

# Weaber, Inc.

## 2016 SFI Public Summary Audit Report

### Introduction

The SFI Program of Weaber, Inc. of Lebanon PA has demonstrated conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing in accordance with the NSF certification process.

Weaber, Inc. is a forest products company with corporate headquarters located in Lebanon PA, that operates a sawmill in Lebanon PA. Weaber, Inc. procures wood primarily from the USA states of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The facility utilizes logs/round wood.

The audit was performed by NSF on 9-10 November 2016 by Lead Auditor, Anne Marie Kittredge. 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.

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, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were within the scope of the audit.

Several of the SFI Section 3 requirements were outside of the scope of Weaber, Inc.’s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the Audit as follows:

The requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 were used in the audit; no indicators were modified. Five (5) SFI Objectives were outside of the scope of Weaber Inc.’s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

Requirement Number	Brief Description	Reason for Exclusion
SFI Standard Indicator 5.2.2	Research on genetically engineered trees via <i>forest tree biotechnology</i> shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the U.S. or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.	There is no research on genetically engineered trees in the procurement areas, therefore SFI Indicator 5.2.2 is not applicable.
SFI Standard Indicator 6.2.3	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification <i>programs</i> , where they exist	Certified Logger Programs do not exist in PA.
SFI Standard Objectives 8	To participate and implement sustainable forest management on <i>public lands</i> .	This company does not own or manage forestland on public lands, therefore the SFI Standard Objective 8 is not applicable.
SFI Standard Objectives 11-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas</li> <li>• Avoidance of <i>Controversial Sources</i> including <i>Illegal Logging</i></li> <li>• Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws</li> </ul>	This company does not procure wood from outside of the U.S. and Canada, therefore, SFI Standard Objectives 11-13 are not applicable.

## Audit Process

NSF initiated the audit process with a planning call to confirm the scope of the audit, review the SFI Indicators and evidence to be used to assess conformance, verify that Weaber, Inc. 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 audit is scheduled for June 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

Weaber, Inc was found to be in conformance with the standard.

NSF determined that there were zero (0) non-conformances:

NSF determined that 1 opportunity for improvement was also identified, and included:

OFI: (7.1.2.f) This Company alone and in cooperation with the PA SIC is in conformance with this section of the Standard. However, as confirmed through observations of completed harvest sites, this company works repeatedly through the years with the same landowners and private ownerships within this landscape contain a large number of non-native invasive species. There is an opportunity for improvement for this company to consider the design and implementation of additional steps that might further encourage landowners to invest in treatments that would reduce the cover of NNIS or minimize the risk of establishment and spread to new areas.

These findings do not indicate a current deficiency, but served to alert Weaber, Inc. to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

## 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:** *Review of records, interviews and participation in the PA SIC.*

### 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:** *Field observations and review of BMP monitoring records, and review of the company's internal BMP monitoring program.*

### Objective 3 Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals

To encourage forest landowners to utilize the services of *qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals* (where available) and *qualified resource professionals*.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Review of training records, records associated with harvest sites audited and interviews.*

### Objective 4 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Field observations, interviews and web-based search did not reveal issues.*

## **Objective 5 Forestry Research, Science, and Technology**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Review of financial records including support for research.*

## **Objective 6 Training and Education**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** *Review of training records, records associated with harvest sites visited during the on-site audit, lists of trained loggers and foresters and interviews.*

## **Objective 7 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach**

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Interviews, review of records of outreach and support for key organizations, review of evidence of involvement for example with the PA Forest Products Associations and membership and cooperation with the PA SFI Implementation Committee.*

## **Objective 9 Communications and Public Reporting**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** *Interviews, review of past reports and SFI Inc. website.*

## **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:** *Review of records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings and interviews with personnel.*

## **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 landowners *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*.

**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*

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