



AT Limited Partnership 2024 SFI® Forest Management Public Summary Audit

Introduction

AT Limited Partnership of New Brunswick, Canada has demonstrated conformance to SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard in accordance with 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.

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF on July 22-25, 2024, by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor and Shannon Wilks, 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 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.

The SFI Standard was used without modifying any requirements.

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.

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.

During the audit, the following types of field sites were visited:

Harvesting: Clearcut Harvest – 3; Overstory Removal Harvest – 4; Biomass Chipping – 1; Commercial Thinning – 1; Woodyard Tour – Veneer log and Hardwood high-grade log sales

Silviculture: Pre-commercial Thinning - 1; Culvert installations – 2; Planting (active) - 1; Chemical Release - 1; Wildfire with regeneration - 1; Road Maintenance – 1; Road Construction - 2; Bridge Construction (plan and replacement) – 2; Spill response - 1

Recreation: Special Protected Site (Odell Falls); Camp sites - 3



Overview of Audit Findings

AT Limited Partnership was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there were no non-conformances identified.

No opportunities for improvement were identified.

The next audit is scheduled for the week of July 21, 2025.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.



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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.



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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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: Not reviewed during 2024 Surveillance Audit.

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.

Contact Information

Daniel Freeman	Michelle Matteo	Kevin Topolniski
NSF Project Manager	NSF Forestry Program Manager	Chief Forester
789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	365 Canada Road Edmundston, NB E3V 1W2
734-214-6228	413-265-3714	506-737-2345
dfreeman@nsf.org	mmatteo@nsf.org	ktopolniski@acadiantimber.com