluation of the effectiveness of prescriptions in protecting First Nations values. While there is an agreement between Westwind and four First Nations this agreement is more of a silviculture training and contracting agreement than a comprehensive forest management agreement. This agreement is a good start but needs to be more comprehensive to be considered evidence of meaningful consultation and involvement in forest management.

There are a number of initiatives for training individuals from First Nations in forest management activities but not of a comprehensive nature. One First Nation is represented on the Local Citizens Committee. Consultation meetings are held in First Nations communities but First Nations do not feel that they are effective because the information is foreign to them and has not been developed with them but by others. First Nations do not have the staff, offices, maps and data to be effectively in a consultation process with Westwind and MNR. First Nations do not have the trained staff to be effectively involved in forest planning and management.

First Nations' traditional territories and Treaty areas are not defined in the FMP for management purposes due to potential claims by First Nations. There is some evidence of consultation meetings in minutes in the FMP process but there is limited involvement in the pre-planning and data collection stages of the planning process. First Nations do not believe that the present consultation process meets their needs.

The Canadian Federal Government has a Specific Claims process whereby First Nations can claim for lands and resources that they feel have been unjustly taken from them. First Nations within the Forest have in the past and are presently using this process.

Review of the Robinson – Huron and Williams Treaties indicates that the six First Nations within the French/Severn forest have the right to hunt, fish and use forests for traditional uses. This implies that they should be involved in forest management to ensure that these Treaty rights are respected. The Delgamukw case indicates that where First Nations hold aboriginal rights the First Nation must be consulted and give their consent before their rights can be infringed upon. Also, First Nations must be compensated where their rights are infringed upon.

Major CAR 01 was raised.

- ***Maintenance of indigenous peoples' resources or tenure rights***

Westwind's First Nations Policy states that the corporation will respect the laws and rights of First Nations in the planning process and in the exercise of forest management activities. Westwind makes considerable effort to meet with First Nations and involve them in many phases of planning and operations. Westwind and MNR meet with all First Nations together twice annually to discuss the FMP. Meetings were held at the seven communities to discuss the FMP. In the FMP it states that there could be a

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consultation meeting in the communities if they wish. Two communities requested public meetings on reserves to discuss the FMP process,

A First Nations representative sits on the LCC and the Forest Management Planning Team. First Nations state that without staff and capacity and the lack of First Nations values, data and maps they cannot be effectively involved in forest management and planning. As First Nations traditional resources are generally poorly defined in databases and on maps it is difficult for forest planners to include the impact on native values in management plans. Potential impacts are not defined in the FMP. First Nations are not satisfied with their involvement in the management and planning processes, as they do not believe that the impacts on their values are well understood or that effective strategies are in place to minimize potential impact.

Major CAR 01 was raised.

- ***Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples***

While efforts are made by Westwind at various levels to better understand First Nations' values and to document those values, the system does not work because of the First Nations' lack of basic data, lack of capacity and generally inability to be effectively involved in the consultation processes. First Nations state that while Westwind makes attempts at co-operation it often is ineffective because of these limitations.

Westwind tree markers have minimal training in identifying First Nations values in the field although they are encouraged to do so. One of the six First Nations have completed effective value maps and data bases, three others have information that needs to be more detailed to be effective, three others have not initiated value mapping for various reasons. The Supplementary Documentation has a comprehensive list of First Nations issues developed with the First Nations but there is no report on actions resulting from the issues or if First Nations are satisfied with progress. Where First Nations' values are known and mapped, pre-harvesting silviculture prescriptions protect these values. Pre-operational meetings with contractors identifies values prior to harvesting. Post harvesting field monitoring ensures that identified values have been protected. While Westwind's foresters make efforts to make contact with First Nations and include their values the process cannot be considered as "meaningful" because the lack of capacity, etc. Tree Markers were given a one day seminar on the recognition of aboriginal and heritage resources by a trainer from Woodland Heritage Services. The Waabnoong forest technician is involved with Westwind where First Nations values have been identified and where there is a concentration of values. However this is insufficient to cannot effectively monitor all sites and there is a mandate for this liaison from only four of the six First Nations.

Major CAR 01 was raised.

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- ***Compensation of indigenous peoples for the application of their traditional knowledge***

The same issues are involved in First Nations being consulted regarding their traditional knowledge as in consultation for forest management; lack of capacity, data, mapping as to where the knowledge applies, etc. While limited consultation occurs First Nations do not feel it is meaningful. Traditional knowledge or practices are not well documented and these values should be identified as part of the First Nations Strategy. Since traditional knowledge is often relayed through oral history through the community elders it is essential that traditional use studies spend time documenting information with elders. Foresters may not be effective in this type of data collection and analysis.

First Nations receive some support to prepare values data and reports. Four First Nations have prepared forest land use documents which identify their values. Three of the four give a good general outline of First Nations interests but are so general in terms of location and value type that they cannot effectively be used for forest management. MNR has provided funding for these values reports. Westwind provides some assistance to First Nations but not as direct compensation for the use of traditional knowledge. The issue of traditional knowledge should be defined in the proposed First Nations Strategic Plan.

Major CAR 01 was raised.

PRINCIPLE 4 Community relations and workers rights

- ***Employment, training, and other services for local communities***

There is substantial local employment gained from forestry and timber harvesting. There is substantial value added gained from timber products, including hardwood flooring, veneer, firewood and pulp chips from low value timber, etc. All contractors working for the 29 Westwind forest companies are from the area and the majority of those workers live within the boundaries of the forest. The larger forest companies have worker training programs and encourage workers to achieve high skill levels. Westwind has sponsored eight bi-annual Forest Conferences that inform local people of the issues involved in forest management that encourage local people to become involved in all aspects of forestry.

While there are a substantial number of direct and indirect jobs created by the products from the forests the numbers of jobs and demographics of the communities is poorly defined. There is no data on markets for forest products and the impact of forest management on timber requirements of mills. Southern and Northern Ontario Sustainable Forest licence holders are participating and an economic survey to determine the social and economic impact of forestry. Results of this study may be incorporated in the 2004 – 09 FMP.

First Nations within the forest have very high levels of unemployment. It is essential that plans and strategies deal with ways to reduce this high level of employment. First Nations communities are not benefiting from the forest in terms of economic well being as First Nations rely almost entirely on the federal government for community and social funding. The extent of

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First Nations unemployment and the social issues that result from this unemployment is not documented. **Major CAR 02 was raised.** Westwind has however supplied Waabnoong Assoc. with funding to train First Nations people in Tree Marking and other forestry skills.

The eight Westwind sponsored Forest conferences are well attended and numerous people and organizations reported that they were a benefit for employees and to increase community awareness of forestry issues. Because of Westwind's community mandate the corporation is involved in numerous community programs including: field trips for university students, Sundridge Youth Program, books for grade 8 field trips, Forest Conference series, etc.

- ***Compliance with health and safety regulations***

Forest companies apply all Ontario laws and regulations for health and safety. International Woodworkers of America report that larger companies have a "safety first" philosophy and there are no reports of problems with contractor employee safety. Westwind is a member of the Ontario Safe Worker Association that offers training for workers and supplies lists of safety equipment and services catalogues. Tembec and Westwind have operations manuals which include details of safety issues.

Westwind Board of Directors has a Human Resources Committee which has the written responsibility for health and safety, staff and board training and staff performance. Westwind Policies and Procedures Manual have sections on Health and safety that defines responsibilities of staff. The sections of the manual are signed off by the Chairman of the Board and are the responsibility of the General manager to implement.

The Westwind General Manager has the responsibility of implementing the health and safety procedures outlined in the Westwind Policies and Procedures Manual and delegated to him by the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Tembec and Domtar have designated staff responsible for health and safety. Safety records are visible in worker lunch rooms. All workers seen on job sites in mills, logging operations and silvicultural operations had required safety equipment and were aware of procedures. Companies carry out periodic safety inspections and meetings with contractors at the logging sites.

- ***Workers' rights to organise and negotiate with employers***

Workers in Tembec's Huntsville mill are members of the International Woodworkers of America, Local 1000. The Secretary Treasurer of Local 1000 reports that the union has a good working relationship with the management of the company. He states that the company has an "open door policy" whereby any union member has access to any management person for any reason. The IWA and companies have grievance procedures that are part of the company/union Collective Agreement. These procedures are followed when serious grievances arise. Most grievances are handled by union/management staff before formal grievance arises.

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- ***Social impact evaluations and consultation***

A comprehensive list of stakeholders and community groups has been developed by Westwind with addresses, phone numbers, etc. Stakeholders are represented on the Board of Directors. Four Directors are appointed from the four regions of the Forest. The Local Citizens Committee, which represents fifteen community groups and stakeholders, meets regularly with Westwind staff during the FMP development process,

It is a policy of Westwind and in the Aims and Objectives of the Corporation to encourage cooperation between forest users and the public and promote forest education. The staff of Westwind are constantly meeting with community groups to discuss operations, hear concerns and seek solutions to potential problems. Westwind and the forest companies provide firewood to interested citizens. Records are kept of all stakeholders meetings and staff are assigned to follow-up on actions required by stakeholders.

While impact appraisal has been carried out at a provincial level through the Class Environmental Assessment, potential social and economic impacts at the FMU level have not been well defined and appraised. There has been only limited use made of social indicators and a rudimentary appraisal of potential socio-economic impacts arising from forest management or more importantly changes in forest management. **Minor CAR 03 was raised.**

Responses to the FMP process and to the issues in the FMP indicate that there are very few concerns related to land tenure other than those that deal with Native land claim issues. Westwind makes a concerted effort to meet all stakeholders who may be affected by forestry operations. Forest management planning team – made up of First Nations, Fish and Game Club, hunt camp forester owners, Snowmobile clubs, forest industry foresters, MNR Biologists and foresters and Westwind foresters are involved throughout the planning process.

The FMU only involves Crown land area. Neighbours of the Crown land are given opportunity to raise concerns as part of the FMP process. Stakeholders are represented on the Board and on the Local citizens Committee. They have direct influence on decisions made by these bodies. Community influence over forestry operations is one of the main goals and objectives of Westwind and is reflected in Policies, Articles of Incorporation and on the mandates of the Board and Terms of Reference of the Local Citizens Committee. There is a Tourism and Forestry Memorandum of Understand endorsed by the province of Ontario that recognizes the forest land use needs of the tourism industry. Consultation is defined in the FMP.

- ***Resolution of grievances and settlement of compensation claims***

The public and stakeholders have direct access to company official to express issues, grievances or claims. The four Community Board Members of Westwind are appointed from specific areas of the Forest and are responsible for dealing with local issues. Comments from stakeholders and the public are documented in the plans. Mayors and community representatives feel that Westwind makes every effort to resolve problems

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before rights are infringed upon. Westwind Directors have liability insurance in case of loss due to damage claim against Westwind. Canada has well established laws regarding loss or damage to people or property and for public health and safety.

PRINCIPLE 5 Benefits from the forest

- ***Economic viability taking full environmental, social, and operational costs into account***

The Trust Account budget appears to be adequate to meet the silvicultural demands of the forest. There is a process in place to provide operational funding from payments from Overlapping Licensees. Forest staffing appears to be adequate to meet field demands of operations provided there continues to be strong support and cooperation from MNR staff. There was demonstrated financial and operational support from the Overlapping Licensees. Markets for forest products appears to be stable and improving over time. Very strong evidence that forest operations first consider long term viability of the forest: silvicultural guides, prescriptions, use of FEC, harvesting systems; no full tree logging, Compliance Plan, operational guidelines; Rutting. Residual stand damage, Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

- ***Optimal use and local processing of forest products***

Traditional Operators in the area were given the opportunity to join the Overlapping Licensees. No record of complaints about an interested party being left out of the process. Additional volumes are openly made available to all Overlapping Licensees. All forest products are sold within Ontario. Utilization of forest products to Scaling Manual requirements is directed in operational plans. Compliance inspections check on utilization, log specifications, and transport. FOCIS reports provide a record of inspections and recommend action required. Annual work Schedule for April 2001 to March 2002 establishes direction on; damage to residual stems, damage to regeneration, rutting, and skid trail coverage. These levels are included in the cut approvals to Overlapping Licensees. Efforts are consistently made to protect the site and distribute the slash. Full tree logging has occurred on some sites in the past, but slash has been redistributed on such sites.

FOCIS reports provide summaries that are used to assess effectiveness of compliance program. There is an annual compliance report that helps generate an Annual Compliance Plan that is included in the Annual Work Schedule. Every 5 years, as part of the FMP planning process a Compliance Plan is produced.

- ***Waste minimisation and avoidance of damage to forest resources***

The Compliance program focuses on utilization of forest products. Operators are required to clean up operations before they move on to other areas.

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- ***Forest management and the local economy***

FMP recognizes a wide range of non-timber values and adjusts forest operations to accommodate these values. There is contact with and support for local community programs. Four of the seven directors of the Company are drawn from the Community. There are a wide range of supported and/or accommodated uses; recreational trails, hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, educational use.

Conflicts are dealt with through the Company with the opportunity for conflict resolution available through MNR and the FMP process. At this time there are only minor uses of non-timber products i.e. maple syrup, mushrooms, wild berries with no over exploitation.

- ***Maintenance of the value of forest services and resources***

FMP process identifies a wide range of values and specific areas and species that are of concern, including; Eastern Massassauga rattle snake wintering areas, deer wintering areas, moose calving sites, moose aquatic feeding areas, warm and cold water fisheries, raptor nests, heronries, recreational trails, portages, canoe routes, recreation camps, rare plant communities, scenic vistas, sensitive sites.

Inventories of these values are maintained by MNR. Company and MNR staff do provide input to this data base on a regular bases between formal planning periods. FMP public process provides opportunity through open houses and consultation to update this information every 5 years. The FMP provides direction for the protection of these values. There are a wide variety of provincial guides that describe values and provide direction on management:

- Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Tourism Values
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Provision of Moose Habitat.
- Code of Practice for Timber Management Operations in Riparian Areas.
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Marten Habitat.
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of White-Tailed Deer Habitat.
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Protection of the Physical Environment.
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Pileated Woodpecker Habitat.

The FMP establishes Area of Concern Guidelines (AOC's) to provide direction for operations to protect other values. Directions on AOC's from the FMP are included in the Cut Approval for operations to provide legal grounds for enforcement.

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- **Harvest levels**

Harvest level determination uses the best information that they have available and is based on Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) with updating based on field inventory of a portion of the eligible stands. General Percent Reductions are made in the calculations to allow for AOC's, inoperable areas, roads and landings, and natural disturbance. GIS mapping will provide an improvement in the calculation of the available productive land base for the next FMP.

Terms of sustainability for biodiversity values in FMP include use of deterministic non-spatial models for a range of species and spatial models for a small number of other species. Incorporation of biodiversity indicators in the modelling is a very valuable approach. The benchmarks used for assessing trends in these 'habitat/ species' indicators are based on current forest conditions. However there is no 'fixed point' assessment of whether the populations identified are currently stable. Identification of a fixed time benchmark, historic or recent, is necessary to ensure that the baseline does not change as forest management progresses.

The SFMM model provides a good basis for forest value modelling. However, it is noted that use of sensitivity analyses is not a standard procedure in this modelling process. Sensitivity analyses are used to assess which input variables have most influence on output variables, and therefore can be used to a) direct future inventory methods towards key variables and b) to determine which variables may need to be considered in a precautionary manner (i.e. those with high impact and high uncertainty). The modelling assumptions used to determine long-term harvest levels have not been critically tested. **Minor CAR 04 was raised.** Current level of harvest is significantly lower than that allowed from management plan. The implications of the uncertainties raised will be more crucial if harvest levels increase towards allowable cut level.

Current harvest levels were determined for the period 1999-2004. This is prior to the re-allocation of large areas of crown land in the OLL strategy. Potential implications on harvest level of the landbase reduction have not yet been considered. Present maximum harvest level (Maximum Allowable Depletion) is 40,000 ha for a 5-year period for all Forest Units. Expectations are that they will only harvest about 26,000 ha. No Forest Units are being over harvested. Market considerations and access problems results in a large portion of the harvest area being bypassed. There are plans to adjust the productive land base to an "available harvest level" which will make the MAD more realistic.

Planning for Old Growth has to include a discussion and survey about how the reserved areas within the FMU can or are going to meet the Old Growth requirements for the various Forest Units. Old Growth requirements will have to be expanded beyond existing Provincial requirements. i.e. Red and White Pine.

The FMP contains within the text a review of past operations. This information is available for review at the public meetings. The Annual report of operations is done each year and submitted to MNR. This

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information is available to the public at the MNR office or the Company office.

PRINCIPLE 6 Environmental impact

- ***Environmental impacts assessment***

Pre-harvest inspections include assessment of timber plus riparian, biodiversity values etc. through a stand inspection report. Large effort is placed on detailed assessment of what is the most appropriate silviculture in both pine-dominated and hardwood stands. This is necessary due to the past harvesting history. The process includes a good system for identification of hawk nests (promoted by MNR), and is supported by raptor ID booklets. The FRI provides a basic assessment of the forest cover for the FMU on a 10-year cycle. The digitized GIS mapping system has provided a great improvement in the presentation and consolidation of data. Non-timber values are mapped as part of the values mapping program. MNR staff maintain the values mapping system. On site, inspections and maps produced include multiple values (riparian/ biodiversity etc). Environmentally sensitive areas within cutblocks are identified. Assessment for some listed species (VTE) (e.g. for Massasauga rattlesnake) is less formal and requires ‘critical’ habitat to be known. Other VTE species (e.g. red-shouldered hawk) are identified on values maps and are looked for prior to harvest. All stick nests are identified and species determined. (see comments below on efficacy). “Untreatable areas” and ‘bypass’ areas also noted on maps and in the silvicultural prescription.

Discussions with staff demonstrate awareness of the potential problems, and there appears to be good follow-up with these issues. Examples seen where preharvest data are updated to reflect values recently discovered on a site. Reserve areas associated with stick nests vary greatly with whether use has been confirmed (e.g. for red-shouldered and coopers hawks reserve area varies from 20 – 150m).

- ***Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species***

At a landscape level, general goals are provided in the FMP (e.g. increase area of pine stands, maintain current levels of pileated woodpecker habitat etc). However actual target goals have not generally been identified. There has been no overall assessment of the landscape - a statement of the rationale for selection between species and forest ecosystems at landscape level. It should be noted that the Conservation Strategy for White and Red pine states that specific targets should be set within management units, based on historic patterns of pine distribution. A landscape level assessment should include the rationale that addresses the approach and any assumptions made in the determination of targets. **Minor CAR 05 was raised.**

It is noted in the FMP that most working groups and species age classes are skewed towards older stands. However, it is also noted in the FMP that very few ‘true’ old growth stands remain in the landscape. It can therefore be questioned if stand distribution is skewed towards old growth, or rather, they are skewed towards mature growth, and there is little true young or old seral stage stands. Ontario’s Living Legacy policy may provide some old

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growth stands in the landscape, however, the abundance and condition of these should be assessed in order to determine whether additional stands are needed

One of the old growth strategies in the FMP is not to allocate forest areas within *identified* old growth stands until provincial and regional policy direction is provided. However, there is significant harvest identified for older hardwood stands (140 years plus) in this FMP. Assessment of the need to retain some stands in significantly longer rotations (or uncut) should be assessed (i.e. assess whether future options are being foreclosed by current harvesting). Staff raised a general concern about stating goals since historic data (or appropriate interpretation of historic data) is not an exact science. However, 5 year goals would be appropriate in FMP, and would allow 'progress' to be monitored. Alteration of goals as new information is obtained would be part of future FMPs and integral to the strategy. Stating goals would also allow the goals and rationale to be critiqued. The general objective is to increase the area covered by white pine (and red pine – though this is less of a focus) and strategies should assess both species. There is however some contradictory information in FMP regarding what are appropriate strategies for old growth white pine. Westwind's goals are to maintain pine on the landscape, but clarity about objectives relating to *old growth* pine stands is required.

Staff and contractors are generally aware of VTE species issues. The FMP contains specific objectives for some listed species – e.g. red-shouldered hawk, Massasauga rattlesnake habitat areas. The FMP identifies provincial strategy to maintain stick nests for hawks, and precautionary silviculture in known critical habitat areas for snakes, plus is promoting further research to identify conflicts between harvesting and populations for rattlesnakes. Efforts particularly focus on wildlife species identified in provincial policy.

Riparian management buffers are a standard width for the stream, but with variation based on slope. Variation not given by size of stream, but local biologists unconcerned by this. Basic requirements considered adequate to protect values. No field assessment of actual values present for individual streams. Higher or lower retention levels may be appropriate on different sites. Widths vary 30 – 90m on all streams by slope class

- **Maintenance of ecological functions and values**

The FEC system is relatively new, but was being used by staff and is incorporated into FMP. Concern for 'off-site' species and matching species to the site underpins the management approach. There should however be consideration for whether this approach results in loss of any species of lower commercial value. This should be addressed as part of the larger landscape level strategies and goals. All staff encountered were very knowledgeable about site conditions and impacts on appropriate species and silviculture. Silvicultural systems are dominated by partial harvesting systems designed to emulate these processes. In hardwood types, this is predominantly single tree and small group selection (to ensure maintenance of mid-tolerant hardwoods). In pine stands, shelterwood systems designed to restore white and red pine predominate. Clearcutting represents approximately 2% of operations on the tenure (AWS 2000-

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2001). Sensitive areas are covered in the Area of Concern process within the FMP process. The list of items covered is extensive and all staff appear to be aware of issues around sensitive sites. The pre harvest prescriptions ensure that sensitive sites are identified prior to harvest.

While roads maintained by Westwind and operators were found to be in good condition, roads within the FMU where responsibility for upkeep is not well defined are not always adequately maintained. **Minor CAR 06 was raised.**

- ***Protection of representative samples of existing ecosystems***

Following the first round of the OLL process, some analysis of representation has been completed, to determine whether there are key areas that remain underrepresented (within the 12% cap). The levels of representation for the major LV types are understood to be good, but the remaining gaps concern rare LV types. This may be of importance particularly for ecosystems that are naturally rare on the landscape e.g. is 5% representation of an area that covers 2% of the total area adequately represented? In addition, natural or human-induced rare ecosystems may require additional protection, and an assessment of the extent to which OLL overlaps with within block reserves (riparian etc) would determine potential need. Some ANSIs in this region were incorporated into the OLL strategy. Others occur on private land and are outside the jurisdiction of Westwind. The FMP was written prior to OLL and specifically identify existing ANSIs on Crown Land with the objective to maintain identified values. Assessment of representation is required to determine requirements for additional protection. This would include a discussion of what constitutes 'adequate' or 'inadequate' representation within the overall 12% is required.

- ***Protection against damage to soils, residual forest and water resources during operations***

Written guidelines available and in use. Detailed requirements for harvesting, working near water bodies, stand damage, road construction and maintenance. Specific measures included in site planning documents. Westwind follows up compliance in post-harvest audits, and follow up with request for approval prior to subsequent harvesting if approach is not sufficient.

- ***Chemical pest management***

Chemicals are used to facilitate white and red pine regeneration in areas where white and red pine have been displaced by deciduous spp. General use is appropriate. Due to distribution and abundance of areas with off-site species and the desire to deal with a backlog of sites within the available window of opportunity, Westwind is planning a short-term increase in use of chemicals in order to deal with the backlog of off-site areas. Aerial herbicide spraying has increased over last 3 years from 300 to 1200 ha planned for treatment. In 2001, similar area of aerial and ground spraying proposed (approx. 1200 ha). However, efforts are being placed to develop alternative approaches to ground spraying that reduce dissipation of chemical through spot application. Westwind's approach is to deal with the current backlog and implement systems which a) prevent a subsequent build up of areas for treatment and b) ensures adoption of minimal chemical and non-chemical alternative treatments. While policy for reduction is

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available this does not identify targets for reduction or the strategies through which these targets will be attained. **Minor CAR 07 was raised.**

- ***Use and disposal of chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes***

Contractors are issued with handbooks that detail procedures for dealing with spills. Spill management has been part of Contractor briefings at the annual meeting with Company staff. Sites visited were free from discarded waste materials. Adequate disposal systems are in operation.

- ***Use of biological control agents and genetically modified organisms***

None used.

- ***The use of exotic species***

No plans to utilise exotic species.

- ***Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses***

No new conversion is currently occurring.

PRINCIPLE 7 Management plan

- ***Management plan requirements***

The existing FMP process deals adequately with planning for operations within the management area. The FMP provides discussion and direction on a variety of provincial items; goals and objectives, principles, guidelines, land use direction, land use strategies, and sustainability. The plan identifies a number of outstanding operational oriented issues and proposes solutions to deal with these issues. The FMP provides a review of the values, ownership, social economic structure, and the environment within the limitations of their resource information system. The FMP is not clear on a variety of long term planning issues, for example:

- The Provincial objectives and guidelines have to be translated into specific goals, objectives, and strategies for the FMU.
- Landscape strategy for the long-term makeup up of the FMU.
- Goals, objectives, and strategies for support of the long term health of the local economies within the FMU.
- Goals, objectives, and strategies for the role that the forest will play in the support long term protection goals for flora and fauna within the FMU considering all the other types of land designations within the FMU.
- Goals, objectives, and strategies for the role that the forest will play in the support long term protection goals for wildlife and fisheries values within the FMU considering all the other types of land designations within the FMU and the role they plan in supporting these resources.
- The development of a strategy for Old Growth for the identified forest units within the FMU.

Minor CAR 08 was raised.

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The accompanying FMP Manual describes in detail the process and methodology for the determination of annual harvest rates and long term harvest levels. Operational plans are controlled through the various guidelines. The FMP manual and The Forest Information Manual directs the collection of information required to complete the planning process. The FMP Manual describes the information that has to be collected to support decisions on environmental and ecological values. The 'values mapping system' for the FMP identifies RT&E species.

See also Minor CAR 04 regarding management planning and modelling.

- ***Management plan revision***

The FMP identifies the Planning Team, the Local Citizens Committee, the Plan Reviewers, and the individuals who approve the Plan. The Forest Information Manual lays out the information that is to be collected to support the FMP process. The Company has a strong co-operative program with the research and development groups. Staff are well informed on the project results both interim and final. The Company organizes and supports two annual workshops that deal with a variety of operational and research oriented issues. With provision for the FMP to be reviewed fully every 5 years there appears to be ample opportunity to alter the Plan to deal with issues or considerations. The timetable for reviewed is a regulation under the CFSA. Operations cannot start unless the Plan is completed and approved.

Minor CAR 04 was raised.

- ***Training and supervision of forest workers***

There are a variety of on going training programs that both the Company and contractor staff are involved with for example: tree marking levels I and II, careful logging, compliance workshops, company workshops on operational and environmental issues, erosion and sediment control course. Staff and contractors who are approved to do various compliance and operational activities are listed in the Annual Compliance Plan. Although there is no formal training plan for supervisory staff, these are well trained and prepared.

Prescriptions are submitted to MNR for information and sometimes for requested peer review, and these prescriptions are also randomly audited. Tree marking audits are conducted by the Company prior to release of areas for harvest. MNR provides periodic review of some tree marking projects. All areas receive post harvest inspections that focus on compliance issues. Inspections are entered into the FOCIS system that provides annual summaries of reports and issues. Each operator is met prior to commencing operations to go over the details of the approvals. Silvicultural operations are monitored and reported on as part of the FOCIS program.

- ***Public availability of the management plan elements***

The FMP process has an extensive system for public involvement and input. As part of this system all input is recorded, filed, and responded to either in writing or verbally. If stakeholders have additional complaints

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about elements of the Plan, there is an incremental process to deal with concerns that ends up with a “Bump Up” request to the Minister of the Environment for a review of the issue.

The Company has not provided a user friendly summary of the management planning documentation. **Minor CAR 09 was raised.**

PRINCIPLE 8 Monitoring and assessment

• ***Frequency, intensity and consistency of monitoring***

There is a wide range of data collected. Most are compliance oriented, based on specific operational items; utilization, rutting, residual damage, residual stand condition, planting success. There are surveys conducted on regeneration success – ‘Free to Grow’ surveys. Broad indicators of sustainability identified in FMP, however, these are not all identified, or discussed within the short monitoring portion of the FMP. Four levels of monitoring are described and implemented:

- internal contractor audits
- Westwind ensuring compliance (FOCIS)
- MNR audits
- provincial audits

These audits all focus on ensuring compliance with guidelines and that silvicultural prescriptions are suitable in scale and intensity. It was noted that different approaches to monitoring were taken by staff. For example within monitoring of tree-marking operations a number of Westwind staff use an alternative approach to a data capture sheet for monitoring and recording compliance. In some cases these personal records go on to detail the effectiveness of prescriptions etc. A unified approach for Westwind and operators would assist harmonisation of monitoring efforts. General monitoring is related to broad provincial goals, and do not specify criteria and indicators for the management unit. For individual values, indicators have not been specifically identified and benchmarks for interpretation have not been set. A number of monitoring plans are underway in the management area. However, a detailed monitoring plan that includes all indicators is not available. **Minor CAR 10 was raised.**

An effectiveness monitoring scheme for regeneration of white pine has been initiated. There is no effectiveness monitoring assessment for other values. Since many of the policies being followed are provincial, it may be more appropriate for MNR to undertake effectiveness monitoring. However, Westwind should at minimum include a precautionary approach in modelling.

• ***Research and data collection for monitoring***

Prescriptions and post harvest reports provide a good coverage of most required elements. A minor growth and yield program has been implemented as part of a number of trials. The adequacy of these data to input into future management is yet to be determined. MNR has initiated a number of growth and yield programs in the past, but long-term funding has not been maintained. A current program which includes stand structure attributes

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(coarse woody debris/ snag fall and decay rates etc) has recently been initiated, but will require a fairly substantial timeframe and sampling effort before data are available. Forest condition data are available as part of FRI, but accuracy of dataset is believed to be low.

Forest cover data are available for crown forest land from Forest Resource Inventory, based on air photo interpretation. These data are slowly being updated, but the problems of interpretation of partial cutting systems and periods when no updates were done result in low accuracy. Age class data are available on FRI, but accuracy and interpretation is questionable due to extensive historic high-grading and current use of partial cutting systems.

The compliance program provides detailed inspections of water quality issues. Watershed condition is not monitored (and is not a very a meaningful concept in this landscape and with these silvicultural systems).

Road condition is monitored informally as well as in specific audit procedures. Drainage structures are monitored informally well as in specific audit procedures. The FMP provides a review of a number of environmental issues including the assessment of the affects of harvesting on indicator species. Environmental impacts are monitored in the form of audits against required legislation.

- ***Chain of custody***

Details of locations and estimates of volumes included in overlapping agreements. All timber traceable through transportation documentation. The Scaling system provides a tracking system for forest products. Partners responsible for hauling timber. The internal Chain of Custody for Westwind to stump only.

- ***Incorporation of monitoring results into the management plan***

The FOCIS reporting system provides a variety of reports that are used for FMP planning and for annual planning. Areas of Concern are being monitored and GIS mapped to increase accuracy of input into FMP. The Company has developed a strong connection with research groups and staff appear to be knowledgeable on past and on going research projects. Audit reports (FOCIS) are summarised annually. The FMP is re-written every 5 years. New data are incorporated into management planning at this time.

- ***Publicly available summary of monitoring***

The FMP provides a listing and reference to a variety of data that is used to develop the Plan. FOCIS reports compiled annually.

PRINCIPLE 9 High Conservation Value Forests

A conservation assessment and all other requirements to meet P9 have not been carried out. Much of the forest management in this tenure uses a precautionary approach. In addition, a large number of new reserves as part of OLL strategy have been recently identified. Stand level management approaches also maintain many attributes throughout stands. However, a multi-scale, independent assessment of the presence and appropriate management for High Conservation Value Forests on the tenure has not

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been undertaken by Westwind. This will also require an assessment of potential gaps in these existing strategies and identify appropriate action plans to fill any gaps. **Major CAR 11 was raised at Principle level.**

PRINCIPLE 10 Plantation

Not applicable.

7.2. Issues raised by Stakeholders

The following points have contributed to observations and resulting actions taken by the company should be followed up at the next surveillance visit:

Issue Raised	Response
Too many roads left open after completion of harvesting. Re-use of existing roads and gravel source locations should be re-evaluated.	<p>The use and maintenance of rural roads and potential conflict between logging contractors, cottage owners, hikers, snowmobilers, etc is an on-going issue. When conflicts arise there is evidence that Westwind, the forest company involved and contractors meet to discuss resolution of the problem. Often it is an issue of communication. In the majority of instances the issue is resolved. Where the issue is not resolved the stakeholder has recourse to local the Ministry of Natural Resources and in Toronto, to their politician and to the courts. There are presently no major outstanding issues relating to roads that are not being effectively dealt with.</p> <p>Annual Work Schedules identify the need to maintain forest roads in their present condition. The assessment team found no examples of inappropriate use of existing roads, however this issue will be followed up in subsequent surveillance visits.</p>
Not enough space given to hawks	<p>Where the location of nest sites were known these were marked on maps and exclusion zones implemented in line with guidance. This is obviously an on-going process and subsequent surveillance visits will monitor updating of known sites.</p>

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AOCs and protection of unknown values – Westwind errs on the side of caution too much.	There was no evidence to suggest that Westwind has been over zealous in terms of identifying protected areas. The assessment team noted good use of the precautionary principle.
Safety audits not being completed.	The audit schedule for French/Severn Forest was inspected by the assessment team and found to be up to date. However, this issue will be followed up at subsequent surveillance visits.
Cold water streams may be too small to be on Ontario Base Maps but may still be important fisheries. Nursery creeks for trout should be protected.	The Ontario Base Maps are at such a scale that the smallest streams will not be recorded on these. Pre-operational checks and the preparation of operational site plans does however record the existence of these small streams. Similarly pre-operational planning identifies and protects creeks through implementation of buffer zones. An observation was raised on pre-operational inspections.
It may be desirable to reduce harvesting intensity within headwater lake basins to ensure that no disturbance of water source or temperature occurs.	No evidence was found to suggest that adverse impacts from harvesting were occurring in headwater lake basins.

7.3. Issues raised by Peer Reviewers

This report was reviewed by three independent peer reviewers. The following points were raised.

Issue Raised	Response
Westwind is a unique organisation in Ontario, in terms of its endeavours to develop relationships with First Nations, and deserves a great deal of credit for developing the Strategic Plan in response to Major CARS 1 and 2.	No response.
The level of Aboriginal representation in the development	All of the First Nations communities within the French/Severn forest area

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<p>of the First Nations Strategic Plan is unclear; First Nations involvement in the process must be a requirement.</p> <p>The document needs to be subject to community ratification. The Strategic Plan has a lack of First Nations perspective.</p>	<p>were approached to actively participate in the drafting of a Strategic Plan to address the issues raised by CARs 1 and 2. The response to working on the document was very positive, as representatives from Waabnoong Bemjiwang (representing 4 communities), Shawanaga First Nation and MNR's Native Liaison Officer stepped forward to participate in the process from the beginning.</p> <p>Minor CAR 12, raised to replace Major CARs 1 and 2, includes specific requirements relating to the need to continue striving to involve <i>all</i> First Nations communities in the area, for the Plan to be further developed in full consultation with duly appointed representatives from each of those First Nations, and for community support.</p>
<p>The disclosure of traditional knowledge, as inferred by the Strategic Plan, is a major and often divisive issue in Aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>The first surveillance visit will check that inappropriate sharing of traditional knowledge is not being requested.</p>
<p>Commitments in the Strategic Plan are limited and/or vague. Lack of capacity and access to harvest opportunities are specific concerns.</p>	<p>Further consultation with First Nations was undertaken after the main assessment fieldwork, to assess views on the Strategic Plan content and process. The initiative has been received very positively by First Nations, although there was a common view that it should be strengthened with more specific, timetabled commitments. As a result of this feedback, Westwind have further developed their process, updated the Strategic Plan in December 2001 and held another review meeting with First Nations representatives.</p> <p>Minor CAR 12 requires that the Plan process continues to develop, specifically by defining comprehensive and detailed goals and objectives which reflect the</p>

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	needs and aspirations of Native and non-Native participants.
The report is often vague about how much effort (time) was devoted to each task. How many staff and sites were actually involved?	Additional details on site visits and meetings have been added to the report.
The assessors recommended that CARs 1 and 2 not to be closed out until all affected First Nations have fully endorsed the current Strategic Plan process. This raises the possibility that Westwind could be denied certification indefinitely, not through their, or anyone else's bad faith, but through the disinterest of even one First Nation or the inability of the aboriginal groups involved to identify their areas of traditional interest. The recommendation should be modified to embody a more balanced approach such as reflecting the majority opinion of all the First Nations after the passage of a reasonable amount of time for all their opinions to be solicited.	<p>The certification standard requires that there is evidence that FNs are directly involved in forest management and/or and have been meaningfully consulted and consent to forest management activities occurring within their lands, traditional territories and/or areas of interest pending the resolution of ownership issues. The standard also provides means of verification such as documented consent, agreements, interim measures, joint initiatives, active participation and the absence of clear on-going objections, disputes, litigation etc. between FNs and the forest manager.</p> <p>The Major CARs require Westwind to develop and implement a strategy which will allow meaningful consultation and ensure FNs are included in forest management, and a similar strategy is required to identify training and employment opportunities, and provide support and initiatives for building FN capacity. These strategies must be inclusive, appropriate and timely, however it is accepted that Westwind cannot coerce individuals or groups to engage who do not wish to do so.</p>
Some of the Observations listed do not call for any specific remedial actions but others suggest that action by Westwind (or OMNR) should be taken. It would be more appropriate that they be listed as Minor CARs at least so that	Observations are issues which at the time of the assessment did not constitute a non-compliance with the standard but, could lead to a non-compliance (and therefore a CAR) in the future. Where there is no non-compliance a CAR cannot be raised,

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<p>continued certification will be dependent on their being addressed upon an agreed timeframe. In particular Observation 11 should be raised to Minor CAR status. A strategy for the conservation of all remnant stands of the (provincially rare) Red Spruce should be addressed specifically in the assessment – thereby making it a definite requirement for Westwind's certification.</p>	<p>however an Observation is used to ensure these issues are followed up in subsequent surveillance visits.</p> <p>CAR 5 deals with the need for Westwind to improve landscape level planning for red and white pine.</p>
<p>There are far too many acronyms used within the report, not all of which have been explained. A glossary would be a useful addition.</p>	<p>The text has been revised to ensure that all acronyms have been explained on first use and a glossary has been appended.</p>
<p>Checklist 1.1.5 wording "<u>the FMP which is a regulated Plan</u>" is not accurate; it is the Forest Management Planning Manual which is regulated. The FMP is approved by a Regional Director, but is not regulated.</p>	<p>The report text has been amended.</p>
<p>Main Report Principle 3 (page 10) and Principle 4 (page 15), Main Report and Checklist 3.1.5 (page 14) and 3.1.6 (page 15) should probably refer to the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Land in Ontario, Term and Condition #77 which requires that the MNR District Manager: "shall conduct negotiations at the local level with Aboriginal peoples...to identify and implement ways of achieving...participation...in the benefits provided through Timber Management Planning...". (this is a legal requirement on OMNR).</p>	<p>The report text has been amended.</p>
<p>The report talks about the adequacy of Trust Funds to meet the silvicultural demands of the forest. A long standing issue with this forest has been the need for</p>	<p>From the information gathered in the audit the Trust Account appeared to be more than adequate to meet the silvicultural demands that were planned for in the Forest</p>

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<p>funds to convert the “quality degraded” hardwood stands (resulting from the “highgrading” period of forest management) to stands which eventually would contain higher quality stands thus being able to deliver added economic benefits to the community using the forest. Since it is often not economically feasible to start the improvements through commercial harvesting activities due to the low economic return to the harvester, financial assistance has been given in the past to allow the initial “corrective” harvest to take place. Further information is required on this point and in doing so, indicate whether the current Trust Funds are available and adequate for this purpose.</p>	<p>Management Plan.</p> <p>A large portion of the harvested area within the Westwinds land area regenerates naturally under the selection and shelterwood systems. The pressure on the Trust Accounts in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest to fund regeneration programs is far less than other forested areas and as such it would appear that there should be funding available in the Trust Account to deal support for non commercial harvesting. This type of support has taken place in the past and it would appear that it should be able to continue in the future.</p> <p>This could change if there was a shift in markets that reduced sale for the forest products that are now being produced. Markets for low end material are relatively stable and there are indications that the demand may actually be growing.</p> <p>Market demands within the Forest, may have to be monitored on a constant bases to ensure that this key aspect of long term management is funded adequately.</p>
<p>The report indicates that a large portion of the potential harvest area is being bypassed. A more thorough discussion of the implications of the bypass issue is probably warranted here for the benefit of the reader. A chronic situation where lower value stands are bypassed due to poor market conditions for the product, can, over time, lead to a much lower commercial value (decreasing amounts of high quality wood products) of the forest as a whole.</p>	<p>This was actually part of the whole landscape planning management issue (CAR #8 minor). The solution is a combination of things; the support of non commercial operations (Trust Fund); the development of better markets for low end wood and wider species acceptance for low end wood; better planning through early on the ground inventory so that non commercial stands are not part of the productive forest and are not allocated; and a better understanding of forest structure along with the development of workable long term strategies to</p>

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	deal with this structure.
The report indicates that Westwind should ensure through stand level monitoring the effectiveness of biodiversity policies even though responsibility lies with MNR to ensure the effectiveness of these strategies. It is not clear that this is possible for Westwind until MNR indicates the process and standards for doing this.	CAR 08 refers. The delay in the setting of processes and standards by 3 rd parties should not prohibit Westwind from monitoring achievement of its own goals and targets. The FSC P&C require that adequate monitoring is carried out. Whether this is done by Westwind or MNR is not at issue, however in terms of a FSC certificate it is the certificate holder's responsibility to ensure that adequate monitoring is taking place and the findings are incorporated into future management planning.
It is felt that the goal of total elimination of herbicide use may be unrealistic for this forest region.	Section 6.6.2 in the checklist was adopted from the March 2001 Draft of the "Standards for Well Managed Forests in the Central and Southern Great Lakes-St Lawrence Forests of Ontario". The FSC P&C do not include the total elimination of herbicide use. The P&C require that certificate holders implement a strategy which minimises chemical use. It is acknowledged that total elimination may be unachievable in a number of forest management situations.
The only additional thing that comes to mind is the issue of adequacy of MNR pre-cut inspection on the marking prescriptions of the tree markers. It has been a historical issue and it is not clear whether it remains one.	During the audit marked stands were visited by the assessment team and marking was found to have been carried out to a high standard. Further, Westwind has an internal audit process which controls marking quality. This system was found to be operating effectively. In terms of certification it is Westwind's responsibility to ensure that forest management operations meet the requirements of the standard – in the case of pre-cut marking this was found to be the case. The fact that external bodies' controls may not be adequately performed should not

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	effect the conclusions of the assessment team if (as was found) Westwind were controlling the operations to an acceptable standard.
The First Nations Strategic Plan process must be closely monitored to ensure implementation. In Ontario, it is most often the implementation phase where such initiatives fail.	The longevity of the planning process and need for implementation and achievement of set targets has been incorporated. Continuing implementation of agreed corrective actions will be subject to scrutiny during surveillance visits timetabled at 6 months following the award of the certificate and annually thereafter. Failure to ensure continued implementation can result in a certificate being suspended or withdrawn.

8. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

8.1. Strengths

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. has many strengths which were apparent during the assessment, and which are only outlined here. At the highest level, objectives are set which aim to provide a wide range of products and services. An awareness of the need to deliver multiple benefits from forest management was apparent in discussions with all Westwind staff. The company shows a clear commitment to sustainable forest management.

In particular:

- Westwind is a community-based organisation, with good links to partners and stakeholders, and a pro-active approach to dealing with issues
- Westwind demonstrates a high quality of technical expertise, including a commendable approach to silvicultural work and stand-level treatments
- Westwind has a good track record of aiming for and delivering environmental benefits, and is working hard to correct historical deficiencies in forest management

8.2. Weaknesses

Three Major Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and eight Minor Corrective Action Requests, as described below, were raised. In the following table the requirement number refers to the indicator used in the QUALIFOR

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Programme to test each criterion from the FSC P&C, and the description derives from those indicators.

CAR No	QUALIFOR requirement (FSC P&C)	Description
1.	3.1.2/5/6; 3.2; 3.3.1/2/3/4; 3.4	<p>MAJOR While there is some evidence of consultation with First Nations there is limited involvement in all stages of forest management planning including the prescription process. There is no strategic plan as to how First Nations will be included in forest management. There is no documented consent from First Nations for forest management operations within their traditional lands. First Nations lack capacity and information to participate effectively in the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No strategic plan for dealing with First Nations involvement ▪ First Nations do not see current consultation as meaningful or adequate ▪ No documented agreements for forest management
2.	4.1	<p>MAJOR While substantial opportunities for non-aboriginal people for employment, training and other services are available there is no strategic plan to identify training and employment opportunities with First Nations, and provide support and initiatives to build First Nations' capacity to develop employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High rates of unemployment within First Nations communities ▪ No strategic plan to deal with First Nations' unemployment levels
3.	4.4.1/2	<p>MINOR While impact appraisal has been carried out at a provincial level through the Class Environmental Assessment, potential social and economic impacts at the FMU level are not well defined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited review using Stats Canada provides rudimentary review of economic and social impacts
4.	5.6.1; 5.6.3; 7.1.3; 7.1.4; 7.1.6; 7.2.2	<p>MINOR The modelling used to determine long-term harvest levels uses a comprehensive approach (i.e. models both timber and biodiversity values). However implications of accuracy of input data and robustness of the modelling assumptions have not been tested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problems associated with poor FRI data, growth and yield data and implications of extensive partial harvesting through the FMU. ▪ Lack of testing of assumptions for all values. This should include a) identification of key assumptions and b) assessment of the accuracy of key assumptions to ensure timber supply modelling is precautionary. ▪ Biodiversity analyses: benchmarks used are based on the current forest condition, which changes every 5 years. This approach does not assess whether "current" forest condition maintains viable populations.
5.	6.2	<p>MINOR There is no landscape level plan specific to the forest management unit, which identifies targets for seral stage by forest type. While the current FMP addresses old growth</p>

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CAR No	QUALIFOR requirement (FSC P&C)	Description
		<p>management, particularly white and red pine, it does not deal comprehensively with landscape level targets for all forest ecosystem types.</p> <p>The Provincial Conservation strategy for white and red pine states that targets based on historic conditions should be set for these particular species. Specific targets are not included in the current FMP.</p> <p>In addition, targets for old growth hardwood stands have not been identified or rationalised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FMP identified broad objectives to maintain white and red pine, however specific targets based on historic conditions are not set. ▪ No old growth targets for other species or other ecosystems are identified in the FMP ▪ No assessment of the adequacy of other crown land to meet landscape level objectives
6.	6.3.7	<p>MINOR While roads maintained by Westwind (and its Operators) are in good condition, roads within the FMU where responsibility for the upkeep is not well defined are not always adequately maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paxton-Joli Township road damaged by erosion through lack of drain maintenance ▪ Responsibilities for upkeep of multiple-access roads not well defined
7.	6.6.1	<p>MINOR While a policy exists committing Westwind to minimising use of synthetic chemicals this does not include specific reduction targets nor has the company identified the strategies through which any reduction in chemical use will be achieved.</p>
8.	7.1.2	<p>MINOR While the FMP provides discussion and direction on a variety of provincial goals and objectives and details a number of operational issues it does not provide a comprehensive description of specific management objectives and strategies for the FMU.</p>
9.	7.4.1	<p>MINOR While details of the existing FMP are available in a summary document, this is too complex and is not in a format which can be easily accessed and understood by the public.</p>
10.	8.1.1	<p>MINOR While there is a considerable amount of monitoring work undertaken, monitoring is related to the broad provincial goals or operations described in the FMP. Monitoring programmes that relate back to landscape level planning objectives for the FMU have not been fully identified and documented.</p>
11.	9	<p>MAJOR Westwind has not completed an assessment to determine the presence and attributes of HCVF, which includes an appropriate consultative process. Further, management planning documentation does not include specific measures to ensure maintenance or enhancement of HCVF values. There is no annual monitoring plan available to assess the effectiveness of management of HCVF.</p>

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The following observations were also raised; these do not represent current non-compliance with certification requirements.

1. The SFL should be upgraded to deal with specific reference to FSC P&C.
2. There are Westwind policy statements on; Notification, Sale of Share, Revision of OLA, MNR Notification, and Cancellation of an OLA. It would appear that these should be reflected in the OLA. Overlapping License should be upgraded: Item #20. e.g. Aggregate Resources Act, Beds of Navigable Waters Act, Dangerous Goods Transportation Act, Gasoline Handling Act., Game and Fish Act, Lakes and River Improvement Act. To include a provision for cancellation due to not meeting harvest requirements over a FMP operating period. Clear direction on compliance monitoring responsibilities and/or reference to the directions contained in the SFL Compliance Plan. Clear direction on understanding and acceptance of the FSC P&C.
3. All boundaries between the FMU boundaries and private land should be required to have a signed release form from the landowner. Process would ensure that there is opportunity for the landowner to have input into boundary decisions.
4. Long term management will require that Westwind has sufficient ecological expertise to deal with specific on the ground issues, long term planning, mapping, and protection of ecological values.
5. Review should be undertaken to assess the budget requirements to upgrade staffing to deal with ecological and landscape planning.
6. Future FMPs should identify a fixed benchmark for biodiversity values and relate it to future desired landscape condition.
7. A strategy for dealing with landbase reductions is needed in preparation for next timber supply analysis.
8. Due to the complexity of the forest, the FRI information should only be considered for general planning purposes. All stands eligible for harvesting should be walked by experienced staff and the FRI information updated prior to the determination of harvest levels. Information collected should include at a minimum; AOC recommendations, stand composition, access, soils, and FEC site characteristics. Growth and yield information is out of date and should be updated as soon as possible.
9. Sensitivity analyses runs should be incorporated as standard procedure into modelling of SFMM model to test assumptions. The use of a modelling system that is based on the boreal forest carries with it a number of inherent problems. The model used meets the intent of the standard but does not address the affects of modified harvesting over time. This is an issue that should be addressed in subsequent plans. Because the FMP uses conservative inputs the model appears to be workable and supports sustainability. However, the model does not deal adequately with; partial harvest, limited regeneration success in some partial harvest systems,

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backlog areas that remain part of the productive forest, and the bypass of large portions of the allocation due to market and access constraints.

10. An SOP may be necessary to ensure that values are not missed during pre-harvest inspections. May be particularly relevant to areas where high fisheries values are present.
11. Some potentially present rare species are not identified in the FMP (e.g. five-lined skink and eastern hognose snake both provincially listed as vulnerable). Lists of potentially occurring VTE species and potential conflicts with forest management would be useful. Consideration of all rare tree species should be included in future strategies where appropriate (e.g. in HCVF)
12. Consider whether there are small areas or landform types that are naturally or otherwise rare. Follow up with regional ecologist.
13. The lack of goals and strategies for snag and coarse woody debris retention provides a difficulty in assessment of adequacy of observed management. Setting minimum objectives for retention would prevent loss of all coarse woody debris during high pulp market years
14. Effectiveness of stand level and other biodiversity policies has not been assessed. Responsibility may lie with MNR to ensure effectiveness of these strategies, but until this time, Westwind should ensure through stand level monitoring that policies are being implemented as 'minimum' values. Particularly important since the GLSL standards are not endorsed.
15. Strategy for protecting values associated with roadless areas appears weak overall.
16. Assessment of need for removable bridges should be made by Westwind and implementation assured.
17. No assessment of representation gained. Implications of level of representation should be included in HCVF assessment.
18. There are no official recycling requirements for contractors as part of their contract requirements. The Over Lapping Agreements should be upgraded to include requirements for recycling.
19. The Company's Data Collection Strategy for the collection of forest information has been completed and lays out an ambitious program. The completion of this program will be critical to the improvement of inventory data for the next plan. The dependence of support from MNR staff for growth and yield data is a concern both from a timing and project priority view point. Consideration should be given to ensuring that this project is secured and the timing is co-ordinated with the FMP process.
20. The Over Lapping License Agreement does not deal with training responsibilities for Contractors. The Over Lapping License Agreements should require specific training courses for

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continued eligibility for contracts; Fire 100. Careful Logging, Ministry of Labour certificates, Erosion and Sediment Control.

21. There is a need for a standard “check list” that is used in the field, to assist inspectors who are carrying out compliance inspections. There should be a record of non compliance reports being signed by both the Inspector and the Operator in the field. There appears to be inconsistency between inspectors within the Company, on post harvest assessments of silvicultural treatments. There should be a consistent approach to what data is to be collected and how should it be recorded and filed.
22. There are limited monitoring activities for social and economic programs. There is a need to establish base line information on both of these issues.
23. There is a need to collect and review data on the overall structure of the forest within the entire FMU. This would require a joint project with MNR to determine the role that all forest units within the FMU land base could play in meeting FMU targets re forest structure and long term forest diversity goals.
24. There is a need to detail water quality issues as part of the FMP process. While cold and warm water issues are provided with AOC guidelines there is little assessment of long term issues around water quality; the identification of High Value streams and water systems, water recharge areas and the protection requirements for these areas, an assessment of pond management issues (beaver flooding) and strategies to deal with these issues.

9. CLOSE-OUT DETAILS FOR MAJOR CARs

In response to the Major CARs, a programme of corrective action has been planned and initiated, as outlined below. Full details are included in appendix IV.

CAR No	Close-out details
1 & 2	<p>Westwind, MNR and the First Nation Communities have been approached to actively participate in the preparation and implementation of a strategic Plan to address these issues. The response to working on the document was very positive as representatives from Waabnoong Bemjiwang (representing 4 communities), Shawanaga First Nation and MNR’s Native Liaison Officer stepped forward to participate in the process.</p> <p>The advisory group met in <u>August</u> and the initial draft was reviewed with comments and suggestions incorporated into the document by the General Manager. The draft was then circulated to the advisory group for further comments from the communities and will be presented at the next advisory group meeting.</p> <p>A second meeting was held on <u>Oct 30th</u> to review the draft Strategic</p>

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CAR No	Close-out details
11.	<p>Plan and to provide further comments and suggestions. The Advisory Group will provide input and progress on the Action items and submit to the General Manager by Nov 16, 2001.</p> <p>The General Manager arranged for a bi-annual meeting on <u>Nov 30th</u> with all First Nations being invited to participate, to consult with the First Nation Chiefs and forestry representatives on the draft Strategic Plan as well as FMP and AWS presentations from forestry staff.</p> <p>The advisory group has suggested that the strategic plan will be further discussed with each community by <u>March of 2002</u> .</p> <p>Further consultation with First Nations was undertaken after the main assessment fieldwork and Major CARs 1 and 2 were raised, to assess views on the Strategic Plan content and process. The initiative has been received very positively by First Nations, although there was a common view that it should be strengthened with more specific, timetabled commitments. As a result of this feedback, Westwind have further developed their process, updated the Strategic Plan in December 2001 and held another review meeting with First Nations representatives.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Major CARs are now closed out as a result of the corrective action and replaced with Minor CARs to ensure continued compliance and implementation of the agreed corrective action plans. Minor CAR 12 was raised to replace Major CARs 1 and 2. Minor CAR 12 requires that the Plan process continues to develop, specifically by defining comprehensive and detailed goals and objectives which reflect the needs and aspirations of Native and non-Native participants.</p> <p>9.1 Assessment</p> <p>9.1.1. Attributes have been defined and are described according to international FSC definition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on Westwind forester's initial plan for the white pine forest conservation attributes or identify other initiative. • Consult with WWF and other environmentalist groups to determine that the definition fits the criteria. • Report by Nov 7, 2001. <p>9.1.2. Conservation assessment to ascertain the presence or absence of HCVF attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a map to ascertain the presence of the HCVF attributes. • Report by Nov 15, 2001 <p>9.2 Consultation</p> <p>9.2.1 list of conservation attributes are identified and management</p>

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CAR No	Close-out details
	<p>options prepared and publicly available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the existing Forest Management Plan (FMP) for management of pine forest, which has the management options prepared and is available publicly. • Consult with partners to ensure that the FMP satisfies the criteria. • Report by Nov 15, 2001. <p>9.2.2 forest manager has consulted with appropriate experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First show the consultation for the FMP on the management of the pine and • Secondly prepare and instigate a consultation with WWF and others. • Report by Nov 22, 2001 <p>9.3 Management Planning</p> <p>9.3.1 each attribute of HCVF is identified and described in mgmt plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First existing FMP addresses existing pine stands. • Secondly include the HCVF in next FMP 2004-2009 plan stage. • Repeat for 9.3.2 and 9.3.3. <p>9.4 Annual Monitoring</p> <p>9.4.1 Indicators are defined to monitor effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare map showing white pine stands now and five years (2004) to compare the existence and range attribute on the landbase. • Identify monitoring parameters, frequency and record keeping for next FMP (2004-2009) • Report by Mar 2004.

It is recommended that the Major CARs are now closed out as a result of the corrective action and replaced with Minor CARs to ensure continued compliance and implementation of the agreed corrective action plans. Minor CAR 12 was raised to replace Major CARs 1 and 2; Minor CAR 13 was raised to replace Major CAR 11.

10. CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

There being no outstanding Major Corrective Action Requests, the assessment team recommends certification of Westwind Forest Stewardship's forest management of French/Severn Forest, Ontario, Canada.

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The outstanding Minor Corrective Action Requests do not preclude certification, but Westwind is required to take the agreed actions before June 2002. These will be verified by SGS QUALIFOR at the first surveillance to be carried out about 6 months from the date of the issuance of the certificate. If satisfactory actions have been take the CARs will be 'closed out' or will remain open for subsequent checking; otherwise Minor CARs will be raised to Major CARs.