



**Bureau Veritas Certification  
North America, Inc.  
SFI/PEFC/ATFS Audit Report**

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Company Name	Black Bear Forest, Inc. (Managed by American Forest Management)
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PQC Code	E01E

Contract Number:	US0801094	Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:		X	Surveillance: (Indicate visit # or Pre-Assessment)	
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Audit Summary
<b>Introduction</b>
<p>Black Bear Forest Inc. is a 924,112 acre forest property owned by GMO LLC and managed by American Forest Management (AFM). The Black Bear Forest is located in central Maine and southern New Hampshire. A recertification audit to the SFI standard was carried out September 7 to 10, 2010, this report provides a summary of the audit.</p>
<b>Audit Scope, Objectives and Process</b>
<p>The scope of the audit was Forest and Land Management Operations on 924,112 Acres in Central Maine and Southern New Hampshire</p> <p>The objectives of the audit were to review AFMs SFI program documentation in accordance with the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 standard and verify the effective implementation of AFM's SFI program in the way it conducts its on-the-ground management activities. Specifically, two objectives of the SFI audit were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Verify that the Program Participant's SFI Program is in conformance with the SFI Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators, and any additional indicators that the Program Participant chooses, and</li> <li>2. Verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI Standard program requirements on the ground.</li> </ol> <p>The audit was conducted against the SFIS 2010-2014 standard, as a recertification audit all Performance Measures and Indicators of the standard examined. There was no substitution or modifications of SFI indicators. Standard Bureau Veritas Certification protocols and forms were applied throughout the audit as provided by the most recent version of the Bureau Veritas Certification SFI Auditor Handbook available on the auditor access website.</p>
<b>Audit Plan</b>
<p>An audit plan was developed and distributed prior to the audit. The plan outlined and scheduled audit activities. The first day (September 7) of the audit was spent on document review, staff interviews and site selection. The remaining three days were spent in field examining harvest sites, special sites, roads and water crossings. Sites were selected from across the forest and included sites</p>

managed by eight of the eleven company foresters. Bureau Veritas Certification maintains a copy of the audit plan on file.

### **Audit Results**

During the audit 12 harvest sites were examined along with six temporary bridge removals. Within the harvest sites seven streamside management zones were inspected to ensure proper layout and effective protection of the watercourse. One special site was visited to confirm its condition and protection. Along the way two logging professionals were interviewed along with one bear baiter.

American Forest Management has done an outstanding job of managing the Black Bear Forest. They have had only two minor regulatory compliance issues in the past five years, both related to notifications to local governments. Planning is strength for AFM, they have combined sophisticated planning tools with the field experience of staff to develop forest plans which are both achievable and effective. The silvicultural program undertaken relies on partial harvesting systems (e.g. shelterwood systems) and natural renewal. All sites visited during the audit were generally free of site damage and residual stand damage. Roads are well constructed and well maintained. The company has a very effective program for the use of temporary water crossings. Wood utilization was found to be excellent with insignificant amounts of merchantable timber being found during the audit.

American Forest Management has effectively implemented the SFI standard. The AFM staff are an effective and professional group who have capably met the challenges of the SFI standard.

### **Findings**

**Previous non-conformances: None**

**Non-conformances: None**

**Opportunities for Improvement: One**

1. PM 5.1, Ind. 2: In five instances old culverts were found at roadside after the constructions of a new water crossing. By removing old culverts roadside aesthetics would be greatly improved.

**Notable Practices: Three**

1. PM 1.1, Ind. 1&2: Over the past five years the Company has harvested 100.1% of their allowable cut. This shows an excellent level of both planning and implementation.
2. PM 7.1, Ind. 1: Harvest utilization practices have achieved an extremely high level utilization. During the audit only 7 pieces of merchantable timber were found on landings and cutovers of the twelve harvest sites visited.
3. PM 3.1, Ind. 1: American Forest Management has achieved an extremely high level of proficiency in the use and removal of temporary bridges which leaves creeks and brooks free of sediment and debris.

**Logo/label use:**

Neither the landowner nor the management company use either the SFI or Bureau Veritas labels.

**SFI reporting:**

The company (AFM) has been submitting their SFI audit to SFI Inc. for posting on their website.

**Conclusions**

A closing meeting was held in the AFM office in Milford Maine on September 10, 2010. The meeting covered audit findings and next steps in the recertification process. It is the conclusion of the lead auditor that the Black Bear Forest be recertified immediately.

**Surveillance Audit Schedule**

Surveillance audits will be conducted in August or September of 2011 and 2012 with a recertification 2013.

**SEE SF61 FOR AUDIT NOTES**

<b>Summary of Audit Findings:</b>						
Audit Date(s):	From: Sept. 7, 2010			To: Sept. 10, 2010		
Number of SF02's Raised:	Major:		0	Minor:		0
Is a follow up visit required:	Yes	No	X	Date(s) of follow up visit:		
Follow-up visit remarks:						
<b>Team Leader Recommendation:</b>						
Corrective Action Plan (s) Accepted	Yes	na	No	Date:		
Proceed to/Continue Certification	Yes	X	No	Date:		Sept. 10, 2010
All NCR's Cleared	Yes	na	No	Date:		
Standard audit conducted against:						
1)	SFIS 2010-2014	3)				
2)		4)				
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2,3,4...)				
Brian Callaghan RPF, CEA(SFM)		2)				
		3)				
		4)				
		5)				
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)						
Forest and Land Management Operations on 924,112 Acres in Central Maine and Southern New Hampshire						
Accreditation's	ANAB					
Number of Certificates	1					
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event						
Date	Aug/Sept 2011					
Audit Report Distribution						
@ AFM Paula Pelletier – paula.pelletier@amerfor.biz						
@ BV Roshawnda Ward – roshawnda.ward@us.bureauveritas.com						

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Paula Pelletier, John Bryant, David Cole Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions</li> <li>➤ Scope of the audit</li> <li>➤ Audit schedule/plan</li> <li>➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor</li> <li>➤ Review of previous nonconformances - 0.</li> <li>➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling</li> <li>➤ Confidentiality agreement</li> <li>➤ Termination of the audit</li> <li>➤ Appeals process</li> <li>➤ Closing meeting timing</li> </ul>
Closing Meeting	Participants: Paula Pelletier, John Bryant, David Cole Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification.</li> <li>➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling.</li> <li>➤ Review of OFIs and System Strengths</li> <li>➤ Nonconformances - 0</li> <li>➤ Date for next audit – Aug/Sept 2011 Sv1.</li> <li>➤ Reporting protocol and timing</li> </ul>



## SF02/NA NONCONFORMITY REPORT

Company Name and Site:		<u>SF02#:</u>	
Contract #:		Department / Process:	
		Team Leader:	
Date:		Standard and Clause #:	
		Team Member:	
Major	Minor	Other Documents (if applicable):	
		Company Representative:	
REQUIREMENT OF AUDITED STANDARD:			
OBSERVED NONCONFORMITY:			
<b>ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN</b> (To be completed by the Company. Plan to be submitted in 30 days)			
Corrective Action Plan Date:		Company Representative:	
Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action			
Root Cause:			
Corrective Action Plan:			
<b>ROOT CAUSE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN ACCEPTANCE REPORT</b> (To be completed by Bureau Veritas Certification – Verify effective identification of Root Cause and acceptance of Corrective Action Plan)			
Root Cause:			
Corrective Action Plan:			
Plan Accepted:	Yes	No	Comments:
Auditor:			Date:
<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION</b> (To be completed by Company – Provide objective evidence. Must be completed within 90 days from the last day of the audit)			
Corrective Action Completion Date:		Company Representative:	
Corrective Action Implementation:			
Method used to verify effectiveness of action taken:			
<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION ACCEPTANCE REPORT</b> (To be completed by Bureau Veritas Certification – Acceptance of Corrective Action taken)			
Accepted:	Yes	No	Nonconformance Downgraded:
			Yes
			No
Follow Up Comments:			
Auditor:			Date: