



**BUREAU  
VERITAS**

**Bureau Veritas Certification  
North America, Inc.  
SFI Audit Report**

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Contract Number:	US.1269626	Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:		Surveillance: (Indicate visit # or Pre-Assessment)	2
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**Audit Summary**

**Introduction**

A first surveillance audit was conducted on the Lyme Adirondack Forest Company (LAFCo), July 21 to 24, 2014. Brian Callaghan for Bureau Veritas Certification led the audit. The audit was conducted in conjunction with the clients FSC forest management audit.

**Audit Scope, Objectives and Process**

The objective of the audit was to determine LAFCo's conformance to Sustainable Forest Initiative 2010-2014 standard. The audit scope covers forest management activities on the approximately 239,500 acres of forest that LAFCo owns in Adirondack Park. The LAFCo lands are managed by Prentiss & Carlisle. During the audit 15 field sites were visited including recent harvest sites, water crossing removals, road construction, and various stand improvement prescriptions. The audit focused on SFI Objectives 2, 3, 5, 6, 16, and 20.

**Audit Plan**

An audit plan (SF67) was prepared prior to audit and provided to the Company. A copy of the plan is on file with Bureau Veritas Certification. The audit plan identified that the auditors would spend four days in field examining harvest areas, thinning treatments, road construction and water crossings. Additional time was spent reviewing records and documents in the office.

**Company Information**

Lyme Adirondack Forest Company is a part of the Lyme Timber Company. Lyme Timber is private investment company that owns and manages forestlands around the United States. The company's goals are to provide high quality investments which are profitable and leave the forest in a better condition than they were when purchased.

## Audit Results

### Objective 2: Forest Productivity

The Lyme Adirondack Forest is managed primarily with partial cut silvicultural systems suited to the hardwood species (Maple, Beech, Ash, Oak) which dominate the region. The Company relies on natural regeneration techniques to manage its forest. During the field audit emergent natural renewal was found on all sites. Regeneration success is assessed five years after harvest with ground based surveys. It was evident during the audit that regeneration was occurring on all sites. LAFCo does an excellent job of retaining crop trees after a harvest. Examples of this were found on the following sites.

Roads are built to minimize erosion. Water bars and diversions are used to direct the flow of water off of the road. Slash debris is used to stabilize trails. LAFCo does an excellent job of protecting soils on all its cuts. This achieved by spreading slash on trails and avoiding wet weather operations. Roads observed on the audit were well built and when not in use are water barred. Skid trails layout is generally wide to reduce the impacts. Before an operation is closed remedial work is done on roads and trails to ensure long term stability (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: This trail has been rehabilitated to ensure proper water runoff and soil stability.**

The Company has initiated programs to limit the spread of beech bark blight and is attempting to reduce the area of forest which is susceptible to ice damage (older stands of aspen and maple). The

company is actively monitoring its lands for invasive species such as Emerald Ashborer, Asian Longhorned Beetle and Japanese knotweed.

### **Objective 3: Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

The company's forest management system (FMS) includes a listing of all pertinent national and state legislations which is updated on a regular basis. This gets incorporated operationally in the contracts of all operators on the Forest and includes specifications of the legal requirements, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and harvest prescriptions in particular. These are monitored by Prentiss Carlisle staff. Interviews with staff and operators confirmed on-site inspections occur at least weekly. Non-conforming performance by operators is reported through the Prentiss & Carlisle staff, and is a consideration when negotiating future work. Having stated that, the operators in the forest are local and have long histories working in the area. All operators who were interviewed spoke favorably about Lyme Timber and the Prentiss & Carlisle staff.

Operations and prescriptions near or in Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) meet BMP requirements. Streamside buffers were checked at seven sites, all buffers exceeded the requirements. Water crossings were found to be well constructed and all crossing removals were well done (Figure 2). All compliance inspections included review and evaluation of RMZs and BMP adherence.

All active sites are regularly monitored at least once per week. Inspection reports were found to be detailed and accurate. Interviews with staff and operators confirmed on-site inspections occur at least weekly. Monitoring forms showing multiple compliance inspections by Prentiss & Carlisle staff were reviewed by the auditor at every site. Non-conforming performance by operators is reported through the Prentiss & Carlisle staff, and is a consideration when negotiating future work

### **Objective 5: Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits**

The Lyme Adirondack Forest exists almost entirely within the boundaries of Adirondack Park. The area is a high-use recreational area. Forest aesthetics is a primary concern for the managers of this forest. Any harvests carried out along well used travelways are designed to minimize visual impact. During the audit sites along popular roads were all seen to have a roadside buffer to minimize visual impacts. At one site a landing was located off the road right-of-way where a very serviceable landing could have been placed.

No traditional clear cuts over 25 acres can be undertaken on the forest due to Adirondack Park regulations, which require a minimum retention of 30 ft<sup>2</sup>/ac of basal area on all harvest sites over 25 acres. Clear cut sizes documented within the GIS system and on permits filed with the APA averaged less than 10 acres. APA guidelines also include adjacency requirements in conformance with SFI green-up requirements.

The organization maintains several public access points and the majority of the area is part of conservation easement to the State of New York allowing for public recreation. Lyme maintains an active recreational lease program which provides recreational opportunities to many.



**Figure 2: Watercrossing removal from the winter of 2014.**

### **Objective 6: Special Sites.**

In 2007 LAFCo undertook an assessment of the entire property in order to determine if there were any Special Sites which needed protection. The assessment identified two sites: the Sevey Bog and the graphite Mountain Bat Hibernacula. Sevey Bog is a 200 acre bog which is one of the largest in the Adirondack Park. No operations of any kind are allowed in the bog. The Graphite Mountain Bat Hibernacula is one of the largest in North America and was once the home to more than three million bats. The population has declined catastrophically due to the whitenose syndrome which is affecting bats throughout eastern North America. This site is managed in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.

### **Objective 16: Training & Education**

All staff working on the forest have the appropriate education and training for their positions. Prentice and Carlisle maintain training records for all staff. Staff training workshops in May and June of this year covered Health & Safety and Aesthetics.

All contractors must maintain their education to the standard of the ESFPA. Loggers must have NY logger training. Logger training is monitored continuously. If a logger falls behind in training they are suspended. A review of the ESFPA record showed that all active contractors were fully trained and up to date.

Both Lyme Timber and Prentiss & Carlisle are dedicated to public education. To that end they put on various tours in 2013 on the lafco lands

- Two logger workshops.
- Cub Scouts Dendrology tour,
- Site of Univ of Vermont summer camp
- A number woods tours for IP customers

Two guest lectures were also delivered at UVM

## **Objective 20: Management Review and Continual Improvement**

The managers of the Lyme Adirondack Forest rely on an active monitoring and review program to maintain their high standards of management. Management meets weekly to review progress and address issues. Quarterly management meetings are used to update staff and focus their management. The annual management review was undertaken April 9 2014.

### **Findings**

No negative findings were discovered during this audit.

**Previous non-conformances: None**

**Non-conformances: None**

**Opportunities for Improvement: None**

### **Internal Audit Program**

Lyme Adirondack Forest Company has a rigorous internal audit program with management review meetings at least annually but often twice per year. The company is an adherent of continual improvement and use the internal audit program to contribute to this goal.

### **Logo/label use:**

The Company does not use either the SFI or Bureau Veritas logos.

### **SFI reporting:**

The SFI website was visited to confirm that past audit reports for LAFCo were posted.

### **Conclusions**

A closing meeting was held on July 24 2014 at the Prentiss & Carlisle office in Glens Falls New York. The auditor discussed his findings including non-conformances and opportunities for improvement.

### **Surveillance Audit Schedule**

A surveillance audit will be scheduled for the summer of 2015.

**SEE SF61/SF71 FOR AUDIT NOTES**

Summary of Audit Findings:						
Audit Date(s):	From: July 21, 2014			To: July 24, 2014		
Number of SF02's Raised:	Major:		0		Minor:	0
Is a follow up visit required:	Yes	No	X	Date(s) of follow up visit:	n/a	
Follow-up visit remarks:						
Team Leader Recommendation:						
Corrective Action Plan (s) Accepted	Yes	No		Date:		
Proceed to/Continue Certification	Yes	X	No	Date:	July 24, 2014	
All NCR's Cleared	Yes	No		Date:		
Standard audit conducted against:						
1)	SFI 2010 - 2014		3)			
2)			4)			
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2, 3, 4...)				
Brian Callaghan		2)				
		3)				
		4)				
		5)				
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)						
Forest management and timber production on 239,500 acres within the Adirondack State Park.						
Accreditation's	ANAB					
Number of Certificates	1					
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event						
Date	June - July 2015					
Audit Report Distribution						
Sean Ross – sross@lymetimber.com						
Mekani Potts - melani.potts@us.bureauveritas.com						

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Sean Ross, Eric Ross, Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions</li> <li>➤ Scope of the audit</li> <li>➤ Audit schedule/plan</li> <li>➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor</li> <li>➤ Review of previous nonconformances - 0.</li> <li>➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling</li> <li>➤ Confidentiality agreement</li> <li>➤ Termination of the audit</li> <li>➤ Appeals process</li> <li>➤ Closing meeting timing</li> </ul>
Closing Meeting	Participants: Sean Ross Eric Ross, Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification.</li> <li>➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling.</li> <li>➤ Review of OFIs (1) and System Strengths</li> <li>➤ Nonconformances - 0</li> <li>➤ Date for Surveillance audit June/July 2015.</li> <li>➤ Reporting protocol and timing</li> </ul>

