

# 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, Rayonier AM Canada 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 February 10 to February 14, 2020 NFRM underwent a re-accreditation audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard. The registration cycle is over five 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

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation, road construction, road maintenance and silviculture on the Nipissing forest (SFL 542053) in Ontario. Fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

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 Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of conformity to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest management standard.

A sample of field review sites were chosen 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 auditor days
Onsite	7
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	5
Harvesting Blocks	8
Silviculture Sites	9
Operations visited: Hec Clouthier & Sons; Gurd Seed Orchard; Cullin Forestry, Near North Logging, Gorham Trucking, Powassan Firewood & Logging	

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### *Areas of non-conformance*

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2020-01	Minor	11.1.4	Evidence of a trained first aider present on the Powassan Firewood and Logging operation was not presented for audit	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
2020-02	Minor	11.1.5	Evidence of at least one qualified logging professional present on the Powassan Firewood and Logging harvest operation in Block 19-190 on	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

			Feb 12, 2020 was not presented for audit	
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**Opportunities for improvement**

- Consider conducting a periodic review of the currency of tree marker certification to ensure qualifications are current
- Consider conducting a review of safe operations near chicots with contractors
- Consider establishing guidance for staff and contactors regarding acceptable methods of securing mobile fuel tanks
- Consider identifying a source of durable inspection tags for fire extinguishers
- Consider updating the Forest Policy to refer to Indigenous Peoples rather than First Nations
- Consider whether the expired Agreements of Understanding with Dokis, Antoine FN, Nipissing FN and Mattawa North Bay Algonquins should be renewed
- Consider utilizing temporary staff to conduct a review of municipal bylaws to check for requirements applicable to NFRM
- Consider whether the subcontractor working for Hec Clouthier & Sons Ltd. should be registered in the Hazardous Waste Information Network
- Consider conducting a review of equipment tag out procedures to ensure that operations are aware of requirements
- Consider reviewing with contractors practices for de-energize mobile equipment when not in use

**Good practices**

- Minimal residual stand damage
- Clean job sites

**Status of previous audit non-compliances**

The status of previous audit non-conformances is as follows:

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
2019-01	Minor	9.1.2	Closed
2019-02	Minor	9.1.2	Closed

**CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**

***Re-registration Audit***

Based on the results of this re-registration 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 the minor non-conformances will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Therefore, a recommendation for 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	X
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	X
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	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	X
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	Planting program records	X
Written policies	X	Harvest inspection records	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Road and bridge inspection records	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Cut block size calculations	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Utilization records	X
Timber supply review	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Annual management review records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other: )	X	Corrective action logs	X
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Stakeholder communications records	X
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	X
Pest management plan	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Standards for seed use	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Support for research and science	X
Tree improvement reports	X	Pre-harvest inspection records	X

Green-up records	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
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# 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.





15 meter no harvest buffer marked on wetland in Block 19-198

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.

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