



# Katahdin Forest Management

## 2022 SFI Forest Management Public Summary Audit Report

### Introduction

The SFI Program of Katahdin Forest Management'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).

Katahdin Forest Management (KFM) manages approximately 300,000 acres in Maine, of which over 280,000 are forested. This includes 9,000 acres of perpetual timber deeds. 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 the company operations in Canada.

KFM operations management objectives include:

- Long-term improvement in value and productivity of the land;
- Ensuring the continuous yield of forest products;
- Maintaining forest health and biological diversity;
- Conservation of significant recreational, ecological and wildlife resources.

Approximately seventy percent of the total merchantable volume is softwood species, with red, white, and black spruce being the most significant. Over 70% of the spruce volume is sawtimber quality, while over 80% of the hardwood volume is pulpwood quality.

Most of the property is accessed by a private land management road system that is maintained by KFM and other private landowners in the region. A rail siding located at the eastern end of the Golden Road in Millinocket provides a rail link between the company's private road system and other points served by rail. Timberlands located around Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway and Woodville are accessed by a combination of public and private road networks.

Maine has a long history of public use of private land for recreational purposes. Traditionally, recreational users have used private forestland in northern Maine for hunting, fishing, canoeing access, camping and hiking. Newer uses such as access for whitewater rafting and kayaking have grown in popularity in recent years.

The audit was performed by NSF on October 26-27, 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 Katahdin Forest Management'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 AT Limited Partnership for July 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

Katahdin Forest Management was found to be in conformance with the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard. NSF determined that there were 0 non-conformances.

One opportunity for improvement was identified. There is an opportunity for improvement to develop a road maintenance priority list for the identification of areas where the application of best management practices could reduce the chance for sediment to reach watercourses. (SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard, Objective 3, Performance Measure 3.1.1) These findings do not indicate a current deficiency, but served to alert Katahdin Forest Management to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

## 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 GIS, and growth models were the key evidence of conformance.

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### 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.

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### 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 field sites that were close to water resources. Review of forest management plan, BMPs, and contracts were also conducted.

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### 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.

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### 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, and camp leases helped confirm a strong recreation program.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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. Records are maintained for communication.

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### **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 various committees, and monitoring of websites ensure effects of climate change are addressed.

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### **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 Maine Forest Service firefighting agencies and communication with planning lower the risk of wildfire. The Company develops an annual Fire Control Plan. Support for fire management and prevention programs is provided through contributions to State Forest Tax for fire suppression and membership in the Maine Forest Products Council and Maine SIC.

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### **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 OBF and Conservation Representatives were also conducted.

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### **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.

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**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 Maine 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: N/A – Katahdin Forest Management does not have forest management responsibilities 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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