

Appendix 2

NSF International Forestry Program 2016 SFI Public Summary Audit Report

SFI Fiber Sourcing

The SFI Program of Parton Lumber Company of Rutherfordton, NC has demonstrated conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing, according to the NSF Certification Process.

Parton Lumber Company is privately owned and operates a sawmill and chip mill in Rutherfordton, North Carolina and wood yards in Lenoir, Sparta and Spruce Pine, North Carolina and Hampton, Tennessee. It procures wood primarily from western North Carolina, northern South Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Parton's SFI Program is administered by Jimmy Clay.

The Surveillance audit was performed by NSF on March 1st and 2nd, 2016 by Mona Griswold, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 9 – Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation Requirements for the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules.

The scope of the audit included procurement operations. Procurement operations occurring in the past 12 months were reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met, in addition to 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 SFI Standard was used without modifying any requirements.

Audit Process

NSF initiated the audit process with a readiness review to confirm the scope of the audit, review the SFI Indicators and evidence to be used to assess conformance, verify that Parton Lumber Company was prepared to proceed to the audit, and to prepare a detailed audit plan. NSF then conducted the audit of conformance. A report was prepared and approved by an independent certification board member assigned by NSF. Follow-up or surveillance audits are required by SFI, Section 9. The next surveillance audit is scheduled for February 28th – March 1st, 2017.

The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of conformance. NSF 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 protocols. NSF 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.

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the standard.

Overview of Audit Findings

Parton Lumber Company was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there was 1 opportunity for improvement:

Objective 2.1.1 Program to require that harvests of purchased stumpage comply with BMP's.

OFI: Ensure that entire length of SMZ meets required NC Best Management Practices guidelines for distance from the water body.

This finding does not indicate a current deficiency, but serves to alert Parton Lumber Company to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

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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 1 Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing

To address the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conserving *biological diversity*.

Summary of Evidence: Summary

Objective 2 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: Summary

Objective 6 Training and Education

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs*.

Summary of Evidence: Summary

Objective 9 Communications and Public Reporting

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Summary of Evidence: Summary

Objective 10 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.

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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 and *ecosystem services* such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity*. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive exotic plants and animals* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health and productivity*.

3. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and *riparian areas* and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, and ecological or natural community types.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowner's *sustainable forestry* practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Legal Compliance

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

9. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

10. Training and Education

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and *traditional forest-related knowledge*.

12. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

13. Continual Improvement

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

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14. Avoidance of *Controversial Sources* including *Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing*

To avoid wood fiber from *illegally logged* forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing *fiber from countries without effective social laws*.

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2015-2019 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

Norman Boatwright
NSF Forestry Program Manager
PO Box 4021
Florence, SC 29502

Daniel Freeman
NSF Project Manager
789 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Mr. Jimmy Clay
Sales Manager
Parton Lumber Company
251 Parton Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

843-229-1851
nboatwright12@gmail.com

734-214-6228
dfreeman@nsf.org

828-287-9669
Jc3@partonumber.com