

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

The Nipissing Forest is administered and managed by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM) under the authority of Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 542053. The company is owned by its shareholders: R. Fryer Forest Products Limited, Goulard Lumber (1971) Limited, Tembec Industries Inc., Hec. Clouthier and Sons Inc., and GP Northwoods LP. The SFL, under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, North Bay District office. North Bay District reports administratively to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, based in Timmins, Ontario.

The company SFI representative is Mr. Mark Lockhart, General Manager.

AUDIT

During the period April 29 to May 2, 2019 NFRM underwent a 24 month surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard. The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office. The SFI program third-party audit was undertaken by SAI Global. SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Standard ensuring the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Mr. Rod Seabrook – Team Leader, Mr. Daniel Martin and Mr. Herve Bescond. Mr. Seabrook holds the designation of Environmental Professional – Environmental Management System Lead Auditor (EP(EMSLA)) and is an Associate Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. Mr. Martin is a registered Forest Engineer in the Province of Quebec and Mr. Bescond holds a Master of Biology degree and has extensive forestry auditing experience.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	X	

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

The Forest extends over 11,932 square kilometers and has a permanent population of approximately 86,000. Private land comprises 23 percent of the total area of the Nipissing Forest and is concentrated in the southern and central-western part of the area. Its contribution to the overall wood supply in the management unit is minimal. Maple, birch, spruce and pine are the key species groups being managed on the Crown Land portion of the Nipissing Forest. The three principal silviculture systems employed on the Forest are selection harvesting, shelterwood harvesting and clearcut harvesting. Under the selection and shelterwood systems trees are marked for removal or retention by certified tree markers with the goal of improving overall stand quality while protecting sensitive features such as streams and critical wildlife habitat. Under the clearcut system all of the trees in the stand may be cut with the exception of trees left for wildlife purposes, site protection or to meet residual stand requirements. There are 39 protected areas either entirely or partly within the boundaries of the Nipissing Forest. Two First Nation Reserves, Dokis and Nipissing are situated in the western and central parts of the Forest respectively. Two other aboriginal communities, the Mattawa/North Bay Algonquins and the Antoine First Nation, are located in the Mattawa area, but do not have any reserve lands.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

There has been no modification to the scope since the last public summary report.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 2, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 2, Table 2.

The audit team selected a sample of field review sites from a list of active sites and sites where forest management activities occurred since the last audit. The site choice also considered activity type, and risk factors, related to the audit objectives selected for review, as well as the opportunity to verify implementation of corrective actions for previous non-conformities.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore the complaint handling process could not be verified.

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Onsite	5.5
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	3
Harvesting Blocks	7
Silviculture Sites	3
Operations visited: Janveaux Forest Products; Goulard Lumber, Ferot Forestry, Ryan Reed Logging	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2019-01	Minor	9.1.2	The fuel nozzle on a 450 litre fuel tank in harvest block 09-051 was not compliant	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2019-02	Minor	9.1.2	The actions to address the roadside utilization operational issue identified in Block 09-200 have not been completed by the required date	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

Opportunities for improvement

- Consider identifying durable tags for recording periodic inspections of fire extinguishers
- Consider whether food grade antifreeze would be a suitable additive to pack pumps to prevent freezing
- Consider improving the finished road surface at WC 621 to reduce the potential for sediment entering the stream
- Consider whether the NFRM Training Matrix should be clarified regarding mandatory requirements for OH&S Act and Regulations and Accident/Incident Investigation training
- Consider using geotextile to retain possible off site movement of sediment in winter crossing Installations

Good practices

- Excellent slash piling
- NFRM support for the CIF community tree plant
- Effective communication of new (and relevant) requirements of the 2019-2029 FMP by the Supervisor to his forest workers

Status of previous audit non-compliances

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Surveillance Audit

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria. The action plans related to the non-conformances have been reviewed and considered acceptable. Implementation of action plans for minor non-conformance will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	X
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	X
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach (12.3 only)	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cut block size calculations	X
Written policies	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Utilization records	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Annual management review records	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Stakeholder communications records	X

Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	SFI and company websites	X
Reforestation plans	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Pest management plan	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	Support for research and science	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	External audit field inspections	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records	X	Pre-harvest inspection records	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X		

DEFINITIONS

Major Non-Conformances

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial audit or registration cannot be achieved. Subsequently for surveillance audits, an action plan shall be implemented by the auditee within 60 days for the registration to be maintained.

Minor Non-Conformances

Isolated incidents that are non-critical but must be addressed before the next surveillance audit to maintain compliance to the SFI standard. Non resolved minor non-conformance will be escalated to a major non-conformance.

Opportunity for Improvement

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

Good practices

Areas that are deemed to be mentioned

MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

This multi-site / group organization maintains an internal audit program determined to be reliable, in this case SAI Global sampling approach is as follow where n = number of sites:

- i. $\sqrt{(n)}$ for initial certification audits
- ii. $0.6 \sqrt{(n)}$ for surveillance audits
- iii. $0.8 \sqrt{(n)}$ for re-registration audits

The central office function is audited annually.

OR

This multi-site / group organization did not maintain its internal audit program. SAI Global applies the following sampling where n = number of sites:

$\sqrt{(n)}$

The central office function is audited annually.



Temporary sample plot used to estimate seedling survival

SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFI Forest Management, SFI CoC, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing Label, PEFC CoC, FSC® Forest Management, FSC® CoC.

The group, led by Sylvain Frappier, Technical Manager - Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts.

Contact certification.americas@saiglobal.com for more information.

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