



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

Forest Management Public Summary for:

Pictou Landing First Nation

Certificate Number: SW-FM/COC-103

Date of Certification: March 1, 2000

Date of Public Summary: March 2000, updated for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

**This document was produced according to the guidelines of the
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the SmartWood Program.
No part of the report should be published separately.**

Certifier:

SmartWood Program¹
c/o Rainforest Alliance
65 Bleecker Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10012 U.S.A.
TEL: (212) 677-1900 FAX: (212) 677-2187
Email: smartwood@ra.org
Website: www.smartwood.org

¹ SmartWood is implemented worldwide by the nonprofit members of the SmartWood Network. The Network is coordinated by the Rainforest Alliance, an international nonprofit conservation organization. The Rainforest Alliance is the legally registered owner of the SmartWood certification mark and label. All uses of the SmartWood label for promotion must be authorized by SmartWood Network headquarters. SmartWood certification applies to forest management practices only and does not represent endorsement of other product qualities (e.g., financial performance to investors, product function, etc.). SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for the certification of natural forest management, tree plantations and chain of custody.

To earn SmartWood certification, a forest management operation must undergo an on-site field assessment. This Public Summary Report summarizes information contained in the initial assessment report, which is produced based on information collected during the field assessment. Annual audits are conducted to monitor the forest management operation's activities, to review the operation's progress toward meeting their certification conditions, and to verify compliance with the SmartWood standards. Addenda providing the updated information obtained during these annual audits are included as attachments to the Public Summary Report.

1. GENERAL SUMMARY

1.1. Name and Contact Information

Source Name: Pictou Landing First Nation

Contact Person: Bill McKay

Address: First Nations Forestry Association in Nova Scotia, PO Box 1590, Truro, NS,
B2N 5V3

Tel: (902) 895-6385

Fax: (902) 893-1520

E-mail: forestry@north.nsis.com

1.2. General Background

A. Type of operation: Tribal land

B. Years in operation: The lands belonging to the Pictou Landing First Nation Band have been gradually acquired since 1874. Small portions of several parcels were selectively cut for softwoods in the early 1970s. Under the auspices of federal forestry programs, road-building and silvicultural treatments began in the late 1980s.

C. Date first certified: March 1, 2000

D. Latitude and longitude of certified operation: 45°40'N, 62° 40'W

1.3. Forest and Management System

A. Forest type and land use history

The Pictou Landing Forest has been classified by Loucks (1962) as part of the Northumberland Shore District of the Maritime Lowland Ecoregion. This is part of the red spruce, hemlock, and pine zone. Heavy soils and poor drainage preclude prominence of the tolerant hardwoods. Much of the land owned by the Pictou Landing Band was homesteads and farmland, most of which were abandoned in the 1930s and 1940s. Today, these young forests are comprised of second and third growth red and white pine; red, white and black spruce; balsam fir; tamarack; yellow, white and grey birch; poplar; red maple; and red oak.

In 1965, Boat Harbour, located adjacent to the Reserve, was converted to a pulp mill effluent treatment facility for the nearby Scott Pulp and Paper mill. This resulted in a significant decline in the local environment, and the fumes created a major impediment to working in the woods. In 1993, Pictou Landing First Nation successfully sued the provincial and federal governments, as well as Scott Paper, for the use of Boat Harbour as a treatment lagoon. As a result of their court actions, the band was awarded millions

of dollars in damages, and promised control of an additional 160 hectares around Boat Harbour. Scott Paper has also had to change their effluent treatment processes to reduce gaseous emissions and to reduce the quantity of toxic chemicals flowing into the lagoon.

The lands granted to the Pictou Landing First Nation have been used for forestry, as well as for traditional activities like recreation, hunting, gathering and spiritual needs. Until fairly recently, the Band and Mr. McKay were adhering to the '94-'95 Manual of Procedures and Standards produced by the Province of Nova Scotia under the Cooperation Agreement for Forestry Development. Their practices included second stage shelterwood harvesting (over 5-8 years), merchantable thinning, remnant removal, planting of red pine, and pre-commercial thinning. Harvesting was carried out using a Porter with low impact tires. More recently, the objectives of forest management have shifted to forest restoration, and silvicultural techniques that favor long-lived, valuable species. Most of their work now entails (single stage) shelterwood harvesting, thinning, and planting of native long-lived species.

B. Size of management unit and area in production forest, conservation, and/or restoration

Management Type	Area in Hectares
Non-productive+non-forest+riparian area	54.5
Special Management Zone	45.0
Timber harvesting	285.0
Total	384.5

C. Regional landscape context

Pictou Landing First Nation Reserve is located on the shores of the Northumberland Strait, in close proximity to the industrial towns of Trenton, New Glasgow, and Stellarton, and downwind from the Kimberley Clark pulpmill (current owners of the former Scott pulpmill and forestlands). The Band's property is a contiguous ownership extending along the north and east sides of Boat Harbour, with the Kimberley Clark effluent lagoon to the southwest. Their neighbours to the southeast are Kimberley Clark, and to the west, a number of small private landowners. The region as a whole has been severely fragmented by land clearing that peaked in the late 1800's, and subsequent clearcutting, so that very little forest cover is greater than 100 years old. Forest regeneration on the approximately 250,000 acres that were cleared in Pictou County at the turn of the century has resulted in even-aged stands of white spruce. There has also been a history of fire along this section of the Northumberland shore that has resulted in large stands of intolerant hardwoods and softwoods. The area immediately surrounding the First Nations lands has not been cut recently. The Band Council is currently in negotiations with several adjacent landowners to purchase their properties.

D. Annual allowable cut and/or annual harvest covered by management plan

	Softwood (m ³)	Hardwood (m ³)	Total (m ³)
Total Available Growth	467	228	695
Reductions for:			

Insects 10%	47	23	70
Disease 10%	47	23	70
Blowdown 15%	70	0	70
Buffer 10%	46	23	69
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	257	159	416 m ³

The annual allowable cut for the period 1998-2002 is 416 m³/year

E. General description of details and objectives of the management plan/system

Until fairly recently, the forests of the Pictou Landing First Nation were managed according to the goals and principles of federal and provincial forestry agreements. Over the past five years, the forester (Bill McKay) and forest technician (Alton Hudson) in charge of forest operations at Pictou Landing have rejected the advice of these agencies in favour of lower impact, less intensive forest practices that favour the more valuable, long-lived species in the forest. In 1996, the forest manager became involved with the standards-setting initiative of the Maritime Forest Stewardship Council working group.

With their successful lawsuits against the provincial and federal governments and Scott Paper, the Pictou Landing First Nations Band received a settlement for damages incurred, and negotiated for the removal of the effluent pond from Boat Harbour. In many ways, this victory was a turning point, and the Band has been heading down a new and better path ever since. This change is reflected in the community’s goals and expectations for their forestlands. Today, their woodlands are seen primarily as a social resource, from which they expect high quality recreational opportunities, such as hunting and gathering, and viewing of wildlife. Other objectives for the forest are to create and maintain high-order ecological functions, characterized by clean water, and high plant and animal diversity, as well as to create a medium for understanding and learning about the forest environment. The forest is also being seen as a provider of economic benefits for the Band, including employment and training opportunities, income from stumpage, and a source of raw materials for Native crafts.

Wade Prest, a local forester and woodlot owner, walked the property extensively and developed a management plan. The plan, completed in January 1999, employs extremely conservative methods for calculating an Annual Allowable Cut based on large reductions for insects, disease, blowdown, and special management zones (e.g. areas where maintaining high water quality is first and foremost amongst management objectives). The plan is premised on long-term forest management objectives to restore the “Acadian” forest. Each stand is described in detail, and a treatment and timeline recommended. Harvesting plans for each stand are projected well into the 2010s. The plan will be revised every five years, incorporating findings of forest inventories, permanent sample plots, monitoring of regeneration and stand development, and stand response to harvesting techniques.

Prior to harvesting, a detailed stand assessment is carried out by Alton Hudson and/or Bill McKay. This assessment involves a detailed inventory of the stand to be treated, providing information on volume and basal area, species abundance, and rare or threatened species. The stand is then flagged or painted according to ‘Crop Tree Management Guidelines’ developed for the Pictou Landing Forest (see below, under “*Silviculture*”, or Appendix -).

Over the years, a good rapport has been established with a select group of reliable local contractors and individuals, including road-builders, harvesting crews, foresters and others. Harvesting crews have been trained by Bill McKay and Alton Hudson, as well as by an independent silviculture contractor, Tom Miller. Many of the harvesting crew members are from the Pictou Landing Band, and are either hired directly by the Band Council, or indirectly through a local independent contractor.

The following is an outline of the goals and management guidelines for the Pictou Landing Forest:

Silviculture

- the primary objective is to restore the Acadian forest using a modified selection harvesting system
- frequent, low-intensity harvests are carried out where appropriate
- the focus is on crop-tree release and crop-tree improvement, employing single tree selection, group selection, and shelterwood harvesting techniques
- preference is given to late successional species, including red spruce, red and white pine, hemlock, yellow birch, red oak, sugar maple, and ash
- the maximum height of individual stands is maintained by retaining the tallest trees in stands being treated
- vertical structure is maintained by retaining healthy individuals of as many species, age, diameter and height classes as possible
- dead standing trees are retained unless they pose a safety hazard to the harvest crews
- where possible, fallen dead wood is retained for ecological purposes
- live non-profitable trees are left standing unless they are in direct competition with more favorable individuals
- slow growing trees are removed, provided their removal does not compromise the residual stand, nor involve unnecessary expense
- to encourage a more mixed forest, very few hardwoods are removed from softwood stands, and few softwoods from hardwood stands

Harvesting

- extraction of wood is done by porters and tractors. Tractors and horse-loggers are preferred, however, the Band has yet to succeed in attracting a horselogger to work in the Forest because horse loggers are in such great demand throughout the Maritime provinces
- the cut-to-length system is used, which involves felling, delimiting, and bucking at the stump
- 16% of the Pictou Landing Forest is allocated as Special Management Zones, areas where only limited harvesting levels are permitted
- an additional 3-7% will be left as permanent reserves, where no [further] harvesting will be allowed

Roads

- a permanent road network for the existing property has been established. Road construction was completed in 1998. The plan states that no further access roads are to be constructed.
- Road construction and maintenance procedures are carried out in accordance with the environmental standards outlined in *Woodlot Roads, Stream Crossings* (Braithwaite

1992), and in the First Nations Forestry Association's *Road Construction Manual* (McKay and Hudson 1998)

- in some places, ditches have been hydro seeded to stabilize soil and attract wildlife

Special Management Zone

- Special Management Zones (SMZ) are areas where timber extraction is significantly curtailed due to a higher priority placed on another value, such as water quality or wildlife
- SMZs are not off limits to timber extraction, however any extraction activities must be conducted in a manner that does not disturb or degrade the water quality or wildlife values of the area
- Areas designated as SMZs include all stream corridors in the management unit, several forest swamps where the water table is high year-round, and several areas that are heavily used by wildlife.
- watercourses are also protected by the *Watercourse Buffer Zone Guidelines*. These require a minimum, 30-metre wide buffer zone on all sides of watercourses and water bodies with an average width greater than 1 meter, and a 15-metre wide buffer zone on watercourses less than 1 meter in width. Various conditions and factors can increase buffer width such as slope or soil stability.

Inventory and Monitoring

- inventories will be carried out during pre-harvest detailed stand assessments
- inventories will include information on the timber resource, as well as non-timber values, such as rare and threatened fauna and flora, and non-timber forest products, such as Native craft supplies, natural food and medicinal plants, and game animals
- three Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) have been established as a pilot project, and there are plans to establish an extensive network of PSPs to monitor changes in the Forest over time. Data gathered will be used to measure and evaluate forest capability and the development of natural forest conditions. The results will be factored into future allowable cut calculations and will also be used to help set silvicultural prescriptions.

1.4. Environmental and Socioeconomic Context

As stated in Section 1.3C, Pictou Landing First Nation Reserve is located in close proximity to a cluster of industrial towns. In the past, the primary industries were coal mining, rail car manufacturing, foundries, paint manufacturing, and shipbuilding. Today, the primary industries/employers in the area are the Kimberley Clark pulp and paper mill in Pictou, the Trenton steelworks, and the head office of Sobeys in Stellarton.

Due to the presence of the nearby pulp and paper mill, there is a requirement for a constant supply of low grade softwood fibre. The dominant harvesting technique for the region is clearcutting, coupled with silvicultural techniques that favour pulp fibre. Forest managers in the region expend little effort towards promoting less destructive forestry practices, and make few attempts to promote more valuable, long-lived tree species.

This part of Nova Scotia is very poorly represented in the current provincial network of parks and protected areas. This is partly because it is largely privately owned. One of the large private owners is Kimberley Clark. Also, much of Pictou County was under cultivation or pasture at the turn of the century. Most of the original forest cover has disappeared, and

while many of the farms have long been abandoned, there are few undisturbed natural areas left in the region.

Old field invaders, such as alders, white spruce and balsam fir, are much more abundant on the landscape today than they would have been in the original Acadian forest. White pine and red oak, once common tree species throughout Nova Scotia, were favoured by the early shipbuilders. The abundance of both these species has declined significantly, however the presence of many naturally regenerated oak and pine seedlings in the Pictou Landing Forest suggests these species, given the opportunity, could attain representation on the landscape at levels found in the original Acadian forest.

While there are a number of rare plant species known to occur in the region, few, other than black ash, have been found in the Pictou Landing Forest. Intact floodplains along the East River of Pictou are known for harboring a number of rare plants, however these plants are restricted to river floodplains, of which there are none at Pictou Landing.

1.5. Products Produced

A. Species and products

Common Name	Scientific Name	Product
Poplar	Populus	molding, wainscoting, veranda, ceiling
White birch	Betula papyrifera	firewood
Red spruce	Picea rubens	sawlogs, studwood, pulp
White spruce	Picea glauca	sawlogs, studwood, pulp
Balsam fir	Abies balsamea	sawlogs, studwood, pulp

B. Actual (and potential) annual volumes produced

In 1999, 47 m³ of poplar were harvested, 10.9 m³ of firewood, 86.9 m³ of fir and spruce pulpwood, 50 pieces of 5-foot long small diameter red pine, and 40 poles of tall thin spruce. No wood was harvested in 1998. In 1997, 337.95 m³ of softwood and hardwood were harvested, most of which was softwood pulp. In 1996, 479.52 m³ of softwood and hardwood were harvested.

C. Description of current and future production / processing capacity and plans

No wood products are processed on site, and it is unlikely there will be any significant processing capabilities for some time, given the low volumes of wood coming from the forest. There will likely be limited use of various forest products, such as white ash, by Band members.

D. Reference stable sources of product

The Pictou Landing forest provides relatively stable sources of firewood, pulpwood, and sawlogs. Firewood is made available to Band members, while the pulpwood and sawlog material are sold to the best available markets.

On occasion, poplar and hemlock are sold to Windhorse Farm, where they are processed into moldings, flooring and other products. However, there is no consistent stream of wood from Pictou Landing to Windhorse Farm, partly because volumes may not be sufficient to justify the travel costs, but also due to the degree of unpredictability in the volumes and types of wood coming from the Pictou Landing Forest.

1.6. Chain of Custody Certification

A. Products Covered by Chain of Custody Certificate

The Chain of Custody certificate will cover all logs coming from the Pictou Landing Forest, including roundwood, pulpwood, and sawlog material. If the Band wishes to process their own logs (sawing, kiln drying, or other value added products), or logs from other sources, SmartWood headquarters should be informed.

B. Approximate Annual Quantity of Products

Please see section 1.5.B.

C. Chain of Custody Certificate Number

2. CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Assessment Dates

The Pictou Landing First Nation applied for a SmartWood scoping in June, 1998. The scoping was carried out by SmartWood staff member Minga O'Brien in July, 1998, and the report was finalized on July 27, 1998.

Pictou Landing First Nation applied for SmartWood certification in September, 1999. A 3-day field assessment took place from October 30-November 1, 1999, including meetings with Band members and forestry staff. A draft report was generated by the assessment team for November 29th.

2.2. Assessment Team and Peer Reviewers

The assessment team and their specializations included:

Bob Bancroft, Wildlife Biologist

Minga O'Brien, Team Leader, Ecologist

King Wright, R.P.F., Professional Forestry Consultant, specializing in tolerant hardwood silviculture and private land stewardship

2.3. Assessment Process

The Pictou Landing assessment was structured according to FSC-accredited SmartWood procedures and included the following major steps:

1. Initial Team Planning - review of Maritimes FSC standards, allocation of responsibilities
2. Assessment of Organization's Management - review of Pictou Landing management plan and documents, interview with Pictou Landing forestry staff
3. Field assessment - 1 day visiting sites in the field, accompanied by Pictou Landing forestry and administrative staff, as well as forester responsible for writing the management plan
4. Group Analysis - team discussion immediately following field work
5. Interviews with Pictou Landing Band Council and Band members
6. Group Analysis - further team discussion
7. Presentation of Preliminary Findings

8. Final Report and Peer Review - preparation of draft report, circulation to peer reviewers, redraft based on peer review comments

Based on the findings of the scoping report, and a review of the management plan, the team developed a list of sites to be visited, e.g. a recently-completed harvest, an old forest site, ATV damage, etc. Sites were also selected at random.

The team's field visits included past and present harvest sites, recently built stream crossings and roads, extraction roads, a permanent sample plot (PSP), special management zones for wildlife and water quality, areas with white pine underplanting, old forest sites, ATV damage, culturally-significant areas, red pine plantations, abandoned farm fields/ and the site of a future interpretative facility.

In addition to interviews with Band members, various relevant stakeholders in the Pictou community were interviewed, including a member of the local naturalist club, a botanist from the NS Museum of Natural History, the Public Affairs Manager of Kimberley Clark, a neighbor and member of the local Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project, and a local independent forest contractor.

2.4. Guidelines

Upon consultation with the Canadian Maritime Regional Initiative of the Canadian FSC Working Group, the Pictou Landing First Nation certification assessment was conducted using the most recent draft of the Canadian Forest Stewardship Council *Certification Standards for Best Forestry Practices in the Maritime Forest Region* (March, 1999).

Each criteria in the standards document was discussed and scored, except where there were subcriteria. Where there were subcriteria, the subcriteria were scored and not the criteria (for example, if criteria 5.6 had subcriteria 5.6.1, 5.6.2 and 5.6.3, the latter were scored, and not criteria 5.6). If there were fourth level criteria, for example, if subcriteria 6.5.3 was further divided into 6.5.3.1 and 6.5.3.2, both the third and fourth level subcriteria were scored.

To obtain these guidelines, contact the Canadian Maritime Regional Initiative, c/o Falls Brook Centre, 125 South Knowlesville Rd., Knowlesville, New Brunswick, E7L 1B1; tel (506) 375-8143; Fax (506) 375-4221; or consult their webpage at "<http://www.web.net/~fbcja>".

3. RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. General Discussion of Findings

Management Strengths

The managers of the Pictou Landing Forest, as well as the Pictou Landing Band Council, have demonstrated a deep commitment to the restoration of the Pictou Landing Forest. It is believed that restoring the forest will renew the Pictou Landing Band's interest in the forest and their natural environment, provide new opportunities for them on and off the Reserve, and will be a long-term source of pride as well as income. The steps towards restoration are not clear, yet every attempt is being made to garner the help of interested and knowledgeable scientists, contractors, foresters and others who can support their efforts.

Areas that Need Improvement

Overall there are very few improvements to be made. Perhaps the most significant issue is ensuring that the Band members understand and support the forest management plan, and that no one Band member puts their own interests before those of the rest of the Band. The management staff and Band Council have tackled this issue head on, and adopted a series of measures to avoid problems with renegade loggers.

3.2. Certification Decision

The purpose of this assessment was to determine if the Pictou Landing Forest met the requirements to be certified as a SmartWood Certified Forestry Operation. SmartWood Headquarters and peer review concurs with the recommendation of the assessment team to certify Pictou Landing Forest as a well-managed source of certified wood.

3.3. Conditions and Recommendations

Conditions are verifiable actions that will form part of the certification agreement that Pictou Landing First Nation will be expected to fulfil at the time of the first audit or as required in the condition. Each condition has an explicit time period for completion. Non-compliance with conditions will lead to de-certification.

Conditions

Condition 1: By the end of year 2 of certification, trails and roads with ATV damage will be repaired to minimize erosion and a plan will be set into place that attempts to educate and enforce responsible ATV use.

Condition 2: Within one year, the forest managers should document wildlife use, inventory the habitat, and set objectives for wildlife habitat.

Condition 3: Within one year, Site 53 (hemlock old growth stand) should be officially designated as a protected area and marked as such on future maps.

Condition 4: By the end of year 1 of certification, a restoration plan for the second stage shelterwood treatments and the three red pine plantations must be incorporated into the management plan.

Condition 5: Within two years, a detailed plan for assessing social impacts of forest management should be included in the management plan.

Condition 6: By the end of year 1 of certification, a management plan summary for public use will be prepared including management objectives, prescriptions and resource descriptions.

Condition 7: By the end of year 1 of certification, summaries of monitoring results will be made available to the public upon request.

Condition 8: Effective immediately upon certification, documentation (sales receipt, invoice, bill of lading, mill slip, etc.) related to all sales of certified logs will clearly indicate the logs are certified and include the Pictou Landing FSC forest management-chain of custody code number (issued upon certification).

SmartWood Certification Annual Addendum to the Public Summary for Pictou Landing First Nation, 2001

A. Audit year: 2001

B. Dates of Audit: August 7 and 8, 2001

C. Audit Team: Minga O'Brien, Ecologist, conducted a scoping of Pictou Landing in 1998, and led the assessment team for Pictou Landing in 1999; and King Wright, R.P.F., a forester specializing in tolerant hardwood silviculture and private land forestry, who was a member of the 1999 assessment team.

D. Audit Overview: The audit team assembled on August 6th to review conditions and to determine the agenda for the field audit. The team met with Bill McKay and Wade Prest on the morning of August 7, and proceeded directly to the Pictou Landing Forest. The remainder of the day was spent visiting a variety of sites (see 1.1.E below), interviewing forest manager Bill McKay, and reviewing documentation pertaining to conditions. No stakeholder interviews were carried out, and a visit to the Pictou Landing First Nation Band office was not deemed necessary.

E. Sites Visited: Stop #1 - field site off Bug road - two new ponds, brush fences; Stop #2 - Deer Road - new road construction; Stop #3 - 'Wisqoq' trail - natural and planted black ash, planted cedar; Stop #4 - old growth hemlock stand; Stop #5 - Stand 42 - new walking bridge over wet area, thinning of white birch to prepare site for planting of black ash; Stop #6 - Stand 44 - white pine planted under a thinned white birch overstory, felling of trees and tops left in place to discourage deer browsing of pine seedlings; Stop #7 - white birch stand used for bark collection; Stop #8 - new ATV bridge off Bug Road to prevent rutting of ditch; Stop #9 - newly-acquired parcel opposite Stand 31 - recent thinning by Tom Miller; Stop #10 - Stand 30 - red pine plantation - lower branches of trees pruned to prevent a serious fungal disease; Stop #11 - stream with previous damage by ATVs - now has corduroy bridge to prevent rutting of streambanks; Stop #12 - Permanent Sample Plots.

F. Personnel Interviewed:

The following people were consulted during this audit:

Person interviewed	Position/Organization
Bill McKay	Forester, First Nations Forestry Association of Nova Scotia
Wade Prest	Forester and author of Pictou Landing Forest Management Plan

G. Documentation reviewed:

SmartWood Certification Assessment Report for Pictou Landing First Nation
 Pictou Landing Forest Management Plan
 Certification Standards for Best Forestry Practices in the Maritime Forest Region
 First Nations Forestry Association of Nova Scotia Annual Report 2001-2001

1.2 General Audit Findings and Conclusions

The First Nations Forestry Association of Nova Scotia and the Pictou Landing Band Council have done a commendable job in upholding their certification as well as continually improving their practices. A host of new projects are underway, and many projects have already been completed successfully.

Since the 1999 assessment, the Pictou Landing Forest has expanded by 60 acres; Bill McKay is becoming a certified resource manager; black ash seedlings have been collected, germinated, nursery grown and planted in the forest; a new educational trail was built by Band members; 50 birdhouses, made of sawn lumber from the Pictou Landing Forest, have been placed in the field and along trails by students from the community; Bob Bancroft has

been carrying out a four season wildlife inventory; and the harvesting season has expanded to include winter months, but harvesting is not permitted in the 'Silent Season'.

The auditors feel that the operation has maintained certifiable performance, and has adequately addressed the existing conditions. Although new CARs were established, they do not disqualify the operation from remaining certified.

1.3 Status of Conditions and Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 were fully met. Efforts to assess the social impacts of forest management (Condition 5) are well underway. Condition 7 has not been met as no further monitoring of the Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) has been carried out since the 1999 assessment. The audit team accepted the reason for the delay in measurement of the PSPs. Condition 8, concerning chain-of-custody, was only partially met as no forest management/chain-of-custody number was recorded on the invoice presented to the audit team.

SmartWood Certification Annual Addendum to the Public Summary for Pictou Landing First Nation, 2002

A. Audit year: 2002

B. Dates of Audit: March 04, 2003

C. Audit Team: Bodo von Schilling, RPF (BC)

D. Audit Overview: The audit consisted of a meeting at the Pictou Landing First Nations offices with all of the managers presently involved in the Pictou Landing certificate. There has been a turnover in the team of managers supervising the Pictou Landing and Afton First Nations properties. We discussed FSC certification, the Pictou Landing certificate the original conditions and CARs from the 2001 annual audit.

E. Sites Visited: Due to snow conditions a site inspection was not possible.

F. Personnel Interviewed:

The following people were consulted during this audit:

Person interviewed	Position/Organization
Bob Bancroft	Wildlife Biologist, CMM
Dan McDonald	Pictou Landing First Nation
Mary Mason	The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)
Alton Hudson	First Nations Forestry Program
Michael Cox	The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)

G. Documentation reviewed:

- Photos
- Meeting Notes: Pictou Landing and St. Francis Xavier (July 2000)
- Correspondence: St. Francis Xavier University (October 2002)
- Nova Scotia Natural Resources (July 2001)
- Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News
- Pamphlet: New Forestry at Pictou Landing Discovers Horse Logging
- Franklin Manor – Assessment for Wildlife and Recommendations (November 2001)
- Pictou Landing Wildlife Report (November 2001)

1.2 General Audit Findings and Conclusions

In August 2001 SmartWood conducted an audit of the Pictou Landing First Nation certificate SW-FM/COC-103. At the same time SmartWood conducted an assessment to have the Pictou Landing estate as well as the Franklin Manor Indian Reservation # 22 included in a Resource Manager certificate. This process was completed in January 2002 and while the assessment indicated a Resource Manager certificate should be granted the process was not concluded due to a change in personnel at Pictou Landing First Nation and the First Nations Forestry Program of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. At this time the original certificate over the

Pictou Landing First Nation forest lands remain in place while the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq consider accepting a Resource Manager certificate.

New staff is very familiar with the forest management of the Pictou Landing First Nation lands. Staff is becoming familiar with the terms of the FSC Forest Management certificate. SmartWood found that despite the change in personnel the FSC system is in place and sustainable forest management continues.

The 2001 assessment reported harvesting in 2000. Pictou Landing FN has conducted a hardwood thinning in 2001 that harvested 40 cords of fuel wood and a selection harvest by horse logging in 2002 that harvested 17.7 cords of pulpwood and 12.4 fbm sawlogs. Pictou Landing has described this operation in a publication: "New Forestry at Pictou Landing Discovers Horse Logging."

Forest management activities have continued since the last annual audit. A Wildlife Report has been published in late 2001 and Pictou Landing has developed their relationship with St. Francis Xavier University to partner on social monitoring.

SmartWood feels that the operation has maintained certifiable performance, and has adequately addressed the existing conditions.

1.3 Status of Conditions and Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

A. Compliance Summary of Previously Issued Conditions and CARs

The 2001 audit closed conditions: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

After the 2001 audit the following conditions were not yet met: 5. Condition 7 was not met however the condition was closed with CAR 1-02 was issued to address the shortcomings. Condition 8 was partially met, so the condition was closed with CAR 1-01 was issued to address the shortcomings.

The 2002 audit considered the original assessment condition 5. The condition has not been met. The condition has been reissued as CAR 01/02.

CAR 1-01 was closed in the 2002 audit. CAR 1-02 is not due until February 2004 and has been reissued as CAR 02/02.

B. New CARs Issued in this Audit

CAR 01/02: By March 2004 a detailed plan for assessing social impacts of forest management should be included in the management plan.

CAR 02/02: Following the next scheduled re-measurement, and the establishment of additional Permanent Sample Plots representing the full range of forest conditions in the Pictou Landing Forest, public summaries of monitoring results will be made available. By the end of Year 3, additional PSPs, representing a range of treatments and forest conditions, should be made available. By the end of Year 3, Pictou Landing Forest and public summaries of monitoring results should be made available upon request.

SmartWood Certification Annual Addendum to the Public Summary for Pictou Landing First Nation, 2003

A. Audit year: 2003

B. Dates of Audit: August 20, 2003

C. Audit Team: Bodo von Schilling, RPF (BC)

D. Audit Overview: On March 04, 2003, SmartWood conducted the 2002 audit of the Pictou Landing First Nation (Pictou Landing) Forest Management Certificate. At the time the snow levels were too high to allow for field reviews of the 2001 or 2002 harvest areas. Since no forest management activities were planned for 2003 it was appropriate to conduct the 2003 audit in snow-free conditions to examine the 2001 and 2002 activities on the ground. SmartWood reviewed the 2001 and 2002 harvest areas, visited the newly constructed Old Quarry meeting site. The auditor also reviewed potential harvest areas and an old growth forest stand that is a protected area. The maps and written plans associated with these sites were reviewed at the Pictou Landing First Nation office.

E. Sites Visited:

Pictou Landing Office
2001 Hardwood Thinning
2002 Selection Harvest
Old Growth Forest – Protected Area
Old Quarry Site
Proposed Elder Meditation Site
Proposed Balsam Harvest Area
Red Pine Stand

F. Personnel Interviewed:

The following people were consulted during this audit:

Person interviewed	Position/Organization
Dan McDonald	Pictou Landing First Nation Lands Manager
Dominic Denny	Pictou Landing First Nation Bylaw Officer

G. Documentation reviewed:

Pictou Landing First Nation Management Plan
Pictou Landing First Nation Maps

- Forest Cover
- Soils
- Parcel Identification
- Special Management Area
- Areas Treated Since 1989
- Projected Treatments

Thousand Acre Project – Pictou Landing First Nation Woodlot – Enhancement,
Conservation and Education – Final Report July 2003
Pictou Landing First Nation – Information For Band Members On A Proposal
For Improvements To And The Future Of Boat Harbour

1.2 General Audit Findings and Conclusions

The operation continues to demonstrate compliance with the FSC standards and is in good keeping with current policy. It is recommended that the certification for Pictou Landing be maintained provided they meet the new corrective actions listed below.

1.3 Status of Conditions and Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

A. Compliance Summary of Previously Issued Conditions and CARs

CAR 01/02 – Not met: This CAR is not due until 2004 and has simply been rewritten as CAR 01/03.

CAR 02/02 – Not met: This CAR is not due until 2004 and has simply been rewritten as CAR 02/03.

B. New CARs Issued in this Audit

CARs 1/03 and 2/03 are CARs not due from previous audits and have been rewritten.

CAR 1/03: By March 2004 a detailed plan for assessing social impacts of forest management should be included in the management plan.

CAR 2/03: Following the next scheduled re-measurement, and the establishment of additional Permanent Sample Plots representing the full range of forest conditions in the Pictou Landing Forest, public summaries of monitoring results will be made available. By the end of Year 3, additional PSPs, representing a range of treatments and forest conditions, should be made available. By the end of Year 3, Pictou Landing Forest and public summaries of monitoring results should be made available upon request.

CAR 3/03: By March 2004 Pictou Landing First Nation will conduct an assessment of the extent of white pine leader weevil incidence on white pine and other susceptible species on the certified forest.

**SmartWood Certification Annual Addendum to the Public Summary for
Pictou Landing First Nation, 2004**

1.1 Audit Process

A. Audit year: 2004

B. Dates of Audit: August 23rd

C. Audit Team: Nicolas Blanchette, ing.f., M.Sc.

D. Audit Overview:

The audit began with a visit of the general area of Pictou Landing Reserve including the water treatment plant located in the middle of the reserve. There followed a meeting at the office with the Pictou Landing Lands Manager, the manager of the First Nation Forestry program for the Maritimes and a biologist consultant. An overview of the organization was presented to the auditor. Discussions about relations with the community and neighbouring communities and businesses followed. In the afternoon, the group visited past forest operations (e.g. selective cuts, plantations, sample plots). The audit wrapped up with a meeting at the office to review audit findings and potential new CARs.

E. Sites Visited:

- Water effluent treatment facility
- Selective cut treatment and permanent plot
- Pond in old farm site
- 2002 harvest clearcut (0.6 ha)
- Selective cut Pine stand (2 ha)
- 1989 Shelterwood White Pine stand
- 15yrs old pine plantation
- Hemlock stand by stream (elders)

F. Personnel Interviewed:

The following people were consulted during this audit:

Person interviewed	Position/Organization
Dan MacDonald	Pictou Landing Lands Manager
Bob Bancroft	Wildlife Biologist/Pictou Landing Consultant
Alton Hudson	First Nation Forestry Program Manager/Canadian Forest Service

G. Documentation reviewed:

- Pictou Landing Management Plan

- First Nation Forestry Association of Nova Scotia Permanent Sampling Plot System (Plot design and map information)
- Workplan for Pictou Landing First Nation 2004-05
- Pictou Landing First Nation Community Forest, 2004 pamphlet
- Health Centre – Pictou Landing First Nation project information
- Information for Band Members on a Proposal for Improvements to and the Future of Boat Harbour

1.2 General Audit Findings and Conclusions

PLFN encountered organizational difficulties to comply with the CARs due for this audit, as well as some misunderstanding of the CARs. Also, no harvesting occurred during 2003-4. PLFN is proud of its forests and engages in many activities where community members can directly benefit from their sound forest management. PLFN seems committed in improving forest management even if their resources to do so are limited. New CARs are appropriate to scale of operations and aim at consolidating PLFN strengths.

1.3 Status of Conditions and Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

A. Compliance Summary of Previously Issued Conditions and CARs

PLFN did not comply with the three CARs due for this year. PLFN was confronted with some organizational difficulties within their Lands Management Department that hindered compliance progress. Lack of communication between PLFN and partner institutions also made it difficult to progress towards the establishment of a network of permanent sample plots. Finally, a lack of understanding of what was required by the CARs made it difficult to comply.

B. New CARs Issued in this Audit

CAR 1-04: At reassessment, Pictou Landing will have developed and included in the management plan a procedure to assess social impacts (i.e. negative and positive) of forest management.

CAR 2-04: At reassessment, a detailed plan for the gradual establishment of a network of permanent sample plots (PSP) shall be prepared to adequately monitor growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest; species at risk, protected areas and other indicators of high biodiversity appropriate to scale. Justification will be given on the number and the location of future PSP. Public summaries of sampling results (i.e. forest condition) shall be periodically prepared and made publicly available.

CAR 3-04: At reassessment, Pictou Landing will have developed a process to periodically monitor the presence and extent of white pine leader weevil incidence on white pine and other susceptible species on the certified forest.

CAR 4-04: At reassessment, a report will be attached to the management plan to document revision and updates to the plan, with justification of changes if necessary.