



**Surveillance Audit Report**  
**2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard**  
**August 30, 2014**

**A. Wisconsin DNR Lands FRS #: 1Y941**

**B. Scope:**

No Change       Changed

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management.  
The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y941.

Categories included in the DNR Lands forest certification review include:

- Northern and Southern State Forests
- State Parks
- State Recreation Trails
- State Wildlife Areas (including leased federal lands, Meadow Valley W.A.)
- State Fisheries Areas
- State Natural Areas
- Natural Resource Protection and Management Areas
- Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- State Wild Rivers
- State Owned Islands
- Stewardship Demonstration Forests

The following DNR properties (about 30,477 acres) are excluded from the certification project:

- Agricultural fields (due to potential GMO issue)
- Stream Bank Protection Areas (eased lands not under DNR management)
- Forest Legacy Easements (eased lands not under DNR management)
- States Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Ponds (intensive non-forest use)
- State Forest Nurseries (intensive non-forest use)
- Nonpoint Pollution Control Easements (eased lands not under DNR management)
- Poynette Game Farm and McKenzie Environmental Center (intensive non-forest use)
- Boat Access Sites (intensive non-forest use)
- Fire Tower Sites (intensive non-forest use)
- Radio Tower Sites (intensive non-forest use)
- Ranger Stations (intensive non-forest use)
- Administrative Offices and Storage Buildings (intensive non-forest use)
- State Park Intensively Developed Recreation Areas (intensive non-forest use) e.g. Peninsula State Park golf course, Blue Mound State Park swimming pool,

**C. NSF Audit Team:**

Lead Auditor: Norman Boatwright SFI Team Auditor: JoAnn Hanowski  
Brendan Grady, SCS Lead

**D. Audit Dates: August 18-21, 2014**

**E. Reference Documentation:**

2010-2014 SFI Standard®; WDNR SFI Documentation: Various

**F. Audit Results: Based on the results at this visit, the auditor concluded**

- Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- Several major nonconformances - the certification may be canceled unless immediate action is taken.

**G. Changes to Operations or to the SFI Standard:**

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, FRS, etc. from the previous visit?  Yes  No If yes, provide brief description of the changes:

**H. Other Issues Reviewed:**

- Yes  No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.
- Yes  No  N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly.
- Yes  No The program is a Multi-site Organization:  
*Multi-Site Organization: A n organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office — but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.*  
 Source: SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations  
 IAF-MD1 or  The alternate approach outlined in SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix 1 was assessed by NSF’s Lead Auditor during the certification audit.  
 Yes  No Concerns/ issues are listed in the checklist (to be reviewed by NSF Forestry Program Manager

**I. Corrective Action Requests:**

Corrective Action Requests issued this visit (through NSF’s on-line OASIS audit tool):

- Corrective Action Plan is not required.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformance(s) must be closed by the auditor

prior to the next scheduled surveillance audit by a special verification visit or by desk review if possible, or the certificate may be withdrawn.

Your Corrective Action Plans should be provided through your NSF On-line Interface. Any questions should be directed to Dan Freeman, NSF Client Relations Manager (CRM), 734-214-6228, [dfreeman@nsf-isr.org](mailto:dfreeman@nsf-isr.org) or the customer service number for NSF-ISR at 734-769-8010.

A minor CAR issued during the 2013 audit: J0292438-1 had a corrective action plan that was approved last year. The plan included effectively communicating the DNR's spill policy to the timber sale administrators and emphasizing spill response in the BMP training sessions. The 2014 audit confirmed that the corrective action was implemented and this CAR is closed.

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following CARs remain open:  
MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 0

An Opportunity For Improvement (OFI) was identified.

#### **H. Future Audit Schedule:**

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next Recertification Audit should be scheduled for late summer or early fall, 2015. The assigned lead auditor will contact you 2-3 months prior to this date to reconfirm and begin preparations. Recertification must be completed before December, 2015. As a multi-site organization using a sampling plan, audits of the central function and a sample of sites (field units) is required each year.

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: Opening & Closing Meeting Attendees

Appendix V: SFI Reporting Form

**Appendix I**



**Surveillance Notification and Audit Schedule**



VIA EMAIL

Mark A. Heyde  
Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
(\* phone: (608) 267-0565  
(\* cell: (608) 220-9780  
[Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov)

August 14, 2014

**Re: Confirmation of 2014 SFI Standard Surveillance Audit**

Dear Mark,

As we have discussed, I am scheduled to conduct the Surveillance Audit of the WIDNR State Lands Monday-Thursday August 18-21, 2014. This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the SFI Standard and that continual improvement is being made.

The audit team will consist of me as SFI Lead Auditor, Branden Grady as the FSC Lead Auditor and JoAnn Hanowski as the Team Auditor for both Standards.

During the audit I will:

1. Review progress on achieving SFI objectives and performance measures and the results of the management review of your SFI Program;
2. Review selected components of your SFI program;
3. Verify effective implementation of any corrective action plans from the previous NSF audit;
4. Review logo and/or label use;
5. Confirm public availability of public reports; and
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of planned activities aimed at continual improvement of your SFI Program.

You will be audited to the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®.

We have worked together to develop the following tentative schedule. The schedule can be adapted either in advance or on-site to accommodate any special circumstances.

I look forward to visiting you and evaluating continual improvement in your SFI Program. If you have any questions regarding this planned audit, please call me at 843.229.1851.

Sincerely yours,

*Norman I. Boatwright, III*

Norman I. Boatwright, III  
Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR, Ltd.

Enclosure: Agenda for Surveillance Audit

## **WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Audit**

### **2014 FSC & SFI Audit Schedule**

#### **Northwest WI**

**August 18 (Monday) – August 21 (Thursday)**

#### **High Level Audit Schedule**

August 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Travel Day – Auditors arrive - Hayward

August 18<sup>th</sup> (Monday) – Kick-off meeting – Hayward 8 am. pm field audit (Full Team)

August 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – Field Audit – Focus on State Forests - 3 teams

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) – Field Audit - 3 teams

August 21 (Thursday) – am Field Audit (Full Team) and Exit Briefing @11 am - Hayward

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### **August 17th (Sun.) – Travel Day**

**Overnight: Comfort Suites**  
15586 County Road B,  
Hayward, WI, US, 54843-2665  
(715) 634-0700

**Hotel Reservations:** Grady, Boatwright, Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

### **August 18<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

**8:00-11:30**      **Certification Kick-off Meeting** (see meeting agenda in appendix)

**Location:**      DNR Hayward Service Center – Conference Room  
HAYWARD DNR CENTER  
10220 ST HWY 27  
HAYWARD WI 54843  
715-634-2688 Office phone

**Auditors:**      Brendan Grady, Norman Boatwright, JoAnn Hanowski  
**DNR Staff:**      ICIT, District Supervisors, Area Managers (FR, FH, WM, LF, PR, NHC)

**Field Audit:** Depart Hayward 8:30 am

**Auditor:** JoAnn Hanowski

**ICIT Team:** Tom Duke

**Benson Creek Fishery Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Meet at Hayward Service Center, travel to site.

**Property Manager:** Dan Yankowiak - 715.699.4342

**Foresters:** Randy Sobraliski – 715.520.7086/Jim Kujala – 715.520.0841

**Eddy Creek Fishery Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from Benson Creek FA. Then return to Hayward Service Center for lunch.

**Property Manager:** Mike Bulgrin – 715.938.1238

**Foresters:** Randy Sobraliski – 715.520.7086/Jim Kujala – 715.520.0841

**11:30 Lunch**

**Location:** Hayward Service Center Cookout

**12:30 Leave Hayward**

**Chippewa Flowage (1:30 – 5:00) (5 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Hayward

**Auditors:** Brendan Grady, Norman Boatwright, JoAnn Hanowski

**ICIT Team:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

**Property Manager:** Dan Yankowiak - 715.699.4342

**Foresters:** Randy Sobraliski – 715.520.7086/Jim Kujala – 715.520.0841

**Overnight:**

**Location:** Comfort Suites, Hayward

**Hotel Reservations:** Grady, Boatwright, Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

**August 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – West Team**

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**8:00 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditor:** Brendan Grady

**ICIT Team:** Craig Thompson, Tom Duke (FR)

**Meeting Location:** Crex Meadows Headquarters

*Field lunch will be an on-site delivery*

**Crex Meadows Wildlife Area (2 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor's Center

**Property Manager:** Steve Hoffman - 715.431.0748

**Forester:** Jay Riewestahl – 715.410.8322

**Field Staff:** Ryan Magana (NHC)

**Fish Lake Wildlife Area (2 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from Crex Meadows WA

**Property Manager:** Steve Hoffman – 715.431.0748

**Forester:** Jay Riewestahl – 715.410.8322

**Field staff:** Ryan Magana (NHC)

**Governor Knowles State Forest (3 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from Fish Lake WA

**Property Manager:** Kyle Anderson – 715.410.8320

**Forester:** Mike Wallis – 715.410.8315

**Field Staff:** Ryan Magana (NHC)

**Danbury Wildlife Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from GNSF

**Property Manager:** Steve Hoffman – 715.431.0748

**Forester:** John Furr – 715.410.8297/Jim Becker – 715.431.0637

**Field Staff:** Ryan Magana (NHC)

**Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from Danbury WA

**Property Manager:** Steve Hoffman - 715.431.0748

**Forester:** John Furr – 715.410.8297/Jim Becker – 715.431.0637

**Field Staff:** Ryan Magana (NHC)

**Overnight**

**Location:** Comfort Suites, Hayward

**Hotel Reservations:** Grady, Boatwright, Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

**August 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – North Team**

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**7:30 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditor:** Norman Boatwright

**ICIT Team:** Randy Hoffman

**8:30 am Brule River State Forest (8 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Brule Ranger Station and State Forest Headquarters, 6250 S Ranger Road, Brule 715.372.5678

**Property Manager:** Dave Schulz – 715.817.0592

**Forester:** Eric Sirrinc – (715)817-5676 (personal cell)

*Field Lunch provided by Brule River State Forest*



**Amnicon Falls State Park (2 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Park Headquarters

**Property Manager:** Kevin Feind c = 218.591.3111, o = 715.399.3111

**Forester:** Dale Rochon – 715.817.0010

**Overnight:**

**Location:** Comfort Suites, Hayward

**Hotel Reservations:** Grady, Boatwright, Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Duke, Craig, Teague, Hoffman

**August 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – East Team**

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**7:30 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditor:** JoAnn Hanowski

**ICIT Team:** Teague Prichard (FR) Mark Heyde (morning only),

**8:30 am Flambeau River State Forest (8 sites)**

**Meeting location:** Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters

W1613 County Road W, Winter, WI 54896 715.332.5271

**Property Manager:** Jim Halvorson – 715.820.2038

**Forester:** Heidi Brunkow, Maggie Haas, Fred Freeman, Roy Gilge

**Field Staff:** Drew Feldkirchner (NHC) Mark Schmidt (WM)

*Field Lunch provided by Flambeau River State Forest*

**Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area (2 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Group travel from Flambeau State Forest

**Property Manager:** Pat Beringer - 715.661.2701

**Foresters:** Tom Onchuck – 715-492-5587/Kyle Schmidt: 715-965-1746

**Field Staff:** Drew Feldkirchner (NHC)

**Overnight:**

**Location:** Park Falls. American Best Value Inn 1212 Hwy 13

**Hotel Reservations:** Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Prichard

**August 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) – West Team**

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**8:00 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditors:** Brendan Grady

**ICIT Team:** Craig Thompson

*Field lunch provided on-site*

**Beaver Brook Wildlife Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** DNR Service Center - Spooner  
**Property Manager:** Nancy Christel – 715.645.0072  
**Forester:** Kyle Young – 715.781.7806

**Clam River/Sand Creek Fishery Areas (management overview)**

**Meeting Location:** Depart from Beaver Brook WA  
**Property Manager:** Byron Lund – 715.645.0023  
**Forester:** Terry Aleson – 715.410.8312

**MacKenzie Creek Wildlife Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Dead end of 60<sup>th</sup> ST., south of CTH “1”  
**Property Manager:** Kevin Morgan – 715.205.0454  
**Forester:** Paul Heimstead – 715.410.8316

**Straight Lake Wildlife Area and State Park (1 site, management overview)**

**Meeting Location:** Parking area on 110<sup>th</sup> St.  
**Property Manager:** Michelle Carlisle (Wildlife Area) - 715.554.1728  
**Forester:** Paul Heimstead - 715.410.8316

**Interstate State Park (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** State Park Headquarters  
**Property Manager:** Kurt Dreger c = 715.410.4294, o = 715.483.3747  
**Forester:** Janette Cain – 715.410-8317

**Lake Loon WA (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Intersection of USH 63 and 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
**Property Manager:** Kevin Morgan – 715.205.0454  
**Forester:** Chris Rucinski - 715.410-8313  
**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR)

**Yellow River Fishery Area (1 site)**

**Meeting Location:** Stanfold Town Hall on the corner of Hwys. 48 & 25 directly north of Barron. Meet at the drive on the west side of the Town Hall off of Hwy 25  
**Property Manager:** Ron Komro – 715.637.6866  
**Forester:** Chris Rucinski – 715.410-8313

## August 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) – North Team

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**7:30 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditors:** Norman Boatwright

**ICIT Team:** Randy Hoffman (NHC) Tom Duke (FR)

Team can meet with field staff in Drummond at the Junction of HWY 63 & County HWY N, will then caravan to first sites off Delta Drummond Rd @ Approximately 8:30 am.

*Bag lunches can be picked up at Coco Café in Washburn following the South Shore Lake Superior Properties visit.*

### White River Fishery Area (1 site)

**Meeting Location:** Stop 1: Alternative Site: NENW Sec 20 T46 7W off Delta Drummond Rd (Site with Timbersale Sale # 4 Tract# 1-11 Red Pine Thinning , Wildlife Seed Nursery, Prescribed Burn, Angler Access, Artesian Spring Site).

Stop 2: Selected timber sale site. Sale # 5 Tract# 1-12 Aspen. White River RdT46 R14W Sec 14 (Winter sale)

**Property Manager:** Dave Lindsley – 715.214.6845

**Forester:** Joseph Lebouton – 715.373.6165

**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR), Ryan Magana (NHC)

### South Shore Lake Superior Fish Lands (2 sites)

**Meeting Location:** off Old C Rd, NWNW Sec 26 T 49 R 5W.

**Site 1-4:** Mile Creek Unit of South Shore Lake Superior Fish and Wildlife Area , (snowmobile trail, angler access, wildlife opening, parking lots, fence agreement, tree planting)

**Site 2:** South Shore Lake Superior Fish Property- T49 R5W Sec 24 off Big Rock Road, Washburn. Selected timber sale site. Sale # 1 Tract #1-13 Aspen Sale was in conjunction with town road project.

**Property Manager:** Dave Lindsley/Tim Davis - 715.214.6845

**Forester:** Joseph Lebouton - 715.891.3243

**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR), Ryan Magana (NHC)

### White River Wildlife Area (management overview)

**Meeting Location:** Off End of Park Rd, NWSE Sec 35 T47 4W,

**Property Manager:** Todd Naas – 715.209.5685

**Forester:** Heather Berklund – 715.776.0548

**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR), Ryan Magana (NHC)

### Scattered Forest Lands - Iron County (1 site) – Bad River Parcel

**Meeting Location:** Site currently has restricted access. Property management will be discussed at the Copper Falls State Park site.

**Property Manager:** Sam Jonas – 715.329.0362

**Forester:** Heather Berklund – 715.776.0548  
**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR), Ryan Magana (NHC)

### Copper Falls State Park (1 site)

**Meeting Location:** Park Falls State Park Headquarters  
**Property Manager:** Ben Bergey – 715.403.1658  
**Forester:** Tom Piikkila 715.781.5149 & Heather Berklund 715.776.0548  
**Field Staff:** Colleen Matula (FR), Ryan Magana (NHC)

## **August 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) – East Team**

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**7:00 am:** Leave Park Falls  
**Auditor:** JoAnn Hanowski  
**ICIT Team:** Teague Prichard

*Lunch provided for Hanowski, Prichard. Others on their own.*

### Underwood Wildlife Area (2 sites)

**Meeting Location:** Mercer Ranger Station, 5291N Statehouse Circle, Mercer  
HWY 182 to HWY 47/51 North to Mercer; just north in town on left hand side past Tamarack swamp  
**Property Manager:** Sam Jonas – 715.329.0362  
**Foresters:** Heather Berklund – 715.776.0548/Joe Schmidt – 715.416.4981

Stops 1 & 2: T44-3E-sect. 2 & 3  
tr 3-12 (sale 198) Hemlock-Hardwood (sale established & sold)  
tr 8-13 (sale 206) Northern Hardwood (contract sale established & sold)

### Turtle Flambeau Flowage (3 sites)

**Meeting Location:** Travel from UWA to Popko Circle East stop #3  
**Property Manager:** Chris Paulik, 715-776-6786  
**Foresters:** Joe Schmidt – 715.416.4981/Heather Berklund – 715.776.0548

Stop #3: 42-3E-20 (Tr 02-10 sale 185: recently closed out timber sale; aspen-pine-birch-hwd)  
Stop #4: 42-2E-13 (Deadhorse Demonstration Area: sale established; pine-aspen)  
Stop #4-5: 42-2E-33 (alternative) (Tr 13-10 sale 189: old closed out partial salvage sale; NH)  
Stop #5: 41-2E-6 & 7 (Tr 06-11 sale 194: Active timber sale, logger present; NH)

### Hay Creek/Hoffman Lake Wildlife Areas (5 sites)

**Meeting Location:** STH 182 & Old 182 Rd.  
**Property Manager:** Pat Beringer – 715.661.2701  
**Foresters:** Joe Schmidt 715.416.4981/Tom Onchuck – 715.492.5587

Stops 6-10 (east-west loops)  
Ashland County: 41-1E-14, 23, 24 (Tr 03-09 - regeneration harvest)  
Ashland County: 41-1E-13/ Iron County: 41-2E-7 & 18 (Tr 2-13 - regeneration harvest)  
Iron County: 41-2E- 7 & 18 (Tr 1-12 - aspen and hardwood)  
Iron County: 41-2E-31 & 32 (Tr 1-13 - aspen/hardwood)

Ashland County: 41-2E-36/41-1E-31 (Tr 3-12 - active sale: aspen regeneration)

**Overnight:**

**Location:** Comfort Suites, Hayward

**Hotel Reservations:** Grady, Boatwright, Hanowski

**Hotel Reservations:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

**August 21st (Thursday) - Full Team**

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**8:00 am: Leave Hayward**

**Auditors:** Brendan Grady, Norman Boatwright, JoAnn Hanowski

**ICIT Team:** Duke, Prichard, Thompson, Hoffman

**Kissick Swamp Wildlife Area (management overview)**

**Meeting Location:** Hayward Service Center

**Property Manager:** Mike Bulgrin – 715.938.1238

**Foresters:** Randy Sobralski – 715.520.7086/Jim Kujala – 715.520.0841

**Totogatic Wild River (2 sites)**

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Kissick Swamp WA

**Property Manager:** Byron Lund – 715.645.0023

**Forester:** Kyle Young – 715.781.7806

**Bardon – Whitefish Fishery Area (management overview)**

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Totogatic Wild River

**Property Manager:** Byron Lund – 715.645.0023

**Forester:** Mark Braasch – 715.376.2299

**11:00-12:00 WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Exit Report/Leadership Briefing**

**Location:** Hayward Service Center

**Conference Call Number**

(855) 947-8255 US Toll Free

passcode=9332 390#

## **Appendix A.**

# **WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Audit**

2014 FSC & SFI  
**Audit Kick-off Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday August 18, 8 am – 11:30 am**  
**Conference Call Number (855) 947-8255 passcode=9332 390#**  
HAYWARD DNR CENTER  
10220 ST HWY 27  
HAYWARD WI 54843

8:00 am	Introductions
8:15	FSC and SFI Certification Programs and Purpose of Audit – Auditors
8:30	Responses to 2013 Corrective Action Requests – FSC and SFI - Heyde/Thompson WDNR Updates and Program Initiatives – 5 minutes per Program Agency and Lands – Craig Thompson Forestry – Teague Prichard/ Mark Heyde Wildlife – Frank Trcka / Adrian Wydeven Parks – Ben Bergey Fish – Paul Cunningham Facilities and Lands – Kate Fitzgerald Natural Heritage Conservation – Ryan Magana/Randy Hoffman/Drew Feldkirchner  DNR, Forestry, Parks, Wildlife, Lands, Fish
9:45	Field Logistics for Audit
10:15	Selected SFI and FSC Criteria - Breakouts as needed with program and staff specialists
11:15	Tribal Relations – Shelly Allness, DNR Tribal liaison Audit team will call Shelly @ (608) 266-8251
11:30	Lunch

### **DNR Participants**

Craig Thompson (Land)  
Teague Prichard (FR)  
Mark Heyde (FR)  
Randy Hoffman (NHC)  
Ryan Magana (NHC)  
Frank Trcka (WM)

Tom Duke (FR)  
Ben Bergey (PR)  
Adrian Wydeven (WM)  
Paul Bruggink (FL)  
Heather Burkland (FR)  
Larry Glodoski (FR)  
Rod Foulks (FR)  
Pete Wisdon (FR)

Phone: Kate Fitzgerald, Shelly Allness, Paul Cunningham

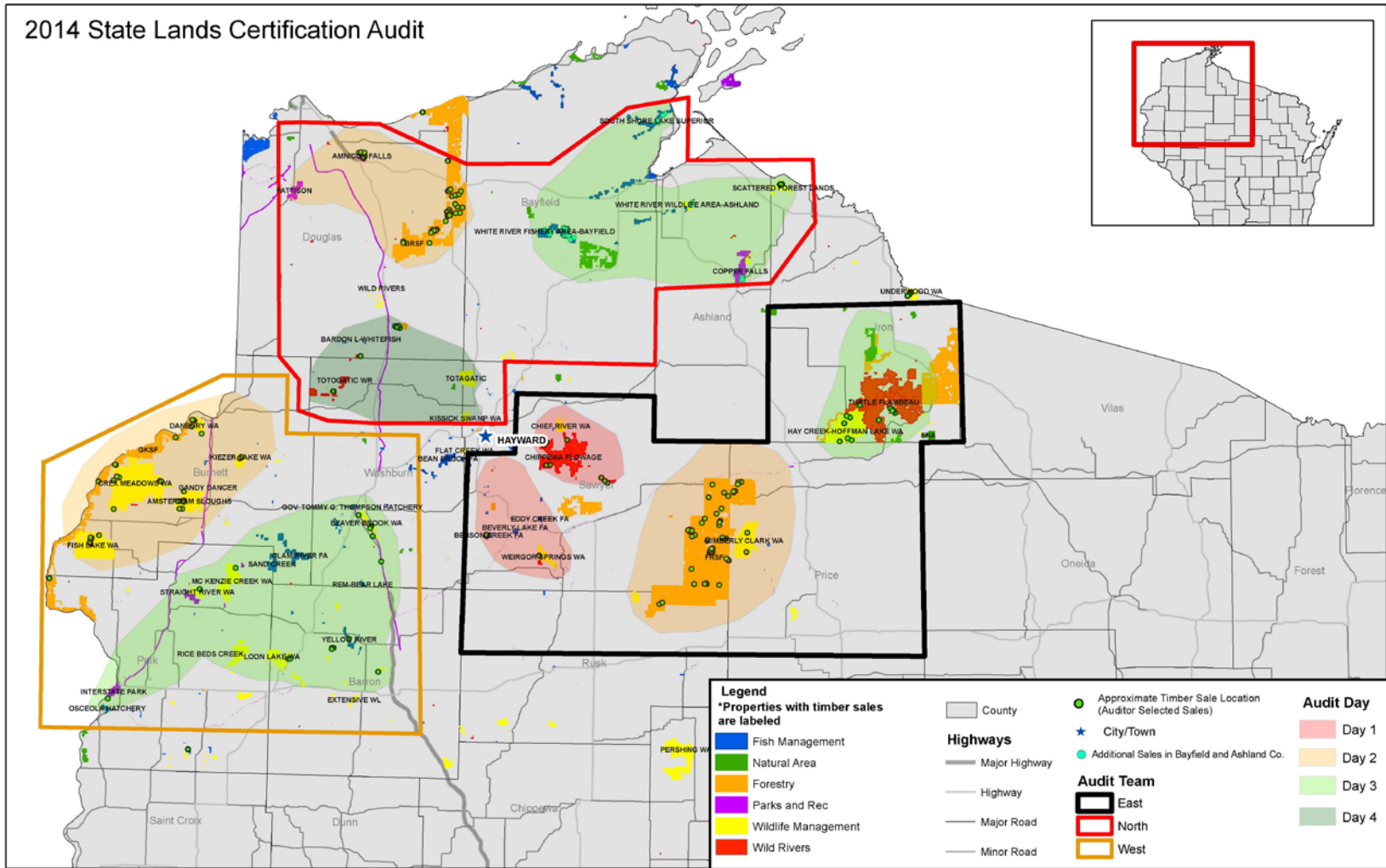
**Contacts:**

Craig Anderson (PR)	608-792-0086 (cell), 608-264-8957 (office)
Craig Thompson (F&L)	608-792-0086 (cell), 608-785-1277 (office)
Jeff Prey (PR)	608-520-3368 (cell), 608-266-2182 (office)
Jim Warren (FR)	608-575-3863 (cell), 608-264-8990 (office)
Mark Heyde (FR)	608-220-9780 (cell), 608-267-0565 (office)
Paul Cunningham (FM)	608-267-7502 (office)
Randy Hoffman (WM)	608-267-7758 (office)
Teague Prichard (FR)	608-628-5606 (cell), 608-264-8883 (office)

**Field Staff**

**Aaron McCullough**      **715-927-2750 (cell), 715-856-9158 (office)**

# 2014 State Lands Certification Audit





# 2014 State Lands Certification Audit

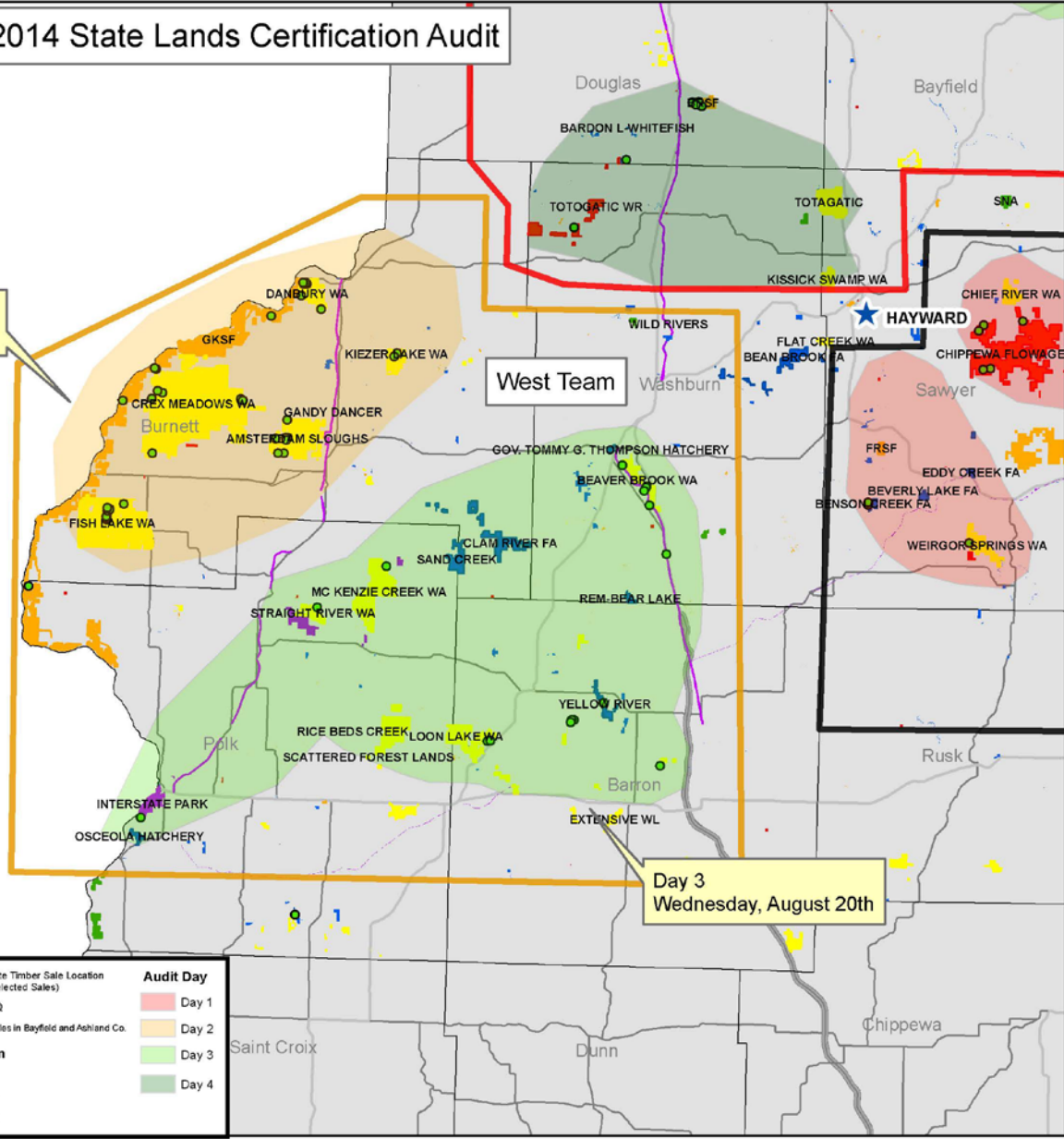


Day 2  
Tuesday, August 19th

West Team

Day 3  
Wednesday, August 20th

Legend		Audit Day	
Fish Management	County	Day 1	Day 4
Nature Area	<b>Highways</b>	Day 2	Day 3
Forestry	Major Highway	East	
Parks and Rec	Highway	North	
Wildlife Management	Major Road	West	
Wild Rivers	Minor Road		
Approximate Timber Sale Location (Auditor Selected Sales)			
Audit HQ			
Additional Sales in Bayfield and Ashland Co.			



Saint Croix

Dunn

Chippewa

Barron

Polk

Rusk

HAYWARD

Washburn

Gov. TOMMY G. THOMPSON HATCHERY

AMSTERDAM SLOUGHS

GANDY DANCER

CREX MEADOWS WA

FISH LAKE WA

STRAIGHT RIVER WA

SCATTERED FOREST LANDS

OSCEOLA HATCHERY

INTERSTATE PARK

LOON LAKE WA

RICE BEDS CREEK

EXTENSIVE WL

YELLOW RIVER

REM-BEAR LAKE

BEAVER BROOK WA

WILD RIVERS

FLAT CREEK WA

TOTOGATIC

TOTOGATIC WR

Douglas

Bayfield

CHIEF RIVER WA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE

EDDY CREEK FA

BEVERLY LAKE FA

WEIRGORS SPRINGS WA

BEAN BROOK FA

FRSF

BENSON CREEK FA

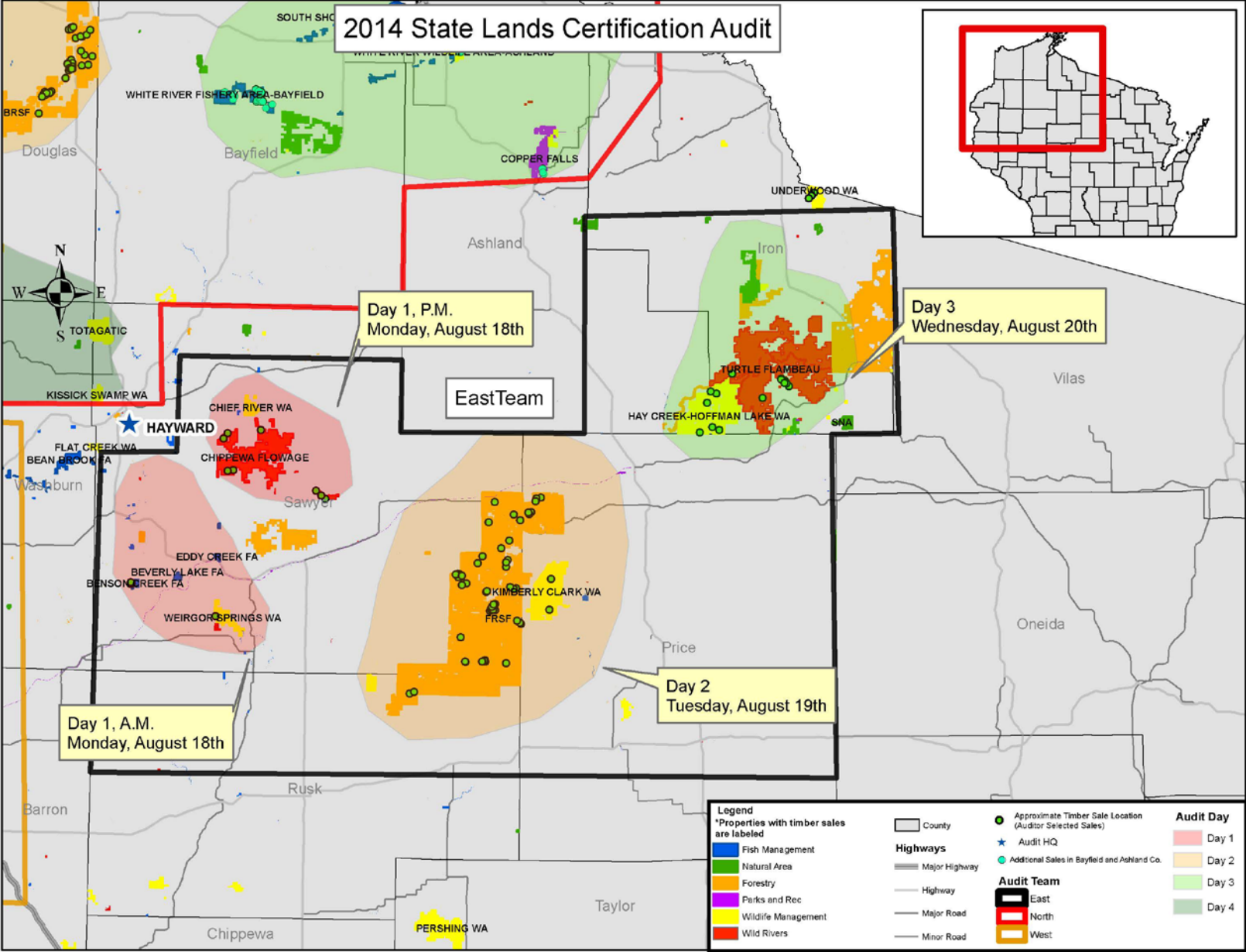
Sawyer

Chippewa

Chippewa

Chippewa

# 2014 State Lands Certification Audit



Day 1, A.M.  
Monday, August 18th

Day 1, P.M.  
Monday, August 18th

EastTeam

Day 2  
Tuesday, August 19th

Day 3  
Wednesday, August 20th

<b>Legend</b>		<b>Audit Day</b>	
*Properties with timber sales are labeled	County	Approximate Timber Sale Location (Auditor Selected Sales)	Day 1
Fish Management	Highways	★ Audit HQ	Day 2
Natural Area	Major Highway	● Additional Sales in Bayfield and Ashland Co.	Day 3
Forestry	Highway		Day 4
Perks and Rec	Major Road	<b>Audit Team</b>	
Wildlife Management	Minor Road	East	
Wild Rivers		North	
		West	

# 2014 State Lands Certification Audit

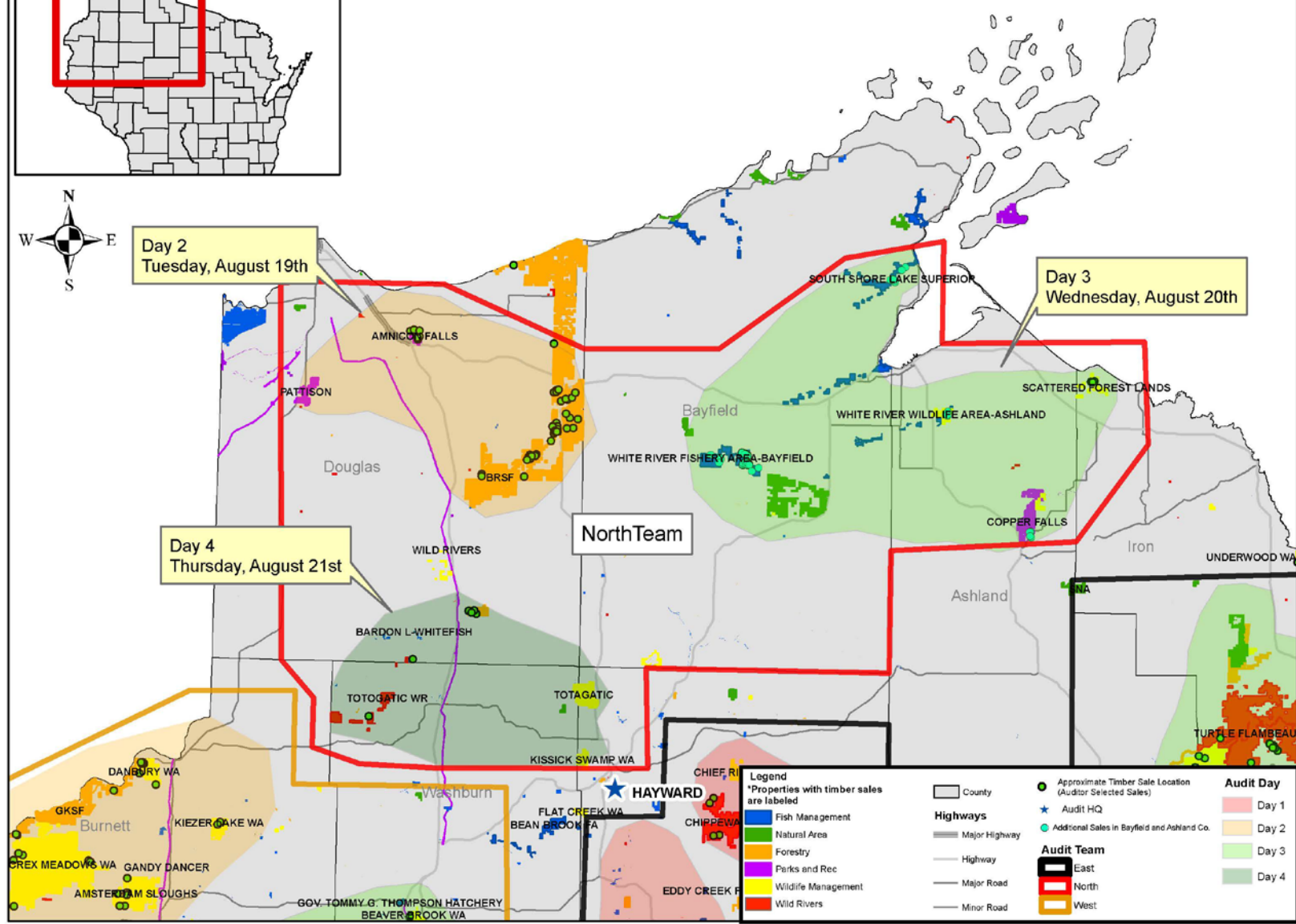


Day 2  
Tuesday, August 19th

Day 3  
Wednesday, August 20th

Day 4  
Thursday, August 21st

NorthTeam



<b>Legend</b> *Properties with timber sales are labeled Fish Management Natural Area Forestry Perks and Rec Wildlife Management Wild Rivers		<b>Highways</b> Major Highway Highway Major Road Minor Road		<b>Audit Day</b> Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4	
Approximate Timber Sale Location (Auditor Selected Sales) Audit HQ Additional Sales in Bayfield and Ashland Co.		<b>Audit Team</b> East North West			

## Appendix II



### **Wisconsin DNR State Lands 2014 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report**

The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. This report describes the 2014 Surveillance Audit designed to consider the entire program and all requirements, including any changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement.

The Wisconsin State Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard since May 5, 2004 (SFI certificate #NSF-SFIS-1Y941). In 2009 the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was recertified including programs for management of several categories of state lands beyond state forests, including parks, wildlife lands, and other categories of generally forested lands. DNR land included in the project includes approximately 1,558,761 acres. Excised acreage includes predominantly special purpose lands (such as fish hatcheries, tree nurseries, communications towers, and administrative sites) and land under easement where DNR does not have land management authority. The program was updated to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard in 2011 and recertified in 2012.

#### **An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin State Forests**

Adapted from: Wisconsin DNR Web Site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/StateForests/sf-timber.htm>

“Wisconsin DNR lands are managed for multiple-use objectives. Along with non-timber objectives, the DNR lands are used to demonstrate various forest practices to the public, while meeting a variety of habitat objectives. Resource managers within the Department of Natural Resources use these objectives in conjunction with other demands to manage each state forest as a healthy ecosystem. Each year about 1 % of the land under DNR ownership is actively managed according to a 2007 report to the Wisconsin Legislature. In the last three years, approximately 15,000 acres were established for harvest per year. Of this, two-thirds of the harvests occur on State Forests (which constitute 1/3 of the DNR land base). Reflecting a greater focus on non-timber objectives, other DNR land such as wildlife areas and state parks (with 2/3 of the land base) produce 1/3 of the average annual harvest acreage.

Of the area harvested over 70% of the management prescriptions are thinnings, which reduce the density of stems to accelerate growth of the remaining trees and vertical structural diversity within the stand harvested. Approximately 30 % of the stands actively managed each year are harvested using regeneration techniques. After harvest these stands are either replanted or regenerate naturally and will continue to grow and produce forests and wood products for future generations. These regenerating forests also provide important habitat for species associated with young forests such as the snowshoe hare and woodcock.

Harvested stands are either regenerated naturally or are planted with seedlings. The determination of which method to use is based on the ability of the site to regenerate naturally and the ability of the desired species to regenerate on a particular site. For example, if a site experiences hot and dry conditions planting may be the best alternative. This is most common for the pine species, especially jack pine.

Even-aged and uneven-aged management schemes are the harvest systems employed on Wisconsin DNR's land. Even-aged management includes clearcuts, clearcuts with reserves, seed tree methods, shelterwood cuttings, and intermediate thinnings. Uneven-aged management includes both individual and group selection techniques. Each of these systems and techniques are designed in conjunction with a particular tree species or community of trees. For example, uneven-aged single tree and group selection techniques are used in northern hardwoods, hemlock-hardwood, and swamp hardwood stands. In contrast, even-aged clearcuts are used in pine (red, white, and jack), paper birch, aspen, oak, northern hardwoods, scrub oak, aspen, fir-spruce, and black spruce stands. The selection of a management system and specific technique depends on many factors including tree composition, age of the stand, location, accessibility, and most importantly the long-term objectives for the stand under consideration.”

### **An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin State Park Lands**

Source: Managing Forests on Wisconsin State Park Lands

#### **“Overall Management Priorities**

Sustaining healthy forests is a vital role of WSPS properties, and the key to sustaining healthy forests is pro-active management. To ensure that management practices are consistent with the goals and objectives of the WSPS, several management priorities have been established but may vary depending on site characteristics:

- **Aesthetics:** Protect scenic views and allow forest cover to provide settings for solitude and privacy.
- **Recreation:** Sustain large canopy cover and shade in picnic areas, campgrounds, along nature trails, and high use areas.
- **Habitat:** Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and plants, including endangered and threatened species.
- **Forest Health:** Allow for regeneration of the forest through quality forest management and seek opportunities that enhance or maintain the overall health and vigor of the forest ecosystem.
- **Pest management:** Manage invasive plant and animal species, pests, diseases, and nuisance wildlife through prevention, control, and eradication activities.
- **Education and research:** Provide opportunities for interpretation, education, and scientific research.
- **Water quality:** Sustain and enhance local watersheds and water resources including erosion control along waterways, trails, and other property features.”

### **An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin Wildlife Areas**

Adapted from: The 6-year Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Plan - <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/fwhplan.pdf>

Since 1876, the State of Wisconsin has been acquiring land to meet conservation and recreation needs. Public lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provide many opportunities and public spaces for people to hunt, fish, trap, hike, canoe, or watch or photograph wildlife. All Wildlife

Areas are managed to sustain the wildlife and natural communities found on the properties and to provide a full range of traditional outdoor recreational uses.

The forest resources on state wildlife areas can be broadly characterized as Oak and Pine Barrens, Southern Forests, Oak Savanna, and Northern Forests.

### **Oak and Pine Barrens**

Less than 1% of the pre-settlement oak and pine barren habitat remains. The long term sustainability of this habitat and the organisms that it supports will require that we protect and connect the existing scattered sites. The composition, structure, and ecological function of these communities depend on periodic fires as a management tool but may be mimicked with appropriately applied timber management strategies and aggressive post-sale treatment applied as a shifting mosaic across the appropriate ecological landscapes.

### **Southern Forests**

Although the southern forest type is common, large, high-quality, unbroken tracts are becoming rare. Oak regeneration continues to be a problem on dry-mesic and mesic sites. With lack of fire or other disturbance, oak forests are continuing to convert to more mesic forest species. Oak wilt and competition from invasive shrubs continue to be a problem in some areas. Appropriately applied timber management strategies are critical to maintaining the oak resource.

### **Oak Savanna**

In the absence of active management, the future of oak savanna looks very bleak in Wisconsin and throughout its entire range. The increasing abandonment of lightly to moderately grazed wooded pastures and the accelerating succession of oak woodlots toward heavy shade producing trees and shrubs will lead to the decline and possible loss of much of what remains of the savanna flora and fauna, including eventual decline of the oaks themselves. In a few ecological landscapes the recovery potential exists with active management.

### **Northern Forest**

Overall stand age has decreased and tree species relative abundance has changed. Generalist species have increased and specialist species have declined. Invasive species have continued to degrade northern forests. Second growth northern hardwood forests lack species diversity. However, there is still great potential for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the northern forest. Identification of “high conservation value” forests via planning processes will increase the likelihood that we’ll sustain ecologically important forests. Maintaining a full spectrum of forest ecosystems in the appropriate ecological landscapes with a range of successional stages, patch sizes, ages, geographic distribution, and connectivity is an important timber management goal.

### **SFIS Surveillance Audit Process**

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on August 18-21, 2014 by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, SFI Lead Auditor. The team included JoAnn Hanowski, Team Auditor and Brendan Grady, FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of “Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation” contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance. The Wisconsin DNR’s management representative is Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition. The audit served to assess conformance with the entire standard to determine eligibility for a new, three-year certificate. The audit was conducted in conjunction with an FSC audit covering the same lands and organization and by the same audit team. The two processes (SFI and FSC) shared teams and reviewed much of the same evidence, but each program had a different team leader and audit objectives. This report is intended to describe the SFI portion of the evaluation only (more information about the FSC portion of the evaluation is available from WDNR).

The Indicators and Performance Measures of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard were utilized without modification or substitution. As with the initial certification, SFI Performance Measures and indicators involving wood procurement (Objectives 8-13) were outside of the scope of the Wisconsin DNR's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit.

The audit was governed by an audit plan and by NSF audit protocols designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities and lists of management activities were provided to the auditors in advance, and a sample of the available field sites was designated by the lead auditor for review. The selection of field sites for inspection was based upon the risk of environmental impact, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP.

During the audit the audit team reviewed a sample of the available written documentation as objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. The lead auditor also 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 for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS.

### **2013 Audit Findings**

A minor CAR issued during the 2013 audit, J0292438-1, had a corrective action plan that was approved last year. The plan included effectively communicating the DNR's spill policy to the timber sale administrators and emphasizing spill response in the BMP training sessions. This audit confirmed that the corrective action was implemented and this CAR is closed.

### **2014 Audit Findings**

No new non-conformances were observed and an opportunity to improve was identified:

*CI 4.1.5: Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where*

*credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.* Where Master Plans don't exist, there is an opportunity to improve the assessment of forest cover types, age and size classes and habitats at the landscape level when formulating Interim Forest Management Plans.

The next audit will be scheduled during the late summer of 2015. This will be a Recertification audit, covering all of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard.

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### **General Description of Evidence of Conformity**

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. A general description of this evidence is provided below, organized by SFI Objective.

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning** - To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available.

**Summary of Evidence** – Property master plans serve as management plans for the larger (Tier 1 and Tier 2) parcels. The smaller parcels are covered by agency-specific planning guidance documents, with parcel specific objectives found on-line. The entire ownership is covered by detailed forestry protocols and manuals as well as associated inventory data and WisFIRS inventory analysis and harvest scheduling software. Inventory data was up-to-date (82% within 10 years). Planning approaches vary depending on property size.

**Objective 2. Forest Productivity** - To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations and records associated with each timber harvest (2460 form and associated narratives) were used to confirm practices. Wisconsin DNR has programs for reforestation, for protection against insects, diseases, and wildfire, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

**Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources** - To protect water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited the portions of many field sites that were close to water resources, based on a field sample that was oriented heavily towards such sites.

**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value** To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.



**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations, written plans and policies, use of college-trained field biologists, availability of specialists, and regular staff involvement in conferences and workshops that cover scientific advances were the evidence used to assess the requirements involved biodiversity conservation. The close support and cooperation of various agencies, including those responsible for wildlife, fisheries, recreation, and endangered resources, were another key factor in the assessment.

**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits** - To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Further maps of recreation sites, combined with field visits, helped confirm a strong recreation program. Recreational use and esthetics were priority concerns where appropriate.

**Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites** - To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans were all assessed during the evaluation. The strong program of Scientific Natural Areas contributed to the conclusions.

**Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources** - To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, contract clauses, harvest inspection reports, and discussions with supervising field foresters and with loggers provided the key evidence. On those sites where harvests had been completed the indicator was being met through reasonable utilization, harvest inspections, and lump-sum sales.

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance** -

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Most of the requirements were not edited this year, but the ready availability of BMP manuals and access to laws were factors in finding conformance.

**Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology** - To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

**Summary of Evidence** – Financial records were confirmed, and some field research sites were visited.

**Objective 16. Training and Education** -To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

**Summary of Evidence** – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and logger and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

**Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry** -

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

**Summary of Evidence** – Confirmed these items are covered via support of the SICs.

### **Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities -**

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews and review of documents were used to confirm the requirements. Interviewees included members of “friends” groups for state parks. Wisconsin DNR answers to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, providing regular opportunities for citizen input and a long-term and very knowledgeable governing board of citizens as well.

**Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting -** To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

**Summary of Evidence** – Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI Inc. website provided the key evidence.

**Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement -** To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

**Summary of Evidence** – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. The Forest Leadership Team of the Forestry Division and the Land Leadership Team of the Lands Division are the critical components of management review; minutes of meetings supplemented by interviews served to confirm compliance.

### **Relevance of Forestry Certification**

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

#### **1. Sustainable Forestry**

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation, and aesthetics.

#### **2. Forest Productivity and Health**

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exotic plants and animals and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

#### **3. Protection of Water Resources**

To protect water bodies and riparian zones, and to conform with best management practices to protect water quality.

#### **4. Protection of Biological Diversity**

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.

#### **5. Aesthetics and Recreation**

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

#### **6. Protection of Special Sites**

To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.

#### **7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America**

To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

#### **8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing**

To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.

#### **9. Legal Compliance**

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

#### **10. Research**

To support advances in sustainable forest management through forestry research, science and technology.

#### **11. Training and Education**

To improve the practice of sustainable forestry through training and education programs.

#### **12. Public Involvement**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on public lands through community involvement.

#### **13. Transparency**

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

#### **14. Continual Improvement**

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

*Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition*

#### **For Additional Information Contact:**

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**Appendix III**



**Audit Matrix**

## Wisconsin DNR 2014 SFI Surveillance Audit

### NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX

**Findings and Instructions:**

<b>C</b>	Conformance
<b>Exr</b>	Exceeds the Requirements
<b>Maj</b>	Major Non-conformance
<b>Min</b>	Minor Non-conformance
<b>OFI</b>	Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance)
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Likely Gap *</b>	Likely Gap Against 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
<b>Likely Conf. *</b>	Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
<b>Auditor</b>	Optional; may be used for audit planning.
12, 13	Date Codes, for example: 12= July 2012; 13=Aug. 2013
Other	Words in <i>italics</i> are defined in the standard.

Yes    No    N.A.   NSF mark (logo) is being used correctly.   Audit Notes: No use of the NSF mark.

Yes    No    N.A.   SFI label/logo is being used correctly.

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**

To broaden the implementation of *sustainable forestry* by ensuring *long-term forest productivity* and yield based on the use of the *best scientific information* available.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b><i>Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.</i></b>	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Management Plans for selected tracts visited in 2013 were reviewed. All tracts with active or recently-completed timber sales (sold after March 15, 2012) are covered by Master Plans or Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP); this is consistent with policy and with the “Corrective Action Plan” for a Major CAR from 2011: “All properties with timber sales established after March 16, 2012 will need an Interim Forest Management Plan before the timber sale can be advertised for sale.</p> <p>The Lands Division is working through a backlog of Master Plans. For the 2010-2014 master planning period there are 4 completed plans, 19 active plans (being worked on) and 19 scheduled. The three bureaus involved (Fisheries, Facilities and Lands, Wildlife) are increasing the priority placed on planning. Management sheets are developed for properties too small to have master plans, or where management actions are needed but the master plan has not been completed. The Interim Forest Management Plan template has been adopted and will start to be used for these interim plans. Reviewed “Interim Forest Management Plan Guidance”.</p> <p>Closed 2012 Major Non-conformance under Indicator 4.1.5 below which addresses a previously identified key SFI-related planning issue (that was tied most closely to sub-indicator 1.1.1 h). The progress made in implementing Interim Forest Management Plans has helped resolve this issue.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed several Interim Forest Management Plans, including: White River Marsh WMA with 2 embedded Natural Areas; Waushara-Marquette Fishery Areas (WFMA); and others. These plans included the required elements needed to supplement wider scale plans.</p> <p>Harvest levels across various types of ownership are managed through the WisFIRs system to ensure sustainable harvest levels. Harvesting decisions are driven by stand-level analysis and prescriptions adjusted to meet property-specific goals and agency mandates and guidance. State forest planning is complete and up-to-date, which is critical because state forest harvesting is somewhat more aggressive in terms of harvest levels. Planning for the properties administered within the Lands Division is not as complete, but harvest levels have been below growth and consistent with the broader range of objectives.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold)	Audit or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>1.1.1</i>	<p>Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a long-term resources analysis; a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; a land classification system;</li> <li>b. soils inventory and maps, where available;</li> <li>c. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities;</li> <li>d. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system;</li> <li>e. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).</li> </ul>	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p><b>Statewide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of Forestry Five-Year Strategic Plan</li> <li>• 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</li> <li>• Wisconsin Land Legacy Report: An inventory of places to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs; 2006</li> <li>• Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (six-year plan, to be updated by Wildlife Heritage Conservation)</li> </ul>								

<p><i>Notes</i></p>	<p><b>Property Master Planning</b> (property-level planning approach, process outlined in state law and in administrative code NR-44, data-driven):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2012 NRB approved 36 properties, with 25 more currently part of an active master planning project. 93 of 313 properties which require a NR 44-compliant Master Plan have one; this includes many of the largest properties.</li> <li>• As of May 2013, Eighty-one (81) Interim Forest Management Plans had been written for 178 properties covering 407,000 acres.</li> <li>• Master Planning starts with an analysis; example: “Regional &amp; Property Analysis – Lower Chippewa River State Wildlife Areas and State Natural Areas”</li> <li>• Final plan example: “Lower Chippewa River Properties Master Plan, February 2010”</li> <li>• Tier 1 and Tier 2 properties require an NR-44 Master Plan</li> <li>• Tier 3 properties don’t have as detailed plans</li> <li>• Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP) have written 86 IFMPs, 183 properties, 410K acres +/-</li> <li>• Supported by county, sub-county, or multi-county “Integrated Meetings” such as “Sauk and Richland County 02/20/13” and “Adams County”</li> <li>• Master Plans can be updated through targeted variances; for example Master Plan Variance-Devil’s Lake State Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Harvest-Level Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WisFIRs database provides stand-level information used to determine which areas are likely ready to be treated</li> <li>• Forester and property manager discuss, obtain context</li> <li>• Field review by foresters may or may not include robust re-inventory (age of data often determines) or a quick few plots</li> <li>• Field foresters set up sale, with 3 major sources of guidance (and many other directives and guidance): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Silvicultural Manual; 2.Public Lands Handbook; 3.Timber Sale Handbook</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other sources of information: Natural Heritage Database and the State’s Historic and Archeological Database</li> <li>• Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report, including Narrative Report; accompanied by sale map</li> <li>• Reviewed and approved by the property manager and forestry supervisor</li> <li>• Sales valued over \$3,000 must be sold by public bid; must be advertised in local papers</li> </ul> <p>The required items a through g are included in forest management plans and associated supporting documentation such as the Annual Work Plans, Annual Accomplishment Reports, Manuals, and associated guidance documents for the programs. Maps and inventory data are stored and used in the GIS/database system known as WisFIRs.</p> <p>a. Management Plans for the tracts visited in 2013 were reviewed to determine that they, in conjunction with other guidance documents and assessments, comprise a long-term resource analysis. in WisFIRs – Use of an “H” code as the objective when this is unknown for the stand and/or overall property, such as in the absence of an up-to-date master plan.</p> <p>b. Foresters inventory a portion of each forest annually using the RECON system. FIA data provide broad growth determinations.</p>
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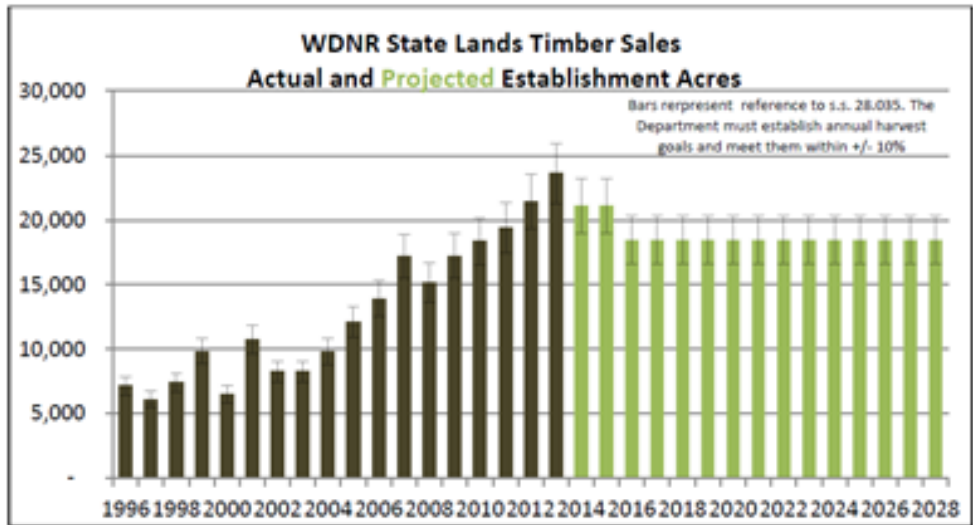
<b>Notes</b>	<p>c. “Land Classification System” varies by plan type. For BRSF there are designations for Forest Production Management Areas, Habitat Management Area, Native Community Management Areas, Scenic Management Areas, Wild Resource Ares, Special Management Areas, and Recreation Management Areas, and State Natural Areas.</p> <p>d. GIS-layers include soils and topography.</p> <p>e. WisFIRs; see 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 below</p> <p>f. GIS contained within WisFIRs.</p> <p>g. Allowable cut determinations based on area control are included in management plans, providing a good analysis, description of methods, and strategic approaches to deal with age class imbalances. Annual tactical planning refines these harvest calculations. Also see 1.1.3 &amp; 1.1.4 below.</p> <p>h. Management plans cover the following non-timber issues: recreation, wildlife and biodiversity, operations, fire, pests, many others. Further, there are a variety of programs in place to understand the social impacts of management activities and consider these impacts during planning. These include Wisconsin’s Environmental Protection Act (which requires environmental assessments and, in many cases, economic impact analysis), master planning, and the Natural Resources Board’s approval process for land acquisition. Some aspects of the management program apply in all cases, while other aspects are modified significantly for each type of land or designated land management agency.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.2	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.	MF	13						

**Notes**

	Cd Equivalents	Acres Established	Acre Goal (15 yr average)
2009	219123	17213	25293
2010	309886	18331	25293
2011	284785	19365	25293
2012	275,500	21,057	24,610

14



	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Although limited time was spend on this issue, all indications are that the past progress on inventory has continued.</p> <p>Web page: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html</a></p> <p>The US Forest Service’s FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. “Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.” Source: Wisconsin Forestry Notes, August 2013</p>								

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1.1.4	Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews with foresters indicate that they continue to devote a substantial portion of their time to updating stand inventory information.								

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1.1.5	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>There is no allowable cut effect; assumptions include basal area growth rates for northern hardwood stands managed using the selection system, age to maturity following Aspen and Jack Pine clearcuts, thinning intervals for Red pine, and time needed for other regenerated stands to require the next treatment. Thinning and planting would be the “driving” treatments; these are well documented. When there is a delay in thinning (uncommon) or other anticipated treatment the overall harvest schedules are adjusted when the 15-year harvest schedule is re-run each year.</p> <p>The WisFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Key assumptions in the area-based harvest plans are that stands receiving regeneration treatments will be monitored and that regeneration challenges will be addressed, that thinned stands will respond by growing at a rate that justifies the planned re-entry cycle, and that the overall forest will remain healthy and continue to develop and grow in predictable ways. These assumptions are clearly realistic (being met) based in large part by the sustained efforts of dedicated professional foresters supported by specialists (notably DNR biologists) and working with Wisconsin’s renowned loggers.</p>								

## Objective 2. Forest Productivity.

To ensure *long-term forest productivity*, carbon storage, and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *soil conservation*, *afforestation* and other measures.

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<b>2.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</b>	MF, NB	2013						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>2.1.1</b>	Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>All harvest plans, documented on the 2460 form, include a narrative section which describes in detail the silvicultural practices prescribed including the method of regeneration. The silviculture manual describes options available based on site, species, and objectives.</p> <p>Planting is generally restricted to a modest number of timber types including: Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, bottomland hardwood, and occasionally mixed conifer. Aspen and northern hardwood types are regenerated naturally, and mixed conifer types can be in many cases.</p>								

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<b>2.1.2</b>	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>There were no observed regeneration failures in completed regeneration treatments reviewed. Some areas may be delayed by invasives; most areas appear to be developing as would be expected.</p> <p>Foresters can, and often do, flag selected challenging stands for review of regeneration 4-6 years following harvest.</p> <p>For the properties visited in the 2013 audit, foresters and property managers carefully review every harvest with respect to invasive plants and possible regeneration concerns. In some cases, such as when this option is within silvicultural guidelines, regeneration treatments are delayed due in part to the widespread extent of invasives in the southern portion of the state. However when regeneration is needed the Wisconsin DNR expends the resources necessary to achieve regeneration, sometimes at great cost.</p>								

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2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Criteria for regeneration are provided in the Silviculture handbook. DNR Foresters are instructed to code the stand and flag it for re-visit if they believe that natural regeneration may not be successful. This is important in light of expected trends in deer populations and in regions of the state that have been known to have challenges with regeneration.</p> <p>Foresters can enter a date in WisFIRS for follow-up review or measurement of regeneration. Reviewed Initial Stocking Regeneration Surveys for central hardwood supplemental plantings on the Youth Camp Road and Parnell Area of the NUKM State Forest.</p>								

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2.1.4	Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.	NA							
<i>Notes</i>	NA: Exotic tree species are not planted.								

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2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations. Much of the harvesting is done by experienced loggers using mechanized harvesting equipment. Felling of selected timber is mostly by processors, although hand-felling is not uncommon for the largest trees. Workers doing hand felling have chain saw training which includes directional felling techniques. In some cases sales are set up with requirements for fixed-head processors, allowing the trees to be moved away from the advanced natural regeneration before they are allowed to fall to the ground. Yarding (forwarding) trails are planned, well-spaced, and reasonably narrow, further limiting damage to regeneration. Some sales contract restricts pole skidding or have winter-only restrictions to help protect natural regeneration from yarding damage.								

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2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.	MF	13						
	Most planting is oriented to replanting similar species that were harvested. When changes are made they are based on assessments of site-level and landscape conditions, with decisions made in an interdisciplinary planning process. Natural Heritage Conservation employs district ecologists who assist with planning and decision making on SNAs and on sites with potential for restoration of rare or deficient (compared to desired conditions)								

<b>Notes</b>	vegetative types, often significantly altering stand structure and composition. Foresters assess each site using the Kotar classification system and include the “Habitat Classification” code in the “Ecological Considerations” section of the 2460-001A Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report”.								
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2.1.7	Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.		NA						
<b>Notes</b>	No afforestation is being conducted.								

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2.2	<b>Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.</b>	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.	Team	14				13		

<i>Notes</i>	<p><b>There is an opportunity to improve regarding minimized chemical use required to achieve objectives related to control of invasive plants.</b></p> <p>Managers are applying herbicides in a wide range of conditions to control many different invasive plant species. Interviews and review of documents showed that programs are in place to assure that laws, regulations, policies, and procedures are followed. Because many of these control efforts are relatively new, managers (working in some cases with contractors or suppliers) are testing various combinations of practices in very challenging treatment situations. For example uncommon, rare, or protected plants can be growing intermixed with target (invasive) species.</p> <p>The best control strategies, including chemical and non-chemical treatments in of varied timing and/intensity, are still being worked out for many different invasive control scenarios. More could be done to ensure that minimized pesticide use is pursued, and that best-practices and improved techniques for control of invasive plants are effectively and efficiently shared across work units and disciplines.</p> <p>On some sites visited during the audit herbicides were applied multiple times, generally due to intractable issues with invasive plants in the understory of stands targeted for regeneration; for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamarack Locust Site: 24 acres where all locust trees were girdled and sprayed with a 5% solution of Transline herbicide in water. Trees too small to girdle were killed with a basal bark treatment of element 4 in a 15% solution of oil. All merchantable locust and a small amount of red pine were harvested in the summer of 2012. Some regrowth occurred which was foliar sprayed with ½ ounce Transline per gallon of water. The site was mulched in the spring of 2013, foliar sprayed with Makaze in summer 2013 at a rate of 6 quarts/acre (this treatment did not appear to be effective). Element 3 mixed in a 5% solution with water will be applied in August to take out any additional plants (there are many).</li> <li>• Ackley Y Sale: 104 acres in 3 stands. The northern area had lighter timber stocking with few young hardwoods and a very heavy buckthorn component. This area was mulched in 2007 and sprayed with Element 3A in the spring of 2008. A follow up treatment with Element 3A occurred later that year. The site was sprayed again in the spring of 2009.</li> </ul> <p>14 Site visits did not identify any chemical use issues.</p> <p>14 In response to the 2013 OFI, the WIDNR’s Pesticide Use Team revised Manual Code 4230.1- Department Approval, Use and Reporting of Pesticides for Disease and Pest Management. The purpose of the revision includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarify several areas that have proven confusing to staff</li> <li>• Gain statewide consistency across programs</li> <li>• Implement a new chain of command ensuring the people involved are knowledgeable in pesticide use in order to minimize the use of pesticides and identify potential hazards</li> <li>• Address several State Land Certification audit requests</li> </ul>
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2.2.2	Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Review of herbicides used on sites visited indicates appropriate herbicides are used.								

2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews and review of documents provided evidence that this requirement was met. The Pesticide Use Table was reviewed and the chemicals used match the treatment objectives.								

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2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>IPM is the approach taken in this program, as documented in the plans: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are regularly assessed formally (RECON) and informally for presence of insects or diseases, and treatments are applied in a timely manner before outbreaks widen. The initial treatment approach is commonly salvage or sanitation.</p> <p>Conventional forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands so as to minimize the need for chemical treatments. Stands visited were generally healthy and vigorous. Chemicals are only applied to address problems that can’t be resolved in other ways. For example release using brush saws is considered before chemical release is prescribed.</p> <p>For projects which include elements of site restoration and/or invasive control the practices employed also include blends of mechanical, fire, and chemical approaches. Through interviews it was apparent that managers are seeking approaches that minimize chemical use, but more work remains in many cases to find cost-effective and minimal-chemical approaches.</p> <p>Extent and rates of applications as documented in written records reviewed were consistent with an integrated approach, in that the use is modest when the nature and extent of the certified land base is considered.</p>								

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2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>DNR personnel interviewed involved in chemical applications provided evidence for how this requirement is met, including documentation of certification (cards) and use of certified contractors in all cases for restricted use chemicals, and use of certified applicators supervising employees who are not certified in some cases. Many work units report that all employees applying even general use pesticides have certification, and there is movement towards increasing the percentage of applicators who have certification. Confirmed “SC Region Memo 12.01.10: Pesticide Applicator’s Certificate and License Requirements for SCR Wildlife Staff”</p> <p>Confirmed that many types of formal and informal safety training are available and implemented. Worker safety and the proper use of appropriate PPE is a common part of such training, adding further assurance that non-certified applicators understand the proper procedures.</p>								



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2.2.6	Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example: a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Many of these techniques are required by law or regulation, and/or are specified in contracts for treatment.</p> <p>Shops were reviewed for chemical storage (Devil's Lake State Park, Buckhorn, others).</p> <p>Handout /training aid: "Posting Requirement for Pesticide Applications" featured guidelines and examples, as well as sources for signs.</p> <p>In describing chemical applications field personnel often mentioned several of the listed chemical BMPs without prompting by auditors. In other cases auditors interviewed field personnel specifically about procedures and methods; in all such cases the responses indicated proper techniques.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3	<b>Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Soil maps are contained in the GIS and are used in planning timber sales and other treatments. Foresters, biologists, and ecologists demonstrated strong knowledge of the soils, landforms, and bio-physical characteristics of lands in their units. Soils information is included in the sale narratives.								

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2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Foresters, often supported by property managers from other disciplines, use soil and topographic maps, habitat type classifications, and/or field reviews as appropriate to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use a variety of methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, including designation of harvesting only with frozen ground or very dry conditions for all or a portion of a harvest area. Review of logging contracts, sale narratives, prospectuses, etc. document these measures. Confirmed by field observations the use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, as soils in post-harvest stands showed quite limited and reasonable levels of soil compaction and disturbance. Much of the 2013 audit occurred in sand country, so this issue should be reviewed again in the 2014 audits.								

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2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Many sites visited were sandy and level or gently-sloping and well-drained; where sites had slopes and erosion potential water bars, dispersed slash, and seasonal restrictions appear to be minimizing soil erosion.								

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2.3.4	Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails).	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by field observations. Volumes of post-harvest woody debris were consistent with soil protection and productivity; few harvests which included removal of tops and small branches for biomass were observed.								

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2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.	MF, NB	13, 14						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>Field observations confirmed the retention of vigorous trees and the appropriate application of silviculture guidelines for removal of least vigorous and poorest quality trees and retention of the trees best adapted to the site.</p> <p>For conventional silviculture foresters consistently emphasized the retention of the most vigorous trees when marking stands; results of partial harvests were very good. For restoration-oriented harvests the retained trees met the ecological and biological goals (as appropriate), even if some of these trees were decidedly of poor form and vigor.</p>								
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2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.	MF, NB	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin State BMPs for Water Quality (avoid excessive rutting) and Wisconsin DNR and/or individual county policies (defining excessive rutting) provide these criteria. Confirmed that “excessive rutting” definitions are in the many recent timber sale contracts that were reviewed.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.7	Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.	MF, NB	13						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>There is little construction of new permanent roads in the units visited in 2013. Skid roads and trails on sales observed were planned in advance, with efforts to locate the main trails in the most appropriate locations and to space secondary trails widely to minimize impacts to soils and to maintain maximum practical distances from wetlands and watercourses to allow for natural filtering for any erosion that might occur.</p> <p>The impacts on recreation trails by skid roads and trails are clearly a consideration during sale planning and implementation.</p>								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4	<b>Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.</b>	MF, NB		13					

<i>Notes</i>	<b><u>Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.</u></b> See indicators below.								
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2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Interviewed Andrea Diss-Torrance, Forest Health, Invasives (large-scale, statewide). Wisconsin DNR employs forest health specialists and makes their services readily available to the field units. Pest updates published quarterly: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html</a></p> <p>Foresters interviewed were aware of forest pests, including new or emerging threats, and understand pest control and/or sanitation/salvage options. One mechanism for ensuring awareness involves quarterly pest bulletins which are sent out in some regions.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>For conventional forest management goals, rotations are set short enough to prevent many pest problems (for example Jack Pine rotations of 50 years or Aspen rotations between 40 and 50 years). Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands. Planting and partial harvest systems consider soil/site conditions before making decisions as to which species to plant or to favor in partial harvests.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Wisconsin DNR has a strong pest control program; foresters demonstrated solid working-knowledge of the common pests and control strategies. Fire suppression equipment was evident throughout the audit, particularly well-provisioned fire trucks. Wisconsin DNR is the lead agency for fire.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5	<b>Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>See indicators below.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>

2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	There is no use of genetically-modified planting stock. All units continue to obtain seedlings from state nursery, which is managed by a specialist well-versed in scientific practices.								

### Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect water quality in rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1	<b>Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality programs.</b>	MF, NB	14			13			
<i>Notes</i>	<p><b>Minor Non-conformance 2013-01:</b> The auditor observed an on-going, minor leak of hydraulic fluid from the loader arm of the forwarder (initial spray onto ground and onto rear of forwarder, then about 2 drops per minute). There was no spill kit on site. Two mechanics arrived with a spill kit at least 40 minutes after the auditor arrived on site (unknown how much time elapsed between the leak and the arrival of the auditor).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wisconsin BMP Manual, Chapter 9, page 116 specifies, for spills of fuels and lubricants used in forest operations: “Maintain a spill containment and clean up kit appropriate for the material on the operation. At a minimum, a kit for petroleum products should include: plugs and clamps to control a hydraulic line break, a container to catch leaking fluid, a shovel, oil absorbent sheets, sawdust or other materials to absorb spilled fluid.”</li> <li>Location: Black River State Forest, Site #4, Sale 1141, Oak Clearcut Unit</li> </ul> <p>This was the only active timber harvest operation observed during the audit. All other harvest areas reviewed were completed or partially-completed and appeared to meet the relevant Wisconsin BMPs. Also see indicators below.</p> <p>14 A minor CAR issued during the 2013 audit, J0292438-1, had a corrective action plan that was approved last year. The plan included effectively communicating the DNR’s spill policy to the timber sale administrators and emphasizing spill response in the BMP training sessions. This audit confirmed that the corrective action was implemented and this CAR is closed.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.1	Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	A variety of forms and systems are used to manage the harvesting process from planning through final inspection and sale closeout, including pre-harvest contractor meetings and interim inspection forms. BMPs are covered within many of these documents and are required by the logging contract. All jobs are planned and supervised by licensed foresters, and operated by trained loggers.  BMPs are considered in the roads and trails programs as well.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.	MF, NB	13						

<b>Notes</b>	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts in all locations visited.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.3	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).	MF, NB	13						

<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records that timber harvest planning considers weather events, with some sites on dry sands intended for the wet time of year, other sites identified for only dry weather, and other sites only for frozen ground.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.	MF, NB	13						

<b>Notes</b>	BMPs are monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. Every 3 to 10 years the WDNR conducts a systematic assessment of BMP compliance on public lands. This was last done in 2003 (reviewed by previous audit teams).  P3 (higher intensity) CFI plots include measurement of rutting.								
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<i>Notes</i>	<p>Source: Wisconsin Forestry Notes, August 2013 “BMP monitoring happening this fall:</p> <p>Nine teams will be monitoring more than seventy randomly-selected state and county land timber sales this fall for the application and effectiveness of Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality. These voluntary practices are designed to protect water quality during forest management activities with practical, cost-effective methods. Monitoring helps determine the success of the program and to identify areas where improvements are needed.</p> <p>Monitoring teams are each comprised of four individuals with a variety of interests and backgrounds, including people from county, state, and federal agencies, professional forestry organizations, environmental and conservation organizations, and the timber, pulp and paper industries. Team members have expertise in one or more of the following areas: forest management, logging, soils, water quality or fisheries.</p> <p>Since 1995, nearly 600 timber sales have been monitored for BMP application and effectiveness. In general, the correct application of BMPs has improved over time. In 1995 BMPs were correctly applied where needed 86% of the time on both state and county lands. The last time state and county lands were monitored was in 2003. At that time, BMPs were applied correctly 90% of the time on state lands and 93% of the time on county lands. BMP monitoring has also documented that when BMPs are correctly applied, BMP monitoring teams have not observed any adverse impacts to water quality 99% of the time. However, when BMPs are not applied, teams have observed adverse impacts to water quality 69% of the time.”</p>
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2	<b>Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.1	Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.	MF, NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<p><b><u>Wisconsin DNR has developed and implements an exceptional program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.</u></b></p> <p>Confirmed that this program continues to operate effectively by reviews of completed and partially completed timber harvests and road and trail improvement efforts. Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on a Form 2460-001 “Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report” and this information is reflected in the harvesting requirements within the timber sale contracts. Sale and/or harvest unit boundaries are designed to avoid or buffer wetlands, stream, lakes, and other water bodies. Riparian buffers associated with harvests are shown on maps and marked on the ground.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.2	Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	All jobs are planned and supervised by licensed foresters, and operated by trained loggers. Interviews and field observations confirmed that protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies is of utmost concern.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations that non-forested wetlands are protected by excluding them from sales where possible, and by buffering them using special colors of paint to indicate “no harvest” or “no equipment”, or by not marking any trees for harvest. Very small non-forested wetlands are generally protected; loggers try to avoid these, and foresters work to communicate their locations, but some are entered on occasion. Many sites with significant areas of included wetlands (forested and/or non-forested) are designated for winter harvest only.  Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect January 1, 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant; foresters and loggers are aware of these provisions and work to implement them.  Confirmed from field audits that foresters are knowledgeable of the BMP requirements to protect these wetland elements and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.	NA							



<b>Notes</b>	<p>NA: Wisconsin has BMPs, most recently revised in 2010.</p> <p>BMP External Advisory Committee meets 3-4 times per year.</p> <p>Wisconsin BMPs for riparian zones summarized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streams less than 1 foot wide: 35 foot RMZ and no retention requirement</li> <li>Streams 1-3 foot wide: 35 foot RMZ and 60 square foot basal area per acre retention</li> </ul> <p>Streams 3+ foot wide: 100 foot RMZ and 60 square foot basal area per acre retention</p>
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**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.**

To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
<b>4.1.1</b>	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.	Team	14						
<b>Notes</b>	The State has a Wildlife Action Plan, a large number of SNA's (over 600), and HCVF habitats and forests. Wildlife biologists work with the foresters to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on State lands.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
<b>4.1.2</b>	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.	Team	14						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicator 4.1.3 below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.3	Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.	Team	14						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the timber sale cutting notice (form 2460). The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. If an NHI element is present within one mile of the harvest area a biologist is consulted to review the harvest plan and determine whether management objectives will negatively affect the NHI element. In addition, properties complete a biotic inventory or rapid ecological assessment prior to starting a master plan. The new template for interim forest management plans have elements for exception conservation values and timber sale include narratives in regional and ecological considerations, referring ecological landscape handbook and WAP.</p> <p>The team visited sites being managed for several imperiled species and one site that had a revised harvest plan (excluded and area) due to and active goshawk nest.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.	Team	14						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Good examples of the application of State wide silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems were observed in the 2012 field audit. Legacy trees are protected as appropriate (a more-recent change in requirements. Foresters have a good understanding of the reasons for retention and the trade-offs involved.</p> <p>Trees retained for silvicultural and visual management purposes are often selected to provide habitat and diversity benefits. In some, but not all wildlife properties, individual aspen or an aspen retention island were marked for retention.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.5	Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.	Team					14		

<b>Notes</b>	<p>This program is tied to the Master Planning and Interim Forest Management Planning processes. Properties that have completed Master Plans conform to this standard. However, not all properties that have IFMPs have adequately assessed the landscape component for this criteria, particularly the age and size class distribution analysis. This issue becomes more important because observations made during the 2014 audit indicate that DNR staff have embraced “the young forest initiative”. Landscape analysis and results will be critical for DNR to plan future age and size class distribution of habitats across the landscape.</p> <p><b>OFI: Where Master Plans don’t exist, there is an opportunity to improve the assessment of forest cover types, age and size classes and habitats at the landscape level when formulating Interim Forest Management Plans.</b></p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.	JH	14						
<b>Notes</b>	Wisconsin DNR has a robust policy and procedure for identifying and protecting old growth forests that occur on their ownership. Most are protected within SNAs.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.	Team	14						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Sites visited during the 2014 (northern portion of the State) are mostly free of invasive species. There were a few locations on the flowages that had purple loosestrife that was being treated with biocontrol methods and some instances of garlic mustard. Staff are informed of invasive species and the control methods available for treatment.</p> <p><a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/control.html#intro">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/control.html#intro</a> is the Wisconsin DNR’s website. The state has lists of restricted and prohibited plants.</p> <p>Tom Boos, Invasive Plants Coordinator, Division of Forestry manages the program for forests throughout the state (private and public). Works with all aspects of the Wisconsin DNR to integrate best practices regarding invasives. Tom is currently helping re-write the forest management guidelines, and he has been helping with strategic approach to invasives in master planning and interim planning.</p> <p>There is limited funding for invasive control associated with intermediate silvicultural treatments, with funding challenges noted regarding the implementation of invasive control treatments known to be effective. Forests and associated non-forest communities in southern Wisconsin and embedded (within other land classifications) Scientific Natural Areas (SNAs) with restoration/invasive control challenges are of particular concern</p> <p>“A Statewide Plan for Invasive Species: Priority Objectives 2013-2016” lists as top 5 priorities: 1) Improve education and outreach about the impacts of invasive species and what citizens and lawmakers can do ... 2) Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species through new and existing pathways. 3) Improve detection of invasive species by growing networks of partners, supporting the use of information technology, and leveraging current research. 4) Create a dedicated fund for rapid response to new invasive species in Wisconsin. 5) Secure adequate long-term funding to control established invasive species including coordinated, competitive aid to support local actions and partnerships.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.	Team	14						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Site visits confirmed that fire is used frequently to maintain prairie grass habitat and various forest structures associated with open landscapes. In 2014, the team visited areas that had active management for barrens habitat.</p> <p>The program is clearly in conformance; staffing, budgeting, and operations challenges can limit the reach of the prescribed fire program, but the NSF Lead Auditor has seen continuous improvement, as talented and highly-motivated manager and fire personnel innovate and implement in challenging circumstances.</p>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2	<b>Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</b>	Team	14						
<i>Notes</i>	The audit team continued to observe close-working relationship and to see ample evidence of application of existing knowledge as well as advances in scientific and field-tested research. Also see indicators below.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.1	Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.	Team	14						
<i>Notes</i>	WIDNR has an extensive SNA program and a program to classify HCVF. They work with the USFS, TNC and the Counties to collect and assess regional locations for HCVF. Specialists focused on maintaining or enhancing biodiversity work closely with land managers.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.	Team	14						

<b>Notes</b>	Wisconsin DNR incorporated research results and ecosystem research information when they developed the Wildlife Action Plan, which is widely used in making management decisions. Recent management plans exist for some species of conservation need and more species specific management plans are being written. Specialists are available to provide information about wildlife and biodiversity issues, including field biologists, regionally-located ecologists, and other specialists based in Madison.
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**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.**

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1.1</b>	Program to address visual quality management.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Trained foresters plan and oversee all harvests, and experienced supervisors are involved in review and approval.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1.2</b>	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. These efforts were focused on public roads, lakes, and concentrated recreation facilities. Logging contracts include provisions for visual management.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.</b>	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.1	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.	MF		13					

<i>Notes</i>	<b><u>The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.</u></b> Confirmed by field observations that most clearcuts are small; records indicate an average of 9 to 19 acres in recent years. 2012 average clearcut size = 17 acres; Source: SFI 2012 Report								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.	MF	2013						

<i>Notes</i>	2012 average clearcut size =17 acres; Source SFI 2012 Report; 9.8 acres average clear-cut size in 2011. 18.95 acres average clearcut size in 2010.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3	<b>Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.</b>	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality. Green up requirements can hinder efforts to deal with needed adjustments to age-class distribution, notably when dealing with legacy stands of aspen								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF, NB	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. GIS and inventory information are used in this planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Sale maps and GIS; review of adjacent stands during sale set up.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations; no adjacent clearcuts were seen.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.</b>	Team		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<b>The Wisconsin DNR provides an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these in many cases, and is structured to avoid conflicts between necessary projects and recreational activities.</b>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4.1	Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.	Team		13					
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin's public forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities, and the state lands within this scope contribute to this diversity, with some areas of "specialization". Facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, dog sled, horse, ATV and UTV, horse-riding. The extensive recreational trail system is in very good condition.								

**Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.** To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.</b>	Team	14	13					
<b>Notes</b>	<b><u>WiDNR Exceeds the standard in the identification and management of special sites.</u></b> See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.1</b>	Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.	JH	14						
<b>Notes</b>	Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. When a “hit” came up on a proposed sale, the forester contacted the biologist who would provide forest management guidelines to protect the species. Cultural resources sites were protected with a similar program that housed these data.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.2</b>	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.	Team	14						
<b>Notes</b>	Data bases for cultural and biotic special sites are maintained and updated periodically. Staff often report new locations of ETF species to NHI. Appropriate management practices are employed to protect these sites, but for many sites, the exact location is not revealed. This is especially done for endangered resources and special sites that have cultural significance. On staff: Mark J. Dudzik, Departmental Archaeologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities & Lands. WDNR - Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy & Plan: “Burial sites are universally considered sacred, and it is DNR policy that all such areas on DNR properties will be appropriately cared for, and will be treated with the respect they deserve.” The document provides guidance and policy, including a section “DNR BURIAL SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN”.								



**Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.**

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1</i>	<b>Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.</b>	NB, MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1.1</i>	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;</li> <li>b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;</li> <li>c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material;</li> <li>d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or</li> <li>e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.</li> </ul>	NB, MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>New markets are emerging (biomass or wood energy for example) and the Wisconsin DNR works to encourage this trend. Wisconsin DNR has a utilization and marketing specialist based in Madison (central office) working with primary manufacturers. The WDNR be hiring regional forest products specialists.</p> <p>Timber sale contracts include utilization clauses (for example: 4-inch tip for cordwood, 8-inch for softwood sawtimber and 10-inches for hardwood timber). When foresters inspect harvests they consider utilization issues; some of the harvest notes included utilization comments.</p> <p>Utilization in sites the team visited was observed to be good, with foresters checking and enforcing utilization standards. Markets exist for nearly all species and grades of wood grown on county forests. Exceptions are generally limited to less common, and less-commonly harvest species (for example white cedar).</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations, supplemented by interviews, that utilization goals are tempered by requirements to leave some woody debris.</p> <p>Wisconsin’s Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines WI DNR Pub-FR-435-09 specifies CWD retention in biomass harvests.</p>								

**Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable**

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.**

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See evidence below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1.1</b>	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Staff has access to relevant laws, including state statutes and administrative codes using the internet.</p> <p>The Department maintains an intranet that houses manual codes and handbooks for all Department programs. A list of applicable laws and regulations was updated in 2011 and is maintained in the Division of Forestry's Forest Management Guidelines publication, Appendix D.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1.2</b>	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Wisconsin DNR employs an attorney to review key aspects of all programs and major actions.</p> <p>Professional foresters plan all projects, often with review by specialists from other disciplines. Regulations and laws are part of the professional training of these planners/reviewers.</p> <p>Experienced foresters employed by WDNR review and approve most projects, and legal/regulatory compliance is part of these reviews.</p> <p>All harvests are planned and supervised by trained foresters, and operated by trained loggers.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.1.3	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	Senior managers for the Division of Lands and for the Division of Forestry report no regulatory compliance issues over the past several years.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.</b>								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2.1	Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by review of the employee webpage that DNR is committed.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2.2	Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Are there any ILO-related complaints? If yes NSF must pass these along to SFI Inc. No ILO-related complaints received by state lands.								

**Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1</i>	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1.1</i>	Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources.	MF, NB	13,14						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Agreement with U.W. Madison to co-fund a faculty position in forest economics. Wisconsin DNR co-funds a climate change scientist at U.W. Madison. Many studies are underway; Karl Martin, Chief of the Wildlife and forestry Research Station provided an overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed Old-growth silviculture study (how to create old-growth habitat and structure)</li> <li>• Social science regarding social aspects of climate change: known adaptation and mitigation options for forests, wetlands, and grasslands and ; follow-up survey to understand barriers to implement the known strategies, surveyed forest and wildlife managers</li> <li>• Ongoing project on how birds respond to treatments (gaps and retained features)</li> <li>• Boreal bird and spruce grouse project; including a climate</li> </ul> <p><b>SFI Progress Report shows funding for research in 2012 as follows:</b></p> <p>\$132,091 Internal \$43,341 External: Forest Health and Productivity; \$41,634 Internal \$0 External: Water Quality</p> <p>\$8,219 Internal \$217,710 External: Wildlife and Fish; \$208,398 Internal \$109,610 External: Landscape/Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity</p> <p><b>2012 Totals:</b> \$391,342 Internal; \$ 370,661 External</p> <p>14 For 2013:</p> <p>These are the amounts paid from the appropriation for the Master Logger program as identified under: s. 26.105, Wis. Stats. [exit DNR]</p> <table> <tr><td>FY14</td><td>45,500</td></tr> <tr><td>FY13</td><td>26,200</td></tr> <tr><td>FY12</td><td>26,936</td></tr> <tr><td>FY11</td><td>31,080</td></tr> <tr><td>FY09</td><td>63,456</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>\$193,1272</td></tr> </table>	FY14	45,500	FY13	26,200	FY12	26,936	FY11	31,080	FY09	63,456	Total	\$193,1272
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
15.1.2	Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>None being done directly by Wisconsin DNR. Some funding of U.W. for nursery/genetics research.</p> <p>Jim Storandt, Wisconsin Rapids Nursery Superintendent, prepares an annual Nursery Program/Tree Improvement report:  <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/treeplanting/documents/treeimprovement-2012.pdf">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/treeplanting/documents/treeimprovement-2012.pdf</a></p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2	<b>Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2.1	Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>a. Regeneration Assessments: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; regeneration data is obtained during the field measurement phase on the state forests.</p> <p>b. Growth and Drain Assessment: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; growth data is obtained during the field measurement phase.</p> <p>c. Best Management Practices Implementation and Conformance: WDNR periodically conducts an assessment of BMP compliance in forest harvesting throughout Wisconsin; the next such study will focus on county and state lands and will be conducted in the fall of 2013. Confirmed minutes of the “BMP Advisory Committee”.</p> <p>d. WDNR provides landowner direct assistance through its “Private Forestry” program; also Wisconsin Extension.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR co-funds a climate change scientist at U.W. Madison								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>

15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	WICCI – Forestry track. Staff sent report. Climate discussed in RPA of master plan								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.2	Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Managers interviewed were able to describe in general terms potential impacts.								

### Objective 16. Training and Education.

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1	<b>Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.1	Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	The commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard is communicated throughout the organizations via the WDNR – Public Lands Handbook pages 290-11 through 290-13. Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines Appendix C: Forest Certification describes the SFI Program.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.2	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	An ICIT team composed of members of both Forestry and Lands Divisions, with representatives of all of the bureaus involved, helps ensure that roles are understood. Every state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their certification responsibilities.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.3	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Lead auditor requested evidence of the education and training for selected WDNR personnel across the range of agencies who were involved in the audit. Training records (S.K., others) indicated that employees obtain varied training, ranging from agency-provided meetings up to major conferences and even college-level courses. Interviews with professional staff showed most had 4-year degrees and many have advanced degrees in relevant natural resources fields.</p> <p>Pesticide training efforts are being ramped up. Have done an initial round of training that is quite general. There is a draft manual code regarding pesticides, with an attempt to clarify and tighten the implementation of the provision that at least the “supervisor” must be certified.</p> <p>Pesticide use team includes a representative of every agency or sub-agency within Wisconsin DNR that applies herbicides. Each program will have a pesticide use coordinator.</p> <p>Email from Craig Anderson (Parks) to all park superintendents on 06.18.13 providing reminder of importance of following departments’ pesticide use policies and the intranet link. By 07.31.13 all of the park properties had reported back that their staff were appropriately trained.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	14				13		



<b>Notes</b>	<p>There is an opportunity to improve the understanding of logger training requirements by sale administrators.</p> <p>Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized) training credential is specified. <b><u>However there is some confusion about the appropriate way to interpret and enforce contractual stipulations for FISTA-training.</u></b></p> <p>One forester reported that she had received guidance that the contract specification applied to the organization signing the contract. The official SFI interpretation states: For a logging crew to be considered trained, it is not sufficient for just the owner to be trained. Each crew must operate under the direction of an individual, with on-site responsibility, which has completed the SFI Implementation Committee approved state or provincial logger training program (July 2000). Other foresters communicate with FISTA to check on the status of contractors by name, and others reported that they required a FISTA-trained individual to be present on the logging job.</p> <p>Interviews with 2 loggers during field audits indicated that they had allowed their training to lapse, although they had general understanding of the issues involved in the harvests being conducted.</p> <p>Contractors who conduct pesticide application must be Wisconsin Certified Pesticide Applicators. Confirmed (see above).</p> <p>14 Interviews with timber sale administrators indicate they expect a trained person with on-site responsibility.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.5</i>	Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members.</p> <p>Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized as qualified) training credential is specified, but there are some challenges in enforcing this requirement (see previous indicator).</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.2</i>	<b>Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>

16.2.1	<p>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;</li> <li>b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;</li> <li>c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites;</li> <li>d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;</li> <li>g. transportation issues;</li> <li>h. business management;</li> <li>i. public policy and outreach; and</li> <li>j. awareness of emerging technologies.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed considerable involvement in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee, including by interviewing SFI Implementation Committee members during a meeting.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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16.2.2	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program;</li> <li>b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards;</li> <li>c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat;</li> <li>d. use of best management practices to protect water quality;</li> <li>e. logging safety; f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards; g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and</li> <li>h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.</li> </ul>	MF	13							
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by interviews and by direct observation at a training meeting that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program.									

**Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry.**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
17.1	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.</b>	NB	14							
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.									

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.1	Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	WDNR contributes to the SIC through time and participation. Participation by Mark Heyde, WDNR Forest Certification Specialist is on the SIC. In addition, Bob Mather, WDNR Forest Management Bureau Director, is part of the Inconsistent Practices review coordinated by SIC and serves on the Master Logger Certifying Board. Confirmed by review of email from Michael Warnke that WDNR financially supports the Master Logger Program MLC Scholarship. WDNR partners in many of the efforts supported by the SIC including Wisconsin Tree Farm system, and LEAF.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.2	Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.).	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	Satisfied by DNR's participation in the WI SIC. DNR has a Forestry Education Specialist Team that has recently developed a new education and outreach plan. Field offices contain numerous brochures about forest and wildlife management, many developed by DNR. The DNR's website has a forest landowner webpage that has links to many educational items.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.3	Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	Satisfied by DNR's participation in the WI SIC. Field offices and the website have material about special sites and T/E.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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17.1.4	Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Wisconsin DNR has an active program to purchase conservation easements on working forests and riparian zones, or to buy fee forestland to support working forestry.</p> <p>There are 1 ½ positions in the Forestry Program for easement acquisition.</p> <p>Wisconsin DNR Managed Forest Law Program (MFL) is certified under American Tree Farm.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.5	Program Participants 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.	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	DNR recently published a book Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin that is also available on the website.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.2	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.</b>	NB	14						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>

17.2.1	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.	NB	14						
<b>Notes</b>	Wisconsin DNR has an extensive program of outreach and landowner education. Confirmed by looking at the various web pages that provide information and which promote workshops, conferences, etc.  The field offices have extensive educational materials available to the public.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3	<b>Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.</b>	NB	14						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.	NB	14						
<b>Notes</b>	Bob Mather, WDNR Forest Management Bureau Director, is part of the Inconsistent Practices review coordinated by SIC.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.2	Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses.	NB	14						

<i>Notes</i>	Accomplished through Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee.
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**Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.**

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.1</i>	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Public input opportunities during master planning are superb. Planning decisions made during routine planning are less accessible. Managers of the larger units reported and provided evidence of outreach mechanisms.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.2</i>	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Many state parks have “friends” groups, including Friends of Buckhorn (Buckhorn State Park) and Friends of Devil’s Lake State Park.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</b>	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Managers interviewed reported efforts made to confer and to provide opportunities for gathering, hunting, and other traditional activities (Devil's Lake, Buckhorn, Black River State Forest, other)
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
18.2.1	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>DNR maintains tribal liaisons which serve as a single point of contact for specific tribes to the DNR. When topics that affect tribes arise these liaisons work with their tribal contacts to share information and gather feedback. Additionally, individual managers often maintain their own contacts with tribes that are affected by their management and who may have ties to the lands which they manage.</p> <p>Voigt meetings – master plans, major policy</p> <p>Annual; property meetings for operation includes tribes</p> <p>Review of all management activities, site disturbing, timber sales, etc with local tribes</p> <p>Wisconsin Department OF Natural Resources - Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy &amp; Plan: “Burial sites are universally considered sacred, and it is DNR policy that all such areas on DNR properties will be appropriately cared for, and will be treated with the respect they deserve.” The document provides guidance and policy, including a section “DNR BURIAL SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN”.</p> <p>On staff: Mark J. Dudzik , Departmental Archaeologist , Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities &amp; Lands</p>								

**Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.1	<b>A Certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>	MF, NB	13, 14						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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19.1.1	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope; b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i> , if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each; c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative; d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit; e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i> ); f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed; g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and h. the certification decision.	MF, NB	13, 14							
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed the report is present on the SFI website.									
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
19.2	<b>Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>	MF	13							
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.									
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.	MF, NB	13, 14							
<i>Notes</i>	Reviewed copy of report submitted spring 2013. 14 Confirmed by review of email from Rachel that the report was submitted March 14, 2014.									
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.	MF	13							

<i>Notes</i>	WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc. The review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping. All records requested were provided quickly.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI Standard.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Past reports maintained by Mark Heyde.								

### Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement.

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
20.1	<b>Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.</b>	MF, NB	13, 14						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
20.1.1	System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness. Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO MD-1 requirements must be followed (see Multi-site Checklist).	MF, NB	13, 14						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>The DNR's Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) includes a representative from each DNR program. The team meets regularly, as confirmed by ICIT Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2013. <b>"In August 2012 the Forestry and Land Division administrators confirmed that the charge of the Integrated Certification Implementation Team includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination of annual certification audits.</li> <li>Coordinated response to Corrective Action Requests, Observations, and Opportunities for Improvement.</li> <li>Internal monitoring of DNR policies and procedures related to forest certification.</li> <li>Annual certification review with senior management."</li> </ol> <p>Team leaders and Area Foresters and other supervisors work closely with field personnel to ensure that actions meet program guidance, manual codes, scientific principles, and legal requirements, all of which are consistent with the SFI requirements. Most projects require review and sign-off by at least one such supervisory personnel. Interviews confirmed that such managers conduct regular field reviews as well.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
20.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.	MF, NB	13, 14						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>The 2012 audit found “an opportunity to improve the management review process to ensure that differences among the involved programs are fully accounted for”.</p> <p>In response ICIT adopted “a structured agenda, meeting record and task list to document action items and the responsible program.” Source: Agenda and memo for DNR’s annual senior management review, 08.12.13. The ICIT Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2013 used the template for a structured agenda, meeting record and task list. While the OFI was intended to also highlight differences in methods for internal program review the NSF Lead Auditor concluded that the strong overall performance during the 2013 Surveillance Audit helps minimize this concern.</p> <p>A process is in place for master plan monitoring and reporting using a reporting template. This is intended for any property which has a modern master plan that has been in place for at least one year. Copies are sent to central office and are also readily available on the public internet.</p> <p>Integrated Team meetings are held for the range of properties and include employees from across programs. Meetings generally cover various lands for an entire county, or less commonly parts of a county or multiple counties. These are internal meetings and do not involve public participation. Objectives for these meetings are: Ensure an integrated approach to managing all properties, Develop an annual work plan for the property(s). There is a document “Annual Property Management Meetings – expectations, discussions, results, reporting” providing direction for how these meetings are to be held. Monitor and report progress on prior work plans and toward implementing master plan recommendations.</p> <p>A formal internal audit program is also in place, with a focus on SFI requirements managed centrally; all involved bureaus are audited, with the report reviewed by the management team. “ICIT performed a central office audit against the entire SFI standard from a central office program level. ICIT assessed whether Department systems are working, are in compliance, need corrective action, or present opportunities for improvement.” The Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) is also involved in reviews and implementation of corrective actions: “ICIT has had several meetings over the course of the last year to respond to Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and observations from the SFI and FSC 2011 audit reports.” Source: Annual Management Review of DNR Implementation of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard and the FSC US Standard.</p> <p>The various agencies within the scope have established monitoring and reporting protocols that comprise an important foundation for the overall system. Examples include the Wisconsin State Park System - 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and federally-mandated reports for the wildlife and fisheries bureaus.</p> <p>14 Confirmed the 2014 internal audit was completed July 29, 2014 and an FSC related CAR was issued.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
20.1.3	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF, NB	13, 14						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>2013: Agenda and memo for DNR’s annual senior management review, 08.12.13 and the supporting documentation for this management review were the key evidence of conformance with this requirement. The review was structured to focus on issues related to the third-party audit findings from the 2012 audit as well as internal audit findings. Planning and internal controls were key topics.</p> <p>2014: Agenda and memo for DNR’s annual senior management review, July 29, 2014, and the supporting documentation for this management review were the key evidence of conformance with this requirement. The review was structured to focus on issues related to the third-party audit findings from the 2013 audit as well as the 2014 internal audit CAR. The master planning workload and invasive control were key topics.</p>
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## Multi-site Certification – Two Options

A multi-site organization is defined as an organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office – but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.

Organization does **NOT** meet the definition above; the remaining questions do not apply and all remaining portions of the multi-site checklists may be deleted from the report.

### **Option 1: Alternate Approach to Multi-site Certification Sampling based on the Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program, Section 9, Part 5.1 & Appendix 1**

- a) What specific activities are planned, controlled or managed at the central office?  
Budgeting; development of policies, procedures, and guidance, and Master Planning
- b) For each activity, provide evidence:  
These activities were reviewed during audit; see checklist.

#### **General Eligibility Criteria:**

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

Yes       No Evidence All sites are owned by the State of Wisconsin and their management is under the authority of the Wisconsin DNR. "Sites" are considered, for purposes of this checklist, to be the various categories of lands involved in the certificate, and the agencies responsible for them. The reason is that most decisions are centralized, at the agency level (in Madison). For field sampling purposes the larger ownerships and the grouped parcels (for master planning) are considered to be sites.

The scope and scale of activities carried out by participating sites shall be similar.

Yes       No Evidence Land management for varied goals; vegetation management practices are quite similar for exotic invasive plants (funding levels vary) and identical for commercial harvests. Field observations; see main checklist.

The management system framework shall be consistent across all sites (allowing for site level procedures to reflect variable local factors).

Yes       No Evidence See item above; harvest-related approaches are identical; varied agency goals and legal mandates are accommodated within a consistent framework. The strengthening of the DNR's Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT, see Indicator 20.1.1 above) has further improved consistency across programs.

#### **Central Function Requirements:**

Provide a commitment on behalf of the whole multi-site organization to establish and maintain practices and procedures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant standard.

Yes       No Evidence Commitments are clearly stated and documented in official memos or orders. The top leadership for the two involved divisions (Lands Division and Forestry Division) are actively involved and participate in reviews and key directives.

Provide all the sites with information and guidance needed for effective implementation and maintenance of practices and procedures in accordance with the relevant standard.

Yes       No Evidence Guidance flows through various channels, with the Forest Certification Implementation Team being the key approach for certification-related issues. The WDNR has a rich set of manuals and procedures. Field unit personnel know what they need to do.

Maintain the organizational or contractual connection with all sites covered by the multisite Organization including the right of the Central Function to exclude any site from participation In the certification in case of serious non-conformities with the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence WDNR has the legal authority to exclude sites/agencies as needed.

Keep a register of all the sites of the multi-site organization, including (for SFI 2010-2014 Standard) the forest area associated with each participating site.

Yes  No Evidence Scope statement lists land categories included and excluded.

Maintain an internal audit or monitoring program sufficient to provide annual performance data on overall organizational conformance with the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence An internal audit program is in place to ascertain performance of the programs involved. This formal internal audit program includes a focus on SFI requirements managed centrally; all involved bureaus are audited, with the report reviewed by the management team. The audit was completed by the ICIT on July 29, 2014.

Maintain an internal audit or monitoring program sufficient to provide periodic performance data on overall organizational conformance with the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence Internal audits and long-standing periodic and annual monitoring procedures (BMPs, 2460 forms, review and sign-off on major projects, etc) clearly meet the requirements.

Operate a review of the conformity of sites based on results of internal audit and/or monitoring data sufficient to assess Organizational performance as a whole rather than at the individual site level.

Yes  No Evidence Management review agenda and results (see Objective 20 above) and ICIT meetings.

corrective and preventive measures if required and evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.

Yes  No Evidence Internal audit findings are reported in the management review and included a minor CAR for FSC CI 4.4.d.

Establish procedures for inclusion of new sites within the multi-site organization including an internal assessment of conformity with the standard, implementation of corrective and preventive measures and a requirement to inform the relevant certification body of changes in participation prior to including the sites within the scope of the certification.

Yes  No Evidence All appropriate lands are included; when lands are purchased they are added if they are within a land type included in the certificate. Auditors work with WDNR each year to review the scope.

### **Individual Site Functions and Responsibilities**

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence Field reviews and interviews; see main checklist.

Sites respond effectively to all requests from the Central Function or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise.

Yes  No Evidence Sites appear to comply with changes in the program driven by third-party audits or other centrally-directed changes. There are concerns about responses to internal reviews, given that the processes are varied and somewhat informal.

Sites provide full co-operation and assistance in respect of the satisfactory completion of internal audits, reviews, monitoring, relevant routine enquiries or corrective actions.

Yes       No      Evidence      Sites are compliant and cooperative with centrally-issued directive.

Sites implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the central office.

Yes       No      Evidence      Responses to NSF CARs indicate sites implement CAR plans which stem from third-party audits. Responses to the internal audit CARs have not had time to address, but interviews reveal a strong intent to learn from these internal audits and implement the corrections quickly.

**Option 2: NSF-ISR Multi-site Certification Justification based on MD1: 2007**

**NA**

End of Multi-site Checklists

## Boatwright Site Notes Wisconsin DNR 2014 State Lands

### Monday, August 18 Chippewa Flowage

Mark Heyde	Forest Cert. Coord. Madison DNR
Teague Prichard	DNR State Lands
Ryan Magana	Ecologist – NW
Craig Thompson	Land
Dan Yankowiak	Chippewa Flowage Property Manager
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
JoAnn Hanowski	Auditor
Brendan Grady	Auditor
Norman Boatwright	Auditor

### Site 1: Harvest 5818-139

Marked northern hardwood intermediate cut and aspen clearcut with reserves. This is a thin from below harvest that is complete. Little damage to residuals and good stocking. Sold in 2009.

### Site 2: Harvest 5818-157

Adjacent to Site 1. 3 sale types: Aspen clearcut with residual oak, intermediate thin of an oak stand and seed tree cut in a natural red pine stand. 200' buffer along creek, little damage to residuals and good stocking.

### Site 3: Harvest 5818-157

Aspen regen with oak and pine retention. Not cut. Sale occurs along a county paved road and aesthetics were discussed in the Timber Sale Noting and Cutting Report.

### Site 4: Boat Landing on Crane Lake

Landing with floating dock, plenty of parking including handicap.

### Tuesday August 19, 2014 Brule River SF and Amnicon Falls SP

Norman Boatwright	Auditor
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
Matt Blaylock	Bayfield Forestry Team Leader
Dave Schulz	Forest Superintendent
Dan Kephart	Ranger – Assistant Manager
Jason Leu	Forestry Intern
Eric Serrine	Forester
Heather Berklund	Forester – Ashland/Iron
Collen Matula	Forest Ecologist
Nichol Martin	Brule Area Staff Specialist
Zak Neitzel	Brule Private Lands Forester
Greg Behling	Brule Wildlife Tech
Bob Hanson	NW Sands Wildlife Biologist



**Site 1 Harvest 1674-554**

Shelterwood cut to promote oak regen. Good stocking with little damage to residual trees. Ephemeral pools painted out and Ski trail free of debris.

**Site 2 Harvest 1674-515**

Red pine thin and intermediate hardwood cut. Good oak and maple regen. Good stocking with little damage to residuals.

**Site 3 Harvest 1674-547**

Aspen and jack pine stands regen clearcut. Jack pine scarified. Good green tree retention.

**Site 4 Harvest 1674-???? (Vapa Road Sale)**

Oak, aspen and birch regen cut with seed trees. Good pine and oak single retention with no damage to residuals.

**Site 5 Vapa Road Pines (unscheduled stop)**

Special place: mature old red pine with a mixed hardwood understory.

**Site 6 Harvest 1674-547**

Red pine 3<sup>rd</sup> thin with good stocking and little damage to residuals.

**Site 7 Motts Pine Barren (unscheduled stop)**

Jack pine stand clearcut and burned several times. Has converted to prairie grasses.

**Site 8 Harvest 1674-521**

Red pine 2<sup>nd</sup> thin and jack pine regen clearcut. Good stocking and few skins in the thin.

**Site 9 Harvest 1674-???? (Hillside Combo)**

Multiple harvest types: red pine intermediate thin, regen harvest to promote white birch establishment and scrub oak regen cut leaving the residual pine.

**Site 10 Harvest 1674-5565**

Not cut yet. Aspen and ash to be regenerated using clearcut with green tree retention. Northern hardwood has a marked shelterwood cut.

**Site 11 Harvest 1674-???? (Superior Birch)**

Not cut yet. White birch regen cut with marked green tree retention.

**Amnicon Falls State Park**

**Site 1 Harvest 1674-2**

Aspen regen cut with reserves. Winter harvested some group retention and good single tree oak retention. Small suppressed ash were also left for retention and were dying out.

**Site 2 Harvest 1674-3**

Aspen regen cut with reserves. Winter harvested with good large group retention consisting of wetland areas with large upland buffers. Intermittent stream crossing looked fine.

**Wednesday August 20, 2014 White River and Copper Falls SP**

Norman Boatwright	Auditor
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
Heather Berklund	Forester – Ashland/Iron
Todd Naas	Wildlife Biologist
Matt Blaylock	Bayfield Forestry Team Leader
Joesph LeBouton	Forester – North Bayfield
Tom Duke	District Forester
Eric Martin	Forest Ranger
Ryan Magana	NHC Ecologist
Paul Piszczek	Fisheries Biologist
Collen Matula	Forest Ecologist
Ben Bergey	Parks
Tom Piikkila	Forester/Ranger – Mellen
Matt Bauer	Forester - Mellen

**Site 1 White River Fishery Area**

Nice parking area near the White River headwaters. Artesian well that is well used. Working with the fishery folks to replace the road culvert that in affecting flow.

**Site 2 Harvest 410-04**

Red pine marked thin with no issues. Good stocking and little damage to residuals. red and white pine, hemlock and oak. There were aesthetic concerns with harvest along the road.

**Site 3 Prairie**

Old hay field converted to prairie by disking and planting seed. The site will be used as a seed source to assist landowners in establishing prairies. Species include: tall and little blue stem, yellow cone flower, golden rod, milkweed, bergamot and black eyed susan.

**Site 4 Harvest 410-05**

2 harvest types: 1) aspen regen cut with no snag retention and 2) aspen clearcut. This site will be converted to prairie grass.

**South Shore Lake Superior Fish & Wildlife Area**

**Site 5 Harvest 400-01-13**

1 acre northern hardwood clearcut to accommodate the Big Rock Road riprap project.

**Site 6 Sioux River**

This river is a tributary of Lake Superior. Site has a parking lot, signage and trail for fisherman as well as a snowmobile trail maintained by the County club.

**Site 7 Harvest 238-205**

Many different types of sales in a very wet area with no activity. The area we visited was a 2 acre young white spruce stand that will be converted into a handicap accessible parking lot. The sale includes having the logger cut out several trails that will be made handicap accessible.

**Site 8 Harvest 243-192**

Red pine 2<sup>nd</sup> thin with no issues. Good stocking with few skins.

**Site 9 Copper Falls State Park**

Nice state park with ample parking, buildings constructed by the CCC and many trails.

**Thursday August 21, 2014 Minong Ranger Station and Totogatic Wild River**

Norman Boatwright	Auditor
Brendan Grady	Auditor
JoAnn Hanowski	Auditor
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
Bryon Lund	Technician – Spooner
Craig Roberts	Fisheries Biologist – Washburn/Burnett
Kyle Young	Forester – Spooner
Ryan Magana	NHC – Spooner
Brad Johnson	Forestry Team Leader
Rod Fouks	Forestry Area Leader
Tobi Clark	Wildlife Technician - Spooner

**Site 1 Harvest 6618-5-13**

Jack pine regen clearcut. No timber had been cut and the area has been scarified.

**Hanowski Site Notes Wisconsin DNR 2014 State Lands**

Monday, August 18

JoAnn Hanowski Auditor  
Dan Yankowiak- Property Manager, Randy Sobralski, Forester, Jim Kujala, Forester, Pete Wisdom, Forestry  
Site 1: Benson Creek Fisheries Area

Harvest 5801-158

A marked sale in a red oak stand. This is an intermediate thin from below harvest that will be completed in summer. The goal is to maintain oak on the site. Talked about marking wildlife trees.

Site 2: Beverly Lake Fisheries Sale 5804-155

Thirteen acre intermediate thinning in a hardwood stand. Long term goal is to maintain the stand in a mixed hardwood condition. Large oak trees were left as legacy trees on the site.

#### Site 3: Eddy Creek Fisheries Sale 5804-154

Aspen regeneration harvest with scattered retention of oak and pine. The majority of the retention was left in three retention islands and in a stream buffer. Some aspen was cut in stream buffer to manage against beaver in these trout streams.

Tuesday , August 19, 2014

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor

Don Schumacher	Price/Taylor Forestry Team Leader
Kyle Schmidt	DNR- Price County Liason Forester
Tom Onchuck	Forester/Ranger Park Falls
Fred Freeman	Forester FRSF
Pat Beringer	DNR Wildlife-Kimberly Clark
Mark Schmidt	DNR Wildlife Liason Flambeau Forest
Heidi Brunkow	Forester FRSF
Larry Glodoski	Area Forestry Leader Hayward
Mark Heyde	Forest Cert. Coord. Madison DNR
Teague Prichard	DNR State Lands
Maggie Lorenz	Forester FRSF
Jim Halvorson	Superintendent FRSF
Roy Gilge	FRSF Forestry Tech

#### Site 1 Sale 5873-725

Site regenerated after 1977 windstorm and sale consisted of a northern hardwood thinning a red pine harvest and aspen regeneration. An aesthetic buffer was left along the road and there was aesthetic considerations along Connors Lake. Looked at a rehabilitated stream crossing. Good BMP implementation.

#### Site 2. Loopy Hills Ski Trail

DNR manages, maintains, and grooms this 22 mile ski trail. Special harvest considerations were applied along the ski trail corridor (no clearcut harvesting).

#### Site 3. Tract 1-13

Sale was within the quarter mile scenic river corridor, the Loopy Hills Ski trail and ATV trail pass through the sale. A goshawk nest found on the site resulted in over 30 acres being removed from the sale. DNR personnel found and reported nest to NHI. Harvest prescription was a thinning in a northern hardwood (sale marked but not harvested).

#### Site 4. ATV Trail

Drove on ATV trail for over 10 miles. DNR maintains this trail and has improved the trail with crowning and ditching.

#### Site 5. Kimberly Clark WA

Currently operating on an IFMP. Primary management is for sharp-tailed grouse (open landscape) with burning and herbicide treatments.

#### Sale 1-11

An aspen regeneration harvest on the edge of the WA. Retention trees were oak, elm, conifers and W painted trees as well as an RMZ along Price Creek and a hardwood inclusion.

#### Site 6. Sale 5873-719

This sale was within the scenic river corridor. Prior to the 2010 Master Plan, no harvest was allowed within the corridor. The Master Plan allows harvesting in the corridor that focuses on maintaining large and long-lived tree species. This sale included a hardwood select, a small aspen regeneration and a white pine thinning.

#### Site 7. Forest access road.

Road construction to meet Master Plan goal for sustainable forest roads. Good construction and ditching and erosion control devices. The forest has also developed 60 miles of hunter walking trails.

#### Site 8. Sale 5873-701

A hardwood thinning site. A portion of the sale was treated with harvested in a row configuration. Strips of trees were harvested and the rows of trees were thinned. This was done to protect advance regeneration in the rows. Walked through a patch of hemlock and discussed hemlock regeneration efforts.

#### Site 9. Sale 5873-723

A 108 acre northern hardwood thinning sale along an ATV and ski trail. This site is in the river corridor management area and was affected by a 2001 wind storm. Left a 20 foot buffer along the ski trail.

#### Site 10: Sale 5873-744

A multi-species harvest area- select cut of northern hardwoods, aspen regeneration, tamarack patch cuts, and a small shelterwood. Looked at tamarack patches and discussed loss of tamarack on the forest and methods to insure regeneration. Lots of regeneration after the 2013 harvest.

Wednesday, August 10, 2014

JoAnn Hanowski	Auditor
Matt Bauer	Forester, Mellen
Joe Schmidt	Forester
Heather Berklund	Forestry, Team Leader
Chris Paulik	TFF Property Manager
Pat Beringer	Wildlife Property Manager
Tom Onchuck	Forester

Site 1: Underwood 2635-198

This marked sale in a hemlock/yellow birch stand is within a COA for the American marten. The goal is to regenerate hemlock and yellow birch by thinning the overstory to about 100 ba.

Site 2: 2635-206

This site was marked by a contractor. It was an even-aged hardwood stand and the goal is to manage toward an uneven-aged condition. Good hemlock regeneration on the site.

Site 3: Little Turtle Flowage

This flowage was acquired from Iron County in 2003 via a land swap. There are trumpeter swans, wild rice and a 23 km ski trail that is groomed by a local club. The ski club manages a warming building on the south end of the trail.

Site 4. Tract 02-10 sale 185

This 56 acre site was harvested in 2013 and the goal is to convert the site over time to a longer lived species mix and with more conifer. Green tree retention included red and white pine, hemlock and oak. There were aesthetic concerns with harvest along the road.

Site 5. Tract 1-14 (deadhorse lake)

This marked sale included two areas with aspen regen and a white pine thinning. Wetlands on the site were red-lined and buffered by 30feet of no harvest. In addition, to the prescriptive species retention, staff will mark 5 leave tree aspen/acre.

Site 6. Tract 06-11 Sale 194

This was an active sale in a marked for removal northern hardwood stand. Site notes examined on site included the presale meeting and three site visits since harvest was started.

Hay Creek Wildlife Management Area

Site 7. Tract 1-1B

This stand was a marked hardwood thinning and a portion where aspen regeneration was to be completed. The goal is to maintain hardwoods and longer lived conifer species, especially cedar.

Site 8. Culver replacement

Multiple road wash-outs required that a new culvert was installed on Hay Creek. Good placement of culvert in terms of height to allow fish passage.

Site 9. Flowage control device on Hay Creek.

This dike and water control device is maintained for integrity by managing beaver activity and by controlling woody vegetation on the dike with herbicide. Wild rice harvest in the flowage is controlled by local tribes.

Site 10. Tract 1-12

This was a 9 acre hardwood thinning and 32 acre aspen regeneration harvest. An RMZ was maintained along an adjacent stream and was excluded from the sale. Retention in the aspen areas was primarily conifer species.

Site 11. Tract 2-13

Three parcels totaling 56 acres have been marked and sold and will require winter harvest. The goal is to promote aspen regeneration and to retain conifers on the site as leave trees.

Site 12. 3-9

Four parcels were included in this 2009-10 harvest (one hardwood thinning and three even-aged aspen). The regeneration in the gaps that we looked at was good.

Site 13. 3-12

This stand was a 44 acre aspen regeneration active harvest site. One patch of mature aspen was reserved on there was an RMZ along Hay Lake. Green tree retention on the site was primarily fir, spruce, cedar and pine.

## **Grady Site Notes Wisconsin DNR 2014 State Lands**

### **Monday Aug 18**

Hayward Service Center

Opening Meeting; Staff Interviews

## **Tuesday Aug 19**

### Attendees:

Brendan Grady, Auditor  
Jim Becker, DNR Forestry  
Rod Fouks, DNR Forestry  
Kyle Anderson, DNR Forestry  
Mike Wallis, DNR Forestry  
Ryan Magana, DNR Natural Heritage  
Steve Hoffman, DNR Wildlife  
Pete Engman, DNR Wildlife  
Craig Thompson, DNR Lands  
John Furr, DNR Forestry  
Jay Riewestahl, DNR Forestry  
Jim Ulmaniec, DNR Forestry  
Tom Duke, DNR Forestry  
Steve Runstrom, DNR Forestry

### Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

Premier birding area, management focused on upland areas to be converted to early successional habitat. Many harvests dealing with salvage from major windstorm in 2011. Contains embedded state natural area – Crex Sand Prairie, prescribed burned every 7-9 years. Annual bird surveys conducted comparing usage in burned areas to blowdown areas.

### Site #1 Sale # 780-210

Barrens management area, goal was to restore site to jack pine – oak barrens type. exempt from green tree management requirements

### Site #2 Sale # 780212

Salvage sale of jack pine from blowdown. Operational difficulties due to small postage size property and high demand for loggers to cope with salvage from the wind event. Discussed Karner blue butterfly management.

### Governor Knowles State Forest

State forest 55 miles long bordering the St. Croix River. Immediate buffer zone along the river is owned by the federal government based on St. Croix's designation as a national scenic riverway. Heavy recreation use, Harvesting equipment was on-site but not being actively used. Inspected equipment. Review of skid trails in harvest areas, BMP review.

### Site #3 Sale # 260

Completed sale with several sections including clearcut of Oak/Aspen area, clearcut with reserves. Adjacent to embedded SNA. Discussed SNA protection measures,

### Site #4 Sale #263



Prepared sale, red pine thinning. Unmarked sale, row thinning will be used. Tract is adjacent to county road, discussed aesthetic management.

#### Danbury Wildlife Area

Site #5 sale #0717-111

Aspen clearcut and red pine thinning following windstorm. Review of regeneration methods. Tract is part of property that will be traded to county forest as part of a land deal to consolidate state ownership in a nearby wildlife area.

#### Amsterdam Slough Wildlife Area

Site #6 Sale AM 1-13

Even aged harvest in Hardwood stand. Goal is oak regeneration to stay ahead of red maple occupying the site. Access road showed minor rutting but it did not meet the BMP definitions of excessive rutting. Active eagle nest neighboring the sale resulting in operational restrictions.

#### **Wednesday Aug 20**

Attendees:

Brendan Grady, Auditor

Terry Asleson, Forester – Webster

Nancy Christel, Wildlife Biologist – Spooner

Rod Fouks, Area Forestry Leader – Minong

Kyle Young, Forester – Spooner

Tobi Clark, Wildlife Tech – Spooner

Brad Johnson, Forestry Team Leader – Spooner

Pete Engmen, Area Wildlife Manager, Grantsburg

Nolan Kriegel, LTE Forester – Spooner

Dave Kafura, DNR Forest Hydrologist

Bryon Lund, Lands – Spooner

Craig Roberts, Fisheries Biologist – Washburn/Burnett

Craig Thompson, Lands, Forest Certification Implementation Team

Kurt Dreger, Property Manager, Interstate Park

Janette Cain, Forester

Kevin Morgan, Property Manager, Mackenzie Creek Wildlife Area

Paul Heimstead, Forester

Chris Rucinski, Forester

#### Beaver Brook Wildlife Area

Site # 1, Sale 6601

Sale contained several harvest units, Oak selection harvest, oak shelterwood final removal, and pine thinning. Retention in harvest units focused on large wolf trees. Oak release was primary management goal. Harvest area contained wetland area, marked out with 15' buffer. Discussed Beaver Brook property expansion, use of ATV trail through the property.

### Clam River Fishery Area

#### Site #2 -

Trout habitat restoration project. Brushing for angler access, instream structures added.

### Sand Creek Fishery Area

#### Site #3

Culvert inspection, discussion of culvert maintenance and monitoring programs.

### McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area

Variety of forest types throughout the property. Large component of aspen. Harvests focus on young forest initiative. Heavy use of the property for deer hunting. Contains Sphagnum lake bog embedded state natural area (Tula Lake)

#### Site #4 – Sale 196

Clearcut aspen harvest. Reviewed retention guidelines. Unit included alder lowland which was buffered out. Ice Age Trail runs through harvest unit, no buffer was left because of risk of overmature aspen falling into the trail.

### Interstate Park

Wisconsin's oldest state park, bordering Dalles of the St. Croix River. Visitation fairly low, primarily weekend day use from twin cities. Timber harvesting had not occurred on the park since 1980. A master plan variance was required in order to allow a harvest. This will likely be the last harvest before a new master plan is approved.

#### Site #5 – Sale 4935-1

Harvest in several sections, one to create a forestry interpretive trail to show examples of harvesting. Another area focused on creating pockets in the canopy to regenerate sugar maple, balance the use of the property as a park with the need to regenerate an over-mature stand. Regeneration in the forest is challenge due to intense deer browse. in to regenerate

#### Site #6 –

Bedrock Glade State Natural Area, embedded within Interstate Park. Management practices focus on invasive species control to promote the oak grass system characteristic of the SNA

### Loon Lake Wildlife Area

Rolling topography, difficult for farming which allowed this are to remain forested and eventually acquired by the state. Primary use is hunting for a bariety of game species. Forest management goals are to maintain all age classes and habitat types across the property.

#### Site #7 – Sale #170

Marked stand, not yet harvested. Highly diverse timber types in a small area, with oak shelterwood, aspen regeneration, and hardwood selection units. Existing stand was naturally regenerated from grazed land in the 50s.

## **Thursday Aug 21**

### Totogatic Wild River

Recently acquired properties bordering the Totgatic River. 150' easement along the river prohibiting any harvesting except habitat improvement and invasive species removal.

### Site #1 – Sale #6604

Jack pine clearcut harvest. Soil scarification techniques to regenerate jack pine. Discussion of forest health concerns over budworm and in stand retention

### Hayward Service Center

Staff Interviews; Closing meeting

**Appendix IV**



**Opening and Closing Meeting Attendees**

**August 19, 2014 Opening Meeting Hayward DNR Service Center**

Norman Boatwright	Auditor
Brendan Grady	Auditor
JoAnn Hanowski	Auditor
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
Heather Berklund	Forester – Ashland/Iron
Mark Heyde	Forest Cert. Coord. Madison DNR
Teague Prichard	DNR State Lands
Ryan Magana	Ecologist – NW
Craig Thompson	Land
Dan Yankowiak	Chippewa Flowage Property Manager
Ben Bergey	Park Supervisor
Dan Yankowiak	Chippewa Flowage Property Manager
Paul Cunningham	Fishery
Paul Bruggink	District Land Program Manager
Rod Fouks	DNR Area Leader
Tom Duke	District Forestry Leader
Frank Trcka	Wildlife
Adrian Wydeven	Wildlife Biologist
Larry Glodoski	Area Forestry Leader
Kate Fitzgerald	Facilities & Land

**August 21, 2014 Closing Meeting Hayward DNR Service Center**

Norman Boatwright	Auditor
Brendan Grady	Auditor
JoAnn Hanowski	Auditor
Randy Hoffman	SNA Ecologist
Heather Berklund	Forester – Ashland/Iron
Mark Heyde	Forest Cert. Coord. Madison DNR
Teague Prichard	DNR State Lands
Ryan Magana	Ecologist – NW
Craig Thompson	Land
Dan Yankowiak	Chippewa Flowage Property Manager
Paul Cunningham	Fishery
Rod Fouks	DNR Area Leader
Frank Trcka	Wildlife
Adrian Wydeven	Wildlife Biologist
Larry Glodoski	Area Forestry Leader
Ken Jonas	WM Area Supervisor
Jim Warren	Forestry
Bob Mather	Forestry
Joe Schwantes	Forestry
Darrell Zastrow	Forestry
Kate Fitzgerald	Land

**Appendix V**



**SFI Reporting Form**

One change: Certified acres = 1,545,703