

# **Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.**

800 W Clay Street  
Thomasville, GA 31792

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules<sup>®</sup>, Section 3 –  
Fiber Sourcing and Appendix 1: Certified Sourcing

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules<sup>®</sup>, Section 9 - Appendix 1:  
Multi-Site Organizations

Scope Expansion Audit



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## Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.

# 2017 SFI Fiber Sourcing Public Summary Audit Report

### Introduction

The SFI Program of Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. of Thomasville, GA has demonstrated conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing, and SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing, Appendix 1: Certified Sourcing Standard according to the NSF Certification Process. Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. has specifically demonstrated conformance to the monitoring of the use of best management practices requirement (Performance Measure 2.2).

Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. is a forest product company with corporate headquarters located in Mobile, AL. This audit is for the expansion of certification to include 3 southern yellow pine manufacturing facilities in located in Moultrie, and Thomasville, GA, and Hermanville, MS. The Moultrie and Thomasville, GA facilities source wood from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida and routinely purchases stumpage tracts. The Hermanville procurement group sources the Hermanville Plant. The Hermanville procurement group does not routinely purchase stumpage tracts. Pine logs are sourced from Mississippi and Louisiana. The facilities utilize pine saw logs.

Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. maintains a verifiable monitoring system for the use of best management practices. Information is received from state monitoring data. Information is also collected during the harvesting of Timber Deeds when applicable. Findings are summarized and trends are analyzed.

The audit was performed by NSF on July 10-13, 2017 by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 9 – Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

The scope of the audit included procurement operations. Procurement operations occurring in the past 12 months were reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met. In addition, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were within the scope of the audit.

Several of the SFI Section 3 requirements were outside of the scope of Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.'s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the Audit as follows:

- Indicator 5.1.2 – Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. does not support or conduct research on genetically engineered trees.
- Indicator 6.2.3 – Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi do not have a logger certification program.
- Objective 8 - Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. does not have forest management responsibilities on public lands.
- Objectives 11 – 13 - Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. does not purchase fiber outside Canada and the US.

### Audit Process

The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of conformance. NSF also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF protocols. NSF selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings of the audit included conformance, major non-conformance, minor non-conformance, opportunities for improvement, and practices that exceeded the requirements of the standard.



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## Overview of Audit Findings

Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there were 2 minor non-conformances:

- Written agreements for the purchase of raw material sourced directly from the forest with provisions requiring the use of best management practices were not available for all contractors. The following agreements were not witnessed: Charlie Donald Pulpwood - Supply Agreement; Slaughter Logging - Supply Agreement, Purchase Agreement; Cortez Byrd - Supply Agreement, Purchase Agreement. (SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing, Indicator 2.1.2)
- Written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals were not available for all contractors. The following agreements were not witnessed: Charlie Donald Pulpwood - Supply Agreement; Slaughter Logging - Supply Agreement, Purchase Agreement; Cortez Byrd - Supply Agreement, Purchase Agreement. (SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®, Section 3 – Fiber Sourcing, Indicator 6.1.5).

Canfor Southern Pine, Inc. has developed plans to address these issues. Progress in implementing these corrective action plans will be reviewed in subsequent surveillance audits.

No opportunities for improvement were also identified.

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## General Description of Evidence of Conformity

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. A general description of this evidence is provided below, organized by SFI Objective.

### **Objective 1 Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing**

To address the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conserving *biological diversity*.

**Summary of Evidence:** *The Company has developed a landowner brochure that addresses the importance of maintaining biodiversity. Biodiversity is also addressed through the knowledge of the state wildlife action plan. Training and education on biological diversity is provided during state logger training programs.*

### **Objective 2 Adherence to Best Management Practices**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Adherence to BMPs is addressed through written agreements with BMP clauses for wood producers, planning for adverse weather conditions, and monitoring state BMP implementation data. Results of BMP implementation is communicated to wood producers during one-on-one conversations and during logger training.*

### **Objective 3 Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals**

To encourage forest landowners to utilize the services of *qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals* (where available) and *qualified resource professionals*.

**Summary of Evidence:** *The Company requires all contractors to complete state SFI logger training programs.*

### **Objective 4 Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

**Summary of Evidence:** *The Company's SFI Policy specifies a commitment to achieving compliance with applicable environmental, forestry, and social laws and regulations. The company has a system to encourage its wood suppliers to comply with such laws and regulations.*

### **Objective 5 Forestry Research, Science, and Technology**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

**Summary of Evidence:** *The Company financially supports research at selected universities.*

### **Objective 6 Training and Education**

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs*.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Written commitment states the Company's commitment to training and education. Training was witnessed for employees, as well as contractors.*

### **Objective 7 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:** *Meeting minutes, agendas, attendance lists, and donations were witnessed for public outreach and landowner education.*

### **Objective 9 Communications and Public Reporting**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Summary Audit Report witnessed on SFI, Inc. website. Review of Annual Progress Report confirms record keeping is adequate and that reports are submitted on time. Sites involved in this scope expansion were not included in the 2016 Annual Progress Report. These sites will be in the 2017 Report.*

### **Objective 10 Management Review and Continual Improvement**

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Records of program reviews, agendas, and notes from management review meetings and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. Site in the scope expansion will be in the 2017 Management Review Meeting.*

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## Relevance of Forestry Certification

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

### 1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and *ecosystem services* such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

### 2. Forest Productivity and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity*. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive exotic plants and animals* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health and productivity*.

### 3. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and *riparian areas* and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to protect water quality.

### 4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, and ecological or natural community types.

### 5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

### 6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

### 7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry* practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

### 8. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local *forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

### 9. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

### 10. Training and Education

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

### 11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and *traditional forest-related knowledge*.

### 12. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

### 13. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

### 14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing

To avoid wood fiber from *illegally logged* forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing *fiber from countries without effective social laws*.

**Source:** Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2015-2019 Edition



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