

**2nd surveillance
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for:

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for the following certified forest area(s):¹

Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)

File number: 1640030-01

Date of surveillance evaluation: (11-13/May/2015)

Date of finalized report: (24/06/2015)

FSC[®] Registration Code: QMI-FM/COC-001635

Date of Certificate Issue: 16/05/2003

Validity of the certificate: From 12/06/2013 to 11/06/2018

Based on FSC-STD-20-007a V1-0/ FSC-STD-20-007b V1-0

¹ In the case of group certification, the certificate holder is the group manager and the region in which the group is located must be specified.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION	3
1.1.1 <i>Itinerary</i>	3
1.1.2 <i>Approach</i>	5
1.1.3 <i>Selected FMUs and Rationale</i>	6
1.1.4 <i>Sites Visited</i>	6
1.1.5 <i>Stakeholder Consultation</i>	7
1.1.6 <i>Additional Evaluation Techniques</i>	7
1.1.7 <i>Update on any changes to the scope of the certificate</i>	7
2.0 STANDARD(S).....	8
2.1 STANDARD USED.....	8
2.2 DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL ADAPTATION OF GENERIC STANDARD.....	8
3.0 OBSERVATIONS.....	8
3.1 OBSERVATIONS ON REVIEW AND RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINT	18
3.2 SUMMARIZED PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONDITIONS RELATED TO ANY APPROVED PESTICIDE DEROGATION	18
4.0 SURVEILLANCE DECISION.....	19
4.1 NON-COMPLIANCES	19
4.2 DIFFICULT ASSESSMENTS	19
4.3 STATUS OF PREVIOUS NON-COMPLIANCES	19
4.4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT	19
4.5 RECOMMENDATION TO MAINTAIN THE CERTIFICATE.....	19
5.0 COMPLAINTS, DISPUTES AND APPEALS.....	20
6.0 NEXT AUDIT	20
7.0 GROUP MEMBERSHIP LIST (UPDATE).....	20

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION

Evaluation dates:	11-13 May 2015
Task	Person days (excluding travel)
Pre-evaluation	0
Preparatory Work	0,5
Documents, Records and Fieldwork	6
Stakeholder Interviews	1
TOTAL	7,5

EVALUATION TEAM	
Lead auditor:	
Hervé Bescond	
Auditor:	
Stéphane Audet	
Technical expert:	
N/A	
Observer:	
N/A	

1.1.1 Itinerary

Day 1 - Monday May 11, 2015		
	Hervé Bescond	Stéphane Audet
8 :30	Opening Meeting Review of woodlands activities and field audit planning Review of CIS	
	1.3 In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected (1)	NC 2014-01 4.5.2
	1.4 Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties (2)	2.2 – Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies (2)
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 1.5 Forest management areas should be protected from illegal activities (2)	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claim and use rights. (3)

11:00	Stakeholders consultation	Stakeholders consultation
1:PM	Stakeholders consultation	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples (2)
4:PM	1.6 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria (1)	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (2)
	2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated (1)	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained (1)
4 :45 PM	Debriefing with Management	
05:00 PM	End of the audit day	

Day 2 - Tuesday May 12, 2014		
	Hervé Bescond	Stéphane Audet
8 :00	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. (4)	Woodlands verification: Operational activities Training Monitoring
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (6)	
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced or restored (15)	
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts (1)	
	6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land	

	uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion (4)	
	Principle 10 (10)	
4 :45 PM	Debriefing with Management	
05:00 PM	End of the audit day	

Day 3 - Wednesday 13, 2014		
	Hervé Bescond	Stéphane Audet
8 :15		Field observation notes
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor (9)	6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations (4)
	Surveillance Mandatory Criterion 9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes. (1)	8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan (1)
		8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of some information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2 (1)
1:00 PM	Audit team meeting	
2:00 PM	Debriefing with management	
2:30 PM	Closing meeting	
3:00 PM	End of the audit	

1.1.2 Approach

The audit assessed conformance with the QMI-SAI GLOBAL - Locally adapted Standard for Assessing Forest Management in the Great Lakes/Saint-Lawrence (GLSL) region, version 2012-June as well as the company's forest management program utilizing the following techniques:

- Review of the company's policies and procedures
- Review of the company's documentation and records

- Review of correspondence and communications
- Interviews with staff
- Interviews with contractors
- Interviews with First Nations
- Interviews with Local Citizens Committee
- Field assessment of conformance
- Review of previous audit findings
- Review of the current Forest Management Plan
- Review of the independent forest audit (IFA) findings

1.1.3 Selected FMUs and Rationale

Evaluation of the Nipissing Forest. There are no other FMU's within the scope of the certificate

1.1.4 Sites Visited

Sites visited				
Management unit	Site #	Location	Audited activities	Indicators assessed
Nipissing Forest	1	Janveaux Block 169	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harwood selection cut • Broad wing hawk AOC • Barred Owl cavity AOC • Fish Hatchery bypass • Bear bait stands 	1.1,4.4, 5.3, 6.1, 6.3,6.2, 6.7
Nipissing Forest	2	Silviculture Block S11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABS chemical site preparation • Mechanical site preparation (active operation) 	4.2, 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 7.3
Nipissing Forest	3	Tembec Block 182	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwood uniform shelterwood final removal cut • Aggregate Pit • By seed tree • Culvert Installation 	1.1, 5.3, 5.5, 6.1, 6.3, 6.5, 6.7, 6.10
Nipissing Forest	4	Porcupine Creek	Culvert removal	4.4, 5.5, 6.3, 6.5
Nipissing Forest	5	S14	2014 treeplant	6.3
Nipissing Forest	6	Tembec Block 210	Pr bark beetle sanitation harvest	5.3, 6.3, 6.6
Nipissing Forest	7	Tembec Block 208	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pr seed tree • Mixedwood clearcut • RSA AOC • Lake AOC 	1.1, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5, 6.3
Nipissing Forest	8	Janveaux Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixedwood clearcut 	1.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5,

		208	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bw seed tree (Active operation) RSA AOC Lake AOC 	6.3, 6.7, 7.3
Nipissing Forest	9	Silviculture Block S10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABS chemical site preparation Mechanical site preparation in roadside harvest debris 2015 tree plant (active operation) 	1.1, 4.2, 5.3, 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.10, 7.3
Nipissing Forest	10	Mitchel Lake	Culvert installation	1.1, 5.5, 6.3, 6.5
Nipissing Forest	11	Ranger Lake Road	Biomass harvest Mixedwood clearcut Primary road construction	5.3, 6.3, 6.5, 6.7

1.1.5 Stakeholder Consultation

Interest group of stakeholders contacted	# of stakeholders contacted	# of stakeholders having made comments	Observations resulting from stakeholder consultation
Individuals and enterprises	8		
Municipalities	1		
First Nations	9	3	There were no specific Aboriginal observations and concerns identified in the 2015 surveillance audit.
Contractors	1		
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	9		
Associations	8	0	
Governments	7	2	There were no specific observations and concerns identified in the 2015 surveillance audit.
Public agencies	0	0	

1.1.6 Additional Evaluation Techniques

N/A

1.1.7 Update on any changes to the scope of the certificate

The update shall include;

- a) Changes in the basic quantitative information as collected at the initial audit(Section 1 of main assessment report)
- b) List of chemical pesticides used within the forest area since the last audit, summarized quantitative data on their use (amount and area) and reason for use;
- c) Number of accidents in forest work (serious / fatal) since the last audit.

a) There is no change in the basic quantitative information

b)

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>Quantity (kg ai)</u>	<u>Reason for Use</u>
Glyphosate	167,10	Air blast spray - 100% tending Pw/Pr/Sw Air blast spray - site prep for Pw/Pr/Sw planting
Glyphosate	324,70	
Triclopyr	17,79	Basal Bark - Red oak mgmt. & Pr tending
Glyphosate	1158,10	aerial spray - 100% tending Pw/Pr
Triclopyr	1020,10	aerial spray - 100% tending Pw/Pr
Glyphosate	33,90	aerial spray - sip for Pr.Pw, Sw plant Air blast spray - site prep for Pw/Pr/Sw planting
Siloxyated Polyether 80%	36,70	
Glyphosate	87,59	Back pack foliar - tending of Pw/Pr natural & plant

c) No serious/fatal accidents since the last audit.

2.0 STANDARD(S)

2.1 Standard Used

QMI-SAI GLOBAL - Locally adapted Standard for Assessing Forest Management in the Great Lakes/Saint-Lawrence (GLSL) region, version 2012-June.

You may get a copy of the standard at the following address:

<http://www.saiglobal.com/assurance/forestry/FSC.htm>

2.2 Description of Local Adaptation of Generic Standard

The QMI-SAI Global generic standard was modified to include the indicators found in the Great Lakes St-Lawrence standard. This generic standard was subject to a public consultation before its official usage.

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

Criterion 1.1 Compliance with national and local laws and administrative requirements.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 1.2 Payment of fees, taxes etc.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 1.3 Compliance with international agreements	
A list of International agreements is available and up to date. The international agreements are integrated within the national and provincial laws and by-laws.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 1.4 Documenting of conflicts with laws.	
NFRM has identified situations in which the manager's compliance with FSC requirements conflicts with laws and regulations of Ontario.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 1.5 Protection from illegal activities	
A system is in place for documenting and reporting to the appropriate authority instances of illegal harvesting, settlement, occupation or other unauthorized activities. Monitoring for illegal activities is conducted primarily through the FOIP system.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 1.6 Adherence to FSC principles.	
NFRM has demonstrate a commitment to comply with FSC certification.	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE #2 TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND REPSONSIBILITIES	
Criterion 2.1 Evidence of forest use rights.	
NFRM has the legal right to manage and use its forest resources. The Nipissing Forest is a large public (Crown) forest, which is managed by NFRM as licensed by the province of Ontario through a Sustainable Forest License.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 2.2 Local communities with use rights can protect their rights and resources.	
Resource user and forest stakeholders are properly consulted and notified of forest management activities on the forest	

Strength Proactive approach to stakeholder consultation.	Weakness
Criterion 2.3 Appropriate mechanisms to resolve disputes.	
Dispute resolution in place and recently updated.	
Strength	Weakness
Good relationship with stakeholders	
PRINCIPLE #3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS	
Criterion 3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples.	
Active involvement with the First Nations via the FMP planning process and continued participation in the Aboriginal Working Group.	
Strength	Weakness
First Nation outreach and communication.	
Criterion 3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to Indigenous People(s) shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such Peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 3.4 Indigenous Peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FOREST WORKERS' RIGHTS	
Criterion 4.1 The communities within or adjacent to the forest management area should be given the opportunity for employment, training, and other services.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness

Criterion 4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	
All mandatory legal requirements for health and safety are being met on the forest management unit. Effective sign-off and confirmation of training documentation in place for silviculture contractors. Some improvements could be implemented for tracking training documentation of overlapping licensees	
Strength No infraction of applicable health and safety regulations were observe in active operations. Effective tracking of safety training documentation for silviculture contractors	Weakness Some inconsistent tracking and documentation of training certification for overlapping licensees
Criterion 4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.	
Public consultation was carried out for the Phase II of the Nipissing forest management plan. The consultation was open and publicized. Consultations continues through the LCC whose meeting are held every month. The adjacent properties owners are informed of the management plan and have the opportunity to comment the planned activities.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 5 BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST	
Criterion 5.1 Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness

Criterion 5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources, such as watersheds and fisheries.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	
The determination of planned harvesting volumes in the Phase I and Phase II FMP done in accordance to the forest management planning manual and have been approved by the MNR and meet the GLSL standard. Current actualized harvest rates are approximately 30% of planned and do not exceed the projected long term harvesting rate.	
Strength Modelling and harvest volume determination done in accordance to the mandated process in the FMPM.	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	
Criterion 6.1 Environmental impact assessments.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.2 Safeguards must exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).	
There is a list of species at risk that could potentially be found in the Nipissing Forest in the Forest Management Plan. The section on Wildlife-Species at Risk lists the AOC stated in the management plan for species at risk. This information is integrated in the FMP. The FMP is	

designed to generate prescriptions in case that habitat for species at risk is identified.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced or restored.	
Forest management operations are conducted in a manner that maintains the integrity of small streams, seepages, and woodland pools.	
The FMP is designed to leave the insular and peninsular patches standing forever in the clearcuts. The volume that is left standing is not included in the AAC calculation.	
There are three silviculture systems employed on the Nipising Forest under which forest management activities (harvest and renewal) occur. Each one of these systems (Clearcut, Shelterwood, Single Tree Selection) are prescribed and implemented based on groupings of forest tree species with similar silvicultural and ecological aspects. Vegetation management begins with harvesting and varying proportions of the canopy are removed.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.	
Operators working on the Forest are very knowledgeable of proper procedures for mitigating environmental impact when dealing with spills. All equipment viewed during active operations were in good condition.	
Strengths Demonstrated knowledge by operators of proper procedures for dealing with oil spills, garbage disposal and fuels	Weaknesses Waste disposal policy could use greater detail on disposal of waste oil. Tracking and documentation of overlapping licensee's policies on waste disposal

handling.	could use improvement.
Criterion 6.8 Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	
No exotic species have been used. Their use is not planned.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a. Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b. Does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; (HCVF) and c. Will enable clear, sustainable, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	
There have been no conversions to plantations in the Nipissing Forest. Plantation as defined by the FSC are not planned.	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 7 MANAGEMENT PLAN	
Criterion 7.1 Content of management plan.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those	

listed in Criterion 7.1.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 8 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	
Criterion 8.1 Frequency and intensity of monitoring.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
<p>Criterion 8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:</p> <p>a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p> <p>Yields are projected during planning and monitored during harvest and the Annual reports summarize wood deliveries to receiving mills. Ongoing surveys of regeneration are being conducted to monitor the condition of the forest. The FMP considers the current forest condition including habitat feature changes and factors habitat supply into modeling and management decisions. Updates to values in operating areas is ongoing, in particular during tree marking, and changes in key habitat values are communicated to MNR and adjustments to operations are performed accordingly – values information is managed in NRVIS</p> <p>Several monitoring programs are undertaken by NFRM. Exceptions to guideline requirements are monitored and reported in the ARs. Routine compliance monitoring of forest operations is conducted and renewal programs are regularly monitored.</p> <p>Table 16 column 5 of the HCVF Report discusses the monitoring program for each HCV. Areas of concern are monitored during operations under the FOIP reports. Regeneration monitoring checks are conducted for hemlock. Prescriptions for values are adjusted during forest management planning to account for new information and understandings and are incorporated into the new FMP. MNR Science and Tech division is a key centre for research into forestry impacts and adjustment to mandatory management guides – e.g. Stand and Site Guide. Area of Concern prescriptions for cultural heritage values are implemented during operations and monitoring takes place under FOIP. The NFRM manager was reviewer on new Cultural Heritage Guide.</p> <p>NFRM monitors renewal expenditures and reports the information in the ARs. NFRM does not monitor the business activities of the licensees. NFRM is a member of the Provincial Forest Renewal Trust Committee. Meeting discussions cover activities and developments affecting the Renewal Trust Fund accounts.</p>	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain	

of custody."	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	
The results of monitoring is incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of some information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	
A summary report is available to the public.	
Strength	Weakness
PRINCIPLE 9 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS	
Criterion 9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	
HCVF monitoring of compliance is done the FOIP and compliance summaries are presented in the Annual Reports.	
Strength	Weakness

PRINCIPLE10 – PLANTATIONS	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Criterion 10.1 The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.2 The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse	

impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts (e.g., natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in Principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.	
Strength	Weakness
Criterion 10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly for such conversion.	
NOT AUDITED in 2015	
Strength	Weakness

3.1 Observations on review and resolution of complaint

Discussions with stakeholders emphasized the professional approach maintained by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. staff.

3.2 Summarized progress in implementing the conditions related to any approved pesticide derogation

The herbicide program on this FSC certified forest is used to control vegetative competition in site preparation and tending applications in plantations. The herbicide plans are designed to minimize chemical application and are in accordance with all government regulations

4.0 SURVEILLANCE DECISION

4.1 Non-Compliances

N/A

4.2 Difficult Assessments

None identified

4.3 Status of previous non-compliances

NCR No.	Clause	Description	Status
2014-01	4.5.2	The manager does not have a completely implemented process in place for fairly resolving disputes with other resources users and the general public that result from forest planning and operations.	Closed

4.4 Opportunities for Improvement

2015-01

3.1.4: Consider continuing the discussion to establish opportunities for long-term economic benefits

2015-02

4.2.1-4.2.2: Consider revise the procedures to ensure overlapping licenses meet the mandatory training requirements

2015-03

6.7.1-6.7.2-6.7.3: Consider revise the mechanisms for ensuring that proper policies are in place for overlapping licensees. Consider updating NFRM's waste disposal policy.

4.5 Recommendation to maintain the certificate

It is the opinion of the lead auditor that, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.'s system of management is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard were met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation. A recommendation to maintain the certificate will be made to SAI Global

5.0 COMPLAINTS, DISPUTES AND APPEALS

On receiving a complaint the relevant details are recorded on a complaint register by the person receiving the complaint.

A SAI Global person is responsible for the handling of complaints/appeals, and forwards the complaint on to the respective Manager in charge of SAI Global FSC Program for resolution.

An initial response, including an outline of the proposed course of action to follow up on the complaint, will be sent within two (2) weeks of receiving the complaint.

SAI Global will keep the complainants informed of progress in evaluating the complaint. An investigation of the allegations and all its proposed actions in response to the complaint/appeal will be dealt within three (3) months of receiving the appeal. Upon completion of the investigation a full report of the investigation and its findings are then sent to the complainant. Full implementation of actions and confirmation of implementation (e.g. correction and closing out of non-compliances that may have been identified as a result of the complaint) outlined in the final report will be completed.

SAI Global ensures that the persons engaged in the appeals, complaints and disputes handling processes are different from those who carried out the audits, made the certification decisions and the day to day implementation.

If the issue has not been resolved through the full implementation of SAI Global's procedures the person or organization raising the complaint/dispute/appeal has the opportunity to refer their complaint/dispute/appeal to FSC's dispute resolution process.

6.0 NEXT AUDIT

Next Scheduled Audit:

Date: May 24-27, 2016

Audit time: 5 days

7.0 GROUP MEMBERSHIP LIST (UPDATE)

N/A