

## **2015 SFI Public Summary Report**

### **Timberland Investment Resources, LLC Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> (SFI) Standard [2010-2014]**

#### **Project Scope and Objectives**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed a SFI Maintenance Assessment of forestry lands managed by Timberland Investment Resources LLC (“TIR” or “the Company”). The Lead Assessor was Joann Cox, EMS (LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to assess TIR’s SFI management system and to evaluate the implementation of the SFI Standard in the field.

#### **Indicators**

All of the indicators in the SFI Standard were within the scope of the assessment, except for Objectives 8-13, since TIR does not procure fiber, and Objective 18, since none of the land under TIR’s management is public land. There were no substitute indicators.

#### **Assessment Process**

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements. The report was dated December 15, 2015.

#### **Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices**

TIR manages timberland investments in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin totaling approximately 762,000 acres. TIR manages its SFI program through a centralized management structure that is divided into geographical Regions. The centralized management structure provides a consistent approach towards forest management throughout the organization. Part of the centralized management operations is an Investment Analysis group that supports forest management modelling and planning that is driven by forest inventory data and managed through their GIS.

Prompt reforestation is achieved by either natural regeneration or planting of harvest units. Planting stock selection is determined by site specific factors. TIR foresters assess potential ecological impacts in the event a different species or species mix is contemplated from what was originally on the site. Adequate regeneration is evaluated using a set of clear criteria during planting operations and as well as stocking rates for natural and planting regeneration.

Timber utilization specifications are included in contracts and detailed harvest plans. Harvesting operations are reviewed through the course of operations and documented in inspection reports. TIR requires employees and direct contractors conducting logging operations to be appropriately trained. TIR encourages wood producers operating on its land base to employ the services of qualified logging professionals.

TIR is a SIC member in several states. Through the SIC and other activities, TIR foresters are involved with public outreach and education activities related to sustainable forest management. TIR participates in research as members in several research cooperatives and forestry organizations to support forestry research, science and technology.

Specific Good management practices are noted below:

- Working closely with the Wisconsin Forest Legacy and US Fish & Wildlife Service to establish jack pine forest community the primary nesting habitat for the Kirtland Warbler thereby creating opportunities to enhance both non-timber and timber values.
- The Harvest Plans for several Hawk Mountain over story removal harvest units outlined steps to enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity by marking live and dead standing trees for retention.
- Efforts to protect rare and endangered species:
  - Developing Timber Rattlesnake Encounter Plans, a listed species as Threatened in the state of New York, which provides the protocol should a timber rattlesnake be encountered during the course of project activities.
  - Implementing management measures to maintain the habitat of the Karner Blue butterfly, a federally listed endangered species, in an effort to support the landscape-wide conservation habitat plan enacted in the state of Wisconsin.
- Use of GPS to delineate management plan objectives as well as the consistent practice to produce detailed maps to ensure conformance with state BMPs.
- Taking a proactive stance towards public safety by including the use of DOT approved “Trucks Entering Highway” in their Timber Cutting Contract when not all the states they operate in require this type of signage.

## **Summary of Findings**

No non-conformities were identified during the assessment.

Opportunities for improvement were identified in the following areas:

- Consistently incorporating revisions made to state cutting notices in the Pre-Harvest Plan process to help ensure compliance with applicable forest practice regulations.
- Clarifying the proper design and best material to be used to stabilize steep skid trails, especially in arson prone areas.

## **Conclusion**

The Group has maintained conformance with the requirements of the SFI Standard. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Steven Smith of TIR at (404) 848-2000 x1329 or on <http://www.tirllc.com>.