

SFI Public Audit Report

The SFI Program of Buckeye Florida L.P. of Perry, Florida has achieved conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2005-2009 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

Buckeye Florida L.P. is publicly owned and operates a pulp mill in Perry, Florida. Buckeye Florida L.P. procures wood primarily from northwestern Florida and southwestern Georgia.

The audit was performed by NSF-ISR on March 24-26, 2009 by Norman Boatwright, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ) 2005–2009 Edition.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2005-2009 Edition.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included procurement operations. Procurement operations occurring in the past 6 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 Performance Measures were outside of the scope of Buckeye Florida L.P.'s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Objectives 1-7, Performance Measures 8.5, 8.6, 12.3 and 12.4 and Core Indicator 11.1.4.

SFIS Audit Process

NSF-ISR initiated the SFIS audit process with a Readiness Review to confirm the scope of the audit, review the SFI Indicators and evidence to be used to assess conformance, verify that Buckeye Florida L.P. was prepared to proceed to the SFIS Certification Audit, and to prepare a detailed audit plan. NSF then conducted the SFIS Certification Audit of conformance to the SFI Standard. A report was prepared and final approval was done by an independent Certification Board Member assigned by NSF. Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The initial Surveillance Audit is scheduled for January 28-29 2010.

The actual NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit was governed by a detailed Audit Plan designed to enable the audit team to determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The plan included detailed provisions 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-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR 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-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also 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 Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS.

Overview of Audit Findings

Buckeye Florida L.P.'s SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit Process determined that there were no non-conformances.

An opportunity for improvement was identified, and included:

- 8.3.1 There is an opportunity to improve the program for the purchase of raw material from qualified logging professionals, wood producers, and other wood suppliers.

This finding does not indicate a current deficiency, but served to alert Buckeye Florida L.P. to an area that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

NSF-ISR also identified the following 3 areas where forestry practices and operations of Buckeye Florida L.P.'s procurement organization exceed the basic requirements of the SFI Standard:

- 9.1.1 *“Current financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations”*. Buckeye Florida L.P. expends considerable resources in supporting its membership in NCASI.
- 12.2.2 *“Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as ...”* Buckeye Florida L.P.: sponsors a teacher to attend the annual Florida Forestry Teacher's Tour, sponsors Perry's annual Florida Forest Festival, has employees that are involved in activities for community youth, makes financial contributions to: Taylor Education Foundation, North Florida Community College Foundation and others and conducts numerous mill tours.
- 12.2.3 *“Recreation opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.”* Buckeye Florida L.P. owns and maintains 2 boat ramps for public use on the Fenholloway River.

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 with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Responsible Practices

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

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

8. Legal Compliance

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

9. Continual Improvement

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

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

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