

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

The Nipissing Forest is administered and managed by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM) under the authority of Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 542053. The company is owned by its shareholders: R. Fryer Forest Products Limited, Goulard Lumber (1971) Limited, Tembec Industries Inc., Hec. Clouthier and Sons Inc., and GP Northwoods LP. The SFL, under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, North Bay district office. North Bay District reports administratively to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, based in Timmins, Ontario.

The company SFI representative is Mr. Mark Lockhart, General Manager.

AUDIT

During the period of May 24 to May 27, 2016 NFRM underwent a 24 month 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.

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 Rod Seabrook – Team Leader, Mr. Daniel Martin and Mr. Herve Bescond. Mr. Seabrook holds the designation of Environmental Professional – Environmental Management System Lead Auditor (EP(EMSLA)) and is an Associate Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. Mr. Martin is a registered Forest Engineer in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Bescond holds a Master of Biology degree and has conducted over 50 forestry audits.

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

The Forest extends over 11,932 square kilometers and has a permanent population of approximately 86,000. Private land comprises 23 percent of the total area of the Nipissing Forest and is concentrated in the southern and central-western part of the area. Its contribution to the overall wood supply in the management unit is minimal. Maple, birch, spruce and pine are the key species groups being managed on the Crown Land portion of the Nipissing Forest. The three principal silviculture systems employed on the Forest are selection harvesting, shelterwood harvesting and clearcut harvesting. Under the selection and shelterwood systems trees are marked for removal or retention by certified tree markers with the goal of improving overall stand quality while protecting sensitive features such as streams and critical wildlife habitat. Under the clearcut system all of the trees in the stand may be cut with the exception of trees left for wildlife purposes, site protection or to meet residual stand requirements. There are 39 protected areas either entirely or partly within the boundaries of the Nipissing Forest. Two First Nation Reserves, Dokis and Nipissing are situated in the western and central parts of the Forest respectively. Two other aboriginal communities, the Mattawa/North Bay Algonquins and the Antoine First Nation, are located in the Mattawa area, but do not have any reserve lands.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The scope of certification has changed since the last public summary report. The revised scope reads as follows: *Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation, road construction, road maintenance and silviculture on the Nipissing Forest in Ontario. The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard meets and exceeds the requirements of the earlier SFI 2010-2014 SFI Standard (Section 2), therefore fibre sold under this 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 2, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 2, Table 2.

The audit team selected a sample of field review sites 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 and on-site office review:		3.75		
Field review:		2		
Sites Visited				
Auditor: Daniel Martin				
Management Unit	Site #	Location	Audited Activities	Indicators Assessed
The camp is situated on a Land Use Permit, just outside the boundaries of the Nipissing Forest.	1	Clouthier Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen/food preparation • Septic system • Fuel storage • Fuel transportation 	PM 3.1,
Nipissing Forest	2	Block 137-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest renewal planning and implementation • Supervision, transportation of workers. • Health and safety, working conditions • Forest fire equipment. 	PM 2.4, PM 2.5, PM 11.1,
Nipissing	3	Block 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand tending. Clearing of balsam fir using a 	PM 2.1, PM 2.2, PM

Forest		(South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brush saw. Forest renewal tending/stand improvement. Supervision. Fuel handling. Health and safety, working conditions. BMP implementation. 	2.3, PM 2.4, PM 11.1,
Nipissing Forest	4	Km15, Klocks Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road upgrade. BMP implementation/watercourse protection. Fuel handling. Health and safety, working conditions. 	PM 3.1, PM 3.2, PM 11.1,
Nipissing Forest	5	Planter's camp on Hawkesbury road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen/food preparation Septic system Fuel storage/handling Health and safety/working conditions 	PM 3.1, PM 3.2,
Nipissing Forest	6	Free to grow stand on Klocks Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest renewal. Free to grow evaluation process. Stand tending process. 	PM 2.1, PM 2.2, PM 2.3,
Nipissing Forest	7	Interview with DNR Resource Liaison Specialist, responsible for First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations values on the Nipissing Forest are adequately represented. First Nations have participated in the identification of values. Report on the protection 	PM 8.2

		Nations consultations	of First Nations values.	
Sites Visited				
Auditor: Herve Bescond				
Management Unit	Site #	Location	Audited Activities	Indicators Assessed
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	1	Block 162	Active harvest, Area of Concern, Selection cutting, Hauling	Training Forest Prescription Boundaries Waste management Fuel management Species at Risk Soil protection Riparian zones Fire prevention Wood utilization Operation
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	2	Block 208	Loading, Area of Concern, Clearcut, Seedtree cutting	Training Waste management Fuel management Species at Risk Soil protection Riparian zones
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	3	Block 210	Loading, Hauling	Training Waste management Fuel management Species at Risk Soil protection
Nipissing	4	Diver Road	Free to growth	

Forest (SFL 542053)				
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	5	Block 198	Active harvest	Training Waste management Fuel management Species at Risk Soil protection Riparian zones
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	6	Block 171	Selection cutting	Drainage Culvert installation Forest Inspection report Corrective action Wood utilization
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	8	Block 168	Selection cutting	Illegal Activities
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	9	Glen Road Lake	Culvert installation	Riparian zones
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	10	Block 242	Culvert installation Aggregate Pits Clearcut Seedcut Selective cut	Waste management Fuel management Soil protection Riparian zones Forest Inspection report Corrective action Wood utilization

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	Major	Principal 13	Nipissing Forest Resource Management did not implement the corrective actions it identified to address NCR-2015-01.	Addressed through inspections of each operation Action plan has been accepted. Evidence of implementation allowed to close the major non-compliance.
2016-02	Minor	11.1.1	Nipissing Forest Resource Management has not developed a written statement of commitment to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	Addressed through policy update Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2016-03	Minor	11.1.5	Nipissing Forest Resource Management agreements with licensees do not require the use of Qualified Logging Professionals	Addressed through addendum to overlapping licence agreement Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2016-04	Major	3.1	There is evidence that Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil are not disposed of an environmentally appropriate manner	Action plan has been accepted evidence of implementation allowed to close the major non-compliance.
2016-05	Minor	9.2	There is no evidence that the manager ensures the continual	Action plan has been accepted and

			compliance with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements. There is no evidence of implementation of relevant corrective actions.	implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2016-06	Minor	7.1	There is evidence that not all harvested merchantable and marketable timber has been utilized	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2016-07	Minor	15.1	The monitoring program does not allow for the necessary adaptations if the objectives are not met.	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

Opportunities for improvement

- Consider methods to improve tracking of renewal activities to ensure that partially renewed blocks are tracked so that no areas exceed the timeframe established for prompt regeneration by the SFI 2015-19 FM Standard
- Consider adding to the silviculture contract the same requirement to implement best management practices as in Overlapping Licence Agreements
- Consider implementing methods to verify that licensees and their workforce have current required training (i.e. H&S requirements; TDG; machine certification)

Exceptional practices

Comprehensive inspections are conducted on renewal projects to assess regeneration progress and document issues including the need for tending and fill planting 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	14.1	Upgraded to major non-conformance – see NCR-2016-01
2015-02	Minor	20.1.2	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-conformances were reviewed and considered acceptable. The major non-conformances have been closed and 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 2: 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

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Harvest inspection records	X
Written policies	X	Road and bridge inspection records	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-harvest inspection records	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Utilization records Monitoring records for non-timber values	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Timber supply review	X	Annual management review records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Pest management plan	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Support for research and science	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Planting program records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X

Commercial thinning in a red pine plantation

