



St. Louis County Land & Minerals Department SFI 2010-2014

Audit Coverage

- During the period January 17-19, 2012, QMI conducted a 12-Month Surveillance Audit of St. Louis County Land and Mineral Department's SFI forestry program to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The audit took 4 auditor-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 6 field sites across the Pile Lake Zone. This entailed interviewing St. Louis County staff, timber sale purchasers and contractors. Forest practices audited included, road construction, active clear-cut harvests during frozen conditions and protection of numerous water bodies.

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 and Mineral Department's central office is located in Duluth, MN. The County's EMS/SFI manager is Mar. Mark Reed.



Scope of Certification

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.

Executive Summary

The SFI Program third-party 12 Month Surveillance audit was undertaken by QMI-SAI Global. QMI-SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) for registrations to SFIS 2010-2014. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations through interviews with St Louis County staff, timber sale purchasers and logging contractors... The audit also assessed the SFIS supporting documentation, records at the St Louis County Duluth, MN office. The audit used document reviews, site visits and interviews to assess the forest management system.

The auditors

- The audit team consisted of Mr. Jack Ward CF, EMS (LA) as Team Leader and Ms. Lynn Penniman, EMS (LA) auditor.

Key Areas of Non-conformance- Minor NCR

- 2012-01: Objective 5; PM 5.2; Indicator 2- The current method for calculating average contiguous clear-cut size is incorrect

Key Opportunities for Improvement:

- Consider posting management and performance review meeting minutes in a timelier manner
- Consider more specifically documenting management's review regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.

Positive Aspects

- The frequency and thoroughness of recorded inspections continues to be commendable
- The electronic QR scan identifier used on Auction Prospectuses is innovative.

SFIS 2010-2014

Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances	0
Minor non-conformances	1
Opportunities for Improvement	2
Positive Aspects	2

Major non-conformances

- Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives.

Minor non-conformances

- Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of compliance to the SFI standard.

All non-conformances require an action plan within 90 days of an initial audit and subsequently 60 days and must be addressed by the auditee.

Major non-conformances must be addressed and closed immediately or registration cannot be achieved/maintained.

Opportunity for Improvement

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

Positive Aspects

Areas that are deemed to be of best practices