

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Summary Report

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry -
Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine (Maine BPL)

Certificate # SCS-SFI/FM-008672

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®: SFI Section 2

1st Surveillance Audit

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PUBLIC SUMMARY AUDIT REPORT

Program Participant Information	
Program Participant	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine (Maine BPL)
Certificate Number	SCS-SFI/FM-008672
Contact Information (Name, Title, Phone, Email)	Michael Pouch Address 18 Elkins Lane Augusta, ME 04333 207-215-7824 Michael.A.Pouch@maine.gov
Certificate Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-site
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group # Group members in group certificate:
Audit Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combined <input type="checkbox"/> Joined <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Dual audit with FSC® FM
Scope of Certificate	
Scope of Certification	
The scope of the certificate includes all forest management activities associated with the Organization’s sustainable forest management system with the forest area described below and includes the harvest of forest products.	
Objectives Audited	
All Objectives of the standard are listed below. Those in blue highlight were assessed in the 2022 audit.	
Objective 1	Forest Management Planning
To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion. Summary of Evidence: The forest management plan and supporting documentation and the associated inventory data and growth models were the key evidence of conformance.	
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity
To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents. Summary of Evidence: Not evaluated in 2022 audit.	
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources
To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices. Summary of Evidence: Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited portions of selected field sites that were close to water resources. BMPs are an important part of the program to protect water resources.	
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity
To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic	

species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites. **Summary of Evidence:** Not evaluated in 2022 audit.

Objective 5 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Summary of Evidence: Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Maps of recreation sites, combined with field visits and interviews, confirmed a strong recreation program.

Objective 6 Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. **Summary of Evidence:** Identification of special sites through periodic database searches and interviews with local experts and stakeholders, cataloging and documenting sites, development of written plans for protection and management, and training for protection and management were witnessed..

Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources. **Summary of Evidence:** Not evaluated in 2022 audit.

Objective 8 Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge. **Summary of Evidence:** Not evaluated in 2022 audit.

Objective 9 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. Regulatory compliance has been very strong.

Objective 10 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:** Not evaluated in 2022 audit.

Objective 11 Training and Education

To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs. **Summary of Evidence:** Training records of personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and review of state training database provided confirmation of participation in training programs.

Objective 12 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:** Not evaluated in 2022 audit.

Objective 13 Public Land Management Responsibilities

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands. **Summary of Evidence:** Interviews and review of documents and correspondence as well as the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands website were used to confirm the requirements. The Department invites stakeholders and agencies to many of its planning and operational activities efforts, such as Forest Management Planning. There are multiple ways that the people can voice their concerns.

Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard. **Summary of Evidence:** Interviews, copies of Public Summary and Annual Progress Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI Inc. website provided evidence of conformance.

Objective 15 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:** Details of tour and activity summary were assessed.

Forest area (*acres*) / Number of Sites in Scope of Certificate (*if applicable*)

634,831 acres Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands. (Note: Certificate reduced by 699 acres from last year due to reclassifications)	
Audit Team	Beth Jacqmain (SFI/FSC Audit team leader) Gordon Moore (Technical Expert)
Audit Dates	Sep 20 – 22, 2022
Significant Changes to Operations or Standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes – Note: Maine BPL has begun and will continue updating systems for conformance to the 2022 SFI Standards and Rules by January 1, 2023. A transition plan was submitted, reviewed, and approved by SCS. <input type="checkbox"/> Changes as described below:
Deviations from the Audit Plan and Rationale	A remote audit was originally planned to be held the Monday afternoon prior to arrival on-site. Due to flight delays of the lead auditor that was moved to the on-site Tuesday portion of the scheduled audit.
Significant Issues Affecting Audit Program	None
Unresolved Issues, if any	None
Certification Recommendation by Audit Team to SCS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial or continued certification is recommended, subject to the Organization meeting deadlines for response any findings issued. <input type="checkbox"/> Initial or continued certification is not recommended (<i>explain</i>):
Audit Results	
New Findings Summary	<input type="checkbox"/> No nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identified [Opportunity for Improvement, Minor nonconformity, Major nonconformity]. OFI, Internal monitoring program could be improved to provide a more formal framework specific to certifications in the management review process. (SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®: 15.1.3)
Existing Findings Summary	Issues identified at previous audits that were reviewed for continued conformance: CLOSED – SFI Minor 2021.1. See Appendix 1 for detail.
Logos/labels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logo checked and No nonconformities <input type="checkbox"/> Logo checked, and Nonconformities issued <input type="checkbox"/> Logo checked, Logo is not used, No nonconformities Note: Use of the <i>SFI</i> on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 5 - Rules for Use of <i>SFI</i> On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.
Fulfillment of Audit Objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit Objectives Fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Audit Objectives Not Fulfilled
Audit Program	

Statement on the conformity and effectiveness of the management system together with a summary of the evidence (*Stage 2 and Recertification only*)

N/A, Surveillance audit.

2. APPENDICES

[Appendix 1 – Audit Findings](#)

[Appendix 2 – SFI Forest Management Standard Conformity Table](#)

[Appendix 3 – Site Note and Interviewees](#)

[Appendix 4 – Meeting Attendance](#)

[Appendix 5 – Schedule and Focus Areas for Next Audit](#)

[Appendix 6 – Copy of Audit Plan](#)