Sustainable Forestry Initiative®
Forest Management Audit Report

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine (Maine BPL)

Certificate # SCS-SFI/FM-008672

SFI 2022 Standards and Rules®, Forest Management
3rd Surveillance Audit

Client Address	18 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME 04333
Client Contact	Michael Pounch, Michael.A.Pounch@maine.gov , 207-215-7824
Client Website	Bureau of Parks and Lands: Maine DACF

SCS Contact:
Maggie Schwartz
Managing Director, Forestry
Natural Resources Division
mschwartz@scsglobalservices.com



2000 Powell Street, Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608 USA
+1.510.452.8000 main | +1.510.452.8001 fax
www.SCSglobalServices.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY **3**

FOREWORD **3**

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT 3
PRINCIPLES OF SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT 3

1. GENERAL INFORMATION **5**

1.1 NAME, CONTACT, AND CERTIFICATE INFORMATION 5

2. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT UNIT(S) **5**

3. AUDIT PROCESS **7**

3.1 APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND AUDIT OBJECTIVES 7
3.2 AUDIT TEAM 8
3.3 TOTAL TIME SPENT ON AUDIT 8
3.4 SUMMARY OF AUDIT ITINERARY AND SITE VISITS 8
3.5 EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 9
3.6. CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 9
3.7 CONFIRMATION OF MEETING AUDIT OBJECTIVES 9

4. RESULTS OF AUDIT **10**

4.1 GRADING OF POSSIBLE FINDINGS 10
4.2 TABLE OF AUDIT RESULTS AND HISTORY OF FINDINGS FOR CERTIFICATE PERIOD 10
4.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY 11
4.4 EXISTING CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS, OFIS, AND EXCEEDS 12
4.5 NEW CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS, OFIS, AND EXCEEDS 13

5. CERTIFICATION DECISION **16**

SECTION B – CONFIDENTIAL REPORT **1**

APPENDIX 1 – DETAILED AUDIT ITINERARY, ACTIVITIES, SITE NOTES, AND INTERVIEWEES 1
APPENDIX 2 – MEETING ATTENDANCE AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS 4
APPENDIX 3 – REQUIRED TRACKING 5
APPENDIX 4 – FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD CONFORMANCE TABLE 5
APPENDIX 5 – DESCRIPTION OF CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROGRAM 52
APPENDIX 6 – SCHEDULE AND FOCUS AREAS FOR NEXT AUDIT 52
APPENDIX 7 – COPY OF AUDIT PLAN 53

Public Summary Report

SFI® Forest Management Standard

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

Foreword

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of your audit assessment is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Section A is made available to the public and is intended to provide an overview of the audit process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the audit. Section A will be posted on the SFI website and Section B contains more detailed results and information for required SFI record-keeping or for use by the Certified Organization.

Principles of SFI Forest Management

The SFI 2022 Standards and Rules® for Forest Management promotes sustainable forestry and includes measures to *protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.*

The 13 *SFI Principles* for Forest Management are:

1. **Sustainable Forestry:** To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present while promoting 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 and ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, climate change mitigation, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation and aesthetics.
2. **Forest Productivity and Health:** To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive species and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.
3. **Protection of Water Resources:** To protect water bodies and riparian areas, and to conform with forestry best management practices to protect water quality, to meet the needs of both human communities and ecological systems.
4. **Protection of Biological Diversity:** To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, ecologically important species and native forest cover types.

5. **Aesthetics and Recreation:** To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.
6. **Protection of Special Sites:** To manage lands that are ecologically important, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.
7. **Responsible Fiber Sourcing in North America:** To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry that is both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.
8. **Legal Compliance:** To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.
9. **Research:** To support advances in sustainable forest management through forestry research, science and technology.
10. **Training and Education:** To improve the practice of sustainable forestry through training and education programs.
11. **Community Involvement and Social Responsibility:** To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional forest-related knowledge.
12. **Transparency:** To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the Forest Management Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.
13. **Continual Improvement:** To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

1. General Information

1.1 Name, Contact, and Certificate Information

Organization Name	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine (Maine BPL)
Contact Information (Name, Title, Phone, Email)	Michael Pounch 18 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME 04333 207-215-7824 Michael.A.Pounch@maine.gov
Audit Dates	**30 September - 1 October 2025**
SFI Certificate Type	☐ Single ☒ Multi-site. This Audit covered the requirements of the central organization and a subset of sites. These sites were selected based on proximity and length of time since previous audits. See Summary of Audit Itinerary for details of sampling.

2. Summary Description of the Management Unit(s)

Description of Ownership	☒ SFI: List of all sites/FMUs under scope of the certificate, including certified acres. ☐ ATFS: List of all sites/FMUs under scope of the certificate, including certified acres. If a Group certificate provide a description of the group structure
Total Forest Area (Acres)	624,361
Description of Sites and Group Membership under Scope	☐ Single site description ☒ SFI: List of all sites/FMUs under scope of the certificate, including certified acres.

Zone	Acres	2025
Central Office		
ZE1	52475	
ZE2	37894	
ZE3	55865	
ZE4	47899	
ZN1	49116	
ZN2	35592.1	
ZN3	37676	
ZN4	35911	
ZW1	71846	
ZW2	66191	X
ZW3	41236	X
ZW4	37974	X
ZW5	8981	
ZW6	45705	X

☐ ATFS: Summary of Sites/FMUs under scope of certificate, including acres.
☐ Group: Description of group structure.

Management Unit Maps	See state website which provides publicly available maps.

Forest Types and Key Ecological Features	*General description of major timber types with a general characterization of management approaches used (natural regeneration vs. planting, thinning regimes, even-aged vs. uneven-aged silvicultural).* The forests managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands are distributed throughout the state and reflect most of Maine's physiographic conditions and forest cover types. The acres under BPL's management are distributed primarily throughout the northern two-thirds of Maine, and most have been acquired since 1975 in trades with industrial and large private nonindustrial landowners. The state of Maine organizes these lands under Ecoregions described here, Maine Natural Areas Program Ecoregions, and then into Natural Communities and Ecosystems with approximately 104 natural communities and 24 ecosystems, Natural Communities and Ecosystems. The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) has classified and distinguished 104 different natural community types that collectively cover the state's landscape. These include habitats such as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, alpine summits, and others. Each type is assigned a rarity rank of 1 (rare) through 5 (common) both within Maine (state rank) and globally (global rank). MNAP has focus on natural community types ranked S1, S2, or S3, and outstanding examples (e.g., large, old growth stands) of S4 and S5 types. *Natural Landscapes of Maine* describes the composition, rarity, and distribution of each of the 104 natural community types, as well as the methods used to classify them. It also describes the 24 broader ecosystem types within which these natural communities typically occur, and it provides cross-walks to other classification systems, including those used by the National Vegetation Classification System and Society of American Foresters.
Forest Management Planning	*The management plan outlining forest management policies and objectives:* The system of resource management for lands is comprised of three basic elements: (1) The development of resource management plans by Unit, Park, or Historic Site; (2) the implementation of actions and recommendations set forth within such plans, and; (3) the monitoring and evaluation of both the ongoing and completed work. Each step is important in ensuring that the programs developed to achieve resource management objectives are consistent with the character of the land base and its intended use. The State of Maine BPL uses a compendium of documents that generally follow geographic scale from state-wide strategic planning down to individual stand prescriptions. The BPL provides management planning polices, Integrated Resource Policy (IRP) (PDF 678KB), silviculture guides and forestry handbooks to implementation of plans. The forestry management planning process is detailed for public access through the following website, Management Plans: Planning and Acquisition Process: State Parks and Public Lands: Maine ACF. All BPL management plans may be found here, Bureau of Parks and Lands Management Plans .
Sustainable Harvest Level Assessment	*Public Summary of how long-term harvest levels are determined, maintained, and monitored. Note: Details supporting this description are provided with evidence under Performance Measure 1.1, when evaluated.* The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) provides a public summary of sustainable harvest level assessments and management planning, Microsoft Word - IRP_2000.doc (maine.gov) The sustainable harvest is calculated separately on about 15 segments (sustainable harvest units, see Glossary of IRP) of the overall land base, with groupings made to combine nearby parcels with similar biophysical conditions and growth patterns. These groupings are done using the results of the inventory. The base calculations include only regulated forest acres, defined as those areas where timber is either the dominant use or where timber harvesting is a regular though secondary part of the management. These secondary areas may require modification of sustainable harvest calculations to reflect the dominant use. During unit planning, unregulated acres are generally identified, and a sustainable harvest calculated for them at a rate lower than used for the base calculations.
Monitoring Program Description	- Overall responsibility for the timber management program on Bureau lands resides with the regional managers, acting under the authority of the Director. They participate in all

	planning, review, and inspection activities and hold primary responsibilities for the conduct of annual compartment examinations and implementation of program activities. Staff specialists provide such technical assistance as may be necessary and participate in the review of ongoing and completed projects, planning and development efforts, and compliance with standards, policies, and applicable Federal, State and local ordinances. Included among the means for monitoring program performance: Inspections, Compartment Exams, Silviculture Advisory Committee, 3rd Party audits. - Where management plans exist, commitments are monitored in order to gauge progress for each area and to plan upcoming activities. The Bureau also employs general measures of performance to monitor progress relative to overall program objectives, including management activities on lands where plans have not yet been developed. - Ecological Reserves are areas established by statute (Title 12, Section 1801) to mean "an area owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director, for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measured, B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education." Most ecological reserves will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.

3. Audit Process

3.1 Applicable Standards and Audit Objectives

Certificate Code	SFI: SCS-SFI/FM-008672	
Audit Type	☐ Stage 1, Preliminary Review Audit	☐ Stage 2, Certification Audit
	☐ Re-Certification	☐ COVID-19 Additional Surveillance
	☐ 1st, ☐ 2nd, ☐ 3rd or ☒ 4th Surveillance	
	☐ Transfer	☐ Expansion of Scope
	☐ Other (*describe*):	
Applicable Standards	☒ SFI: 2022 Forest Management. ☒ SFI: Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks ☒ SFI: Audits of Multi-Sites	
Multiple Standards	☐ N/A, this is not a multi-standard nor a multi-CB audit. BPL is also certified to the FSC® Forest Management Standard which completed as a combined audit simultaneous with SFI.	
	☒ Combined	☐ Joint	☐ Integrated
	A combined audit is when a client is being audited against the requirements of two or more standards	*A joint audit is when two or more auditing organizations cooperate to audit a single client.*	*An integrated audit is when a client has integrated the application of requirements of two or more management systems standards into a single management system and is being audited against more than one standard.*
SFI Substitute or Modified Indicators	☒ None, ☐ Yes, Substitute or Modified Indicators used and justification:	
Certificate Scope/ Statement	The scope of the certificate includes all forest management activities associated with the Organization's sustainable forest management system with defined forest lands located in	

	[location] and including the harvest, transport, and sale or trade of forest products, and other forest management system activities for the Audit Objectives. The Organization has sufficient control over any contracting or outsourcing of forest management planning and activities to ensure conformance to applicable certification requirements.
Description of Sampling Approach	Maine BPL is organized into 3 Regions: Eastern, Western (1/2), and Northern. The Western Region, due to size and geographic spread, is split into 2 sub-regions for sampling. Below the region level, individual properties are scattered throughout the state, divided into units of varying size for management purposes. Units in similar areas are grouped together under management plans or have their own plan for larger units. Overall management planning and growth and yield projections are done at the level of the entire ownership. Zones are further subdivided into Lots. The 2025 audit sampled Western Region (northern portion) as presented in the itinerary.
Deviations from the Audit Plan	Were there any significant deviations from the Audit Plan? ☒ No ☐ Yes. If yes, provide a description and explanation.

3.2 Audit Team

Auditor name:	Daniel Martin	Auditor role:	Team Auditor
Qualifications:	Daniel Martin is a consultant & certification specialist offering specialized services in sustainable forest management, biomass, chain of custody and environmental management systems supporting a number of clients throughout Canada and the US. Daniel is a Registered Professional Forester in the Province of New Brunswick (#646) and a Forest Engineer in the Province of Quebec (11-014) as well as a Lead Auditor. He has conducted well over 200 audits in the fields of sustainable forest management, biomass, chain of custody and in environmental management certification systems.		
Auditor name:	Daniel Simonds	Auditor role:	Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	A qualified lead auditor, for FSC, SFI, & PEFC Forest Management and Chain of Custody systems with 18 years of experience in third party certification. A graduate of UMaine College of Forestry and Maine-licensed Professional Forester (Maine #884) & Certified Forester, with 40 years of practical experience in the region.		

3.3 Total Time Spent on Audit

A. Number of days spent on-site for the Audit	3
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site audit	2
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	2
E. Total number of person days used in audit	**8**

3.4 Summary of Audit Itinerary and Site Visits

Location(s) sampled	Sebookmook, Bigelow, Crocker Mt, Little Moose, Taunton & Raymond Areas within Western Sustainable Harvest Units.
Number of field sites	30
Summary of Cover Types visited	Mixed conifer-hardwood, conifer, and hardwood sites with native tree species common to western Maine.
Summary Description /Number of Silviculture Activities inspected	22 silvicultural and harvest sites were inspected over the two days. Also included recreation areas, wildlife management, salvage, and an experimental burn treatment.
Summary Description	Several active and recent harvest sites were inspected over the two days.

/Number of Harvest Areas inspected	
Summary Description of Road infrastructure inspections	Roads were inspected throughout. Including specific stops at recent road construction and bridge projects included in notes and infrastructure was examined throughout with no issues identified.

3.5 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys teams with expertise in forestry and other relevant fields to assess the certified organization's conformance to SFI standards and policies. Audit methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing relevant stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. Applicable aspects of the Management System under evaluation, such as Management System Review and other relevant Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators will also inform the audit team. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the audit jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, reviewed documents and records, and relevant stakeholder input. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

3.6. Changes to Management System

☒ There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME's conformance to the SFI standards, rules, and policies.

☐ Significant changes that affect the management system occurred since the last audit described as follows (describe):

3.7 Confirmation of Meeting Audit Objectives

The objectives for this audit included:

a. Determination of the conformity of the client's management system, or parts of it, with audit criteria (Selected Objectives, Performance Measures, and/or Indicators).
b. Determination of the ability of the management system to ensure the client meets applicable statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements.
c. Determination of the effectiveness of the management system to ensure the client can reasonably expect to achieve specified objectives.
d. As applicable, identification of areas for potential improvement of the management system.

Audit Objectives were met	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ If no, provide an explanation:

4. Results of Audit

4.1 Grading of Possible Findings

Once a consensus is reached by the audit team, determinations of grading are made as to the level of findings. Grading of findings may occur as follows:

- *Major CARs*: Major Corrective Action Requests (CARs) occur when one or more of the SFI 2022 Standard(s) performance measures or indicators has not been addressed or has not been implemented to the extent that a systematic failure of a Certified Organization's SFI system to meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator occurs.
- *Minor CARs:* An isolated lapse in SFI 2022 Standard(s) implementation which does not indicate a systematic failure to consistently meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator.
- *Opportunities for Improvement:* Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) are identified by audit team members where the client is in conformance, but there is a risk to conformance in the future. Nonconformance with the standard requirements cannot be recorded as OFIs.
- *Exceeds:* Practices that exceed the basic requirements of the SFI 2022 Standards and Rules for Forest Management or Fiber Sourcing.

4.2 Table of Audit Results and History of Findings for Certificate Period

This table lists Findings to the Performance Measure and/or Indicator level for each year of the certificate period and is updated annually.

SFI Objective	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2021) *2015-2019 Std*	1st Annual Evaluation (2022) *2015-2019 Std*	2nd Annual Evaluation (2023) *2022 Std*	3rd Annual Evaluation (2024) *2022 Std*	4th Annual Evaluation (2025) *2022 Std*
No findings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
1					
2	Minor 2.3.4				
3			Minor 3.1.1		
4					
5					Minor 5.3.2
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11				Minor 11.1.2	Minor 11.1.2 (2)
12					

13					Minor 13.1.4
14					
15		OFI 15.1.3			
16					
17					
COC					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

4.3 General Description of Evidence of Conformity

This section summarizes the general evidence found to verify conformity that is detailed in Appendix 5.

SFI Objective	Summary of Evidence
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.	Not evaluated during this 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.	Not evaluated during this audit
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.	Developed policy and programs for protecting water quality and the integrity of riparian habitat is will documented and evident in planning and operations. These programs include full integration of state-level BMP guidance as well as developed compliance to relevant regulations.
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.	Programs for identification and conservation of Biological Diversity are well documented and evident. An HCV (FECV) assessment is appropriately up to date, and a network of relevant areas identified and managed appropriately.
Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits. To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.	Not evaluated during this audit
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.	Not evaluated during this audit

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources. To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.	Not evaluated during this audit
Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights. To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples'' rights and traditional knowledge.	Not evaluated during this audit
Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.	A preliminary assessment and adaptation plan designed to address Climate Change is verified, along with initial programs promoting Carbon market applications.
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.	Consideration and mitigation of fire impacts is appropriately and adequately incorporated into BPL planning. Impacts and significance of fire in the BPL landscape is understood to be limited.
Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local.	Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations include evidence of substantial and ongoing legal compliance. Close collaboration with state compliance authority is evident.
Objective 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology. To invest in research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.	Not evaluated during this audit
Objective 13. Training and Education. To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry through appropriate training and education programs.	Evidence of ongoing staff training is reviewed, as well as programing for contracted operational personnel.
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.	Not evaluated during this audit
Objective 15. Public Land Management Responsibilities. To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.	Maine BPL is a state agency affiliated with the state Dept of Conservation and sister agencies accountable to the state government. Planning and management processes are clearly transparent and remain integrated to representative governmental processes.
Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.	Review of SFI website confirms that all past public summaries have been posted.
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.	Review of Management Review records for the current year confirm appropriate, ongoing attention to continual improvement.

4.4 Existing Corrective Action Requests, OFIs, and Exceeds

Finding Number: 2024.1		
Finding and Deadline	☐ Major: Pre-condition to certification ☐ Major: 3 months from Closing Meeting ☒ Minor: Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) or 12 months from closing ☐ OFI: no deadline ☐ Exceeds: no deadline ☐ Other deadline (specify):	
SFI Indicator:	11.1.2. System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws, and regulations.	
☒ **Non-Conformity** ☐ **Background/ Justification in the case of OFI or Exceeds** Applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees are not effectively implemented. Specifically an operator was observed exiting harvesting equipment without wearing proper PPE.		
Action Plan and Root Cause Analysis *(to be prepared by Organization)*	**Root Cause Analysis**: Neither a newly hired forwarder operator nor his foreman were adequately reminded by BPL staff of required health and safety practices for the worksite, resulting in the operator exiting machine without proper PPE. **Action Plan**: A memo will be sent to the contractor foreman as well as all BPL foresters outlining required health and safety practices for the worksite.	
SCS Review of Action Plan	☒ Accepted	☐ Rejected (*explain*):
	SCS representative: **Daniel Simonds**	Date: **28 October 2024**
Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization	A memo was sent to field staff as a reminder to ensure and maintain safe working conditions on the job site. Federal and State safety standards, BPL safety policies, procedures and practices related to logger certified training certification must be followed and implemented.	
SCS Review of Implemented Actions	Verified evidence that a memo was sent on September 29, 2025. Field assessment of active forest operations. No evidence of health and safety violations. All workers interviewed during the audit were wearing their proper PPE and implmenting proper safety procedures. This non-conformance can be closed.	
Status of Finding:	☒ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*	

4.5 New Corrective Action Requests, OFIs, and Exceeds

Finding Number: 2025-01	
Finding and Deadline	☐ Major: Pre-condition to certification ☐ Major: 3 months from Closing Meeting ☒ Minor: Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) or 12 months from closing ☐ OFI: no deadline ☐ Exceeds: no deadline

	☐ Other deadline (specify):	
SFI Indicator:	*11.1.2 System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.*	
☒ **Non-Conformity** ☐ **Background/ Justification in the case of OFI or Exceeds** There is no evidence of a procedure or SOP to monitor fuel containers and handling.		
Action Plan and Root Cause Analysis *(to be prepared by Organization)*	**Root Cause Analysis**:	
SCS Review of Action Plan	☐ Accepted	☐ Rejected (*explain*):
	SCS representative:	Date:
Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization		
SCS Review of Implemented Actions		
Status of Finding:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*	

Finding Number: 2025-02		
Finding and Deadline	☐ Major: Pre-condition to certification ☐ Major: 3 months from Closing Meeting ☒ Minor: Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) or 12 months from closing ☐ OFI: no deadline ☐ Exceeds: no deadline ☐ Other deadline (specify):	
SFI Indicator:	5.3.2 *Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with green-up requirement or alternative method.*	
☒ **Non-Conformity** ☐ **Background/ Justification in the case of OFI or Exceeds** There is no evidence of a process for the determination of skid trail width during the compartment review procedure (approval process prior to the implementation of the management activity). Harvest site on Compartment W209 on the Bigelow Preserve.		
Action Plan and Root Cause Analysis *(to be prepared by Organization)*	**Root Cause Analysis**:	
SCS Review of	☐ Accepted	☐ Rejected (*explain*):

Action Plan	SCS representative:	Date:
Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization		
SCS Review of Implemented Actions		
Status of Finding:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*	

Finding Number: 2025-03		
Finding and Deadline	☐ Major: Pre-condition to certification ☐ Major: 3 months from Closing Meeting ☒ Minor: Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) or 12 months from closing ☐ OFI: no deadline ☐ Exceeds: no deadline ☐ Other deadline (specify):	
SFI Indicator:	13.1.4 *Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.*	
☒ **Non-Conformity** ☐ **Background/ Justification in the case of OFI or Exceeds** A harvesting operator did not demonstrate appropriate competence to their role and responsibility, specifically relating to the determination of their location within a harvest block. Observation during an active operations within the Bigelow Preserve.		
Action Plan and Root Cause Analysis *(to be prepared by Organization)*	**Root Cause Analysis**:	
SCS Review of Action Plan	☐ Accepted	☐ Rejected (*explain*):
	SCS representative:	Date:
Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization		
SCS Review of Implemented Actions		
Status of Finding:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*	

Finding Number: 2025-04

Finding and Deadline	☐ Major: Pre-condition to certification ☐ Major: 3 months from Closing Meeting ☒ Minor: Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) or 12 months from closing ☐ OFI: no deadline ☐ Exceeds: no deadline ☐ Other deadline (specify):	
SFI Indicator:	11.1.2 *System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, state, or local forestry and environmental laws and regulations.*	
☒ **Non-Conformity** ☐ **Background/ Justification in the case of OFI or Exceeds** There is evidence that motor vehicles are not restricted to designated roads, as required in the *Act to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area.*		
Action Plan and Root Cause Analysis *(to be prepared by Organization)*	**Root Cause Analysis**:	
SCS Review of Action Plan	☐ Accepted	☐ Rejected (*explain*):
	SCS representative:	Date:
Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization		
SCS Review of Implemented Actions		
Status of Finding:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*	

5. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. The SCS annual audit team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual audits and the Certified Organization's response to any open CARs.	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐
Comments: none	