



Wildlife Habitat Canada presents Forest Stewardship Award to TimberWest

For immediate release

November 9, 2004

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) has presented a Forest Stewardship Recognition Program (FSRP) award to TimberWest's Integrated Resource Analysis Section (IRAS).

WHC points out that TimberWest's IRAS has excelled in ensuring that all concerns for non-timber values, from water quality to wildlife, are addressed before any harvesting is carried out by their company. By working closely with the company's planners and operational staff, IRAS has been able to virtually eliminate water quality problems resulting from forest management activities. The team is also addressing the impacts of past management practices that were not regulated at the time they were implemented. Finally, IRAS plays an active role in supporting education and training activities for private forest owners.

Al Chatterton, TimberWest Hydrology and Terrain Specialist, said: "I thank the Private Forest Land Owners Association for nominating IRAS for the Forest Stewardship Recognition Award. We look at this as validation that the work we do is both valuable to our forests and is recognized by those outside of the group. In one form or another, the Integrated Resource Analysis Section has existed within TimberWest and its predecessor companies for more than 30 years. This is a testament to TimberWest's long-term commitment to forest resource values beyond those of timber."

"TimberWest is proud to have its team of forest resource experts recognized with this national award. Our Integrated Resource Analysis Section (IRAS) continues to provide world-class advice to the company's timberland operations in meeting TimberWest's commitment to excellence," said John Phillips, Manager, Forestry Programs.

Since its establishment seven years ago, the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program has recognized more than 125 individuals, companies and organizations for their stewardship and for their conservation efforts in Canada's forests. There are 13 forest stewardship award winners across Canada this year, and four are from BC.

"As Chair of WHC's Board, I am proud that we have been able to showcase so many of our country's best forest stewards when, based on media reports alone, it would seem that there are none to be found," said Mike Apsey.

"We know this simply isn't the case and will continue to fight this perception by finding more examples of Canadians contributing to the health of our forest ecosystems."

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TimberWest Forest Corp. is uniquely positioned as the largest owner of private forest lands in western Canada. The Company's 334,000 hectares, providing a sustainable annual harvest of 2.5 million m³ of logs, which can vary in the range of 2.3 million m³ to 2.7 million m³, are located on Vancouver Island and predominantly support the growth of Douglas fir forests, a premium species used for structural purposes. Third party auditors have certified that the management of the Company's private forest land conforms to the objectives and performance measures of the American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®). The computation of the Company's new long-run sustainable yield will be validated by the Company's external SFI® auditor, KPMG Performance Registrar Inc., in the second quarter of 2005. TimberWest also owns renewable Crown harvest rights to 0.8 million m³ of logs per year and operates a lumbermill located near Campbell River, BC. In addition, approximately 6,000 hectares of the Company's private forest lands have been identified as having greater value as real estate properties and are progressively being made available for higher uses.

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