



Interfor Lumber Company 2014 SFI Summary Recertification Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Interfor Perry and Preston, Georgia facilities have achieved conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified these sawmills under the name of Tolleson Lumber Company in September 2011. Interfor recently purchased these mills and this report describes the first Recertification Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. In addition, all of the SFI requirements were selected for detailed review.

The saw mills in Perry and Preston process southern yellow pine into lumber and other products. The company's SFI program is managed by Steve Carter and the central office is located in Perry. The company utilizes a single procurement organization to wood both mills. This audit involved the procurement organizations in Perry and Preston and the central office functions in Perry.

The recertification audit was performed by NSF-ISR on September 9-10, 2014 by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of "Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation" contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included procurement operations. Procurement operations during the past twelve (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.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of Tolleson Lumber Company's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Objectives 1 - 7 Land Management
- Objectives 11 - 13 Fiber Sourcing outside Canada and the US
- Core Indicator 14.2.2 Forestry enterprises
- Core Indicator 15.1.2 Research on genetically engineered trees
- Core Indicator 16.1.5 Forestry Enterprises
- Core Indicator 16.2.2 Logger certification

- Objective 18 Public land management responsibilities

SFIS Recertification 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-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR 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-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also 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 for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS.

Overview of Audit Findings

The Interfor Perry and Preston facility's SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard.

The NSF-ISR SFI Recertification Audit Process determined that there were no new non-conformances or opportunities for improvement. There were no adverse findings from the 2013 audit.

The audit did identify an area where Interfor's SFI Program exceeds the Standard requirements:

10.2.2 Interfor uses BMP implementation data from state and in-house BMP monitoring set the agenda for the SFI Logger Training course it sponsors each year.

The next surveillance audit is scheduled for September 2015.

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 8. Landowner Outreach - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by forest landowners through fiber sourcing programs.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews with staff and stakeholders and review of programs offered (SIC brochures) were used to confirm these requirements.

Objective 9. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

Summary of Evidence – Tolleson encourages its landowners and consultants to use qualified logging professionals and requires that its contract loggers be trained that that its wood suppliers use trained loggers.

Objective 10. 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 were the primary evidence used to assess adherence to BMPs. No issues were identified.

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance -

Compliance 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. The Georgia BMP state forester was also contacted.

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology - To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Summary of Evidence –Financial records were confirmed by check requisitions and thank you notes for research support.

Objective 16. Training and Education -To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Summary of Evidence – Training records of selected personnel and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry -

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

Summary of Evidence – Mailing lists, agendas for meetings, and selected summaries of comments were sufficient to assess the requirements.

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Summary of Evidence –Reports will be filed on time with SFI Inc. after 2012.

Objective 20. 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.

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

For Additional Information Contact:

Norman Boatwright
Forestry Program Manager, NSF
P.O. Box 4021
Florence, SC 29502
843-229-1851
nboatwright12@gmail.com

Steve Carter
Interfor
903 Jernigan Street
Perry, Georgia 31069
478.988.3800
steve.carter@interfor.com