



AT Limited Partnership

2022 SFI Forest Management Public Summary Audit Report

Introduction

The SFI Program of AT Limited Partnership's operations of New Brunswick, Canada has demonstrated conformance with the SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard, according to the NSF certification process and has specifically demonstrated conformance to the sustainable harvest level requirement (Performance Measure 1.1).

AT Limited Partnership owns and manages approximately 1.1 million acres of freehold timberlands in New Brunswick and Maine and provides timber services relating to approximately 1.3 million acres of Crown licensed timberlands in New Brunswick. These timberlands are managed on a sustainable basis using sound business practices and accepted principles of sustainable forest management. Professional foresters manage the timberlands with supporting services supplied through various contractors. AT Limited Partnership's business strategy is to maximize cash flows from its existing timberland assets through sustainable forest management and other land use activities while growing its business by acquiring assets and actively managing these assets to drive improved performance. AT Limited Partnership's products include softwood and hardwood sawlogs, pulpwood and biomass by-products, sold to approximately 90 regional customers.

Due to extenuating circumstances the audit was performed by NSF on June 27-29, July 25, 27 and 28, 2022 by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor and Michelle Matteo, Team Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2022 Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard.

The scope of the audit included forest management operations. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management over the planning period of the past 3 years. In addition, practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example), SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were also within the scope of the audit.

None of the SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements were outside of the scope of AT Limited Partnership's SFI program

No indicators were modified.

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. The next audit will be scheduled in conjunction with Acadian Timber's Katahdin Forest Management for September 2023.

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.



Overview of Audit Findings

AT Limited Partnership was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there were 0 non-conformances. No opportunities for improvement were identified.

NSF also identified the following areas where forestry practices and operations of AT Limited Partnership exceed the basic requirements of the standard:

- AT Limited Partnership shares its technical knowledge with wood suppliers through the use of tablets for mapping of tracts. The tablet software is equipped with alarms for buffers and boundaries. (SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard, Indicator 12.1.2)

General Description of Conformity to SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Objectives

A summary of the evidence of the organization's conformance to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Objectives follows:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.

Why it Matters: Ensures that we grow more trees than we harvest, guaranteeing that forests will last for future generations.

Notes: The forest management plan and supporting documentation, and the associated FIS, GIS, and growth models were the key evidence of conformance.

Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, deploying integrated pest management strategies, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Why it Matters: Ensures that forests remain healthy and resilient which means better forest productivity including providing a reliable and renewable source of sustainably managed fiber for consumer products.

Notes: Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices consistent with the requirements. The Company has programs for reforestation, for protection against insects, diseases and wildfire, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies.

Why it Matters: Protects water quality and quantity helps provide safe and abundant drinking water for all.

Notes: Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditor visited the portions of many field sites that were close to water resources. Review of forest management plan, BMPs, Annual Report to the Crown, and contracts were also conducted.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

To maintain or advance the conservation of biological diversity at the stand- and landscape-level and across a diversity of forest and vegetation cover types and successional stages including the conservation of forest plants and animals, aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

Why it Matters: Ensures that forests are managed to protect wildlife habitat and conserve biological diversity.

Notes: Field observations, written plans and policies, and regular staff involvement in conferences and workshops that cover scientific advances were the evidence used to assess the requirements involved biodiversity conservation.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

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

Why it Matters: Ensures that the public can continue to enjoy the aesthetic values and recreation opportunities of forests.

Notes: Field observations of completed operations and policies for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. The company relies primarily on shelterwood systems, not silvicultural clear-cuts. Involvement with snowmobile and ATV clubs, cross-county skiing, hiking, and multi-use trails helped confirm 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.

Why it Matters: Protects special sites that have important geological or cultural values.

Notes: Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, forest management plan, and GIS maps and inventory were all assessed during the evaluation.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Why it Matters: Ensures the economic well-being of communities that live and work near forests.

Notes: Field observations and monitoring results of completed operations, contract clauses, and discussions with supervising foresters and wood suppliers provided the key evidence.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Why it Matters: Recognizing and respecting the Indigenous Peoples' rights supports relationship building and shared benefits from sustainably managed forests.

Notes: The Company has a policy and procedure for respecting tribal knowledge and rights and for responding to requests, as well as a record of cooperative relationships. Training has also been provided to employees.

Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry

To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Why it Matters: Ensures that SFI-certified forests make an important contribution to addressing the effects of climate change.

Notes: Development and implementation of the ESG Project, participation in Province committees, and monitoring of websites ensure effects of climate change are addressed.

Objective 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness

To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.

Why It Matters: Ensures that forests are managed proactively relative to fire risk in the face of climate change, so that they can continue to store carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, and are a source of clean air and water while protecting public safety and human health.

Notes: Support for government firefighting agencies with company crews and communication with planning lower the risk of wildfire. The Company develops an annual Fire Control Plan.

Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local.

Why it Matters: Compliance with all laws ensures the protection of the environmental and social values of forests.

Notes: Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations, systems to ensure compliance, and the regulatory record were the most critical evidence. Interviews with Crown Foresters were also conducted.

Objective 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology

To invest in research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Why it Matters: Forest research means healthier, more productive forests.

Notes: Financial records for dues, contributions, and memberships, and research sites and activities on lands within the scope were documented. Meetings and seminars provide awareness and understanding of research for sustainable forest management decisions.



Objective 13. Training and Education

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

Why it Matters: Training and educating foresters means forest management plans are more accurately implemented, ensuring the well-being of our forests.

Notes: Commitment statement to the SFI Standard, interviews, and training records for employees, service providers, and wood suppliers confirm implementation of sustainable forestry. Field site visits demonstrate understanding and implementation of training and education.

Objective 14. 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.

Why it Matters: Outreach and education improves the public’s understanding of how important sustainable forestry is to local and global issues.

Notes: Interviews, participation in the NB SIC, and the Management Review presentation confirm participation in public outreach, education, and support of the SIC.

Objective 15. Public Land Management Responsibilities

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Why it Matters: Protects the environmental, social, and economic values of public forests.

Notes: Interviews, field site visits, and the Annual Report to the Crown confirm and summarize forest management practices on public lands.

Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

Why it Matters: Reporting the results of third-party audits increases the public’s understanding of forest certification.

Notes: 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.

Objective 17. Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Why it Matters: Encourages continual improvement of sustainable forestry practices, a cornerstone of sustainable forestry.

Notes: Records of program reviews, agendas, and presentation from management review meetings and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

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