

## **Sheoga's Commitment to Responsible Manufacturing**

Sheoga is located in Ohio's Appalachian forest where nearly all of the timber used in the production of our hardwood flooring is harvested. As a whole, the Appalachian forest region comprises 12 states, 344 counties, and more than 65 million acres and is recognized for growing the finest quality hardwood found in the world. U.S. Forest Service statistics show that, across this region, there are on average 2.29 trees growing for every tree that is harvested or dies of natural causes. The results indicate that the Appalachian forest region's timber inventories and acreage have both expanded significantly during the past 15 years. This represents a resource that meets present needs without compromising those of future generations – the very definition of sustainability.

Many of our suppliers of hardwood timber are from a large rural Amish community that is still engaged in the traditions of using horses to transfer logs to the sawmill. This method of log transport minimizes damage to young trees and soil and avoids the use of greenhouse-gas-emitting fossil fuels.

Mother Nature is responsible for air drying our lumber prior to kiln-drying, a process that can greatly reduce energy use and kiln-drying time.

A wood waste boiler fired with sawdust generated as a by-product of our manufacturing process is used to heat over 117,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and showroom space. Our 350,000 BF-capacity dry kilns derive their heat from the same source, and excess sawdust is sold for animal bedding. Were it not for our wood waste boiler system, our estimated heating oil consumption would be around 250,000 gallons per year.

## **Sheoga's Commitment to Responsible Sourcing**

To demonstrate its commitment to sustainable forestry and responsible wood sourcing, Sheoga is proud to participate in NWFA's Responsible Procurement Program (RPP) and to produce flooring under the RPP's U.S. Renewing Forests label.



In order for wood flooring to qualify for the U.S. Renewing Forests label, the wood must originate from states where the volume of hardwood growth is equal to or greater than that of mortality and removals (through timber harvest).

The U.S. Renewing Forests label was developed by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) and represents an unprecedented partnership between a major forest products industry trade association and the environmental community. Under the RPP, Sheoga is committed to sourcing an ever-increasing percentage of our wood from forests that are certified according to the rigorous environmental and social standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The RPP is designed such that the U.S. Renewing Forests label will ultimately be replaced by the FSC label.

FSC is a not-for-profit organization that sets standards for environmentally and socially responsible forest management worldwide. These standards in turn guide the “green” certification of forests and forest products through a system of independent auditing. FSC enjoys the support of most major environmental groups, including World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club.

To further our commitment to future generations, Sheoga Hardwood Flooring successfully passed our Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) audit in December, 2011 to become FSC certified and to produce flooring under the FSC Mix Label.



The mark of  
responsible forestry

FSC® C108837