



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

390 Benmar Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77060
Phone (281) 986-1300: Toll Free (800) 937-9311

Company Name	South Carolina Forestry Commission
Contact Person	Mike Shealy
Address	5500 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212
Phone / Fax	(803) 896-8800
PQC Code	E01E
Contract Number	US.2188661

Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:	X	Surveillance Audit:		Scope extension audit:	
----------------------	--	-------------------------	---	---------------------	--	------------------------	--

Audit Summary

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the renewal audit conducted on the South Carolina Forestry Commission's (SCFC) SFI program for forest and land management. Gary Boyd, Bureau Veritas Certification Lead Auditor conducted the audit on July 12-14, 2016. Mr. Boyd is a Certified Forester and EMS Lead Auditor.

Audit Scope, Objectives and Process

The scope is "forest management". The audit was conducted to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. Specifically, two objectives of the audit were to verify that the Program Participant's SFI Program is in conformance with the SFI Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators, and any additional indicators that the Program Participant chooses, and verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI Standard program requirements on the ground. Standard Bureau Veritas Certification protocols and forms were applied throughout the audit as provided by the most recent version of the Bureau Veritas Certification SFI Auditor Handbook available on the auditor access website.

Audit Plan

An opening meeting was conducted at the South Carolina Forestry Commission Headquarters office the morning of July 12, 2016. The audit moved to the Harbison State Forest that afternoon. The next morning, July 13, 2016 the Wee Tee State Forest was visited and the remainder of the day was spent back at the SCFC Headquarters due to extremely hot weather conditions. The Manchester State Forest was visited on July 14, 2016 with the closing meeting occurring at 4pm that same day at Manchester. An audit plan was developed and is maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification.

Company Information

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) manages approximately 84,700 acres of state owned forestland across the state of South Carolina. The land is managed to provide revenue, education, research, and demonstration. Timber is managed and harvested to produce income and provide educational opportunities. The state forests contain natural pine and hardwood stands along with plantations of primarily longleaf and loblolly pine. A small amount of slash pine is present on some state forests, but these sites are being converted back to native species. Each state forest has

slightly different management objectives as indicated in their respective forest management plans. Forest management activities are not highly intensive. The property is open to the public for recreational activities, although access is controlled in certain circumstances.

Multi-Site Requirements

This certificate covers the five state forests managed by the South Carolina Forestry Commission located throughout the state of South Carolina. The central office is the SCFC headquarters located in Columbia, SC. The five state forests are listed below.

Multi-Site	X	Group Certification	
Sites		Sites Audited During this Event	
SCFC Headquarters, Columbia, SC (Central Office)		X	
Wee Tee State Forest		X	
Manchester State Forest		X	
Sand Hills State Forest			
Poe Creek State Forest			
Harbison State Forest		X	

Audit Results

The renewal audit was conducted to determine if SCFC’s system documentation continues to meet the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. No non-conformances were issued. Four opportunities for improvement were issued during the audit.

The field audit visited fifteen sites which consisted of a review of two thinning harvests, five natural regeneration tracts, two artificial regeneration sites that had been chemically site prepared, one afforestation tract, three prescribed burn tracts, one chemical application tract and one pine straw site. Field reviews indicate the organization is doing an excellent job of managing its forest.

Results of the renewal audit by objective are outlined below.

Objective 1-Forest Management Planning: SCFC has inventory and resource management processes in place for the Manchester and Wee Tee State Forests. An annual allowable cut is determined for all state forests except for Harbison and Poe Creek State Forests which contain about 2,000 acres each. Harvest rates are relatively low, and growth exceeds harvest. Soils are mapped, and a land classification is in place. Two Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) were issued to this objective. The first OFI was issued because the Wee Tee State Forest has not updated its inventory the last few years. The second OFI was issued because no formal harvest trend lines have been formalized.

Objective 2-Forest Health and Productivity: Natural and artificial regeneration activities were well done on the eight sites visited. SCFC uses both natural and artificial regeneration methods emphasizing longleaf pine re-establishment on pine sites. Chemical site preparation was completed on two sites visited. Lower than label rates were verified and neither site showed signs of off-site spray. Soils were well protected on the harvest sites observed during the audit. Virtually no rutting or erosion was observed. Activities are being documented using the Management Activity Inspection Record.

Objective 3-Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources: Compliance with South Carolina BMPs was observed on the sites visited. No temporary stream crossings were observed. On-the-

ground results were good. Contracts reviewed contained clauses requiring BMP compliance.

Objective 4-Conservation of Biological Diversity: SCFC last exchanged information with the SC Natural Heritage Program in 2013. An OFI was issued due to not having more current biological data. The biodiversity information is managed by the headquarters within the GIS system and state forest personnel are notified of potential areas during budget planning. Field audits revealed SCFC was providing a good amount of stand-level wildlife habitat in its forest management activities. The land classification system is used to intersperse harvests across the property, providing for landscape diversity.

Objective 5-Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits: No clearcut harvests were completed on the state forests audited. Harvesting has only been completed through thinnings. State forests are used for a wide range of recreational uses.

Objective 6-Protection of Special Sites: SCFC has identified and mapped a number of special sites based on ecological, historical, or cultural uniqueness. These sites are part of a layer within the GIS system.

Objective 7-Efficient Use of Fiber Resources: Utilization was acceptable on the two thinning sites reviewed during the audit.

Objective 8: Recognize and Respect Indigenous People's Rights: No recognized tribes are located on or near state forest lands. There has been no correspondence with indigenous people.

Objective 9-Legal and Regulatory Compliance: SCFC has access to applicable legal requirements. The agency has developed and implemented an Activity Flow Chart and the Management Activity Inspection Record to ensure regulatory compliance and the organization's own requirements are being followed. All contracts reviewed contained requirements for compliance with laws. No adverse regulatory action information was evident. The company has received no information from interested parties relative to its or any of its contractor's conformance with ILO core conventions.

Objective 10-Forestry Research, Science and Technology: One of the main focuses of the property is research, so there was ample evidence of a wide variety of research activities. Employees interviewed demonstrated knowledge of climate change impact on forest health and productivity, or wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Objective 11-Training and Education: Roles, responsibilities and training requirements are defined. An OFI was issued due to training records not completing recording employee training. Contractors used during the previous year met the requirements of the South Carolina SIC (TOP logger) or had Commercial Applicators licenses. The agency is a full voting member of the South Carolina SIC, which includes participation in the development and delivery of logger training.

Objective 12-Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach: The SCFC is a full voting member of the South Carolina SIC. Financial support of the SIC is being paid by the agency. The SIC has developed an excellent landowner brochure that contains information on a number of topics, including the conservation of biological diversity and protection of special sites. The network of state forests exists as demonstration areas, providing information to landowners encouraging their continued management of forestland. There was ample evidence of educational efforts, given it is one of the primary uses of the forest.

Objective 13: Public Land Management Responsibilities: SCFC provides many opportunities for public and stakeholder input. This input is considered when the agency develops plans and conducts

activities.

Objective 14-Communications and Public Reporting: The 2015 surveillance audit report is posted on the SFI website. The agency's 2015 SFI Annual Progress Report which was submitted on 3/22/16 was reviewed during the audit. SCFC has the reporting capabilities to provide information for the annual report.

Objective 15-Management Review: Management of the state forest's certification program is managed by the Manager – State Lands. The Manager reports to Director – Forest Management. The organization is relatively flat, and informal reviews occur on a regular basis. Management Review was conducted on 7/8/16.

Findings

Previous non-conformances:

Two minor non-conformances were issued as a result of this 2nd surveillance audit. These non-conformances were on 9/10/2015.

Non-conformances:

None

Opportunities for Improvement:

Four Opportunities for Improvement were issued against the following Objective, Performance Measure & Indicators:

1. Objective 1, PM 1, Indicator 2 – Wee Tee S F inventory update;
2. Objective 1, PM 1, Indicator 3 – Deveop harvest trenlines;
3. Objective 4, PM 3, Indicator 1- Update Natural Heritage data;
4. Objective 11, PM 1, Indicator 3 – Training records.

Notable Practices:

None

Logo/label use:

No logo or label use was observed. SCFC does not intend to use the Bureau Veritas Certification logo.

SFI reporting:

The 2nd surveillance audit report is located on the SFI website. SCFC submitted their 2015 SFI Progress Report in a timely manner this spring.

Conclusions

Results of the renewal audit indicate the South Carolina Forestry Commission has an effective forest management program that meets the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. Renewed certification is recommended.

SEE SF61 FOR AUDIT NOTES

Summary of Audit Findings:									
Audit Date(s):		From: July 12, 2016				To: July 14, 2016			
Number of SF02's Raised:			Major:		0		Minor:		0
Is a follow up visit required:			Yes	X	No	Date(s) of follow up visit:			
Follow-up visit remarks:									
Team Leader Recommendation:									
Corrective Action Plan(s) Accepted		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:	
Proceed to/Continue Certification		Yes	X	No		N/A		Date:	7/14/2016
All NCR's Closed		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:	
Cert Decision:	Approved	Name:		Alyssa MacDonald			Date:		09/08/16
Standard audit conducted against:									
1)	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard		3)						
2)			4)						
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2,3,4...)							
Gary Boyd		2)							
		3)							
		4)							
		5)							
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)									
<i>Forest Management</i>									
Accreditation's		ANAB							
Number of Certificates		1							
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event									
Date	July 2017								
Audit Report Distribution									
Bureau Veritas Certification: Dawn Komnick-Ehmann - dawn.komnick@us.bureauveritas.com									
SCFC: Mike Shealy - mshealy@forestry.state.sc.us									

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Mike Shealy, James Douglas, Brian Davis, Tripp Miller, Gary Boyd Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductions ➤ Scope of the audit ➤ Audit schedule/plan ➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor ➤ Review of previous nonconformances – 2 Minor. ➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling ➤ Confidentiality agreement ➤ Termination of the audit ➤ Appeals process ➤ Closing meeting timing
Closing Meeting	Participants: James Douglas, Brian Davis, Tripp Miller, Ben Kendall, Gary Boyd Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification. ➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling. ➤ Review of OFIs and System Strengths ➤ Nonconformances - 0 ➤ Date for next audit. ➤ Reporting protocol and timing