

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND STUMP-TO-FOREST GATE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION EVALUATION REPORT

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – State Forests and Lands
Wisconsin, USA

SCS-FM/COC-00070N

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dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestry.html

CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
31 December 2018	30 December 2023

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
20-24 August 2018
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13 November 2018

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Foreword

SCS Global Services (SCS) is a certification body accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council to conduct forest management and chain of custody evaluations. Under the FSC / SCS certification system, forest management enterprises (FMEs) meeting international standards of forest stewardship can be certified as “well managed,” thereby permitting the FME’s use of the FSC endorsement and logo in the marketplace subject to regular FSC / SCS oversight.

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams of natural resource specialists and other experts in forested regions all over the world to conduct evaluations of forest management. SCS evaluation teams collect and analyze written materials, conduct interviews with FME staff and key stakeholders, and complete field and office audits of subject forest management units (FMUs) as part of certification evaluations. Upon completion of the fact-finding phase of all evaluations, SCS teams determine conformance to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of our evaluation is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This section is made available to the general public and is intended to provide an overview of the evaluation process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the evaluation. Section A will be posted on the FSC Certificate Database (<http://info.fsc.org/>) no less than 30 days after issue of the certificate. Section B contains more detailed results and information for the use of by the FME.

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Certificate Registration Information

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		
Contact person	Mark Heyde		
Address	101 S. Webster Street	Telephone	608-220-9780
	P.O. Box 7921	Fax	608-266-8576
	Madison, WI 53707-7921	email	Mark.Heyde@Wisconsin.gov
		Website	dnr.wi.gov

FSC Sales Information

<input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales contact information same as above.			
FSC salesperson	Sabina Dhungana, WDNR, Forest Products Services		
Address	101 S. Webster Street	Telephone	608-220-4531
	P.O. Box 7921	Fax	608-266-8576
	Madison, WI 53707-7921	e-mail	Sabina.Dhungana@wisconsin.gov
		Website	dnr.wi.gov

Scope of Certificate


Certificate Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single FMU		<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group			
Number of FMUs in scope of certificate	1			
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	<i>Latitude & Longitude:</i>			
Forest zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical		<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:				Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
privately managed	0			
state managed	1549567			
community managed	0			
Number of FMUs in scope that are:				
less than 100 ha in area	0	100 - 1000 ha in area	0	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	0	more than 10 000 ha in area	1	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:				Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
are less than 100 ha in area	0			
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	0			
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	0			

Division of FMUs into manageable units:
Individual management units are identified by property name and responsible bureau. Within each property, stands are defined by species groups and/or age classes.

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender): FY 2018		
Male workers: 1531 (590 Permanent)	Female workers: 653 (149 Permanent)	
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: 6	Fatal: 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use
See attached spreadsheet	 Copy of 2017UnprotectedPU			

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	726,224 scheduled for management (WisFIRS Rpt 101)
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	90,310 (PR, SW and 2/3 PJ) (Rpt.102)
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	635,914 (Total area minus replanting)
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	
Clearcut (clearcut size range (0.5-236). Ave: 13.64 acres	129382.2 (1/3 PJ, OX , ½ MR, Fb, SB, ½ T, ½ C)
Shelterwood	214793.5 (PW, O & ½ MR)
Other:	296140 ((A, BW, MC, SC, ½ T, ½ C))

Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	100,538 (NH)
Group selection	142,236(BH, SH, CH, H, MD)
Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
	Rpt 201 ASPEN 4,760 BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS 743 WHITE BIRCH 136 WHITE CEDAR 135 CENTRAL HARDWOODS 471 BALSAM FIR 85 FIR SPRUCE-*OLD CODE, RECODE 49 HEMLOCK 167 MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS 33 MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS 47 RED MAPLE 487 NORTHERN HARDWOODS 2,882 OAK 3,244 SCRUB OAK 517 JACK PINE 574 RED PINE 2,726 WHITE PINE 1,716 BLACK SPRUCE 276 SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE 48 SWAMP HARDWOODS 759 WHITE SPRUCE 104 TAMARACK 228 WALNUT 33
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	0
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	0
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	Christmas trees 26 trees and 225 tons of boughs

		(WisFIRS export product 40 & 42T) FY18
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: (Scientific / Latin Name and Common / Trade Name)		
Aspen/Popple:	Populus tremuloides	
	Populus grandidentata	
Balsam poplar	Populus balsamifera	
White birch	Betula papyrifera	
Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	
Swamp white oak	Quercus bicolor	
Silver maple	Acer saccharinum	
American elm	Ulmus americana	
River birch	Betula nigra	
Green ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	
White oak	Quercus alba	
Bur oak	Quercus macrocarpa	
Black oak	Quercus velutina	
Northern pin oak	Quercus ellipsoidalis	
Black walnut	Juglans nigra	
Butternut	Juglans cinerea	
Shagbark hickory	Carya ovata	
Bitternut hickory	Carya cordiformis	
Black cherry	Prunus serotina	
Red maple	Acer rubrum	
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	
Scotch pine	Pinus sylvestris	
European larch	Larix decidua	
Norway spruce	Picea abies	
Eastern redcedar	Juniperus virginiana	
Blue spruce	Picea pungens	
Norway maple	Acer platanoides	
Boxelder	Acer negundo	
Black locust	Robinia pseudoacacia	
Honey locust	Gleditsia triacanthos	
Eastern Hophornbeam, Ironwood	Ostrya virginiana	
Musclewood, Bluebeech	Carpinus caroliniana	
Sugar maple	Acer saccharum	
Yellow birch	Betula alleghaniensis	
White ash	Fraxinus americana	
American beech	Fagus grandifolia	
American basswood	Tilia americana	
Northern red oak	Quercus rubra	
Northern white cedar	Thuja occidentalis	
Balsam fir	Abies balsamea	
Eastern hemlock	Tsuga canadensis	
Red Pine	Pinus resinosa	
Jack Pine	Pinus banksiana	
Eastern white pine	Pinus strobus	

Black spruce	Picea mariana
Tamarack	Larix laricina
Black ash	Fraxinus nigra
White spruce	Picea glauca

FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1 Rough wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	All
W1 Rough wood	W1.2 Fuel wood	All
W3 Wood in chips	W3.1 Wood chips	All
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	252,181 acres -- stands not scheduled for management (with WisFIRS prefix R,Y, Z) WisFIRS Rpt. 101

*Note: Total conservation and HCV areas may differ since these may serve different functions in the FME's management system. Designation as HCV may allow for active management, including commercial harvest. Conservation areas are typically under passive management, but may undergo invasive species control, prescribed burns, non-commercial harvest, and other management activities intended to maintain or enhance their integrity. In all cases, figures are reported by the FME as it pertains local laws & regulations, management objectives, and FSC requirements.

High Conservation Value Forest / Areas			Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	Area
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines; Embedded Wetlands Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds: Xeric Pine-Oak Forests; Pine-Oak Barrens;	20,475

		<p>Large Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; estuaries, Green Bay Marshes</p> <p>Lake Superior: Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes; Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest;</p> <p>Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin Prairies, Fens, Savannas</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features:</p> <p>Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands Northern Highland Northern Lake Michigan Northwest Lowlands Northwest Sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southern Lake Michigan</p>	
HCV2	<p>Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p>	<p>Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants; Springs and Cold Water Streams; Cliffs, Caves and Talus</p>	114,588

		<p>Slopes; Relic Conifer Stands and Algific Slopes</p> <p>Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines ;Embedded Wetlands; Biologically Rich Freshwater Lakes</p> <p>Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds: Xeric Pine-Oak Forests; Pine-Oak Barrens; Large Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; estuaries, Green Bay Marshes</p> <p>Lake Superior: Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes; Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest; Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin Prairies, Fens, Savannas, Kettle Moraine Forest, Emergent Marshes</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features: Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains</p>	
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		<p>Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southern Lake Michigan</p> <p>Key Ecological Features: Marl Lakes, Lower Wolf River</p>	
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	<p>Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants; Springs & Cold-Water Streams; Cliffs, Caves, and Talus Slopes; Relict Conifer Stands & Algific Slopes</p> <p>Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines; Embedded Wetlands; Biologically Rich Wild Freshwater Lakes</p> <p>Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds Xeric Pine-Oak Forests Pine-Oak Barrens Large Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; Estuaries; Green Bay Marshes</p> <p>Lake Superior</p>	192,071

		<p>Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes, Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest; Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin: Prairies, Fens, Savannas; Kettle Moraine Forests; Emergent Marshes;</p> <p>Wisconsin's Key Ecological Features Marl Lakes; Lower Wolf River</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features: Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands Northern Highland Northern Lake Michigan Northwest Lowlands Northwest sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southwest Grasslands Superior Coastal Plain Western Coulees & Ridges Western Prairie</p>	
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		

HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		776
Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'			327,910

Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification (Partial Certification and Excision)

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the applicant is included in the scope.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Applicant owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Applicant wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.</i>		
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	<p>The following DNR owned properties (about 37,798 total acres) are excluded from the scope of forest certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural fields subject to share-crop agreements (approximately 20,600 acres – (Stands with cover-type F in WisFIRS)) • Specific intensive non-forest use areas, as provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Fish Hatcheries, Rearing Ponds & Rough Fish Stations (180 acres – LMS¹ (4 ac./site)) • State Forest Nurseries (297 acres – WisFIRS) • Poynette Game Farm and McKenzie Environmental Center (621 acres - WisFIRS) • Boat Access Sites (718 acres – LMS² (1 ac./access)) • Fire & Radio Tower Sites (143 acres – LMS³ (1 ac./tower)) • Ranger Stations, Administrative Offices and Storage Buildings (6,818 acres – LMS⁴ (2.5 ac./building)) • State Park Intensively Developed Recreation Areas (200 acres – WisFIRS) e.g. Peninsula State Park golf course, Blue Mound State Park swimming pool, Granite Peak Ski Area • Cooperatively managed state trails where the responsibility and authority for planning and management have been given to partners, primarily counties (7,321 acres) <p>Additionally, lands leased or eased from other owners who have retained vegetative management authority are also excluded (i.e. Forest Legacy conservation easements, stream access easements, etc.).</p> <p>*Included in the scope of forest certification are DNR fee title owned properties and the leased Meadow Valley, McMillian, and Wood County Wildlife Areas.</p>	
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	Certified areas are well defined so that any timber sold from uncertified lands is not mixed. Certified and uncertified material is sold as part of separate timber sales.	
Description of FMUs excluded from or forested area excised from the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac)
Refer to areas cited above.		

1.2 Standards Used

All standards employed are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS' Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS' COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements.

Standards used <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC-US, V1-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V7-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

1.3 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048
Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144
Area Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m ²)	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
Volume Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m ³)	0.02831685
Gallon (gal)	Liter (l)	4.546
Quick reference		
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha	
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha	
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters	
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters	

2. Description of Forest Management

2.1 Management Context

2.1.1 Regulatory Context

<p>Pertinent regulations at the national level</p>	<p>Endangered Species Act Clean Water Act (Section 404 wetland protection) Occupational Safety and Health Act National Historic Preservation Act Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act Americans with Disabilities Act U.S. ratified treaties, including CITES Lacey Act Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act National Resource Protection Act National Environmental Protection Act National Wild and Scenic River Act Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act Rehabilitation Act Architectural Barriers Act</p>
<p>Pertinent regulations at the state/local level</p>	<p>Statutory authority to engage in forest certification (broadly interpreted): §§23.11, 28.01, 28.07, and 77.80 DNR Manual Codes and Handbooks Wisconsin Pesticide Law (Chapter 94, WI Statutes) Use of Pesticides on Land and Water Areas of the State of Wisconsin (WI Administrative Code, Chapter NR 80) Wild Animals and Plants Law (Chapter 29, WI Statutes) and WI Administrative Code NR 10 Wisconsin Water Law: UW Booklet Wisconsin Groundwater Law (Chapter 160, WI Statutes) Navigable Waters (Chapter 30, WI Statutes) Water Quality Standards for Wetlands (Chapter NR 103, WI Administrative Code) Wisconsin Shoreland Management Program (Chapter NR 115, WI Administrative Code) Endangered and Threatened Species (Chapter NR 27, WI Administrative Code) Wisconsin Historic Preservation Laws</p>
<p>Regulatory context description</p>	<p><i>(Adapted from the 2014 Full Evaluation Report)</i> In 1967, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources. The Department coordinates the preservation, protection and regulation of the natural environment for the benefit of the people of Wisconsin and its visitors. Included in its responsibilities are water and air quality protection, water supply regulations, solid and hazardous waste management, contamination cleanup, protecting biodiversity, fish and wildlife management, forest management and protection, providing parks and outdoor</p>

	<p>recreation opportunities, lake management, wetland, shoreland and floodplain protection, and law enforcement.</p> <p>The Department also coordinates federal, state and local aid programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies and administers federal funds available for outdoor recreation, thereby taking a lead role in planning state outdoor recreation facilities. It administers state aid programs for local outdoor recreation and pollution abatement.</p> <p>The Department is a cabinet agency, with the Secretary and a citizen Board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Secretary is the Department's chief executive officer, and the seven-member citizen Natural Resources Board directs and supervises the Department.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and exercises authority and responsibility in accordance with governing statutory provisions. Chapter 15 of the Wisconsin Statutes delineates the formal duties of the seven-member board. Board Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Three members each must be selected from the northern and southern portions of the state and one member serves "at large."</p>
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2.1.2 Environmental Context

Environmental safeguards:
<p>Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect in 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant. 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. Logging contractors are required to have specialized training and continuing education to remain abreast of safety and environmental issues related to harvesting.</p> <p>Water quality considerations, including lakes or rivers potentially affected by harvests, are documented for each proposed harvest on Form 2460, and this information is reflected in the harvesting requirements within the timber sale contracts. 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. Furthermore, the Wisconsin "Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" contains excellent written guidelines for controlling erosion and protecting water and wetlands.</p>
Management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species and their habitats:
<p>FME has a thorough process for addressing the management of RTE species. Prior to master planning, Rapid Ecological Assessments are conducted by ecologists from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. Thus, any RTE species known to the ecologists or documented in the survey are considered in the planning process. Members of the public, such as research institutions, can report suspected locations of RTE species for verification by Natural Heritage staff. In addition, any planned harvesting activity is reviewed by representatives from all relevant divisions of DNR, and Natural</p>

Heritage Inventory databases are referenced. Interviews with a number of NHC ecologists during field visits revealed descriptions of numerous surveys designed to assess rare species and important indicator species.

If a rare ecological community is present, it is identified in the state's NHI database, at which point the land manager consults with an ecologist in the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation to develop appropriate management options. More commonly, rare communities are already identified and may be part of a State Natural Area, with a management plan developed to feature a viable community.

2.1.3 Socioeconomic Context

According to the US Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/wi>, accessed 8/24/18), manufacturing, healthcare, wholesales, and service industries are important sources of employment and revenue in Wisconsin's economy.

The FME maintains and regularly updates economic factsheets that outline the importance of the forest-based economy by each county and the indirect impacts of forestry-related jobs on the economy: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html>. In addition, the Wisconsin DNR manages forests, wildlife, natural areas, and other public lands that support recreation and tourism industries.

As of 2017, according to *Wisconsin's Forest Products Industry report* (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestBusinesses/documents/WisconsinForestProductsIndustry.pdf>, accessed 08/24/18): "Forest products in Wisconsin contribute significantly to the economy, accounting for 12% of the value of all shipments, as well as 13.5% of jobs and 13.1% of wages in the manufacturing sector. There are over 64,000 employees employed in this sector (mostly in paper and wood product manufacturing) and 1,207 establishments. The average wage is \$47,083 with total wages contributing about \$3.4 billion per year to Wisconsin's economy. This industry has not fared well in recent years. Since 2006, the number of employees and total wages have decreased by 11% and the number of establishments is down 15%. But the situation has improved somewhat since 2014 with an upturn in both employee and establishment numbers as well as total wages. Paper mill jobs, however, continue to decline.

"Overall, the forest products industry contributed about \$3.4 billion per year in wages to the Wisconsin economy in 2016. This is down from \$3.8 in 2006, a decrease of 11%. In the past few years, some sectors have begun to show an increase in total wages. Paper mills and wood product manufacturing have been the largest contributors to the decline in total wages, from \$2.2 billion in 2006 to \$1.5 billion in 2016, a decrease of 32%. Total wages have decreased in all sectors with the exception of wood furniture manufacturing where wages have increased by 86% since 2006."

2.1.4 Land use, Ownership, and Land Tenure

(Adapted from the 2014 Full Evaluation Report)

The scope of the certificate includes state forests managed for diverse forest-based uses as well as Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division properties. These property types include: State Parks, Wildlife Areas, Recreation Areas and Trails, Fisheries Areas and Natural Areas, Natural Resource Protection and Management Areas, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, State Wild Rivers, State Owned Islands and Stewardship Demonstration Forests.

Recreation is one of the primary uses of State Forests with over two million visitors annually on the Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest alone. Hunting, hiking, boating, fishing, camping, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling are examples of popular recreational activities that occur on state lands. Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation.

According to the US Census Bureau, the self-identified indigenous population of the Wisconsin is 1.2% of the state’s estimated population in 2017 or roughly 70,000 people. This figure does not represent people who may claim one or more identities (e.g., multiracial or multiethnic; <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/wi>, accessed 8/24/18). However, especially in rural areas, several tribes have hunting, gathering, and other use rights on public lands. The resources that are subject to these treaties are managed through government-to-government relationships (e.g., Voight Decision) and sometimes through cooperative mechanisms (e.g., Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission or GLIFWC). Increasingly, the FME and tribes have been working on measures that would allow tribes more autonomy in the management of certain natural resources.

2.2 Forest Management Plan

Management objectives:
<p>All forest management planning documents are publicly available here: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestplanning/. The Division of Forestry’s Strategic Direction document (December 2016) details objectives at the state level. Master Plans detail objectives for the region of interest.</p> <p><i>Adapted from the 2014 report:</i> FME uses a Property Master Planning process to determine how a property will be managed and developed. By administrative code the master plan is the controlling authority for all actions and uses on a property. The development of master plans is governed by Chapter 44 (Natural Resources) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code--the master planning rule. This rule defines master planning; sets forth its purposes, specifies the general planning process and the content of a master plan.</p> <p>The master planning handbook supports and supplements NR 44 by providing additional guidance on master planning policies, process, required data, document content, planning team structure and function, and citizen involvement. Further, it is intended to aid achieving an appropriate level of consistency in plans across all Department programs. The handbook was developed by the Bureau of Facilities and Lands, Planning and Land Management Section, which has administrative responsibility for the Department’s property planning program.</p>

The purposes of the master plan and planning processes include the management of resources on Department properties in accordance to land use capabilities, consistent with the long-term protection and use of these resources, as required by NR 1.60(4). The plans also provide the basis for decision-making consistent with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA).

Forest composition and rationale for species selection:

According to the Statewide Forest Assessment (2010; <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/assessment.html>), the forest composition is summarized in Table 2.a.:

Forest Cover Type Group	1996 acres	2007 acres
Maple-Beech-Birch	4,694,776	4,501,073
Oak-Hickory	3,519,328	3,500,645
Aspen-Birch	3,442,490	3,244,378
White-Red-Jack Pine	1,479,033	1,532,014
Elm-Ash-Cottonwood	996,835	1,443,141
Spruce-Fir	1,319,605	1,398,094
Oak-Pine	332,100	588,820
Nonstocked	156,493	153,262
Exotic Softwoods	10,343	24,154
Pinyon-Juniper	8,718	17,829
Exotic Hardwoods	998	4,562
Oak-Gum-Cypress	2,300	0
Total	15,963,019	16,407,970

(USFS FIA, 2007) This table reflects the most recent forest cover type groups that FIA uses. This is a change from the 1983 cover types. 1996 acres were adjusted in table 2.a to match cover types used in 2007.

Multiple tree species are managed on lands under DNR’s control. Species utilization is largely driven the by types of mills located near state lands. Generally, pulp mills can take more species than specialized facilities such as lumber and veneer. Most species groups as described in Table 2.a., with the exception of those located in riparian zones (e.g., oak-gum-cypress) can be managed through harvest when under DNR control and have local markets for their use.

General description of land management system(s):

Adapted from the 2014 report:

FME has developed a Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to guide management treatments on the major forest cover types in Wisconsin. The ecological characteristics and recommended silvicultural practices and systems for each cover type are described in sufficient detail to support operational planning. Additional silvicultural information can be obtained by referring to the list of publications at the end of each chapter. The Forest Aesthetics portion of the Handbook contains a

compilation of management considerations and techniques that may be used to modify silvicultural practices in order to accomplish desired aesthetic management objectives. Typically, the silvicultural guidelines are written to encourage a stand containing the greatest quality and quantity of timber while recognizing the short term and long-term impacts of silvicultural activities, and land management responsibilities. A stewardship ethic is fostered to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even-age or uneven-age system. The guidance in the Handbook applies to all forest properties owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Department personnel and cooperating partners will follow the management alternatives outlined in this Handbook, unless the approved property management plan makes an exception, or in the judgment of the forester, a variance from these guidelines is warranted and can be documented to the satisfaction of the Department.

Harvest methods and equipment used:

Adapted from the 2014 report:

Clearcut, shelterwood, seed-tree, group- and single-tree selection are all employed with standard forestry field operating equipment and machinery (e.g., skidders, forwarders, harvesters, processors, feller-bunchers, chainsaws, etc.).

Explanation of the management structures:

Adapted from the 2014 report:

FME is organized with a central office that was recently relocated from Madison to Rhinelander. There are three regional offices and over 200 other field stations and offices. The central office staff assists the Secretary in developing policy and directing the implementation of regional programs, which are implemented during field operations. Over 70% of personnel operate from three regional offices and field stations throughout the state.

FME is organized into programs and sub-programs to facilitate the accomplishment of its mission. Five divisions established in statutes – Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Forestry; Environmental Management, Internal Services, and External Services -- have primary responsibility for resources in the state. The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division and Forestry Division have lead responsibilities for the lands included within the forest certification assessment. The Environmental Management, Internal Services and External Services Divisions also have roles and responsibilities related to state lands management.

The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division plans and directs activities that include developing and maintaining game and nongame wildlife populations; coordinating long-range programs of management and protection for endangered resources; and providing necessary acquisition, development and operations for statewide recreational and conservation activities within parks, southern forests, wildlife lands, scientific areas and natural areas.

The Forestry Division is responsible for the administration of the development and implementation of a balanced management and protection program for the state's forest resource including the northern state forests and experimental forests.

2.3 Monitoring System

Growth and Yield of all forest products harvested:

Adapted from the 2014 report:

Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS), Public Lands Handbook chapter 100

The main timber inventory is done through forest compartment reconnaissance (recon). Recon is a stand level assessment used to populate the Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS). Plots include measurements of species, volume (merchantable log tally and basal area reading), stocking, site index, timber quality, and general forest conditions. Recon is done on an as needed basis depending on several triggers (timber sale establishment, closeout, land acquisition, etc.) but no longer than every 15 years on state land.

FME also has a Continuous Forest Inventory system on state forests only. Started in 2007, the first 5-year report has been completed, "Wisconsin Continuous forest Inventory Report." Another round of CFI was completed recently and a report is expected in 2018 or 2019. CFI captures more in-depth information than the recon, but is done on an annual basis for a smaller area.

Forest dynamics and changes in composition of flora and fauna:

FME completes much of its monitoring through its forest inventory system. However, Natural Heritage staff also monitor plant communities to assess their representation in the landscape. Wildlife staff monitor game and non-game species populations, including through special programs such as the Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan.

Reconnaissance data is collected pre-harvest and as part of the CFI system. See <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html> for more information. See also Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS), Public Lands Handbook chapter 100. Recon is conducted after large-scale loss events to reassess timber volumes according to interviews with staff. Salvage harvests are often arranged to harvest material from blow-down events. Through interviews with staff, each area is regularly inspected to detect potential thefts or damage to other resources. FME also maintains harvest volume records in 2460 forms and invoices. Post-harvest reports in the WisFIRS system capture records of harvested material. NTFP records are maintained in the form of permits applied for since NTFPs are not commercially harvested.

Environmental Impacts:

Form 2460 present methods to avoid negative environment impacts and to enhance the long-term viability of the forest. As a part of completing management activities, this form and others (e.g., inspection forms) are used to document monitoring of skid trails, roads, water resources, and conservation/protected areas that may be a part of timber sales.

Social Impacts:

FME has staff sociologists dedicated to understanding the social impact of forest management. The Wisconsin Environmental Policy act requires an evaluation of social impacts, including historic, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. Archeological sites are mapped in state database and protections measures are put in place prior to activities beginning. Economic factsheets are regularly updated to determine the impacts of forestry on the economy at the county-level. FME also has several publications related to socioeconomic impacts on its website, such as *Economic and Ecological Effects of Forest Practices and Harvesting Constraints on Wisconsin's Forest Resources and Economy* (Evans et al. 2016).

Costs, Productivity, and Efficiency:

Although financial return is not the primary motivation of the state agency, revenue and costs are tracked and detailed as part of standard financial record keeping. Staff forest economists and utilization foresters monitor existing and new markets for timber and non-timber products and services, and consult with field staff and other stakeholders on monitoring regional and local market conditions.

3. Certification Evaluation Process

3.1 Evaluation Schedule and Team

3.1.1 Evaluation Itinerary and Activities

20 August 2018	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
Program-wide Opening Meeting 8:00 am – 10:00 am All Auditors (Hayward, WI)	Introductions, client update, review scope of evaluation, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for evaluation team, reviewed audit itinerary.
Site 1: Chippewa Flowage Management Unit All Auditors	Features of Interest: Overview of unit’s forest and land management programs. Discussed the joint agency co-operative agreement between WDNR, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (LCO) tribe to preserve as much undeveloped shoreline as possible, as well as create partnership for the long-term management and uniform regulation of the Flowage. Observed vista, beach, and protection of shoreline. Discussed habitat drawdowns to support improved habitat and invasive eradication.
Site 2: Tract 07-15, TS 43635, Fawn Trail Sale, Stand 11 All Auditors	Feature(s) of Interest: Set up oak shelterwood prescription with large 100 foot no harvest buffer (covenant boundary). Confirmed NHI was reviewed prior to sale set up; one hit was for Bald Eagle but no active nest sites in the sale area. Forester is observing the oak trees and waiting for a good oak seed crop, then will have the site scarified before allowing the harvest to occur.
Site 3: Tract 07-15, TS 43635, Fawn Trail Sale, Stand 10 All Auditors	Feature(s) of Interest: Set up intermediate thinning of a natural pine stand with a hardwood component. Remove Maple and Aspen to prepare for future shelterwood harvest.
Site 4: CC North Prescribed Burn Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: 33-acre site burned in the spring of 2018 following the “5818 CC Oak 17 Prescribed Burn Plan”. Site had been harvested in the fall of 2013 with a regeneration harvest retaining pine and oak which comprised a heavy shelterwood/seed tree. Forester observed that oak regeneration was overtopped mostly by Aspen and prescribed fire, which has effectively killed the Aspen to the ground. Some Aspen sprout clumps have re-sprouted, but with far fewer stems. Forester plans to survey regeneration in the dormant season and determine next step, which could include another prescribed burn. Some adjacent areas were not burned, allowing for comparisons of effects.
Site 5: Chippewa Flowage Walking Trail Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: Mowed, well-signed hunter walking trail. Forester intends to install interpretive signs to describe management goals, treatments, and effects. As an example of how departments work together on the property, Department of Recreation is responsible for trail maintenance.

Site 6: H01-17 Airport Sale Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: A sale that is set up but will not be sold and operated until after a good mast year for oak, followed by site scarification in the red pine thinning and shelterwood prescription areas. There are three prescriptions, all with the same harvest instructions but different preparation and marking.
Site 7: Tract 3-16, Werner Road Sale Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: Auditors reviewed documentation of this completed sale including pre-harvest meeting form, harvest inspections, cutting line agreements, logger training records, contract, harvest close out form, and chain of custody documents. There was no access available at the time of the audit. The forester had obtained permission from the neighbor for harvest access. Sale contract included all relevant clauses.
Site 8: Hay Creek Boat Launch Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: Recreation site off County Highway B. There is an information kiosk with many informational and regulatory posters, a boat ramp, and a small dock. A logger who has purchased a nearby informal direct sale has agreed to also harvest and remove several Aspen to help reduce tree hazards under a "Miscellaneous Forest Products Permit".
Site 9: CC North Boat Launch Ferrucci and Schulte	Feature(s) of Interest: A large, high-quality sign on Highway CC directs users to the access road. There is a boat launch and a fishing pier designed for access for fishing via wheel chair. The pier is about 2 years old and in excellent condition.
Site 10: Tract 01-18, Moss Creek Sale Boatwright and Meister	Feature(s) of Interest: Marked clearcut harvest of 62 acres with retention of pine and oak > 2" diameter and white birch < 6". Adjacent to several small, private lake front properties. Access will have to be secured prior to harvest and property boundaries more clearly marked. Survey markers observed in the field. Discussion on property boundary maintenance and interview with stakeholder.
Site 11: Tract 05-16, Hay Creek Pine Sale Boatwright and Meister	Feature(s) of Interest: Marked red pine shelterwood of 41 acres. Mostly red pine and white pine selected as crop/seed trees with retention of aspen, oak, hemlock, spruce, and any marked trees. Prescribed burn conducted in 2016 and pre-harvest scarification conducted in 2018. Red pine regeneration just being established. Post-harvest prescribed fire is reserved as an option if there is regeneration failure.
21 August 2018	
FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes
Flambeau State Forest: Team Meister	
Site 1: Myers Farm	Feature(s) of Interest: Elk reintroduction site. Inspection of holding pen used to quarantine elk relocated from other regions in Wisconsin and Kentucky in which to first monitor genetics and disease of populations prior to release on the landscape. Area is closed off to public with 100 ft. buffer when occupied. Release of elk imported from Kentucky was done well after Wisconsin elk were released. Both populations started breeding with each other

	in 2017 per tracking and genetic information collected. Project funded via private and public sources.
Site 2: Myers Farm	Feature(s) of Interest: 4-acre oak restoration site. Site made use of an enclosure built in 2014 to acclimate elk. Site was repurposed for oak restoration to make use of the existing fence and gate to avoid elk and deer browse on planted oaks; thus, cost of enclosure not required to seek funds for oak replanting. Project funded via private and public sources. Approximately 25,000 bur and northern red oaks planted. Site sprayed with herbicides in 2017 and mowed in 2018 prior to planting. Oaks may receive spot herbicide treatment to control herbaceous competition or prescribed burns.
Site 3: Tract 14-16, West Lane S&P 2 Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Red pine thinning, white spruce thinning and clearcut, and aspen coppice (retention of conifers and oaks). Leave-trees designated by species or green marked. All take-trees designated by size, species or marked with orange paint. Painting system standardized over state forest system. Clearcut spruce area due to spruce budworm outbreak. Thinned spruce area has healthier individuals; scattered white spruce evident in adjacent unharvested and red pine thinning areas. Temporary stream crossing permit done with corduroy and mats over winter. Slash pulled into skid trail to control access and sediment. Discussion on landscape-level objectives; integrated meetings, review of master plans by staff, and review of site-level plans by upper level managers prior to harvest is done,
Site 4: Tract 16-16, West Lane East Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: aspen clearcut (retention of conifers and oaks), single-tree selection of northern hardwood, group selection of northern hardwood to be preceded by scarification on some sites to establish regeneration, and red pine and white spruce thinning. Discussion on trespass issue and options available to resolve (e.g., land swap, purchase followed by public review, etc.). Discussion on contractor system for marking and cruising, and markets for low grade materials.
Site 5: Tract 12-17, RP x PR Sale)	Feature(s) of Interest: Interview with subcontracted logger in single-tree selection portion of a harvest that includes an aspen/red maple clearcut, plantation thinning, white pine overstory removal and select cut, and tamarack strip cuts. Inspection of logging equipment and truck. Incomplete spill kit (no absorbent material), but bucket and shovel available. No cell phone signal or radio available. Logger FISTA trained, insured, and has first aid kit and fire extinguisher onsite.
Site 6: Tract 6-14, Tree Stand Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Interview with logging contractor and inspection of logging equipment. Fire extinguisher and first aid kit on logging machine. Incomplete spill kit (no absorbent material). Logger is insured, FISTA trained, and attends SFI courses. Both logging machines onsite have radios. Pre-harvest checklist completed in 2014 and states that contractor “will have spill kit onsite.”

Site 7: Tract 24-16, Gill Lane Sale 2	Feature(s) of Interest: Northern hardwood selection (single and group), aspen clearcut (retention of conifers and oaks), preparation clearcut (understocked aspen identified pre-harvest for possible red pine conversion if post-harvest regeneration does not meet stocking), and spruce thinning. Red pine conversion identified as an option since it is not common in the area and would offer other conifer cover.
Site 8: Tract 3-17, Revenant Aspen Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Northern hardwood selection and aspen/red maple clearcut (retention of conifers and oaks). Some smaller areas of black ash removal, overstory removal to release maple regeneration, and tamarack seed tree. Larger area to be harvested; was started, but abandoned due to weather and may be winter-harvested. Discussion on common timber sale bidding practices.
Site 9: Tract 15-16, Purple Rain Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Northern hardwood selection harvest, aspen/red maple clearcut (retention of conifers and oaks). Inspection of selection area to observe evidence of felling and extraction techniques (chainsaw-felled; smaller, wider-tired forwarder used), and wetland buffer (15 ft., no biomass removal within buffer, and at least 50 BA maintained; minimum BMPs for wetland type exceeded). Discussion of BMP requirements and monitoring.
Site 10: Tract 19-15, Big Ox Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Selection harvest and aspen coppice near Flambeau River Scenic Area. Riparian and visual buffers used to maintain aesthetics and recreation values. Discussion on encroachment and options, and property boundary maintenance. Discussion on white pine pathogens and strategy, and human resources and training issues within DNR.
Amnicon State Park and Brule River State Forest: Team Ferrucci	
Amnicon State Park	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; final site selection.
Site 1: Office Building	Feature(s) of Interest: New building and grounds; 24-hour public access to lobby for camping registration and to use the flush toilets.
Site 2: Garage/Maintenance Shop	Feature(s) of Interest: Locked chemical storage cabinet containing fuel and oil. MSDS sheets confirmed for above and for cleaning supplies used.
Site 3: Amnicon Campground	Feature(s) of Interest: Campground loop, 32 well-designed and maintained campsites, discussed EAB find and program to manage trees in recreation areas
Site 4: Snowshoe Trail	Feature(s) of Interest: Walking trail also used for non-motorized winter sports.
Site 5: Picnic Area	Feature(s) of Interest: Day Use Picnic Area with paved parking lot, bathroom with sinks and pit toilets, water fountain, play area and large picnic shelter.
Site 6: Restoration site along Amnicon River	Feature(s) of Interest: A significant flood event on June 17, 2018 impacted the part of the road system. Major two-lane bridge was

	not harmed, but one site along river required restoration including grading, 3-inch rock, topsoil, see, and stabilization fabric.
Site 7: Horten Bridge Road	Feature(s) of Interest: Post-flood road repair on main road to waterfalls.
Site 8: Waterfalls and associated recreation site	Feature(s) of Interest: Upper and lower falls, covered bridge, CCC bridge, trail network, interpretive signs, parking, benches, picnic tables, outhouses.
Site 9: Tract #1-07, Sale 1640	Feature(s) of Interest: Regeneration harvest in winter 2011-2012. Most areas fully stocked with 10 to 18-foot tall Aspen coppice. Landing site not stocked with trees, but has rich, diverse cover of herbaceous plants, grass, and sedge and showing signs of significant use by deer.
Brule River State Forest	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, COC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 10: After Hours Ski Trail	Feature(s) of Interest: Parking lot and ski chalet for 17-mile ski trail. Chalet built in 2016 with WDNR funds supplemented by donations and support from local ski club. Facility interior is very attractive, with bright woodwork and good quality furniture. Discussed recreation facilities and trails.
Site 11: Highline West Timber Sale #620, Tract 14-17	Feature(s) of Interest: Uncut 10-acre, 67-year old, declining Aspen stand. Observed field conditions support the regeneration prescription. Reviewed planning and sale documentation.
Site 12: Miller Malarkey Timber Sale #599, Tract 3-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed second thinning in the largest block of a 54-acre timber sale. The red pine trees were planted in 1965 and are tall and full-crowned but with many dead limbs. No rutting observed; guidelines discussed. Good utilization to 4" tip.
Site 13: Miller Malarkey Timber Sale #599, Tract 3-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed clearcut of a stand of black spruce stand. Plans for regeneration include disk-trenching in two directions and then aerial seeding with mixture of jack and white pine, white cedar, and tamarack. This low, wet site was protected by location of two landings and skid trails to avoid wettest ground. Some small areas with 2 to 3-inch ruts not leading to soil movement. Tracking pad installed by logger for "back in" landings.
Site 14: Checkers Timber Sale #592, Tract 4-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed 82-acre Aspen regeneration harvest with retention of snags, conifers, and 1 cut tree per acre (to provide drumming logs for Ruffed grouse). Confirmed that 2 loggers had FISTA training and contract included required clauses.
Site 15 Fun Fir Timber Sale #622, Tract 11-17	Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, uncut 80-acre regeneration harvest of an Aspen-fir-hardwood dominated stand. Confirmed the presence of species designated for retention: white pine, white spruce, white cedar, and yellow birch. Harvest layout buffered headed of drainages. Confirmed field review by the WDNR Regional Ecologist, who did not request any changes in proposed approach.
Site 16 Old Fence Timber Sale #617, Tract 11-15	Feature(s) of Interest: 54-acre regeneration treatment in several blocks. Active harvest by FISTA-trained loggers; whole-tree operation. Reviewed merchandizing "sorts" including chipping small balsam fir for energy or pellet chips, Aspen pulpwood and

	excelsior, and birch-maple pulpwood. Reviewed sale contract which included required clauses. Observed blue painted trees on private boundary lines and red painted internal sale boundaries.
Site 17 Secret Spot Timber Sale #615, Tract 9-15	Feature(s) of Interest: The regeneration prescription portion of a 55-acre sale which has not yet had any logging. Reviewed marking and layout. There is a stream along the southern boundary of the main, northernmost block that may meet the definitions in the BMP guide of navigable. It clearly has a defined bed and banks with a width of more than 3 feet. The sale layout did not include retention of sufficient trees in the 100-foot RMZ to meet the stocking requirement (60-80 square feet of basal area per acre, described as selection harvests to promote long-lived species), and there is no documentation of an exception. The June 17, 2018 storm appears to have created a wider channel, which the planning forester considered to be a drainage-way. There is an Opportunity for Improvement in the design of the sale to better document the BMP.
Site 18 Secret Spot Timber Sale #615, Tract 9-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Marked selection harvest in a small portion of the larger sale described in the previous site.
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and Governor Knowles State Forest: Team Schulte	
Site 1: Phantom flowage	Feature(s) of Interest: There was a drawdown this spring to encourage establishment of desired emergent vegetation species. Wild rice is harvested by tribal members and the general public. Staff consult with tribal representatives on management of water levels for wild rice. Wide variety of bird species observed. Visitors come from all over the world to see up to 7,000 sandhill cranes per day during migration.
Site 2: Tribal firewood harvest	Feature(s) of Interest: After prescribed fires for habitat creation/maintenance the large oak trees left from the harvest die off and the partially burned trees create a hazard. Staff worked with tribal members from the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin to identify areas where these trees could be harvested to provide a supply of firewood for the tribe and to enhance safety for future burning areas.
Site 3: Crex Sand Prairie SNA	Feature(s) of Interest: This State Natural Area (SNA) is 80 acres and was established in 1958. The area has been used to study the effects of prescribed burns from the SNA's inception in the 1950s.
Site 4: Sale CM3-18	Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. Oak stand was harvested in 2014. An island of reserve was left at the time. The area was scheduled for a burn to create open brush prairie (barrens) but there was concern about the residual trees being unsafe for the burn. A sale was developed to remove the reserve trees to allow for a safe burn.
Site 5: Sale CM2-18	Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. 62-acre oak stand is part of a larger stand identified for conversion to barrens. Other portions had previously been harvested. This is the last remaining section to be converted. Red pine and white pine under 8 inches

	will be retained in the 28-acre jack pine/white pine stand north of the road. That unit will not be burned.
Site 6: Sale CM 0780216	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed sale. Small direct sale of three acres. Oak reserve island left during a previous harvest prior to shift in management approach. Sold to contractor conducting a thinning nearby.
Site 7: Sale CM 780-217	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed sale. The area was formerly County property. The red pine stand is slated to be converted to contribute to the “rolling barrens” which will create connectivity for sharp tailed grouse and other species requiring landscape level large open barrens. Until the area is ready to be converted the stand will be managed for red pine. There is some small amount of salvage from 2011 windstorm.
Site 8: Plantation CM 3-18	Feature(s) of Interest: Chemical application. Stand harvested in 2016 and sprayed in 2017 planted spring on 2018. Will do survival check and bud cap in the fall. Reviewed contract with applicator, Pesticide Use Approval application, prescription, and map.
Site 9: Tract GK 0780-116	Feature(s) of Interest: Over mature jack pine stand. Active harvest sale but contractor had moved to another sale and was not on site during audit. Whole tree harvest for biomass. The sale was set up by a consulting forester. Access to sale areas is difficult because there is a wetland on one side and private landowner on the other. Worked with landowner to develop road access. A portion of the stand was scarified and jack pine sprouts were observed.
Site 10: Tract GK 50-18	Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. Oak, aspen, and jack pine stand. Stand improvement. Leave white pine. Installed culvert in drainage ditch to allow access and pushed in new road. RMZ indicated on map but not flagged in the field yet. Stream crossing to be installed for operations. Permits obtained in conjunction with the hydrologist.
Bayfield County State Natural Areas: Team Boatwright	
Site 1: Port Wing SNA Timber Sale: 02-16	Feature(s) of Interest: Port Wing Boreal Forest encompasses two areas of northern dry-mesic forest on sand spits inland from the present Lake Superior shoreline. The forest has distinct boreal characteristics. Large white and red pines (to 30” diameter) form a canopy over white spruce, balsam fir, red maple, white birch, mountain maple, yellow birch, and white cedar. Recent wind events have blown down some of the largest trees, which were salvaged to reduce the threat of fire. The decision to make a salvage sale was done after consultation with various staff and the adjoining property owners. Sale area included approximately 18 acres and involved removing wind-blown material. Sale area included a 100-foot strip on both sides of a portion of Lakeview and Big Pete Roads.
Site 2: Port Wing SNA 2017 Planting Project	Feature(s) of Interest: Approximately 10 acres of the sale area described above was hand planted with white and red pine, white spruce and white cedar in small gaps and beneath the sparse pine

	canopy. Planting mix mirrors the existing stand except for balsam fir and white birch.
Site 3: Port Wing SNA 2017 Statewide Natural Area Fuels Reduction Project <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: Forest fire fuels reduction project originally scheduled for 3 residences and, once work began, 2 additional residences signed up. WDNR coordinated this fuel reduction project on behalf of the landowners. The work was paid for by the WUI/lake Superior Basin funding. Work involved contracting with a logger to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 feet of each building – Cut and remove all live and dead balsam, brush, dead tree material and any overstory trees identified by the landowner; Within 100 feet of each building – Clear and remove all brush and slash and remove all live and dead balsam and birch
Site 4: Port Wing SNA Timber Sale: 01-15 <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: 2015 fire salvage sale on about 1 acre which was planted in with white and red pine, white spruce and white cedar. WDNR foresters and ecologists met to discuss the salvage. The decision was made to move forward due to the danger the dead large very tall trees presented to the adjoining landowners.
Site 5: Port Wing SNA Active Eagle Nest <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: Observed nest in a large white pine near the edge of Lake Superior. WDNR conducts an annual eagle nest survey to determine which nests are active.
Site 6: Port Wing SNA Public Parking Area <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: Parking Area providing access to the Lake Superior shore constructed by WDNR.
Site 7: Lost Creek Bog SNA Planting Project	Feature(s) of Interest: Part of the Bad River Watershed Association’s proposal “Growing the Next Generation of Forest and Steward”. The plan is to convert short-lived aspen forest to longer-lived coniferous tree species through planting target species. The conversion is in line with the landscape management goals to moderate the flow of water in streams throughout the Lake Superior watershed and will contribute to a diverse land cover including a mix of deciduous and coniferous forests. Under planting included white and red pine and white spruce
Site 8: Lost Creek Bog SNA Timber Sale: 01-16	Feature(s) of Interest: Unsold red pine plantation 1 st thin marked by consultant. Trees marked in green paint are to be retained. Marking effort appeared to be reasonable leaving a target of about 80 sq.ft. basal area/acre. Consultant also marked a skid trail through a wet area. Sale limited to dry or frozen ground conditions.
Site 9: Bark Bay Slough SNA recent acquisition <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: 2015 acquisition using an EPA grant called the Great Lakes Acquisition Initiative including 37 acres.
Site 10: Bark Bay Slough SNA Parking Area and Boat Ramp <i>Unscheduled</i>	Feature(s) of Interest: Built and maintained by WDNR on Bark Bay.
22 August 2018	
FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes

Spring Creek Wildlife Area (W.A.), Kimberley Clark W.A., and Hay Creek Hoffman Lake W.A (HC-HL W.A.): Team Meister	
Site 1: Tract 1-18, Spring Creek W.A.	Feature(s) of Interest: Aspen and mixed hardwood sale, sold and unharvested. Retention of oak, hawthorn (<i>Craetagus</i> spp.) and conifers. Discussion of local timber markets and pre-sale checklist, which is completed onsite prior to equipment entering. There may be follow-up during regular harvest inspections. Inspection of stream crossing to be repaired in cooperation with local recreation-user group. Adjacent to flowage managed for wildlife, water supply, and wild rice cultivation. Flowage has four main points of water level control; lowering of reservoirs done over multi-year rotations to allow for wild rice to seed in more heavily every four years, thus allowing impacts to the resource to be controlled. Areas heavy to lily pad often die off during lowering and become floating beds of wild rice, which serves as a mobile seedbank.
Site 2: Tract 1-18, Spring Creek W.A.	Feature(s) of Interest: Harvest site is adjacent to flowage managed for wildlife, water supply, and wild rice cultivation. Flowage has four main points of water level control; lowering of reservoirs done over multi-year rotations to allow for wild rice to seed in more heavily every four years, thus allowing impacts to the resource to be controlled. Areas heavy to lily pad often die off during lowering and become floating beds of wild rice, which serves as a mobile seedbank.
Site 3: Tract 1-17, Kimberley Clark W.A.	Feature(s) of Interest: Selection harvest of Northern hardwood stand; oaks, conifers (hemlock, white pine, cedar) to be retained. Inspection and discussion of road access and upgrades. Observation of canopy gap areas to be widened to release established sugar maple regeneration. Observation of retained hemlock-pine area that is protected by wetlands and vernal pools on all three sides. Discussion of continuing education training opportunities for forestry and wildlife staff through DNR and via outside training providers; and human resources issues.
Site 4: Tour of Kimberley Clark W.A. special management features	Feature(s) of Interest: Observation of prescribed burn areas, which are rotated to promote staggering of age classes for grouse species forage; more wild rice areas managed through strategic lowering over multiple years; gravel pit; elk food plots planted with clover and timothy grass; orchard planted with American plum and ornamental crabapple for grey fox and grouse forage; and multiple-age classes of aspen managed through fire or sheering for grouse and elk habitat.
Site 5: Tract 5-17, Rifle Range (HC-HL W.A. for remaining sites)	Feature(s) of Interest: Aspen clearcut and northern hardwood selection harvest to be harvested during dry and/or winter frozen leaf-off conditions. Upgrades to rifle range to be done in conjunction with harvest via cooperation with recreation-user group.

Site 6: Tract 1-17, Snake Skin	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed aspen coppice (17-acre) with retention of aspen snags for cavities used by small birds and mammals. Some mature aspen retained at edges. Logged during dry, spring conditions. All balsam cut, but still present at unit edges.
Site 7: Tract 2-16, Wool Pants	Feature(s) of Interest: Active aspen-red maple clearcut with northern hardwood selection unit; retention of cherry, oak, and conifer (except balsam firs) within aspen area and retention of oak within selection. Inspection of logging equipment and interview with contractor. All trainings (e.g., FISTA) and insurance up-to-date; complete spill kit onsite and verified. Logger has cell phone and radios, as observed in equipment.
Site 8: Tract 2-17, Dark balsam	Feature(s) of Interest: Active clearcut of aspen-spruce-balsam stand to regenerate aspen. Retention of mature aspen and conifers at unit edges; unit is bound by wetlands, so there is no risk of losing since there will be no harvest in wetlands. Interview with logging contractor's employee; spill kit is complete, but has no radio or cell signal.
Site 9: Tract 2-18, Syrup shack	Feature(s) of Interest: marked and sold northern hardwood selection harvest, including larger openings (60-80 ft. in diameter) to release established saplings and understory regeneration. Adjacent to several private landowners; property boundary marked with blue paint as observed onsite. Notification letters sent to all adjacent landowners and no comments received. Discussion on training and advancement opportunities.
Brule River State Forest: Team Ferrucci	
Site 19: Brule River State Forest Shops and Maintenance Buildings	Feature(s) of Interest: Recently upgraded and expanded shops and garages. Equipment for property maintenance and fire-fighting, facilities for maintenance and sign building. Storage areas for oil and fuel. MSDS Binder was empty, and MSDS sheets were not immediately available.
Site 20: Ski Trail Sale #609, Tract 22-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Aspen portions of a 125-acre regeneration harvest in the vicinity of a heavily-used cross country ski trail system. The harvest occurred in the fall of 2017 using 2 processors and 2 forwarders that ran with tracks over wheels. Confirmed uncut buffer protecting 1-2-foot-wide intermittent stream, use of logging slash to minimize ground impacts, and limited rutting despite an unusually wet period. Sale design effectively managed visual impacts on ski trail.
Site 21: Ski Trail Sale #609, Tract 22-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Hardwood-aspen-fir portions of regeneration harvest. An interior non-forested wetland and adjacent ski trails were not impacted.
Site 22: Road Spur and Hunter Access Walking Trail near Sale #608	Feature(s) of Interest: Impacts on hunter walking access trail when used to access timber harvest. Following the harvest, a layer of gravel was placed on the first portion of road and crowned. A sloping, 150-foot section of this permanent, not yet gated road has some minor surface erosion. Discussed maintenance procedures,

	agency responsibilities between Recreation and Forestry, and budgets.
Site 23: Castle Salvage Sale #607 Tract 18-16	Feature(s) of Interest: This hilly, sloping stand had significant wind storm damage in July 2016. A 42-acre regeneration and salvage harvest completed May 2017 resulted in a dense stocking of Aspen suckers with scattered and clumped green tree retention.
Site 24: Killer Jack Pine Regeneration Treatments	Feature(s) of Interest: This site is being managed to provide habitat for the Kirtland’s warbler. The 2012 jack pine harvest, which intentionally left Red Pine and considerable dead and down wood, did not result in successful natural regeneration. The 2016 follow up whole-tree harvest removed remaining trees to facilitate site preparation and planting. As part of equipment operator training numerous fire plow dozers created large plow furrows at 6-7 foot spacing. By design, patches were skipped. Jack pine was planted closely in the spring of 2017; these trees are already 1.5 to 2 feet tall, with high survival percentage. The northern 1/3 of the site was also seeded aurally.
Site 25: Kurt’s Deep Depression Scientific Natural Area (SNA)	Feature(s) of Interest: SNA observed from vehicle; no harvesting or activity was observed in this vegetated kettle-hole depression.
Site: 26: Rush Lake SNA	Feature(s) of Interest: Lunch stop; discussed this SNA and its management and protection. Access is by foot only, and surrounding forest cover is not intensively managed.
Site 27: Motts Ravine SNA	Feature(s) of Interest: The 600-acre Motts Ravine SNA and surrounding Mott’s Ravine Native Community Management Area were discussed and visited. The long-term goal is to develop a 200-400-acre core barren through periodic burning and then maintain as barrens. The surrounding portions of the SNA and some of the larger management area are being converted to Jack pine for management on a 50-year cycle, rotating the younger managed Jack pine stands around the core area. The younger pine stands provide barrens-type structure for up to 10 years, contributing to a larger effective patch size that creates a “rolling barrens system”.
Site 28: Mott’s Ravine Sale #603, Tract T1-16	Feature(s) of Interest: 97-acre whole tree chip harvest to prepare for burn to support management for barrens habitat. The site will be added to the barrens management fire plan.
Site 29: Burn Unit M152 Mott’s North	Feature(s) of Interest: 65-acre burn was completed here on 8.06.18 to maintain and enhance barrens habitat. Burn objectives were met, with a hot burn that was at the upper limit of intended fire intensity. Observed nearly complete top kill of the target scrub oak. This is the third burn at five-year intervals; the fire manager is working towards shortening the burn interval to achieve more progress towards a greater portion of the habitat unit without woody vegetation. Adjacent burn unit on south side of road has some areas closer to long-term goal. Discussed attempting to burn at 3-year point as recent wet years have accumulated more fuel.

Site 30: Stones Sign Pine Sale #626, Tract 3-18	Feature(s) of Interest: Planned, sold final harvest of 71-year old, 14-acre red pine plantation that is located along public highways in narrow strips. Stand will be replanted with red pine and without site preparation, both due to visual concerns along highway.
Site 31: Snowmobile Trail south of Highway S	Feature(s) of Interest: Forest road and snowmobile trail located on very sandy soils, mostly flat or gently sloping. Road/trail is in good condition with no signs of significant erosion or puddling. The rapid percolation of water and the presence of grass in center and edges help overcome the somewhat limited provisions for drainage.
Site 32: Blow Me Down Sale #610, Tract 24-15	Feature(s) of Interest: This 28-acre salvage and regeneration harvest borders the North Country Trail. The goal is to regenerate a stand similar in composition to the cut stand (aspen, jack pine, fir, and scrub oak). To ensure adequate scarification the contract required whole-tree or pole skidding; the buyer employed chipping of tops of whole trees that were skidded. Observed retention of snags, down woody debris, and green trees consistent with WDNR policies.
Site 33: North Country Trail	Feature(s) of Interest: Portions of the long-distance hiking North Country Trail were walked, included a section benched into the upper slope of the Brule River valley and a section within the salvage harvest area described in Site 32. There is a stand of large red pine in the uncut area that had been flagged for possible harvest in WisFIRS, but foresters decided not to harvest due to proximity to the trail and location on the steep slope.
Site 34: Stone's Bridge Canoe Landing	Feature(s) of Interest: Canoe landing, benched platform for staging, parking lot, toilet buildings, picnic tables, and information kiosk are all well-built and maintained.
Site 35: Case of the Vapas Timber Sale #595, Tract 17-15	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed second thinning in a high-quality red pine plantation. The harvest was done by a FISTA-trained logger in 2016. The 400-foot buffer from the Brule River was respected.
Site 36: Forest road used for Timber Sale #595	Feature(s) of Interest: This permanent, open road on flat to gently-sloping terrain has a grassy surface with limited signs of water movement.
Site 37: Brule River	Feature(s) of Interest: Brule River, 400-foot no-harvest buffer containing portions of Brule Bog, and stands of White cedar and White spruce were inspected. The forests in the buffer are serving to protect water quality and provide older forest habitat of value.
Site 38: Ander Vapa Presale Scarification	Feature(s) of Interest: A sale will be set up to regenerate a mixed stand similar to existing stand. A heavy scarification treatment was recently completed to provide suitable seedbed conditions for pine, birch and oak germination.
Site 39: Brule River Picnic Area and Canoe Launch	Feature(s) of Interest: Recreation site that is well-designed and maintained. Observed people canoeing, walking, and enjoying the river.
Governor Knowles State Forest and Fish Lake Wildlife Area: Team Schulte	

<p>Site 1: GK Kartarak Sale</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Archeological site. The forester was setting up the sale and ran the search on the archeological database. When he received a hit during the search he contacted the Department Archeologist to get guidance. The archeologist confirmed that there was a site on the sale and identified a point to buffer. Viewed no cut buffer on the ground.</p>
<p>Site 2: Tract DNR GK 20-18 Sale 287 Sunrise</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. Research site for buckthorn treatments. Stands of aspen and oak. Applying a variety of treatments including goats, mowing, blade scarification, basal herbicide, and broadcast spraying. Harvest prescriptions are clearcut and shelterwood. The project is tracking costs and results in order to inform buckthorn treatment moving forward. Large buffer on St. Croix River due to US Park Service ownership along river.</p>
<p>Site 3: Tract GK 10-17 Sale Goat Prairie Sterling Barrens SNA</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. The forester marked the sale with staff from Wildlife and NHC to identify wildlife trees. Because the sale is on the Sterling Barrens SNA there is a specific prescription for it in the Master Plan. Objective of oak savannah creation.</p>
<p>Site 4: Tract GK 10-16 Sale Horse Trade</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Marked and sold, not cut. Oak, aspen, white pine, and jack pine stands. Clearcut and white pine thinning. The Trade River runs through the sale. RMZ buffers marked in red paint observed on the ground. The blue paint property boundary identified on the map could not be located on the ground. Across Evergreen Avenue from the sale is a Horse Day Use area.</p>
<p>Site 5: Tract FL 1-18</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Marked and sold, not cut. Oak stand conversion to barrens. Part of the sale will be burned after harvest. Cultural site avoided. Adjacent to Fish Lake Meadows SNA.</p>
<p>Site 6: Logging Creek</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Ford installation in 2016 in preparation for red pine harvest. Forester worked with hydrologist to design, obtain permit, and install the ford. This was chosen as the best option because there will be repeated visits to the red pine stands in the future.</p>
<p>Site 7: Tract FL 719-116 Grettum Pine</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Marked and sold, not cut. White pine thin and release. Worked with wildlife to mark wildlife and den trees. Cemetery on north side of sale.</p>
<p>Bayfield County State Natural Areas: Team Boatwright</p>	
<p>Site 1: Inch Lake SNA Timber Sale: 01-18</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Inch Lake SNA features two undeveloped lakes surrounded by wetlands and rolling upland forest. The property abuts the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to the south. Inch Lake is a 31-acre undeveloped, soft-water seepage lake containing largemouth bass, yellow perch, and panfish. The 41-foot deep lake is classified as a "wild lake", an increasingly uncommon feature as development pressure intensifies in northern Wisconsin. No motors are allowed and only artificial lures may be used. These special regulations will provide important research opportunities related to fishing. Surrounding the</p>

	<p>southern portion of Inch Lake is a diverse northern mesic forest dominated by red pine, red oak, and aspen. Canopy associates include white spruce, white pine, and paper birch. The shrub layer contains abundant American hazelnut and sugar maple saplings. Understory species include Indian pipe, sweet fern, interrupted fern, and blueberries.</p> <p>The unsold and marked sale area consists of about 74 acres of northern dry-mesic forest dominated by large red pine and red oak with a diverse ground flora. Species include bracken fern, wood betony, big-leaved aster, thimbleberry, American starflower, and wild sarsaparilla. The site also features scattered wetland depressions vegetated with wool grass, leather leaf, and sphagnum moss. Objectives in the red pine stands are to thin from below and control stocking. Objective for the red oak stands is to conduct a shelterwood harvest to promote regen.</p>
<p>Site 2: White River Fishery Area Timber Sale: 01-15</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: The White River System Fishery Area includes some of the choicest trout waters found anywhere in the State of Wisconsin. The streams on this system are renowned for their ability to provide quality trout angling year after year, and the fact that they are among the few trout streams in all of Wisconsin where a naturally reproducing population of rainbow trout exists. The completed and closed out portion of the sale visited consisted of an oak seed tree cut. Sale area contained good snag and single tree retention. The area was scarified prior to the sale and good oak regen was observed.</p> <p>The logging operation included a hot saw, skidder and loader and WDNR constructed water bars on the main skid trail along an 80-yard stretch with a 7% slope. The bars were incorrectly constructed as they were perpendicular to the water flow, has no outlet and the bars were not compacted (very sandy soil). In addition, an 8 sq.ft. hydraulic fluid stain was observed on the logging deck. The spill was not addressed at sale closeout.</p>
<p>Site 3: White River Fishery Area Timber Sale: 01-16</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: 136-acre regen harvest of aspen, balsam and red maple that has reached full rotation age. Observed good single tree and snag retention and adequate width SMZs along riparian areas. Logging crew used harvester/forwarder.</p> <p>Documents reviewed for all completed timber sales included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report • Timber Sale Contract • Timber Sale Pre-Harvest Checklist • Timber Sale Close-out Checklist <p>Harvest Inspection Reports</p>
<p>Site 4: White River Fishery Area Timber Sale: 01-17</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Unsold 130 acre regen harvest of aspen, balsam and red maple that has reached full rotation age. Observed adequate width SMZs along riparian areas. Sale is marked to use single tree and snag retention.</p>

<p>Site 5: Bibon Swamp SNA Timber Sale: 02-15</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Bibon Swamp, the largest wetland in Bayfield County, occupies the basin of an extinct glacial lake drained by the White River, a hard, cold water trout stream. The community types of this 15-square mile lowland are unusually varied for such a topographically uniform basin. Portions are forested with a rich wet-mesic conifer swamp of medium-sized white cedar, although trunk coring revealed that at least parts of the stand are in excess of 150 years old. Bunchberry, twinflower, small bishop's-cap and a number of orchid species are representative of the ground layer here. Resident birds include Nashville, parula, and Canada warblers, and winter wren. Bordering the cedar swamp is wet forest dominated by black ash, with a ground layer of speckled alder, sensitive fern, wood nettle and poison ivy. Black and white warbler, veery, and red-eyed vireo are common nesting birds.</p> <p>Area visited included a 73-acre active white birch regen harvest using seed tree retention. The area will be scarified when the sale is complete. All aspen was retained to minimize root suckering and reduce competition for white birch. Observed a portion of a mile-long woods road that connected the referenced sale to another stand. The area observed included an intermittent stream crossing that had used logs and mats and was cleaned out adequately. A 500-year rain event caused a portion of the roadside ditch to blow out, resulting in sand being deposited in the stream.</p>
<p>Site 6: Bibon Swamp SNA Timber Sale: 01-17</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Area visited included a 156-acre completed aspen regen cut with single tree and bunch retention. The management objective was to break up a very large stand of aspen and spread out the harvest across a longer time period. No issues were observed and the logger did a nice job of grading the main haul after harvest completion.</p>
<p>23 August 2018</p>	
<p>FMU / location / sites visited</p>	<p>Activities / notes</p>
<p>Stakeholder interviews and document review: Team Meister</p>	
<p>Minong, Wisconsin Area: Team Ferrucci</p>	
<p>8:30 am: Arrive at Minong Ranger Station</p>	<p>Introductions, review audit, brief overview of audit process and progress, review daily itinerary.</p>
<p>Site 1: Minong Ranger Station garages</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Chemical storage cabinets and MSDS sheets, which includes observed chemicals, oils, and fuels.</p>
<p>Totogatic Wild River</p>	<p>Introductions; Overview of FMU; final site selection. Property manager and Forester</p>
<p>Site 2: Five Mile Furrows Sale #6610, Tract 6-15</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest:</p>
<p>Site 3: Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area South Unit, Scenic Overlook</p>	<p>Overview of FMU with a focus on prescribed burning and vegetative responses of Burn Unit 35 within view, which is being prepared for a fall 2018 or spring 2019 burn. The property</p>

	<p>manager and the District Forestry Leader exchanged views on the benefits and challenges of spring season burns, which are more-challenging to staff. Burns are conducted at 4 to 12-year or longer intervals, with an attempt to vary season of burn.</p>
<p>Site 4: Sale #6615, Tract 1-16</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: This 60-acre area was harvested to create young forest conditions to support habitat goals in the wildlife area. The site is too steep and poorly-located to include within the area of regular prescribed burns.</p>
<p>Site 5: Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area North Unit, Burn Unit 31</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Discussed timing and vegetative responses following burns, and the next scheduled burn.</p>
<p>Site 6: Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area North Unit, Burn Unit 23</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Discussed timing and vegetative responses following burns, and the next scheduled burn.</p>
<p>Site 7: Recent Timber Harvest</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Completed harvest in recently-acquired parcel. The goal was to remove the forest cover (leaving some isolated trees) to set up site for the first burn to create barrens habitat. Harvest goals were met.</p>
<p>Site 8: Mandatory: 42348, Tract 1-16, sale # 6615</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Active harvest suspended due to no market for the products available from the immature timber. Carlson Timber Products has an open, active timber harvest on the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area (Sale #6615, Tract 1-18) with about 100 cords of pine trees felled and bunched in the woods or on the landing that may soon exceed the 30-day limit for removal. There is a wood chipper on site. The main intended market for these small trees was to be one or more biomass facilities in Minnesota, but Excel Energy recently and unexpectedly closed the facilities. Carlson has no market for the volume of wood on the ground and the much larger volume remaining standing on the remaining sale area.</p>
<p>Beaver Brook Wildlife Area</p>	<p>Overview of FMU: “Wildlife management and related non-motorized recreation are the primary goals and uses for the property. Many in-stream trout habitat improvements and surveys are conducted on the trout stream. Regular aspen, oak and pine management timber sales are conducted to improve wildlife habitat. Old fields are managed for grassland habitat by conducting periodic prescribed burns.</p> <p>State Natural Area designation was recommended for a 240-acre site contains the most botanically diverse site known in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. The cranberry beds and associated flows have been restored to trout stream and wetlands.” Source: Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Program page accessed 8.23.18</p> <p>Planners are working on a master plan to include this wildlife area as part of planning mostly focused in the northwest sands. This “out of sequence” planning is driven by the need to resolve a long-standing dispute over the suitability of the parcel for a bike trail.</p>

	An acceptable trail corridor has been identified for inclusion in the master plan, allowing the trail to be built after approval of plan and of trail design and funding.
Site 9: Sale #6608, Tract 4-15,	Feature(s) of Interest: Completed improvement thinning in a 95-acre Red Oak stand and new section of logging access road spur were reviewed. Silviculture was reviewed; residual stand includes many large-crowned, well-formed and healthy red oaks, as well is some trees with form and structure (branches, multiple stems, decadent portions) which are desirable for wildlife habitat. New logging access spur has been graded and water bars installed. The water bars are spaced somewhat further than per BMP manual because there was no suitable location for them closer; some surface erosion is occurring, but the water bars are catching most sediment and moving the water to the nearby forest as per design.
Site 10: Accessible Hunter Walking Trail	Feature(s) of Interest: The road/trail here serves multiple purposes. It provided access for the completed Sale #6608, and was graded with water turnoffs on completion. It is also a gated hunter walking trail with combination of lock provided to hunters lacking the ability to walk who can drive it, and in winter it is a ski trail. The road is not graveled, and some portions are below grade. The road is not crowned, although some parts have side slope. Some surface erosion was noted. Discussed changing responsibilities due to the restricting.
Site 11: Sale #6617, Tract 3-17	Feature(s) of Interest: Partially completed improvement thinning in Red Oak stand and new section of logging access road were reviewed. About 20% of the timber in this sale has been removed. Deep frost prevented road building needed to access the remaining 80% of the timber. Protection for wetland areas was confirmed, including areas painted out with assistance from hydrologist. This site has extra harvest method and season provisions as part of the acquisition funding through "upland buffer credits" as part of DOT mitigation agreement.
Site 12: Sale #6617, Tract 3-17	Feature(s) of Interest: Aspen pocket that was regenerated.
Various management areas near Apple River, WI: Team Schulte	
Site 1: Apple River Timber Demonstration Forest Tract 3-17 Sale 215	Feature(s) of Interest: Demonstration forest established in 1946. Last harvest on this stand was in 1985. Some of the original plot centers still exist. Stand improvement on oak and white pine stand. This harvest is being conducted in conjunction with the adjacent County property. Widespread worm damage to soil.
Site 2: Loon Lake Wildlife Area Tract 3-16 Sale 174	Feature(s) of Interest: Oak regen partially harvested in 2017. Logger will return to finish in the fall. Scarified in conjunction with harvest. Hand cut and whole tree skidded. Field on access road seeded with warm season grasses.
Site 3: MacKenzie Creek Wildlife Area Tract 1-17 Sale 214	Feature(s) of Interest: Coppice harvest on aspen stand. Wetland marked out with leave tree reserves. Group associated with Ice Age Trail was informed since the trail is along the sale access road for a short distance.

<p>Site 4: Ice Age Trail – Polk Tract 1-16 Sale 217</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Sold, not harvested. Red pine and northern hardwood thinning. Buffer along trail and RMZ. Sale was set up by a contract forester. The IFMP had to be renewed before the sale could proceed since there is no Master Plan in place for the property.</p>
<p>Site 5: Sand Creek Fishery Area Tract 1-17</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Marked, not sold. Oak hardwood thinning adjacent to Sand Creek. Marked for a very light thinning. Forester who set up the sale has since left so another forester will pick up administration when sold and active.</p>
<p>Site 6: Clam River Fishery Area Tract CR2-17 Sale 706-217</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Harvest completed. Three separate stands of oak, white pine, and aspen. Objective is to enhance wildlife habitat. Fisheries biologist requested relocation of skid trail and that marking be moved back from Clam River. Both requests were accommodated by the forester.</p>
<p>Site 7: Clam River Fishery Area Tract CR2-16 Sale 706-216</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Marked, not sold. Red oak and northern hardwood thinning to enhance wildlife habitat while protecting Clam River Fishery. Clam River is a trout bearing stream. Single tree selection. Aspen birch removal.</p>
<p>Totogatic Wildlife Area and Mosquito Brook Flowage: Team Boatwright</p>	
<p>Site 1: Totogatic Wildlife Area Timber Sale: 01-16</p>	<p>Feature(s) of Interest: Acquisition of Totogatic Wildlife Area began in 1941 and was completed in 1951 comprising a total of 2719 acres. This project was funded originally through the Pittman-Robertson Act as a waterfowl restoration area. A 600-foot dike and 70-foot dam were completed in 1953 which flooded approximately 1000 acres with about 400 acres of open water. Fifteen miles of roads were constructed on the property to improve access and provide fire breaks.</p> <p>A 35-acre impoundment was created on the south edge of the property in 1956 to improve muskrat habitat and nesting islands were created here for waterfowl. Boat landings were built at both ends of the flowage to provide public access. Active timber management provides a diverse forest with a focus on quality wildlife habitat. The flowage is now used more heavily for fishing than waterfowl hunting and is a popular place in spring and fall for viewing migrating waterfowl. Osprey nesting platforms have been placed on the property.</p> <p>3 harvest prescriptions: 32-acre aspen regen harvest. 1) Stand contains aspen and red maple of different age classes. This harvest is complete with a wide SMZ along the flowage. No issues identified. 2) 22-acre northern hardwood stand improvement harvest that appears to be the first stand entry. Cut trees marked, except aspen. Observation of the marking effort and interviews indicate the harvest focused on removing high risk, low vigor trees while trying to release the natural regen in areas where it's established. 3) 50-acre swamp hardwood strip cuts with all trees to be harvested in each 100-foot strip with are 100-foot uncut strips between them. The objective of this harvest is to begin a multi-</p>

	step harvest with the uncut strips being cut after the cut strips have successfully regenerated. This sale is frozen ground only.
Site 2: Totogatic Wildlife Area Timber Sale: 01-15	Feature(s) of Interest: 21-acre northern hardwood single tree selection stand improvement cut focused on removing high risk and low vigor trees with attention to leaving snag and cavity trees. This is a very nice stand with basswood, red and sugar maple and ash. Harvest was accomplished on frozen ground. The sale is in a remote, difficult to access area and the forester noticed that the adjoining stand had been marked and approached the logger about cutting the DNR stand. Excellent logging job with minimal damage to residuals.
Site 3: Totogatic Wildlife Area Crabapple and Plum Tree Planting Project	Feature(s) of Interest: The project supplements an established wildlife forage corridor along the north side of the flowage and will increase wildlife viewing opportunities. Planted trees were staked and fenced.
Site 4: Mosquito Brook Flowage Sale: 06-16	Feature(s) of Interest: Unsold 26-acre 2 step shelterwood harvest to promote red oak regen. Sale will coincide with a larger harvest on the adjacent Sawyer County Forest property. Observation of the marked leave trees confirms the sale will result in a 50% crown closure.
24 August 2018	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
DNR offices, Hayward, WI	Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm evaluation findings
	Closing Meeting: Review preliminary findings (potential non-conformities and observations) and discuss next steps

3.1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site assessing the applicant:	5
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation:	4
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A):	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and post-site follow-up:	2
E. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	22

3.1.3 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Kyle Meister	Auditor role:	Lead FSC Auditor
Qualifications:	Kyle Meister is an FSC Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (COC), Sustainable Biomass Partnership, and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain Certification Lead Auditor with SCS Global Services. He has conducted FSC FM pre-assessments, evaluations or surveillance audits in Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, and all major forest producing regions of the United States. He has conducted COC assessments in Bolivia, Canada, Panama, and the United States (California, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). Mr. Meister has		

	successfully completed CAR Lead Verifier, ISO 9001:2008 Lead Auditor, SA8000 Social Systems Introduction and Basic Auditor, RSPO Supply Chain Lead Auditor, SBP Lead Auditor, and FSC Lead Auditor and Trainer Training Courses. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.		
Auditor name:	Norman Boatwright	Auditor role:	Lead SFI Auditor
Qualifications:	Norman Boatwright is the president of Boatwright Consulting Services, LLC located in Florence, South Carolina. BCS handles typical forestry consulting, SFI, ATF and FSC Audits, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Forest Soil Mapping, Wetland Delineation, and other Biological Services. Norman has over twenty-nine years' experience in intensive forest management, eighteen years' experience in environmental services and ten years' experience in forest certification auditing. He has conducted Phase I Assessments on over three hundred and fifty projects covering 3,000,000 acres, Endangered Species Assessments on timberland across the South, and managed soil mapping projects on over 1.3 million acres. From 1985-1991, he was Division Manager at Canal Forest Resources, Inc. and was responsible for all forest management activities on about 90,000 acres of timberland in eastern South Carolina. Duties included budgeting and implementing land and timber sales, site preparation, planting, best management practices, road construction, etc. From 1991-1999, he was manager of Canal Environmental Services which offered the following services: Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Wetland Delineation and Permitting and Endangered Species Surveys. From 1999-2012 he was the Environmental Services Manager, Milliken Forestry Company. Norman has extensive experience auditing SFI, procurement and land management organizations and American Tree Farm Group Certification Programs. He is also a Lead Auditor for Chain of Custody Audits under SFI, PEFC, and FSC.		
Auditor name:	Ruthann Schulte	Auditor role:	FSC Auditor
Qualifications:	For decades Ruthann has worked on issues related to landscape management, wildlife management, and the long-term stewardship of private forest and ranch lands. Over her career, she has coordinated forest certification programs for private industry. Ruthann holds a B.S. in Biology from Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan and a Master of Biology from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. She is an ISO 14001 accredited auditor and has served on internal audit teams for ISO 9001. Ms. Schulte has been a lead auditor for SCS Forest Management and Chain of Custody programs since 2017.		
Auditor name:	Michael Ferrucci	Auditor role:	SFI Auditor
Qualifications:	Mike Ferrucci is qualified as a RAB-QSA Lead Auditor (ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems), as an SFI Lead Auditor for Forest Management, Procurement, and Chain of Custody, as an FSC Lead Auditor Forest Management and Chain of Custody, as a Tree Farm Group Certification Lead Auditor, and as a GHG Lead Auditor. Mike has led Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) certification and precertification reviews throughout the United States. He has also led or participated in joint SFI and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification projects in nearly one dozen states and a joint scoping or precertification gap-analysis project on tribal lands throughout the United States. He also co-led the		

	<p>pioneering pilot dual evaluation of the Lakeview Stewardship Unit on the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Mike Ferrucci has 33 years of forest management experience. His expertise is in sustainable forest management planning; in certification of forests as sustainably managed; in the application of easements for large-scale working forests, and in the ecology, silviculture, and management of mixed species forests, with an emphasis on regeneration and management of native hardwood species. Mike has conducted or participated in assessments of forest management operations throughout the United States, with field experience in 4 countries and 33 states. Mike has been a member of the Society of American Foresters for over thirty-five years. He is Past Chair of the SFI Auditor’s Forum. Mike is also a Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he has taught graduate courses and workshops in forest management, harvesting operations, professional forest ethics, private forestry, and financial analysis.</p>
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3.2 Evaluation of Management System

3.2.1 Methodology and Strategies Employed

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams with expertise in forestry, social sciences, natural resource economics, and other relevant fields to assess an FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies. Evaluation methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing FME personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on her or his background and expertise. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the assessment jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, stakeholder comments, and reviewed documents and records. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

3.2.2 Pre-evaluation

- A pre-evaluation of the FME *was not* required by FSC norms.
- A pre-evaluation of the FME was conducted as required by and in accordance with FSC norms.

3.3 Stakeholder Consultation Process

In accordance with SCS protocols, consultation with key stakeholders is an integral component of the evaluation process. Stakeholder consultation takes place prior to, concurrent with, and following field evaluations. Distinct purposes of such consultation include:

- To solicit input from affected parties as to the strengths and weaknesses of the FME’s management, relative to the standard, and the nature of the interaction between the company and the surrounding communities.
- To solicit input on whether the forest management operation has consulted with stakeholders regarding identifying any high conservation value forests (HCVFs).

Stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based on the three FSC chambers, as well as the SCS Interim Standard, if one was used. A public notice was sent to stakeholders at least 6 weeks prior to the audit notifying them of the audit and soliciting comments.

3.3.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

Principal stakeholder groups are identified based upon results from past evaluations, lists of stakeholders from the FME under evaluation, and additional stakeholder contacts from other sources. Stakeholder groups who are consulted as part of the evaluation include FME management and staff, consulting foresters, contractors, lease holders, adjacent property owners, local and regionally-based social interest and civic organizations, purchasers of logs harvested on FME forestlands, recreational user groups, tribal members and/or representatives, members of the FSC National Initiative, members of the regional FSC working group, FSC International, local and regionally-based environmental organizations and conservationists, and forest industry groups and organizations, as well as local, state, and federal regulatory agency personnel and other relevant groups.

3.3.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

The table below summarizes the major comments received from stakeholders and the evaluation team’s response. Where a stakeholder comment has triggered a subsequent investigation during the evaluation, the corresponding follow-up action and conclusions from SCS are noted below.

Stakeholder Comment	SCS Response
<p><i>(The following has been modified to protect the identity of the stakeholder; changes have been italicized)</i></p> <p><i>Our organization</i> represents over 18,000 members and supporters in the State of Wisconsin. One important tenet of our national mission statement expresses our dedication “to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources”. With this as a given we are pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments to SCS in relation to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management recertification of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</p>	<p>Regarding the legislative process, the indicators of the FSC-US Standard, V1-0, and other FSC policies do not consider this subject to be under the scope of FSC. That is, there are no indicators that include how the legislative process is conducted. However, once legislation has been enacted, FME staff must develop policies, procedures, plans, and other documents to guide forest management practices on the ground.</p> <p>There are indicators from the FSC-US Standard, V1-0, that are relevant to this planning process and that require that the FME’s planning processes and documents be open to public consultation since it manages a public FMU,</p>

<p>(WDNR). It is important to <i>our organization</i> that Wisconsin’s forests and other lands are sustainably managed according to objective standards.</p> <p>After consultation with knowledgeable forestry professionals, we would like to call attention to the following items that may be of interest and concern in recertifying Wisconsin lands...</p> <p>Approximately three years ago, the Wisconsin Legislature used its Joint Finance Budget process to make changes to the state law governing State Forests. One change mandated that 75% of state land in northern forests be managed to maximize timber production using generally accepted forest management procedures. (It was troubling to us that this change was done in a way that did not allow for public meetings or other opportunities for public comment.) We suggest that you examine whether this dictate has been implemented in a fashion that continues meets FSC certification requirements for all lands.</p> <p>One area of potential concern noted in Principle 5 of the FSC standard is that the forest owner or manager identifies and defines appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including municipal watersheds, fisheries, carbon storage and sequestration, recreation and tourism. We believe these are important concerns for all forests, especially those that are owned by the public.</p> <p>Similarly, we urge you to review the Environmental Impact noted in Principle 6 of the FSC standard, including that forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p> <p>Another area of review might be to ensure that management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach. (Principle 9)</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to call these items to your attention.</p>	<p>including, for example, indicators 4.4.d, 6.1.d, 7.4.b, and 9.2.b.</p> <p>Lastly, when and where the FME and/or stakeholders have identified potential conflicts between legislative and FSC requirements, FSC Criterion 1.4 serves as a mechanism to resolve these conflicts through consultation between the interested parties. Per the new legislation, the FME has not identified any such conflicts and none were detected by the audit team.</p> <p>Regarding FSC-US indicator 4.4.d and 9.2.b, Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44 outlines public consultation processes for master plans. All NR 44 compliant master plans go through an extensive public review process. Master plans include sections on high conservation value sites and proposed management of them. There is a government email distribution list that allows for interested parties to opt into notifications on certain topics (e.g. wolf management) and properties (e.g. X state forest).</p> <p>The WEPA process provides opportunity for public input. Harvest planning is done annually and all plans are open for a public comment period. All planning activities are presented on the FME’s website for comment. Parties also can avail themselves of administrative hearing process. Any decision by the department can be appealed (a decision being defined as any plan or permit). The aggrieved party has the opportunity to have appeal heard in front of hearing examiner.</p> <p>Regarding FSC-US indicator 7.4.a, Wisconsin DNR has presents all plans on its webpage (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning), where plans in both draft and final form are posted for public review. Several other webpages are relevant to this indicator, including: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/guidelines.html, https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html, and https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/reports.html.</p>
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	<p>Regarding 6.1.d, the process for developing property-specific master plans and interim plans does include steps for involving the public in developing draft and final plans.</p> <p>Final assessments are available to the public on departmental web sites or by request in DNR offices. In addition, Annual Integrated Property Meetings are held for each property or group of properties and offer opportunities for public comments on proposed or ongoing projects.</p> <p>For how the FME responded to the legislative change related to Northern State Forests and the process to implement it (28.04 or the “75% rule”), the FME provided some examples available on its webpage (see links below). The only document that remains on the external web page is the final approved variance for each state forest.</p> <p>More importantly, no areas under passive management (i.e., where no commercial timber harvest occurs) were reclassified as forest production areas. The FME used this opportunity to refine the boundaries of natural communities and classify areas already under active timber management as forest production. For example, there were some wildlife areas where commercial timber harvest occurs as a part of managing certain wildlife species that were reclassified as forest production.</p> <p>The Brule River State Forest master plan used the variance decision and associated land management classifications in the full 15-year Master plan review process. The Brule master plan was approved in 2017.</p> <p>The variance and Brule plan review were consistent with the planning requirements and procedures outlined in NR44:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finished product: A master plan variance for the Northern State Forests (excluding Gov. Knowles State Forest); https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/mpcomplete.html
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. High level talking points used for various briefings – background, process, proposals; 3. Public Involvement plan; 4. Summary of public comment; and 5. Project management timeline. <p>Regarding Principle 5, the FME has staff utilization foresters and economists that maintain regular contact with industry to ensure that existing and new markets are researched. The FME also has data on tourism on DNR-managed lands. Refer also to economic fact sheets prepared by forest economists for each county: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html.</p> <p>As part of all management planning processes, the FME plans for several types of wildlife, fisheries, and recreation enhancement activities. For example, on the Spring Creek Wildlife Area, a timber harvest is planned and snowmobile trails will be upgraded at the same time. On the same site, flowages are managed through rotation so that managed wild rice populations can recover after each harvest, thus allowing related plant and animal species time free from human-disturbance. Forest harvests are set up to respect BMPs related to specially designated streams, such as a 400-ft. buffer on the Brule River for fisheries and water quality.</p> <p>Regarding Principle 6, the 2460 Form is required to be completed before a timber sale is carried out. Other site-disturbing activities require different plans. Chapter 32 of the Timber Sale Handbook lists specific topics that must be included in the assessment recorded on the 2460 Form, and appropriate codes for some of these items. These site-specific plans complement broad goals of master plans for long-term landscape composition, including management of any RTE species.</p> <p>Regarding Principle 9, there is a significant overlap of State Natural Area (SNAs) and HCVF designation. All areas on DNR-managed lands that are determined to be HCVF are also contained in SNAs. Furthermore, the process that</p>
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	<p>led to SNA designation includes all lands within an ecological landscape, adjacent to the FMU or not. In particular, DNR works with national forests, national ENGOS, and county land managers to manage high conservation forests and other land types. Many State Natural Areas are on land owned by partners. These areas have been identified, mapped, and are contained in the NHI database. 687 designated State Natural Areas include nearly 400,000 acres of land and water.</p> <p>Wisconsin has the nation’s largest and oldest natural areas protection program. The Natural Areas Preservation Council, an independently appointed 11-member body created by state law in 1951, advises DNR about the establishment, protection and management of State Natural Areas. DNR has undergone extensive review and assessment of HCVF within the SNA program. The Ecological Landscape Handbook for Wisconsin is available on the DNR website. The handbook presents the result of analysis of 16 landscape types in Wisconsin. Individual Master Plans identify the landscapes that are relevant to the plan and present management plans for SNAs (including HCVF) present on the planning unit.</p>
<p>A contractor expressed concerns about certain contract clauses related to firebreaks and a limit for removal of products caused in part by significant changes in markets.</p>	<p>It was found through interviews with the contractor that he has maintained communication with FME staff about his concerns, and that the FME staff is understanding. The FME provides a document on understanding sample timber sale contracts. Guidance for writing contracts available in the Timber Sale Handbook was most recently updated in 2014. As such, it appears that there are guidelines available to the purchaser on how to pursue written changes to the contract if onsite discussions do not meet the contractor’s needs.</p>
<p>A stakeholder interested in Sharptailed grouse conservation and recovery had positive comments about the approach to maintaining roving pine-oak barrens that are treeless for a while. They used to do a single clearcut and use fire in the past; now they use a ≈1,000-ac area and then rotate clearcut corridors around it. One scheme is taking place in the Barnes Fire Break Area – they used to have half-mile-wide</p>	<p>The audit team observed several instances of the FME’s management for species that benefit from early-successional habitat, including sharptailed grouse. For example, on the Spring Creek Wildlife Area (W.A.), Kimberley Clark W.A., and Hay Creek Hoffman Lake W.A (HC-HL W.A.), the audit team observed areas intentionally managed for rotating early-successional habitat and forest</p>

<p>firebreaks, but sharp-tails occupy those open corridors. So, they set up a 1000-ac corridor and are opening up the perimeter through roving clearcuts. They rotate clearcuts throughout the corridors and then forestry gets funds through timber sales and wildlife get benefits because they only have to manage the core 1,000-ac area.</p> <p>DNR is working on a leased area with no permanent core area, but they use large clearcuts of 500 acres that will be rotated throughout the landscape. DNR still maintains wildlife areas that are producing sharptails through permanent openings (prescribed fire) at considerable cost. Fire is the responsibility of forestry division rather than wildlife. Fire division did a great job.</p> <p>We're a private group that promotes early open barrens, which are rare on the landscape. Ecologists say these are pine-oak savannahs. We are interested in that early open stage when the area is essentially treeless, which is down to a few thousand areas. We have a good working relationship, but we are concerned that funding could dry up; there has been no increase in hunting license charges in 15 years, so we are concerned about funds drying up. There is some funding through firearms sales that increased somewhat during the last 10 years. Very little funding from general taxes that goes to wildlife.</p> <p>On private lands there is a lot more row crop instead of grazing; on public lands, the heavier soil leads to faster tree growth so open space is short-lived. We don't count on Kimberley Clark to recover sharptails.</p> <p>Funding is our main concern from an inflationary perspective and that there are fewer people purchasing hunting licenses. Concerned about funding drying up from public sources. We're not sure how forestry and wildlife are going to be funded with license and tax funding decreasing.</p> <p>Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a drain on the wildlife budget – it is still spreading across the state and we do not see costs from CWD going down.</p>	<p>production areas that may serve as early-successional habitat for a time.</p> <p>In interviews with FME wildlife staff, the current initiative for sharptailed grouse recovery includes connecting isolated populations to improve gene-flow and increase their presence on the landscape. More information is available on the FME's sharptailed grouse management webpage. The FME participates in an advisory committee dedicated to sharptailed grouse management and recovery. The committee consists primarily of state and federal land managers.</p> <p>The Wildlife Action Plan identifies species of concern and prioritizes conservation objectives and opportunities for each of them within the ecological landscape classifications, including for sharptailed grouse.</p> <p>It is also important to recognize the importance that non-DNR-managed lands have in the recovery of sharptailed grouse. For example, more recently the USFS has cooperated in trapping and relocating sharptailed grouse to the Moquah Barrens in addition to conducting activities on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to aid in its recovery.</p> <p>Hunting licenses and taxes are determined through legislative processes that outside of the FME's control. That being said, the FME provided data on its annual budget, and how projects are prioritized considering funding sources and available staff. Sharptailed grouse management occurs through a combination of county, state, and federal land managers in cooperation with private initiatives, including NGOs.</p>
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<p>Some work on the Chequamegon NF has been very successful on barrens management and relocating birds from Minnesota. There are 1-2 years left of funding from DNR Moquah Wildlife Funding.</p>	
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4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Notable Strengths and Weaknesses of the FME Relative to the FSC P&C

Table below contains the evaluation team’s findings as to the strengths and weaknesses of the subject forest management operation relative to the FSC Principles of forest stewardship. Weaknesses are noted as Corrective Action Requests (CARs) related to each principle.

Principle / Subject Area	Strengths Relative to Conformity to the Standard	Weaknesses Relative to Conformity to the Standard
P1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance	The FME’s response to law 28.04 for the Northern Forests resulted in no loss of protected areas and involved the public at every step of the process.	Finding 2018.1
P2: Tenure & Use Rights & Responsibilities	No exceptional strengths noted.	Finding 2018.2
P3: Indigenous Peoples’ Rights	Since hiring tribal liaison staff, local foresters have better access to information on tribal concerns and maintain working relationships with tribal leaders.	None.
P4: Community Relations & Workers’ Rights	There are several outreach programs and publications available to the public, including for forestry professionals that work on private and public lands.	Finding 2018.3
P5: Benefits from the Forest	There are several examples of the FME using timber sales to create habitat for species of concern and to enhance recreational infrastructure.	None.
P6: Environmental Impact	The FME’s program for establishing and maintaining pine-oak barrens at the landscape level for the recovery of several species, including sharptailed grouse and Karner blue butterfly, involves several other organizations and goes beyond	Finding 2018.4, 2018.5 and 2018.6

	lands under its management control.	
P7: Management Plan	Stakeholder comments on management plans may be sent even after plans have been finalized via contact information on the website.	None.
P8: Monitoring & Assessment	No exceptional strengths noted.	Findings 2018.7 and 2018.8
P9: High Conservation Value Forests	There are several instances of the FME working with other public agencies and stakeholder groups to promote RTE species recovery efforts outside of the FMU. For example, the Karner blue butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan includes several other agencies and partners.	None.
P10: Plantations	NA	NA
Chain of Custody	No exceptional strengths noted.	None.
Group Management	NA	NA

4.2 Process of Determining Conformance

4.2.1 Structure of Standard and Degrees of Nonconformance

FSC-accredited forest stewardship standards consist of a three-level hierarchy: principle, the criteria that correspond to that principle, and the performance indicators that elaborate each criterion. Consistent with SCS Forest Conservation Program evaluation protocols, the team collectively determines whether or not the subject forest management operation is in conformance with every applicable indicator of the relevant forest stewardship standard. Each nonconformance must be evaluated to determine whether it constitutes a major or minor nonconformance at the level of the associated criterion or sub-criterion. Not all indicators are equally important, and there is no simple numerical formula to determine whether an operation is in nonconformance. The team therefore must use their collective judgment to assess each criterion and determine if the FME is in conformance. If the FME is determined to be in nonconformance at the criterion level, then at least one of the applicable indicators must be in major nonconformance.

Corrective action requests (CARs) are issued for every instance of a nonconformance. Major nonconformances trigger Major CARs and minor nonconformances trigger Minor CARs.

4.2.2 Interpretations of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations


Major CARs: Major nonconformances, either alone or in combination with nonconformances of all other applicable indicators, result (or are likely to result) in a fundamental failure to achieve the objectives of the relevant FSC Criterion given the uniqueness and fragility of each forest resource. These are

corrective actions that must be resolved or closed out before a certificate can be awarded. If Major CARs arise after an operation is certified, the timeframe for correcting these nonconformances is typically shorter than for Minor CARs. Certification is contingent on the certified FME’s response to the CAR within the stipulated time frame.

Minor CARs: These are corrective action requests in response to minor nonconformances, which are typically limited in scale or can be characterized as an unusual lapse in the system. Most Minor CARs are the result of nonconformance at the indicator-level. Corrective actions must be closed out within a specified time period of award of the certificate.

Observations: These are subject areas where the evaluation team concludes that there is conformance, but either future nonconformance may result due to inaction or the FME could achieve exemplary status through further refinement. Action on observations is voluntary and does not affect the maintenance of the certificate. However, observations can become CARs if performance with respect to the indicator(s) triggering the observation falls into nonconformance.

4.3. Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2017.1	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	US-FM 6.7.a
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): A logging job inspected during the audit did not have a hazardous spill kit on site (Dunneville Wildlife Area, 2-2-2015).	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): The FME shall ensure employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills. This may include but is not limited to: spill kits, plans, and knowledge of qualified personnel to call on in an event of a hazardous spill.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	<p>The Division of Forestry maintains up-to-date BMP’s for water quality, provides training, and maintains timber sale administration guidance that clearly states the requirement for spill kits and response to hazardous spills. The Division of Forestry reinforced this guidance to staff, particularly timber sale administrators, through an article that was published on May 1, 2018 in the division’s internal newsletter, “ForesTREEporter”. The post is contained in this PDF.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  Response to 2017 State lands BMP finc </div>

SCS review	The SCS Audit team reviewed the article, which reinforces existing pre-sale checklist procedures that staff use to verify that contractors have spill kits onsite. The article also includes descriptions of the dangers of certain spills, basic self-protection measures and spill response, and where more information can be found on certain substances. Pre-sale checklists were reviewed for active sites visited during the audit.
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2017.2	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2, 1.11 and 1.16
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): The audit team identified uses of the trademark in the prospectus for two State Forests and in a public handbook that were not approved by the CB. Noted that this was identified during internal audit by the WI DNR who have already taken action towards correction of this issue justifying grading of this CAR as Minor.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): The FMU shall request approval for use of the trademarks.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	The Division of Forestry reviewed its uses of the FSC logo and trademarks across property types particularly with timber sale contract, sale documents (prospectus) and invoices. All logos were removed from documents until a better central control system exists. Trademark language was removed from the timber sale prospectus and replaced with a statement that “These lands are third party certified”. Trademark uses on haul tickets, contracts and invoices were submitted for approval. The use of trademarks has been standardized for all timber sales.
SCS review	SCS reviewed the updated timber sale contract documents and related sales documentation (e.g., prospectus), and confirmed that logos were removed. A departmental memo instructing staff to not use trademarks was reviewed (4/8/18). Haul tickets, contracts, invoices and their associated approval records were reviewed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

4.4. New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2018.1	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 1.1.b
<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): To facilitate legal compliance, the forest owner or manager must ensure that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.</p> <p>Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were removed from the garage and could not be located during the audit at the Brule State Forest. These are required as part of OSHA hazards communications. See https://www.osha.gov/html/faq-hazcom.html for some information (accessed August 24, 2018). All other facilities inspected had MSDS available onsite.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation): To facilitate legal compliance, FME should ensure that employees, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations, particularly those related hazard communications such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).</p>	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2018.2	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 2.1.c

Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries on nearly all harvests visited. However, on Tract 10-16, sale GK274 (Horse Trade Timber Sale) of the Governor Knowles State Forest, the northern boundary was blue-lined in the map but could not be located in the field. The timber sale has just been sold and no management activities have been initiated yet.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): Boundaries of land ownership and use rights should be clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)


Finding Number: 2018.3	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 4.2.b
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): During interviews with two logging contractors, the SCS auditor discovered that their cell phones often do not have signals in the field and that they also do not have alternative communications equipment onsite, such as a two-way radio or similar device. OSHA rules for Logging Operations (59:51672-51748), item V. <i>Major Issues</i> , number 5. <i>Visual and audible contact</i> includes requirements for communications between employers/employees. However, as the loggers are contractors, FME cannot interfere with employer/employee relationships. FME has its own protocols for working alone or remotely for its own employees. During interviews with FME staff, it was found that the FME can recommend potential topics to cover in FISTA and/or SFI trainings. Safety of workers in the forest would be strengthened by considering covering communication options as a potential topic in logger safety trainings.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): Contractors should demonstrate a safe work environment through improving procedures and/or measures for visual and audible contact.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	

Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)
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Finding Number: 2018.4	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 6.5.b and 6.5.d.
<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of Criterion 6.5 on most operations observed. For example, water-bars are installed at regular intervals and slash is strategically placed to control erosion when closing skid trails used in logging operations, as observed on several sites. The FME has been restructuring its responsibilities for which divisions and staff are responsible for implementing BMPs.</p> <p>Interviews with personnel from different divisions indicate some uncertainty as to responsibilities for and resources to accomplish road repair and routine maintenance. Through these same interviews, it was discovered that staff equipment operators are not being trained in BMPs to the same degree as forestry staff. Rather, it has been expected that foresters instruct operators on the types of BMPs to implement. Climate change predictions indicate that more severe summer storm events and more prolonged droughts can be expected. Such patterns will both slow the revegetation process and increase the amount of road impacts from summer rains. These two factors will increase the need for properly constructed and types of drainage structures on roads.</p> <p>On page 62 of the BMPs handbook there are four requirements for inactive roads that specify drainage structures that may be used. There was minor surface erosion at one site, but it did not drain into a watercourse or waterbody. The Rocky Run Sale 1-15 on the White River Fishery Area is a completed and closed-out timber sale that was harvested via the tree-length logging system. Sale closeout included the FME’s bulldozer crew constructing water-bars along a 120-foot section of main skid trail. The water-bars were spaced adequately, but were not constructed properly as they were perpendicular to the water flow, had no outlet, and the sandy soil was not compacted by the dozer.</p>	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): Forest operations should meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	

Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>
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Finding Number: 2018.5	
Select one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 6.7.a
<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Upgraded Minor CAR 2017.1. On some of the harvest sites visited, contract loggers had incomplete spill kits. Specifically, the absorbent material described in the Wisconsin BMP manual (FR0093) was not available onsite (see page 116). During review of pre-harvest inspection forms, one from 2014 stated that the logger “will have one onsite” indicating that its presence was not verified. Furthermore, the logger for the sale had changed in 2018 and stated in an interview with the SCS auditor that he had no absorbent material onsite, but was aware of the requirement from SFI trainings.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation): The FME shall ensure employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills. This may include but is not limited to: spill kits, plans, and knowledge of qualified personnel to call on in an event of a hazardous spill.</p>	

<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	<p><u>Root cause:</u> prior to the 2018 audit, the Division of Forestry trained all forestry staff and supervisors about the procedures for hazardous spills response including the need for spill kits. In the cases observed during the 2018 audit, the administering forester spoke to the contractor and received a verbal confirmation that the contractor had a spill kit on site. However, during the audit it was observed that the spill kit was incomplete (specifically no absorbent material in the kit). Verbal confirmation alone was insufficient to assure contractor conformance to the BMP requirement for a spill kit (bucket or other container, shovel, absorbent material and hose clamps).</p> <p><u>Containment plan:</u> The Division of Forestry uses a policy system that can include a guidance memo for an immediate statement of policy clarification or change. A guidance memo has been drafted for field staff and supervisors, particularly those with state lands timber sale administration responsibilities, to clarify that effective immediately, sale administrators must confirm that contractors have complete spill kits on site and document that fact in the Harvest Inspection Record. Additionally, the guidance directs staff to confirm the presence of a spill kit each time a crew reenters a site.</p> <p> Memo_Spill_Kit_Inte rim_Guidance_Oct_2</p> <p>This memo does not alter the current BMPs for water quality or the responsibility of DNR to assure conformance. It does highlight the importance of being prepared and effectively responding to hazardous spills.</p> <p><u>Corrective Action Plan:</u> The guidance memo will be effective upon signature by the Bureau Director of Forestry Field Operations, Trent Marty, and electronic issuance to staff and supervisors. The guidance memo will be reviewed with Area Managers at a Field Operations Team regular meeting on November 14 as part of a review of audit findings and our response. The memo will also be reinforced through an article in the Division’s staff newsletter <u>The ForesTREEporter</u>.</p> <p>Forestry supervisors will monitor staff compliance with the guidance and additional training on BMPs and timber sale administration will be offered as needed.</p> <p>Guidance memos are effective for one year from the time of issuance. The policy changes represented by the memo will be codified in the Division’s Timber Sale Handbook as part of regular handbook updates.</p>
<p>SCS review</p>	<p>In addition to the actions that the FME has described, the FME provided a copy of the memo on spills kits signed by the Bureau Director of Forestry Field Operations and sent to Forestry Area Leaders and Team Leaders on November 5, 2018, which ensures that the memo has taken effect per the FME’s internal procedures. The additional review in meetings and the article in the ForesTREEporter will reinforce the ideas included in the memo.</p>
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2018.6	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 6.7.b.
<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): In the event of a hazardous material spill, at the White River Fishery Area in Bayfield County, the FME did not immediately contain the material and engage qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation on site, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p> <p>The hydraulic spill observed was roughly eight-square-feet in size and, per interviews with the BMP forester, the affected material should have been removed and disposed of at a specialized waste facility. Several staff interviewed did not recognize the presence of the spill.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation): In the event of a hazardous material spill, the FME shall immediately contain the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p>	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2018.7	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US 8.4.a.

<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): The FME is not consistently completing its monitoring protocol for documenting the degree to which the objectives stated in the Master Plans are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from these plans. Per review of publicly available monitoring reports, several are years behind (https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html). For years during which Master Plans were under revision, for some state forests and natural areas, the webpage states “N/A” or “In active master planning process”. For other years, there is a blank space for monitoring reports. Monitoring reports are currently published annually. Per interviews with FME staff, monitoring protocols are under revision and being consolidated. Per interviews with staff, monitoring updates may be included in more recently updated master plans; however, a review of one newer master plan, Brule River State Forest [PDF], shows no clear indication of how past monitoring results were used in the plan.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation): FME shall monitor and document the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p>SCS review</p>	
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<p>Finding Number: 2018.8</p>	
<p>Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):</p>	
<p>Deadline</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<p>FSC Indicator:</p>	<p>FSC-US 8.5.a</p>
<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request. Indicator 8.5.a does not specify how frequently the FME should keep its monitoring results up-to-date, which leaves this decision up to the FME.</p> <p>Per evidence cited in 8.4.a, the FME is behind on publishing the results of monitoring. For some state areas, there are placeholders such as “N/A” or “In active master planning process”, thus demonstrating transparency to stakeholders on why certain monitoring reports were not prepared.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation): While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information should be maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and be available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request.</p>	


FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

5. Certification Decision

Certification Recommendation	
FME be awarded FSC certification as a “Well-Managed Forest” subject to the minor corrective action requests stated in Section 4.2.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The SCS evaluation team makes the above recommendation for certification based on the full and proper execution of the SCS Forest Conservation Program evaluation protocols.	
Any Minor CARs from previous surveillance audits have been reviewed and closed prior to the issuance of a certificate.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
No Major CARs were issued to the FME during the evaluation.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any Major CAR issued to the FME during the evaluation has all been closed to the satisfaction of the evaluation team and meets the requirements of the standards.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
FME has demonstrated that their system of management is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standards (see Section 1.6 of this report) are met over the forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
FME has demonstrated that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: FME field staff brought up a few human resources-related issues related to remuneration and training. Through interviews with FME management, it was found that committees have been formed to address salary gaps, the number of vacancies, and other issues. In other instances, such as training related to FME-specific software programs, updates to training resources are in development.</p> <p>Many of these topics require years to address. As such, SCS auditors will be paying special attention to the FME’s progress in these areas during future audits.</p>	

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – Current and Projected Annual Harvest

The sustainable rate of harvest (usually Annual Allowable Harvest or AAH where available) of commercial timber (m3 of round wood):	Annual goal of 20,239 acres
Explanation of the assumptions, methodology, and reference to the data source upon which AAH and NTFP harvest rates estimates are based:	
<p>The report from WisFIRS that shows the 15-year harvest target. Annual goal of 20,239 acres. Operationally, division leadership reduces this annual target by 10% to account for stands that are scheduled but not ready, adjustments with management objectives, etc.</p>  <p>PlanLongTermGoals PG_cert2018.pdf</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest is an output of the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS), and is routinely projected for 15 years. At present, growth rates are not used in projections, although a CFI system is being implemented that will allow calculation of growth for some state forests. Instead, forest stands are visited on a 10-year cycle for reconnaissance, which includes measurements of volume. Recon data are considered in the annual update of 15-year harvest projections.</p> <p>The FME is operating under an area-control system, which sets an annual amount of acres to harvest each year. The system includes assumptions based on forest stand types and their growth rates, mortality, and silvicultural practices. Protected areas under passive management or otherwise under no-harvest restrictions are not included in AAH calculations.</p> <p>CFI plots have been through two, five-year cycles. While data has been collected recently, a report is still in development.</p> <p>See https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html for more information.</p>	

Appendix 2 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

- FME consists of a single FMU
- FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

- None.
- Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Appendix 4 - Staff and Stakeholders Consulted


List of FME Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method
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Phil Reynish	Planner	Contact available via the Wisconsin DNR directory available online.	Phone
Shelly Warwick	Planner		Phone
Dianne	Planning section chief		Phone
Shelly Allness	DNR Tribal Liaison		Phone
Jeff Stagg	Forestry division budget manager		Phone
Lane Stowell	Wildlife Biologist		Office, field
Ron Webber	Forester, Ladysmith		Office, field
Maggie Lorenz	Forester Park Falls		Office, field
Patrick Zimmer	Hayward Forestry Team Leader		Office, field
Heidi Brunkow	Forester, Flambeau		Office, field
Chris Bender	Property manager, Flambeau		Office, field
Nolan Kriegel	BMP Forester		Office, field
Derek Johnson	Wildlife biologist/ property manager		Office, field
Tom Onchuck	Forester		Office, field
Dan Schumacher	Forestry team leader		Office, field
Matt Blaylock	Park Falls Area Forestry Leader		Office, field
Sarah Stack	Forester		Office, field
Jake Coonan	Forester		Office, field
Eric Serrine Barnes	Team Leader T8		Office, field
Sarah Herrick	Heritage Trust		Office, field
Ryan Magana	Ecologist Spooner Office		Office, field
Mike Bulgrin	Wildlife Biologist		Office, field
Pat Zimmer	Haywood Team Leader T8		Office, field
Jim Kujala	Forester Hayward T6	Office, field	
Fred Souba	Division Administrator	Office, field	



Attendees Mike Ferrucci audits.docx


Printed: August 17, 2018

NSF Audit Attendance Sheet

Company Name WDNR State Lands Forest Recertification Audit

Location Hayward DNR Center - Haywood, WI

Type of Audit SFI and FSC FM Recertification

Opening Meeting Date August 20, 2018 Closing Meeting Date August 24, 2018

Name	Position	Attended Opening Meeting?	Attended Closing Meeting?
Kyle Meister	NSF LEAD AUDITOR	NB	NB
Kyle Meister	SCS Lead Auditor	RM	RM
Ruthann Schulte	Team Auditor	RMS	RMS
Mike Ferrucci	Team Auditor	MF	MF
Mark Heyde	Sustainable Forestry Cert. Coord	MH	MH
Patrick Zimmer	Hayward Team Leader 4/2018	X	X
Matt Blaylock	Park/Fall Area Forestry W/DNR	X	X
Carmen Hardin	Applied Forestry Bureau Director	X	X
DWG Brown	CF & Public Lands Spec	X	X
Trent Marty	Director, Bureau of Forestry Field Operations	X	X
KARINA CARLSON	MARKETING, FSC	X	
Chris McLaren	Marketing, FSC	X	
FRED SOUBA	STATE FORESTER	X	X
DAVE SAMPLG	NHC - DNR	X	X
HEATHER BERLUPP	Dep. Div. Admin		X
Kyle Meister			
Larry Gladoski	District Forestry Leader		X
Matt Blaylock			
Ben Bergy	Parks & Rec Bureau Dir		X
Eric Sirmine	Barnes Forestry Team Ldr		X
Jim Warren			X
Mike Warnke			X

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List of other Stakeholders Consulted*

Name	Organization	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Cert. Notf.
Bill Davis	Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter	bill.davis@sierraclub.org	Email	Y
Ron Behreandt	Carden Brothers Logging	715-661-3663	Field	N
Scott Stein	Independent logging contractor	715-661-0075	Field	N

David Radlinger	Independent logging contractor	715-492-2662; dradlinger000@gmail.com	Field	N
Edward Frank	Sharptailed Grouse Society	608-222-3386; Edward.frank@att.net	Phone	Y

* Note: SCS may maintain additional records of stakeholder consultation activities (e.g., email notifications) in its record-keeping system. Stakeholders included in Appendix 2 have given their permission to include their name, contact details, and comments in the report. Anonymous stakeholders may have provided comments as a part of stakeholder outreach activities.

Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

C= Conformance with Criterion or Indicator

C/NC= Overall Conformance with Criterion, but there are Indicator nonconformances

NC= Nonconformance with Criterion or Indicator

NA= Not Applicable

FSC Principles Checklist

FSC Forest Management Standard (v1.0)—United States

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
Principle #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles: Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		
1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	C	
1.1.a Forest management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws, and administrative requirements (e.g., regulations). Violations, outstanding complaints or investigations are provided to the Certifying Body (CB) during the annual audit.	C	<p>FME conducts internal audits and management review to detect potential violations. No unresolved legal violations were reported. An overview of updated tax and other laws was provided to the audit team.</p> <p>One of the more recent laws that affected northern forests of the state was the so-called 75% rule (28.04), which was passed during the last budget package. The rule required DNR to classify more land as forest production land in the northern forest region, with the exception of the Governor Knowles State Forest.</p> <p>In the FME’s land classification system, there are seven possible classifications, including forest production land.</p> <p>After FME’s implementation of the law, the forest production area classified went from 66% to 75%. The definition of forest production land was changed to recognize economic objectives, which</p>

		<p>includes non-timber values and still considers sustained yield.</p> <p>Some acres of native community management and wildlife (e.g., aspen managed for grouse) were changed to forest production; however, there was no fundamental change in how these areas are managed. There was some change to rotation ages as a result of updating data on stands during reconnaissance. On all northern forests combined, the largest shift was on the Brule State Forest, mostly due to updating reconnaissance and land acquisition data.</p> <p>No passively managed areas were moved into production.</p> <p>All land classification changes followed NR code 44, including public review (variance process).</p>
<p>1.1.b To facilitate legal compliance, the <i>forest owner</i> or <i>manager</i> ensures that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Contracts reviewed refer to legal requirements. FME employees interviewed receive initial training and on-going training that include an overview of the legal framework, as well as updates thereof. Laws and regulations are available on the State Legislature’s website.</p> <p>See CAR 2018.1.</p>
<p>1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>1.2.a The forest owner or manager provides written evidence that all applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges are being paid in a timely manner. If payment is beyond the control of the landowner or manager, then there is evidence that every attempt at payment was made.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME makes payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to each municipality as state land is not taxed (Sections 70.113 and 70.114 of the Statutes; Statutes separate payments for lands acquired before 1970 from those acquired after, so there are two reports); reviewed PILT reports for FY2018. Per interview with budget director, this is the only legally required payment in the scope.</p>
<p>1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>1.3.a. Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Applicable international treaties in the U.S. are implemented through federal and state laws. FME’s management plans and appendices are prepared to comply with the legal framework. As an example, RTE species are tracked via natural heritage data and management activities are designed and implemented to either assist with recovery or avoid</p>

		negative impacts, as confirmed through field observation and review of site-specific plans.
1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	C	
1.4.a. Situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with compliance with FSC Principles, Criteria or Indicators are documented and referred to the CB.	C	FME has not identified any conflicts between FSC P&C and the legal framework, as confirmed in interviews and review of internal audit reports.
1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	C	
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the <i>Forest Management Unit</i> (FMU).	C	FME provided a documented overview of its law enforcement activities, including recent consolidation of the law enforcement staff and responsibilities. As observed during field inspection, boundaries are marked blue paint and sometimes with signs. Gates are locked and identified with DNR plates.
1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.	C	Staff interviewed stated that they work with law enforcement and real estate divisions to resolve trespass and other unauthorized activities. Common issues include posting no-trespassing signs on state land, buildings that cross property boundaries, hunting/fishing violations, etc.
1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	C	
1.6.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and FSC and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US Land Sales Policy, and has a publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.	C	FME’s commitment can be found on its website (https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/dnrLands.html).
1.6.b. If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.	C	FME has reported lands outside of the scope in Section A of this report to comply with FSC partial certification disclosure requirements.
1.6.c. The forest owner or manager notifies the Certifying Body of significant changes in ownership and/or significant changes in management planning within 90 days of such change.	C	FME reports any updates to the certification body just prior to each audit, as confirmed in the annual update form. A reduction in ownership was reported this year totaling about 10,000 acres across the state, which was well under 1% of the total certified area.
Principle #2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		

<p>2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>2.1.a The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence of <i>long-term</i> rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME maintains clear title to all property. Past audit team reviewed deeds and other real estate transaction documents. In 2018, publicly available information on ownership and public access rights was reviewed online, including the following websites: DNR’s Public Access Lands, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands’ maps of public lands ownerships by county, and plat books maintained by the University of Wisconsin. These multiple sources show that tenure and use rights are well-established and recognized through a variety of government entities. As part of review of C1.2, payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) demonstrates that county governments and municipalities recognize the DNR’s ownership since they accept payments.</p>
<p>2.1.b The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use and access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There are third-party easements for access and utilities on most state forests. Where the FME does not control the vegetation management, these areas are not included in management acres.</p>
<p>2.1.c Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Confirmed via review of maps for all field sites visited in the audit and during interviews with staff. See CAR 2018.2</p>
<p>2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>2.2.a The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of <i>tenure</i> and <i>use rights</i> allowable by law or regulation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Most recreation on the FMU is open to the public without permit. FME requires permits for some access, such as camping. Permits for NTFPs, small woody material <4”, and firewood are also available. Permitted access is not considered a tenure/use rights as it is temporary.</p>
<p>2.2.b In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME staff interviewed stated that they contact easement holders if timber sales or other activities may affect easements or rights-of-way. Harvest notification letters were reviewed for sites visited that abutted other ownerships.</p>
<p>2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>2.3.a If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME’s real estate department maintains procedures to manage and settle disputes, and maintains records of all known disputes. Per interviews with staff, common trespasses include buildings that cross from private onto state lands and other forms of encroachment, and installing no-trespassing signs on state land. Negotiation of land swaps or sales of the encroached upon property are common methods used to resolve disputes, and are subject to public consultation and approval.</p>
<p>2.3.b The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME’s real estate department maintains procedures to manage and settle disputes, and maintains records of all known disputes. Per interviews with staff, common trespasses include buildings that cross from private onto state lands and other forms of encroachment, and installing no-trespassing signs on state land. Negotiation of land swaps or sales of the encroached upon property are common methods used to resolve disputes, and are subject to public consultation and approval.</p>
<p>Principle #3: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</p>		
<p>3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p>	<p>NA</p>	
<p>3.1.a Tribal forest management planning and implementation are carried out by authorized tribal representatives in accordance with tribal laws and customs and relevant federal laws.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>FME does not own or manage any tribal FMUs, as confirmed through documentation reviewed in Principle 2.</p>
<p>3.1.b The manager of a tribal forest secures, in writing, informed consent regarding forest management activities from the tribe or individual forest owner prior to commencement of those activities.</p>	<p>NA</p>	
<p>3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>3.2.a During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Consultation is undertaken at several levels. FME has a statewide tribal liaison (Shelly Allness) to consult tribes at a government-to-government level. Other individual staff serve as liaison and contacts for individual tribes. Tribes are formally consulted during master planning and interim management planning processes to make sure that their resource rights are preserved. Each state forest has a forester in charge of outreach to tribes. A forester may put tribes in touch with a logging contractor if a specific timber sale is expected to have alternative forest products (e.g., bark, plants, bows, hunting, wild rice, firewood, etc.).</p> <p>The state has eleven federally recognized tribes and a twelfth that is not recognized (Brothertown Tribe). This twelfth tribe was originally from what is now New England and has no treaty rights in Wisconsin.</p> <p>There are six bands of Ojibwe that have off-reservation treaty rights managed through the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission</p>

		<p>(GLIFWC). These tribes would like to have more power to self-regulate on state lands, similar to what they have on federal lands within the ceded territory, according to interviews with Shelly Allness.</p> <p>FME has been working via government-to-government discussion to work with the Ho Chunk nation on establishing an MOU for gathering rights that includes a restoration component.</p> <p>Several examples of correspondence between FME and tribal representatives were provided, including comments on the Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP) for the Polk County Ice Age Trail Area and Dunbar Barrens, Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area, shapefiles for black ash locations, and water quality on Powell Marsh.</p>
<p>3.2.b Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are incorporated in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Known archeological and cultural sites are protected. DNR works cooperatively with tribes on managing tribal resources (jointly setting spearing limits, for example).</p> <p>Unit managers interviewed all demonstrated an understanding of the treaty rights of the Chippewa Tribes.</p> <p>Managers of land units within the treaty rights area indicated that they regularly work with tribal members to allow for gathering right, and many reach out to tribal leaders regularly to seek consultation.</p>
<p>3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>3.3.a. The forest owner or manager invites consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See responses to 3.2. Master planning and interim processes go through archeological review, etc. Confirmed via interviews with staff and review of FMPs.</p>
<p>3.3.b In consultation with tribal representatives, the forest owner or manager develops measures to protect or enhance areas of special significance (see also Criterion 9.1).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Through master planning and interim processes some special protection measures are identified. However, many special sites are kept confidential for their protection and only known by each tribe, as confirmed in interviews with FME staff.</p>
<p>3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This</p>	<p>NA</p>	

compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.		
3.4.a The forest owner or manager identifies whether traditional knowledge in forest management is being used.	NA	As confirmed through review of FMPs and observation of management activities, the FME does not use any protected tradition knowledge in forest management, processing or commercialization.
3.4.b When traditional knowledge is used, written protocols are jointly developed prior to such use and signed by local tribes or tribal members to protect and fairly compensate them for such use.	NA	
3.4.c The forest owner or manager respects the confidentiality of tribal traditional knowledge and assists in the protection of such knowledge.	NA	
Principle #4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	C	
4.1.a Employee compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed the prevailing local norms within the forestry industry.	C	FME recently formed a new compensation committee consisting of DNR forestry and team leader staff to address concerns over compensation gaps that have grown since the 2008-10 recession ended. The chief state forester has set an internal deadline to resolve the compensation gaps. FME staff interviewed were hopeful of this process, but indicated that morale has been tested since new hires often have higher wages than staff who have been with the DNR for more than 20 years.
4.1.b Forest work is offered in ways that create high quality job opportunities for employees.	C	FME has several internal training opportunities and staff can seek external training with approval from a supervisor per interviews with staff. There are opportunities to move laterally within the organization to take higher-paying and/or different responsibilities.
4.1.c Forest workers are provided with fair wages.	C	Refer to 4.1.a; while wages meet or exceed the state minimum wage, they are below what adjacent states and private industry offer. Loggers interviewed state that the competitive-bidding process was fair and that they were generally satisfied with compensation.
4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	C	FME must adhere to state and federal guidelines related to non-discrimination laws & regulations according to the State's Department of Personnel Management . Timber sale contract, items 25 and 26, require adherence to such regulations.
4.1.e The forest owner or manager provides work opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks opportunities for purchasing local goods and services of equal price and quality.	C	All staff and contractors interviewed are local. The state opens bids for goods and services to local businesses. FME has offices located throughout the state and seeks local applicants. Several staff

		interviewed grew up within a few miles of the state forests they work in.
4.1.f Commensurate with the size and scale of operation, the forest owner or manager provides and/or supports learning opportunities to improve public understanding of forests and forest management.	C	FME regularly publishes brochures, guides, and other materials intended to educate the public about forestry and provide technical expertise to the profession. Examples include state BMP guidelines, guides for maintaining soil quality, forest pest management, etc. The FME also manages courses related to the Managed Forest Law tax program that are open to private consultants. FME also uses the FMU as a venue for outdoor learning, through interpretive trails, experimental forests, etc.
4.1.g The forest owner or manager participates in local economic development and/or civic activities, based on scale of operation and where such opportunities are available.	C	FME staff interviewed participate in local forestry committees, civic organizations, public forestry and wildlife events, and several other activities. FME offers support to county forestry staff and small private forest landowners via its county and MFL programs, respectively.
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	C	
4.2.a The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).	C	FME has a training program for new employees through HR and an employee handbook that covers laws and regulations.
4.2.b The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.	C	The timber sale contract template, items 24, 33, and 35 cover relevant safety requirements. Other contracts reviewed, such as for <i>treating red and jack pine stumps to prevent Annosum Root Rot</i> and <i>Marking and Cruising timber stands</i> , include requirements for insurance and adherence to applicable laws, which includes safety requirements. See OBS 2018.3
4.2.c The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.	C	Per interviews with contractors, all are FISTA-trained and have several years of experience working in the forests of the region.
4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).	C	
4.3.a Forest workers are free to associate with other workers for the purpose of advocating for their own employment interests.	C	There is a union for state employees that covers some FME staff. The union has the ability to advocate for members, although recent state legislation restricted some of their ability to

		collectively bargain and membership has dropped. Staff interviewed indicated no desire to seek membership at this time. Contractors interviewed were sole proprietorships and thus not unionized.
4.3.b The forest owner or manager has effective and culturally sensitive mechanisms to resolve disputes between workers and management.	C	Dispute resolution procedures are available through HR according to interviews with staff.
4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.	C	
4.4.a The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU; • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. A summary is available to the CB.	C	As the entire FMP and associated documents are available to the public (e.g., https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/guidelines.html), the general FMP, master plans, and interim management plans meet this requirement. Chapter 6 of the general FMP covers cultural resources, public resources are covered in several chapters (e.g., 18), aesthetics in Chapters 4 and 18, community goals and economic opportunities in several places (e.g., Chapters 9, 10, and master plans), and other people affected (e.g., indigenous people). Individual master plans include discussion of social impacts as part of a regional property analysis.
4.4.b The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.	C	Public input can be provided at any time per interviews with staff. The website includes who may be contacted in public comment periods are closed (e.g., https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/ifmp.html). FME provided some recent examples of public comment for the Superior Coastal Plain Ecological Landscape Master Planning process and interim forest management plans for Baraboo Hills State Recreation Area in Sauk County and Nelson-Dewey State Park in Grant County.
4.4.c People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.	C	Per interviews with FME staff and review of site-specific planning documentation, letters are sent to adjacent landowners if it is expected that a timber harvest will abut a property boundary. Direct contact is also attempted at times. At the state-level, there is a government email distribution list that allows for interested parties to opt into notifications on certain topics and properties. A recent example of stakeholder input and resolution regarding the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area



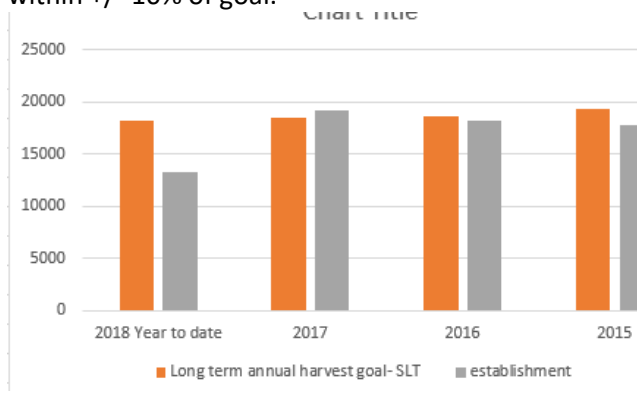
	<p>was shared: “Wildlife management and related non-motorized recreation are the primary goals and uses for the property. Many in-stream trout habitat improvements and surveys are conducted on the trout stream. Regular aspen, oak and pine management timber sales are conducted to improve wildlife habitat. Old fields are managed for grassland habitat by conducting periodic prescribed burns. State Natural Area designation was recommended for a 240-acre site contains the most botanically diverse site known in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. The cranberry beds and associated flows have been restored to trout stream and wetlands.” <i>Source: Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Program page accessed 8.23.18</i></p> <p>Planners are working on a master plan to include this wildlife area as part of planning mostly focused in the northwest sands. This “out of sequence” planning is driven by the need to resolve a long-standing dispute over the suitability of the parcel for a bike trail. An acceptable trail corridor has been identified for inclusion in the master plan, allowing the trail to be built after approval of plan and of trail design and funding.</p>
<p>4.4.d For public forests, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. <p>Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44 outlines public consultation processes for master plans.</p> <p>Government email distribution list that allows for interested parties to opt into notifications on certain topics (e.g. wolf management) and properties (e.g. X state forest).</p> <p>WEPA process provides opportunity for public input. Issues on a site-level basis happen more informally. Harvest planning is done annually and all plans are open for a comment period. All planning activities are presented on the FME’s website for comment.</p> <p>Parties can avail themselves of administrative hearing process. Any decision by the department can be appealed (a decision being defined as any plan or permit). The aggrieved party has the opportunity to have appeal heard in front of hearing examiner.</p> <p>Examples of public notifications and input were reviewed for the Superior Coastal Plain and two</p>

		Interim Forest Management Plans (Baraboo Hills State Recreation Area and Nelson- Dewey State Park). Electronic surveys were prepared in all cases (e.g., https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LNLY7WQ). Public input on the Superior Coastal Plain was posted on the website here: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/regionalplanning/superiorcoastalplain/index.html .
4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	C	
4.5.a The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.	C	No such incidents were reported by FME staff, contractors, and stakeholders interviewed. The audit team did not detect any such incidents during field inspection.
4.5.b The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims.	C	FME first tries to resolve disputes through informal means per interviews with staff. The administrative hearing-process is in place for aggrieved parties if desired. Finally, there is the backup of the court system.
4.5.c Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation is provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the landowner or manager.	C	Compensation would be provided in cases where FME was found liable for some damage, but no such cases have arisen per interviews with staff and stakeholders.
Principle #5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	C	
5.1.a The forest owner or manager is financially able to implement core management activities, including all those environmental, social and operating costs, required to meet this Standard, and investment and reinvestment in forest management.	C	FME conducts an annual budget based on staff hours required for all properties in the scope. Some items, such as invasive species removal, are budgeted in a separate process as confirmed in interviews with budget director. FME provided a summary of FY2018 showing revenues/ funds available:

		<p>Fish and Wildlife SEG account - \$5,074,804 Forestry SEG account - \$7,302,280 Parks SEG account - \$111,617 Endangered Resources operating budget (SNA sales are not sent to ER SEG account) - \$615,629 Total - \$13,114,330</p> <p>This is where all of the revenue was sent from state lands sales in FY18. FY18 Expenditures are summarized below: Forest Management - \$6,280,520.29 Fire Protection - data NA Forest Health - \$208,928.47 Recreation - \$998,531.34 Enforcement - \$776,505.94 Total - \$8,264,486.04</p> <p>Despite the lack of data on fire protection, it appears that revenues/available funds exceed costs. It should be noted that the FME does not fund itself through its revenue-generating activities and that the proceeds of these go into a fund that is then distributed through the DNR.</p>
<p>5.1.b Responses to short-term financial factors are limited to levels that are consistent with fulfillment of this Standard.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME staff indicate there has been a decrease in funding during the recent economic downturn. FME responded to this by prioritizing activities within each department and ensuring that the high priority items were done. A substantial number of senior employees opted to retire in the last several years, but many of those vacancies are now being filled. The vacancy rate is still high in some departments, however, which the FME hopes to address through higher salaries for new staff.</p>
<p>5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>5.2.a Where forest products are harvested or sold, opportunities for forest product sales and services are given to local harvesters, value-added processing and manufacturing facilities, guiding services, and other operations that are able to offer services at competitive rates and levels of service.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Per interviews with logging contractors and FME staff, all harvested products are sold to local mills. Logging contractors cut logs per specifications required for different species and grades accepted by different mills. Sorting and merchandizing logs are commonly used techniques to ensure that the highest value is achieved per log.</p>
<p>5.2.b The forest owner or manager takes measures to optimize the use of harvested forest products and explores product diversification where appropriate and consistent with management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Per field observation, use of harvesters and cut-to-length machinery ensure a high level of utilization. Loggers interviewed stated that log dimensions are communicated from buyers prior to harvest. Diversification is sought via different grades and</p>

		species, but is largely dependent on the types of local mills and buyers available.
5.2.c On public lands where forest products are harvested and sold, some sales of forest products or contracts are scaled or structured to allow small business to bid competitively.	C	While there are no requirements on size or values of timber sales, there are some sales that are 40 acres or less that smaller business can be competitive. If there is a sale that is <\$3,000, these can be directly awarded to a contractor without competitive bidding, as confirmed in interviews with staff and review of state statute 23.
5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	C	
5.3.a Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.	C	Logs are sorted by grade and/or species at log landings per field observation. Most products are loaded onto log trucks and delivered to mills the same week of harvest per interviews with contractors. Utilization observed on sites was good due to use of cut-to-length techniques.
5.3.b Harvest practices are managed to protect residual trees and other forest resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil compaction, <i>rutting</i> and erosion are minimized; • residual trees are not significantly damaged to the extent that health, growth, or values are noticeably affected; • damage to NTFPs is minimized during management activities; and • techniques and equipment that minimize impacts to vegetation, soil, and water are used whenever feasible. 	C	Tracked and wide-tired equipment were observed on all harvest sites. Stream crossing are designated and planned prior to harvest. Potentially sensitive areas such as vernal pools observed did not have timber designated for harvest within them, thus reducing the change of equipment entering them. Directional felling is used on all sites observed.
5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	C	
5.4.a The forest owner or manager demonstrates knowledge of their operation’s effect on the local economy as it relates to existing and potential markets for a wide variety of timber and non-timber forest products and services.	C	FME has utilization foresters and economists on staff. These staff maintain regular contact with industry to ensure that new markets are explored. The FME also has data on tourism on DNR-managed lands. Refer also to economic fact sheets prepared by forest economists https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html .
5.4.b The forest owner or manager strives to diversify the economic use of the forest according to Indicator 5.4.a.	C	Per interviews with staff, utilization foresters frequently communicate new information to other staff and contractors. Recreation staff keep trails repaired and often made modifications for new types of recreation users such as winter fat-tire bike riders.
5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	C	

<p>5.5.a In developing and implementing activities on the FMU, the forest owner or manager identifies, defines and implements appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including municipal watersheds, fisheries, carbon storage and sequestration, recreation and tourism.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As part of all management planning processes, the FME plans for several types of wildlife, fisheries, and recreation enhancement activities. For example, on the Spring Creek Wildlife Area a timber harvest is planned and snowmobile trails will be upgraded at the same time. Forest harvests are set up to respect BMPs related to specially designated streams, such as a 400-ft. buffer on the Brule River for fisheries and water quality.</p>
<p>5.5.b The forest owner or manager uses the information from Indicator 5.5.a to implement appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing these services and resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See examples in 5.5.b.</p>
<p>5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>		
<p>5.6.a In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; • areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The sustained yield harvest in an output of the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS), and is routinely projected for 15 years. At present, growth rates are not used in projections, although a CFI system is being implemented that will allow calculation of growth for some state forests. Instead, forest stands are visited on a 10-year cycle for reconnaissance, which includes measurements of volume. Recon data are considered in the annual update of 15-year harvest projections.</p> <p>The FME is operating under an area-control system, which sets an annual amount of acres to harvest each year. The system includes assumptions based on forest stand types and their growth rates, mortality, and silvicultural practices. Protected areas under passive management or otherwise under no-harvest restrictions are not included in AAH calculations.</p> <p>CFI plots have been through two, five-year cycles. While data has been collected recently, a report is still in development.</p> <p>See https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html for more information.</p>
<p>5.6.b Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME generated a WisFIRS report for 2007-2017 that demonstrates that it is operating well within its AAH (see PDFs below). Interviews with staff at the Flambeau State Forest indicate that they are aware of mortality in northern hardwood stands and are combining harvests in these stands with adjacent</p>

		<p>aspen clearcuts to ensure that they receive treatments before there is significant mortality.</p> <p> </p> <p>PlanEstablishmentSummary.pdf PlanMonitoring+303.pdf</p>															
<p>5.6.c Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Data for the last three years and CY2018 to date are shown below. Orange is establishment goal and gray is what was harvested. All values are in acres. FME is required to report to the Council of Forestry and be within +/- 10% of goal.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Harvest Goal vs Establishment (Acres)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Long term annual harvest goal- SLT</th> <th>establishment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018 Year to date</td> <td>~18,000</td> <td>~13,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>~18,000</td> <td>~19,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>~18,000</td> <td>~18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>~19,000</td> <td>~17,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Long term annual harvest goal- SLT	establishment	2018 Year to date	~18,000	~13,000	2017	~18,000	~19,000	2016	~18,000	~18,000	2015	~19,000	~17,000
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<p>5.6.d For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No NTFPs are gathered commercially on the FMU. Permits are required for collection of NTFPs by the general public. Tribal members within the ceded territory covered by the Voight Decision are allowed to collect NTFPs and some timber products through tribal permits and, in some cases, permits from DNR.</p>															
<p>Principle #6: Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>																	
<p>6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>	<p>C</p>																
<p>6.1.a Using the results of <i>credible scientific analysis, best available information</i> (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes: 1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Timber Sale Handbook lists specific topics that must be addressed on the 2460 Form prior to management actions. The 2460 Form narrative section might be regarded as a mini-environmental assessment. Management history, soil types, water</p>															

<p>successional stages, and associated natural disturbance regimes; 2) Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities); 3) Other habitats and species of management concern; 4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions; 5) Soil resources; and 6) Historic conditions on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</p>		<p>resources, habitat types, rare species or communities, and cultural sites are described on this form. The inventory section of the 2460 Form includes information on the forest community. Use of the 2460 Form confirmed through interview and document review.</p>
<p>6.1.b Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the best available information, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>	C	<p>The 2460 Form is required to be completed before a timber sale is carried out. Other site-disturbing activities require different plans. Chapter 32 of the Timber Sale Handbook lists specific topics that must be included in the assessment recorded on the 2460 Form, and appropriate codes for some of these items. These site-specific plans complement broad goals of master plans for long-term landscape composition. Use of the 2460 Form confirmed through interview and document review.</p>
<p>6.1.c Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>	C	<p>Information in each 2460 Form that was reviewed for site visits was consistent with the requirements of this indicator. The 2460 Forms present methods to avoid negative environment impacts and to enhance the long-term viability of the forest. Where master plans have not been prepared or are out of date, an Interim Forest Management Plan is developed.</p>
<p>6.1.d On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>	C	<p>The process for developing property-specific master plans and interim plans does include steps for involving the public in developing draft and final plans. Final assessments are available to the public on departmental web sites or by request in DNR offices. In addition, Annual Integrated Property Meetings are held for each property or group of properties and offer opportunities for public comments on proposed or ongoing projects.</p>
<p>6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</p>	C	

<p>6.2.a If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As part of the sale development process and filling out the 2460 Form, the forester runs a search of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. If an element occurrence is identified then the forester consults the species guidance documents and applies avoidance measures. In some cases the forester has further questions and works with a district ecologist to develop appropriate measures. Surveys are only conducted in limited cases such as bald eagle nest surveys. In most cases, the species is considered to be present if there is appropriate habitat and the corresponding avoidance measures are applied. In most cases avoidance measures are timing restrictions. In a few instances buffers are applied (e.g. for nesting raptors).</p>
<p>6.2.b When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As part of the sale development process and filling out the 2460 Form, the forester runs a search of the NHI database. If an element occurrence is identified then the forester consults the species guidance documents and applies avoidance measures. In some cases the forester has further questions and works with a district ecologist to develop appropriate measures. Surveys are only conducted in limited cases such as bald eagle nest surveys. In most cases, the species is considered to be present if there is appropriate habitat and the corresponding avoidance measures are applied. In most cases avoidance measures are timing restrictions. In a few instances buffers are applied (e.g. for nesting raptors).</p>
<p>6.2.c For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>These priorities are evident when reviewing the 2460 Forms for each site visit in combination with the Master Plan implementation.</p>
<p>6.2.d Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All activities funded, conducted, or approved by the department are screened for potential impacts to rare species using the Natural Heritage Inventory Portal. Standard guidance and other tools are available for a large number of species, and foresters and other land managers routinely consult with wildlife and Natural Heritage Conservation staff.</p> <p>In addition, Conservation Wardens and Recreation Officers enforce laws related to this topic.</p>
<p>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c)</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>		
<p>6.3.a.1 The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented <i>successional</i> stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Auditors visited numerous sites where management activities were designed to maintain or restore under-represented forest types or age classes. Active burning programs in SNAs are implemented to maintain open wetland and barrens type habitats.</p> <p>Under-represented, naturally occurring successional stages are assessed during the master planning processes. Specific property goals for management of these areas are described in the master plan and in annual work plans. Planned and completed land management activities are captured during the annual Integrated Property Management meetings.</p>
<p>6.3.a.2 When a <i>rare ecological community</i> is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, <i>conservation zones</i> and/or <i>protected areas</i> are established where warranted.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>If a rare ecological community is present it is identified in the state’s NHI database, at which point the land manager consults with an ecologist in the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation to develop appropriate management options. More commonly, rare communities are already identified and may be part of an SNA and/or labeled as a rare community with a management plan developed to feature a viable community.</p>
<p>6.3.a.3 When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all <i>Type 1</i> and <i>Type 2 old growth</i>. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.</p> <p>Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).</p> <p>On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR has developed an Old-Growth and Old Forest Handbook to assist in the assessment, classification, and management of old forests. Systematic reconnaissance of all forest stands on state lands uses three codes to designate different levels of late successional forests: relict forest, old-growth forest, and old forest. The relict forest designation corresponds to FSC Type 1 old growth; these forests are also coded as reserved. In short, the Department is demonstrating exemplary efforts to protect and promote old-growth forest stands in a range of forest types.</p> <p>The Managed Old-growth Silvicultural Study (MOSS) is considering forest management techniques in creating some of the attributes of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Silviculture Trials are being conducted to see if a new approach works better than others used in the past.</p>

<p>maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership. 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists. 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained. 4. Old-growth structures are maintained. 5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established. 6. Landscape level considerations are addressed. 7. Rare species are protected. 		
<p>6.3.b To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A variety of habitat restoration and enhancement projects are conducted annually on department lands including (but not limited to) barrens restoration, native prairie restoration, wetland restoration/enhancement, and young forest management. These activities are primarily guided by the WI Wildlife Action Plan, Joint Venture Waterfowl Plan, the Young Forest Initiative, and the various WI species management plans (turkey, etc).</p> <p>One example of management that maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape is the creation of rolling barrens for the sharp-tailed grouse. Rolling Barrens is a set of silviculture prescriptions where adjoining stands are harvested sequentially to provide a larger block of more open regenerating forest and young barrens. The ecological objective will be met by creating a large rolling barrens to represent a barrens landscape similar to that created by natural wildfire. The sharp-tailed grouse is considered a focal species in the NW Sands and requires a large area for life history requirements.</p> <p>Property Master Plans identify the specific priority habitat types for each property. Department staff often conduct habitat work in close partnership with habitat organizations (e.g. Ruffed Grouse Society,</p>

		<p>Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, etc.).</p> <p>DNR’s forest management goals are ecologically oriented, and management is conducted to maintain ecological habitat conditions that are suited to each site. These decisions are aided by the habitat classification that is done as a component of reconnaissance surveys for each site. Sites visited by auditors routinely had prescriptions that would allow natural regeneration and succession to occur on the site.</p>
<p>6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem. 	<p>C</p>	<p>The document Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality provides guidance on RMZ management with respect to these features.</p> <p>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. Field audit in 2018 confirmed that foresters are knowledgeable of BMP requirements to protect riparian zones and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.</p>
<p>Stand-scale Indicators</p> <p>6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Management prescriptions for sites visited in 2018 were consistently written to enhance or maintain current or desired composition of plant species on the site. Management techniques such as controlled burning and use of herbicides are used in select areas. Often this was explicitly included in the stand level prescription on the 2460 Form.</p>
<p>6.3.e When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Planting source comes from the state’s nursery in Boscobel through the Division’s tree improvement program.</p>
<p>6.3.f Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. <p>Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Foresters use written silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems. The Silviculture Handbook, Section 24-17, has detailed guidelines for retention of trees in managed stands. Foresters routinely retain green trees in a harvest by prescription as well as by marking individual wildlife trees. In addition, native vegetation is retained in riparian buffers and in retention islands.</p>

		<p>The Silviculture Handbook describes legacy trees. Legacy trees may be identified in the 2460 Form narrative and then indicated in the WisFIRS database.</p>
<p>6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Foresters use written silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems. The Silviculture Handbook, Section 24-17, has detailed guidelines for retention of trees in managed stands. Foresters routinely retain green trees in a harvest by prescription as well as by marking individual wildlife trees. In addition, native vegetation is retained in riparian buffers and in retention islands.</p> <p>The Silviculture Handbook describes legacy trees. Legacy trees may be identified in the 2460 Form narrative and then indicated in the WisFIRS database.</p>
<p>6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings. 	<p>C</p>	<p>There are no opening-size limits for the Lake States-Central Hardwoods region.</p>
<p>6.3.h The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, 4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive 	<p>C</p>	<p>A team called the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Department Invasive Species Team (DIST) meets to develop tools to assist land managers in addressing invasive species. They have generated a rapid response protocol called the Wisconsin DNR’s Response Framework for Invasive Species. The team also works with an advisory committee and conducts education and outreach on invasive species topics.</p>

<p>species.</p>		<p>Response to CAR 2016.2 includes a comprehensive discussion of the invasive species identification, minimization, eradication, and monitoring measures in place.</p> <p>In addition, an experimental harvest area that is in the process of determining most effective and cost effective techniques for addressing Buckthorn was visited during the 2018 audit.</p>
<p>6.3.i In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR uses prescribed fire in wildlife management work to maintain open habitat characteristics of lowland and upland habitat. Prescribed fires are planned and controlled to meet safety and risk requirements. Many DNR personnel are certified fire fighters, and respond to wildfires when necessary.</p>
<p>6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>		
<p>6.4.a The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) GAP analyses; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR has identified ecosystems that occurred naturally across the landscape. An initial GAP analysis was completed and Wisconsin’s State Natural Areas (SNA) program has documented locations of native ecosystems and have protected many of these sites as SNA’s.</p> <p>FME staff and citizens may submit element occurrences for review by Natural Heritage district ecologists. Mappers then map verified element occurrences into the natural heritage database.</p> <p>An additional GAP analysis is currently underway to continue considering RSAs. Per interviews with staff, a key component of the update will include scrutiny of anthropogenic threats and climate change.</p>
<p>6.4.b Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p> <p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The state’s SNA program is still filling gaps in the protected area network and has identified candidate sites to be added to the network. When sites are identified as future SNAs they go through an evaluation process (usually a biotic inventory) and are then ranked as to their uniqueness in the representative sample ecosystem. The network of SNAs in Wisconsin include representative sample areas that address purposes 2 and 3.</p>

<p>6.4.c Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <p>a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or</p> <p>b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>SNAs are not exclusively passive management. Management plans where SNAs are present document the management activities that will be allowed on individual SNAs. Some examples of management on SNAs include the use of fire to retain open habitat conditions and/or to encourage fire-tolerant species. The SNA website outlines management activities that are allowed on SNAs.</p>
<p>6.4.d The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Established in 1985 by the Wisconsin legislature, Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory program (NHI) is part of an international network of inventory programs. The program is responsible for maintaining data on the locations and status of rare species, natural communities, and natural features throughout the state. Species and natural communities tracked by the Wisconsin NHI Program can be found on the NHI portal. New locations of rare species and communities are entered into the NHI database as they are found. In addition, biotic inventories are being conducted as the first step in Master Planning, where NHC ecologists survey a wide array of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants.</p> <p>In addition, another GAP analysis currently is being conducted.</p>
<p>6.4.e Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Where possible, the SNA program in WI identifies the largest stands and or blocks of representative ecosystems that are present on the landscape. The Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council has developed guidelines for Landscape Scale Natural Areas.</p>
<p>6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.5.a The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality” contains well-written guidelines for controlling erosion and protecting water and wetlands.</p>
<p>6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>On most operations observed, forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of Criterion 6.5. For example, water-bars are installed at regular intervals and slash is strategically placed to control</p>

		<p>erosion when closing skid trails used in logging operations. The FME has been restructuring its responsibilities for which divisions and staff are responsible for implementing BMPs.</p> <p>However, at one site BMPs were not applied adequately. See OBS 2018.4.</p>
<p>6.5.c Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard. • Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site. • Rutting and compaction is minimized. • Soil erosion is not accelerated. • Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes. • Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives. • Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed. • Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate. 	<p>C</p>	<p>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. Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records.</p> <p>BMPs are monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. About every 5 years the DNR conducts a systematic <u>assessment of BMP</u> compliance on State lands. Efforts rotate each year between State lands, County lands, and other projects. A BMP survey of State lands was conducted in 2018 but the report has not yet been compiled. The last publically available report for the State lands was in <u>2013</u>.</p> <p>Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on the 2460 Form. 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. 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.</p>
<p>6.5.d The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts; 	<p>C</p>	<p>Auditors inspected numerous roads, skid trails, and recreational trails. None were determined to be out of conformance with guidelines in the Wisconsin BMP Manual or with this indicator with the exception referenced in 6.5.b.</p> <p>See OBS 2018.4.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road density is minimized; • erosion is minimized; • sediment discharge to streams is minimized; • there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms; • impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized; • area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized; • habitat fragmentation is minimized; • unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated. 		
<p>6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer management guidelines that are adequate for preventing environmental impact, and include protecting and restoring water quality, hydrologic conditions in rivers and stream corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas. The guidelines include vegetative buffer widths and protection measures that are acceptable within those buffers.</p> <p>In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit limitations on the activities that can occur within those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in Appendix E.</p>	C	Streamside buffers are described in detail in the BMP guidelines. For most streams, buffers are 100 feet (35 feet for streams less than 3 feet wide), and there are several guidelines for management within SMZ buffers. DNR land managers were routinely found to be in conformance with expected protection of streams and streamside habitat.
<p>6.5.e.2 Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The CB must verify that the variations meet these requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.</p>	C	While there are conditions where foresters are encouraged to use good judgment while operating in SMZs, most commonly auditors found that little or no harvesting activity took place in buffered areas.
<p>6.5.f Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>	C	On sites visited in 2018 no wetland crossings were observed and there were very few stream crossings. This illustrates that crossings are minimized. The two stream crossings discussed on site visits took the appropriate measures including consulting a hydrologist and obtaining the applicable permits.

<p>6.5.g Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin’s public forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities, and the state lands within the scope of this audit contribute to this diversity. Recreation use follows the same guidelines for protecting soil and water as does forest harvesting.</p>
<p>6.5.h Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Grazing is not normally on this land base, though there have been some uses of domestic livestock in the past to control invasive species. Such use is controlled through fencing and other devices, as confirmed in staff interviews.</p>
<p>6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.6.a No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Auditors examined records of pesticides used since the last audit and found two instances of use of chemicals on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (Diquat dibromide and Endothal-potassium).</p> <p>No corrective action request is necessary at this time since the use of these chemicals was identified during an internal audit and an effort to identify and address the root cause of issue is ongoing.</p>
<p>6.6.b All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.</p> <p>Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy. The written</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The department maintains a system of Integrated Pest Management and in addition to pesticides a variety of hand, mechanical, and prescribed burning control methods are also used. Stand treatments are documented in the WisFIRS system. DNR has a program in place to guide the application of pesticides on DNR properties or easements. The program is described in Manual Code #4230.1 Pesticide Use. The manual was revised by the Pesticide Use Team to clarify how to obtain approval for use and how to report use. The team also developed videos and conducted training programs.</p> <p>In person training sessions were conducted in 2018 after the video training resulted in a lot of</p>

<p>strategy shall include an analysis of options for, and the effects of, various chemical and non-chemical pest control strategies, with the goal of reducing or eliminating chemical use.</p>		<p>questions. Three trainings (Shawano, Spooner and Tomah) provided a total of 205 DNR forestry employees information about the internal DNR processes for pesticide application approvals, reports, and inventories. EPA Worker Protection Standard and how it applies to DNR Forestry and protocols associated with it was also covered.</p>
<p>6.6.c Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Very few chemical applications occur in the management areas that were visited during the 2018 audit site visits. There were two instances of site prep and one of invasive species control. All were ground applications by either dozer sprayer or backpack. The invasives control application was part of the experiment to address this indicator. The experiment will help determine the most efficient and cost-effective method to address Buckthorn. Treatments being tested include goats, mowing, blade scarification, basal herbicide, and broadcast spraying combined with harvest prescriptions of clearcut or shelterwood.</p>
<p>6.6.d Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site-specific hazards and environmental risks, and the precautions that workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area. Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR has a program in place to guide the application of pesticides on DNR properties or easements. The program is described in Manual Code #4230.1 Pesticide Use. The manual was revised by the Pesticide Use Team to clarify how to obtain approval for use and how to report use. The team also developed videos and conducted training programs.</p> <p>In person training sessions were conducted in 2018 after the video training resulted in a lot of questions. Three trainings (Shawano, Spooner and Tomah) provided a total of 205 DNR forestry employees information about the internal DNR processes for pesticide application approvals, reports, and inventories. EPA Worker Protection Standard and how it applies to DNR Forestry and protocols associated with it was also covered. Records of training reviewed include the January 30, 2018 sign-in sheets and rosters for January 17, 18, and 30 trainings of 2018.</p>
<p>6.6.e If chemicals are used, the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management. Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A Terrestrial Pesticide Use Report is required to be filled out after chemical applications occur. Results are monitored based on the application type (site prep or invasives control).</p>
<p>6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>6.7.a The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Pre-harvest inspection forms were reviewed by auditors during site visits. Most, if not all, indicated that spill kits were present. However, on some harvest sites visited during the 2018 audit, loggers had incomplete spill kits. See CAR 2018.5.</p>
<p>6.7.b In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR policy is for employees and contractors to call the DNR Hazardous Spill Coordinator for spills that meet or exceed the minimum reportable quantities (1 gallon for gas and 5 gallons for diesel/hydraulic fluid). One auditor observed the remnants of a hydraulic fluid spill of about 8 square feet that was not immediately contained. See CAR 2018.6</p>
<p>6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas, that are outside of riparian management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Chemical storage areas at three facilities verified adequate storage.</p>
<p>6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.8.a Use of <i>biological control agents</i> are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants, <i>pathogens</i>, insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe for native species.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NHC is conducting purple loosestrife biocontrol using beetles. Division of Forestry is conducting biocontrol for Emerald Ash Borer using wasps. Procedures follow the APHIS EAB biocontrol.</p>
<p>6.8.b If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Procedures follow the APHIS EAB biocontrol.</p>
<p>6.8.c If biological control agents are used, their use shall be documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and describing how potential impacts will be monitored.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR has a staff of 15 forest pest specialists. The majority of these specialists work on statewide projects and coordinate with federal agencies where applicable. Written plans are required and must be approved by USDA APHIS.</p>
<p>6.8.d Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME reported that no GMOs are being used for any purpose.</p>
<p>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>6.9.a The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Native timber tree species are planted on state lands, and seed sources are local. Where grasses and other herbaceous vegetation are planted on log landings or wildlife openings, approved seed mixes are used. Any non-native species in these mixes are known not to be invasive.</p> <p>On one site visited during the audit, a proposal to plant apple trees was made by staff in the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Guidance was given by Dave Sample, NHC biologist, and Kelly Kearns, DNR invasive species specialist, to use two native apples and on how to avoid sensitive habitats and locations. Common Eurasian apple varieties have been found to have invasive characteristics and should be avoided. Kelly offered to review proposed species for planting projects to assure that non-invasive material was specified and used.</p>
<p>6.9.b If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The two native apples varieties actually naturally occur in the southern part of Wisconsin; however, they can be used in the north under guidance from the biologists cited in 6.9.a. Provenance is from southern Wisconsin or otherwise reported to staff from local nurseries.</p>
<p>6.9.c The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Per interviews with staff, non-native apple varieties are avoided due to concern over them becoming invasive or naturalized and competing with native timber trees.</p>
<p>6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.10.a Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No conversion was reported by FME staff.</p>
<p>6.10.b Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No conversion was reported by FME staff.</p>
<p>6.10.c Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No conversion was reported by FME staff.</p>

<p>across the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>		
<p>6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.</p>	NA	<p>There is no such conversion. Instead, many semi-natural plantings of red and white pine are used to restore sites and move vegetation towards more natural conditions.</p>
<p>6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.l)</p>	C	<p>Master Planning, Interim Forest Resource Plans, and site level planning include careful reviews of stand-type changes. Conversions to non-forest conditions are driven by ecological restoration goals. Many sites in southern Wisconsin are former prairie or barrens types that have had encroachment by trees. Natural disturbance regimes, mainly periodic ground fires at irregular intervals, have been disrupted, which has caused these formerly open landscapes to afforest naturally. Conversions are designed to restore natural conditions consistent with natural range of variability and disturbance regimes.</p> <p>Several examples were observed during the 2018 site visits.</p>
<p>6.10.f Areas converted to <i>non-forest use</i> for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the CB to determine if removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts. If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of forest to non-forest use would be subject to Indicator 6.10.a-d.</p>	NA	<p>No such instances of conversion of forest land for mineral or gas development were reported to the auditors.</p>
<p>Principle #7: A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p>		
<p>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: a) Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental</p>	C	<p>The overarching management plan and individual regional plans (master plans and interim forest management plans (IFMPs)) were reviewed. Some property-specific plans were also reviewed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amnicon Falls State Park Program Page https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/amnicon/ . Accessed 8.20.18. • Brule River State Forest Master Plan. October 2017. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

<p>assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Barrens Properties – Master Plan. Burnett, Douglas, & Washburn Co, Wisconsin. Wildlife Areas: 1. Namekagon Barrens, 2. Douglas County. Wild River & Outstanding Resource Water: 3. Totogatic Wild River. January 2017. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources DNR PUB-LF-095. Sawyer Creek Fishery Area Program Page https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/2240sawycreek.html . Accessed 8.23.18. Objective: Sawyer Creek Fishery Area is managed to protect the trout habitat and provide public fishing, hunting, and other compatible recreational and educational activities. Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Program page https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/beaverbrook.html. Accessed 8.23.18.
<p>7.1.a The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.</p>	C	<p>The overarching management plan and individual regional plans (master plans and interim forest management plans (IFMPs)) include reference to ownership and legal status.</p>
<p>7.1.b The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).</p>	C	<p>The overarching management plan and individual regional plans (master plans and interim forest management plans (IFMPs)) include this information.</p> <p>Wisconsin Administrative code, NR 44.05 lists required elements of a property master plan, addressing most of the items in this indicator. A review of plan for Coulee Experimental State Forest confirms the inclusion of land-use history, current forest types, successional stages, and natural disturbances. More specific descriptions are presented for individual sale units when harvesting is planned (Form 2460).</p>
<p>7.1.c The management plan describes: a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions.</p>	C	<p>The overarching management plan and individual regional plans (master plans and interim forest management plans (IFMPs)) include this information.</p> <p>These elements of the management plan are found in the WISFirs database, which includes inventory data and desired future conditions, as well as on Forms 2460 (several reviewed during field audit). Master plans present both current and predicted future land cover for all management zones.</p>

<p>7.1.d The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be addressed.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin Administrative code, NR 44.05 requires that master plans contain a description of the landscape. Landscape-scale habitat elements are clearly identified as separate land management areas in plans, i.e., in wildlife considerations and green-tree retention.</p>
<p>7.1.e The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities to conserve and/or protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities (see Criterion 6.2); • plant species and community diversity and wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3); • water resources (see Criterion 6.5); • soil resources (see Criterion 6.3); • Representative Sample Areas (see Criterion 6.4); • High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9); • Other special management areas. 	<p>C</p>	<p>The overarching management plan and individual regional plans (master plans and interim forest management plans (IFMPs)) include this information. Form 2460 for all harvest sites visited includes background on each of these topics.</p> <p>Wisconsin Administrative code, NR 44.06, 44.07, and 44.10 addresses most of these elements, requiring their inclusion in master plans. State Forest plans contain discussions of all of these topics, with representative sample areas and HCVF addressed through management of State Natural Areas and special management categories for native communities.</p>
<p>7.1.f If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Management of invasive species is a common inclusion in management plans at all levels of DNR planning, including the Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species, Public Forest Lands Handbook, individual property master plans, and Form 2460 assessments. Individual plans are required for specific management actions, such as herbicide use.</p>
<p>7.1.g The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NR 44.06(10) c.3, requires that insects and diseases are addressed in master plans. Master plans present a general discussion of forest health, but more specific information is presented in Form 2460 assessment.</p>
<p>7.1.h If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All Divisions and Bureaus in DNR require that plans are submitted before chemicals are used. An application is filled out to request permission for use and then a prescription and map are developed.</p>
<p>7.1.i If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Use of biological controls is generally addressed in Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (one of a number of documents comprising the management plan), but more specifically on a pest-by-pest basis. FME has a competent and active team of forest health specialists who produce annual assessments of disease and insect pests, quarterly publications that summarize plans for control, and annual reports of assessments and control efforts. A Forest Health webpage provides numerous such documents.</p>

<p>7.1.j The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional cultural resources and rights of use (see Criterion 2.1); • potential conflicts with customary uses and use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2); • management of ceremonial, archeological, and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5); • management of aesthetic values (see Indicator 4.4.a); • public access to and use of the forest, and other recreation issues; • local and regional socioeconomic conditions and economic opportunities, including creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs (see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e), and participation in local development opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g). 	<p>C</p>	<p>NR 44 (07), outlines requirements for obtaining public input into master planning for department properties. The general and master plans address each of these topics. There is also a webpage dedicated to public access and recreation. Economics information is available in the master plans and via economic fact sheets maintained by state forest economists. The Division of Forestry has an Education and Outreach Strategic Plan, and the Forest Planning web page provides details on submitting comments on draft plans.</p>
<p>7.1.k The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NR 44 (07) requires that the transportation system is described in master plans, which was confirmed for master plans reviewed. Annual work plans for each property propose needed improvement and maintenance.</p>
<p>7.1.l The management plan describes the silvicultural and other management systems used and how they will sustain, over the long term, forest ecosystems present on the FMU.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Division of Forestry maintains a Silvicultural Handbook (738 pages). It is a dynamic document that is updated regularly. Input on the Handbook may come from FME staff and outside parties such as researchers.</p>
<p>7.1.m The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>These descriptions are in master plans for a particular property or group of properties. Specific details are found in WisFIRS by specific query.</p>
<p>7.1.n The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Chapter 100 of the Public Lands Handbook outlines procedures for stand inventory. The website for master planning (dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning) describes the WisCFI monitoring system and presents an abundance of reports about the forest resources: e.g., volume of growing stock, sawtimber volume, acreage by forest type, even volumes of coarse woody debris, and extent of invasive species. Although this information relates to the Division of Forestry, other administrations also use the WisCFI system and collect the same information.</p>
<p>7.1.o The management plan includes maps describing the resource base, the characteristics of general management zones, special management areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to achieve management objectives and protect sensitive sites.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NR 44 (08) outlines requirements for describing the resource base and Management Areas. Review of master plans sampled confirm that these requirements are met. For instance, master plans cover Forest Production, Habitat, Native Community, Recreation, and State Natural Areas.</p>

<p>7.1.p The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (Chapter 13) discusses harvesting machinery appropriate for different sites and objectives. Inspection of pre-harvest plans and prescriptions during field visits revealed examples where foresters had specified type of harvesting equipment in special cases.</p>
<p>7.1.q Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A Timber Sale Handbook provides guidance for the establishment of timber sales, including the marking of trees to be cut or retained. More specific information that addresses this indicator is prepared for each sale using Form 2460, which was confirmed for all sites visited.</p>
<p>7.1.r The management plan describes the stakeholder consultation process.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NR 44 (07), outlines requirements for obtaining public input into master planning for department properties. Each master plan has a section entitled “Public Communications Plan”.</p>
<p>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME presented an update on its master planning accomplishments. Approximately 65% of the master plans are complete. Scheduling information shows that the FME remains within its timeline for completion. Properties that have outdated plans are being covered by IFMPs until master plans are completed.</p>
<p>7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.3.a Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; All forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Logging contractors are FISTA and SFI trained. Both systems require continuing education. FME staff interviewed stated that there are ample opportunities for continuing education and training, and that supervision levels are acceptable. Numerous training records were provided during the audit, including those cited under C6.6 and training field visits for BMPs (May and July 2018).</p>
<p>7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.4.a While respecting landowner confidentiality, the management plan or a management plan summary that outlines the elements of the plan described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin DNR has presents all plans on its webpage (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning), where plans in both draft and final form are posted for public review. Several other webpages are relevant to this indicator, including:</p>

		https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/guidelines.html , https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html , and https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/reports.html .
<p>7.4.b Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.</p>	C	<p>Wisconsin DNR has presents all plans on its webpage (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning), where plans in both draft and final form are posted for public review. Several other webpages are relevant to this indicator, including: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/guidelines.html, https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html, and https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/reports.html.</p> <p>Implementation of law 28.04 (i.e., “75% rule”) was done through a variance process outside of the normal planning process that nevertheless was subject to public review, as confirmed in correspondence reviewed.</p>
<p>Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</p>		
<p>8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p>	C	
<p>8.1.a Consistent with the scale and intensity of management, the forest owner or manager develops and consistently implements a regular, comprehensive, and replicable written monitoring protocol.</p>	C	<p>Monitoring protocols are described in several handbooks and other publications, including, for example: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/handbooks.html and https://dnr.wi.gov/publications/.</p>
<p>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>	C	
<p>8.2.a.1 For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	C	<p>Refer to C5.6. Reconnaissance data is collected pre-harvest and as part of the CFI system. See https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html for more information. See also Wisconsin</p>

		Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS), Public Lands Handbook chapter 100.
8.2.a.2 Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.	C	Recon is conducted after large-scale loss events to reassess timber volumes according to interviews with staff. Salvage harvests are often arranged to harvest material from blow-down events. Through interviews with staff, each area is regularly inspected to detect potential thefts or damage to other resources.
8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.	C	Refer to WisFIRS report cited in C5.6. FME also maintains harvest volume records in 2460 forms and invoices. Post-harvest reports in the WisFIRS system capture records of harvested material. NTFP records are maintained in the form of permits applied for since NTFPs are not commercially harvested.
8.2.c The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of: 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their habitats ; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4).	C	CFI captures data on plant communities. Invasive species monitoring currently done as part of recon. Recommendations in the statewide strategic plan for invasives call for a more all-encompassing approach that would incorporate monitoring from members of the public. State Natural areas are monitored through inspection reports, thus addressing RSAs and HCVs. FME staff are ready to update GAP analyses, but are going to wait for the new FSC standard to avoid duplicative work.
8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	C	Monitoring of this type is done through timber sale administration. The Timber sale handbook details how active timber sales are reviewed and closed out. Individual reports are prepared as part of monitoring visits, as confirmed during document review for all timber sales visited.
8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.	C	Interviews with facilities managers indicate that road monitoring is an ongoing process. FME completed a formal review of roads and parking lots and identified areas for improvement.
8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).	C	Statewide forest action plan looks into detail of effects of timber on state economy, updated every 5 years, looking at state of forest products industry, salaries of foresters, etc. DNR has daily interaction with state forest products sector.
8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.	C	Stakeholder responses are reviewed on a property-level as part of annual management planning process, as confirmed in interviews with staff. At the

		state-level, comments are considered and changes made to plans if warranted.
8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	C	Opportunities for joint monitoring are provided to local tribes, as confirmed in interviews with the tribal liaison staff and reviews of correspondence provided.
8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	C	Although financial return is not the primary motivation of the state agency, revenue and costs are tracked and detailed as part of standard financial record keeping. Refer to C5.1 for more details. Confirmed through budget staff that these figures are monitored.
8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	C	
8.3.a When forest products are being sold as FSC-certified, the forest owner or manager has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale, with accompanying documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.	C	Refer to COC indicators for FMEs.
8.3.b The forest owner or manager maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.	C	Refer to COC indicators for FMEs.
8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	C	
8.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors and documents the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.	NC	FME has annual master plan monitoring reports in which accomplishments and deviations are detailed. https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html Other types of monitoring are done during annual internal monitoring meetings, which include review of open findings from audits and other topics (e.g., July 11, 2018 meeting notes). See CAR 2018.7 .
8.4.b Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines, including those necessary for conformance with this Standard, are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operational plans, and/or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring shows that the management objectives and guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure conformance with this Standard, then the	C	Per review of monitoring meeting notes and interviews with staff, no significant deviations have been detected that would require a change to the management plan or its objectives outside of regularly scheduled plan updates.

objectives and guidelines are modified.		
8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	C	
8.5.a While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request.	C	All monitoring records are available on the FME’s website (https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestplanning/) and/or available by request. See OBS 2018.8 .
<p>Principle #9: Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p> <p>High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control) d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). 		
9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.	C	
<p>9.1.a The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described in Appendix F.</p> <p>Given the relative rarity of old growth forests in the contiguous United States, these areas are normally designated as HCVF, and all old growth must be managed in conformance with Indicator 6.3.a.3 and requirements for legacy trees in Indicator 6.3.f.</p>	C	There is a significant overlap of State Natural Area and HCVF designation. All areas on DNR-managed lands that are determined to be HCVF are also contained in SNAs. Furthermore, the process that led to SNA designation includes all lands within an ecological landscape, adjacent to the FMU or not. In particular, DNR works with national forests, The Nature Conservancy, and county land managers to manage high conservation forests and other land types. Many State Natural Areas are on land owned by partners. These areas have been identified, mapped, and are contained in the NHI database. 687 designated State Natural Areas include nearly 400,000 acres of land and water.
9.1.b In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with qualified specialists, independent experts, and local community members who may have knowledge of areas that meet the definition of HCVs.	C	Wisconsin has the nation’s largest and oldest natural areas protection program. The Natural Areas Preservation Council , an independently appointed 11-member body created by state law in 1951, advises DNR about the establishment, protection and management of State Natural Areas. DNR has

		undergone extensive review and assessment of HCVF within the SNA program.
9.1.c A summary of the assessment results and management strategies (see Criterion 9.3) is included in the management plan summary that is made available to the public.	C	The Ecological Landscape Handbook for Wisconsin is available on the DNR website. The handbook presents the result of analysis of 16 landscape types in Wisconsin. Individual Master Plans identify the landscapes that are relevant to the plan and present management plans for SNAs (including HCVF) present on the planning unit.
9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	C	
9.2.a The forest owner or manager holds consultations with stakeholders and experts to confirm that proposed HCVF locations and their attributes have been accurately identified, and that appropriate options for the maintenance of their HCV attributes have been adopted.	C	Biotic inventories of areas that will undergo Master Plan development are completed prior to planning activities. HCVFs are identified and mapped by staff and also with input from stakeholders and regional experts through the Natural Areas Preservation Council. Appropriate measures to maintain HCVF attributes are developed. A dedicated staff of ecologists in the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation works to carry out management plans to conserve or restore the attributes of HCVF. Several examples were inspected during the field audit.
9.2.b On public forests, a transparent and accessible public review of proposed HCV attributes and HCVF areas and management is carried out. Information from stakeholder consultations and other public review is integrated into HCVF descriptions, delineations and management.	C	All NR 44 compliant master plans go through an extensive public review process. Master plans include sections on high conservation value sites and proposed management of them.
9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	C	
9.3.a The management plan and relevant operational plans describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see Principle 7). These measures are implemented.	C	Master plans and management plans identify when special circumstances occur that require a modification to the general forest management prescriptions in order to maintain and enhance those unique features. SNA ecologists work closely with forest managers to assure that the high conservation values are maintained. Numerous examples of this working relationship were documented by auditors.
9.3.b All management activities in HCVFs must maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent of the HCVF.	C	DNR is careful in protecting HCVFs for their attributes. Some individual species management plans have been written and utilized to protect HCVF (e.g. old-forest characteristic management).

		The Master Plans and SNA website presents management objectives for most sites.
9.3.c If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.	C	DNR also cooperates with Chequamegon-Nicollet National Forest, numerous county forest lands, and some private landowners in managing HCV sites. A review of SNAs described on the website shows that many are co-managed.
9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	C	
9.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.	C	Site inspections and photo points were employed on many State Natural Areas. On a more informal level, virtually all SNA sites are visited by DNR personnel or cooperators capable of reporting any significant changes in the attributes of the SNA. Also, members of the public using State Natural Areas often inform DNR staff of issues they identify while on the property (e.g., serious invasion of unwanted plants or animals, storm damage, or unauthorized site disturbance).
9.4.b When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.	C	The inspection report identifies risk to the HCVF attribute (e.g. presence of invasives) and appropriate measures are taken to control the risks to the HCVF attributes on the site. SNA crews across the state address these issues.
Principle #10: Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.		
Per field observation of species composition and management practices, Principle 10 is not applicable; all management qualifies under natural/semi-natural forest management.		

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises: Version 7-0

REQUIREMENT	C/ NC	COMMENT/CAR
1. Quality Management		
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.		The Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator for the state is the designated management representative.

<p>1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim. For group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented.</p>		<p>The system is described in the Public Forest Lands Handbook.</p>
<p>1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.</p>		<p>Timber sale handbook requires record retention for this long.</p>
<p>1.4 The FME shall define its forest gate(s) (check all that apply): <i>The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i></p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stump <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs <u>upon</u> harvest.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On-site concentration yard <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port <i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser's facility or a facility under the purchaser's control.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Auction house/ Brokerage <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement <i>A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for <u>before</u> harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Log landing <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):</p>
<p>1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its forest gate(s) to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.</p>		<p>Since DNR sells standing trees, the stump and the gate are the same. Thus there no risk of mixing while the material is in DNR's Chain of Custody.</p>
<p>1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the forest gate without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills or on-site processing of chips/biomass originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i></p>		<p>No processing of material occurs under the scope of this certificate.</p>
<p>1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Accreditation Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS. <i>NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.</i></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>N/A, no verification requested</p>

2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery		
<p>2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the forest gate(s).</p>		<p>All forestland managed by DNR is covered under the certificate. Products are identified as certified in the sale contract clause #34.</p>
<p>2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of product; 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block; 5) Harvest date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and 7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim. 		<p>This information is contained in the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Annual Data Update 2) Contract, trip tickets, and invoice 3) WIFIRS 4) Contract, trip tickets, and invoice 5) Trip tickets 6) NA 7) Contract and trip ticket
<p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) name and contact details of the FME; b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address; c) date when the document was issued; d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s); e) quantity of products sold; f) the FME’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; or ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups. 		<p>The combined sales contract, trip tickets, and invoice fulfill this requirement.</p>
<p>2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation.</p> <p>Note: 2.3 and 2.4 above are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3</p>		<p>The combined sales contract, trip tickets, and invoice fulfill this requirement.</p>

<p>2.5 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents; b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation. 	<p>NA</p>	
<p>2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: “From small or community forest producers.” This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders.</p> <p><i>A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.</i></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>N/A, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim.</p>
<p>3. Labeling and Promotion</p>		<p>N/A, FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.</p>
		<p>N/A, CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit (Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks).</p>
<p>3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the <i>SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs</i>.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Refer to evidence cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below.</p>
<p>4. Outsourcing</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>N/A, FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>
		<p>N/A, FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>
<p>4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.</p>		

<p>4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership; b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement; c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing; d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use. e) The outsourcer does not further outsource the material. f) The outsourcer accepts the right of the certificate body to audit them. 		
<p>5. Training and/or Communication Strategies</p>		
<p>5.1 All relevant FME staff and outsourcers shall be trained in the FME’s COC control system commensurate with the scale and intensity of operations and shall demonstrate competence in implementing the FME’s COC control system.</p>		<p>The duties regarding Chain of Custody are outlined in the Timber Sale Handbook Chapter 58. Interviews confirmed that these procedures are followed. Training is conducted with new hires who have these responsibilities. The Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator periodically sends out newsletter communications with refreshers on Chain of Custody issues and procedures.</p>
<p>5.2 The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of its COC training and/or communications program, such as a list of trained employees, completed COC trainings or communications, the intended frequency of COC training (e.g., training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc.).</p>		<p>Training records are maintained in an electronic system.</p>

SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs: FSC Trademarks, FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0

- N/A, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes (finished with this section); or
- N/A, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.

PART I: General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks

(FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)

<p>Description of how the FME currently uses, or intends to use, FSC trademarks and/or labels, including but not limited to printed materials, Internet applications, on-product labeling, and other public-facing media:</p>	<p>The trademark is used on the contract and trip tickets.</p>						
<p>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
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<p>1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the FME’s certified product group list.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
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<p>Section 1.2 and 1.6 Evidence: 1.2 WI DNR holds a valid certificate SCS-FM/COC-00070N (verified 8/20/2018) and has a signed TLA by Paul Brady on June 12, 2018 1.6 PGL is included in the Annual Data Update</p>							
<p>1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the FME accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
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<p>1.4 Trademark Symbol</p> <p>The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered.</p> <p>For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit.</p> <p>The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure).</p> <p><i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>N/A, one or more of noted exceptions applies</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, one or more of noted exceptions applies
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<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, one or more of noted exceptions applies								
<p>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks</p> <p>The FME has not used the FSC trademarks in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the FME, outside the scope of certification; to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements. 	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs		
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<p>2.2 Translations</p> <p>The name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>N/A, no translations</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, no translations
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<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, no translations								
<p>Sections 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2 Evidence: Review of trademark used on the contract and trip tickets.</p>									
<p>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules</p> <p>The FME has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> color and font (8.1-8.3); format and size (8.4-8.9); label placement (8.10); and ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks (9.1-9.7). 	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>N/A, not using FSC logo</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A, not using FSC logo
<input type="checkbox"/>	C								
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC								
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A, not using FSC logo								

<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The FME has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The FME has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the FME has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.) <i>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</i></p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C						
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC						
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs						

<p>Sections 1.5 Evidence: Review of trademark used on the contract and trip tickets. Review of trademark use approvals.</p>

N/A, not using on-product trademarks (skip Part II)

PART II: On-Product Use of FSC Trademarks

<p>FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0, 11.1 Matching Claim and Label The FME has applied the FSC label that corresponds to the FSC claim made on sales documents for that product.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
<input type="checkbox"/>	C						
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC						
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs						

<p>FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0, 11.2 Eligibility for Labeling The FME has only promoted with the FSC trademarks those FSC products that are eligible for FSC labeling, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSC 100% products may always be labeled as FSC 100% • FSC Controlled Wood products may <u>never</u> be labeled <p><i>FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0, 6.4 Any items used to promote the FME’s FSC certification made wholly or partly of wood (e.g., pencils, memory sticks, etc.) must also meet the above labeling requirements but do not need to carry an on-product label.</i></p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
<input type="checkbox"/>	C						
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC						
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs						

<p>FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0, 11.3 FSC Small and Community Label The FME has only applied the FSC Small and Community Label to products that are exclusively made of input materials from small and/or community producers.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>N/A, not using FSC Small and Community Label</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, not using FSC Small and Community Label
<input type="checkbox"/>	C								
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC								
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs								
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, not using FSC Small and Community Label								

<p>Sections FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0, 11.1 - 11.3 and FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0, 3.9 Evidence:</p>

<p>3.4 FSC Trademark Portal The FME has only used artwork provided by the trademark portal, or other-wise issued and approved by the certification body or FSC.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>NC</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>C w/Obs</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	NC	<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs
<input type="checkbox"/>	C						
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC						
<input type="checkbox"/>	C w/Obs						

<p>3.7 Product types Specific product names have not been used as product types. A list of product types (e.g., ‘wood’) is provided in the trademark portal. These are intended as broad categories. The list is not exhaustive, and an FME shall contact FSC via the certification body with any request for a new product type (e.g. a non-timber forest product) to be added.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>4.1 Partial Claims The label shall be used only where all forest-based parts of the product are covered by FSC certification, as specified in FSC-STD-40-004. Packaging made of forest-based materials is considered a separate element. Therefore, the label may refer to the packaging, the product inside, or both, depending on which elements are certified.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, all permanent product parts certified
<p>4.2 Visibility of Label The FSC label should be made clearly visible on the product, its packaging, or both.</p> <p>4.5 If the FSC label is visible to the consumer then additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used. For example, if the on-product label is inside the sales packaging, no additional logos, marks, or references to FSC shall be applied on the outer surface of the packaging. If the FSC label is NOT visible to the consumer, then NO additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Note 4 Visible labelling for retailers Retailers can promote products as FSC certified only if the label is visible to consumers.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, not a retailer
<p>4.3 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos When a product is FSC labelled, marks of other forest certification schemes shall not be used on the same product. In catalogues, books, and similar FSC-labelled publications, other forest certification scheme marks may be used for promoting other products or for educational purposes.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>4.4 Different Label Types When the FSC logo with the license code is applied as a heat brand or stencil directly to the product without all required label elements, a standard label has also been used, either on the packaging or attached as a sticker or hang-tag.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using brand/stencil <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, brand/stencil includes all elements
<p>Sections 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, and 4.1 - 4.5 Evidence:</p>	
<p>Number of trademark uses reviewed and rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met:</p>	

<p>4.7 Labeling semi-finished products If an FME labels semi-finished product, the FSC label has only been applied in such a way that it can be removed before or during further processing.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, not labeling semi-finished products
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Section 4.7 Evidence:

<p>4.8 Labeling arrangements between organizations When two certified organizations enter into an agreement whereby the supplier labels products with the buyer’s FSC trademark license code, the following conditions have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Products to be labelled are included in the certificate scope of both organizations. b) Both parties have informed their certification bodies in writing about the agreement. It has been defined who is responsible for approval of on-product labels – either the certification body or the certificate holder with an approved trademark use management system. c) The supplier is responsible for ensuring that the buyer’s code is used only on eligible products that are supplied to that buyer. d) If contractors are being used by the supplier, the supplier is responsible for ensuring that contractors only use it for eligible products supplied to the buyer. e) Both organizations shall keep the agreement easily available for auditing by certification bodies. 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, no labeling arrangement
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Section 4.8 Evidence:

N/A, not using promotional trademarks (skip Part III)

PART III: Promotional Use of FSC Trademarks

<p>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc. • If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed, then a text such as “Look for our FSC®-certified products” shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified. • If some or all the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is clearly stated. 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using trademarks in catalogues/ brochures/websites
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<p>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement is included: “Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified”. <i>NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using trademarks on templates for FSC & non-FSC products
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<p>6.3 Promotional Items All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not labeling promotional items
<p>6.5 Trade Fairs When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the FME has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or b) add an add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for our FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. <p><i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the FME does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using trademarks at trade fairs
<p>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims When investment companies or others are making financial claims based on the FME’s FSC certified operations, the FME has taken full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks. Any such claims have been accompanied by the disclaimer, “FSC is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments.”</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not making financial claims about FSC status
<p>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using other scheme logos
<p>7.3 Business Cards The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the FME’s certification. The FSC logo or ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks are not used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the FME’s FSC certification, with license code, is allowed, for example “We are FSC® certified (FSC® C#####)” or “We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C#####)”.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011
<p>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 6.1 - 6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7. 4 Evidence: Review of trademark used on the contract and trip tickets.</p>	
<p>Number of trademark uses reviewed and rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: All trademark use reviewed.</p>	

<div style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not using a trademark use management system</div> Annex A: Trademark use management system	
<p>Annex A, 1.2 Prior to the use of an internal control system, the FME shall demonstrate a good understanding of the requirements in question by submitting a sufficient number of consecutive correct approval requests to the certification body for each type of intended use (e.g. organizations controlling both labelling and promotion shall submit requests for each). It is at the discretion of the certification body to determine when the FME has demonstrated a good record of submissions.</p> <p>Note to Auditor: This requirement is audited by SCS HQ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An FME must provide a record to the auditor from SCS stating that the FME is approved to begin to implement a Trademark Use Management System (TMS). - After a TMS is initially approved, the FME must provide a record to the auditor from SCS stating that the FME continues to be eligible to implement their TMS. This is generated yearly by SCS after the FME has demonstrated continued good performance. 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
Sections 1.2 Evidence:	
<p>Annex A, 2.1a Management Representative</p> <p>a) The FME has appointed a management representative who has overall responsibility and authority for the FME’s conformity with all applicable trademark requirements;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
Sections 2.1a Evidence:	
<p>Annex A, 2.1b Documented Procedures</p> <p>b) The FME has implemented and maintained up-to-date documented procedures covering the trademark control within the FME;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
Sections 2.1b Evidence:	
<p>Annex A, 2.1c Responsible Personnel</p> <p>c) The FME has defined the personnel responsible for the implementation of each procedure;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
Sections 2.1c Evidence:	
<p>Annex A, 2.1d Scope of the trademark use management system</p> <p>d) The FME has defined the scope of the system to include on-product labelling or promotion, or both;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
Sections 2.1d Evidence:	

<p>Annex A, 2.1e Training e) The FME has trained defined staff on the up-to-date version of the FME’s procedures to ensure their competence in implementing the trademark use management system;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 2.1e Evidence:</p>	
<p>Annex A, 2.1f Approval records f) The FME has maintained complete and up-to-date records of trademark approvals, which shall be retained for a minimum period of five (5) years.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 2.1f Evidence:</p>	
<p>Annex A, 2.2 Internal trademark approval process Prior to each new use of the FSC trademarks, the FME shall ensure trademark use control by implementing an internal trademark approval process or by receiving external approval from its certification body.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 2.2 Evidence:</p>	
<p>Annex A, 2.3 Designated trademark controllers FME’s internal control systems shall include designated trademark controllers who act as internal approvers of the trademark use. Trademark controllers shall have been trained on FSC trademark use – the online FSC Trademark Training Course for Certificate Holders is recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 2.3 Evidence:</p>	
<p>Auditor recommendation for allowing the certificate holder to implement (or continue to implement) a trademark use management system:</p>	

<p>Annex B. Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, not a group FM certificate holder or group does not use any FSC trademarks</p>	
<p>Annex B, 1.1 The group entity (or manager, or central office) shall ensure that all uses of the FSC trademarks by the group entity or its individual members are approved by the certification body prior to use, or that the group and its members have an approved trademark use management system in place. When seeking approval by the certification body, group members shall submit all approvals via the group entity or central office, and keep records of approvals. Alternative submission methods may be approved by the certification body.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Section 1.1 Evidence:</p>	

<p>Annex B, 1.2 The group entity shall not produce any document similar to an FSC certificate for its participants. If individual membership documents are issued, these statements shall be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) “Managing the FSC® certification program of SCS Global Services” b) “Group certification by SCS Global Services” 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs <input type="checkbox"/> N/A, not issuing individual membership documents
<p>Annex B, 1.3 No other forest certification schemes’ marks or names shall appear on any membership documents (as per clause 1.2) issued by the group in connection with FSC certification. <i>Note: This only applies to documents issued per Annex B, 1.2 and NOT other documents such as group procedures.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Annex B, 1.4 Subcodes of members shall not be added to the license code.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/Obs
<p>Sections 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 Evidence:</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>End of 50-001 Checklist</i></p>	