



Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

**SCS Global Services
Evaluation of Effingham Pellets LLC
Fourth Surveillance Audit**

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org





Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 2.1 and SBP Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 (REDIII)

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

Version 2.0	Published 10 August 2023
Version 2.1	Published 21 May 2025

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1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	SCS Global Services
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Maggie Schwartz
Primary CB contact email:	mschwartz@scsglobalservices.com
Audit team leader:	Tom Harlan
Audit team members:	N/A
Name of the Company:	Effingham Pellets LLC
Company legal address:	4905 Ingram Bypass, 29541 Effingham, United States
Company contact for SBP:	Thomas Brodie
Company contact email:	thomas@cilumber.com
Company website:	
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-71
Date of certificate issue:	07 Apr 2022
Date of certificate expiry:	06 Apr 2027
Audit closing meeting date:	09 Apr 2026
Audit cycle:	Fourth Surveillance Audit

2 Audit conclusions

2.1 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's technical review, the following certification decision is taken:	
Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Jose del Castillo
Date of decision:	30 Jun 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

NC number 9158	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0
Requirement:	3.3.9 The organisation shall define a fixed balancing period. For Biomass Producers using only primary feedstock (forest feedstock and TOF feedstock) the fixed balancing period shall be 12 months ²⁴ . For Biomass Producers using secondary and tertiary feedstock the fixed balancing period shall be 3 months. For Biomass Traders the fixed balancing period shall be 3 months. By the end of the balancing period, the account shall always be positive. If negative credits occur at the end of a mass balance period, the certified company must (proactively) inform the certification body immediately (and without being requested). N/A N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
A Minor CAR was issued due to the BP using secondary feedstock which requires a 3-month balancing period. However the procedures indicate a 12-month balancing period. This is considered a Minor NC since the BP sells the pellets as they are loaded into the truck and cannot go negative.	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	N/A
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	N/A
NC Status:	Open

2.2 Closed non-conformities

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

N/A

2.4 Notes for the next Audit

N/A

3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate

Scope item	Check all that apply to the Certificate scope
Primary activity	Biomass Producer
Secondary activity	
Approved Standards	SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance v2.0; SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0
Product Group IDs	☐ Forest feedstock (1A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Urban and landscape feedstock (2A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Agricultural land feedstock (3A) ☒ Processing residues feedstock (4A) ☐ Post-consumer feedstock (5A) ☐ Other (please specify)
SBP Feedstock types	☒ SBP Compliant; ☐ SBP Controlled
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	No
Includes EU RED Scheme	Yes
Includes EU RED Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Products	WB 1.1 Wood pellets
Feedstock origin (countries):	United States
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	SBP-RRA-US-NF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US National FOR_Interim, SBP-RRA-US-PF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US Private FOR_Interim
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	No
Changes in the scope	Certificate scope change to meet RED requirements.

3.1 Description of the company

Guidance: Please describe the type, structure and operations of the company including its role in the supply chain, its inputs and outputs as they related to SBP Standards.

Effingham Pellets, LLC (EP) is a pellet facility that purchases tertiary feedstock in the form of dried pine shavings from an adjacent pine sawmill owned by one of EP's investors. EP produces pellets exclusively from this feedstock type. EP is legally registered in the US State of South Carolina. The supply base includes thirty-five (35) counties (6,224,665 hectares) in North Carolina and South Carolina within the United States. Refer to the Supply Base Report for more information.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Effingham Pellets LLC	4905 Ingram Bypass, Effingham SC 29541	Pellet Producer	☒

3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups

Guidance: Please describe the operation of the CoC system including details of the mass balance management and a list of established Product Groups.

As applicable, all material is subject to the organization's COC procedures for sourcing certified and non-certified material. The organization sources material from certified sources under its valid COC certificate(s) per the following systems: ☐ FSC ☐ PEFC and/or ☒ SFI. As applicable, any non-certified sources have been evaluated under the BP's COC Due Diligence System (DDS) or Controlled Wood procedures, as well an approved Regional Risk Assessment.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standards are implemented over scope of certification. If applicable, the following *pre-audit activities* were conducted: ☐ pre-assessment; ☐ site visits ☒ N/A
The following Critical Control Points (CCPs) were identified and evaluated Note that you may identify other CCPs for a particular client which you should also describe in the report:

CCP	Description, including how evaluated by SCS
Processes for procurement and processing, transport and storage	The BP receives SFI-certified forest content material in the form of dried shavings from an adjacent pine sawmill. Material arrives via truck from the sawmill to the pellet facility where it is scaled and unloaded into a storage area.
Volume accounting method	The physical separation system is used.
Documentation of transactions	Inputs are tracked in a database and outputs are scaled upon exiting the facility.
Energy data collection and reporting	The BP maintains spreadsheets, lab records, utility bills, and other data that is organized into a single spreadsheet for tabulating energy data used to complete the SAR.

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	Auditors	Auditor hours
1. Preparation	Tom Harlan	4.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Tom Harlan	8.0
3. Report writing	Tom Harlan	3.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Tom Harlan	Lead auditor	Lead Auditor - SBP, FSC COC, SFI FM/FS, ATFS

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

Site Name or Location: Effingham Pellets, LLC

Date and Time of Audit: 8-9 April 2026/ 1:00 pm EDT

Audit Activity	Items to Review / Actions	Approx. Start Time
Opening meeting	Introductions, auditor review of audit scope, audit plan and intro/update to SFI and SCS standards and protocols, client description of organization	1:00 pm
Review of previous nonconformities	Review of evidence of corrective actions taken by organization since previous audit (records, documents, pictures, etc.)	1:15
Review of CoC/SBP procedures, products and material accounting	Written procedures, work instructions, feedstock description, product group list, accounting system (transfer, percentage or credit; physical separation, percentage method)	1:30
Review of material balances and records	Auditor-selected sample of the following: material tracking system, summary of purchases and sales, invoices, shipping documents, training records, outsourcing agreements, other applicable SBP/CoC systems, procedures and records, tracebacks from certified outputs to eligible inputs	2:30
Verification of calculations	Auditor-selected sample and verification of calculations for conversion factors, percentage claims, and credit accounts, as applicable	3:30

Evaluation of trademarks	Review of auditor-selected sample of SBP and/or SCS on-product and/or promotional trademark uses; review of any on-site trademark uses such as banners, posters, entryway signs	4:00
Day 1 Conclusions	Discuss any findings, concerns and next day schedule	4.30
Dy 2 4/9/2026		
	Items to Review	
SBP ST 1, 2, and 4	Review of SBR and SBE, including supporting evidence, review of COC documents/system	8:00 am
SBP ST 5/ ID5E	Review of GHG data collection	9:00
Walkthrough of facility	Review of physical inputs and outputs, material receipt, processing, storage, credit account (if applicable), sale, and overall control. GHG emissions control points: material receipt and process flow; moisture testing areas; verification of processing equipment types, manufacturing, and storage areas; verification of utility meters.	10:00
Staff interviews	Interviews with appropriate number and diversity of staff to assess knowledge of SBP procedures related to their position	11:00
Closing meeting preparation	Auditor takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting	11:30
Closing meeting and review of findings	Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, review identified nonconformities, and discuss next steps	12:00
End (12:00)		

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

☒ N/A – No forest sites or suppliers visited during this evaluation

The organization only sources tertiary feedstock from an adjacent sawmill in the form of pine shavings that is owned by one of the owners of the pellet facility.

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

Supplier audits Primary supplier FMUs visited: N/A Secondary/Tertiary supplier interviews: N/A – all input material is SFI-certified forest content Supplier sampling is determined using SBP sampling formulas described or cited in SBP Standard 3. Audit teams ensure to sample across the variety of forest ecosystems and/or feedstocks from which the organization sources, including by selecting different land ownership/management (e.g., small, public, private, etc.), harvesting types (thinning, final harvest), and feedstock type (primary, secondary, tertiary, hardwood, softwood, etc.).

5.6 CB stakeholder engagement

☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

Guidance: Please specify the number and types of stakeholders engaged, method of engagement and its outcomes.

SCS relies on its Master Stakeholder List, which contains interested parties such as stakeholders and/or rightsholders that are identified by type (e.g. ENGO, Government/regulatory, Educational/Academic, Industry, Indigenous/Aboriginal/Tribal, etc.) This list is categorized by country and state/province/territory at the very least, and for this consultation was filtered to omit any interested parties that were not geographically relevant to the certificate holder/applicant's supply base. A notification is sent out to all identified interested parties after the BP's consultation period has ended. Comments from interested parties that are received outside of regular consultation periods are fully considered. Methods used to communicate with interested parties may include, but are not limited to, public, private or semi-private meetings, email, telephone, written correspondence, and/or messaging application.

Consultation that may have been conducted by the BP during the audit period may be described in the BP's SBR. Sometimes, formal and informal consultation may not be documented in the BP's SBR due to confidentiality concerns of interested parties.

The following consultation activities occurred as a part of this audit:

Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.

☐ Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services, but interested parties did not respond to any communications and/or did not provide permission to include comments in the report.

☒ No consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.

5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response

☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

No feedback was received.

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

Strengths

COC control systems are robust; volume tracking is checked vis-à-vis supplier records and scaling at the pellet facility. Data collection systems for recording and compiling GHG data are streamlined. While an SBE is technically not required currently, the BP opted to include one in findings issued. case it needs to add new suppliers.

Weaknesses

5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation

☐ N/A – Standard 1 not in the scope of the evaluation

Is the current definition of scope adequate for the specific characteristics of the Supply Base and management systems in place?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the means of verification and evidence provided enough to support the risk conclusion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are mitigation measures implemented for specified risk sufficient and adequate?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA, no mitigation measures necessary

Are the personnel involved in the development of the Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) knowledgeable in the required fields?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Refer to findings for any deficiencies noted in the SBE.

5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED

The organization visually check each load that is used. Load tickets are reviewed for amount of material received and supplier information. The feedstock is delivered from the sawmill that is adjacent to the organization and is part of the same ownership structure, therefore feedstock will comply with purchase specifications. The organization also uses a supplier self-declaration to verify feedstock eligibility.

5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4

The auditor reviewed the organization's Chain of Custody Procedures (EP-PROC-001) outlines the procedures for the COC system. There is a training program in place for all employees that are involved in the COC system. The system is audited internally by a consultant each year to ensure conformance with the SBP standard as well as the SFI COC certification.

5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5

The BP maintains spreadsheets, lab records, utility bills, and other data that is compiled into a series of spreadsheets for tabulating energy data used to complete the SAR.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

Staff have received training from their SBE/SFI consultant, Greener Options, Inc., a sustainability consulting company specializing in sustainable forest certification.

EP's supplier has personnel that monitor the overall fiber procurement operation for its pine sawmill, the source of the pellet mill's feedstock. The supplier maintains SFI Forest Management, Chain of Custody, and Fiber Sourcing certificates. Procurement personnel are South Carolina TOP Logger trained. Greener Options, Inc. is an SAF Certified Forester, a Georgia Registered Forester, and an ISO 14001 Environmental Management Lead Auditor.

5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)

☒ N/A – Standard 6 not in the scope

6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)

□ N/A – Supply Base Evaluation not in the scope of the evaluation

6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope

The BP has utilized the Interim RRA for US Private Forest (SBP-RRA-US-PF-FOR v1.0). The organization has cancelled its own SBE and is implementing the findings of the RRA. However, the organization has conducted a RED SBE that concluded that the following indicators are specified risk which match the findings of the RRA. The specified risk indicators are 2.1.3, 2.2.1, and 2.2.2. and 3.1.1.

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country
United States
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A
Indicator
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description
Lack of regulatory safeguards and/or resources/incentives for maintenance and enhancement of the following: - Nature Serve Network identified G1-G2 animal species not on the ESA threatened or endangered list, G1-G2 plant species; and - FSC US NRA identified species, ecosystems, and HCVs.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
For Nature Serve Network identified G1-G2 animal species not on the ESA threatened or endangered list, G1-G2 plant species: Control measures including the following, which may be implemented in concert with SFI Fiber Sourcing certification: - Assessment of G1 and G2 plant and animal species and ecosystems by forest type within a biomass producer's supply basin, including primary and processing residue feedstocks: ▪ Results of the assessment shall be integrated into a summary of management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of identified G1 and G2 species and ecosystems associated with forest types within the supply basin. ▪ Results of the summary, including forest type-based management recommendations, shall be integrated into logger training curricula for company level or coordinated delivery to loggers within the supply region. ▪ Requirement that suppliers enter binding written agreements that specify logger training inclusive of forest type-based management recommendations to maintain or enhance G1 and G2 species. This applies to both primary and processing residue suppliers. For FSC US NRA identified species, ecosystems, and HCVs: Control measures including the following, which may be implemented in concert with FSC Controlled Wood programs under the FSC US NRA (2019) nexus: - Assessment of FSC-specified HCVs and areas of specified risk within a biomass

producer's supply basin, including primary and processing residue feedstocks:

- Results of the assessment shall be integrated into a summary of management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of HCVs associated with forest types within the supply basin.
- Results of the summary, including forest type-based management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of HCVs, shall be integrated into logger training curricula for company level or coordinated delivery to loggers within the supply region.
- Requirement that suppliers enter binding written agreements that specify logger training inclusive of forest type-based management recommendations to maintain or enhance HCVs. This applies to both primary and processing residue suppliers.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The auditor reviewed the SFI certification report for the supplier for SFI Fiber Sourcing. The BP has signed contracts with the supplier that require loggers to be SFI trained. The auditor reviewed the SFI trained logger list to confirm suppliers are trained. The supplier signs a self-declaration to confirm that they will adhere to SBP standards.

Country

United States

Area/Sub-Scope

N/A

Indicator

2.2.1 Feedstock shall not be sourced from land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status due to land conversion: a. Forests b. Wetlands c. Peatlands d. Highly biodiverse grasslands.

Specified risk description

While there is consensus that deforestation rates are quite low in the US and for the RRA geography, analysis of FIA for the given time period indicates net loss of timberland for the RRA geography of less than 1% (0.75%) with localized losses and gains. Similarly, using methodology based on population growth and issuance of housing permits, which is not based on change detection analysis of the forest itself, the FSC US NRA specified risk for a set of counties within the RRA's geography. Despite relatively low rates of forest loss, with recognition to the precedence of the FSC US NRA and the results of original analysis for the RRA's geography.

Detailed description of a mitigation measure

Development and implementation of binding written agreements with suppliers that prohibit the delivery of material originating from known conversions of forest to nonforest use.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The BP, through its previously developed own risk assessment and SBE, used the FSC US NRA to identify counties in its supply area that were rated as specified risk for conversion by FSC US NRA. These conversion counties were reviewed with the residual suppliers on an annual basis. These conversion reviews were documented on EP-DOC-011 Secondary Supplier Audit Checklists. EP requires residual suppliers to

sign EP-DOC-006 Self-Declaration stating they will not knowingly purchase wood feedstock from conversions of forest to non-forest use. These items were confirmed by the auditor through document review and staff interviews.

Country
United States
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A
Indicator
2.2.2 Ecosystems, their health, vitality, functions and services in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description
Ecosystems enjoy protections under a range of laws, including the CWA and ESA, which are consistently implemented and enforced. However, ecosystems identified via species ranking of G1 and G2 under the NatureServe Global Ranking system or the FSC NRA are not protected by law within the RRA's geography. Thus, there is specified risk for: - Nature Serve Network identified G1-G2 animal species not on the ESA threatened or endangered list, G1-G2 plant species - FSC US NRA identified ecosystems (HCV3).
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
For Nature Serve Network identified G1-G2 animal species not on the ESA threatened or endangered list, G1-G2 plant species: Control measures including the following, which may be implemented in concert with SFI Fiber Sourcing certification: • Assessment of G1 and G2 plant and animal species and ecosystems by forest type within a biomass producer's supply basin, including primary and processing residue feedstocks: ▪ Results of the assessment shall be integrated into a summary of management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of identified G1 and G2 species and ecosystems associated with forest types within the supply basin. ▪ Results of the summary, including forest type-based management recommendations, shall be integrated into logger training curricula for company level or coordinated delivery to loggers within the supply region. ▪ Requirement that suppliers enter binding written agreements that specify logger training inclusive of forest type-based management recommendations to maintain or enhance G1 and G2 species. This applies to both primary and processing residue suppliers. For FSC US NRA identified species, ecosystems, and HCVs: Control measures including the following, which may be implemented in concert with FSC Controlled Wood programs under the FSC US NRA (2019) nexus: • Assessment of FSC-specified HCVs and areas of specified risk within a biomass producer's supply basin, including primary and processing residue feedstocks: ▪ Results of the assessment shall be integrated into a summary of management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of HCVs associated with forest types within the supply basin.

- Results of the summary, including forest type-based management recommendations to support maintenance or enhancement of HCVs, shall be integrated into logger training curricula for company level or coordinated delivery to loggers within the supply region.
- Requirement that suppliers enter binding written agreements that specify logger training inclusive of forest type-based management recommendations to maintain or enhance HCVs. This applies to both primary and processing residue suppliers.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The auditor reviewed the SFI Fiber Sourcing certification of the suppliers which confirm compliance with the requirements to maintain or enhance ecosystems. The auditor reviewed signed contracts with residual suppliers requiring that their loggers maintain state SFI-SIC logger training education requirements and the Self-Declaration stating they will not knowingly purchase wood feedstock from sources as defined by the Sustainable Biomass Program Standards not rated as low risk. The BP also shared HCV information during the supplier audit process.

Country

United States

Area/Sub-Scope

N/A

Indicator

3.1.1 LULUCF emissions shall be accounted for through one of the following routes: Route A Feedstock may be sourced from a country of origin which is party to the Paris Agreement, and which has submitted a Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) covering carbon emissions and removals from agriculture, forestry and land use which ensure the changes in carbon stock associated with biomass harvest are counted towards the country's commitment to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions, or Route B Feedstock may be sourced from a country of origin which is party to the Paris Agreement and has national or sub-national laws in place (developed in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and applicable in the area of harvest), to conserve and enhance carbon stocks and sinks, and provided there is evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals, or Route C Feedstock may be sourced from a Supply Base where an assessment demonstrates that both the carbon stock is stable, and the forests' capacity to act as a carbon sink is stable or increasing over the long term.

Specified risk description

On January 26, 2025, the United States (US) notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, effective January 26, 2026. As a result, the risk classification for Indicator 3.1.1 on Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) within the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) RRA for US Private Forest and RRA for US National Forest have been updated from low to specified risk. Simultaneously, the Level A conclusion from the Article 29(7) from the EU Renewable Energy Directive 2023 (REDIII) Risk Assessment prepared by SBP, has been revised from Level A to Level B. These changes are effective from January 27, 2026. This change requires EP to take action to ensure compliance with Route C of Indicator 3.1.1 and Level B of Article 29(7)(b) of REDIII, meaning additional work is required to determine the historical and future carbon stocks in a sourcing area within its Supply Base Evaluation (SBE). On January 21, 2026, SBP published "SBP Guidance for US REDIII Level B LULUCF v1.0 – Guidance for Biomass Producers undertaking the Level B risk assessment for RED Article 29(7) and indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1" which lays out the additional steps as guidance which can also be used for compliance with

Route C and Level B. This guidance document was developed by the SBP Secretariat working on an expert assessment of the carbon stocks and stock change across the lower 48 States (that is, excluding Alaska and Hawaii), which includes historical carbon stocks within the above and below ground living biomass, soil, litter and deadwood, and is intended to produce limited future projections for estimated carbon stock change in line with Level B of Article 29(7)(b) of REDIII and indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1. EP, using guidance document “SBP Guidance for US REDIII Level B LULUCF v1.0 – Guidance for Biomass Producers undertaking the Level B risk assessment for RED Article 29(7) and indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1” and “US REDIII Level B LULUCF” Microsoft Excel file, has completed the recommended eight-step process described in Annex D of the SBP EU RED Instruction Document “Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Renewable Energy Directive” (EU/2023/2413) and the REDIIBIO Final Report. This process is documented in EP-DOC-015 Level B Risk Assessment for REDIII Article 29(7) and Indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1. Data applied for conducting the risk assessment were sourced from the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program’s Nationwide Forest Inventory, a sample-based forest inventory that provides consistent information on forest extent, composition, growth, removals, mortality, and carbon stocks across all ownerships in the United States. The inventory is based on a permanent network of field plots that are measured on a rotating basis, with standardised methods applied nationwide to ensure comparability across states and regions. Because FIA estimates are derived from a statistical sample rather than a complete census, reported values represent population-level estimates and are accompanied by measures of sampling error to support appropriate interpretation of uncertainty.

Detailed description of a mitigation measure

EP, using guidance document “SBP Guidance for US REDIII Level B LULUCF v1.0 – Guidance for Biomass Producers undertaking the Level B risk assessment for RED Article 29(7) and indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1” and “US REDIII Level B LULUCF” Microsoft Excel file, has completed the recommended eight-step process described in Annex D of the SBP EU RED Instruction Document “Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Renewable Energy Directive” (EU/2023/2413) and the REDIIBIO Final Report.

EP-DOC-015 Level B Risk Assessment for REDIII Article 29(7) and Indicator 3.1.1 of SBP Standard 1 was created to describe the 8-step process, in detail, EP used in completing this assessment.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The audit team reviewed the SBP Guidance documents on 3.1.1 for the USA, which demonstrates that forest carbon stocks are stable or increasing in the Supply Base.