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## **2014 SFI Public Summary Report**

### **Finch Paper LLC Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard [2010-2014]**

#### **Project Scope and Objectives**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed a SFI Re-registration Assessment for Finch Paper LLC. The project scope included lands managed by Finch Paper LLC (“Finch Paper”) in New York State and Finch Paper’s procurement systems at its corporate office in Glens Falls, NY. Finch Paper’s Landowner Group includes: Finch Paper LLC, The Nature Conservancy, Elk Lake Land, Inc., and the Litchfield Park Corporation. The Lead Assessor was Bruce Eaket, RPF, EMS (LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to assess Finch Paper’s SFI management system at the corporate level and to evaluate Finch Paper’s implementation of the SFI Standard in the field.

#### **Description of the Forest Lands**

##### **The Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Adirondack Land Trust (Adirondack Woodlands LLC) Lands – 34,870 acres; New York**

The northern ownership which is in Essex and Hamilton counties is located within the watersheds of the Boreas, Branch, Cedar, Indian, and Hudson Rivers in the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York. These tracts consist primarily of mixed northern forests, dominated by northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple) on the upland sites and softwoods (spruce-fir) on the lowland sites and river corridors. This property includes important wildlife wintering habitat, travel corridors, riparian habitat, extensive wetland habitat and high elevation forests above 2800’ elevation. It provides pulpwood under a long-term fiber supply agreement to the Finch Paper LLC mill in Glens Falls, New York.

The southern ownership in Fulton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties is located within the watersheds of the Sacandaga, Schroon and Hudson Rivers. These tracts consist primarily of transitional forest types with mixed wood forests (oak-hemlock and oak-pine) prevalent with lesser degrees of northern hardwood forests (beech-birch-maple and oak-hickory). This property includes important deer wintering habitat and riparian habitat along the river corridors. It also provides pulpwood under a long-term fiber supply agreement to the Finch Paper LLC mill in Glens Falls, New York.

#### Elk Lake Land Inc. – 12,631 acres; New York

Elk Lake Land Inc. property is located in Essex County within the Branch River watershed in the Adirondack Park of northern New York. The tract consists primarily of mixed northern forests, dominated by northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple) on the upland sites, softwoods (spruce-fir) on the lowland sites and river corridors, and mixed wood forests (birch-spruce) at elevations above 2800'. This property includes important wildlife wintering habitat, riparian habitat and travel corridors along the Branch River corridor.

#### Litchfield Park Incorporated Lands – 12,165 acres; New York

Litchfield Park Incorporated property is in Franklin and Hamilton counties in the center of the Adirondack Park of northern New York. The tract consists primarily of mixed northern forests, dominated by northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple) on the upland sites, softwoods (spruce-fir) on the lowland sites and mixed wood forests (hemlock-hardwood) along the lake riparian areas. The three bodies of water on the property (Lake Madeline, Heavens Lake and Duck Lake) are high quality fisheries and extremely important to the recreational value of the park. This property includes important riparian habitat around the lakes and tributaries, with a minor degree of deer wintering habitat in the southeast corner of the park.

#### Finch Paper LLC Lands – 1,783 acres; New York

Finch Paper LLC property is located in Hamilton County in the Adirondack Park of northern New York. The tract consists primarily of mixed northern forests, dominated by northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple) on the upland sites and softwoods (spruce-fir) on the lowland sites and riparian areas adjacent to Mud, Minnow, South Ponds and the Salmon River. This property includes important riparian habitat around the ponds and tributaries, with quality fisheries established on Mud and South Ponds, and the Salmon River.

### **Indicators**

All of the indicators in the SFI Standard were within the scope of the assessment, except for Objectives 11-13, since the Group does not procure fiber outside of North America, and Objective 18, since none of the land in the Group is public land. There were no substitute indicators.

### **Assessment Process**

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements. The report was dated July 17, 2014.

### **Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices**

Finch Paper manages lands in the State of New York which has forestry legislation and state Best Management Practices (BMPs). Finch Paper has a robust program to monitor legal requirements and BMPs which includes management review meetings of the BMP inspections from both the Land Management and Gate Wood to address training needs. Finch Paper continues to support and participate in the SFI State Implementation Committees and actively communicates sustainable forestry importation to landowners and loggers.

Specific Good management practices are noted below:

- Most of the Logging Contractors, both Gatewood Suppliers and Service Contractors receive Safety / Liability inspections from their Insurance Carrier. Many of the observations addressed during the inspections are also in the SFI Standards.

- The Gatewood Suppliers observed during the assessment were following the New York State Best Management Practice Guidelines. One example included a temporary crossing that was installed and removed from a Certified Stream. There was no bank degradation, no slash in the stream and the approaches were both water barred and seeded.

### **Summary of Findings**

No Nonconformities were identified during this assessment. Opportunities for improvement were identified with regard to:

- Suggesting to the State SICs that they consider varied and alternate methods for delivering logger training; and,
- Ensuring that Post-Harvest Inspection Reports are completed accurately.

### **Conclusion**

Finch Paper LLC and the Landowner Group locations in New York State continue to be certified to the SFI Standard. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Mike McLarty of Finch Paper at 518-793-2541 x5353. More information is available at: <http://www.finchforestmanagement.com>.