

Crosswalk of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) Requirements and WDNR's Planning and Management for State Forests

FSC® Lake States Regional Standards	How WDNR Conforms to Requirements
<p>9.1. <i>Assessments</i> to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with HCVF will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.</p> <p>9.1.a. Attributes and locations of HCVF are determined by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Globally rare, threatened, or endangered features, habitats, or ecosystems that may be present in the forest. (2) Regionally and locally rare, threatened, or endangered features, habitats, or ecosystems that may be present in the forest; culturally and tribally significant areas; or municipal watersheds that may be present in the landscape and/or certified forest. (3) Appropriate consultations with local and regional scientists and other stakeholders. (4) Public review of proposed HCVF attributes and areas on large-scale and public ownerships. (5) Integration of information from consultations and public review into proposed HCVF delineation. (6) Delineation by maps and habitat descriptions. 	<p>Various ecological and social assessments are developed for the planning and management of state forests. Several are directly related to determining the presence of attributes consistent with HCVF.</p> <p>Environmental databases utilized at various scales for appropriate state forest assessments include: historic, current, and potential natural vegetation; historic and current fauna; invasive species; historic and current disturbance regimes; soils; geology and geomorphology; elevation and topography; hydrology and hydrography; climate; and human land use and cultural ecology. State forest GIS and compartment Recon provide the property level foundation.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (WNHI) identifies and inventories endangered, threatened, and special concern species, and classifies and documents rare community types.</p> <p>Ecological classification systems applied to assessments include: National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units and Forest Habitat Type Classification System.</p> <p>Broad-scale ecological and social assessments include: the Statewide Forest Plan and the Ecological Landscapes Handbook. Also, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative is developing an assessment of important bird areas.</p> <p>Specific state forest assessments applied to the delineation of HCVF are: Regional Ecological Assessment, Community Restoration and Old-growth Assessment, and Biotic Inventory.</p> <p>Potential sites are evaluated and ranked by integrated teams of topical experts and managers. Management proposals for each specific area are developed. <i>On WDNR State Forests, HCVF are designated as state natural areas, native community areas, wild resource areas, and wild and wilderness lakes. In addition, some HCVF areas can be included in the other land classes, including recreation areas, scenic management areas, forest production areas, habitat management areas, and special management areas.</i></p> <p>The Master Plan development process seeks out and provides abundant opportunities for internal and external consultation and review, and analyzes and integrates appropriate information. Stakeholders, tribes, scientists, and topical experts are included.</p> <p>Maps and descriptions are included in the various assessments as well as in the master plan. Land classification maps identify selected designations.</p>

<p>9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p>	<p>FSC understands that Criterion 9.2 is an instruction to Certification Bodies and that no indicators are required.</p>
<p>9.3. The <i>management plan</i> shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. The measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</p> <p>9.3.a. Forest management plans and activities are appropriate for maintaining, enhancing and/or restoring attributes that make the area an HCVF.</p> <p>9.3.b. Active management in HCVPs is allowed only when it maintains or enhances high conservation values.</p> <p>9.3.c. The management-plan summary includes information about HCVP management without compromising either the confidentiality of the forest owner or manager or environmentally and culturally sensitive features.</p> <p>9.3.d. Forest owners or managers of HCVPs coordinate conservation efforts with forest owners or managers of other HCVPs in the landscape.</p>	<p>Recent State Forest Master Plans include detailed information on the designation and location of distinctive land classes. The land classification system communicates management goals and limitations. In addition, management goals and limitations for specific areas are detailed. Both active and passive management systems are applied to achieve management goals. Passive management areas are identified and mapped. Specific management plans for each SNA are summarized.</p> <p>Management guidelines are detailed in many of the aforementioned assessments, and also in DNR handbooks, including: Silviculture, Old-growth and Old Forests, and Ecological Landscapes.</p> <p>Management coordination is part of the integrated master planning process. Adaptive management is a continuously evolving process.</p> <p>The management plan summary provides an overview of the planning process, the planning foundation, and the master plan. The land management classification is introduced and an allocation map is presented. HCVP, old-growth forests, and passive management goals are outlined. SNA status is summarized.</p>
<p>9.4. Annual <i>monitoring</i> shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</p> <p>9.4.a. Forest owners or managers of small forests may satisfy this requirement with informal observations. When observations detect changes, the changes are documented.</p> <p>9.4.b. Forest owners or managers of mid-sized and large forests monitor activities within and adjacent to HCVPs that may affect HCVP attributes. Monitoring is adequate to track changes in HCVP attributes, and may include informal observations. When monitoring detects changes to HCVP attributes, the changes are documented.</p>	<p>State forest compartment Recon includes all lands, both actively and passively managed.</p> <p>A Continuous Forest Inventory system will be established in 2006 to continuously monitor forest and non-forest attributes and trends.</p> <p>Non-forested communities are tracked by informal observation.</p> <p>Remote aerial images are regularly reviewed, and GIS are maintained.</p> <p>Expanded monitoring of criteria and indicators is being developed. HCVP are expected to play an important role.</p> <p>The SNA program has standardized methods for conducting long-term monitoring of ecosystems. These methods could be adapted to develop a collaborative monitoring program for HCVP.</p>