

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

GREENMANTLE FOREST INC.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Greenmantle Forest Inc. (GFI) is an independent forest management company that manages forest planning, silviculture and compliance monitoring activities on the Lakehead Forest in Northwestern Ontario. GFI is owned by Superior North Loggers Inc. (SNLI), a collective of 31 independent loggers operating as overlapping licencees on the Lakehead Forest. GFI manages the Lakehead Forest under a Sustainable Forest Licence issued by the Crown in Ontario on behalf of SNLI. The Lakehead Forest encompasses 319,745 hectares of Crown production forest. The annual available harvest volume is 395,000 cubic metres. The company SFI representative is Mr. Joe Ladouceur.

AUDIT

During the period April 25 to April 28, 2016 GFI underwent a surveillance 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/or 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 auditor who performed the audit was Mr. Rod Seabrook. Mr. Seabrook holds a Certified Environmental Professional/Lead Auditor designation with ECO Canada and is an Associate Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. The audit was also witnessed by an ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) witness auditor, Mr. Stuart McPherson.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing 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

As a Crown Forest in Ontario the 2017-2017 forest management plan for the Lakehead Forest follows provincial direction set out in the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994. The Act requires that sustainability of Ontario Crown forests be consistent with the following principles:

- Large, healthy, diverse and productive Crown forests and their associated ecological processes and biological diversity should be conserved.
- The long term health and vigour of Crown forests should be provided for by using forest practices that, within the limits of silvicultural requirements, emulate natural disturbances and landscape patterns while minimizing adverse effects on plant life, animal life, water, soil, air and social and economic values, including recreational values and heritage values.

The Lakehead Forest is located in Northwestern Ontario and near the City of Thunder Bay. The Forest is predominantly Boreal and Boreal transitional in terms of geography. There are approximately 300,000 ha of patent forested land interspersed throughout the Lakehead Forest. Historical logging practices have led to a shift in forest composition favouring hardwood and mixedwood dominated forest units, which accounted for approximately 60% of all forest units at the start of the forest management plan. The clearcut silviculture system is used followed by renewal either through natural regeneration to hardwood or through planting to conifer.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The scope of certification has changed since the last public summary report. The changes were made to reflect the transition to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard and that fiber sold under the certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

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. Ten specific locations were visited during the audit.

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 and on-site office review:	3
Field review:	1
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	Various
Harvesting Blocks	5
Silviculture Sites	4
Operations visited: Niitynen; Korpela; Tiitto; Laatu	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2016-01	Minor	9.2.	Dead standing trees (chicots) were observed in harvest block 07- 600	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2016-02	Minor	3.2	Leaks and oil staining on the ground were observed under a parked slasher and delimeter located at Km 6 on the Adrian Lake road	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

Opportunities for improvement

- Consider reinforcing with tree planting contractor opportunities to replant chipper pads
- Consider whether refill planting is required for Block 120

- Consider conducting a review of fueling equipment and spill kits with operators to ensure that fueling equipment is compliant, in good repair and that spill containment equipment is readily accessible
- Consider having the Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee (CCSIC) review the functionality of the weblinks (one climate change link is broken)

Exceptional practices

- Minimal site disturbance
- Awareness of licensees of potential impacts of operations on forest environment and procedures and mitigation measures
- Repairs to sedimentation issue on Adrian Lake Rd. identified during previous audit
- Water crossing training presentation delivered in June 2015
- On-the-ground knowledge of GFI staff regarding harvest and silviculture operations
- Field booklets developed by GFI increasing awareness among licensees of requirements

Status of previous audit non-compliances

The status of previous audit non-conformances is as follows:

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
2015-01	Minor	3.2	Closed

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. The action plans related to the non-conformance was reviewed and considered acceptable. Implementation of action plans for the minor non-conformances will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. 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 3: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	X
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
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	X

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

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Written policies	X	Government compliance records	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Cutblock size calculations	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
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	X	Internal audit records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Education/community involvement records	X
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	X
Reforestation plans	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	Wood producer information package	X

Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Standards for seed use	X	SFI and company websites	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Free to grow records	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Planting program records	X	Support for research and science	X
Harvest inspection records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Pre-harvest inspection records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Post-harvest inspection records	X		



Area of beaver activity left undisturbed during drainage repairs on Adrian Lake Road.

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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