



Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. Public Summary Report Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard [2005-2009 Edition]

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) completed a SFI surveillance assessment for Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. (“Plum Creek”) in the states of Maine and New Hampshire. The lead assessor was Don Taylor, CF, EMS (LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to assess the SFI management system at the corporate level and to evaluate Plum Creek’s implementation of the SFI Standard on the ground.

Indicators

All of the indicators in the SFI Standard were within the scope of the assessment, except for Objective 8, since Plum Creek does not procure wood in the states of Maine or New Hampshire. There were no substitute indicators.

Assessment Process

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements in the field. The findings were summarized in a report dated September 25, 2007.

Summary of Findings

The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) initiated a challenge of Plum Creek’s SFI certification in December 2006. The challenge includes concerns about protection of deer wintering areas and violations of Maine’s Forest Practices Act. PwC designed the surveillance assessment sample to address the requirements of the SFI Standard, with emphasis on issues raised in the NRCM challenge.

There were no major or minor non-conformities identified during the audit.

Opportunities for improvement were identified in the following areas:

- Plum Creek may wish to develop a more formal road and bridge maintenance tracking system with road retirement criteria, to monitor the upgrading of roads and associated infrastructure.

- Plum Creek has a comprehensive Wildlife Management Program including stand-level habitat diversity targets. Plum Creek may wish to enhance this program by monitoring the proportions of successional stages on its lands.
- There is an opportunity to improve the Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) program by incorporating publicly available forest insect and disease information into a company IPM plan and offering related training sessions.
- The annual training plan could be more evenly spread out throughout the year.
- Plum Creek may wish to work with the state SIC to update the Certified Logging Professional training program to make it more current and relevant to staff and contractors.
- A document control system could be implemented to ensure Plum Creek staff are consistently documenting meetings and using the most up-to-date inspection forms.

Good management practices were identified in the following areas:

- Plum Creek’s funding and support of environmental studies to improve best management practices and exceeding best management practices by requiring protection measures for ephemeral streams.
- Plum Creek’s extensive and detailed herbicide program.
- The operational implementation of Plum Creek’s aesthetic policy.
- Plum Creek’s program to ensure the highest possible value for their products.
- Collaboration with state and federal agencies when planning operations that are considered environmentally sensitive.
- Voluntarily committing productive forestland into managed deer wintering habitat.
- Voluntary development of recreational access for public benefit.
- Plum Creek’s system for tracking regeneration is excellent. Plum Creek foresters are managing natural and artificial regeneration well.

Conclusion

Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.’s fee land management practices continue to be certified to the SFI Standard. The Registrar’s Report and certificate can be obtained by contacting Rob Olszewski of Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. (770 829 6306).