



St. Louis County Land Department
SFI 2010-2014
March 01-04, 2011

Audit Coverage

- During the period March 01-04, 2011, QMI conducted a Re-Assessment Audit of St. Louis County's SFI forestry program to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The audit took 5 audit-days to complete.
- The audit team consisted of Mr. Jack Ward CF, EMS (LA) as Team Leader and Ms. Lynn Penniman, EMS (LA) auditor.
- To verify compliance to Minnesota Voluntary Guidelines and conformance to St. Louis County environmental management system policies and procedures, the Audit Team assessed 8 field sites across the Virginia Zone. This entailed interviewing St. Louis County staff, timber sale purchasers and contractors. Forest practices audited included, active clear-cut harvests during frozen conditions, protection of numerous water bodies, enhanced buffers for the MN T&E Wood Turtle, temporary bridge placement and a leased cabin site.
- All SFI 2010-2014 Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators were assessed in accordance with the following scope:

Scope of Registration: The registration covers the environmental management system as the foundation for achieving Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard 2010-2014 principles and performance measures in all forestry management activities including planning, harvest, forest renewal and land management.

Background:

- The St. Louis County operations have been registered to the SFI Standard since 2004. This SFIS is supported by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System also registered in 2004.
- The St. Louis County SFIS and EMS systems have undergone annual third party surveillance audits by QMI since the date of initial registration.
- The St. Louis County Land Department's central office is located in Duluth; MN. The County's EMS/SFI manager is Mr. Mark Reed.

Positive Aspects **The Audit Team observed the following positive practices:**

- St Louis County personnel and logging contractor knowledge and commitment to MN State and St. Louis County BMPs was above average.
- Strong involvement and participation in public outreach and educational opportunities related to sustainable forest management.
- Leadership in MN SFI Implementation Committee

Areas of Minor Non-conformance

- No non-conformances were raised.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Consider developing a SFIS 2010-2014 e-learning module to facilitate annual training

Audit Recommendation

The results of Re-Assessment Audit indicate that the SFIS of St. Louis County forestry operations remains suitable and effectively implemented and meets the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard relative to the scope of registration identified in this report; therefore, a recommendation for continued registration has been submitted to QMI-SAI Global review team.

SFIS 2010-2014 Periodic Assessments

Non-conformances.....	0
Opportunities for Improvement	1
Positive Aspects.....	3

Non-conformances

Major Non-conformance: A systemic failure of the Program Participant's SFI system to meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator.

Minor Non-conformance: An isolated lapse in SFI system implementation which does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator.

All non-conformances require an action plan within 30 days. Major non-conformances must be addressed by the operation or registration cannot be achieved / maintained.

Opportunities for Improvement

Isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of SFIS objectives.

Positive Aspects

Areas that are deemed to be of best practices

QMI's Forestry Group registers forest companies to ISO 14001, SFI 2010-2014, and CSA Z809 SFM standards. The QMI Forestry Group consists of professional foresters and industry experts located in our Cleveland, Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal offices. Contact marketingservices@qmi.com for more information.

Contacts:

Sylvain Frappier Manager, Strategic Projects & Forestry
Tel.: 819.664.1236