



FSC Certification Report for the 2008 Annual Audit of:

**The Collins Pennsylvania Forest
Kane Hardwood
Kane, Pennsylvania**

Certificate Number: SCS-FM/COC-00007N

**Under the
SCS Forest Conservation Program
(An FSC-Accredited Certification Program)**

**Date of Field Audit: November 20, 2008
Date of Report: January 29, 2009**

By:

**Scientific Certification Systems
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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 CONTACT INFORMATION

The Collins Company
Kane Hardwood
PO Box 807
Kane, PA 16735
Contact: Dave Trimpey, Resource Manager
Web Page: www.CollinsWood.com

1.2 General Background

This report covers the third annual audit of Collins-Kane Hardwood since their 2005 recertification, and is pursuant to the FSC guidelines for annual audits as well as the terms of the latest forest management certificate awarded by Scientific Certification Systems in October 2005 (SCS-FM –00007). All certificates issued by SCS under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) require annual audits to ascertain ongoing compliance with the requirements and standards of certification. A public summary of the initial evaluation is available on the SCS website www.scscertified.com.

Pursuant to FSC and SCS guidelines, annual/surveillance audits are not intended to comprehensively examine the full scope of the certified forest operations, as the cost of a full-scope audit would be prohibitive and it is not mandated by FSC audit protocols. Rather, annual audits are comprised of three main components:

- A focused assessment of the status of any outstanding conditions or corrective action requests
- Follow-up inquiry into any issues that may have arisen since the award of certification or prior audit
- As necessary given the breadth of coverage associated with the first two components, an additional focus on selected topics or issues, the selection of which is not known to the certificate holder prior to the audit.

At the time of the November 2008 annual audit, there were two open Recommendations, the status of Collins-Kane Hardwood's recertification CARs was a major focus of the annual audit (see discussion, below for a listing of those CARs and their disposition as a result of this annual audit).

1.3 Guidelines/Standards Employed

As the applicant forest property is located in Pennsylvania, the certification evaluation that is the subject of this report was conducted against the duly-endorsed FSC Appalachian Standard (version 4.0). The standard is available at the FSC-US web site (www.fscus.org) or is available, upon request, from Scientific Certification Systems (www.scscertified.com). This is consistent with the standard used in the 2005 re-certification process.

2.0 SURVEILLANCE DECISION AND PUBLIC RECORD

2.1 Assessment Dates

The 2008 Annual Audit took place November 20, 2008.

In addition to the one auditor day necessary to conduct the field portion of the annual audit, 1.5 auditor days were dedicated to pre-audit preparation and report writing. The principal pre-audit activities involved document review and communications prior to initiating the on-site inspection of forestry operations.

2.2 Assessment Personnel

Daniel Stepanauskas is the Northeast Representative for Scientific Certification Systems Forest Management Program. Mr. Stepanauskas has been the principal of his consulting forestry firm for twenty-seven years, and is a consultant with over eight years of experience in FSC forest certification and chain-of-custody auditing for SCS in the United States and Canada. His experience includes writing management prescriptions for both the Army Corps of Engineers and the USFS. He earned his B.S. in Forestry from the University of New Hampshire in 1978.

2.3 Assessment Process

The scope of the 2008 annual audit, as with all annual audits, included: document review, field and office visits, interviewing management personnel and, as appropriate, interacting with outside stakeholders

The following site visits of the 2008 surveillance audit were conducted during November 20, 2008:

McKean 57 Blk 10

- Stand harvested in 2003/04 shelterwood harvest. Stand was again harvested in 2004/05 to salvage blow-down.
- Stand was inspected in 2006 and found to contain an overstory of pin cherry and was treated in 2008 with a new ½ concentration of herbicide which was used only

in the sapling tops with excellent results, allowing the survival the maple, blk cherry, poplar and oak.

- Stand is now in the second stage of the shelterwood harvest cycle.
- Course woody debris is ample, with less residual trees than usual due to the blow-down.

McKean 57 Blk 9

- Second stage of the shelterwood harvest was conducted in 2007.
- Excellent regeneration was present.
- Leave trees marked.

McKean 57 Blk 17

- First stage of the shelterwood was conducted in 2003
- Blow-down was harvested in 2004
- New low-dose herbicide was applied to sapling tops in 2007, with excellent survival of desirable species

McKean 57 Blk 22

- Viewed a first stage shelterwood harvest completed in 2008.
- Viewed travel zones adjacent to stand.
- Herbicide applied with new ½ strength dose to reduce heavy first year pin cherry regeneration.
- Pin cherry regeneration was too thick in spots for complete control.

Kane personnel involved in the audit process included:

Dave Trimpey, Resource Manager

Connie Grenz, General Manager (office only)

Ned Karger, Land Manager

Brian Parana, Regional Forester

Dan Witherell, Regional Forester (office only)

Tom C. Kase, Silvicultural Supervisor

John Williams, Harvest Supervisor (office only)

Michael Hancharic, Forest Programs Supervisor

Justin Bartley, GIS Forester

2.4 Status of Corrective Action Requests

Background/Justification: CPF has identified several significant archaeological features that are being protected during management operations. However, the sites are not included in the company GIS. Including any known site in the permanent GIS system would help to ensure their long-term protection.	
REC 2007.1	CPF should develop a permanent archaeological layer within the company GIS system.
Reference	<i>FSC Principle 3</i>
Action Taken By Company/Auditor Comments- During the past year, CPF has initiated the development of this GIS layer. Andrew Myers, Archeologist, spent a day educating the entire forestry staff in reference to identifying sites, and reviewing a predictive model developed to predict archeological sites in western and north/central Pennsylvania. Mr. Myers produced a report for CPF which identified and located all known archeological sites and travel corridors on or adjacent to CPF lands.	
Position in the end of this audit: As a result of the actions taken by CPF by the 2008 audit, this Recommendation is SATISFIED.	

Background/Justification: CPF applies protection buffers to intermittent stream corridors and marks them in the field. However, the harvest maps do not always show the streams or the protection corridors.	
REC 2007.2	CPF should make an improved effort to GPS intermittent streams channels when conducting timber sale layout and include a GIS data layer to depict the streams and protection buffers.
Reference	<i>FSC Principle 6</i>
Action Taken By Company/Auditor Comments- During the past year, CPF has buffered each blue-lined stream with a protective area. A new GIS layer was created exclusively for streams. Both permanent and intermittent streams will be included, as warranted. CPF harvest unit layout currently includes buffers for minor drainages, whether as yet designated on maps or not.	
Position in the end of this audit: As a result of actions taken by CPF by the 2008 audit, this Recommendation has been SATISFIED.	

2.5 General Observations

CPF is employing exemplary silvicultural techniques that are focused on desirable species, good seed tree retention, and appropriate rotation lengths. Their management includes a strong focus on ecological considerations and a well designed reserve system. This year management was revised with a method to dramatically reduce the use of herbicides by only spraying only the sapling tops of pin cheery and birch with one half the recommended dose. The method does not kill the maples, black cherry or oaks, and preserve the herbaceous growth on the forest floor. The reserve acreage was increased this year by incorporating the Appalachian Standards into the GIS mapping system. Key habitat structures are identified and retained.

2.6 New Corrective Action Requests and Recommendations

No new corrective action or recommendations requests are made at this time.

2.7 General Conclusions of the Annual Audit

Based upon information gathered through site visits, interviews, and document reviews, the SCS auditor concludes that CPF's management of its forests in northwestern Pennsylvania continues to be strong in overall compliance with the FSC Principles and Criteria in the Appalachian Standards. CPF's forest management program is in strong conformance with FSC Principles 1 through 9 (Principle 10 is not applicable, as CPF's operations are classified as "natural forest management" under the FSC definitions). As such, continuation of the certification is warranted, with both of 2007's Recommendations having been satisfied, subject to subsequent annual audits.