



## **Resolute FP US Inc.**

# **2024 SFI® Fiber Sourcing Public Summary Audit Report**

### **Introduction**

Resolute FP US Inc. of Calhoun, TN has demonstrated conformance to SFI® 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard in accordance with the NSF certification process.

Resolute FP US Inc. is a pulp and paper company with three pulp/paper facilities and three sawmills in the United States. The organization makes a variety of grades of paper, newsprint, market pulp, softwood lumber, softwood chips, softwood shavings and softwood sawdust. All fiber-based inputs are sourced by internal procurement organizations located at the facilities. The SFI certification program is managed by the Forest Analyst. The organization purchases stumpage at certain facilities. Resolute FP US Inc. has a detailed BMP verifiable monitoring system which includes conducting BMP inspections on a sample of open-market (Gatewood) tracts and monitoring of all purchased stumpage tracts. The Certificate Holder monitors state BMP data and evaluates BMP compliance of suppliers in their supply chain for each respective Resolute FP US Inc. facility. Wood Supply Managers and Procurement Foresters (or other designees) analyze supplier performance and monitoring data weekly, quarterly and annually. Items of concern or opportunities for improvement are identified and appropriate actions are taken. Wood Supply Managers for each facility submit a report of findings to the corporate Senior Director Forestry. Information for improvements is periodically shared with state SIC Committees to improve logger training programs. Resolute FP US Inc. includes a detailed summary for raw material suppliers communicated through the annual supplier newsletter.

The audit was performed by NSF on March 19-22, 2024, by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2022 Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard.

The scope of the audit included fiber procurement operations. Procurement operations occurring in the past 12 months were reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard was met. In addition, SFI obligations to promote biodiversity; adherence to best management practices; forestry research, science, and technology; communications and public reporting; management review and continual improvement and avoidance of controversial sources were within the scope of the audit. Field Site observations included 10 BMP monitoring sites. There is no timber purchasing for Coosa Pines Mill and Grenada Mill.

One of the SFI Section 3 requirements were outside of the scope of Resolute FP US Inc.'s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the audit as follows:

- Objective 8 - Resolute FP US Inc. does not have Public Land management responsibilities.

### **Audit Process**

The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of conformance. NSF also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF protocols. NSF selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings of the audit included conformance, major non-conformance, minor non-conformance, opportunities for improvement, and practices that exceeded the requirements of the standard.



## Overview of Audit Findings

Resolute FP US Inc. was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there were no Major or Minor non-conformances or Opportunities for Improvement identified during the 2024 surveillance audit.

NSF also identified the following areas where forestry practices and operations of Resolute FP US Inc. exceed the basic requirements of the standard:

- *Certified Organizations* are knowledgeable about credible regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of *stakeholders* and have a *program* to take into account the results of these efforts in planning. (SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing, Indicator 7.1.4)  
On an annual basis, each procurement organization documents their involvement with the Wildlife Action Plan and the Forest Action Plan.

The next audit is scheduled for the week of March 17, 2025.

## General Description of Conformity to the Objectives

A summary of the evidence of the organization's conformance to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard Objectives* follows:

### Objective 1. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing

To address the practice of *sustainable* forestry by conserving *biological diversity*.

Why it Matters: Conserving *biological diversity* protects *wildlife habitat* and ensures healthy forests.

Notes: Not reviewed during 2024 audit.

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### Objective 2. Adherence to Best Management Practices

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through best management practices to protect water quality.

Why it Matters: Protecting water quality and quantity helps ensure safe and abundant drinking water for all.

Notes: Resolute FP US Inc. has a detailed program to address adverse weather conditions through inventory planning and management. Inventory levels are monitored daily and adjusted for seasonal variations in weather conditions.  
Resolute FP US Inc. has a documented verifiable monitoring system to maintain rates of conformance to best management practices and to identify areas for improved performance. The system includes monitoring state BMP data, conducting BMP inspections on a sample of Gatewood (open market) supplier tracts and monitoring of all purchased stumpage tracts. Findings are reported to the management and Steering Committee and utilized to develop actions if needed to address deficiencies. Results are communicated annually to personnel through an internal report and suppliers through a newsletter. Field observations confirmed compliance to state BMP requirements.

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### Objective 3. Use of Qualified Resource Professionals, Qualified Logging Professionals and Certified Logging Companies

To promote and utilize *qualified logging professionals*, *qualified resource professionals* and *certified logging companies*.

Why it Matters: Training logging professionals helps landowners implement effective forest management practices.

Notes: The list of qualified logging professionals is maintained by the state SIC. The company requires Qualified Logging Professionals in contracts.

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### Objective 4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including international, federal, provincial, state, and *local*.

Why it Matters: Compliance with all laws ensures the protection of the environmental and social values of forests.

Notes: *Company's Wood and Fiber Sourcing Policy specifies a commitment to achieving compliance with applicable environmental, forestry, and social laws and regulations. Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Manuals provided by state agencies and websites also assisted in documentation. Compliance with social laws is defined in the Wood and Fiber Sourcing Policy, Code of Conduct, Ethics Reporting Policy, and Human Rights Policy.*

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### **Objective 5. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology**

To invest in research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Why it Matters: Investing in forest research means healthier, more productive forests.

Notes: Not reviewed during 2024 audit.

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### **Objective 6. Training and Education**

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs*.

Why it Matters: Training and educating foresters means forest management plans are more accurately implemented, ensuring the well-being of our forests.

Notes: Confirmed by the Company's financial and physical support of the State SIC and its development of education and logger training programs. Training is also conducted by participation in various classes and webinars.

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### **Objective 7. 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*.

Why it Matters: Outreach and education improves the public's understanding of how important *sustainable forestry* is to local and global issues.

Notes: Confirmed by the Company's financial and physical support of the State SIC and Forestry Association, and distribution of brochures to wood suppliers and presentations at various events on sustainable forestry practices.

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### **Objective 8. Public Land Management Responsibilities**

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Why it Matters: Protects the environmental, social, and economic values of public forests.

Notes: N/A - Resolute FP US Inc. is not responsible for forest management on public lands.

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### **Objective 9. Communications and Public Reporting**

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Why it Matters: Reporting the results of third-party audits increases the public's understanding of forest certification.

Notes: Resolute FP US Inc. maintains a detailed system of records for compliance with requirements within annual surveys and progress reports. The Annual Progress Report was submitted prior to the required date. Resolute FP US Inc. Public Summary reports are posted on SFI website.

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### **Objective 10. Management Review and Continual Improvement**

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Why it Matters: Encouraging continual improvement of *sustainable forestry* practices, a cornerstone of *sustainable forestry*.

Notes: Resolute FP US Inc. conducts internal audits and Management Reviews. Information from internal audits, BMP monitoring results and input from personnel are utilized to address deficiencies, improve performance and communicate results periodically to personnel and annually to suppliers through a newsletter.

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### **Objective 11. Avoid Controversial Sources**

To manage the risk of sourcing fiber products from *controversial sources*.

Why it Matters: A due diligence system minimizes the risk of sourcing from *controversial sources* whether in the United States, Canada or offshore.

Notes: Not reviewed during 2024 audit.

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