

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

AT Limited Partnership

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

AT Limited Partnership (AT) owns and manages approximately 761,000 acres of freehold timberlands in New Brunswick and provides management services to approximately 1.3 million acres of Crown licensed timberlands. Forest products include softwood and hardwood saw logs, pulpwood and biomass by-products that are sold to approximately 90 regional customers.

The operations have been verified to the SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® (SFI®) Standard since 2000.

The company SFI representative is Kevin Topolniski.

AUDIT

During the period of June 20 to June 23 2016, AT underwent a Surveillance 2 audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company’s office including stakeholder and First Nations communication.

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

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Daniel Martin, ing.f., audit team leader. The auditor is a Professional Foresters and certified auditor.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard
Single site	X

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

The scope of the audit consisted of forest land owned by AT in the Green River and Plaster Rock area, including the forestry nursery owned by AT. Crown Timber License #9 was also included in the audit. Acadian Timberlands in northwestern New Brunswick cover approximately 761,000 acres of the Acadian Forest Region. There are 65 lakes on the property and numerous rivers and streams. The lands were formerly owned by Fraser Papers and were acquired by the Acadian Timber Income Fund in 2006.

All of the land is managed according to sustainable forest management plans, which provide a long-term forecast of timber and habitat supply. Harvest blocks are identified for the next 25 years, as well as silviculture levels and strategies required to achieve the calculated annual harvest levels. Area under special management for wildlife include Deer Wintering Area Management, Old Forest Habitat, Old Spruce-Fir Habitat, riparian and wetland buffer zones. Vegetation community objectives are defined and established in the forest management plans.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the company's private forestland holdings and operations controlled by the company on public land Crown Timber License #9, including the forestry nursery in New Brunswick The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard meets and exceeds the requirements of the earlier SFI 2010-2014 SFI Standard (Section 2), therefore fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

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

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 3, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 3, Table 2.

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

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore, the complaint handling process could not be verified.

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation, on-site office review and report writing:	2.5 days
Field review:	2.5 days
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	3
Harvesting Blocks	8
Silviculture Sites	1
Operations visited: Crown lands (Green-River and Juniper area), Freehold (Plaster Rock area), Forest tree nursery, contaminated soil storage site (Saint-Quentin), Gate house in Saint-Quentin.	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

Not applicable.

Opportunities for improvement

- Consider clarifying standards for operators and supervisors in plantation commercial thinning.
- Consider implementing the environmental inspection process at the start-up of operations.
- Consider requiring spill clean-up kits with each truck carrying fuel.
- Consider reviewing the harvest pecking order for plantation commercial thinning with harvesting operators.

Exceptional practices

- Merchandising of fibre for optimum use (including biomass)
- Employee commitment to continual improvement.
- Effective planning of the field visit allowed for significant coverage during the audit.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Surveillance Audit

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

Appendices

Appendix 1: DEFINITIONS

Major Non-Conformances

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial audit or registration cannot be achieved. Subsequently for surveillance audits, an action plan shall be implemented by the auditee within 60 days for the registration to be maintained.

Minor Non-Conformances

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

Opportunity for Improvement

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

Exceptional practices

Areas that are deemed to be of outstanding practices.

Appendix 2: MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

N/A

Appendix 3: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	X
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	X
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	X
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	

Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cutblock size calculations	X
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Annual management review records	X
Timber supply review		Internal audit records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards		Education/community involvement records	
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines		Wood producer training programs	X

Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	X
Pest management plan		SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification		Research and discussion papers	
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records			
Harvest inspection records	X		
Road and bridge inspection records	X		
Pre-harvest inspection records	X		
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records	X		



SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFI Forest Management, SFI CoC, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing Label, PEFC CoC, FSC® Forest Management, FSC® CoC.

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

Contact certification.americas@saiglobal.com for more information.

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