



## **Public Report - SFI Surveillance Audit**

The SFI Program of the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company has demonstrated continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®, 2005-2009 Edition (SFIS), according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. This program was audited under the continuous surveillance audit option provided in the SFI program. All requirements were found to be in conformance. As such the program has earned a five-year recertification.

Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company was initially certified to the SFIS on November 9, 2001 and recertified in October, 2004. This report describes the fourth follow-up Surveillance Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. In addition, a subset of SFI requirements were selected for detailed review.

Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company manages 32,285 acres of land in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Delaware. Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company procures wood from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia for the Spring Grove, Pennsylvania integrated mill. The species utilized include most pine and hardwood species. Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company's SFI Program is managed by David Nelson, Pennsylvania District Supervisor.

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on November 9 and 10, 2009 by Lead Auditor Mike Ferrucci, NSF-ISR's Forestry Program Manager, and Norman Boatwright, both whom meet the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ). The objective of the audit was to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2005-2009 Edition.

The focus of the SFIS Audit included fee timberland and procurement operations of the company's Virginia District as well as overall compliance with SFI requirements affecting the entire program. Land management practices on company owned land that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been conducted since the previous field audit conducted in 2007. A sample of procurement operations since that time was also reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met. In addition, a subset of SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to support forestry research, and to provide training and education for staff and for loggers were reexamined during the audit. Use of the SFI logo and the requirement to provide a public of audit reports were also reviewed.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 8.5 as this facility does not purchase wood or fiber from outside the US or Canada.
- Indicator 8.6 as this facility does not purchase wood or fiber from outside the US or Canada.
- Indicator 12.3 as this facility does not have forest management responsibilities on public lands.
- Indicator 12.4 as this facility does not have forest management responsibilities on public lands.]

### **SFIS Surveillance Audit Process**

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review. The 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® was used; none of the indicators were modified.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS. Surveillance Audits generally focus on conformance issues and do not generally address exceptional practices.

### **Overview of Audit Findings**

Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company's SFI Program was found to be in conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR Audit team carefully reviewed the land management and procurement operations implemented by Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company and found that they continue to be robust and in conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. There were no non-conformances identified.

One area was found where Glatfelter Pulpwood Company's practices were exemplary:

- Glatfelter Pulpwood Company exceeds the requirements for training by requiring, for both company lands and purchased stumpage, at least one SFI trained logger on site at all times when work is being done and by working closely with these loggers to implement continuous improvement. The company has provided printed materials to loggers to help improve on issues identified in the monitoring program as challenges for some suppliers: forest compaction, seeding and mulching, and bridge mats. Involvement in the provision of frequent, high-quality logger training throughout the company's large procurement area is superb.

There was one opportunity to improve. Indicator 4.2.2 requires “A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.” There is an opportunity to improve the incorporation of wildlife research into forest management practices.

The next audit is scheduled for November 2010 in conjunction with the Chain of Custody audits. At that time the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® will be in effect, and the organization should be significantly or completely in conformance with the new requirements (2010 is a transition year).