

## **NSF International Forestry Program Public Summary Audit Report Weyerhaeuser NA Company – Eastern Procurement Group**

The SFI Program of the Weyerhaeuser NR Company - Eastern Procurement has demonstrated continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard<sup>®</sup> 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 3), according to the NSF SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF initially certified the Weyerhaeuser NR Company - Eastern Procurement on May 30, 2008 and recertified in June 2012. This report describes the second Recertification Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. All of SFI requirements were selected for detailed review. The audit schedule calls for auditing 2 different facilities each year. The Grayling, MI and Elkin, NC facilities were audited this year.

Weyerhaeuser NR Company - Eastern Procurement provides wood fiber to seven (7) Weyerhaeuser manufacturing facilities located in the eastern portion of the United States; including: Grayling, MI; Port Wentworth, Sandersville & Oglethorpe, GA; Buckhannon & Sutton, WV; & Elkin, NC.

The Recertification Audit was performed by NSF on June 17-18, 2015 at Grayling and June 25-26, 2015 at Elkin by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ). The objective of the audit was to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard<sup>®</sup> 2015-2014 Standards and Rules, Section 3).

The scope of the SFIS Audit included procurement operations for the seven (7) facilities listed above. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been conducted since the previous field audit conducted in June 2014. A sample of procurement operations since that time were also reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met. Direct purchase stumpage tracts were visited both facilities. In addition, all of SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were examined during the audit. Use of the SFI logo and the requirement to provide a public of audit reports were also reviewed.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of Weyerhaeuser NR Company - Eastern Procurement's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Core Indicator 4.1.5 Program to address risk
- Core Indicator 5.2 Research on genetically engineered trees
- Objective 8 Public land management responsibilities

No indicators were modified.

### **SFIS Surveillance Audit Process**

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review.

During the audit NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF also selected field sites for inspection based upon randomness, the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF SFI-SOP. NSF also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, wood suppliers and landowners/consultants and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance and Opportunities for Improvement.

### **Overview of Audit Findings**

The Company's SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. There were no previous non-conformances to review and the NSF SFI Recertification Audit Process did identify a minor non-conformance:

Requirement: Section 5, PM 2.5: *The tree/leaf design may not be displayed by itself, and must always be accompanied with either "Sustainable Forestry Initiative" or "SFI," the claim associated with the label, the SFI website ([www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)), and the certified organization's SFI label ID number.*

Finding: The Timber Sale Agreement for the King tract contains the appropriate SFI logo but does not have the required license code (Section 5, PM 2.5).

No opportunities for improvement were identified.

The next surveillance audit is scheduled for the week of June 13, 2016 at the Buckhannon and Sutton facilities.

### **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 with landowners and participation in the MI, VA and NC SICs.

**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, review of BMP monitoring records and state BMP audits.

**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** – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and landowner interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

**Objective 4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance** - To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence.

**Objective 5. Forestry Research, Science and Technology** - To invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

**Summary of Evidence** – Confirmed by review of records that the Company has sponsored forestry research.

**Objective 6. Training and Education** - To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs*.

**Summary of Evidence** – Confirmed by the Company’s financial and physical support of the MI, VA and NC SICs and its development of education and logger training programs.

**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** – Confirmed by the Company’s financial and physical support of the MI and NC SICs and its development of handouts for forest landowners.

**Objective 9. Communications and Public Reporting** - To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Fiber Sourcing* Standard.

**Summary of Evidence** – Confirmed audit report was filed on time with SFI Inc. and that the Company maintains copies of previous reports.

**Objective 10. Management Review and Continual Improvement** - To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

**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.

### 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 zones, and to conform with 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 forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and 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. 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.

**9. Legal Compliance**

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

**10. Research**

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

**11. Training and Education**

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

**12. Public Involvement**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on public lands through community involvement.

**13. Transparency**

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

**14. Continual Improvement**

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

*Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition*

END OF PUBLIC REPORT