



## Surveillance Audit Report

# 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

October 15, 2013

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

#### B. Scope:

No Change       Changed

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

Categories included in the DNR Lands forest certification review include:

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

The following DNR properties (about 130,599 acres) are excluded from the certification project:

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

**C. NSF Audit Team:**

Lead Auditor: Mike Ferrucci SFI Auditor: Norman Boatwright  
Dave Capen, Biologist, SCS Lead, Brendan Grady, SCS Team

**D. Audit Dates: August 18-13, 2013**

**E. Reference Documentation:**

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

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

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

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

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

**H. Other Issues Reviewed:**

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

**I. Corrective Action Requests:**

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

1. Minor leak of hydraulic fluid from the loader arm of a forwarder (Performance Measure 3.1)
  - Corrective Action Plan is not required.
  - Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
  - Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformance(s) must be closed by the auditor

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

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

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following CARs remain open:  
MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 1 Opportunities For Improvement (OFIs) identified: 2.

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

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

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: SFI Reporting Form

## Appendix I



# Surveillance Notification Emails and Audit Schedule

**From:** Mike Ferrucci [mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2013 4:32 PM  
**To:** 'Heyde, Mark A - DNR'  
**Cc:** 'Martin, Christopher M - DNR'; Norman Boatwright (nboatwright12@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Wisconsin DNR State Lands Audit Planning - YOUR HELP NEEDED

This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continue to be in conformance with the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The focus will be on SFI requirements for a multi-site group as well as on assessing most of the forest management requirements within Objectives 1 through 7, and issues relating to science and research (Objective 15), training (Objective 16), Public Land Management Responsibilities (Objective 18), and as well as management review (Objective 20). During the audit I will also review any efforts made to I've done a finer-scale plan for you on the attached checklist (matrix) using yellow highlights in the left column only. You may note that nearly all of Objectives 1-7 are indicated, because we need to sample these items on the field units (they are not completely centralized). I was able to leave off a few for next year.

Mike Ferrucci

[mferrucci@iforest.com](mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com)

Office and Cell: 203-887-9248

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**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR [mailto:Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 03, 2013 5:00 PM  
**To:** Brendan Grady (BGrady@scsglobalservices.com); Mike Ferrucci (mferrucci@iforest.com)  
**Cc:** Dave Capen (David.Capen@uvm.edu); Norman Boatwright (nboatwright12@gmail.com); Courtney, Steven D - DNR; Nielsen, John A - DNR; DNR DL FR FLT; DNR DL FR TEAM FOT; Martin, Christopher M - DNR; DNR DL AD LLT; Crossley, Alan X - DNR; Cunningham, Paul - DNR; Fitzgerald, Kathryn I - DNR; Hoffman, Randolph M - DNR; Prey, Jeff J - DNR; Prichard, Teague - DNR; Schwantes, Joseph A - DNR; Sell, Deanna L - DNR; Thompson, Craig D - DNR  
**Subject:** Initial Audit Planning Notes Wisconsin State Lands August 18-23, 2013

Hi Brendan and Mike, thanks for the planning call today. Here is the summary of my notes including details as a heads up for my DNR colleagues:

Audit scope – Full FSC recertification – all indicators (~190) will be evaluated

- SFI surveillance audit – focus areas yet to be determined

Audit team –

- Dave Capen
- Brendan Grady
- Mike Ferrucci
- Norman Boatwright

Audit dates - August 18-23 with a closing meeting by conference call on Monday August 26

Initial audit counties:

Southeast team – Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Waukesha, Jefferson, Washington, and Sheboygan including a definite visit to the Kettle Moraine SF

South Central team – Columbia, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, Adams and Juneau including a definite visit to the Black River SF

South West team – Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Richland, Crawford (may be dropped), Vernon, and La Crosse including a definite visit to the Coulee Experimental Forest and the Lower Wisconsin State River way

Initial audit schedule:

Sunday, August 18 – Auditor travel and state parks visits; at the request of the Bureau of Parks the audit has been structured to allow a full weekend day for one smaller park and one larger park. Note: Mike Ferrucci is traveling from NW Wisconsin and will end up in Madison on Sunday. Will work with the Bureau of Parks to select audit locations.

Monday, August 19 – Auditors central office staff interviews and opening meeting at the State Natural Resources Building

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 20 and 21 audit teams visit selected field sites 8am to 5pm

Thursday, August 22 - audit teams visit field sites 8am to 3pm with travel back to Madison by 5pm.

Friday, August 23 - Auditor work session, Heyde and select staff available for questions; auditor travel

Monday, August 26 Closing meeting by conference call

We will be doing an initial query to identify active management sites on state properties in the selected counties. This includes all active timber sales plus closed sales for the last two years. The lead auditors will select a core sample of sites to visit that represent a variety of program affiliations and natural resource management situations. We will add to the core list to flesh out complete audit “tours”.

**To DNR staff in the selected counties**, if you have a role with on the ground resource management on state properties in the certified group, please hold the dates of August 20-23 in your calendars. We will work to finalize site selection ASAP so that you can confirm your audit involvement or free up your calendar.

**Jeff Prey let’s talk about selection of the parks for August 18.**

*Mark A. Heyde* Forest Certification Coordinator, Public and Private Forestry Section, Bureau of Forest Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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## **2013 State Lands Forest Certification Audit Agendas**

### **Monday, August 19**

Program staff interviews at the State Natural Resources Building rooms 408, 428 and 413.

Audit team: Dave Capen, Brendan Grady, Mike Ferrucci, Norman Boatwright

#### **Room 413**

8 – 9 am – **Audit Opening Meeting** – full audit team reviews this year’s audit plan and the Department’s response to last year’s audit findings.

**Call (855) 947-8255 Passcode: 9680 753#**

9 – 10am - **Planning** – statewide, master planning, IFMP’s, SCORP – Teague Prichard and Kristen Tomaszewski (Forestry), Jeff Prey (Parks), Alan Crossley (Wildlife), Craig Thompson, Kate Fitzgerald and Steve Miller (Lands), Randy Hoffman (Natural Heritage Conservation) and Paul Cunningham (Fisheries); full audit team.

10 – 10:15am – **Break**

#### **Room 428**

10:15 – 10:45am - **Inventory and monitoring systems** (FIA and CFI) – Andy Stoltman and Teague Prichard (Forestry); full audit team

10:45 – 11:30am - **Wildlife Management** – Scott Walter (Young Forest Initiative), Adrian Wydeven (Forest wildlife), Eric Lobner (Deer issues); auditors Capen and Grady

11 – 11:30am - **Endangered and Threatened species and habitats, monitoring**; HCVF – Randy Hoffman and Drew Feldkirchner (Natural Heritage Conservation); auditors Capen and Grady

11:30 – noon - **Trails and Recreation** – Jeff Prey (Parks); auditors Capen and Grady

Noon – 1pm – **Lunch**

1 – 1:30pm - **Tribal relations and consultation** – Quinn Williams (Legal), Shelly Allness (DNR) and Rebecca Diebel (Forestry); auditors Capen and Grady

1:30 – 2pm - **Partnerships and Stakeholder involvement** – Rebecca Diebel (Forestry) and Kate Fitzgerald (Lands); auditors Capen and Grady

2 – 2:15pm – **Break**

2:15 – 2:45pm - **Cultural and historic sites** – Mark Dudzik and Steve Miller (Lands); auditors Capen and Grady

2:45 – 3:15pm - **Forestry Law Enforcement** – Eric Grudzinski (Forestry); auditors Capen and Grady

**Split schedule for Room 408**; auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

10:45 – 11:30am – **Silviculture/Timber sales/forest regeneration** – Brad Hutnik and Joe Schwantes (Forestry); auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

11:30 – noon – **Water quality BMP's** – Carmen Hardin (Forestry); auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

Noon – 1pm – **Lunch**

1 – 1:30pm - **Forest Health Program** – Andrea Diss-Torrance (Forestry); auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

1:30 – 2pm - **Invasive species, BMP's and control funding** – Tom Boos and Bernadette (Bernie) Williams (Forestry); auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

2 – 2:15pm – **Break**

2:15 – 2:45pm - **Pesticides** – Tom Boos/Pesticide Use Team and Jeff Prey (Parks); auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright

2:45 – 3:15pm - **Forest Research** – Karl Martin, Chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section; Karl will phone in from Montana; auditors Ferrucci and Boatwright  
**Call (855) 947-8255 Passcode: 9680 753#**

### **Adjourn**

Distribute safety equipment for auditors.

#### Staff list:

Karl Martin, Chief, Wildlife and Forestry Research Section, Science Services  
Jeff Prey, Program and Policy Analyst; Recreation, Planning and Development Section  
Tom Boos, Plant Pest and Disease Specialist, Forest Health Team  
Bernie Williams, Conservation Biologist, Forest Health Team  
Andrea Diss-Torrance, Plant Pest and Disease Specialist, Forest Health Team  
Carmen Hardin, Chief, Sciences Section, Bureau of Forest Management  
Joe Schwantes, County and Public Lands Specialist, Public and Private Forestry Section  
Teague Prichard, State Forest Specialist, Public and Private Forestry Section  
Brad Hutnik, Ecologist and Silviculturist, Forest Sciences Section  
James (Eric) Grudzinski, Forestry Law Enforcement Specialist, Fire and Law Enforcement Section  
Mark Dudzik, Archaeologist, Facilities Management Section  
Steve Miller, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands  
Rebecca Diebel, Chief, Staff and Partner Services Section, Forestry Business Services  
Kathryn (Kate) Fitzgerald, Chief, Land Management Section, Facilities and Lands  
Quinn Williams, Attorney Supervisor, Legal Services  
Shelly Allness, Tribal Liaison, Division of Land  
Randy Hoffman, Conservation Biologist, Program Integration, Natural Heritage Conservation  
Drew Feldkirchner, Conservation Biologist, Public and Private Forestry Section, Natural Heritage Conservation  
Adrian Wydeven, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ecology Section, Wildlife Management  
Scott Walter, Staff Specialist, Ecology Section, Wildlife Management  
Eric Lobner, District Wildlife Program Leader, WM Southern District  
Andy Stoltman, Forestry Analyst, Forestry Business Services  
Paul Cunningham, Staff Specialist, Fisheries Management Section  
Kristin Tomaszewski, Program and Policy Analyst, Staff and Partner Services Section, Forestry Business Services  
Craig Thompson, District Facilities and Lands Leader, West Central District  
Alan Crossley, Wildlife Biologist, Management Systems Section, Wildlife Management

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### **August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - Central Team**

**7:30 am: Leave Madison**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci cell: (203) 887.9248

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley cell: (608) 575.2291

**Property #1 9:00 – 11:00 Jennings Creek Wildlife Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/jennings.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 530 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot off Ludwig Rd.

*Directions:*

- Take 51 north. Continue onto Hwy 22 north after Hwy 51 veers to the left. Follow Hwy 22 to CTH B.
- Turn right on CTH B and take about 4 miles east until it intersects with CTH C. Turn left on C and almost immediately hit Hwy 16.
- Take a right on Hwy 16. At the Mobil station, turn left on CTH B. Follow CTH B through the village of Rio (you will have to turn right at the intersection near downtown). Follow CTH B out of Rio, and continue straight on CTH B when CTH SS veers off to the left.
- Turn left on Williams Rd one mile after CTH SS intersection
- Turn Right on Palmer Rd (~1/2 mile)
- About 1 ½ mile on Palmer Rd, take a left onto Ludwig Rd. After about ½ mile on Ludwig, the road veers to the left. Straight ahead on this curve is a gravel driveway with a wooden routed sign for Jennings Creek WA next to it. Continue down this gravel driveway to the parking area.

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrli (WM) Cell: (608) 220-3474

**Field Staff:** Jim

Bennett (FR) Cell: (608) 697-8256

Joel Green (FR) Cell: (608) 235-2506

Al Ramminger (WM) Cell: (608) 225-2437

**Includes:**

- Sale # 1-10, 26 acres of pine thinning completed

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property #2 12:30-1:30 Rocky Run Creek Fishery Area**

**Link:**<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/fisheriesareas/2135rockyruncreek.html>

**Property Type:** Fishery Area

**Size:** 735 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot off Hwy 22

**Field Staff Lead:** Nate Fayram (NHC) office: (608)438.5521

**Field Staff:** Jim Bennett (FR) Cell: (608) 697.8256

Joel Green (FR) Cell: (608) 235.2506

Al Ramminger (WM) Cell: (608) 225.2437

Sara Kehrli (WM) Cell: (608) 220.3474

**Includes:**

- Habitat management through prescribed fire
- Sale # 4-10 red pine thinning and salvage

**Property #3 2:00-3:30 Dekorra Public Hunting Ground**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/dekorra.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 226 acres



**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot on Cty Rd V.

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrli (WM) Cell: (608) 220-3474

Bennett (FR) Cell: (608) 697-8256

Joel Green (FR) Cell: (608) 235-2506

Al Ramminger (FR) Cell: (608) 225-2437

**Field Staff:** Jim

Includes:

- Sale # 1-11 Oak harvest to create HCVF savanna and aspen regeneration

#### **Property # 4 4:00 – 5:30 - Pine Island Wildlife Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/pineisland.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 5500 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot on Levee Rd just past overlook.

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrli (WM) cell: (608) 220.3474

Bennett, (FR) cell: (608) 697.8256

Joel Green (FR) cell: (608) 235.2506

Al Ramminger (WM) cell: (608) 225-2437

Nate Fayram (NHC) cell: (608) 438-5521

**Field Staff:** Jim

Includes:

- Tritz Road tree plantings conversion of sharecrop fields to forest
- Sale# 2-11 Blount Rd aspen regeneration on 50 acres for woodcock management cutting
- Sale # 1-12 Van Wormer/Levee Rd Aspen coppice
- Sale # 8-11 South Hein Rd aspen regeneration

**Overnight:** Wisconsin Dells – Ramada Inn, 1073 Frontage Rd. East, I-90/94 @ Exit 92, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

(608) 254.2218

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley

### **August 21st (Wednesday) – Central Team**

**7:30 am: Leave Wisconsin Dells**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley (WM) cell:

#### **Property #1 - 8:30 – 12:30 - Black River State Forest**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/blackRiver/>

Forest

**Size:** 65,000

**Property Type:** State

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPCComplete.html#tabx5>

**Meeting Location:** ATV parking lot ½ mile north on Settlement road from County Highway O

**Field Staff Lead:** Peter Bakken (FR) cell: (715) 896.1179

**Field Staff:** Tim Babros (WM) cell: (608) 769.4410

Armund Bartz (NHC) cell: (319) 327.1295

Includes:

- Sale 1117 – oak clearcut & combination of oak clearcut and white pine release.
- Sale 1130 – oak seed tree
- Sale 1150 – red pine thinning
- Sale 1156 – white pine thinning, jack pine release, jack pine clearcut.
- recreation management, barrens restoration

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property # 2 1:30 – 3:30 Meadow Valley Wildlife Area**

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/meadowvalley.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 58,000 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0058.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Sandhill Wildlife Area, 1715 County Highway X  
Babcock WI, 54413

**Field Staff Lead:** Neal Paisley (WM) cell: (715) 884.6330

**Field Staff:** Mark Chryst (FR) cell: (715)459.2650

Armund Bartz (NHC) cell: (319) 327.1295

Includes:

- Sale 882 - clear cut to regenerate early successional forest
- Sale 884 – aspen/oak/maple regeneration
- Sale 875 – regeneration harvest & pine thinning
- Sale 875 & Tract 13-12 – regeneration harvest & pine thinning
- flowage management, dike maintenance

**Property # 3 4:00 – 5:00 Leola Marsh**

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/leola.html>

**Landscape Context:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/Grasslands/cwgca.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 1860 acres

**Meeting Location:** Owen Rock parking area just off County W, ¼ mile south of the intersection of CTH D and CTH W

**Field Staff Lead:** Jon Robaidek cell: (715) 498.2338

**Field Staff:** Marc Sass (FR) cell (715) 459.3790

Terri Wilson (FR) cell: (715) 459.5605

Includes:

- Prairie Chicken management
- Prescribed burning
- Recreation management

**Overnight:** Wisconsin Dells – Ramada Inn, 1073 Frontage Rd. East, I-90/94 @ Exit 92, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965  
(608) 254.2218

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley

## **August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) – Central Team**

**7:00 am: Leave Wisconsin Dells**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley

**Meeting Location:** Montello Ranger Station at 8:00 am – 363 Church St., State Road 22 North, Montello – travel to White River Marsh WA with forester.

### **Property # 1 – 8:30 – 9:30 White River Marsh**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/whiteriver.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 12,000 ac

**Meeting Location:** Parking Lot on CTH D, northeast of White River (T17N R12E Section 19)

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart (WM) cell: (920) 420.2567

**Field Staff:** Scott Sullivan (FR) cell: (608) 297.2226

Includes:

- Wetland management
- Whooping crane reintroduction efforts
- Tract 102-12, Sale #3972-1, "Flowing Well" Timber Sale- KBB Habitat Improvement Site

### **Property # 2 10:00 – 11:30 Mekan River Fishery Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/1620mekanriver.html>

**Property Type:** Fishery Area

**Size:** 6,400 ac

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/mecanIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Czech Ave – parking area north of Czech Ave - ½ mile west of County JJ (T18N R9E Section 29)

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart (WM) cell: (920) 420.2567 or Jim Tomasko (WM) cell: (920) 428.0628

**Field Staff:** RJ Wickham (FR) Cell: (920)369.6248

Includes:

[Sale number 7059-80 Tract Number 2-09 "Fat Squirrel Sale"](#)

Completed aspen, Jack pine, oak, and white pine regeneration harvest & pine thinning.

- Treatment to prevent Annosum.
- Prairie management
- Ice Age Trail (IAT)
- Snow mobile trail

### **Property # 3 – 11:30 –12:30 Chafee Creek Fishery Area (Part of Mekan River FA)**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/1620mekanriver.html>

**Property Type:** Fishery Area

**Meeting Location:** Czech Ave approximately 1 mile west of Property #2

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart (WM) cell: (920) 420-2567 or Jim Tomasko (WM) cell: (920) 428-0628

**Field Staff:** RJ Wickham (FR) cell: (920) 369.6248

Matt Zine (NHC) cell: (608) 575.7035

Includes:

-- [Sale number 7020-94 Tract Number 3-12 "Cougar Sale"](#)

Aspen, oak, & white pine regeneration harvest & pine thinning  
Forest conversion to wet mesic prairie.

- Ice Age Trail
- Fisheries Management – trout stream habitat management

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property #3 – 3:00 – 4:00 Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/lawrence.html>

**Property Type:** Fish and Wildlife Area

**Size:** 961 acres

**Meeting Location:** Dyke Court and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave – parking area on south side of Dyke Court (T17N R8E Section 32)

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart (WM) cell: (920) 420.2567 or Jim Tomasko (WM) cell: (920) 428.0628

**Field Staff:** Matt Zine (NHC) cell: (608) 575.7035

Scott Sullivan (FR) cell: (608) 369.1104

**Includes:**

- Tract 101-10, Sale #3966-01, Lawrence Creek Timber Sale – aspen regeneration along snowmobile trail
- Tract 101-10, Sale #3966-01, Lawrence Creek Timber Sale – black locust treatment/removal along 2<sup>nd</sup> Drive
- Tract 101-10, Sale #3966-01, Lawrence Creek Timber Sale – pine thinning along Lawrence Lake

**Overnight:** Madison Concourse Hotel - 1 W Dayton St, Madison, WI, 53703 (866) 539.8430 **Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - West Team**

**8:00 am: Leave Madison**

**Auditors:** Dave Capen cell: (802) 735.6899 & Brendan Grady cell: (510) 219.2241

**ICIT Team:** Craig Thompson (LL) cell: (608) 792.0086

**Property #1 – 9:30 – 12:30 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (Iowa County)**

**Link:** [Lower Wisconsin Riverway](#)

**Property Type:** State Riverway

**Size:** 44,000 acres

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/lowerwisconsinIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Tower Hill State Park

**Field Staff Lead:** Matt Seguin (LF) cell: (608) 588.7723

**Field Staff:** Brian Hefty (LF) cell: (608) 576.1403

Sharon Fandel (NHC) cell: (608) 279.4768

Nick Morehouse (FR) cell: (608) 459.0346

**Includes:**

- Sale #2232-24 Red pine plantation removal and conversion - Sauk Co.
- Sale #2232-20 Bottomland hardwood and oak thinning - Sauk Co.
- Sale #2232-15 Bottomland hardwood thinning

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property #2 – 2:00 – 3:30 Hogback State Natural Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=334>

Natural Area

**Property Type:** State

**Size:** 1093 acres

**Meeting Location:** One mile north of Steuben, meet approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of Hughes, Zinkle, and Citron Valley roads. Park in the mowed area just south of south of Citron Valley road where the road turns to the north.

780.7267  
327.1295

Gary Harden (FR) cell: (608) 963.5069

**Field Staff Lead:** Dean Edlin (NHC) cell: (608)

**Field Staff:** Armund Bartz (NHC) cell: (319)

Includes:

- Sale 1-2010
- vegetation management,
- invasives control
- invertebrate conservation

### **Property #3 – 4:15 – 5:15 Battle Hollow State Natural Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=177>

Natural Area

**Size:** 348 acres

**Property Type:** State

**IFMP Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/battlebluffIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:**

Intersection of STH 82 and Wilkumlin Road

(319) 327.1295  
780.7267

Joel Jepsen (FR) cell: (608) 317.0479

**Field Staff Lead:** Armund Bartz (NHC) cell:

**Field Staff:** Dean Edlin (NHC), cell: (608)

Includes:

- Sale 13-01 – Oak and walnut harvest for oak savanna restoration
- prairie management
- reptile conservation

**Overnight:** Radisson Hotel - 200 Harbor View Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601, (608) 784.6680    Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan Grady

## **August 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday) – West Team**

**7:30 am: Leave La Crosse**  
Brendan Grady

Auditors: Dave Capen &  
ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

### **Property #1 8:00 – 10:30 - Coulee Experimental Forest**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/coulee/>

**Size:** 2,900 acres

**Meeting Location:** CTH II parking lot

**Field**

**Staff Lead:** Adam Zirbel (FR) cell: (608) 792.3984

**Field**

**Staff:** Ron Lichtie (WM) cell: (608) 769.7400

Dean Edlin (NHC) cell: (608) 780.7267

Includes:

- Sale 3213-27 - aspen coppice regeneration & conifer plantation thinning
- Sale 3213-28 – even- aged oak regeneration & uneven- aged oak thinning & group selection
- Sale 3213-26 aspen coppice regeneration & conifer plantation thinning

- prairie restoration, recreational use

**Property #2 11:00 – 1:00 - Wildcat Mountain State Park**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/wildcat/>

**Meeting Location:** Park Headquarters - E13660 State Highway 33, Ontario WI 54651  
Lenore Schroeder (PR) Office: (608) 337.4775  
Jepsen (FR), cell: (608) 317.0479

**Size:** 3,500 acres  
**Lead Field Staff:**  
**Field Staff:** Joel

Includes:

- Sale 6339 – 01 White and Red Pine thinning
- Horse trail management, camping

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property # 3 2:00 – 4:00 – Coon Creek Fishery Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/642cooncreek.html>

**Size:** 2,300 acres

**Meeting Location:** Neprud property parking lot off CTH P

**Lead Field Staff:** Jordan Weeks (FH) cell: (608) 792.1447

**Staff:** Ron Lichtie (WM), cell: (608) 769.7400

Joel Jepsen (FR), cell: (608) 317.0479

**Field**

Includes:

- Sale 6304-2 Bottomland hardwood even-aged harvest
- In-stream habitat improvements, upland habitat management

**Overnight:** Radisson Hotel - 200 Harbor View Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601, (608)784.6680   Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan Grady

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) – West Team**

**8:00 am: Leave La Crosse**

Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan

Grady

ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

**Property #1 9:30 – 11:30 - Kickapoo Wildlife Area – Wauzeka Unit**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/kickapoowu.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Property Acres:** 5,697 acre property (1927 acres state-owned and 3770 acres private lands under easement for hunting and fishing only)

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/kickapooIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Wildlife Area parking lot of STH 131

**Field Staff Lead:** Tim Babros (WM) cell: (608) 769.4410

**Field Staff:** Gary

Harden (FR) cell: (608) 963.5069

Lunch: Bring Your Own

**Property #2 2:00 – 4:00 - Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (Richland County)**

**Link:** [Lower Wisconsin Riverway](#)

**Property Type:** State Riverway

**Size:** 44,000 acres

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/lowerwisconsinIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Honkers Supper Club, intersection of STH 60 and STH 80, North of Muscoda

**Field Staff Lead:** Matt Seguin (LF) cell: (608) 588.7723.

**Field Staff:** Brian Hefty (LF) cell: (608) 576.1403  
Sharon Fandel (NHC) cell: (608) 279.4768  
Nick Morehouse (FR) (608) 459.0346

Includes:

- Sale 2232-25 (Oak barrens restoration, biomass harvest. Active sale)
- Tract 2-11 (Oak/pine barrens restoration, biomass harvest. Established sale)
- Discuss tract 5-06 (established pine row thinning – to be combined with 2-11)
- Tract 10-13 (pine plantation thinning, and removal – established)
- Tract 8-07 (Bottomland hardwoods, deferral site – established, not sold. Iowa Co)
- Sale 2223-6 (Bottomland hardwoods thinning and gaps – closed out. Iowa Co)

**Overnight:** Madison Concourse Hotel - 1 W Dayton St, Madison, WI, 53703 (866) 539.8430 **Auditors:** Dave Capen & Brendan Grady

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## **August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - East Team**

**8:00 am: Leave Madison**

Auditor: Norman Boatwright cell: (843) 229.1851

ICIT Team: Jeff Weatherly (FR) cell: (414) 333.5265

### **Property #1 – 8:30 – 9:30 Waterloo Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Waterloo Wildlife Area

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/waterloo.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 4,000 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0050.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Waterloo Kwik Trip on Highway 19

<http://local.yahoo.com/info-28600035-kwik-trip-waterloo>

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451  
Randy Stampfl (FR) cell: (920)382.0657

Includes:

- Sale Tract 3-08
- Prescribed burn units

### **Property #2 – 10:00 – 11:00 Lake Mills Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Lake Mills Wildlife Area <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/lakemills.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 3,300 acres

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Waterloo together

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451

Randy Stampfl (FR) cell: (920) 382.0657

Includes:

- Sale tract 5-08
- Dike renovation at Zeloski Marsh Unit

**Property #3 – 11:30 – 12:15 Rome Pond Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Rome Pond Wildlife Area

<http://dnr.wi.gov/maps/WM/SCR/8310romepond.pdf>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 2,500 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0050.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot on County E

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451

Nick Koltz (FR) cell: (715) 558.1286

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 Bring Your Own

**Property #4 – 1:45 – 4:30 Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit**

**Property Name/Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kms/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 22,000 acres

**Master Plan:** Effective 1991

**Meeting Location:** KMSF-SU headquarters, S91 W39091 Highway 59, Eagle, WI 53119 Location is 2.5 miles east of Palmyra on the south side of Highway 59.

**Field Staff Lead:** Anne Korman (PR) cell: (414) 303.0148

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Jeff Prey (PR) office: (608) 266.2182

Dan Schuller (PR) cell: (608) 266.2182

Randy Hoffman (NHC) office: (608)267.7758

Includes (as time allows):

- Sale 114 - pine thin
- Sale 124 - pine thin
- Sale 129 - hardwood harvest
- Possibly visit cut over locust site being prepped for tree planting.
- Sale 126 - pine thin

Overnight: Staybridge at 1141 Blue Ribbon Drive, Oconomowoc 53066

(262) 200-2900

Auditor: Norman Boatwright

ICIT: Jeff Weatherly



## **August 21<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) - East Team**

### **Property #1 – 8:00 – 9:30 Vernon Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Vernon Wildlife Area <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/vernon.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 4,600 acres

**Meeting Location:** State parking area is on the south side of County Highway I, 1.3 miles east of Highway 83 in the Town of Mukwonago. Highway I intersects Highway 83 roughly 2.5 miles south of where Highway 59 and Highway 83 intersect in Genesee. From Oconomowoc, take Highway 67 south to I-94, then go east on I-94 to Highway 83, then south to Highway I.

**Field Staff Lead:** Tim Lizotte (WM) cell: (262) 364.7581

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470-522

Includes:

- Sale 6809-2 - northern hardwood selection
- Sale 6809-3 - locust harvest

### **Property #2 – 10:00 – 3:00 Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit**

**Property Name/Link:** Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

**County:** Waukesha

**Property Type:** Southern Forest

**Size:** 22,000

**Master Plan:** 1991

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Vernon W.A. together

**Field Staff Lead:** Paul Sandgren (PR) cell: (414) 303.5074

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Randy Hoffman (NHC) office: (608)267.7758

Includes:

- Sale 116 - pine thin
- Sale 115 - oak shelterwood
- Sale 118 - pine thin & oak harvest
- Sale 127 - pine thin
- Sale 125 - pine salvage

Lunch: Bring Your Own

Overnight: Staybridge at 1141 Blue Ribbon Drive, Oconomowoc 53066  
(262) 200-2900

Auditor: Norman Boatwright

ICIT: Jeff Weatherly

## **August 22<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - East Team**

### **Property #1 – Ice Age Trail 8:00 – 8:45 (Washington County)**

**Property Type:** State Trail

**Size:** 130 acres

**Master Plan:** IFMP in progress

**Meeting Location:** Pike Lake Unit – KMSF Conference room, 3544 Kettle Moraine Road, Hartford, WI

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/pikelake/pdfs/pikelakemap.pdf>

**Field Staff Lead:** Rob Wessberg (PR) cell: (414) 750.0720

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Mark Heyde (FR) cell: (608) 220.9780

### **Property #2 – Kettle Moraine – Loews Lake 9:00 – 10:00 (Washington County)**

**Property Name/Link:** Kettle Moraine State Forest – Loews Lake Unit

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/loewlake/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 1,080 acres

**Master Plan:** 1996

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Ice Age Trail property

**Field Staff Lead:** Rob Wessberg (PR) cell: (414) 750.0720

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Randy Hoffman (NHC) office: (608)267.7758

### **Property #3 – 10:45 – 2:00 Northern Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest (Washington County)**

**Property Name/Link:** NUKM State Forest <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kmn/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 29,600 acres

**Master Plan:** 1991; variance 2009

**Meeting Location:** N885 Youth Camp Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010

**Field Staff Lead:** Jason Quast (PR) cell: (262) 626.2116

**Field Staff:** Tim Beyer (FR) cell (920) 889.9053

Includes:

- Sale Tract 2-11 - oak thinning, trail protection measures on leased land
- Youth Camp Road (conversion from an isolated sharecrop field to a tree planting)
- Mauthe Lake: EAB monitoring, buckthorn mowing, conifer conversion, wetland restoration, grassland management.

Lunch: 12:00 – 12:45 Bring Your Own

- Shamrock Road/Woodside Road/CTH U (brushing and haying using haying agreement in prairie plantings)
- Parnell Area (hardwood/conifer timber sales (3), aspen regeneration, invasive plant BMPs, red shouldered hawk nest success monitoring in sales, tree planting with donor funding, brush-land restoration)

### **Property # 4 – 2:00 – 3:00 Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/sheboygan.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 8,166 acres

**Meeting Location:** Hulls Crossing Drive, one mile north of Cherry Drive

**Field Staff Lead:** Dan Weidert (WM) cell: (920) 838.1527

**Field Staff:** Tim Beyer (FR) cell: (920) 889.9053

Includes:

- Sheboygan Marsh WA Hulls Crossing Road (wetland restoration/enhancement, prairie planting)
- Sale 1-12 - red maple selection harvest with gaps

Travel back to Madison via Fond du Lac on 151

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### **August 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) – All Teams**

9:30 to 11 am Closing Meeting: Wisconsin DNR offices

## Appendix II



### Wisconsin DNR State Lands 2013 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. This report describes the 2013 Surveillance Audit designed to consider the entire program and all requirements, including any changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement.

The Wisconsin State Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard since May 5, 2004 (SFI certificate #NSF-SFIS-1Y941). In 2009 the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was recertified including programs for management of several categories of state lands beyond state forests, including parks, wildlife lands, and other categories of generally forested lands. DNR land included in the project includes approximately 1.5 million acres as shown below. Excised acreage includes predominantly special purpose lands (such as fish hatcheries, tree nurseries, communications towers, and administrative sites) and land under easement where DNR does not have land management authority. The program was updated to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard in 2011 and recertified in 2012.

#### Wisconsin DNR Lands – based on a May 2008 DNR real estate snapshot

	Fee and Leased Land (acres)	Outside Certification Scope	SFI Certified Land
State Forests (Certified in 2004)	553,736	36,002	517,734
"Other" DNR Land (Parks, Wildlife Areas, Etc.)	1,118,050	94,597	1,023,453
All DNR Land	1,671,786	130,599	1,541,187

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

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

“Wisconsin DNR lands are managed for multiple-use objectives. Along with non-timber objectives, the DNR lands are used to demonstrate various forest practices to the public, while meeting a variety of habitat objectives. Resource managers within the Department of Natural Resources use these objectives in conjunction with other demands to manage each state forest as a healthy ecosystem. Each year about 1 %

of the land under DNR ownership is actively managed according to a 2007 report to the Wisconsin Legislature. In the last three years, an average of 14,985 acres were established for harvest per year. Of this, two-thirds of the harvests occur on State Forests (which constitute 1/3 of the DNR land base). Reflecting a greater focus on non-timber objectives, other DNR land such as wildlife areas and state parks (with 2/3 of the land base) produce 1/3 of the average annual harvest acreage.

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

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

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

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

Source: Managing Forests on Wisconsin State Park Lands

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

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

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

- **Education and research:** Provide opportunities for interpretation, education, and scientific research.
- **Water quality:** Sustain and enhance local watersheds and water resources including erosion control along waterways, trails, and other property features.”

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

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

Since 1876, the State of Wisconsin has been acquiring land to meet conservation and recreation needs. Public lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provide many opportunities and public spaces for people to hunt, fish, trap, hike, canoe, or watch or photograph wildlife. All Wildlife Areas are managed to sustain the wildlife and natural communities found on the properties and to provide a full range of traditional outdoor recreational uses.

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

#### **Oak and Pine Barrens**

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

#### **Southern Forests**

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

#### **Oak Savanna**

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

#### **Northern Forest**

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

## **SFIS Recertification Audit Process**

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on August 18-13, 2013 by an audit team headed by Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor. The team included Norman Boatwright, SFI Auditor, Brendan Grady, FSC Auditor, and Dr. David Capen, Wildlife Biologist who also served as the FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of “Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation” contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance. The Wisconsin DNR’s management representative is Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry.

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

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

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

During the audit the audit team reviewed a sample of the available written documentation as objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. The lead auditor also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS.

## **2013 Audit Findings - Conformance**

Wisconsin DNR's SFI Program was found to be in overall conformance with the SFIS Standard, with one Minor Non-conformance related to BMPs:

### Minor Non-conformance 2013-01

The NSF Lead Auditor observed an on-going, minor leak of hydraulic fluid from the loader arm of the forwarder (initial spray onto ground and onto rear of forwarder, then about 2 drops per minute continued). There was no spill kit on site. Two mechanics arrived with a spill kit at least 40 minutes after the auditor arrived on site (unknown how much time elapsed between the leak and the arrival of the auditor).

- Wisconsin BMP Manual, Chapter 9, page 116 specifies, for spills of fuels and lubricants used in forest operations: "Maintain a spill containment and clean up kit appropriate for the material on the operation. At a minimum, a kit for petroleum products should include: plugs and clamps to control a hydraulic line break, a container to catch leaking fluid, a shovel, oil absorbent sheets, sawdust or other materials to absorb spilled fluid."
- SFI Performance Measure 3.1 states "Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved water quality programs."
- Location: Black River State Forest, Site #4, Sale 1141, Oak Clearcut Unit

## **Exceptional Practices**

Wisconsin DNR Forest Program was found to exceed the SFI 2010-2014 Standard as follows:

Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.

(SFI Performance Measure 2.4 "Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests and diseases to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.")

Wisconsin DNR has developed and implements an exceptional program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, other water bodies and riparian zones.

(SFI Indicator 3.2.1 "Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.")

The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.

(SFI Indicator 5.2.1 "Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres, except when necessary to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.")

Wisconsin DNR provides an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these in many cases, and is structured to avoid conflicts between necessary projects and recreational activities.

(SFI Performance Measure 5.4 "Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.")

Wisconsin DNR Exceeds the standard in the identification and management of special sites.

(SFI Objective 6-Protection of Special Sites: "To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities." SFI Performance Measure "6.1 Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.")



## **Opportunities for Improvement in 2013**

There were two “Opportunities for Improvement”:

There is an opportunity to improve regarding minimized chemical use required to achieve objectives related to control of invasive plants.

(SFI Indicator 2.2.1 stipulates “Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.”)

There is an opportunity to improve the understanding of logger training requirements by sale administrators.

(SFI Indicator 16.1.4 requires “Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.”)

Opportunities for improvement are provided to help identify areas where improvements could be made or where the audit team may focus during future audits.

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## **Review of Previous Non-conformances**

There had been one Major Non-conformance in 2012. During the 2012 audit Minor Non-conformance 2011-01 was elevated to a Major Non-conformance (the 2011 Minor CAR Plan had not been fully implemented). The issue was resolved in 2012 prior to the recertification by crafting “Interim Forest Management Plans” for any property lacking an up-to-date Master Plan prior to harvest of other significant management activities.

This issue was reviewed again during the 2013 audit. The team found that the Interim Forest Management Planning process is functioning well and that Wisconsin DNR is in conformance with the planning requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.

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The next audit will be scheduled during the late summer of 2014. This will be a surveillance audit, covering a portion of the SFI Standard.

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Property master plans serve as management plans for the larger (Tier 1 and Tier 2) parcels. The smaller parcels are covered by agency-specific planning guidance documents, with parcel specific objectives found on-line. The entire ownership is covered by detailed forestry protocols and manuals as well as associated inventory data and WisFIRS

inventory analysis and harvest scheduling software. Inventory data was up-to-date (82% within 10 years). Planning approaches vary depending on property size.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.

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

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

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

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. The Forest Leadership Team of the Forestry Division and the Land

Leadership Team of the Lands Division are the critical components of management review; minutes of meetings supplemented by interviews served to confirm compliance.

### **Relevance of Forestry Certification**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**10. Research**

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

**11. Training and Education**

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

**12. Public Involvement**

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

**13. Transparency**

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

**14. Continual Improvement**

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

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

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**Appendix III**



**Audit Matrix**

**Wisconsin DNR 2013 SFI Surveillance Audit  
NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX**

**Findings and Instructions:**

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

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

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

Audit Notes: Improper use of the SFI Logo was observed on the Timber Sale Prospectus – Burnt Squirrel Oak Barrens Restoration, Lone Rock Unit, Lower Wisconsin River Waterway. Wisconsin DNR is working to fix this situation, which is not reported as a Minor Non-conformance because the requirement is outside of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**

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

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



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

**Notes**

**Property Master Planning** (property-level planning approach, process outlined in state law and in administrative code NR-44, data-driven):

- In 2012 NRB approved 36 properties, with 25 more currently part of an active master planning project. 93 of 313 properties which require a NR 44-compliant Master Plan have one; this includes many of the largest properties.
- As of May 2013, Eighty-one (81) Interim Forest Management Plans had been written for 178 properties covering 407,000 acres.
- Master Planning starts with an analysis; example: “Regional & Property Analysis – Lower Chippewa River State Wildlife Areas and State Natural Areas”
- Final plan example: “Lower Chippewa River Properties Master Plan, February 2010”
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 properties require an NR-44 Master Plan
- Tier 3 properties don’t have as detailed plans
- Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP) have written 86 IFMPs, 183 properties, 410K acres +/-
- Supported by county, sub-county, or multi-county “Integrated Meetings” such as “Sauk and Richland County 02/20/13” and “Adams County”
- Master Plans can be updated through targeted variances; for example Master Plan Variance-Devil’s Lake State Park

**Harvest-Level Planning**

- WisFIRs database provides stand-level information used to determine which areas are likely ready to be treated
- Forester and property manager discuss, obtain context
- Field review by foresters may or may not include robust re-inventory (age of data often determines) or a quick few plots
- Field foresters set up sale, with 3 major sources of guidance (and many other directives and guidance):
  1. Silvicultural Manual; 2. Public Lands Handbook; 3. Timber Sale Handbook
- Other sources of information: Natural Heritage Database and the State’s Historic and Archeological Database
- Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report, including Narrative Report; accompanied by sale map
- Reviewed and approved by the property manager and forestry supervisor
- Sales valued over \$3,000 must be sold by public bid; must be advertised in local papers

The required items a through g are included in forest management plans and associated supporting documentation such as the Annual Work Plans, Annual Accomplishment Reports, Manuals, and associated guidance documents for the programs. Maps and inventory data are stored and used in the GIS/database system known as WisFIRs.

a. Management Plans for the tracts visited in 2013 were reviewed to determine that they, in conjunction with other guidance documents and assessments, comprise a long-term resource analysis. in WisFIRs – Use of an “H” code as the objective when this is unknown for the stand and/or overall property, such as in the absence of an up-to-date master plan.

b. Foresters inventory a portion of each forest annually using the RECON system. FIA data provide broad growth determinations.

<b>Notes</b>	<p>c. "Land Classification System" varies by plan type. For BRSF there are designations for Forest Production Management Areas, Habitat Management Area, Native Community Management Areas, Scenic Management Areas, Wild Resource Areas, Special Management Areas, and Recreation Management Areas, and State Natural Areas.</p> <p>d. GIS-layers include soils and topography.</p> <p>e. WisFIRs; see 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 below</p> <p>f. GIS contained within WisFIRs.</p> <p>g. Allowable cut determinations based on area control are included in management plans, providing a good analysis, description of methods, and strategic approaches to deal with age class imbalances. Annual tactical planning refines these harvest calculations. Also see 1.1.3 &amp; 1.1.4 below.</p> <p>h. Management plans cover the following non-timber issues: recreation, wildlife and biodiversity, operations, fire, pests, many others. Further, there are a variety of programs in place to understand the social impacts of management activities and consider these impacts during planning. These include Wisconsin's Environmental Protection Act (which requires environmental assessments and, in many cases, economic impact analysis), master planning, and the Natural Resources Board's approval process for land acquisition. Some aspects of the management program apply in all cases, while other aspects are modified significantly for each type of land or designated land management agency.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>																				
<i>1.1.2</i>	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.	MF	13																										
<b>Notes</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Cd Equivalents</th> <th>Acres Established</th> <th>Acre Goal (15 yr average)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>219123</td> <td>17213</td> <td>25293</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>309886</td> <td>18331</td> <td>25293</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>284785</td> <td>19365</td> <td>25293</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>275,500</td> <td>21,057</td> <td>24,610</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										Cd Equivalents	Acres Established	Acre Goal (15 yr average)	2009	219123	17213	25293	2010	309886	18331	25293	2011	284785	19365	25293	2012	275,500	21,057	24,610
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<i>1.1.3</i>	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Although limited time was spend on this issue, all indications are that the past progress on inventory has continued.</p> <p>Web page: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html</a></p> <p>The US Forest Service’s FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. “Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.” Source: Wisconsin Forestry Notes, August 2013</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<i>1.1.4</i>	Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews with foresters indicate that they continue to devote a substantial portion of their time to updating stand inventory information.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<i>1.1.5</i>	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.	MF	13						
	There is no allowable cut effect; assumptions include basal area growth rates for northern hardwood stands managed using the selection system, age to maturity following Aspen and Jack Pine clearcuts, thinning intervals for Red pine, and time needed for other regenerated stands to require the								
<b>Notes</b>	<p>next treatment. Thinning and planting would be the “driving” treatments; these are well documented. When there is a delay in thinning (uncommon) or other anticipated treatment the overall harvest schedules are adjusted when the 15-year harvest schedule is re-run each year.</p> <p>The WisFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Key assumptions in the area-based harvest plans are that stands receiving regeneration treatments will be monitored and that regeneration challenges will be addressed, that thinned stands will respond by growing at a rate that justifies the planned re-entry cycle, and that the overall forest will remain healthy and continue to develop and grow in predictable ways. These assumptions are clearly realistic (being met) based in large part by the sustained efforts of dedicated professional foresters supported by specialists (notably DNR biologists) and working with Wisconsin’s renowned loggers.</p>								

## Objective 2. Forest Productivity.

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</b>	MF, NB	2013						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>2.1.2</b>	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>There were no observed regeneration failures in completed regeneration treatments reviewed. Some areas may be delayed by invasives; most areas appear to be developing as would be expected.</p> <p>Foresters can, and often do, flag selected challenging stands for review of regeneration 4-6 years following harvest.</p> <p>For the properties visited in the 2013 audit, foresters and property managers carefully review every harvest with respect to invasive plants and possible regeneration concerns. In some cases, such as when this option is within silvicultural guidelines, regeneration treatments are delayed due in part to the widespread extent of invasives in the southern portion of the state. However when regeneration is needed the Wisconsin DNR expends the resources necessary to achieve regeneration, sometimes at great cost.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Criteria for regeneration are provided in the Silviculture handbook. DNR Foresters are instructed to code the stand and flag it for re-visit if they believe that natural regeneration may not be successful. This is important in light of expected trends in deer populations and in regions of the state that have been known to have challenges with regeneration.</p> <p>Foresters can enter a date in WisFIRs for follow-up review or measurement of regeneration. Reviewed Initial Stocking Regeneration Surveys for central hardwood supplemental plantings on the Youth Camp Road and Parnell Area of the NUKM State Forest.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.4	Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.	NA							
<b>Notes</b>	NA: Exotic tree species are not planted.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by field observations. Much of the harvesting is done by experienced loggers using mechanized harvesting equipment. Felling of selected timber is mostly by processors, although hand-felling is not uncommon for the largest trees. Workers doing hand felling have chain saw training which includes directional felling techniques. In some cases sales are set up with requirements for fixed-head processors, allowing the trees to be moved away from the advanced natural regeneration before they are allowed to fall to the ground. Yarding (forwarding) trails are planned, well-spaced, and reasonably narrow, further limiting damage to regeneration. Some sales contract restricts pole skidding or have winter-only restrictions to help protect natural regeneration from yarding damage.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.	MF	13						
	Most planting is oriented to replanting similar species that were harvested. When changes are made they are based on assessments of site-level and landscape conditions, with decisions made in an interdisciplinary planning process. Natural Heritage Conservation employs district ecologists who assist with planning and decision making on SNAs and on sites with potential for restoration of rare or deficient (compared to desired conditions)								

<b>Notes</b>	vegetative types, often significantly altering stand structure and composition. Foresters assess each site using the Kotar classification system and include the “Habitat Classification” code in the “Ecological Considerations” section of the 2460-001A Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report”.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.1.7	Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.		NA						
<b>Notes</b>	No afforestation is being conducted.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.2	<b>Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.</b>	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

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

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

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2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.	Team	13						



<b>Notes</b>	<p>IPM is the approach taken in this program, as documented in the plans: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are regularly assessed formally (RECON) and informally for presence of insects or diseases, and treatments are applied in a timely manner before outbreaks widen. The initial treatment approach is commonly salvage or sanitation.</p> <p>Conventional forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands so as to minimize the need for chemical treatments. Stands visited were generally healthy and vigorous. Chemicals are only applied to address problems that can’t be resolved in other ways. For example release using brush saws is considered before chemical release is prescribed.</p> <p>For projects which include elements of site restoration and/or invasive control the practices employed also include blends of mechanical, fire, and chemical approaches. Through interviews it was apparent that managers are seeking approaches that minimize chemical use, but more work remains in many cases to find cost-effective and minimal-chemical approaches.</p> <p>Extent and rates of applications as documented in written records reviewed were consistent with an integrated approach, in that the use is modest when the nature and extent of the certified land base is considered.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>DNR personnel interviewed involved in chemical applications provided evidence for how this requirement is met, including documentation of certification (cards) and use of certified contractors in all cases for restricted use chemicals, and use of certified applicators supervising employees who are not certified in some cases. Many work units report that all employees applying even general use pesticides have certification, and there is movement towards increasing the percentage of applicators who have certification. Confirmed “SC Region Memo 12.01.10: Pesticide Applicator’s Certificate and License Requirements for SCR Wildlife Staff”</p> <p>Confirmed that many types of formal and informal safety training are available and implemented. Worker safety and the proper use of appropriate PPE is a common part of such training, adding further assurance that non-certified applicators understand the proper procedures.</p>								

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2.2.6	Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example: a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.	Team	13						
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**Notes** Many of these techniques are required by law or regulation, and/or are specified in contracts for treatment.  
Shops were reviewed for chemical storage (Devil’s Lake State Park, Buckhorn, others).  
Handout /training aid: “Posting Requirement for Pesticide Applications” featured guidelines and examples, as well as sources for signs.  
In describing chemical applications field personnel often mentioned several of the listed chemical BMPs without prompting by auditors. In other cases auditors interviewed field personnel specifically about procedures and methods; in all such cases the responses indicated proper techniques.

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2.3	<b>Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Soil maps are contained in the GIS and are used in planning timber sales and other treatments. Foresters, biologists, and ecologists demonstrated strong knowledge of the soils, landforms, and bio-physical characteristics of lands in their units. Soils information is included in the sale narratives.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site <i>productivity</i> .	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Many sites visited were sandy and level or gently-sloping and well-drained; where sites had slopes and erosion potential water bars, dispersed slash, and seasonal restrictions appear to be minimizing soil erosion.								

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

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2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Field observations confirmed the retention of vigorous trees and the appropriate application of silviculture guidelines for removal of least vigorous and poorest quality trees and retention of the trees best adapted to the site.  For conventional silviculture foresters consistently emphasized the retention of the most vigorous trees when marking stands; results of partial harvests were very good. For restoration-oriented harvests the retained trees met the ecological and biological goals (as appropriate), even if some of these trees were decidedly of poor form and vigor.								

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2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin State BMPs for Water Quality (avoid excessive rutting) and Wisconsin DNR and/or individual county policies (defining excessive rutting) provide these criteria. Confirmed that “excessive rutting” definitions are in the many recent timber sale contracts that were reviewed.								

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2.3.7	Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	There is little construction of new permanent roads in the units visited in 2013. Skid roads and trails on sales observed were planned in advance, with efforts to locate the main trails in the most appropriate locations and to space secondary trails widely to minimize impacts to soils and to maintain maximum practical distances from wetlands and watercourses to allow for natural filtering for any erosion that might occur.  The impacts on recreation trails by skid roads and trails are clearly a consideration during sale planning and implementation.								

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2.4	<b>Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.</b>	MF, NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<b><u>Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.</u></b> See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Interviewed Andrea Diss-Torrance, Forest Health, Invasives (large-scale, statewide). Wisconsin DNR employs forest health specialists and makes their services readily available to the field units. Pest updates published quarterly: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html</a>  Foresters interviewed were aware of forest pests, including new or emerging threats, and understand pest control and/or sanitation/salvage options. One mechanism for ensuring awareness involves quarterly pest bulletins which are sent out in some regions.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	For conventional forest management goals, rotations are set short enough to prevent many pest problems (for example Jack Pine rotations of 50 years or Aspen rotations between 40 and 50 years). Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands. Planting and partial harvest systems consider soil/site conditions before making decisions as to which species to plant or to favor in partial harvests.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR has a strong pest control program; foresters demonstrated solid working-knowledge of the common pests and control strategies. Fire suppression equipment was evident throughout the audit, particularly well-provisioned fire trucks. Wisconsin DNR is the lead agency for fire.								

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2.5	<b>Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	There is no use of genetically-modified planting stock. All units continue to obtain seedlings from state nursery, which is managed by a specialist well-versed in scientific practices.								

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

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

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

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts in all locations visited.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
3.1.3	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records that timber harvest planning considers weather events, with some sites on dry sands intended for the wet time of year, other sites identified for only dry weather, and other sites only for frozen ground.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
3.2	<b>Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.</b>	MF	13						

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.2	Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>All jobs are planned and supervised by licensed foresters, and operated by trained loggers.</p> <p>Interviews and field observations confirmed that protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies is of utmost concern.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.	MF, NB	13						



<b>Notes</b>	<p>Confirmed by field observations that non-forested wetlands are protected by excluding them from sales where possible, and by buffering them using special colors of paint to indicate “no harvest” or “no equipment”, or by not marking any trees for harvest. Very small non-forested wetlands are generally protected; loggers try to avoid these, and foresters work to communicate their locations, but some are entered on occasion. Many sites with significant areas of included wetlands (forested and/or non-forested) are designated for winter harvest only.</p> <p>Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect January 1, 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant; foresters and loggers are aware of these provisions and work to implement them.</p> <p>Confirmed from field audits that foresters are knowledgeable of the BMP requirements to protect these wetland elements and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.	NA							
<b>Notes</b>	<p>NA: Wisconsin has BMPs, most recently revised in 2010.</p> <p>BMP External Advisory Committee meets 3-4 times per year.</p> <p>Wisconsin BMPs for riparian zones summarized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streams less than 1 foot wide: 35 foot RMZ and no retention requirement</li> <li>• Streams 1-3 foot wide: 35 foot RMZ and 60 square foot basal area per acre retention</li> </ul> <p>Streams 3+ foot wide: 100 foot RMZ and 60 square foot basal area per acre retention</p>								

**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.**

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1.1</b>	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	The State has a Wildlife Action Plan, a large number of SNA's (over 600), and HCVF habitats and forests. Wildlife biologists work with the foresters to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on State lands.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1.2</b>	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicator 4.1.3 below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1.3</b>	Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.	Team	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the timber sale cutting notice (form 2460). The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. If an NHI element is present within one mile of the harvest area a biologist is consulted to review the harvest plan and determine whether management objectives will negatively affect the NHI element. In addition, properties complete a biotic inventory or rapid ecological assessment prior to starting a master plan. The new template for interim forest management plans have elements for exception conservation values and timber sale include narratives in regional and ecological considerations, referring ecological landscape handbook and WAP.</p> <p>The team visited sites being managed for several imperiled species: plants, butterflies, snails, lizards, and snakes.</p>								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.	Team	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Good examples of the application of State wide silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems were observed in the 2012 field audit. Legacy trees are protected as appropriate (a more-recent change in requirements. Foresters have a good understanding of the reasons for retention and the trade-offs involved.</p> <p>Trees retained for silvicultural and visual management purposes are often selected to provide habitat and diversity benefits. This was particularly evident in state parks and near recreation infrastructure.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.5	Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>This program is tied to the Master Planning and Interim Forest Management Planning processes. The approach used, involving resource assessments at various spatial scales, integrating concepts from other detailed plans (Wildlife Action Plan, SCORP), and multi-disciplinary teams provides a robust level of conformance. Past non-conformances were tied to incomplete plans and informal consultations; these issues have been resolved (see Objective 1).</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.								

<b>Notes</b>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.	MF, NB	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Forests and associated non-forested communities in southern Wisconsin and embedded (within other land classifications) Scientific Natural Areas (SNAs) with restoration/invasive control challenges are of particular concern. Loss of funding in some cases has led to set-backs for invasive control on particular sites.</p> <p><a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/control.html#intro">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/control.html#intro</a> is the Wisconsin DNR's website. The state has lists of restricted and prohibited plants.</p> <p>Tom Boos, Invasive Plants Coordinator, Division of Forestry manages the program for forests throughout the state (private and public). Works with all aspects of the Wisconsin DNR to integrate best practices regarding invasives. Tom is currently helping re-write the forest management guidelines, and he has been helping with strategic approach to invasives in master planning and interim planning.</p> <p>Bernadette Williams, Outreach Coordinator uses the Invasive Species BMPs to do outreach on the theme of "Slow the Spread". Over 100 talks provided in 2013; should do at least 130 talks. Another ½ time outreach staffer. Initial focus was on foresters, loggers, co-operating foresters; now branching out to broader audiences, including the general public.</p> <p>There is limited funding for invasive control associated with intermediate silvicultural treatments, with funding challenges noted regarding the implementation of invasive control treatments known to be effective. Forests and associated non-forest communities in southern Wisconsin and embedded (within other land classifications) Scientific Natural Areas (SNAs) with restoration/invasive control challenges are of particular concern</p> <p>"A Statewide Plan for Invasive Species: Priority Objectives 2013-2016" lists as top 5 priorities: 1) Improve education and outreach about the impacts of invasive species and what citizens and lawmakers can do ... 2) Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species through new and existing pathways. 3) Improve detection of invasive species by growing networks of partners, supporting the use of information technology, and leveraging current research. 4) Create a dedicated fund for rapid response to new invasive species in Wisconsin. 5) Secure adequate long-term funding to control established invasive species including coordinated, competitive aid to support local actions and partnerships.</p>								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.	MF, NB	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Site visits confirmed that fire is used frequently to maintain prairie grass habitat and various forest structures associated with open landscapes.</p> <p>The program is clearly in conformance; staffing, budgeting, and operations challenges can limit the reach of the prescribed fire program, but the NSF Lead Auditor has seen continuous improvement, as talented and highly-motivated manager and fire personnel innovate and implement in challenging circumstances. The intersection of fire and certain fire-adapted invasives may prove to be the next challenge.</p>								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2	<b>Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</b>	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	The audit team continued to observe close-working relationship and to see ample evidence of application of existing knowledge as well as advances in scientific and field-tested research. Also see indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.1	Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	WIDNR has an extensive SNA program and a program to classify HCVF. They work with the USFS, TNC and the Counties to collect and assess regional locations for HCVF. Specialists focused on maintaining or enhancing biodiversity work closely with land managers.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.	Team	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR incorporated research results and ecosystem research information when they developed the Wildlife Action Plan, which is widely used in making management decisions. Recent management plans exist for some species of conservation need and more species specific management plans are being written. Specialists are available to provide information about wildlife and biodiversity issues, including field biologists, regionally-located ecologists, and other specialists based in Madison.								

**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.**

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.</b>	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1.1</b>	Program to address visual quality management.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Trained foresters plan and oversee all harvests, and experienced supervisors are involved in review and approval.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.1.2</b>	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. These efforts were focused on public roads, lakes, and concentrated recreation facilities. Logging contracts include provisions for visual management.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<b>5.2.1</b>	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.	MF		13					

<i>Notes</i>	<b><u>The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.</u></b> Confirmed by field observations that most clearcuts are small; records indicate an average of 9 to 19 acres in recent years. 2012 average clearcut size = 17 acres; Source: SFI 2012 Report								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.	MF	2013						
<i>Notes</i>	2012 average clearcut size =17 acres; Source SFI 2012 Report; 9.8 acres average clear-cut size in 2011. 18.95 acres average clearcut size in 2010.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. GIS and inventory information are used in this planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Sale maps and GIS; review of adjacent stands during sale set up.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.	MF, NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations; no adjacent clearcuts were seen.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
5.4	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.</b>	Team		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<b>The Wisconsin DNR provides an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these in many cases, and is structured to avoid conflicts between necessary projects and recreational activities.</b>								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
5.4.1	Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.	Team		13					
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin's public forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities, and the state lands within this scope contribute to this diversity, with some areas of "specialization". Facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, dog sled, horse, ATV and UTV, horse-riding. The extensive recreational trail system is in very good condition.								



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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.1</b>	Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. When a “hit” came up on a proposed sale, the forester contacted the biologist who would provide forest management guidelines to protect the species. Cultural resources sites were protected with a similar program that housed these data.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.2</b>	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.	MF, NB	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Data bases for cultural and biotic special sites are maintained and updated periodically. Appropriate management practices are employed to protect these sites, but for many sites, the exact location is not revealed. This is especially done for endangered resources and special sites that have cultural significance. On staff: Mark J. Dudzik, Departmental Archaeologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities & Lands. WDNR - Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy & Plan: “Burial sites are universally considered sacred, and it is DNR policy that all such areas on DNR properties will be appropriately cared for, and will be treated with the respect they deserve.” The document provides guidance and policy, including a section “DNR BURIAL SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN”.								

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

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

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

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

**Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable**

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

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

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

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

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

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

14.1.3	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2.1	Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15.2.1	Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	a. Regeneration Assessments: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; regeneration data is obtained during the field measurement phase on the state forests. b. Growth and Drain Assessment: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; growth data is obtained during the field measurement phase. c. Best Management Practices Implementation and Conformance: WDNR periodically conducts an assessment of BMP compliance in forest harvesting throughout Wisconsin; the next such study will focus on county and state lands and will be conducted in the fall of 2013. Confirmed minutes of the “BMP Advisory Committee”. d. WDNR provides landowner direct assistance through its “Private Forestry” program; also Wisconsin Extension.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR co-funds a climate change scientist at U.W. Madison								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	WICCI – Forestry track. Staff sent report. Climate discussed in RPA of master plan								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.2	Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Managers interviewed were able to describe in general terms potential impacts.								

**Objective 16. Training and Education.**

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

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.2</i>	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	An ICIT team composed of members of both Forestry and Lands Divisions, with representatives of all of the bureaus involved, helps ensure that roles are understood. Every state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their certification responsibilities.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.3</i>	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	13						



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

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

<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members.  Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized as qualified) training credential is specified, but there are some challenges in enforcing this requirement (see previous indicator).
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>16.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>16.2.1</b>	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address: a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program; b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement; c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites; d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value); e. logging safety; f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws; g. transportation issues; h. business management; i. public policy and outreach; and j. awareness of emerging technologies.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed considerable involvement in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee, including by interviewing SFI Implementation Committee members during a meeting.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.2	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include: a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program; b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards; c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat; d. use of best management practices to protect water quality; e. logging safety; f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards; g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by interviews and by direct observation at a training meeting that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program.								

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

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

**Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.**

**Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.**

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

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

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Managers interviewed reported efforts made to confer and to provide opportunities for gathering, hunting, and other traditional activities (Devil’s Lake, Buckhorn, Black River State Forest, other)								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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18.2.1	<p>Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;</li> <li>b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and</li> <li>c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>DNR maintains tribal liaisons which serve as a single point of contact for specific tribes to the DNR. When topics that affect tribes arise these liaisons work with their tribal contacts to share information and gather feedback. Additionally, individual managers often maintain their own contacts with tribes that are affected by their management and who may have ties to the lands which they manage.</p> <p>Voigt meetings – master plans, major policy</p> <p>Annual; property meetings for operation includes tribes</p> <p>Review of all management activities, site disturbing, timber sales, etc with local tribes</p> <p>Wisconsin Department OF Natural Resources - Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy &amp; Plan: “Burial sites are universally considered sacred, and it is DNR policy that all such areas on DNR properties will be appropriately cared for, and will be treated with the respect they deserve.” The document provides guidance and policy, including a section “DNR BURIAL SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN”.</p> <p>On staff: Mark J. Dudzik , Departmental Archaeologist , Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities &amp; Lands</p>								

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

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>19.1.1</b>	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope;</li> <li>b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i>, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;</li> <li>c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative;</li> <li>d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit;</li> <li>e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i>);</li> <li>f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed;</li> <li>g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and</li> <li>h. the certification decision.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	NSF Lead Auditor prepared the summary report in 2012 to meet the above requirements, and will do so again for the 2013 surveillance audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>19.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

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

19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Reviewed copy of report submitted spring 2013.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc. The review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping. All records requested were provided quickly.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI Standard.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Past reports maintained by Mark Heyde.								

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

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

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
20.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.	MF	13						



<b>Notes</b>	<p>The 2012 audit found “an opportunity to improve the management review process to ensure that differences among the involved programs are fully accounted for”.</p> <p>In response ICIT adopted “a structured agenda, meeting record and task list to document action items and the responsible program.” Source: Agenda and memo for DNR’s annual senior management review, 08.12.13. The ICIT Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2013 used the template for a structured agenda, meeting record and task list. While the OFI was intended to also highlight differences in methods for internal program review the NSF Lead Auditor concluded that the strong overall performance during the 2013 Surveillance Audit helps minimize this concern.</p> <p>A process is in place for master plan monitoring and reporting using a reporting template. This is intended for any property which has a modern master plan that has been in place for at least one year. Copies are sent to central office and are also readily available on the public internet.</p> <p>Integrated Team meetings are held for the range of properties and include employees from across programs. Meetings generally cover various lands for an entire county, or less commonly parts of a county or multiple counties. These are internal meetings and do not involve public participation. Objectives for these meetings are: Ensure an integrated approach to managing all properties, Develop an annual work plan for the property(s). There is a document “Annual Property Management Meetings – expectations, discussions, results, reporting” providing direction for how these meetings are to be held. Monitor and report progress on prior work plans and toward implementing master plan recommendations.</p> <p>A formal internal audit program is also in place, with a focus on SFI requirements managed centrally; all involved bureaus are audited, with the report reviewed by the management team. “ICIT performed a central office audit against the entire SFI standard from a central office program level. ICIT assessed whether Department systems are working, are in compliance, need corrective action, or present opportunities for improvement.” The Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) is also involved in reviews and implementation of corrective actions: “ICIT has had several meetings over the course of the last year to respond to Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and observations from the SFI and FSC 2011 audit reports.” Source: Annual Management Review of DNR Implementation of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard and the FSC US Standard.</p> <p>The various agencies within the scope have established monitoring and reporting protocols that comprise an important foundation for the overall system. Examples include the Wisconsin State Park System - 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and federally-mandated reports for the wildlife and fisheries bureaus.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b>C</b>	<b>EXR</b>	<b>Maj</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>OFI</b>	<b>Likely Gap *</b>	<b>Likely Conf. *</b>
<i>20.1.3</i>	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>2013: Agenda and memo for DNR’s annual senior management review, 08.12.13 and the supporting documentation for this management review were the key evidence of conformance with this requirement. The review was structured to focus on issues related to the third-party audit findings from the 2012 audit as well as internal audit findings. Planning and internal controls were key topics.</p> <p>2012: Annual Management Review of the State Lands Certification program was held 8/6/12. Attendees included Paul DeLong – WI Chief State Forester, Kurt Thiede – Division of Land Administrator, Mark Heyde – WDNR Forest Certification Specialist, Craig Thompson – District Land Manager, Teague Prichard – State Lands Specialist, Deanna Sell – State Forest Operations Specialist, Randy Hoffman – Endangered Resource Leader, Alan Crossley – Wildlife Management Leader and Kate Fitzgerald – Facilities and Lands Section Chief. Agenda included a review of response to all CAR/OFI and a review of the upcoming audit schedule.</p>								

## **Multi-site Certification – Two Options**

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

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

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

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

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

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes  No Evidence Internal audit findings are reported in the management review

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

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

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

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NA**

End of Multi-site Checklists

## Central Office Participants, SFI/FSC Audit 2013

Note: See audit plan for additional details of participant's affiliations.

### 19 August 2013, Madison, DNR Offices

Mike Ferrucci, Auditor  
Dave Capen, Auditor  
Norman Boatwright, Auditor  
Brendan Grady, Auditor  
Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator  
Craig Thompson, Division of Lands  
Alan Crossley, Wildlife Management  
Kristen Tomaszewski, Planner, Division of Forestry  
Paul Cunningham, Fisheries  
Jeff Weatherly, Area Forestry Leader  
Karl Martin, Chief, Wildlife and Forestry Research Section, Science Services  
Jeff Prey, Program and Policy Analyst; Recreation, Planning and Development Section  
Tom Boos, Plant Pest and Disease Specialist, Forest Health Team  
Bernie Williams, Conservation Biologist, Forest Health Team  
Andrea Diss-Torrance, Plant Pest and Disease Specialist, Forest Health Team  
Carmen Hardin, Chief, Sciences Section, Bureau of Forest Management  
Joe Schwantes, County and Public Lands Specialist, Public and Private Forestry Section  
Teague Prichard, State Forest Specialist, Public and Private Forestry Section  
Brad Hutnik, Ecologist and Silviculturist, Forest Sciences Section  
Eric Grudzinski, Forestry Law Enforcement Specialist, Fire and Law Enforcement Section  
Mark Dudzik, Archaeologist, Facilities Management Section  
Steve Miller, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands  
Rebecca Diebel, Chief, Staff and Partner Services Section, Forestry Business Services  
Kate Fitzgerald, Chief, Land Management Section, Facilities and Lands  
Quinn Williams, Attorney Supervisor, Legal Services  
Shelly Allness, Tribal Liaison, Division of Land  
Randy Hoffman, Conservation Biologist, Program Integration, Natural Heritage Conservation  
Drew Feldkirchner, Conservation Biologist, Public and Private Forestry Section, Natural Heritage Conservation  
Adrian Wydeven, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ecology Section, Wildlife Management  
Scott Walter, Staff Specialist, Ecology Section, Wildlife Management  
Eric Lobner, District Wildlife Program Leader, WM Southern District  
Bernie Williams, Division of Forestry  
Carmen Hardin, Division of Forestry  
Andy Stoltman, Forest Inventory Specialist  
Andrew L'Roe, Graduate Student, University of Wisconsin (Observer)

## **August 18th (Sunday) - Central Team**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team (all sites this day):**

Mark Heyde, Forestry Division

Jeff Prey, State Parks

Craig Thompson, Natural Heritage Conservation

### **Property #1, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Buckhorn State Park & Buckhorn Wildlife Management Area**

**Field Staff Lead:** Heather Wolf, Property Manager, Parks, Wisconsin DNR

Kris Wimme, Forester, Wisconsin DNR

Jon Robaidek, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Wildlife Management

1. Opening Meeting in the Park Office
2. Shop / operations
3. Beach / day use areas
4. Campsites
5. New campground location / variance
6. Wildlife / Natural Areas co-management
7. Forest / vegetation management

### **Property #2, 1:45 – 4:00 pm: Devil's Lake State Park**

**Field Staff Lead:** Steve Schmelzer, Superintendent, Devil's Lake State Park

Paul Zajackowski, Supervisor, Southwest District, State Parks, Wisconsin DNR

John Nielson, District Forester, Wisconsin DNR

1. North shore day use
2. Shop / operations
3. Campgrounds
4. South shore day use
5. Ice Age Trail
6. Forest / vegetation management

## **August 20th (Tuesday) - Central Team**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley

Other DNR Personnel Attending (in addition to those listed below):

Jim Bernett, Forester, Wisconsin DNR

Bruce Henderson, Forester/Ranger, Wisconsin DNR

John Nielson, District Forester, Wisconsin DNR

R.J. Wiskham, Forestry Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR

Nathan Nye, Fisheries Biologist, Wisconsin DNR

Bob Nack, Area Wildlife Supervisor, Wisconsin DNR

Jeff Nyquist, Wautoma Forester

### **Property #1 9:00 – 11:00 Jennings Creek Wildlife Area**

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area    **Size:** 530 acres

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/jennings.html> confirmed by M.F. 08.19.13

Mostly wooded, standard forest management practices, not intensively managed towards DFC nor a high priority at this time.

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf> MF downloaded and reviewed the "Columbia County Planning Group Master Plan, December 2012, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources DNR PUB-LF-066".

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrli , Bureau of Wildlife Management Cell: (608) 220-3474

**Field Staff:** Jim Bernett (FR) Cell: (608) 697-8256

Joel Green (FR) Cell: (608) 235-2506

Al Ramminger , Bureau of Wildlife Management Cell: (608) 225-2437

Site 1: 2008 Oak Salvage

Stand was defoliated in 2002 by Gypsy moth and was sprayed as part of a large block. Oak wilt has been impacting this stand since, with numerous dead and flagged oaks indicating an active oak wilt problem. Salvage harvest conducted in 2008. Foresters intend to consider this stand for a sanitation harvest. Observed good oak regeneration and discussed regeneration monitoring.

Site 2: Sale # 1-10,

26 acres completed thinning in a red pine plantation that is somewhat off site/at southern edge of its range, and recovering from drought and overstocking. Buckthorn is growing throughout the understory, but there are no present plans to control

## **Property #2 12:30-1:30 Rocky Run Creek Fishery Area**

**Property Type:** Fishery Area    **Size:** 735 acres

**Link:**<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/fisheriesareas/2135rockyruncreek.html> confirmed by M.F. 08.19.13

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot off Hwy 22

**Field Staff Lead:** Nate Fayram (NHC)

**Field Staff:**        Jim Bennett (FR)

                              Joel Green (FR)

                              Al Ramminger , Bureau of Wildlife Management

                              Sara Kehrli , Bureau of Wildlife Management

Site 4: SNA Habitat management through prescribed fire

Savanna and grassland management for 2 rare reptile species. The significant and very successful restoration project spanning over ten years has removed most invasive species, reintroduced fire, achieved desired forest structure, and increased target populations. Monitoring of this HCVF site includes "Rapid Ecological Assessment" (biological inventory) done prior to the Master Plan and to be repeated every 15 years as part of the master planning cycle, annual population surveys for the two rare species, periodic review of site for invasives, and a broader, formal site monitoring review done by staff from Madison on a three-year rotation

Site 5: Sale # 1103-410 Red Pine thinning and salvage, Northern portion

58-year old red pine plantation which has had pocket decline salvaged in 2000 and thinned again in 2011 (more heavily than normal in this area) to release spruce and oak under stand and in one clearcut area. Walked through an untreated field of spotted knapweed; other areas closer to the SNA have been treated by release of bio-control agent

Site 6: Sale # 1103-410 red pine thinning and salvage Southern portion

This part of the stand is heavily infested with buckthorn.



### **Property #3 2:00-3:30 Dekorra Public Hunting Ground**

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area    **Size:** 226 acres

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/dekorra.html> confirmed by M.F. 08.19.13

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot on Cty Rd V.

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrlı , Bureau of Wildlife Management Cell: (608) 220-3474

**Field Staff:**        Jim Bernett (FR) Cell: (608) 697-8256  
                          Joel Green (FR) Cell: (608) 235-2506  
                          Al Ramminger (FR) Cell: (608) 225-2437

Site 3: Sale # 1-11

Oak harvest on 45 acres to create savanna and oak woodland.

The harvest is nearly complete, but was halted last winter due to weather and hunting activity. The Oak Savanna Guidelines were used help plan the treatment. Sale documents describe seasonal limitations to prevent injury to a rare turtle; discussed the process for reviewing NHI records and records of historical and archeological sites. Discussed in detail sale administration and the rutting standard. Contract included BMP requirements, the rutting standard, training requirements for loggers, and specifications for utilization.

#### **Property # 4 4:00 – 5:30 - Pine Island Wildlife Area**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley

**Field Staff:** Jim Bernett, (FR)  
Joel Green (FR)  
Al Ramming, Bureau of Wildlife Management  
Nate Fayram (NHC)

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area                      **Size:** 5500 acres

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/pineisland.html> confirmed by M.F. 08.19.13

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0066.pdf>

**Field Staff Lead:** Sara Kehrl, Bureau of Wildlife Management cell: (608) 220.3474

Site #7: Tritz Road Planting Site

Plantings to convert sharecrop fields to forest: Machine planted White Oak (driest part), Bur Oak, and Swamp White Oak (wettest areas) during April 2010. Despite flooding that submerged the site for many weeks soon after the survival and growth rates were impressive, and the stand is fully stocked and established.

Site #8: Savanna management Site

Viewed briefly from edge, the stand was thinned/salvaged to restore a previously degraded savanna, based on pre-harvest assessment which found many remnant prairie plant species.

Site #9: Grassland Management Area

Site #10: Sale# 2-11 Blount Rd aspen regeneration

50 acres clearcut with oak reserves, for woodcock management, with 2 acres of uncut reserves. Foresters reported that there were some impacts to access haul road, but the site had re-vegetated and it is not clear that any remediation is needed. Aspen root suckers were sufficiently robust and prolific to comprise successful regeneration.

Site #11: Windshield view of several successful burn restoration areas.

## **August 21st (Wednesday) – Central Team**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci  
Alan Crossley , Bureau of Wildlife Management , Mark Heyde (FM)

**ICIT Team:**

### **Property #1 - 8:30 – 12:30 - Black River State Forest**

**Property Type:** State Forest      **Size:** 65,000

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/blackRiver/>  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPComplete.html#tabx5>

**Master Plan:**

**Field Staff Lead:** Peter Bakken (FR) cell: (715) 896.1179

#### **Field Staff:**

Tim Babros , Bureau of Wildlife Management  
Armund Bartz (NHC)  
Kris Johansen, Area Wildlife Supervisor, BRSF  
Jenifer Boice, BRSF Forester  
Josh Waukau, BRF Ranger  
Larry Whaley, Area Forestry Leader

Site #1: Sale 1130 – Shale Road Oaks

Stand 2 is a recently completed shelterwood/heavy seed tree harvest in and oak-dominated stand with scattered white pine trees mostly less than 15-feet tall. The objective, driven by landscape-level goals, is to regenerate a similar stand. Before the harvest the site was “dozer-scalped” to create favorable seedbeds for oak and to eliminate much of the encroaching white pine. Oak seedlings are present throughout the site, many in portions of the scalps where there is a mixture of organic matter and sandy soil.

Site #2: Hilltop View, landscape discussion

Site #3: Sale 1130 – Shale Road Oaks (different unit of the same sale as Site #1 above)

Stand 3: This area was recently completed. The forester pointed out that she had marked to achieve a “stocking gradient” from more open towards the rear of the sale to less-heavily cut towards adjacent “native Community Management Area” across forest road.

Site #4, Sale 1141: Oak Clearcut Unit

This active sale within the Outermeyer Hills Recreation Area has a prescription of clearcut with marked retention. Silviculture, retention, soil protections, and contract terms were confirmed.

The buyer and operator is Delaney Forest Products; interviewed Gary Nemitz, Forwarder Operator and NAME, processor operator. Neither is current with their FISTA training; the supervising forester explained that the WDNR attorney told her that the trained person needs to be identified in association with the company that signs the contract.

When we arrived on the site the forwarder was parked in the landing. The loading arm was not operational. There had been an incident where fluid had sprayed onto the ground and onto the machine, and the hoses in the grapple area were still leaking hydraulic fluid very slowly. No spill kit was present on site.

Minor Non-conformance 2013-01: The auditor observed an on-going, minor leak of hydraulic fluid from the loader arm of the forwarder (initial spray onto ground and onto rear of forwarder, then about 2

drops per minute continued). There was no spill kit on site. Two mechanics arrived with a spill kit at least 40 minutes after the auditor arrived on site (unknown how much time elapsed between the leak and the arrival of the auditor).

Wisconsin BMP Manual, Chapter 9, page 116 specifies, for spills of fuels and lubricants used in forest operations: "Maintain a spill containment and clean up kit appropriate for the material on the operation..."

#### Site #5, Sale 1156, Timberdoodle Pine Job

This sale includes white pine thinning, jack pine release, and jack pine clearcut areas and is partly complete but was not active during the visit. We reviewed two different areas of white pine thinning (main canopy) and release (saplings in understory) and Wisconsin DNR foresters discussed the prescription and the challenges of variable stand and site conditions.

- recreation management, barrens restoration

#### Site #6, Sale 1150 Hableman Red Pine Thinning

The red pine plantation, while adjacent to a barrens management area, was conventionally thinned. The district ecologist had advised this approach, correctly predicting that the treatment would be sufficient to further encourage the development of some prairie plants in the understory.

#### Site #7, Stand 13 Barrens Management Area

This stand is within the "Forest Production Area" of the forest. Old records indicating the presence of Karner Blue Butterfly, the presence of several types of some prairie plants in the understory, and the forester's ability to market some of the overstory, very poor-quality oaks led to a decision to conduct a restoration harvest. Large, merchantable white pine were also sold, and funding was secured for control of undesirable understory. The district ecologist pointed out prolific prairie plants and declared the area to be the "best barrens restoration opportunity on the entire Black River State Forest.

## **Property # 2 1:30 – 3:30 Meadow Valley Wildlife Area**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley, Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Field Staff Lead:** Neal Paisley, Property Manager, Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Field Staff:**

Mark Chryst, Forester, Wisconsin DNR

Armund Bartz, District Ecologist, NHC Natural Heritage Conservation

**Other WDNR Personnel Present**

Steve Courtney, District Forester, Forestry Division

Jodi Stormoen, Team Leader, Forestry Division

Wayne Hall, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area                      **Size:** 58,000 acres

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/meadowvalley.html>

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0058.pdf>

Not reviewed, but important functions here, are flowage management and dike maintenance.

**Site # 8, Sale #882**

This site was a completed aspen clear cut with retention to intended to regenerate early successional forest. The timber sale narrative is clear and complete, including explicit desired future condition, “regeneration of all species currently present”, that appears to be met. The adjacent marsh, crossed during the harvest to access timber from the furthest portion of the harvest unit, was protected from damage by harvesting when the ground was frozen.

**Site #9, Silver Creek Barrens Management**

Observed and discussed from vehicle, the goal is to create and maintain 1,000 acres of barrens habitat in a 10,000 acre portion of Meadow Valley WMA in keeping with the role as a recovery property for Karner Blue Butterfly. Methods employed included harvesting commercial forest products, mowing, herbicide treatments, and burning, in various combinations.

**Site #10, Eisfelt Barrens, including South Burn Fire Plan**

This site is part of a barrens habitat restoration area intended to support the larger effort in the nearby Silver Creek Barrens Management Area (previous site). The burn unit is part of a larger area which was heavily harvested about 12 years ago, leaving scattered remnant oaks, and periodically burned. The current burn is designed to create a permanent fuels break on the southern edge, facilitating future prescribed burns, as well as barrens habitat throughout the rest of this 83 acre site. The brush in the fuel break strip has been mowed, allowed to resprout, treated with Element 3A herbicide, and will be mowed again prior to the burn.

**Site #11, Sale 875**

This completed thinning of mature natural pine (Stand 1) and regeneration harvest (clearcut with reserves, Stand 2) has excellent post-harvest conditions matching prescriptions and relevant silvicultural guidelines.

**Site #12, Tract 13-12**

This planned (marked) regeneration harvest & pine thinning was similar to Site 11 before that harvest.

### **Property # 3 4:00 – 5:00 Leola Marsh**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci

**ICIT Team:** Alan Crossley, Bureau of Wildlife Management, , Mark Heyde (FM)

**Field Staff Lead:** Jon Robaidek, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Field Staff:**

Marc Sass, Forest Ranger, Wisconsin DNR

Terri Wilson, Forester, Wisconsin DNR

Kris Johansen, Area Wildlife Supervisor, Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area   **Size:** 1860 acres

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/leola.html>

**Landscape Context:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/Grasslands/cwgca.html>

Prairie Chicken management is the primary objective here.

Site #1: Grazing area to manage habitat and set back brush

Site #2: Forest stand discussed; too difficult to convert to open habitat

Site #3: Recently-acquired 40-acre tract, planted for permanent cover

Site #4: Planted Strips of sunflower, food for the Prairie Chicken

Site #5: Leased hay cutting area, strict protocols enforced to protect the associated listed plants in prairies, grasslands, and savannas. Discussed the “General Protocol for Incidental Take Authorization”. Prescribed burning, mowing, grazing, selective brush/tree cutting, and herbicide use are all carefully restricted.

## **August 22nd (Thursday) – Central Team**

**Auditor:** Mike Ferrucci  
Alan Crossley

**ICIT Team:**

Jim Holzwart , Bureau of Wildlife Management  
Scott Sullivan (FR)  
R.J. Wiskham, Forestry Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR  
Matt Zine, SNA Management Specialist, Natural Heritage Conservation, Wisconsin DNR  
Ellen Barth, Oshkosh Area Wildlife Supervisor, Wisconsin DNR  
Jason Hennes, Forestry Technician, Wisconsin DNR  
Jon Vote, Forestry Technician, Montello, Wisconsin DNR  
Denise Krentz, Forestry Technician, Wisconsin DNR  
Sarah Fischer, Forester, Wisconsin DNR  
Jim Tomasko, Wautoma, Facilities and Lands, Wisconsin DNR  
Andrew Komassq, Forester, Weekly Timber and Pulp  
Garrett Prusse, Forester, Weekly Timber and Pulp

**Meeting Location:** Montello Ranger Station at 8:00 am – 363 Church St., State Road 22 North, Montello  
– travel to White River Marsh WA with forester.

### **Property # 1 – 8:30 – 9:30 White River Marsh**

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area      **Size:** 12,000 ac  
**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/whiteriver.html>  
**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart  
**Field Staff:** Scott Sullivan

Topics: Wetland management; Whooping crane reintroduction efforts; HCP for Karner Blue Butterfly  
(this property is a recovery property)

Site 1: Parking Area; SNA Southern Sedge Meadow  
Large SNA, portion adjacent to road is not representative, so did not walk.

Site 2, Sale # 3972-01, Flowing Well Timber Sale  
Sold, uncut planned harvest. Reviewed treatment area for KBB habitat development. Stands 2, 6, and 7 (31 acres) will have a heavy harvest to remove most of forest except 5-6 scattered, open-grown white oak per acre and to leave 20% canopy closure. Discussed briefly a 114-acre oak regeneration treatment in Stand 28 which is included in the same sale and is not cut yet either.

## **Property # 2 10:00 – 11:30 Mekan River Fishery Area**

**Property Type:** Fishery Area    **Size:** 6,400 ac

Link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/1620mekanriver.html>

IFMP: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/mecanIFMP.pdf>

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart or Jim Tomasko

**Field Staff:** R.J. Wiskham, Forestry Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR

Site #3, Sale # 7059-80, Fat Squirrel Timber Sale

Closed timber sale completed by Weekly Timber and Pulp. Interview with Andrew Kommassq, Procurement Forester confirmed that he and all members of the harvest crews are FISTA-trained.

Review of sale contract confirmed that it requires use of Wisconsin BMPs and FISTA-training and that it specifies rutting criteria and utilization standards. Several different portions of the sale and adjacent resources were reviewed:

Site 3A, Oak clearcut with retention

Site 3B, Ice Age Trail

Site 3C, Red Pine Second Thinning: The expect goal of gradual, long-term conversion towards mixture of oak, savanna, and white pine (some white pine seedlings were planted as part of original plantation) and interim pine production are reasons for the thinning. Discussed ecology of the native, but somewhat overly-dense (mono-layer in places) Pennsylvania Sedge.

Site 3D, Scrub Oak, untreated areas

Site 3E, Jack Pine patch clearcut and regenerated to other species, based on multi-disciplinary agreement.

Site 3F, Red Pine Third Thinning: Similar to Site 3C except that this part of the stand was previously thinned twice and the trees are larger. All pine thinning areas received stump treatment to prevent Annosum.

Site 4, Prairie and Open Field Management

Discussed various management challenges associated with trying to maintain non-forested cover in the face of continual encroachment by Aspen, pine, and other species. Pre-settlement fire patterns kept the lands open, but absent frequent fire the diversity of native species is reduced. One area of spotted knapweed likely will be sharecropped for several years, so that the farmer will remove the weeds, pay a rent, and then help set the site up for planting and long-term management with more appropriate cover.



### **Property # 3 – 11:30 –12:30 Chafee Creek Fishery Area (Part of Mecan River FA)**

**Property Type:** Fishery Area

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/1620mecanriver.html>

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart , Bureau of Wildlife Management or Jim Tomasko , Bureau of Wildlife Management

**Field Staff:** RJ Wickham and Matt Zine (NHC)

Site #4, Sale #7020-94 Tract Number 3-12 “Cougar Sale”

The overall sale is much larger than the portions viewed during the site visit. They include aspen, oak, & white pine regeneration harvests and pine thinnings. No harvesting has occurred as yet. Reviewed the 7-acre proposed aspen stand conversion to wet mesic prairie will be quite challenging, requiring expensive follow-up treatments.

Site #5, Portion of Upper Fox Headwaters SNA

An extensive discussion of the restoration challenges associated with restoration and management of open types. This site is close to a four-lane highway, has many invasive plants, worsened by the Ice Age Trail, and is subject to rules regarding endangered species and potential “incidental take” associated with any management effort.

Site #6, Ice Age Trail

Several connector sections were walked, and management challenges discussed. Forester has added contract provisions designed to further protect the trail during harvesting, based on experience with previous sales.

### **Property #4 – 3:00 – 4:00 Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area**

**Property Type:** Fish and Wildlife Area **Size:** 961 acres

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/lawrence.html>

**Field Staff Lead:** Jim Holzwart , Bureau of Wildlife Management cell: (920) 420.2567 or Jim Tomasko , Bureau of Wildlife Management cell: (920) 428.0628

**Field Staff:** Matt Zine (NHC) cell: (608) 575.7035

Scott Sullivan (FR) cell: (608) 369.1104

Site #7, Tract 101-10, Sale #3966-01, Lawrence Creek Timber Sale

Planning and the sale were completed prior to current direction requiring interim management plans. The harvest was completed in the summer of 2011. This portion of the harvest included black locust treatment via the saw head of the processor, but the locust has sprouted from cut stems and from roots and now presents a major challenge. The site also has invasives, including Japanese Hedge Parsley.

## **August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - West Team**

### **8:00 am: Leave Madison**

Auditors: Dave Capen cell: (802) 735.6899 & Brendan Grady cell: (510) 219.2241

ICIT Team: Craig Thompson (LL) cell: (608) 792.0086

### **Property #1 – 9:30 – 12:30 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (Iowa County)**

**Link:** [Lower Wisconsin Riverway](#)

**Property Type:** State Riverway

**Size:** 44,000 acres

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/lowerwisconsinIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Tower Hill State Park

**Field Staff Lead:** Matt Seguin (LF) cell: (608) 588.7723

**Field Staff:** Brian Hefty (LF) cell: (608) 576.1403

Sharon Fandel (NHC) cell: (608) 279.4768

Nick Morehouse (FR) cell: (608) 459.0346

Includes:

- Sale #2232-24 Red pine plantation removal and conversion - Sauk Co.
- Sale #2232-20 Bottomland hardwood and oak thinning - Sauk Co.
- Sale #2232-15 Bottomland hardwood thinning

### **Lower Wisconsin State Riverway**

Stop No. 1—Tower Hill State Park to meet with DNR staff involved in the management of a landscape comprised of a mix of state and private lands protecting a variety of unique resources in the Riverway, part of the state's Driftless region. The management area contains numerous historic and pre-historic artifacts, important habitat for migrating birds, and a long list of rare plant and animal species.

Stop No. 2—Leone Road Timber Sale. Recently completed harvest of a 20-acre red pine plantation that was beginning to decline rapidly. Initial plan was for a thinning, but bark beetle damage was so obvious, that the entire stand was cut. Abundant advanced regeneration and seed sources, for a mixed stand of white pine and several species of oaks. Flat, sandy soils with no sign of damage by the harvest crew. Access points blocked by soil berms. Timber Sale Prospectus reviewed by auditors.

Stop No. 3—Monument Oak Sale. Thinning with regeneration patches; harvest finished almost 3 years ago. Forest understory is dense, with and little evidence of 2010 harvest. Site inspection involved the upland part of the harvest; bottomlands were also part of the sale, but wet conditions prevented the planned cutting. A very diverse area with numerous rare species and associated conditions specified in the Timber Sale Prospectus.

Stop No. 4—Lemanski Bottoms Timber Sale. This bottomland hardwood tract was fully stocked with a large component of silver maple, swamp white oak, river birch, green ash, and other miscellaneous hardwood species. The goal for this stand is to maintain a significant component of swamp white oak while maintaining bottomland hardwoods. Different objectives for regeneration in patch cuts of different sizes, filtered light versus stronger light. Form 2460 indicates that rare species and historical artifacts may be found on the site, thus logging equipment was restricted to periods when ground was frozen.

Stop No. 5—Prehistoric Effigy Mound shaped like Twin Eagle, recently discovered by forestry technician. DNR has detailed policy and procedures for the protection of such sites, and foresters were familiar with the guidelines (Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy and Plan).

**Property #2 – 2:00 – 3:30 Hogback State Natural Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=334>

State Natural Area

**Property Type:**

**Size:** 1093 acres

**Meeting Location:** One mile north of Steuben, meet approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of Hughes, Zinkle, and Citron Valley roads. Park in the mowed area just south of south of Citron Valley road where the road turns to the north.

(608) 780.7267

(NHC) cell: (319) 327.1295

Gary Harden (FR) cell: (608) 963.5069

**Field Staff Lead:** Dean Edlin (NHC) cell:

**Field Staff:** Armund Bartz

Includes:

- Sale 1-2010
- vegetation management,
- invasives control
- invertebrate conservation

Stop No. 6-- Hogback Prairie is found on a narrow, steep-sided limestone-capped ridge that rises 300' above a former oxbow of the nearby Kickapoo River. A mix of rare plants and invertebrates is found here, including the Regal Fritillary Butterfly and the associated Hill's Thistle. Management activities include a recent timber sale to restore prairie vegetation, controlled burning, planting locally collected seeds, grazing by goats, and use of herbicides to combat brush. Some of the acreage is allocated to share-cropping, with conditions on use of chemicals and crops grown. Form 2460 and the Timber Sale Prospectus were reviewed.

**Property #3 – 4:15 – 5:15 Battle Hollow State Natural Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=177>

**Property Type:** State Natural Area

**Size:** 348 acres

**IFMP Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/battlebluffIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Intersection of STH 82 and Wilkumlin Road

**Field Staff Lead:** Armund Bartz (NHC) cell: (319) 327.1295

**Field Staff:** Dean Edlin (NHC), cell: (608) 780.7267

Joel Jepsen (FR) cell: (608) 317.0479

Includes:

- Sale 13-01 – Oak and walnut harvest for oak savanna restoration
- prairie management
- reptile conservation

Stop No. 7--Battle Bluff Prairie SNA contains southern dry forest and a south-facing dry prairie on a steep slope. The diverse prairie flora is interspersed with limestone boulders, sandstone outcrops, and a few stunted trees. More than 80 species of native prairie plants have been identified. On the top and at the bottom the prairie gives way to forest dominated by oaks, birch, and basswood. Inspected a marked sale of oak and walnut, with the objective of restoring and maintaining oak savanna. Form 2460, Timber Sale Prospectus, and the Interim Forest Management Plan were reviewed by auditors.

**Overnight:** Radisson Hotel - 200 Harbor View Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601, (608) 784.6680 Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan Grady

## **August 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday) – West Team**

**7:30 am: Leave La Crosse**  
Capen & Brendan Grady  
Thompson

Auditors: Dave  
ICIT Team: Craig

### **Property #1 8:00 – 10:30 - Coulee Experimental Forest**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/coulee/>

**Size:** 2,900 acres

**Meeting Location:** CTH II parking lot

**Field Staff Lead:** Adam Zirbel (FR) cell: (608) 792.3984

**Field Staff:** Ron Lichtie (WM) cell: (608) 769.7400

Dean Edlin (NHC) cell: (608) 780.7267

Includes:

- Sale 3213-27 - aspen coppice regeneration & conifer plantation thinning
- Sale 3213-28 – even- aged oak regeneration & uneven- aged oak thinning & group selection
- Sale 3213-26 aspen coppice regeneration & conifer plantation thinning
- prairie restoration, recreational use

### **Property #2 11:00 – 1:00 - Wildcat Mountain State Park**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/wildcat/>

**Size:** 3,500 acres

**Meeting Location:** Park Headquarters - E13660 State Highway 33, Ontario WI 54651

**Lead Field**

**Staff:** Lenore Schroeder (PR) Office: (608) 337.4775

**Field Staff:** Joel Jepsen (FR), cell: (608) 317.0479

Includes:

- Sale 6339 – 01 White and Red Pine thinning
- Horse trail management, camping

Lunch: Bring Your Own

### **Property # 3 2:00 – 4:00 – Coon Creek Fishery Area**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/642cooncreek.html>

**Size:** 2,300 acres

**Meeting Location:** Neprud property parking lot off CTH P

**Lead Field Staff:** Jordan Weeks (FH) cell: (608) 792.1447

**Field Staff:** Ron Lichtie (WM), cell: (608) 769.7400

Joel Jepsen (FR), cell: (608) 317.0479

Includes:

- Sale 6304-2 Bottomland hardwood even-aged harvest
- In-stream habitat improvements, upland habitat management

**Overnight:** Radisson Hotel - 200 Harbor View Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601, (608)784.6680    Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan Grady

## **August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) – West Team**

**8:00 am: Leave La Crosse**

Auditors: Dave Capen & Brendan

Grady

ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

### **Property #1 9:30 – 11:30 - Kickapoo Wildlife Area – Wauzeka Unit**

**Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/kickapoowu.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Property Acres:** 5,697 acre property (1927 acres state-owned and 3770 acres private lands under easement for hunting and fishing only)

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/kickapooIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Wildlife Area parking lot of STH 131

**Field Staff Lead:** Tim Babros (WM) cell: (608) 769.4410

**Field Staff:** Gary Harden (FR) cell: (608) 963.5069

Stop No. 1—Parking lot discussion of management goals for Kickapoo Wildlife Area. Mature stands of oaks and northern hardwoods support the importance of this area for migratory songbirds. Wildlife managers would also like to see aspen promoted where appropriate. Auditors inspected a 46-acre sale marked for harvest. The stand is about 75% mature aspen, but will be managed to create some openings in the canopy to encourage aspen regeneration while maintaining mature oaks and other hardwoods. The stand is relatively free of invasives, and measures will be taken to avoid introducing seeds from elsewhere. Forester noted numerous snags and cavity trees in the stand, which will be maintained.

### **Property #2 2:00 – 4:00 - Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (Richland County)**

**Link:** [Lower Wisconsin Riverway](#)

**Property Type:** State Riverway

**Size:** 44,000 acres

**IFMP:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/documents/IFMP/lowerwisconsinIFMP.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Honkers Supper Club, intersection of STH 60 and STH 80, North of Muscoda

**Field Staff Lead:** Matt Seguin (LF) cell: (608) 588.7723.

**Field Staff:** Brian Hefty (LF) cell: (608) 576.1403

Sharon Fandel (NHC) cell: (608) 279.4768

Nick Morehouse (FR) (608) 459.0346

Includes:

- Sale 2232-25 (Oak barrens restoration, biomass harvest. Active sale)
- Tract 2-11 (Oak/pine barrens restoration, biomass harvest. Established sale)
- Discuss tract 5-06 (established pine row thinning – to be combined with 2-11)
- Tract 10-13 (pine plantation thinning, and removal – established)
- Tract 8-07 (Bottomland hardwoods, deferral site – established, not sold. Iowa Co)
- Sale 2223-6 (Bottomland hardwoods thinning and gaps – closed out. Iowa Co)

Stop No. 2—Gotham Sands SNA, Tract 2-11, a low-productivity oak stand where the goal is to remove most of the tree cover, leaving only marked trees, and use prescribed fire to encourage a pine barrens community consisting of black oak, jack pine, and a native prairie plant community. Current conditions is an open stand with dense Pennsylvania sedge a the dominant ground cover. The property is adjacent to a residential neighborhood, so prescribed burning will require good relationships with neighbors.

Stop No. 3—Gotham Sands SNA, Tract 5-06, is a 10-acre plantation of red pine that will gradually be thinned. The long-term goal is to convert to a native forest community. The stand was marked initially in 2006, but access became an issue that is now in place.

Stop No. 4—Lone Rock Pine, a 73-acre restoration of an oak-pine barrens. The harvest has been advertised for biomass cutting, leaving only marked tree and taking all fine materials off site. This site is the subject of detailed pre-harvest monitoring of birds, mammals, and herps. Post-harvest surveys will continue, in an effort to document response to restoration of the barrens. This is an area of heavy recreations, so measures are proposed to prevent ORV use.

Stop No. 5—Lone Rock Pine Tract 10-13. This tract involves two small parcels surrounded by other ownerships and adjacent to a recreation path. A 8-acre parcel of red pine will be removed to release a mix of oaks and white pine that are in the understory. A smaller parcel nearby is a red pine plantation that will be thinned, but the goal is to convert to white pine eventually.

Stop No. 6—Highway 14 Bottomland forest, 8-07. This is a 250-acre stand where marking was initiated in 2008, but the harvest was later classified as “deferred.” A red-shouldered hawk nest and an adjacent SNA if similar forest initiated discussion that led to a decision to wait until Master Planning was completed. Migratory birds are a major concern in this location along the Lower Wisconsin River.

## **August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - East Team**

### **8:00 am: Leave Madison**

Auditor: Norman Boatwright cell: (843) 229.1851

ICIT Team: Jeff Weatherly (FR) cell: (414) 333.5265

### **Property #1 – 8:30 – 9:30 Waterloo Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Waterloo Wildlife Area

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/waterloo.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 4,000 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0050.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Waterloo Kwik Trip on Highway 19

<http://local.yahoo.com/info-28600035-kwik-trip-waterloo>

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451

Randy Stampfl (FR) cell: (920)382.0657

**Sale #3-08: 1<sup>st</sup> parcel** – 17 acre partial harvest in a mixed oak hickory and cherry stand with aspen along the edges. Objective was to remove over mature black oak, leaving white and bur oak and remove all aspen. White and red oak seedlings were planted after the harvest (reviewed planting record which contained initial stocking count). Good residual stocking and aspen regeneration.

**2<sup>nd</sup> parcel** – 19 acre partial harvest to remove box elder and elm with an aspen clearcut release along the edges. Good discussion with Randy regarding marking strategy.

**Prescribed burn units:** Bluejoint area - 55 acre burn in spring of 2013 to encourage open grassland. Review of the approved Prescribed Burn Proposal indicates it addresses the appropriate issues including a map and an Endangered Resources Review Documentation.

### **Property #2 – 10:00 – 11:00 Lake Mills Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Lake Mills Wildlife Area

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/lakemills.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 3,300 acres

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Waterloo together

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451

Randy Stampfl (FR) cell: (920) 382.0657

**Sale #5-08:** 17 acre summer aspen clearcut with box elder and some cherry removal. Good aspen regeneration.

**Dike renovation at Zeloski Marsh Unit:** Includes resurfacing dikes in this unit. Project was administered by DNR Engineers and completed in the summer of 2013. Really nice marsh with several flowage control devices.

**Property #3 – 11:30 – 12:15 Rome Pond Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Rome Pond Wildlife Area  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/maps/WM/SCR/8310romepond.pdf>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 2,500 acres

**Master Plan:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/LF0050.pdf>

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot on County E

**Field Staff Lead:** Craig Kopacek (WM) cell: (608) 516.4837

**Field Staff:** Bret Owsley (WM) cell: (920) 210.2451

Nick Koltz (FR) cell: (715) 558.1286

**Texas Island timber sale:** 76 acre initial entry sale- marking is not complete so no sale #. Very unique geomorphic area with a large elevated island in the middle of a large marsh accessed by an elevated road. Sale area is a mature hardwood forest dominated by red and white oak, shagbark hickory and sugar maple. Timber stand improvement marking was appropriate and included removing ash, basswood, some white oak and mixed hardwood.

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 Bring Your Own

**Property #4 – 1:45 – 4:30 Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit**

**Property Name/Link:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kms/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 22,000 acres

**Master Plan:** Effective 1991

**Meeting Location:** KMSF-SU headquarters, S91 W39091 Highway 59, Eagle, WI 53119 Location is 2.5 miles east of Palmyra on the south side of Highway 59.

**Field Staff Lead:** Anne Korman (PR) cell: (414) 303.0148

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Jeff Prey (PR) office: (608) 266.2182

Dan Schuller (PR) cell: (608) 266.2182

**Sale #114: 1<sup>st</sup> parcel** – 88 acre 2<sup>nd</sup> thin red pine plantation with little damage to residuals and 110 sqft basal area remaining.

**2<sup>nd</sup> parcel** – 5 acre black locust harvest and mulch with a spray planned for next summer.

**Sale #124:** 126 acre 2<sup>nd</sup> thin red pine plantation with little damage to residuals. Nice horse trail.



**Sale #129: 1<sup>st</sup> parcel** – 9 acre locust treatment and TSI harvest leaving oak and cherry. Will be treated and planted next year.

**2<sup>nd</sup> parcel** – Timber stand improvement cut in a nice cherry stand with minimal residual damage.

**Sale 126:** 121 acres not cut marked red pine. Marking is fine.

**Extra Site:** Paradise Springs – beautiful natural spring that was previously a resort (buildings long gone). Nice paths, benches and educational items.

Overnight: Staybridge at 1141 Blue Ribbon Drive, Oconomowoc 53066 (262) 200-2900

Auditor: Norman Boatwright

ICIT: Jeff Weatherly

## **August 21<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) - East Team**

### **Property #1 – 8:00 – 9:30 Vernon Wildlife Area**

**Property Name/Link:** Vernon Wildlife Area <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/vernon.html>

**Property Type:** Wildlife Area

**Size:** 4,600 acres

**Meeting Location:** State parking area is on the south side of County Highway I, 1.3 miles east of Highway 83 in the Town of Mukwonago. Highway I intersects Highway 83 roughly 2.5 miles south of where Highway 59 and Highway 83 intersect in Genesee. From Oconomowoc, take Highway 67 south to I-94, then go east on I-94 to Highway 83, then south to Highway I.

**Field Staff Lead:** Tim Lizotte (WM) cell: (262) 364.7581

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470-522

**Sale 6809-3:** - 12 acre locust harvest, treatment and hardwood planting combined with a larger timber stand improvement cut to create an oak savannah. Also observed a successful prairie grass conversion.

**Sale 6809-2:** Northern hardwood selection harvest adjacent to the Fox River dominated by red maple and ash. Nice marking effort geared towards creating an all-aged stand of shade tolerant trees. No issues.

### **Property #2 – 10:00 – 3:00 Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit**

**Property Name/Link:** Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

**County:** Waukesha

**Property Type:** Southern Forest

**Size:** 22,000

**Master Plan:** 1991

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Vernon W.A. together

**Field Staff Lead:** Paul Sandgren (PR) cell: (414) 303.5074

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Jason Fritz (PR) Head of Parks Southern District

**Sale 116:** 120 acre red pine 4<sup>th</sup> thin with little damage to residuals.

**Sale 115:** - 70 acre oak shelterwood cut with small aspen clearcuts. Buckthorn was sprayed prior to harvest. Logger left due to long skids. Good marking effort.

**Extra Sites: Scuppernog River Habitat Area** - Beautiful restored prairie. Buckthorn was mechanically removed 8 years ago and, because the area had never been tilled, it reverted back to prairie.

**Nelson Farm:** Agricultural field planted in oaks and cherry 2 years ago. Banded with Oust. Good survival. Another portion was planted to prairie with success.

**Sale 118:** Large red pine 3<sup>rd</sup> thin with some hardwood removal, mostly ash and box elder. Well marked sale with minimal residential damage.

**Sale 127:** 63 acre 2<sup>nd</sup> red and white pine thin not yet cut. Marking looks good with adequate residual stocking.

**Sale 125:** 16 acre red pine salvage in several blocks. DRN marked dead and dying timber. No issues.

**Sale 129: 3<sup>rd</sup> parcel** – Not cut. Locust girdled and sprayed. Will be mulched, sprayed and planted next year.

**4<sup>th</sup> parcel** – Silver maple thin marked by LTE – not very good (missed some obvious takes) but okay.

**Extra Sites: Pinewood Campground** – Nice area dominated by red pine with showers, bathrooms and water.

**Milwaukee Public School Farm:** Working farm with crops, sheep, horses and cows. Run by the Milwaukee Public School system. DNR charges nothing and the school system maintains the buildings.

**Ottawa Lake Campground:** Nice lake with beach, boat landing, recreation vehicle hookups, campsites and cabins for terminal patients.

Lunch: Bring Your Own

Overnight: Staybridge at 1141 Blue Ribbon Drive, Oconomowoc 53066 (262) 200-2900

Auditor: Norman Boatwright ICIT: Jeff Weatherly

## **August 22<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - East Team**

### **Property #1 – Ice Age Trail 8:00 – 8:45 (Washington County)**

**Property Type:** State Trail

**Size:** 130 acres

**Master Plan:** IFMP in progress

**Meeting Location:** Pike Lake Unit – KMSF Conference room, 3544 Kettle Moraine Road, Hartford, WI  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/pikelake/pdfs/pikelakemap.pdf>

**Field Staff Lead:** Rob Wessberg (PR) cell: (414) 750.0720

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Mark Heyde (FR) cell: (608) 220.9780

Julie Peltier (FR)

**Pike Lake Office:** Rob and Julie gave a good overview of park operations and cooperation with local recreation businesses to promote park usage.

**Extra Site:** Mayerhopper at the Ice Age Trail: DNR had acquired a buffer strip for the Trail and planted it in oaks, maple and hickory. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> planting attempt which appeared to be successful.

**Sale #6701-1:** White and spruce pine 1<sup>st</sup> thin with ash removal. Good residual stocking with minimal damage to residuals.

### **Property #2 – Kettle Moraine – Loews Lake 9:00 – 10:00 (Washington County)**

**Property Name/Link:** Kettle Moraine State Forest – Loews Lake Unit

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/loewlake/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 1,080 acres

**Master Plan:** 1996

**Meeting Location:** Travel from Ice Age Trail property

**Field Staff Lead:** Rob Wessberg (PR) cell: (414) 750.0720

**Field Staff:** Mike Sieger (FR) cell: (262) 470.5225

Mark Heyde (FR) cell: (608) 220.9780

Julie Peltier (FR)

**Sale #5463-3:** 58 acre sale with the northern section consisting of a northern hardwood stand dominated by sugar maple with ash and northern red oak. The sale has been sold but not cut. The sale is a selection/timber stand improvement cut favoring retention of maple and oak.

### **Property #3 – 10:45 – 2:00 Northern Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest (Washington County)**

**Property Name/Link:** NUKM State Forest <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kmn/>

**Property Type:** State Forest

**Size:** 29,600 acres

**Master Plan:** 1991; variance 2009

**Meeting Location:** N885 Youth Camp Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010

**Field Staff Lead:** Jason Quast (PR) cell: (262) 626.2116

**Field Staff:** Tim Beyer (FR) cell (920) 889.9053

Jason Fritz (PR) Head of Parks Southern District

Dan Weidert (WM Wildlife Biologist)

Dale Katsma (WM Area Wildlife Supervisor)

**Sale #2-11:** Initial entry to promote oak health and vigor and maintain cover type. Accomplished by an intermediate thinning with a residual BA of 75-85. Sale has been bid 3 times with no winners. Likely due to the large amount of pulpwood marked.

**Youth Camp Road Planting:** Former sharecrop field converted to forest. Planted 4 years ago in oak, cherry and conifers. Good survival and stocking. Reviewed regeneration survey.

**Mauthe Lake: Wetland Restoration:** Plugged ditch to create a nice pond. Also restored prairie area with planted big blue stem that was burned last year. EAB was discovered in a trap nearby and the ash was marked for removal.

**Jersey Flats:** Farm land converted to prairie.

**Northern Unit HQ:** Diesel and gas tanks double line with leak detection system and containment structures. Large, locked and vented herbicide storage area.

**Parnell Area: Conifer timber sale** – Buckthorn removal test. Red pine cut back to 20 BA, Buckthorn mowed, sprouts sprayed with Garlon and the area planted in oaks, cherry and white pine. Buckthorn was not eliminated. Reviewed regeneration survey.

**Central hardwood timber sale:** Stand dominated with oak, cherry and hickory. Timber stand improvement cut removing undesirable species. Excellent natural regeneration observed.

Lunch: 12:00 – 12:45 Bring Your Own

- Shamrock Road/Woodside Road/CTH U (brushing and haying using haying agreement in prairie plantings)
- Parnell Area (hardwood/conifer timber sales (3), aspen regeneration, invasive plant BMPs, red shouldered hawk nest success monitoring in sales, tree planting with donor funding, brush-land restoration)

Travel back to Madison via Fond du Lac on 151

**Appendix IV**



**SFI Reporting Form (no changes, not needed)**