

Green Bay Packaging Public Summary: Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan Landowner Resource Program (LRP)

General Program Overview

This “Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan” (WFS Plan) document has been compiled in support of the SFI Small Lands Group (SLG) managed by the Fiber Resource Division of Green Bay Packaging Inc. The WFS Plan consists of this document, which is considered supplemental, and several other supporting documents and long-standing programs (see list below).

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and the American Forest Foundation designed their joint Small Lands Group Certification Program to allow participating organizations to build on existing programs, adjusting those programs as needed to support their SLG. GBP has taken this approach, adjusting existing programs to meet the requirements. Any tasks related to SLG requirements which do not easily fit within existing programs have been incorporated into this plan, and other procedures developed for the unique purposes of the SLG.

Existing Programs and Publications that Support the SLG

- ☐ Green Bay Packaging Landowner Resource Program (LRP)
 - Landowner Master Agreement
 - Landscape Forest Management Plan - Landowner Resource Program (LRP)
 - LRP Landowner Records
 - GIS, including maps and associated databases
- ☐ SFI® Fiber Sourcing Standard Program including:
 - SFI Indicators & Evidence Manual (17-GBP-16)
 - SFI Program Procedure (4-GBP-03)
 - GBP’s Forest of Exceptional Conservation Value Assessment
- ☐ GBP’s Landowner Resource Guide
- ☐ Arkansas Forestry Association’s *A Landowner’s Guide to Sustainable Forests*
<https://www.arkforests.org/page/forestmanagement>

Procedures Developed for the SLG

- ☐ Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan (SLG-DP-01)
- ☐ SFI Small Lands Group Procedures (SLG-DP-01)
- ☐ Monitoring Checklist (SLG-DP-02)
- ☐ SLG Evidence Manual (SLG-MAN-01)

Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan

Long-Term Resource Analysis

This plan is based partly on the following resource studies and information, including analysis of social, environmental, and economic impacts of forest operations on forest resources:

FIA Data and Published Summary Reports

Annually GBP foresters review data and published summary reports from the U. S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) to assess trends in forest extent, growth, removals, and standing volumes. Details of FIA data for the supply area can be seen in Appendix 1.

FIA and other data have long been used to shape the decisions of the company, including decisions about the following broad topics:

- Paper mill, chip mill, and sawmill operations, including configurations of wood handling equipment, decisions about expansions and upgrades, and locations or possible locations for infrastructure related to wood purchasing, transportation, and storage;
- The overall structure and approach of the Fiber Resource Division in its wood procurement operations;
- Assistance provided to landowners through various programs and initiatives (many of which are being utilized to meet the SFI Small Lands Group requirements); and
- Approaches to silviculture and forest management on company lands and on land owned by other landowners.

Summary: The forest inventory data from the company's fiber supply area indicates:

1. A forest resource that is stable in acres and growing in total volumes
2. Regeneration and forest development tendencies where forests are well-stocked to overstocked, generally with commercially desirable species well suited to the growing conditions of the site
3. Some understocked stands, indicating the need for artificial regeneration, both to supplement natural regeneration in some places or to develop dense, fast-growing, even aged pine stands, and
4. The need for regular, periodic intermediate silvicultural treatments including thinning to address overstocking and improvement-oriented thinning to favor the most valuable tree species or the trees with the form, health, and vigor needed to grow into larger and more valuable products.

The company's forestry programs and mill operations address two key needs in the region: markets for thinning overstocked stands, and support for reforestation.

Arkansas' Statewide Forest Action Plan

The Arkansas Forest Action Plan is a statewide analysis of the past, current, and projected future conditions of Arkansas's forest resources. Completed in 2020 by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division and partners, it is found at the following website location:

[Arkansas 2020-2029 forest action plan](#)

This document provides descriptions of forest resources, their different uses and functions, and objectives for their management. The Forest Action Plan includes critical issues and presents strategic objectives, descriptions of forestry programs implemented by the Forestry Division and partner agencies and identifies performance measures to assess progress towards its priorities. Pages 1-8 of AR Forestry Association's *A Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forests* provide further description and analysis of the forest resources in the fiber supply area.

The program is consistent with legislation and the above strategic plans, which are the closest analogue to the "land-use plans" referred to in the SLG requirements.

Sustaining Timber Resources, Including Volumes, and Keeping Forests as Forests

Green Bay Packaging Inc. has long developed policies and implemented programs to promote timber stocking and improve timber growth, including the afforestation of agricultural and treeless land into forests. At its two mills in central Arkansas, the company provides markets for pine pulpwood and saw timber. The focus of the Landowner Resource Program (LRP) is to support timely and high-quality reforestation, thinning, and final harvesting. The Landowner Resource Program provides tree seedlings and associated services (site preparation, release) that can be used to reforest areas that have been harvested or to return non-forested sites to forest cover.

A review of FIA data trends and of the Forest Stewardship Council® Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment shows that the risks of conversion of forests to non-forest uses are low. Programs described above which provide markets, support sustainable forestry practices, and support planting of pine trees help reduce the risk of conversion by making it easy and profitable to keep forests as forests.

Harvest Levels and Stocking Trends

The Fiber Resources Division monitors growth and drain trends across the wood and fiber supply area. This includes a review of published reports on Arkansas' forest resources including growth and drain information, stocking levels, and acreage trends for forestland and timberland.

The company also analyzes timber resource information for its core fiber supply area. The FIA's EVALIDator [USFS Evaluator](#) and other tools as appropriate [USFS FIA Data and Tools](#).

The monitoring information helps identify trends. For example, while the number of acres of forestland has been steady lately, there has been a slow increase in the percentage of the supply area classified as overstocked. There is also a significant (but generally stable) acreage of understocked stands. The company's plans and programs are to continue to provide pine markets and to continue to support pine planting, thinning, and final harvests at levels which can be sustained.

The procurement wood flow plan is linked to the harvest and management plan for company lands and lands in the LRP.

Non-Timber Forest Values and Resources

Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)

In 2022, GBP developed an assessment of Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value for its wood purchasing area in Arkansas. This booklet contains detailed information for all globally critically imperiled (G1) and imperiled (G2) species and associated ecosystems necessary for their survival. The information is reviewed at least annually to account for any changes in listings or status. The spp. and habitat information was utilized from collected data authorized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and NatureServe. ANHC is the state agency charged with housing all information found by its employees as well as other governmental agencies, NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy & Forest Stewards Guild, and universities. The data GBP receives from ANHC is also housed in the company's ArcGIS geodatabase. This information is available to all forestry staff and is transmitted to private landowners, loggers, other contractors, suppliers, and the public as necessary. Additionally, GBP was a central part of the AR/OK SIC's effort to develop a collection of FECV information pamphlets similar to that of the company's book. The SIC's FECV information is publicly available and shared through the following websites: www.arkloggers.com and www.arkforests.org.

Management of Habitats Guided by the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan

The Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan (AWAP) is a comprehensive management tool developed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its many partners to help conserve and enhance the state's full array of fish and wildlife species and required habitats. Partners that developed the AWAP included the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Audubon Arkansas, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, AR Dept. of Transportation, AR Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), AR Water Resources Center (AWRC), numerous NGO's, several Arkansas Universities, and private citizens. The Commission collaborated with expert biologists statewide to identify 520 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) including 95 new plant species. Most are birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, mussels, insects, and other invertebrates that are targeted for conservation action.

State-by-state "Wildlife Action Plans" emerged from a mandate by the U.S. Congress that each state develop a comprehensive conservation strategy to be eligible for federal funding under the State Wildlife Grants program. The 2025 AWAP describes 34 terrestrial habitats and 8 aquatic habitats that were grouped into "Habitat Guilds" found within Arkansas' 7 EPA level III ecoregions. The plan matches each priority species to the habitat type or ecoregion where it is found, identifies the most important threats facing each habitat, and details the critical actions required to protect and conserve these habitats. This is the basic framework underlying the AWAP. Priority species can now be specifically targeted by carefully considering conservation or management options within essential habitats. The goal is to strategically target imperiled animals, insects, and plants with their required habitats early, preventing them from becoming extinct. The full Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan can be found at the following website: Arkansas

[Wildlife Action Plan \(AWAP\) 2025](#). Information from the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan is also used in making forest management decisions for landowners who prioritize wildlife habitat.

Important, Special, and Sensitive Sites and Species

Note: Each landowner's management plan provides guidance on this topic, with an emphasis on property or site-specific issues. This and other sections of the Fiber Supply Plan provide additional landscape context.

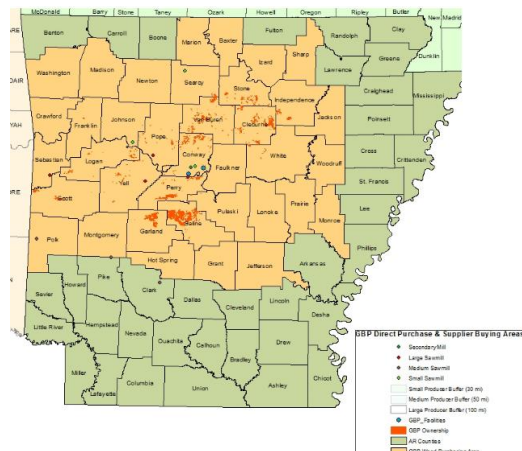
Green Bay Packaging Inc. sources wood from the north-central portion of Arkansas (see map below, right). This supply area is rich in terms of wildlife and biodiversity, as it includes all five of Arkansas' biophysical regions:

1. Ozark Highlands
2. Arkansas River Valley
3. Ouachita Mountains
4. Gulf Coastal Plain
5. Delta (Mississippi Alluvial Plain and Mississippi Valley Loess Plains)

(Note: Some ecologists list a sixth region, Crowley's Ridge, which is located within the northern Delta and is just outside of the company's fiber supply area.)



Source: Arkansas BMP Manual



GBP Fiber Supply Area

Soil, Air and Water Quality, Carbon, Recreation and Aesthetics

Refer to the Tree Farm Forest Management Plan, Green Bay Packaging Landowner Resource Program (LRP).

Forest Health

Including Impacts from Undesirable Wildfire, Pests, Diseases, Invasive Exotic Plants & Animals.

Monitoring the spread of pests and diseases such as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Southern Pine Beetle, other invasive species, and brown spot needle blight is conducted by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division. Additionally, the University of AR's Cooperative

Extension Service distributes similar information formerly covered by the Arkansas Plant Board. The Arkansas Division of Forestry conducts aerial reconnaissance of the state's forests for forest health issues. During fire season fire-watch flights may be daily. The division also places insect traps and tracks findings. In 2024, the University of Arkansas Monticello started the [Arkansas Forest Health Research Center](#) whose purpose is to help the state's forests to remain healthy, resilient, and sustainably managed for the future. The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also monitor various issues and resources. The results of these monitoring efforts are shared with professional foresters at various meetings, workshops, and conferences. GBP's foresters are closely associated with the Arkansas Forestry Association which sponsors or participates in many of these events. GBP's foresters are kept up to date on forest health trends and issues. The company's foresters also support the monitoring work by sharing information from their field observations and volunteering to allow monitoring traps on company's fee lands.

Limited information is also provided on the University of Arkansas Extension web site:
[Arkansas Forestry Resources - Cooperative Extension Service \(uada.edu\)](#)

Historic and Culturally Significant Sites

Arkansas Register of Historic Places

"The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program was created by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1969. The AHPP's mission is to fulfill the objectives of the National Historic Preservation Act through the identification, preservation, and protection of the cultural heritage of the State of Arkansas. The AHPP is charged with "conducting relations with representative of the federal government, the respective states, governmental units within Arkansas state agencies, organizations and individuals with regard to matters of historic preservation, including the programs carried out under Public Law 89-655 (16 U.S.C. & 47, et seq)." Source:
<https://www.arkansaspreservation.com/About-Us/about>

National Register of Historic Places

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

Landowner Goals, Strategies and Silviculture for Achieving Goals

Foresters of the Fiber Resource Division are trained to and are experienced with designing and implementing silviculture and regeneration methods to achieve forest management objectives

Most participating landowners have identified income from harvests of forest products and wildlife habitat suited to game species of wildlife as their primary objectives. The Tree Farm Forest Management Plan provides information on appropriate silviculture, supplemented by these documents:

- ☐ GBP's *Landowner Resource Guide*
- ☐ Arkansas Forestry Association's *A Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forests*

Availability of Plans

A summary has been prepared covering this Wood and Fiber Supply Area plan and the Tree Farm Forest Management Plan.

All of the components of the management plan which are relevant to the landowners are maintained in the landowner files, are available for review by any landowner as requested, and can be provided via email if needed. The main components are:

- ✓ Tree Farm Forest Management Plan
- ✓ Maps and Data in the GIS, including the Site-Specific Prescriptions
- ✓ GBP's *Landowner Resource Guide*
- ✓ Arkansas Forestry Association's *A Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forests*
- ✓ SLG-DP-01 Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan

A public summary is posted on the Green Bay Packaging Inc. web site.

Implementing the Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan

Putting FIA Data, Wildlife Information and Forestry Knowledge to Productive Use

The data, and the training, knowledge, and experience of company foresters support several key conclusions which drive actions including the Green Bay Packaging Landowner Resource Program:

- ✓ Soils, climate, laws, local customs and practices, and the presence of tree species well-adapted to Arkansas combine into excellent prospects for profitable forestry at many scales, from tens of acres to hundreds of thousands of acres.
- ✓ Forestry knowledge, including technology to raise tree seedlings, prepare sites, plant, thin, release, harvest, transport, and mill the wood, is readily available in the region.
- ✓ Most landowners do not have all the knowledge they need to obtain the full value of the potential of their land to grow forest products and provide other forest-related values and services. Foresters from Green Bay Packaging Inc. are well-positioned to fill this gap.
- ✓ Markets are needed for energy wood, pulpwood, and sawtimber. The company provides many of the markets needed and has links to all markets.
- ✓ Planting and thinning are among the most important and occasionally challenging aspects of forestry, and inventory data show the ongoing need for both. GBP excels at both.

Tree Farm Forest Management Plan (LAP)

Green Bay Packaging Inc.'s foresters develop and maintain, for each enrolled tract, a management plan that meets the requirements established by the American Forest Foundation <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/certification-american-tree-farm-standards>. Each plan incorporates the forest owner's objectives into the recommendations for actions.

The property/tract plans each contain the following sections:

- Standard 1 Commitment to practicing Sustainable Forestry
- Standard 2 Compliance with the Law
- Standard 3 Reforestation and Afforestation
- Standard 4 Air, Water and Soil Protection

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SLG-DP-01 Wood and Fiber Supply Area Plan
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Standard 5 Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health

Standard 6 Forest Aesthetics

Standard 7 Protect Special Sites

Standard 8 Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities

Additional Considerations:

- Desired Species
- Recreation
- Prescribed Fire and Wildfire
- Boundary Line Condition and Maintenance