

2023 Certification Program Monitoring Summary (2022 field yr.)

Review of the **Certified Properties and Certified Acreage** FSC certified acreage at year's end was 50,672 acres. SFI certified acreage at year's end was 26,579 acres. Property acreages are as follows: Blue Devil Timber, LLC (1,783 acres), Cedar Heights Timber LLC (14,061 acres), Elk Lake Land Inc. (10,876 acres), Litchfield Park Corporation (12,165 acres), North Woods Club (4,701 acres), Elk Lake - Three Brothers Tract (1,755 acres), Windfall Pond Forest (1,608 acres) and Langley Park Associates (3,723 acres). Note that The Nature Conservancy (896 acres) was dropped from our FSC & SFI Group on January 1, 2022. Windfall Pond, Northwood's Club, Cedar Heights Timber LLC and Langley Park Associates remain only FSC certified.

Year End Review of **Growth & Harvest Calculations** as compared to the AAC of each property according to the Management Plan – The Regional Manager reviewed the allowable cut per landowner as compared to the harvest calculation and volume spreadsheets kept by the Woodlands Accountant at year end. Any adjustments to harvest scheduling will be recommended at this time and reviewed with the landowner during the annual stakeholder meeting.

2022 had timber harvesting on 4 of the 8 FFM FSC certified tracts (Blue Devil Timber, Cedar Heights Timber, Litchfield Park and Northwood's Club). The annual allowable cut for 2022 across 8 certified properties was 38,968 ton. The actual annual harvest was 9,722 ton or 25% of the AAC. Note that there is 170,177 ton of growth that is bank positive throughout the eight FMU properties. This volume can be harvested in the future with no negative impact on the sustainability of the properties.

No harvesting on the former Finch Pruyn & Co., Inc. lands (TNC 896 acres) has occurred since 2020. Two properties, the Burke Road Tract in Saratoga (58.47 ac.), Saratoga County and the Vanderwalker Road Tract (69.27 ac.) in Chester, Warren County were sold in 2019 / 2020. The remaining 896 acres was sold in 2021 / 2022. This is the reason the TNC lands were dropped from our FSC & SFI Group Certifications 1/1/22.

Timber harvesting occurred on Blue Devil Timber, LLC in the winter of 2022 on the Minnow Pond Winter Road. This harvest was a 2nd Stage Shelterwood harvest in Stand #5. Total harvest area was 47 acres, with 870 ton being harvested. Harvest operations were carried out by Ovitt Construction and supervised by FFM Forester Patrick Harrison. For the winter of 2023 a continuation of harvesting in Stand 5 and Stand 12 was planned. Due to the lack of available timber harvesting crews and the mild winter weather, harvest operations were put off until winter 2024.

Beech Bark Disease and Balsam Fir salvage operations on Cedar Heights Timber, LLC lands were continued in 2022. Thomas Donnelly was the harvesting contractor, FFM Foresters Chad Carlin and Patrick Harrison supervised. Total harvest for the 2022 operations was 5,352 ton on 174.4 acres in Stands 10, 11, 16, 20, 22, 23 51 & 52. The plan is to continue Beech and Balsam Fir salvage operations in the summer / fall of 2023.

Litchfield Park harvest operations continued in the winter 2022 with 2nd Stage Shelterwood harvest in Stand # 30, 31 & 55. Total harvest area for 2022 was 84.6 acres with 2,995 ton being harvested. Winter harvest activity was supervised by FFM Foresters Justin Saville and Patrick Harrison. The plan for winter 2023 was to continue operations in Stand # 30, 31 & 55. Due to the lack of available timber harvesting crews and the mild winter weather, harvest operations were put off until winter 2024.

Northwood's Club harvest operations were continued as summer operations in 2022 with one conventional timber harvesting crew (Ernst Clark Logging) active in Stand #25. The total harvest for the summer / fall of 2022 was 505 ton over a 44 acre area. Fall 2023/Winter 2024 harvest activity is planned in Stand #23 (Balsam Salvage) and Stand #25 (Hwd. Shelterwood). Due to Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule timber harvesting restrictions, timber harvesting periods are restricted and utmost care needs to be taken to prevent an "Incidental Take". NLEB were listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal Endangered Species Act effective March 31, 2023.

There were no timber harvest operations in 2022 on Elk Lake Land Inc., Elk Lake – Three Brothers, Langley Park or Windfall Pond properties. Planned harvest operations for Elk Lake – Three Brothers will be the summer 2023 under the Finch Paper LLC Fiber Supply Agreement. Fall 2023 / Winter 2024 timber harvest operations are planned for Langley Park.

Annual Review of **Silvicultural Treatments and Forest Type diversity** for their effectiveness toward forest type and ecological diversity – All timber harvest plans and activities are supervised by a trained professional forester. Foresters prepare and submit for peer review and comment, a stand-specific Pre-harvest Report. The Pre-harvest Report is based upon a current timber cruise and management plan. Post Harvests will include a weekly supervision summary. A Pre & Post harvest database will be kept to track management treatments and operational progress on client properties. Forester responsible for the maintenance of the Pre & Post Harvest Database will work with the Regional Forest Manager to review the Forest Type & Developmental Stage calculations.

Acreage summaries for FFM client properties showed while there are some gaps in forest type and stand age on a localized basis, the landscape level review of the managed properties show improvement in the early succession habitat as a result of increased small clear cuts, group selection cuts and Beech Bark Disease and Balsam Fir salvage operations. We continue to focus on planning late stage forests reserved from harvesting as we move into the future. Additionally approximately 15 percent of the FMU's land base is excluded from timber harvesting in riparian zone, pond buffers, lake buffers, and inaccessible areas.

Annual Review of **HCVF & FECV database** is done by our staff personnel on both a landscape and per tract basis and in conjunction with biologists and ecologists from The Natural Heritage program, SUNY ESF and NYSDEC. The landscape reviews also occur periodically when updates are made to the publically available data online and locally during pre-harvest planning (documented on pre-harvest reports by foresters) as well as in depth updates following management plan revisions. In 2022 a review of all HCVF & FECV's was carried out. Acreage changes were revised per re-evaluation and information updates.

In 2020 FFM Forester Chad Carlin put together a binder of information on Rare Plant, Animals & Significant Communities for all Finch Forest Management FSC & SFI Group Properties. A summary table indicating the potential presence of Rare Plant, Animals & Significant Communities on a property by property basis is an extremely useful tool. Information was compiled from New York State Natural Heritage Program & New York State Department of Environmental Conservation data bases. Information in this binder along with other HCVF & FECV databases will be used in the forest management planning and completing Pre-Harvest and Pre-Site Disturbance reports. This binder was reviewed and signed off on in 2021 & 2022.

RT&E Species are tracked by staff foresters using publically available information on a continuous basis. The Northern Long-Eared Bat was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on April 2, 2015. NLEB were listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal Endangered Species Act effective March 31, 2023. FFM foresters are using the NatureServe website, New York Natural Heritage Program website, NYSDEC Environmental Resource Mapper and NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist advice to monitor RT & E Species on all FFM managed lands. Additionally, FFM foresters review and utilize the Empire State Forest Products Association "Working Forests and Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species Field Guide" for Pre-Harvest Reports and FMP updates.

Spruce grouse continue to be monitored for possible sightings on Cedar Heights Timber, Litchfield Park and Windfall Pond Tracts. It has been determined that the properties have suitable habitat, but no sightings have been recorded to date. Northern Long-eared Bat continues to be monitored for possible sightings and roost trees on Northwood's Club property.

Integrated Pest Management and Invasive Species tracking is done on ongoing basis by all staff foresters. This is a matter that FFM takes seriously on behalf of our clients properties and the well-being of the communities in which their forests are located. Finch Forest Management works in cooperation with government and private entities to be trained to identify, locate and control damaging agents and maintain forest health. Foresters complete aerial reconnaissance when

the threat of insect infestations warrants. The standard strategy for controlling plant & insect outbreaks is using silviculture by cutting infected areas and thinning the adjacent stand – striving to eliminate the need for chemical use.

We continue to address problems with Beech Bark Disease on a stand by stand level on many of the large landowner properties. On CHT and Litchfield Park beech is a dominant component of many stands and is heavily diseased. Within these stands regeneration of more desirable species is challenging. With the landowner's goals and objectives to grow a stand of healthy, desirable species we've found block clearcutting to be the most suitable silviculture in these stands. Ideally mid-summer harvest operations as opposed to winter operations is preferred for ground scarification, reduced beech stump sprouts and desired regeneration.

We continue to keep up to date on the location of EAB in NY State. In July of 2018 the quarantine on the movement of ash trees within the State of New York was lifted. EAB has been confirmed in all New York counties except those on Long Island. The closest town and location to FFM operations is the Town of Johnsbury and the Town of Chester, located in Warren County of New York. This location is with 10 to 50 miles of many of FFM client properties.

Additionally, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was positively identified on Prospect Mountain in the Town of Lake George in the fall of 2017. HWA was found on four trees. The trees were treated by basal treatment of pesticide and the Adelgids were killed. The site and surrounding areas were monitored in 2018 and no new outbreak was detected. In August 2020 a large outbreak (138 ac) was identified along the east side of Lake George in Washington County on NYS Forest Preserve land. NYSDEC treated 2,374 trees with insecticide in October 2020 and continues to monitor the situation. This out-break continues to spread northerly along the east side of Lake George and is now estimated to be over a 400 acre area that is infected.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid has been positively identified on the North Woods Club property since 2017. We are planning to manage the problem with silvicultural treatment / balsam salvage operations. Timber harvest operations were planned for the 2020 but due to the Pandemic and the decline in the Canadian Spruce Fir log market these operations were put on hold. A fall 2023 Balsam Fir salvage operation is planned.

Beech Leaf Disease has been found in Western, NY; Central, NY; Southern NY in the New York metropolitan area, Long Island and counties south of the Catskills. The area closest to FFM clients would be the location in Herkimer County in Northern, NY.

Oak Wilt has been found on Long Island, Western, NY and four locations in Glenville, Schenectady County. Oak Wilt was first confirmed here in 2008, but resurfaced after treatment in 2013. Two new locations were found in 2017, and one new location was found in 2018. In 2018 and 2019, oak wilt was found in South Bristol in Ontario County and Middlesex in Yates County, respectively. No Oak wilt has been identified in the Adirondacks at this time.

Monitoring of regeneration conducted annually during the summer growing season. Field surveys are conducted by the end of the fifth growing season to determine the stocking level of regeneration. These cruises are performed by staff foresters, using regeneration measurement guidelines developed by SUNY-ESF Huntington Forest.

During the summer of 2021 one harvest areas was monitored for a total of 36 acres, covering harvests on one landowner (Elk Lake Lands). Ten out of twelve 1/1000 ac. regeneration plots were adequately regenerated (83%).

Forest and Soil Productivity and BMP implementation will be tracked on a job by job basis throughout the year and on site by the Foresters using FFM jobber report evaluations and annually reviewed through a BMP database for efficiency and effectiveness and review of contractor base by the Regional Manager.

A review of 2022 BMP Report Card data indicates good or better scores across most compliance categories for FFM timber harvesting crews. When looking at a reference of BMP implementation across contractors there seems to be no noticeable difference between conventional (non-mechanized operations) and mechanized crews. The actual job quality and overall grading per BMP seems to me more correlated with contractor and crew experience, attitude and professionalism. Overall there is improvement from previous years and this was an area that our foresters concentrated on improving in 2021 and 2022. We will continue to concentrate on improving BMP implementation and compliance in 2023.

When looking at actual grading by foresters there continues to be minor grading variability. Consistency is stressed and has improved. We continue to work on developing standards, reviewing post-harvest jobs and peer reviewing jobber report cards to improve consistency.

The Regional Manager is responsible for tracking compliance with Finch Paper LLC's **logger training policy**. Documentation of training is checked with the state logger training database on a continual basis. All crews on FFM managed properties have certified loggers that have gone through New York Logger Training (NYLT). Some new members and existing members are due for recertification. In 2020 formal NYLT & First Aid / CPR Training was put on hold due to the Covid Pandemic. With increased vaccination rate in NYS and the decrease a Covid spread in the northern region we anticipated that training would have picked up in the summer 2021. With the Delta variant and the Omicron variant increasing spread of Covid in 2021 NYLT courses were far and few between. Gatherings no matter if they were inside or outside were discouraged. FFM will continue to work with NYLT to provide course sites and schedule courses within close proximity to our contractor base. Finch Paper LLC will be sponsoring FA / CPR courses in the summer of 2023 to assist with logger training certification.

Finch Forest Management has a formal process for **receiving and responding to public inquiries**, including potential practices inconsistent with the SFI or FSC Principles and Objectives. If a phone call or other public inquiry comes in to Finch Forest Management, the message will be documented and forwarded to the appropriate parties who will either follow up with the entity making the inquiry or forward the concern directly on to the SIC Inconsistent Practices Committees for resolution.

Call Reports & remediation records can be found in the Incident Report file. There was one incident reports for 2022. To date there has been one incident report for 2023.

Overall Monitoring and Evaluation of Certification Conformance and Development & Implementation of strategies in Management Planning is consistent with the certification program. The Vice President of Forestry and Wood Procurement, Regional Forest Manager and Procurement Manager review the effectiveness of the overall Program using the monitoring documents & summary reports and other input and determine whether any changes or improvements should be made. By implementing the above programs, plans, systems and processes, Finch Paper LLC / Finch Forest Management continually improves its performance and achieves its objective of practicing and promoting sustainable forest management.