



## **2014 SFI Public Audit Report Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands**

The SFI Program of the Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands of Chillicothe, Ohio has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands was initially certified on December 4, 2006 and re-certified in 2011. This report describes the results of the second Re-Certification Audit.

Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands' SFI Program is managed by Eric Roush, SFI Coordinator and a forester with the company. Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands procures fiber for a pulp and paper mill in Chillicothe, Ohio. The mill uses both hardwood and softwood and accepts most trees common to the area. Most of the fiber is sourced from Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia through stumpage purchases or from independent wood suppliers. Small volumes are sourced from adjoining states.

Wood procurement operations for the Chillicothe mill in southern Ohio and in West Virginia, including the wood yards at Piketon, Ohio and Washington, West Virginia were the focus of the audit. The audit was conducted November 5-7, 2014 by Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor for NSF-ISR. Audit team members conducting SFI audits for NSF fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ) 2010–2014 Edition.

The objectives of the SFIS Audit were to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition and whether any outstanding corrective action plans were implemented. The scope of the audit included procurement operations conducted since the previous audit. In addition, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were within the scope of the audit.

The 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® was used without modifying any requirements. All relevant SFI requirements were audited. Several of the SFI Indicators were outside of the scope of the company's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Objectives 1-7 Land Management
- Objectives 11 - 13 Fiber Sourcing outside Canada and the US
- Core Indicator 14.2.2 Forestry enterprises
- Core Indicator 15.1.2 Research on genetically engineered trees
- Core Indicator 16.1.5 Forestry Enterprises
- Objective 18 Public land management responsibilities

## **SFIS Re-Certification Audit Process**

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review.

During the audit NSF-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

### **Overview of Audit Findings**

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, or Exceeds the Standard. Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands' SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. No non-conformances or opportunities for improvement were identified.

Glatfelter has exemplary programs for support of logger training. SFI Performance Measure 16.2 states that "Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers." SFI Indicator 16.2.1 requires "Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses..."

Glatfelter provides an exceptional level of support for educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry. SFI Indicator 17.2.1 requires "Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as: a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.

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Follow-up audits are required each year by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard. The next audit is tentatively scheduled for October, 2015 and will be a Surveillance Audit.

## **General Description of Evidence of Conformity**

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. A general description of this evidence is provided below, organized by SFI Objective.

**Objective 8. Landowner Outreach** - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by forest landowners through fiber sourcing programs.

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews with staff and stakeholders and review of programs offered (SIC brochures) were used to confirm these requirements

**Objective 9. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals** - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

**Summary of Evidence** – Lists of qualified logging professionals are maintained by various state agencies. Glatfelter maintains records of logger training and outreach efforts.

**Objective 10. Adherence to Best Management Practices** - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations and review of BMP monitoring records were the primary evidence used to assess adherence to BMPs.

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance** -

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Stakeholders and a review of available information on line were also used.

**Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology** - To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

**Summary of Evidence** – Financial records were confirmed by contacting the recipients of research support.

**Objective 16. Training and Education** -To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

**Summary of Evidence** – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective. Glatfelter provides many training opportunities for employees and contractors.

**Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry** -

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

**Summary of Evidence** – The auditor reviewed the extensive list of outreach activities by Glatfelter and its foresters. Some of the key activities supporting the finding were outreach at fairs and logging chapters, support for various organizations and publications, and work done at the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Camp and other education programs for young people.

**Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting** - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

**Summary of Evidence** – Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI Inc. website provided the key evidence.

**Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement** - To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

**Summary of Evidence** – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, internal audits and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

### **Relevance of Forestry Certification**

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

#### **1. Sustainable Forestry**

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

#### **2. Responsible Practices**

To use and to promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.

#### **3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity**

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

#### **4. Forest Health and Productivity**

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

#### **5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity**

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

#### **6. Protection of Water Resources**

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

#### **7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity**

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

#### **8. Legal Compliance**

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

## **9. Continual Improvement**

To continually improve the practice of forest management and also to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

*Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition*

### **For Additional Information Contact:**

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